

Tribal Art Fair 2026 – International Visitors’ Cultural Experience Package

Dates: 7–12 January 2026

Venue: Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal

Hosted by: Tribal Art Fair (TAF) & Bhopal Literature & Art Festival

Curated by: Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya, Coordinator – Tribal Art Fair

Day 1 – Arrival & Cultural Orientation

Arrival in Bhopal (Capital of Madhya Pradesh)

- Airport reception and transfer to hotel.
 - Check-in at preferred accommodation:
Hotel options: Ashoka Lake View / Jehanuma Retreat / Taj / Jehanuma Palace.
 - **Afternoon:** Leisure and local sightseeing
 - *Visit:* Bharat Bhawan complex, Upper & Lower Lake, Van Vihar National Park.
 - *Cultural orientation:* Presentation on “Discovering Tribal Art of Central India.”
 - **Evening:** Welcome dinner hosted by TAF Coordination Team.
 - *Venue:* Jehanuma Palace terrace / Lake View open space.
 - Introduction of international guests and artists.
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Day 2 – World Heritage Excursion: Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (44 km from Bhopal)

Morning:

- Departure for *UNESCO World Heritage Site – Bhimbetka*.
- Guided tour of prehistoric rock shelters (Stone Age cave paintings, cultural interpretation).

Afternoon:

- Lunch at Bhojpur or local eco-retreat.
 - Return to Bhopal and free evening for relaxation.
 - Optional evening heritage walk around Upper Lake promenade.
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Days 3–5 – Tribal Art Fair & Camp Participation

(as per official TAF Program Schedule at Bharat Bhawan)

Day 3 – Thursday, 8 January 2026

- **Evening (5:00 PM):** *Inaugural Session of Tribal Art Fair 2026*
 - Chief Guest: Hon. Minister Shri Vijay Shah, MP Tribal Welfare Department.
 - Lamp lighting, addresses by dignitaries, visit to tribal art studios and exhibitions.
 - *Dinner reception for delegates.*

Day 4 – Friday, 9 January 2026

- **Morning (10:00 AM):** Artists’ Consultation & Cultural Dialogue.

- **Workshops:** Gond, Baiga, and Bhil painting; bamboo craft; Godna art; tribal jewellery.
- **Panel Discussion:** “Contemporary Relevance of Tribal Art – Preservation, Promotion & Market Dynamics.”
- **Evening:** Cultural performance and music by tribal artists.

Day 5 – Saturday, 10 January 2026

- **Masterclass & Interaction:** “Tribal Art Conservation and Museum Practices” by IGRMS experts.
- **Exhibition & Sale:** Direct marketplace for tribal artisans.
- **Evening:** Cultural gala showcasing tribal dance, folk instruments, and storytelling.

Day 6 – World Heritage Visit: Sanchi Stupa (49 km from Bhopal)

Morning:

- Drive to *UNESCO World Heritage Site – Sanchi Stupa*.
 - Guided heritage walk: Ashokan Pillar, Buddhist relics, and museum.
- **Afternoon:** Lunch at Sanchi or Tropic of Cancer Highway Café.
- **Evening:** Return to Bhopal. Farewell dinner hosted by TAF organizers.

Facilitations & Services

- Airport transfers and local transport in air-conditioned vehicles.
- Accommodation (5-star / heritage hotels).
- Full-board meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner).
- English-speaking heritage guides and cultural interpreters.
- Dedicated assistance from **TAF International Visitor Facilitation Team**.
- Access to *exclusive interactive sessions* with master tribal artists and curators.
- Participation certificate & curated souvenir pack of tribal art.

Contact & Coordination

Dr. A. K. Bhattacharya

Coordinator – *Tribal Art Fair 2026*

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

TRIBAL ART CAMP & FAIR

Bhopal Literature & Art Festival

Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal • 8 - 11 January 2026

DAY 1 - 8 January 2026 (Thursday)

5.00 PM Evening - INAUGURAL SESSION

Chief Guest:

- Hon'ble Minister, Tribal Welfare Department, Madhya Pradesh -
Shri Vijai Shah

Guests of Honour:

- Shri P D Meena, IAS (Retd), Ex Secretary, Govt of India
- Shri Dhirendra Kumar, IFS (Retd), Ex-PCCF, Jharkhand
- Shri Sudhir Agrawal, IFS (Retd.), Ex-PCCF, Chhattisgarh

Special Felicitation of Senior Artists:

- Shri Anand Shyam
- Ms Bhoori Bai

Programme Components:

- Lighting of the Lamp
- Welcome & Context Setting
- Speeches by Dignitaries
- Inaugural Visit to Art Studios & Exhibitions**

Day 2 - 9th January (Friday)

10:00 AM - ARTISTS' EXPERIENCE SHARING & CONSULTATION

A participatory dialogue with tribal artists on:

- Artistic traditions and lineage
- Cultural background
- Creation processes
- Challenges and aspirations
- Interactions with experts and resource persons

12:30 PM - HANDS-ON WORKSHOP (Daily Ongoing)

Workshops conducted by senior artists & expert trainers in:

- Tribal Painting
- Woodcraft / Bamboo Craft
- Godna Art
- Traditional Jewellery Craft
- Mixed-media tribal expressions

1:30 PM – LUNCH BREAK

2:30 PM – WORKSHOPS CONTINUE (Daily Ongoing)

3:30 PM – PANEL DISCUSSION

Theme: *Contemporary Relevance of Tribal Art – Preservation, Promotion & Market Dynamics*

Chairperson: Dr Amitabh Pandey

Moderator: Dr Vijay Agrawal

Expert Speakers:

1. Shri Naval Kishore
2. Shri Alok Bhavsar
3. Ms Vidisha Pandey
4. Mr Dushyant Dangi
5. Ms Sweta Menon
6. Ms Deepti Ogre

Focus: Organic interaction between tribal artists & professionals, market linkages, skill pathways.

6:00 PM – CULTURAL EXPERIENCE SHARING

Performances by participating tribal artists:

- Traditional musical instruments
 - Dance and folk songs
 - Exchange of folklore, myths, and community legends
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DAY 3 – 10 January 2026 (Saturday)

10:30 AM – EXPERT INTERACTION WITH ARTISTS

Expert: Shri Prem Shankar Shukla, CAO, Bharat Bhawan

Theme: *Tribal Art Conservation & Collection Management*

Experts from **IGRMS** to join and provide insights on documentation, preservation, and museum standards.

11:30 AM – FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Subject: *Relevance of Tribal Art Camps for the New Generation Artists & Sustainability of Tribal Art*

Participants: Youth tribal artists (18-34 years)

Moderation: Senior artists & experts

Outcome: Identification of the relevant pathways for contemporary relevance, innovation, and economic viability.

1:30 PM – LUNCH

2:30 PM – WORKSHOPS CONTINUE (Daily Ongoing)

3:30 PM – QUIZ FOR TRIBAL ARTISTS

Theme: *Recent Trends in Tribal Art & Culture*

Participants: New-generation tribal artists

Moderators: Senior artists & subject experts

Purpose: Encourage learning, exposure, and peer engagement.

4:30 PM – ONE-TO-ONE ARTIST-EXPERT INTERACTIONS

Individual portfolio reviews and mentoring sessions.

Jury Panel:

- **Dr Aparna Anil**, HOD, Fine Arts Dept., Nutan College
- **Shri Ranjeet Arora**, Maitri Art Gallery, Bhopal
- **Dr Anjali Pandey**, HOD, Fine Arts Dept., MLB College

Parallel interactions will continue throughout the afternoon.

6:00 PM – CULTURAL EXPERIENCE SHARING

Second evening of participatory tribal performances—music, dance, folk narratives.

DAY 4 – 11 January 2026 (Sunday)

10:00 AM – ARTISTS' EXPERIENCE SHARING & CONSULTATION

A reflective interactive session with tribal artists on evolving artistic journeys, community inspirations, and contemporary adaptations.

11:00 AM - MASTERCLASS SESSION

Expert: Padmashri Bhuri Bai, Renowned Gond Artist

Theme: *Women's Perspective in Tribal Art - Contributions, Challenges & Emerging Dimensions*

A motivational conversation with focus on women-led tribal art movements.

12:30 PM - WORKSHOPS CONTINUE (Daily Ongoing)

1:30 PM - LUNCH

2:30 PM - FINAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS (Daily Ongoing)

3:30 PM - VALEDICTORY SESSION

Valedictory Address:

Padmashri Dr Kapil Tiwari, Former Director, MP Culture Department

Theme:

Preservation and Recognition of Traditional Tribal Arts & Artists

Programme Highlights:

- Reflections from artists & participants
- Recognition of outstanding artworks
- Prize and souvenir distribution

Chief Guest: To be announced (as per final confirmation)

6:00 PM - CLOSING CULTURAL EVENT

Final cultural performance by tribal artists, weaving together music, rhythm, storytelling, and community spirit.

ADDITIONAL VALUE-ADDED FEATURES

1. Artist Documentation Desk

Live documentation of artist profiles, art processes, and stories.

2. Social Media Live Corners

Live streaming of workshops, interviews, and performances.

3. Tribal Art Marketplace

Exhibition-cum-sale area for tribal crafts with fair pricing.

4. Cultural Interpretation Panels

Visual panels explaining symbolism, motifs, rituals, and community contexts.

5. Photography & Film Documentation Team

Capturing high-quality visuals for archives and future exhibitions.

Coordinator - Dr A K Bhattacharya; 9525014566; 7042669566; ajoykb@gmail.com

Tribal Art Fair

Conserving Heritage

Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal – 9th to 11th January 2026

VISION

Discover, Preserve and Sustain the Prosperity of Tribal Art & Culture of Madhya Pradesh and India

Preamble

India's tribal knowledge systems represent one of the oldest living creative civilizations in the world. The tribal arts of Madhya Pradesh—Gond, Baiga, Bhil, Bharia, Warli, Pithora and others—are not merely aesthetic expressions; they are visual archives of memory, ecology, spirituality, and cosmology. Each artwork is a testimony to ancient wisdom, rooted in harmony with nature.

This initiative draws inspiration from international frameworks such as:

- UNESCO's 2003 Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 5, 8, 10 & 12)
- WIPO Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions Framework
- UNDRIP (UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

These global frameworks endorse that safeguarding culture must ensure dignity, economic well-being, and community ownership.

Background

A reconnaissance survey across tribal belts of Balaghat, Mandla (Madhya Pradesh) and Achanakmar (Chhattisgarh) revealed two parallel concerns:

1. Traditional art forms and indigenous heritage are declining.
2. Emerging second- and third-generation artists lack platforms and markets.

Community consultations highlighted the need to identify and promote emerging artists, particularly in Gond and Baiga art. Through competitions and cluster-based interactions, promising artists have been identified.

Goal

Create a sustainable ecosystem where tribal art, culture, and livelihoods grow symbiotically — preserving heritage while ensuring economic prosperity.

Objective

To preserve, sustain, promote, and globalize the rich tribal art heritage of Madhya Pradesh and India with special focus on empowering emerging tribal artists, strengthening livelihoods, and building national and international cultural linkages.

Envisioned Key Accomplishments

- Cultural Preservation – Documentation and promotion of Gond, Baiga, Bhil, Warli and Pithora art forms.
- Awareness & Visibility – Collaboration with national and global museums and cultural platforms.
- Economic Empowerment – Reduced dependency on intermediaries and increased earnings for artisans.

- Market Access – Domestic and global marketplace linkages.
- Cultural Pride – Strengthened identity and dignity among tribal youth.

Approach & Activities

1. Tribal Art Fair & Exhibition – BLF Edition
 - State and national-level curated exhibits, workshops, storytelling sessions.
 - Collaborations with museums and international cultural bodies.
2. Artist–Audience Live Interface
 - Demonstrations of techniques, natural pigments, motifs and narratives.
3. Competitions & Skill Enhancement
 - Partnering with Fine Arts Departments of universities.
4. Ethical Market Access & Direct Sales
 - Zero middleman model ensuring fair pricing and artist sovereignty.

Learnings from TAF 2025

- Participation of 37 tribal artists from MP and Chhattisgarh.
- Art forms included paintings, bamboo craft, metal work, tattoo art, grass craft, pottery.
- Direct sales generated financial motivation.
- Enhanced visibility led to repeat collaborations and recognition.

Plan for TAF 2026

- Participation of 100 emerging tribal artists from 10 states.
- Supported by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS).
- Inclusion of nationally awarded master artisans.
- Vision: Convert the Tribal Art Fair into a 'Centre of Excellence in Tribal Art' and an annual international event — SPLENDOUR of Bhopal.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased global recognition of MP's tribal art.
2. Enhanced livelihoods and entrepreneurship.
3. Preservation of intergenerational traditional knowledge.
4. Growth in cultural and experiential tourism.
5. Increased economic and social dignity of tribal communities.

Conclusion

Promoting tribal art is a cultural investment. It strengthens identity, ensures dignity, and fosters economic independence. This initiative aligns heritage preservation with prosperity, positioning Madhya Pradesh as a global hub for tribal art excellence.

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Glimpses of TAF 2025

