CCEA approves ₹3,230-crore Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum

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News

On 11 November 2026 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum, to be created by reusing the North Block and South Block buildings in New Delhi. The project is estimated at about ₹3,230 crore (appraised by the Public Investment Board on 27 July 2026), with a built-up area of about 1,78,509 sq m. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said it is envisaged as the world's largest museum in terms of display area. It will be implemented in phases from 2026-27 to 2030-31; the first gallery, 'Adornment', is reported to open in North Block in the second half of 2027. Thematic galleries will cover ancient civilisations, intellectual traditions, arts and indigenous knowledge systems. The PM first announced the museum on 18 May 2023; an agreement with France, experienced in turning old office buildings into museums, was signed in December 2024. The buildings are being vacated as the PMO moves to 'Seva Teerth' and ministries to the 'Kartavya Bhavans'.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Museum	Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum
Approval	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), 11 November 2026
Site	North Block and South Block (Raisina Hill, New Delhi)

Point	Details
Cost	About ₹3,230 crore
Area	About 1,78,509 sq m built-up area
Timeline	Phased, 2026-27 to 2030-31; first gallery in 2027
Partner	France (France Muséums Développement), pact Dec 2024
Ministry	Union Ministry of Culture
First announced	18 May 2023 – International Museum Expo

Background

- History: The North and South Blocks (the Central Secretariat) were designed by British architect Herbert Baker; built from 1912, they were completed in 1927. Apart from Rashtrapati Bhavan (then Viceroy's House), they are the only buildings on Raisina Hill. South Block housed the PMO and the Defence and External Affairs ministries; North Block housed Finance and Home. On 13 February 2026 the PM dedicated the new PMO, 'Seva Teerth', to the nation.
- France link: In December 2024 India's National Museum and France Muséums Développement signed an agreement in New Delhi. The Louvre in Paris was once a royal palace, part of which housed France's finance ministry; France was chosen for this experience of converting office buildings into museums.
- Indian museums: India's oldest museum is the Indian Museum, Kolkata (1814, founded by the Asiatic Society of Bengal). The Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai (1851) is the country's second oldest. The National Museum, New Delhi began in 1949; the new museum is reported to replace it as the national museum.
- International Museum Day: Observed every year on 18 May since 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). On this day in 2023, at the International Museum Expo at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, the PM announced this museum project.

Tamil Nadu link: The Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai (1851) is India's second-oldest museum. It is famed for sculptures from the Amaravati Buddhist site in Andhra (2nd century CE) and Chola bronzes such as Ardhanarishvara and Nataraja.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

On 11 November 2026 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum, to be created by reusing the North Block and South Block buildings in New Delhi.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Museum: Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum; Approval: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), 11 November 2026; Site: North Block and South Block (Raisina Hill, New Delhi); Cost: About ₹3,230 crore.

What is the background to this news?

History: The North and South Blocks (the Central Secretariat) were designed by British architect Herbert Baker; built from 1912, they were completed in 1927.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who designed the North and South Block buildings that will become the Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum?

A) Edwin Lutyens

B) Robert Tor Russell

C) Herbert Baker

D) Charles Correa

Answer: C – Explanation: Herbert Baker – built 1912–1927. Lutyens designed Rashtrapati Bhavan; Robert Tor Russell designed Connaught Place.

2. Which country signed a 2024 agreement with India to help develop the Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum?

A) Italy

B) Japan

C) United Kingdom

D) France

Answer: D – Explanation: France (France Muséums Développement) – chosen for its experience of turning old buildings like the Louvre into museums.

3. The museum was announced on International Museum Day in 2023. When is that day observed?

A) 18 April

B) 27 September

C) 19 November

D) 18 May

Answer: D – Explanation: 18 May – observed by ICOM since 1977. 18 April is World Heritage Day; 27 September is World Tourism Day.

4. Which is India's oldest museum, founded by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1814?

A) Indian Museum, Kolkata

B) National Museum, Delhi

C) Salar Jung, Hyderabad

D) CSMVS, Mumbai

Answer: A – Explanation: Indian Museum, Kolkata – first curator Nathaniel Wallich. The National Museum, New Delhi began only in 1949.

5. Chennai's Egmore Government Museum, India's second oldest, is famed for sculptures from which Buddhist site?

A) Sanchi

B) Amaravati

C) Sarnath

D) Bharhut

Answer: B – Explanation: Amaravati (Andhra, 2nd century CE). Founded in 1851, the museum is also famed for its Chola bronzes.

Sources: ANI; Dynamite News; Indian Opinion; Deccan Herald; News On AIR; New India Samachar (PIB); The Tribune; Incredible India. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.