

## **Making art of earth — Artist Manav Gupta's innovative art installations highlight the importance of environment conservation and connecting with nature**

*By Naina Arora*

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Showcased at a city exhibition, artist Manav Gupta's innovative art installations highlight the importance of environment conservation and connecting with nature.

Manav Gupta's 'Arth — Art for Earth' exhibition at the IGNCA lawns deploys thousands of earthen lamps, chillums and kulhads to create six major environmental art installations.

The artist converts quintessential rural Indian clay pottery into avant-garde contemporary installations that embrace nature through the five elements. Whether it be Rain, the River Waterfront, Time Machine, Bee-hive Garden, River Bed of Love, or the Noah's Ark — the fragility of clay juxtaposed with the limitedness of the 'cup of life' questions the paradigm of Time and human engagement with it in today's rapidly mechanised and consumerist world.

The works, conceptualised, created and constructed taking into consideration the venue, offer a sensitive natural interface with the ambience, seeking to engage fresh and locally relevant dialogues and questions that audiences can have with the art and within themselves.

IGNCA cordially invites the public to the first-of-its-kind public art project on environment by one of India's leading contemporary artists. The art exhibits explore nature as a museum laboratory of art, espousing sustainable development by excavating the philosophies of ancient civilizations, like Indian Vedic practices, on the environment.