

EDITORIAL

Digital Humanities and Ubiquitous Scholarship on Living in a City

Interdisciplinary Journal of Digital Humanities and Ubiquitous Scholarship (IJ DUS) is a leading interdisciplinary Journal for research and writing drawing upon contemporary debates and intellectual practices from **digital humanities and technology-aided learning**. We aim to provide a platform for scholars to showcase their research and foster a community that shares a passion for exploring the realms of literature, art, history, language, philosophy, culture and environment among others, through a digital lens. Our mission is to uncover the innovative ways in which technology is revolutionizing scholarship and education not just in humanities but across streams and disciplines.

NEP 2020 states that, “With various dramatic scientific and technological advances, such as the rise of big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence, many unskilled jobs worldwide may be taken over by machines, while the need for a skilled workforce, particularly involving mathematics, computer science, and data science, in conjunction with multidisciplinary abilities across the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, will be increasingly in greater demand”. **Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes 2022** mentions “Flexibility to switch to alternative modes of learning (offline, ODL, and Online learning, and hybrid modes of learning)” as one of its main features. In pursuit of this spirit of National Education Policy and Undergraduate Credit and Curriculum Framework, the first issue focuses an important area of humanities and inter-disciplinary approaches: **Living in a city. Delhi University and other institutions offer papers like Delhi: Ancient, Delhi: Medieval, Delhi: Modern, Understanding Heritage, Archives and Museums, Museum and Museology, Reading the Archive, Green Belt Development for Smart Cities, Delhi Through the Ages: The Making of its Early Modern History, Delhi Through the Ages: From Colonial to Contemporary Times and Travel Writing**. This issue not only broadens the horizons of the above-mentioned curricular content, but also prepares students for undertaking research in allied and important areas as prescribed in their graduation and post-graduation course. This issue aims to collate and collaborate at one platform creative, critical, quantitative, qualitative and analytical research on the **city of Delhi**.

Delhi- one of the oldest cities in the world, drawn and redrawn over and over again, is today is the capital of the largest democracy and a huge economy. City based research of this sort have the advantage of bringing out urban practices, livelihoods, recreations, expressions, local history and heritage embedded in a micro-space which may elude the over-arching global or national meta-lens. We are glad to have received contributions from multidisciplinary research addressing the issues and challenges besetting Delhi. **Gaurav Kumar Pal's paper Urban Cultural Heritage of the Seven Cities of Delhi: Challenges and Opportunities** attempts to understand how the many cities established by successive dynasties in Delhi of the past are coping with population surge and urbanism. The paper emphasizes that it is important for heritage conservationists and urban planners to collaborate in order to rejuvenate the sense of urbanity in these cities. **Mridula Sharma in Tracing the genealogy of the hook-up culture in India through popular culture** takes a look at several key factors that have influenced the participation of the urban youth in Delhi in hook-up culture to see the bearing of this social phenomenon on social lifestyle and mental health. Nirmal Kumar's paper **Negotiating Water Baolis of Delhi: A Historical Perspective** raises a very pertinent question with reference to the *baolis* in Delhi: what do we want of our monuments? Do we want to make them some fortresses where none can enter? Is it not better to use them for cultural, historical and urban purposes to draw interest, conservation and life into them? Rishibha Aery tells the story of the enigmatic but unknown monument Malcha Mahal making a strong case for its restoration in her study **Malcha Mahal: A Story Beyond the Ruins**. She says, "It has withstood many years and much turbulence with great strength; now it is our turn to give it the respect and value it deserves." Avishkar Tiwari, in his paper, **Water Heritage of Delhi: Hope for Revival**, offers an insight into the unique features of urban water management in pre-colonial Delhi. However, modern Delhi has a lot to learn from the water savvy dynasts. Facing both water shortage and water logging, it can restore the neglected water bodies of yore to bring about a permanent solution to its longstanding water problems. The five articles touch upon issues of heritage conservation, monument restoration, water resource management, rethinking historic spaces and cultural phenomenon in postmodern Delhi. This makes for a fine bouquet of some of the most relevant and recurrent concerns mentioned in the context of Delhi. The first issue thus is both an endorsement and encouragement of the stated purpose of IJDUS "to bring out the inimitable urbanity of Delhi in all its flavours, colours, genres and expressions."

Peer Reviewed
Online Journal in
English

INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL
OF
DIGITAL HUMANITIES
AND
UBIQUITOUS SCHOLARSHIP



Volume 1 Issue I July - December 2022

We hope to continue in this chosen vocation and direction supported by professionals and researchers who shall continue to share their valuable research.

Prof. Sangeeta Mittal

Editor, IJDUS