

## “Which river are you from?”

Ram Manohar Lohiya was once asked which river he is from. Lohiya was surprised. He wondered if one could belong to a river, and not to a city or a village? But this is exactly what rivers do- they connect emotion to ecology. They enable us to understand who we are. They help us make sense of our material and spiritual worlds. The Nadi Utsav, or a festival of rivers, has been a journey meant to celebrate what rivers do. It is also meant to acknowledge the place of all forms of life and storytelling around rivers. Rivers invite rich representation, whether through literature, visual art, music, oral and performative storytelling, craft traditions, sculpture, or scientific pursuit- we live and interpret rivers in myriad ways. At the same time, the story of many rivers faces tragedy. Human intrusion unfortunately continues to impact water bodies. As we explore the narratives that a river gives rise to, it is our urgent responsibility to recognise what we do to rivers. Thus, we must ask how the ordinary and everyday can co- exist with the extraordinary and the divine in stories about rivers. A holistic perspective on riverine cultures is crucial to knowing where we are going as a civilisation. This iteration of Nadi Utsav asks participants to reflect on the flux and fluidity of our relationship to water bodies.

To mark a confluence of the material, the emotional, and the spiritual in rivers, IGNCA is organising the 6th Nadi Utsav from 25th to 27th September 2025. As part of the event, IGNCA welcomes all to a National Seminar on the theme **Riverscape Dynamics: Changes and Continuity**. The seminar will focus on the sub-themes below:

1. Traditional riverine knowledge and wisdom
2. River Gods and/in Folk narratives
3. The river in Art
4. Craft practices in/around/of rivers
5. Science and rivers

We invite abstracts that broadly address the themes above. The last date for submission of abstracts is **6th July 2025**. Please email the abstract (**250 words**), paper title, five keywords, and a short bio-note (100 words) to [nadiutsavignca@gmail.com](mailto:nadiutsavignca@gmail.com). Please ensure the abstract, title, keywords, and bio-note are in one document.