



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



बिना पत्रिका पत्रिका:
एशिया की नदी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र
INDIA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

7th Nadi Utsav

24th – 26th September 2026



Call for Papers

**The Eternal Yamuna:
Chronicles of Conflict, Biotic Healing,
and the Socio-Cultural Hearth**

Abstract word limit

250 words and 100 word bio

Last date of abstract submission

19th June 2026

(Submission form: Link in bio)

Mail queries to

nadiutsavignca@gmail.com



Concept Note



When the waters of the Yamuna rose in 2023 and reached the Red Fort, some said she had reclaimed an older path. The Yamuna, it is believed, was eager to touch baby Krishna's feet even as Vasudev struggled to cross her surging vastness. The Yamuna, it is also said, was dragged over the landscape by a stubborn Balarama. Rivers are now defined by this contradiction – they shape civilisations, they are duly worshipped: but they are also harnessed and polluted. As we celebrate the abundance that rivers enable, we must take cognisance of the brutality in our relationship to rivers. The Yamuna is the site for Krishna Leela in Jayadeva's *Gita Govinda*. The same river has witnessed the battles of Kurukshetra and Panipat. And the Yamuna has also borne the concrete weight of the transformation of the capital city region over decades. Now that the flooding of the river has become an annual feature, we must pause and ask – how can we as scholars, students, custodians, environmentalists, and beneficiaries of the Yamuna ensure that the river thrives in environmental and cultural terms?





At the 7th Nadi Utsav, the IGNCA, in collaboration with the Department of English, University of Delhi, is organising a seminar dedicated to articulating the significance of the Yamuna across academic disciplines. The national seminar, titled "The Eternal Yamuna: Chronicles of Conflict, Biotic Healing, and the Socio-Cultural Hearth" aims to revisit and expand the existing perceptions of the river. The seminar intends to understand the Yamuna through an interdisciplinary perspective - as river, as metaphor, as deity, as an entity with whims and needs, as a pivot of culture and memory, and as a water body in urgent need of restoration and preservation.

We invite abstracts (250 words) that address any of the following sub themes pertaining to the Yamuna. The last date for abstract submission is 19th June 2026.



Sub themes



**The River of Chronicles: Civilisational Memory
and the Domestic Sphere**

**A Living Link: Oral Traditions, Artisanal Legacies,
and Livelihoods**

**The Sacred Stream: Rites of Passage, Ritual
Arts, and Cultural Identity**

**Contested Flows: Strategic Conflict,
Urbanisation and its pressures, and the
Battles for Space**

**Ethics, Biotics, and the Environment in the
Assessment and Conservation of the Yamuna**

