

ISSN: 0975-8534



Vol. XXV

January – June, 2026

No. 1

URBAN PANORAMA

(A Journal of Urban Governance & Management)

(A Multi Disciplinary Peer-Reviewed Refereed Research Journal)

**Regional Centre for Urban &
Environmental Studies**

(Established by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India)



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FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

We are pleased to present the January–June 2026 issue of *Urban Panorama*, which brings together a diverse and interdisciplinary collection of scholarly contributions focusing on contemporary challenges and emerging perspectives in urban governance, spatial transformation, sustainability, environmental resilience, technological innovation, and inclusive development in India. The articles featured in this issue collectively reflect the journal's commitment to fostering critical academic discourse that bridges policy, practice, and sustainable development.

The issue opens with S. Vijay Kumar's paper, *"A Critical Examination of Depreciation of Indian Rupee Against the US Dollar,"* which critically examines the dynamics of currency depreciation and its implications for inflation, trade, investment, and macroeconomic stability in India.

In *"Corporate Governance, Ethics and Transparency,"* Neelam Gupta highlights the significance of ethical leadership, accountability, and transparent governance practices in strengthening institutional integrity and sustainable corporate development.

Rahul Kumar's paper, *"Kautilya and Contemporary Urban Governance: Reinterpreting the Arthashastra for Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities in Modern India,"* revisits indigenous traditions of governance and demonstrates the continuing relevance of Kautilya's integrated urban statecraft in addressing contemporary urban challenges.

The issue further expands its focus to broader spatial transformations through Dr. Shashi Bhushan's paper, *"Urbanization as a Multi-Scalar Geographical Process: Macro Urbanization, Metropolization, and Suburban Transformation in India."* The study examines metropolitan expansion, suburban transformation, and peri-urban restructuring as interconnected geographical processes shaping India's changing urban landscape and governance complexities.

Several papers in this issue explore the role of technological innovation and digital governance in urban management. Azhar Ahmad and Prafulla Parlewar, in *"Location Intelligence for Urban Land Management,"* analyse the transformative role of geospatial technologies, artificial intelligence, and blockchain systems in improving urban land governance and planning efficiency.

Dr. Abhishek Chowdhary and Dr. Yusairah Ahmad, in *"Adoption of IoT in Smart City Governance: Challenges and Policy Gaps in Lucknow,"* examine the opportunities and governance challenges associated with IoT-enabled urban systems and smart city infrastructure.



In “GIS-MIS Convergence for Spatial Decision Intelligence in Urban Governance: A Framework for Data-Driven Smart Cities,” Er. Rohit Kumar proposes an integrated framework combining geospatial intelligence and management information systems to strengthen urban planning, service delivery, and responsive governance.

Dr. Kiran Agrawal’s paper, “Smart City Infrastructure and Automated GIS-IoT Enabled Street Lighting in Tier-II Indian Cities: A Case Study of Gorakhpur since 2017,” highlights the role of automated lighting systems and ICT-enabled municipal infrastructure in improving energy efficiency, public safety, and sustainable digital urbanism.

The governance of urban mobility and public participation is examined in “Public Relation Governance in Managing Urban Transport System: A Study of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh” by Panchanan Mishra and Prof. Nand Lal Bharti, which emphasizes citizen engagement, communication systems, and participatory governance in strengthening urban transport management.

Environmental sustainability and ecological resilience form another major theme of this issue. Dr. R. K. Jaiswal’s paper, “Rejuvenation of Waterbodies Through Nature Based Solution: A Study of Moradabad District of Uttar Pradesh,” examines the ecological significance of urban waterbodies and the importance of nature-based solutions in enhancing groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

A significant contribution to environmental governance is made by Dr. Deepak Kumar and Dr. Poonam Kumari in “Ecology and Climate Importance of Indian Peatlands: Towards a National Scientific Baseline for Environmental Governance.” The study provides an important scientific baseline on the ecology, carbon significance, and governance relevance of Indian peatlands and highlights the urgent need for policy integration and environmental monitoring systems.

The issue also includes an important environmental health study by Dr. Suleman and Dr. Sunita Maurya titled “Short-Term Festival-Induced Deterioration of Urban Air Quality: A Diwali 2023 Case Study of Lucknow City, India.” The paper documents the alarming rise in particulate pollution during the Diwali festival and underscores the need for targeted interventions and awareness measures.

Priyansha Singh’s paper, “Urban Green Spaces and Traditional Practices: Bridging Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) with Modern Urban Planning in Uttar Pradesh,” explores how traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous practices can complement modern urban planning frameworks and strengthen sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

The transition toward sustainable energy systems is analysed in Priyanka Kumari’s paper “Non-Conventional Energy Resources in Urban India: Evaluating Government Schemes and the Pathway to Sustainable Urban Energy Transition,” which critically examines renewable energy initiatives, urban energy governance, and low-carbon development strategies.



An important interdisciplinary perspective is presented by Menka Bharati and Prof. (Dr.) M. Shamsul Islam in *"Moringa Oleifera Lam. as a Sustainable Urban Herbal Resource: Integrating Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and Phytochemical Evidence for Urban Environmental Health."* The paper highlights the relevance of medicinal plants and phytochemical research in addressing urban environmental health challenges through sustainable and preventive healthcare approaches.

The final section of the issue focuses on gender inclusion, empowerment, and participatory development. Ajit Kumar Mishra's paper, *"Women Participation in Urban Development Programmes and Schemes: A Study of Women from Urban Slums of Bhopal City in Madhya Pradesh,"* examines women's participation in urban development initiatives from the perspective of inclusive governance and gender-responsive planning.

Dr. Awadhesh Kumar Singh and Dr. Nasruddin, in *"Empowering Women Through Gender Budgeting: Bridging Policy, Practice and Outcomes in India,"* discuss gender budgeting as a strategic instrument for women's empowerment and inclusive governance.

Dr. Asha's paper, *"Women Empowerment and Development: A Critical Analysis of Gender Budgeting with Special Reference to the Nirbhaya Fund,"* critically evaluates the implementation and effectiveness of the Nirbhaya Fund in strengthening women's safety infrastructure and gender-responsive governance.

The issue concludes with Abha Kumari's paper, *"Women Empowerment in India: Government Schemes, Institutional Frameworks, and Gender Budgeting,"* which examines major policy initiatives, institutional mechanisms, and gender-sensitive programmes aimed at advancing women's empowerment and inclusive national development.

We sincerely hope that the research contributions presented in this issue will stimulate further academic engagement, policy dialogue, and informed action toward sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban futures in India.

The continued success of Urban Panorama is made possible through the valuable contributions of our authors, reviewers, members of the Editorial and Advisory Board, and our readers. Their sustained support motivates us to strengthen the journal's role in advancing research and dialogue in the fields of urban development, governance, environment, and sustainability.

Lucknow
June, 2026



Rachna Rishi
Publication Officer



GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The editors and the publishers of this Journal welcome the submission of original research papers and brief research reports, notes for publication on condition that they are submitted solely to the Urban Panorama and that they will not be reprinted or translated without the consent of the editor. Papers will be judged on the content of their original data or interpretation and Referee's comments.

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Exchange proposals should be addressed to the Editor and requests for subscription should be addressed to Serials Publications.

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Author : Abha Kumari



CONTRIBUTORS

S. Vijay Kumar

- Former Head & Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana State

Neelam Gupta

- Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi, New Delhi

Rahul Kumar

- Department of Geography, Patna University, Patna, Bihar

Dr. Shashi Bhushan

- Scientist, Institute of Environmental Research and Rural Development (IERARD), Patna, Bihar, India

Azhar Ahmad

- 2nd Year, M.Plan (Urban Planning), School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Prafulla Parlewar

- Professor, Department of Urban Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Dr. Abhishek Chowdhary

- Post-Doctoral Fellow (Management), ICSSR, Department of Commerce, University of Lucknow, Lucknow

Dr. Yusairah Ahmad

- Assistant Professor, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, Lucknow

Er. Rohit Kumar

- Business Intelligence Analyst, WAISL, New Delhi, India
- B.Tech., NIT Jalandhar; FinTech Analytics, IIM Kozhikode

Dr. Kiran Agrawal

- Vice Principal, Chaudhary Suraj Singh Zila Panchayat Inter College, Jagir, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, India

Panchanan Mishra

- Research Scholar, Department of Public Administration, University of Lucknow, Lucknow

Prof. Nand Lal Bharti

- Professor and Head, Department of Public Administration, University of Lucknow, Lucknow



Dr. R. K. Jaiswal

- Associated with Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow

Dr. Deepak Kumar

- Senior Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

Dr. Poonam Kumari

- Senior Scientist, Institute of Environmental Research and Rural Development, Patna, Bihar, India

Dr. Suleman, Ph.D.

- Department of Geography, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Sunita Maurya

- Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, Baba Mathura Das Sitaram Mahavidyalaya, Chilkahar, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh

Priyansha Singh

- Research and Documentation Expert, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow

Priyanka Kumari

- Department of Education, Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna, Bihar

Menka Bharati

- Doctoral Research Scholar, University Department of Botany, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

Prof. (Dr.) M. Shamsul Islam

- Principal, Daudnagar College, Daudnagar, Aurangabad, Bihar, India
- Seniormost Professor of Botany under Magadh University Service

Ajit Kumar Mishra

- Assistant Director, Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow

Dr. Awadhesh Kumar Singh

- Honorary Professor, Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, Maharaja Agrasen University, Baddi, Solan, Himachal Pradesh

Dr. Nasruddin

- Assistant Director, Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow

Dr. Asha

- Senior Scientist, Chhattisgarh Action Research Team (CART), Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Abha Kumari

- MA in History & PG Diploma in Fashion Designing (PGDFD), Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna, Bihar



Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies

(Established by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India)



For further details contact:

Regional Centre for Urban &
Environmental Studies, Lucknow
Adjacent Registrar's Office,
University of Lucknow- 226007
0522-2740-165
Fax: 0522-2740-165
rcueslucknow@gmail.com
www.rcueslucknow.org

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