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FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

As the year draws to a close, the December 2025 edition of Urban Panorama encapsulates the intellectual vibrancy and interdisciplinary exploration that continue to shape our academic discourse. This issue brings together a rich collection of research papers that address contemporary challenges, celebrate traditional knowledge systems, and explore innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

The paper **“Assessment of Availability and Accessibility of Green Spaces in Udaipur, Rajasthan”** by *Md. Fahad Iqbal, Shobhan Sachan, Avichal Dubey, and Ananya Singhal* offers an extensive audit of Udaipur’s urban green infrastructure. Using a mixed-methods framework combining geospatial analytics, photographic documentation, and stakeholder consultations, the authors reveal stark inequities in the distribution and accessibility of green spaces across neighbourhoods. The study highlights how rapid urban expansion threatens environmental justice and underscores the urgent need to integrate accessible green spaces into city planning for healthier and more inclusive urban futures.

In **“Assessing Heritage City Development: A Case Study of Varanasi, India,”** *Dr. Tungnath Mauar* presents an insightful analysis of the complex interplay between heritage conservation and contemporary urban development. Through spatial mapping, stakeholder interviews, and urban morphology assessments, the paper examines challenges posed by commercialization, infrastructural pressures, and environmental degradation in Varanasi’s historic core. The research emphasizes the necessity of heritage-sensitive planning that harmonizes cultural preservation with sustainable urban growth.

The paper **“Ayodhya as the Zenith of India’s Cultural Consciousness: A Study in Heritage City Development with Special Reference to the Renovation of the Shri Ram Temple”** by *Dr. Kiran Agrawal* presents a nuanced understanding of Ayodhya’s civilizational legacy and its contemporary redevelopment as a model of heritage-focused urban transformation. Drawing on textual sources, cultural narratives, and policy frameworks such as HRIDAY and AMRUT, the study demonstrates how integrated planning, tourism expansion, and cultural resurgence have reshaped Ayodhya. It argues that the renovated Shri Ram Temple has emerged not only as a spiritual symbol but also as a landmark of heritage-led development and cultural assurance in modern India.



In “**Human Impacts and Conservation Needs of Kanwar Tal: A Spatial Analysis**,” *Deepak Kumar* and *Dr. Poonam Kumari* conduct a rigorous geospatial evaluation of ecological degradation in Bihar’s largest freshwater oxbow lake. Through multi-temporal satellite imagery, LULC mapping, field surveys, and hydrological assessments, the authors document rising anthropogenic pressures, habitat fragmentation, and declining water spread. The study proposes buffer-zone strategies, hydrological restoration, and community-led stewardship as essential components for safeguarding Ramsar wetlands and strengthening regional ecological resilience.

The article “**Spatial and Environmental Assessment of Multi-Sectoral Waste Management in Urban India: Strategies, Innovations, and Governance Challenges**” by *Dr. Shashi Bhushan* investigates the complexities of managing increasingly diverse waste streams in urban India. Through case studies of Indore, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Surat, the paper evaluates technological innovations, regulatory gaps, and governance challenges. The proposed Integrated Spatial Model for Urban Waste Management underscores the need for digital monitoring, PPP-driven infrastructure, and coordinated policy frameworks to build environmentally sustainable and socially equitable waste systems aligned with global SDGs.

In “**Immunity Booster Plants in Kitchen Gardens and Related Associated Factors in Urban City**,” *Dr. Shivani Srivastava*, *Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma*, and *Dr. Shaheen Fatima* present a compelling Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) analysis based on 400 respondents in Lucknow. The study highlights the growing adoption of immunity-boosting plants in kitchen gardens, while also revealing knowledge gaps and the need for community training to promote sustainable household horticulture.

The paper “**Forts and Towns in Shilpa Shastras: Some Important Historical Locus in Gujarat**” by *Dr. Surabhi Srivastava* offers an enlightening exploration of ancient Indian architectural and urban design traditions. Through a careful study of Shilpa Shasha texts, the paper uncovers sophisticated planning concepts underlying historical villages, forts, and towns—demonstrating the deep-rooted urban ethos embedded in India’s knowledge systems.

In “**An Empirical Study of Gender-Responsive Health Spending and the Role of Social Work in Advancing Women’s Development in India**,” *Gautam Makwana* and *Dr. H. Elizabeth* evaluate the trajectory of gender-responsive budgeting over the past decade. Highlighting the pivotal role of social work in



enabling community-level impact, the study calls for improved transparency, interdepartmental coordination, and capacity-building to advance equitable health outcomes for women.

The article **“Participation of Women in urban governance and their Empowerment in India”** by *K. Srinivasa Rao, Awadhesh Kumar Singh, and Dagam Ramdas* analyzes the evolving nature of women’s political involvement across governance levels. The authors emphasize the transformative role of representation in promoting inclusive policy-making and strengthening democratic institutions.

The paper **“Women Participation in Decision Making Urban Institutions in India”** by *Ajit Kumar Mishra and Dr. Usha Vaidya* provides an in-depth examination of gender dynamics in political decision-making structures. Tracing developments from constitutional principles to the 73rd and 74th Amendments and the Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam, the study underscores the importance of institutional empowerment in advancing gender-inclusive development.

In **“From Sacred Geography to Sustainable Planning: Ecological Functions of Sanatan Religious Landscapes,”** *Rahul Kumar, Abha Kumari, and Priyanka Kumari* reconceptualize Sanatan religious sites as ecologically functional landscapes rather than isolated heritage assets. Through classical textual analysis, GIS mapping, ecological case studies, and interviews, the authors document crucial ecosystem services—including biodiversity conservation, hydrological regulation, and microclimate stabilization. The proposed Sacred Ecology Regional Planning (SERP) framework highlights how sacred landscapes can be integrated into modern planning strategies to reinforce resilience and sustainability.

The paper **“Automated Urban Street Lighting: Technologies, Efficiency, and Future Prospects”** by *Santosh Kumar Suman* examines the growing potential of AI-driven, IoT-enabled, and solar-integrated street lighting systems. The study illustrates how intelligent lighting solutions enhance public safety, reduce energy consumption, and support sustainable urban transitions.

In **“Reimagining Urban Street Vending in India: Insights from PM SVANidhi,”** *Supriya Srivastava and Awadhesh Kumar Singh* offer a data-driven assessment of the PM SVANidhi scheme’s effectiveness in strengthening the livelihoods of urban street vendors. The paper celebrates achievements in financial inclusion and economic resilience while also highlighting gender and regional disparities that require policy attention.

In **“Blueprints to Brainwaves: Intelligent Solutions for Sustainable Cities,”** *Dr. Monika Kumari* examines the transformative potential of smart city technologies



in addressing the mounting pressures of climate change, rapid urbanisation, and resource scarcity. Through case studies spanning green infrastructure, circular economy models, IoT-enabled monitoring systems, and data-driven urban analytics, the paper demonstrates how intelligent frameworks can elevate sustainability and resilience. The study underscores the importance of integrating technology with participatory planning and adaptive policy design, illustrating how cities can evolve into dynamic, regenerative ecosystems capable of responding to societal and environmental needs in real time.

Adding to the thematic richness of this edition, the paper **“Herbal Plantation as a Catalyst of Rural- Urban Transformation: A Study with Special Reference to the State of Bihar”** by *Menka Bharati* explores the transformative potential of cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) for rural development. Through policy analysis, case studies, and evaluation of value-chain gaps, the study highlights how MAP-based enterprises can enhance livelihoods, strengthen women-led entrepreneurship, and link rural producers to rapidly growing urban wellness markets.

Complementing this is **“India’s Quest for Net Zero Emission-2070: Deconstructing the Federal Strategy”** by *Dr. Sanjay Sharma* and *Mr. Sunil Kumar*, an incisive examination of India’s evolving climate governance framework. The paper analyses cooperative and competitive dimensions of federalism in the context of climate action, emphasising the pivotal role of NITI Aayog, state governments, and local bodies in achieving long-term decarbonisation goals aligned with the Paris Agreement.

This edition exemplifies our commitment to providing a platform for scholarly exploration that bridges traditional knowledge, social inquiry, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. Each paper serves as a testament to the power of research to illuminate pathways for societal progress and strengthen the foundations of sustainable development.

We hope this issue stimulates thought, inspires action, and deepens engagement with the critical issues of our time.



Rachna Rishi
Publication Officer

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I, Nishith Rai, declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Nishith Rai



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CONTENTS

HERITAGE URBANISM & CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

1. Ayodhya As The Zenith Of India's Cultural Consciousness: A Study In Heritage City Development With Special Reference To The Renovation Of The Shri Ram Temple	1-24
	Dr. Kiran Agrawal
2. Assessing Heritage City Development: A Case Study Of Varanasi, India	25-50
	Dr. Tungnath Mauar
3. Assessment of Availability and Accessibility of Green Spaces in Udaipur, Rajasthan	51-72
	Md Fahad Iqbal, Shobhan Sachan, Avichal Dubey, Ananya Singhal
4. From Sacred Geography To Sustainable Planning: Ecological Functions Of Sanatan Religious Landscapes	73-98
	Rahul Kumar, Abha Kumari and Priyanka Kumari
5. Forts And Towns In Shilpa Shastras: Some Important Historical Locus In Gujarat	99-108
	Dr. Surabhi Srivastava

URBAN ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

6. Human Impacts And Conservation Needs Of Kanwar Tal: A Spatial Analysis	109-134
	Deepak Kumar and Dr. Poonam Kumari
7. Spatial And Environmental Assessment Of Multi-Sectoral Waste Management In Urban India: Strategies, Innovations, And Governance Challenges	135-160
	Dr. Shashi Bhushan
8. Automated Urban Street Lighting: Technologies, Efficiency, and Future Prospects	161-172
	Santosh Kumar Suman



9. Immunity Booster Plants In Kitchen Gardens And Related Associated Factors In Urban City: A Knowledge, Attitude And Practice Analysis	173-186
Dr. Shivani Srivastava, Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma and Dr. Shaheen Fatima	
10. Herbal Plantation as a Catalyst of Rural-Urban Transformation: A Study with Special Reference to the State of Bihar	187-208
Menka Bharati	
11. India's Quest for Net Zero Emission-2070: Deconstructing the Federal Strategy	209-224
Dr. Sanjay Sharma and Mr. Sunil Kumar	
GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	
12. Women Participation In Decision Making Urban Institutions In India	225-238
Ajit Kumar Mishra and Dr. Usha Vaidya	
13. Participation Of Women in Urban Governance and their Empowerment in India	239-268
K. Srinivasa Rao, Awadhesh Kumar Singh and Dagam Ramdas	
14. An Empirical Study Of Gender-Responsive Health Spending And The Role Of Social Work In Advancing Women's Development In India	269-286
Gautam Makwana and Dr. H Elizabeth	
15. Reimagining Urban Street Vending In India : Insights from PM SVANidhi	287-316
Supriya Srivastava and Awadhesh Kumar Singh	
16. Blueprints to Brainwaves: Intelligent Solutions for Sustainable Cities	317-328
Dr. Monika Kumari	



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