



PATRON

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JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

HERITAGE-THE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

(under the aegis of IQAC)

is organising an

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

Embodied Pasts: Performance,
Memory, and History.



16th March, 2026



India International Centre,
New Delhi





About Us

Janki Devi Memorial College (JDMC), is an A+ NAAC accredited and ISO 21001: 2018 and ISO 9001: 2015 certified premier women's college of the University of Delhi. The Institution was founded in 1959 by the famous Gandhian Shri Brij Krishan Chandiwala in memory of his mother Smt. Janki Devi.

JDMC aims to provide quality education to young women and empower them to become economically self-reliant, have the confidence to face the vicissitudes of a challenging society, contribute meaningfully to the community at large and acquire the capability to think, lead and change the world.

Theme

Performing the past through dances, ceremonies, traditional skills, and other acts allows for the transmission and reinterpretation of memories, creating a "palimpsest" of past and present experiences. Embodied performances solidify group bonds and collective identity by re-enacting shared experiences, reinforcing the social nature of memory. Bodily techniques, rituals, and ceremonies embedded in cultural practice ensure the continuation of the past across generations through the co-presence of bodies in space.

Kinesthetic memory, the body's ability to perform skilled actions such as cooking or playing a musical instrument, represents an embodied memory that can be activated without explicit conscious recollection. As somatic and experiential memory, it is encoded not just mentally but also through physical and emotional experiences, including somatic movements, which contribute to the performance and retrieval of past events.

The conference will particularly focus on embodied memory, involving repeating, interpreting, and enacting past events through physical actions, gestures, and cultural practices. This not only transmits cultural knowledge but also shapes individual and collective identities and fosters a connection to the past that can influence present and future actions. It also seeks to explore gendering through technologies of embodiment. Rather than just written archives, performance spaces and bodily repertoires become ways to store and engage with history, particularly in contexts of oppression and resistance.





SUB THEMES:

- Historical Representations of Indic Performers
- Embodiment of Memory in Performance
- Marginalized Narratives and Everyday Histories
- Performance Spaces and Bodily Repertoires
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Performance History
- Impact of Performance on Collective Identity
- Transmission and Reinterpretation of Memories

GUIDELINES:

- Please send your abstracts of up to 300 words to historyconference@jdm.du.ac.in
- Abstracts are welcome in both English and Hindi.
- The abstracts should have the Title of the paper, Name, Mobile Number, Whatsapp Number, Email address and Institutional affiliation of the author/s.
- Selected abstracts will be informed via email by 30th January 2026.

Details for Submission

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: **20th January 2026**

Intimation of Selected Abstracts: **5th February 2026**

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers: **5th March 2026**
(Selected Entries Only)

Registration Details (Selected Entries Only)

Category	Registration Amount (Without Accommodation)	Registration Amount (With Accommodation)
Research Scholar	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 3000/-
Faculty / Other	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 5000/-

For Further Queries Contact:

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OUTCOME

- The Conference is a single-day event aimed at fostering scholarly dialogue on the diverse historical representations of Indic performers and performance with reference to the embodiment of memory.
- The conference seeks to bring together historians, sociologists, and interdisciplinary scholars to explore fresh perspectives and challenge conventional historiographical approaches.
- The focus is on developing a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
- The conference emphasizes the need to explore previously marginalized narratives, everyday histories, and the broader socio-economic factors involved in the field of performance.
- Selected Papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Dr. Akanksha Kumar
- Ms. Anuradha Goswami
- Dr. Ankita Kumar
- Dr. Md. Khurshid Alam
- Dr. Shweta Singh
- Mr. Shivam Sharma
- Dr. Saroj Ranjan Jha
- Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh
- Dr. Abhinav Mishra

