

Urban Imaginaries and Indian Cities in Literature

Editors
Dr Neethu P Antony
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Urban Imaginaries and Indian Cities in Literature explores the multifaceted ways in which Indian cities are represented, contested, and reimagined in literary and cultural texts. Moving beyond conventional understandings of the city as a mere backdrop, this volume examines urban spaces as active presences that impact identities, social relations, memories, and everyday experiences. Drawing on contemporary spatial theories and interdisciplinary perspectives, the essays in this collection investigate the complex intersections of literature, cinema, language, culture, and urban life. The volume engages with diverse themes, including sensory experiences, migration, belonging, subaltern narratives, spatial politics, environmental concerns, gendered experiences, and the tensions between tradition and modernity. Through studies of cities such as Kolkata, Guwahati, Mumbai, Shillong, and Gangtok, the contributors illuminate the multiple ways in which urban spaces are imagined, negotiated, and transformed across different historical and cultural contexts. This collection engages with both metropolitan and relatively underexplored urban locations and expands the scope of urban literary studies in India, and contributes to ongoing conversations in literary geography, cultural studies, and urban theory.



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Editorial materials with Dr Neethu P. Antony and Dr Arpana Venu

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Dedication

*To the loving memory of our late fathers
whose love, sacrifices, and guidance continue to inspire us every day.*

Foreword

Cities are among the most dynamic sites of human experience, spaces where histories collide and converge, identities are forged, and futures are imagined. The present volume, *Urban Imaginaries and Indian Cities in Literature*, makes a timely and significant contribution to this expanding field by bringing together diverse scholarly engagements with Indian urban spaces and their literary, cinematic, linguistic, and cultural representations. The interdisciplinary nature of this volume deserves special recognition. By bringing literary studies into dialogue with urban studies, geography, sociology, cultural studies, film studies, and spatial theory, the contributors offer innovative methodologies for understanding contemporary Indian cities. Such approaches are particularly valuable in a rapidly urbanising nation where questions of belonging, exclusion, mobility, sustainability, and social justice increasingly define public discourse.

Equally important is the principle of Universal Open Access. We believe that knowledge achieves its fullest potential when it is freely available to readers across geographical, institutional, and economic boundaries. By making this volume openly accessible, the authors, editors and publisher affirm their dedication to the democratisation of scholarship and the wider dissemination of critical research.

I congratulate the editors, contributors, and the publishing team for producing a volume that is both intellectually rigorous and socially relevant. I am confident that *Urban Imaginaries and Indian Cities in Literature* will stimulate further research on Indian urban spaces.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr Swayam Prabha Satpathy

Bhubaneswar, India.

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