



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते



Media Release: Festival of India website launch

July 18, 2016

Confluence - the Festival of India in Australia today launches a new website which will engage audiences nationwide and host highlights and detailed information on this celebration of Indian art and culture.

Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Australia in November 2014, the festival takes place over ten weeks through August – November this year, showcasing rich and diverse dance, music, theatre and visual arts from India. It also includes conferences and workshops that share insights into traditional and contemporary Indian culture and its confluence with Australia's curious and congenial populace.

The six-city festival is the most significant exhibition of Indian arts and culture ever to be staged in Australia, involving world-class performers well beyond Bollywood alone. From the classical to the contemporary, *Confluence* is a showcase of the stunning and vibrant variety of India's artistic cultures and traditions.

A key component of the festival is collaboration with Australian artists, such as a joint performance by the Indian spiritual music group Sonam Kalra & The Sufi Gospel Project and Australian musician Ashlee Clement along with a didgeridoo player. Renowned Indian cartoonist Ajit Ninan will discuss political humour with counterparts like David Pope and Mark Knight.

"But can we have a conversation between India and Australia without even a passing reference to bat and ball? I think not! Cricket Connections is a multimedia narration of that unique thread that binds us like no other," said Navdeep Suri, the High Commissioner of India in Australia.

The website will draw attention to the festival highlights, which include theatre performed through life-sized puppets, an Indian take on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, an exhibition on the philosophy of Gandhi – the global icon of equality, nonviolence and peace, a musician who blends rock with Indian folk and a 5000 strong Bollywood flash mob on the Opera House forecourt.

"From the Opera House in Sydney to Federation Square in Melbourne, from QPAC in Brisbane to the Festival Centre in Adelaide, from the Old Parliament in Canberra to the State Theatre in Perth, the Festival of India will enthral audiences, foster collaborations between our artists and create cultural bonds like never before," Commissioner Suri said.

Confluence - the Festival of India in Australia will have a strong and positive impact on the bilateral relationship, fostering mutual cultural connections, promoting tourism and migration and highlighting business opportunities between Australia and India.

Stay up to date with important festival announcements and catch sneak previews:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/festivalofindiainoz/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FOlinOz> #FOlinOZ

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/foiinoz/>

For more information, visit the Confluence - Festival of India website here: www.confluencefoi.com

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