

## **Eco-friendly: Art goes from earth to earth**

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Manav Gupta's clay installations at the India Habitat Centre mark a new chapter in India's contemporary public art movement, bringing together environmentalism, craft and community.

The artist deploys thousands of earthen lamps, chillums and kulhads to form a monumental river installation — an Ode to the Ganga — at the Plaza steps of the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The work, part of his 'Excavations in Hymns of Clay' series, has drawn record footfalls and become a touchstone for dialogue on sustainable development and India's relationship with its sacred rivers.

It is the site-specific, avant-garde nature of this installation and Gupta's unique engagement with space and architecture that revived his critical acclaim and recognition in the Contemporary Art Market, and led to invitations to bring the work to Minneapolis, New York, Washington DC and Miami as part of his Global Public Art Project connecting rivers of the world.