



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
organizes



Two-day International Conference
on

THE POSTHUMAN RE-TURNS:
Literature, Culture, and the Futures of Being



Kamala Nehru College
University of Delhi



October 9-10, 2026
(Hybrid Mode)



Patron
Prof. Pavitra Bhardwaj
Principal

Convenor
Dr. Amit Kumar Soni
Teacher in-Charge, English Department

Co-Convenors
Dr. Sanam Khanna
Ms. Neha Singh

About the College

Established in 1964, Kamala Nehru College is a premier constituent college of the University of Delhi. Recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and accredited with an 'A' Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the college upholds a strong legacy of academic distinction and institutional excellence.

Aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and the national vision of Viksit Bharat, the institution emphasizes multidisciplinary learning, research-driven pedagogy, innovation, and skill development. It fosters a dynamic and inclusive academic ecosystem that nurtures critical thinking, creativity, ethical leadership, and nation-building values. Through a learner-centric approach, Kamala Nehru College is committed to equipping students with industry-relevant competencies, research exposure, and a strong sense of social responsibility, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the realisation of a developed and self-reliant India.



Concept Note

In an era characterized by unprecedented technological advancements and escalating ecological crises, the fundamental assumptions of what it means to be human are undergoing a radical reassessment. The traditional framework of humanism, predicated on a singular, anthropocentric worldview, is increasingly challenged by the rise of artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, and global ecological interdependence. This interdisciplinary conference aims to explore how various forms of cultural production, including literature, film, and digital media, function not merely as reflections of the posthuman turn but as active agents in shaping and articulating it.

Narrative, in its myriad forms—be it textual, visual, performative, or digital—serves as both a critical mirror and an experimental ground for contesting established paradigms and exploring alternative modes of being and knowing. Cultural narratives offer significant ontological alternatives to human-centred thought, often depicting the boundaries between human and non-human entities as fluid and interconnected, as seen in mythological and philosophical traditions. This approach fosters a non-dualistic perspective that critically engages with and challenges the Western concept of the Anthropocene.

Drawing on diverse intellectual traditions, we recognize the value of revisiting indigenous epistemologies and ancient Indian thought, which emphasize interconnectedness and the impermanence of the self. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — "the world is one family" — offers a powerful ethical framework for posthumanism, advocating a holistic view in which all beings are part of an interconnected whole. This perspective resonates deeply in literature, where narratives can transcend anthropocentric viewpoints and explore complex relationships among humans, technology, nature, and other life forms. The conference aims to foster a dialogue on how these philosophical insights can help envision a more inclusive, empathetic, and expansive understanding of identity and ethics in a posthuman world.



We are particularly interested in how narratives articulate, complicate, and resist dominant discourses surrounding technological progress, ecological decline, and human exceptionalism.

Submissions may address questions such as:

- What new conceptions of consciousness and being emerge when the human is no longer the sole measure of meaning?
- How do literature and media represent the fragmentation and de-centring of the human subject in the face of posthumanist thought?
- How do narratives explore the relationship between human bodies and technology, particularly through concepts like cyborgs, genetic engineering, and virtual reality?
- What are the ethical and ontological implications of technological enhancement and disembodiment?
- How do literary and media texts move beyond anthropocentrism to represent interspecies relationships, ecological crises, and the agency of nonhuman entities?
- How do digital media, video games, and virtual environments embody and reflect posthumanist ideas?
- How do filmmakers and visual artists use imagery, special effects, and cinematic techniques to depict posthuman bodies and worlds?
- How do they challenge the viewer's anthropocentric perspective?
- How does the posthuman turn influence narrative structure and literary form?
- How are posthumanist ideas and representations shaped by different cultural, national, and postcolonial contexts, particularly in the Global South?
- How do they challenge Eurocentric notions of humanism and progress?
- What new ethical and political dilemmas arise in posthumanist narratives?

This critical inquiry enables us to consider both the dystopian possibilities and the transformative potential for ethical living in a posthuman reality.





Conference Tracks & Themes

We invite scholarly and creative-critical proposals that engage with the narrative dimensions of posthumanism. Submissions are welcome across the following thematic tracks, though this list is not exhaustive:

---• Track 1: Posthuman Aesthetics and Narrative Forms

- Posthuman aesthetics/ethics in literature, film, and visual culture
- Techno-Gothic imaginaries, monstrosity, animality and uncanny affects
- Posthuman mythologies and the reinvention of the sacred
- Silence, sound, code, and gesture as narrative languages

--• Track 2: Bodies, Identities, and Hybrid Subjectivities

- Cyborg bodies and synthetic identities
- Queer, feminist, and decolonial/postcolonial posthumanisms
- Indigenous cosmologies as critiques of Western humanism

--• Track 3: Ecologies and the More-Than-Human World

- Multispecies and ecological narratives
- Solarpunk and the reimagining of planetary futures

--• Track 4: Machines, Memory, and the Digital Future

- AI-generated literature and algorithmic authorship
- Digital memory, archives, and speculative futures

Submission Guidelines

We invite proposals from scholars in literature, cultural studies, philosophy, media studies, the arts, and related fields. We also welcome submissions that adopt creative-critical approaches and experimental formats, including hybrid presentations, performances, or digital installations.

1. Abstracts (max 300 words) should be submitted via email and must include the title, author(s) and affiliation(s), five keywords, and the track of interest.
2. A brief bio-note (100 words max) should also be included.
3. Full papers must be submitted as a single MS Word file with the track number and name in the subject line to engconference@knc.du.ac.in
4. Each paper may have a maximum of two authors.
5. The length of the final paper should be around 4000-5000 words and it should follow the MLA 9 format.

Important Dates & Contact Information:

- Deadline for Abstract Submission: September 20, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: September 25, 2026
- Deadline for Full Paper Submission: September 30, 2026
- Conference Dates: October 9-10, 2026

Scan the QR Code for
hassle-free registration:



*Selected high quality papers will be published in an edited volume by a reputed publisher. Publication charges will apply.

Registration and Payment

The registration fee for offline participation/online-offline paper presentation at the conference is as follows:

Faculty members (Offline)	₹2000
Faculty members (Online)	₹1500
Research scholars (Offline)	₹1200
Research scholars (Online)	₹800
International participants	\$50

*The fee covers the conference kit, high tea, and lunch.

Click the link or scan the QR Code for registration

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