NATIONAL MISSION ON CULTURAL MAPPING (NMCM)

In Collaboration with

CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL STUDIES (as Knowledge Partner)

Is organising a Two-Day National Seminar on

SINDHU–SARASWATI CIVILISATION AND VEDIC CULTURE

6th and 7th February 2027 | Rakhigarhi, Haryana

Background

The National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implemented by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), through its key component *Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar*, is mandated to document, preserve, research and disseminate India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage through systematic cultural mapping of villages and their traditions.

While village-level mapping captures the contemporary and living dimensions of India's cultural heritage, it is equally important to situate these traditions within their broader historical, linguistic and civilizational contexts. In this direction, NMCM is pursuing systematic study, documentation, mapping and dissemination of knowledge on the *Sindhu–Sarasvati Cultural Landscape*. This landscape offers a significant framework for understanding the emergence and development of early civilizations in the Indian subcontinent, encompassing archaeological sites, ancient river systems, settlement patterns, agricultural practices, craft traditions, trade networks, linguistic cultures and knowledge systems. Its study requires an interdisciplinary civilizational mapping approach integrating historical geography, archaeology, cultural traditions and broader perspectives on cultural identity.

Recent advances in ancient DNA research, archaeogenetics, geology, palaeohydrology, palaeoclimatic studies, remote sensing and archaeology offer new opportunities to investigate this landscape. There is a need to bring these scientific and archaeological perspectives into critical dialogue with relevant Vedic textual traditions to address research gaps, examine historical relationships and cultural transformations, and distinguish established evidence from emerging scholarly interpretations. Such an integrated approach would contribute to a more comprehensive and evidence-based understanding of India's early civilizational history.

About the Seminar

In this regard, the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM), IGNCA, Ministry of Culture**,** Government of India, in collaboration with the Centre for Civilisational Studies as knowledge partner is organising a two-day National Seminar on “Sindhu–Saraswati Civilisation and Vedic Culture” on 6th and 7th February 2027 at Rakhigarhi, Haryana.

The proposed seminar aims to bring together historians, archaeologists, geologists, geneticists, Sanskrit scholars and other specialists from related disciplines on a common academic platform. It seeks to facilitate interdisciplinary discussions on the Sindhu–Saraswati Civilisation and its relationship with Vedic textual traditions, with particular emphasis on recent developments in scientific research, ancient DNA studies, geological investigations, palaeohydrology and archaeological discoveries. The seminar will provide an opportunity for scholars to present and critically engage with their research findings, identify existing gaps in knowledge and explore the contributions of different disciplinary perspectives towards developing a more comprehensive understanding of the Sindhu–Saraswati Civilisation.

The proposed collaboration would be significant for NMCM as it would extend the scope of cultural mapping beyond the documentation of contemporary traditions towards a deeper understanding of their historical and civilisational contexts. By encouraging dialogue between archaeological evidence, textual sources, scientific investigations and cultural documentation, the seminar would contribute to developing a more integrated perspective on India's heritage. It would also help identify potential areas for future research, academic collaboration, field investigations and publications, thereby encouraging sustained and evidence-based engagement with the Sindhu–Saraswati Civilisation and Vedic Culture.

Interested scholars and researchers are invited to submit their abstracts by **10th December 2026**. Abstracts may be sent to **ssc.nmcm@gmail.com.**

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

1. **English Abstract:** The abstract should be 250-300 words, typed in Times New Roman font, size 12 pt, with a precise and relevant title and appropriate keywords.
2. **Hindi Abstract:** The abstract should be 250-300 words, typed in Arial Unicode MS font, size 12 pt, with a precise and relevant title and appropriate keywords.
3. **Submission Format:** Abstracts must be submitted in MS Word (.doc/.docx) and PDF formats.

Further details regarding the submission guidelines for selected abstracts and seminar programme will be communicated in due course.

Themes

Contributions are invited on the following broad themes -

1. Archaeology, Material Culture and Cultural Landscapes of the Sindhu–Saraswati Civilisation
2. Vedic Literature, Society and Cultural Traditions
3. Indus Script, Writing Systems and Epigraphical Studies
4. Cultural Continuity, Transformation and Chronological Perspectives
5. Religion, Philosophy, Rituals and Sacred Landscapes
6. Environment, Science and Technological Developments
7. Trade, Technology, Art and Interregional Cultural Interactions