

## **Entries Have Opened for the 21st Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)**

**Festival Dates: 19th to 25th March 2026 | Kamani Auditorium & Shri Ram Centre, New Delhi**

**Delhi, India 2025:** The Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META), instituted by the Mahindra Group, produced by Teamwork Arts and India's most definitive awards for recognising theatrical excellence, turns twenty-one in 2026. The META Secretariat is ready to receive plays for entries at the next edition of META, with submissions to be accepted between 1st August 2025 and 15th January 2026. META 2026, scheduled to be held from 19th to 25th March 2026 in New Delhi, will return to the iconic Kamani Auditorium and Shri Ram Centre, long-time venues that have hosted some of its most memorable performances.

META has brought together a wide range of productions — from solo acts to large ensemble performances — across languages, forms, and themes. Each year, ten productions are selected from hundreds of entries to be staged live in Delhi. These are then evaluated by a national jury, with the festival culminating in an Awards Night that honours excellence across 14 award categories and a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Reinforcing META's position as an enduring platform showcasing theatrical range, excellence, practitioners, tropes and themes, META received a **Bronze** for **Longstanding IP at the EEMAX Global Awards 2025** held in Udaipur from 1st-3rd August, 2025.

### **Submission Details:**

- **Submission Deadline: 15th January 2026**
- **Eligibility Criteria: Plays performed in India between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 15th January 2026 are eligible. For more information, visit: <https://metawards.com/application-2026>**

- **Categories include:**  
**Best Production, Best Director, Best Stage Design, Best Light Design, Best Sound Design, Best Music Design, Best Costume Design, Best Choreography, Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male), Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female), Best Original Script, and Best Ensemble.**
- **How to Apply: Visit the official META website for full guidelines and the submission form. To access the application with the link below:**  
<https://metawards.com/registration#/addApplications>

### **About META:**

The Mahindra Excellence In Theatre Awards (Meta) is Indian theatre's most venerated and esteemed recognition, continuing to set benchmarks in excellence in every aspect of stagecraft. Over the years, META has given voice to diverse themes ranging from contemporary and pressing social issues, mythology, religion, gender, caste, politics, and classics, through the plays it has showcased. META aims to increase awareness and appreciation of Indian theatre and is the only national arena for recognising and rewarding the country's best productions and theatre-practitioners. Out of over 400 plays received every year, 10 are nominated to be staged over a week in Delhi and vie for the coveted awards. The Awards Night is awaited across theatre communities in the country, when awards in 13 categories (this year onwards, in 14 categories) and a Lifetime Achievement Award are given out. Over its 20 glorious years, META has represented plays and artists from every corner of the nation. It is with the same legacy of inclusivity and representation that META entered its 20th year with the shortlisted plays in 6 languages, including Hindi, English, Bundeli, Kannada, Bengali, and Malayalam. META hosted over 156 artists in a grandiose festival celebrating their talents in multiple avenues of stagecraft, from phenomenal acting, elaborate set designs, myriad original scripts, and ravishing costume designs. META, instituted by the Mahindra Group, has become more than just an awards ceremony, growing into the most significant celebration of Indian theatre in all its glory. From script to stage, META recognises and honours every facet of theatrical brilliance,

from playwrights to performers, directors to designers. Going into its 21st year, META reaffirms its dedication to nurturing and promoting the diverse voices and talents that define Indian theatre.

To apply and learn more, visit [<https://metawards.com/>]

### **About Mahindra:**

Founded in 1945, the Mahindra Group is one of the largest and most admired multi-national federations of companies, with 2,60,000 employees in over 100 countries. It enjoys a leadership position in farm equipment, utility vehicles, information technology, and financial services in India and is the world's largest tractor company by volume. It has a strong presence in renewable energy, agriculture, logistics, hospitality, and real estate. The Mahindra Group has a clear focus on leading ESG globally, enabling rural prosperity and enhancing urban living, with a goal to drive positive change in the lives of communities and stakeholders to enable them to Rise. Learn more about Mahindra on [www.mahindra.com](http://www.mahindra.com), Twitter and Facebook: @MahindraRise. For updates, subscribe to <https://www.mahindra.com/news-room>

### **About Teamwork Arts:**

Teamwork Arts, India's pioneering arts company, crafting cultural experiences for over 30 years, has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers, change makers and visual artists to the forefront. Every year, we produce over 33 festivals in 45 cities and 19 countries in the fields of performing & visual arts, knowledge and literature. We produce the world's largest literary gathering: the annual Jaipur Literature Festival; JLF international now travels to the US, UK, and Europe. Through its digital avatar, the Jaipur Literature Festival reached over 35 million viewers in January 2024. Some key offerings among our digital and hybrid endeavours are - Art Matters, which empowers artists across India to collaborate by commissioning them to create new works, and Be Inspired: Fast tracking the future, that changes the narrative of scientific possibility to innovation. Two new milestones were added to our festival repertoire in 2024 - the Jaigarh Heritage Festival in Jaipur, celebrating India's regal past and rich legacy of art, culture and architecture, and Voices of Faith in London, exploring the philosophies of faith to find a way towards collective empathy and understanding



mahindra<sup>Rise</sup>

**More information at: [www.teamworkarts.com](http://www.teamworkarts.com)**

For media queries and interview requests, please contact:

Teamwork Arts:

Apeksha Bajaj M: 9654880195 | E: [apeksha@teamworkarts.com](mailto:apeksha@teamworkarts.com)

Zimisha Communications:

Santosh Kumar M: 9990937676 | E: [santosh@zimisha.com](mailto:santosh@zimisha.com)

Imtiaz Alam M: 9810227818 | E: [imtiaz@zimisha.com](mailto:imtiaz@zimisha.com)