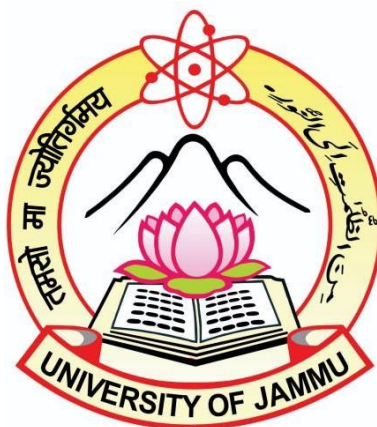


"Jammu Reimagined: Perspectives on Urban Evolution"



MAJOR PROJECT

SEMESTER 1

FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

(DESIGN YOUR DEGREE)

SUBMITTED TO

UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU, JAMMU

SUBMITTED BY THE GROUP: **Urban Jammu**

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CERTIFICATE

The report titled "**Jammu Reimagined: Perspectives on Urban Evolution**" has been done by Group Urban Jammu including group members- (Anushka Sharma, Krishna Sharma, Saksham Khajuria, Sanchi Gupta and Vaishnavi Pole). This project served as a significant undertaking for Semester I of their academic program. Under the supervision and guidance of (Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Shallu Sehgal) of the Design Your Degree, Four Year Undergraduate Programme at the University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir. This project report is original and has not been submitted elsewhere for any academic recognition.

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Abstract

This study, *"Jammu Reimagined: Perspectives on Urban Evolution,"* provides a comprehensive analysis of Jammu's urban, cultural, and socio-economic landscape. The research delves into key aspects shaping the region, including its demographic diversity, religious tourism, transport infrastructure, and historical settlements such as Gorkha Nagar. It examines the impact of migration, caste dynamics, and modernization on Jammu's evolving identity while exploring significant landmarks like the Mubarak Mandi Palace, Raghunath Temple, and the Tawi River. Through case studies and interviews, the report highlights the challenges faced by marginalized communities, urban development constraints, and the opportunities for sustainable growth. By integrating historical insights with contemporary urban studies, this research aims to offer a nuanced understanding of Jammu's transformation and its future potential.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Brief History of Jammu City

Jammu, the "City of Temples," has a rich history that is filled with mythology, ancient civilization, and royal grandeur. It is believed to have been founded by an ancient king named "Jambu" in around 14th century BCE and was named after him. According to some accounts, the city was named after the Jambu tree that was abundant in the region. Jammu has always been the winter capital of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and is now the winter capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a cultural, religious, and political center.

According to popular lore, it was during his hunting expedition that **Raja Jambu Lochan**, the mythical founder of Jammu, discovered the place for the city. According to the legend, he saw a tiger and a goat drinking water together from the same Tawi River-a symbol of amity. Encouraged by this vision, he decided to establish a city where such harmony prevailed. Tawi River was called the "Surya Putri" or the daughter of the Sun, a lifeline to Jammu.

Recorded history for the city of Jammu started emerging with the formation of the Dogra dynasty, which became significant in the early 19th century when its ruler was Maharaja Gulab Singh, who was a subsidiary of the Sikh Empire of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In 1846, under the Treaty of Amritsar between the British East India Company and the Sikh Empire, Gulab Singh was created the first Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. He played a significant role in expanding the region, which included the strategic acquisition of Ladakh and Baltistan, laying the foundation for a vast princely state.

The Dogra rulers, especially Gulab Singh and his successors, were keen on infrastructure, trade, and religious harmony. Notable landmarks, such as the Mubarak Mandi Palace and Ranbireshwar Temple, testify to their architectural contributions. Jammu also became a cultural hub during their reign, blending Pahari, Punjabi, and Kashmiri influences, visible in the region's language, art, and festivals.

Mythologically, Jammu is well associated with Hinduism as the land of devotion and temples are referred to by ancient texts. Raghunath Mandir, Ranbireshwar Temple, and Peer Kho are reflective of its spiritual legacy. The Vaishno Devi shrine located in the Trikuta Hills near Jammu draws millions of devotees every year and is one of the chief pilgrimage destinations in the region.



Politically, the city experienced turbulence when it was under the British rule and during the Partition of India in 1947. Post-independence, Jammu became the administrative nerve center of the Jammu and Kashmir state. However, it was affected deeply by the reorganization of the region in 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir lost its statehood and bifurcated into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Jammu's history is also rich in diverse communities, including Dogras, Gujjars, Punjabis, and Kashmiri Pandits, who have molded its traditions and identity. The city is strategically located as a gateway to the Himalayas, making it a melting pot of cultures and an important trade link along ancient routes.

1.2 Climate

Jammu, like the rest of north-western India, features a humid subtropical climate with extreme summer highs reaching 46 °C (115 °F), and temperatures in the winter months occasionally falling below 4 °C (39 °F). June is the hottest month with average highs of 40.6 °C (105.1 °F), while January is the coldest month with average lows reaching 7 °C (45 °F). Average yearly precipitation is about 1,400 mm (55 in) with the bulk of the rainfall in the months from June to September, although the winters can also be rather wet. In winter dense smog causes much inconvenience and temperature even drops to 2 °C (36 °F). In summer, particularly in May and June, extremely intense sunlight or hot winds can raise the temperature to 46 °C (115 °F). Following the hot season, the monsoon lashes the city with heavy downpours along with thunderstorms; rainfall may total up to 669 mm (26.3 in) in the wettest months. The city is exposed to heatwaves.

- **Highest recorded temperature: 47.4 °C (117.3 °F) on 31 May 1988.**
- **Lowest recorded temperature: 0.5 °C (32.9 °F) on 24 January 2016.**

1.3 Geographical Map of Jammu



As India's northernmost territory Jammu represents an area of substantial geographical importance and cultural heritage. The Himalayan foothills embrace Jammu which exists between 32.73°N to 33.07°N latitudes and 74.55°E to 75.16°E longitudes. Jammu functions as the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory while bordering Himachal Pradesh to the south and Punjab to the southwest. From the north and east stand the Himalayan mountain ranges and the valley landscape of Tawi River dominates its southern territory. The terrain across this region features everything from gentle plains to river valleys along with elevated mountains creating an appealing landscape suitable for strategic placement. The climate of this region transitions from subtropical zones near the bottom to temperate zones in elevated regions creating a distinctive combination of natural wonders and cultural legacies.

1.4 Methodology

This study of Gorkha Nagar uses a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand the challenges and opportunities within the community. The research focuses on an in-depth case study of Gorkha Nagar, while also drawing insights from broader urban trends.

2. Field Surveys:

Data is collected through surveys and interviews with residents of Gorkha Nagar. These surveys gather information on housing conditions, access to basic services (water, electricity, sanitation), and socio-economic factors like income and employment. The interviews explore the community's challenges, needs, and aspirations for the future.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

FGDs are conducted with various community groups, including women, youth, and marginalized populations, to discuss local issues such as safety, infrastructure, and community involvement in redevelopment efforts.

Chapter 2

Demography

The total population of Jammu city, which is the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was 502,197. Males constituted 52.7%, while females formed 47.3% of the population, with the sex ratio registered at 898 females for 1,000 males, below the national average of 940. The population of the urban agglomeration of Jammu, comprising persons in the related metropolitan area, was 657,314.

The literacy rate in the city of Jammu was much above the national average. It had an average literacy rate of 89.66% compared with 74.4% at the national level. It displayed a strong educational development of 93.13% male literacy and 85.82% female literacy, which though less than numerous parts of the country, still reveals a gender disparity that requires more efforts for education among women.

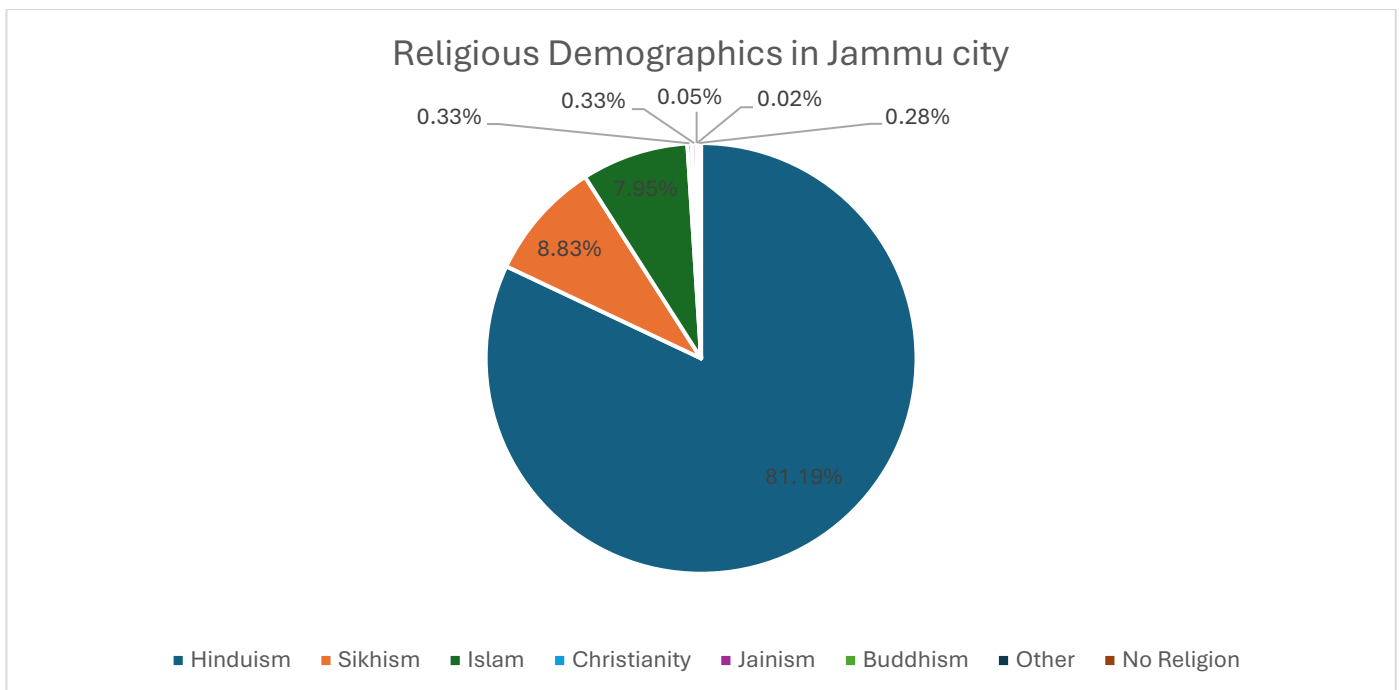
Children under the age of 6 years represented 8.47% of the population, showing that it is a relatively young population in which investments into early childhood care and education can play an essential role.

2.1 Religious Demography in Jammu

Jammu is the "City of Temples," hosting various religious communities that contribute to its rich cultural tapestry. The social fabric of the city is also in harmony through the way diverse groups like Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and others coexist in one entity. This diversity is very visible in the number of religious sites, festivals, and cultural practices that co-exist within the city.

Religious Demographics of Jammu City (2011 Census)

1. **Hinduism:** The majority of Jammu's residents adhere to Hinduism. The city is renowned for its numerous temples, with the famous Vaishno Devi shrine located nearby, attracting millions of pilgrims annually. The Dogra community, predominantly Hindu, significantly influences the city's cultural and social practices.
2. **Sikhism:** Sikhs are one of the significant communities in Jammu. The community is more substantial after the Partition of 1947 and all the subsequent migrations. Sikhs have made an important contribution to the economy and social life of the region.
3. **Islam:** Muslims form a sizeable minority in Jammu. Islamic traditions and festivals add to the cultural mosaic of the city.
4. **Christianity:** Christians form a smaller segment of the community, but it is not any less vibrant. Churches and schools have been integral to Jammu's life for decades.
5. **Other Religions:** Jainism and Buddhism form a negligible number in Jammu. Yet their cultural and religious practices enrich the pluralistic nature of the city.



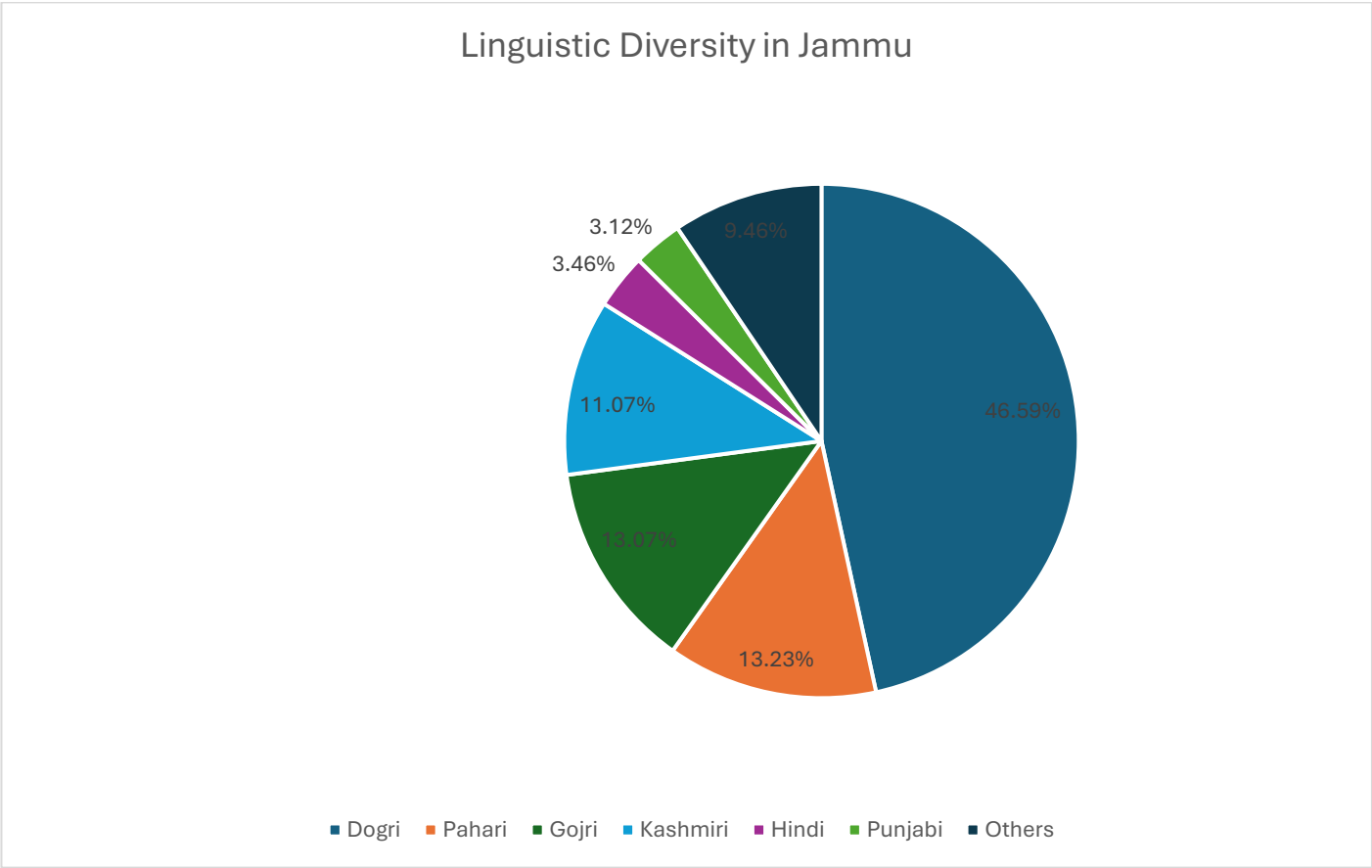
Sources: census of India (2011).

2.2 Linguistic Diversity of Jammu

Jammu is marked by its deep linguistic diversity with a rich cultural tapestry. Most of the members of the region speak different languages, so the city gives a vibrant taste of social multicolored tapestry.

Majorly Spoken Languages of Jammu City

The following tabular column exhibits the major language spoken in Jammu division along with the number and percentage of speaking population:



Source: census of india-2011.

1. **Dogri:** Dogri is the predominant language in the Jammu division. It accounts for around 46.59% of the population. The language is of Indo-Aryan family and occupies an important place in the cultural identity of the region.
2. **Pahari:** The group of dialects is spoken by nearly 13.23% of the population of Jammu in the hilly areas.
3. **Gojri:** In the region, almost 13.07% speak Gojri, mainly because of the significant population of Gujjar community present in the area.
4. **Kashmiri:** In the division of Jammu, about 11.07% of people speak Kashmiri, which denotes the linguistic pull of the bordering Kashmir Valley.
5. **Hindi:** As a lingua franca, Hindi is spoken by 3.46% of people, which further helps in maintaining communication among linguistic groups.
6. **Punjabi:** With 3.12% of the population speaking Punjabi, the language reflects the cultural and commercial ties between Jammu and the neighboring state of Punjab.

The "Others" account for 9.46% of the population that speaks languages such as Bhadrawahi, Siraji, Kishtwari, among several other regional dialects, and each adds their little piece to the linguistic mosaic of Jammu.

2.3 Migration

Migration refers to the movement of people from one place to another, sometimes from one region to another, and even to other countries for different reasons like economic opportunities, education, safety, or even good living conditions. Migration may be temporary or permanent, and it may be voluntary or forced. Both internal migration and international migration occur within this movement. Factors driving people to migrate include employment, conflict, climate change, and social connections. Migration can lead to cultural exchange and economic growth but may also pose challenges, such as resource strain in receiving areas and a shortage of skilled workers in the regions people leave behind.

1. Kashmiri Pandits

Kashmiri Pandits, a Hindu minority in the Kashmir Valley, were forced to leave their ancestral homes in the 1990s as militancy rose and communal tensions increased. Fearing violence and targeted killings, nearly 100,000 Pandits left their ancestral homes. Most of them moved to safer areas in Jammu, Delhi, and other parts of India. In Jammu, makeshift camps were set up in localities such as Muthi, Nagrota, and Purkhoo, and eventually became permanent localities, notably Jagti township. A lot of the administration work done by the government was of little help to the Pandits since they remain economically and culturally dislocated, while their prospects to return to the Valley remain almost nil due to security reasons.

2. Migrants from Border Areas

Families living along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in districts such as Samba, Kathua, Poonch, and Rajouri are frequently displaced by cross-border shelling and ceasefire violations. Most of them are given temporary shelters in relatively safer zones, but their life remains precarious due to a lack of education, health facilities, and employment. The government's interventions, such as bunkers and relief measures, have helped in mitigating some of the challenges, but lack of long-term resettlement plans continues to affect their stability.

3. Migration within Jammu region

Most internal migration within Jammu is based on economic considerations. The population from the hilly districts and from periphery move to Jammu city for job opportunities, better education, and healthcare. Although this enhances urban development, it creates issues like overcrowding, infrastructure overload, and socio-economic disparities.

However, migration to Jammu is also driven by conflicts witnessed by the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The migrants from Kashmir provide an account of the result of communal conflicts. Border migrants underline the continuous threat to people inhabiting conflict-prone areas. Internally migrated citizens represent the factors of development on the pull-end. Addressing these issues requires a multi-pronged approach: the safety of border migrants, creation of conditions for the safe return of Kashmiri Pandits, and improving infrastructure in cities to make internal migrants feel comfortable. A balanced strategy can turn the challenges into opportunities, bringing stability and progress to Jammu.

Chapter 3

Tourism in Jammu

3.1 Mubarak Mandi Place

Mubarak Mandi is a historical palace in the heart of Jammu, India. It was the royal residence of the Maharajas of the Dogra dynasty and carries immense cultural and historical importance. It was the seat of power for the Dogra rulers until 1925 when Maharaja Hari Singh, the last ruling Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, shifted to the Hari Niwas Palace situated in the northern part of Jammu.



1. Architecture and Design

This forms the Mubarak Mandi, an exemplary example of an amalgamation of Rajasthani, Mughal, and European architecture. It is reflective of the potpourri of cultural influences that created the Dogra dynasty. The palace's design is finely crafted into ornate arches, delicate carvings, and grand courtyards. The wide location on the hill overlooking the Tawi River gives it a panoramic view of the landscape surrounding it.

Pink Hall is one of the most well-known parts of the palace because of its striking pink-plastered walls. Presently, the museum is the abode of Dogra Art Museum which is a rich storehouse of cultural artifacts and artistic heritage. The museum comprises a rich miniature painting collection made by Hill Schools including Kangra, Jammu, and Basohli. Known for their strong colours and detail, these miniatures give the visitor a preview of the legacy of art within the region.

The prized possessions of the museum include a gold-painted bow and arrow that was once owned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. The collection thus is enriched with a touch of imperial grandeur. The manuscripts, royal attires, and historical artifacts which form a part of the museum collection are an epitome of the rich history of the Dogra dynasty.

2. Historical Importance

The Mubarak Mandi Palace complex has witnessed critical turning points in Jammu and Kashmir's history. It not only served as the abode of the Maharajas but also housed the administrative headquarters of the Dogra kingdom. Official ceremonies and gatherings took place within the palace in its famed Darbar Hall, underlining its significance as a seat of power and authority.

3. A Complex of Many Palaces

Instead of a single building, the palace complex is a collection of interconnected palaces and courtyards with their unique charm and purpose. Among its prominent parts are the Gol Ghar, Rani Charak Palace, and Sheesh Mahal. The Sheesh Mahal, or "Palace of Mirrors," is particularly beautiful for its complex mirror work, which generates stunning reflections and patterns.

4. Current State and Preservation Efforts

Despite its grandeur, the Mubarak Mandi Palace has also been suffering under neglect and erosion. Earthquakes and environmental damage have left extensive damage on various parts of this structure. With regards to its importance in history, restoration and conservation efforts are under way. As a heritage site, restoration activities are geared towards recreating the lost glory while, at the same time, keeping it open for visitors and researchers.

5. Cultural Legacy and Tourist Attraction

Today, Mubarak Mandi stands as a symbol of Jammu's rich history and cultural heritage. It attracts history enthusiasts, architecture lovers, and tourists eager to explore its royal past. The palace offers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the Dogra rulers and serves as a reminder of the artistic and architectural brilliance of the era.

Mubarak Mandi is not just a palace; it is a living testimony to the grandeur, history, and cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir. Whether it is the awe-inspiring Pink Hall, the artistic treasures of the Dogra Art Museum, or the majestic views of the Tawi River, every corner of this palace tells a story waiting to be discovered.

3.2 Hari Niwas Palace, Jammu

Hari Niwas Palace is a stunning heritage palace located in the northern part of Jammu, India. This magnificent structure was built by Maharaja Hari Singh, the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, in the 1920s. The Mubarak Mandi Palace was initially his royal residence, but he later moved there since the place had already become overcrowded and noisy.



1. Architecture and Design

Hari Niwas Palace is a beautiful blend of European architecture with traditional Indian elements. The palace is surrounded by lush, sprawling lawns and offers a beautiful view of the crystal-clear waters of the **(Tawi River)**. Its location offers panoramic views of the Shivalik Hills and the Trikuta Range, which makes it a visual treat for the visitors.

It exhibits ornate details in symmetrical design with large arched windows and ceilings, providing the regalia aura of the Dogra dynasty. The palace features pastel tones that characterize class and nobility.

2. History

Designed as a retreat for the Maharaja from the bustle of the city, Hari Niwas Palace was a symbol of modernism and progress for its time. Forward-thinking Maharaja Hari Singh was known for his extraordinary vision; the palace remains a testament to his refined taste and aspiration. As a residence for that fateful period in Jammu and Kashmir history, especially the years leading up to the nation's accession to India in 1947, it has a historical significance associated with it.

It also is historically important because it has been a witness to many important political and social events during the Dogra rule. Some of the progressive reforms conceived by Maharaja Hari Singh, like the abolition of untouchability and promotion of education, were also born during his time in this palace.

3. Conversion to a Heritage Hotel

The royal family transformed Hari Niwas Palace into a luxurious heritage hotel in the late 20th century, and it was made accessible to the public. It retained its historical essence while offering modern amenities for a world-class experience.

Today, the palace is a perfect blend of history, luxury, and nature. Its spacious rooms and suites are decorated with antique furniture, vintage decor, and royal portraits, which give a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of the Dogra rulers. The palace hotel also has lush gardens, fine dining restaurants, and banquet halls, making it a popular destination for tourists, weddings, and events.

4. Cultural and Natural Surroundings

Located close to the Tawi River and the lush Jammu forests, this palace holds charm. Individuals can walk freely, visit gardens, and see the sun in its vibrant colors going down across the sky. Access to Hari Niwas from the (Amar Mahal Museum and Library), another architectural marvel, adds to its charm, creating a cultural circuit for history enthusiasts.

Hari Niwas Palace is a symbol of the royal past of Jammu, which attracts both domestic and international tourists. It offers a royal retreat for those who seek serenity and sophistication while indulging in the rich history of the Dogra dynasty. The palace has maintained its heritage while transforming into a luxury and hospitality hub.

Hari Niwas Palace is more than just a historical structure; it is a living legacy of the princely era of Jammu. Its grand architecture, serene location, and association with Maharaja Hari Singh's vision continue to inspire awe and admiration. Whether you visit as a guest at the heritage hotel or a history enthusiast exploring the palace's corridors, Hari Niwas promises an unforgettable experience steeped in culture, history, and natural beauty.

3.3 Religious Tourism in Jammu

Mahamaya Temple

Mahamaya Temple is one of Jammu's most cherished spiritual landmarks, set atop a serene hill with breathtaking views of the Tawi River. This historic temple is dedicated to Goddess Mahamaya, a local deity revered for her valor and selflessness. It holds immense significance, not only as a place of worship but also as a site that reflects the cultural and historical heritage of Jammu.

Key Highlights

- Location: Nestled on a hilltop overlooking the tranquil Tawi River and offering stunning views of the city of Jammu.
- Deity: Dedicated to Goddess Mahamaya, a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and devotion.
- Historical Roots: Thought to date back to the Dogra era, reflecting centuries of tradition and faith.
- Architecture: Embodies the classic Dogra architectural style, harmonizing with the lush greenery around it.



Historical Significance The Mahamaya Temple commemorates the legendary warrior princess Mahamaya, who is believed to have laid down her life to protect her homeland from invaders. Her bravery is celebrated through this sacred site, which serves as a testament to the resilience and spirit of Jammu's history. The temple's structure is adorned with intricate carvings that showcase the artistic sensibilities of the Dogra era, further enriching its historical and aesthetic appeal.

1. Religious Importance Mahamaya Temple stands as a vital spiritual hub for the local community and visiting devotees.

- Festivals and Celebrations: The temple comes alive during Navratri, when devotees from far and wide gather to offer prayers and participate in elaborate rituals dedicated to Goddess Durga, of whom Mahamaya is considered an incarnation.
- Devotional Practices: Pilgrims visit the temple to seek blessings, perform pujas, and find inner peace. The temple's serene environment fosters introspection and meditation.
- Symbol of Faith: For the locals, the temple is not only a place of worship but also a cultural anchor that preserves their spiritual traditions.

2. Tourist Attraction Beyond its religious importance, Mahamaya Temple is a magnet for tourists who seek tranquility and scenic beauty.

- Panoramic Views: The hilltop location provides visitors with sweeping views of the Tawi River, Jammu city, and the surrounding verdant landscapes.
- Natural Splendor: Surrounded by dense greenery and vibrant flora, the temple offers a refreshing escape from the bustling city life.
- Photographic Opportunities: The stunning vistas and the temple's traditional architecture make it a favorite spot for photography enthusiasts.

Mahamaya Temple is not just a place of worship; it is a beacon of Jammu's rich cultural and historical legacy. With its spiritual significance, captivating natural beauty, and accessibility, the temple stands as a must-visit destination for anyone exploring the city. It is a perfect blend of faith, history.

TIRUPATI TEMPLE

The beginnings of the Tirupati Balaji Mandir in Sidhra follow from its original origin in Sri Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh. For centuries people have followed the religious path to the Tirupati temple which honors Lord Venkateshwara as its central deity. The temple pulls millions of spiritual pilgrims thanks to Lord Venkateshwara and its deep relation to the original Sri Venkateswara Temple. People from different regions created Lord Venkateshwara temples because the worship at Tirupati became popular throughout India. Local worshippers at Tirupati Balaji Mandir saw the need to establish a Mandir of Lord Venkateshwara into their community so devotees could access his blessings.



Later in the 20th century people from Jammu wanted to create a temple for Lord Venkateshwara. Jammu developed as a pilgrimage center near the Vaishno Devi Temple and people wanted a major temple dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara. During the early 1990s the idea to create the Tirupati Balaji Mandir began in Sidhra near Jammu's outskirts. Residents of the local area together with generous donors and faith groups brought the temple's design and construction to life. The temple's creators wanted to give local Indians easy access to Lord Venkateshwara worship right in their own community.

1. The Temple Manages Religious and Cultural Programs

At Tirupati Balaji Mandir worshipers find both a spiritual center and a platform to support religious and cultural gatherings. Through spiritual meetings and cultural programming the temple leadership spreads Lord Venkateshwara's teachings about giving back to others without expectation. For many years the temple developed connections to both local religious bodies and the TTD responsible for maintaining Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati temple. The temple keeps to traditional worship methods and divine rituals by working with different religious groups and authorities.

2. Location

The Tirupati Balaji Temple stands in Sidhra near Jammu City at its edge. The temple sits in a tranquil area surrounded by natural beauty allowing visitors to pursue worship in a calm atmosphere. Both local and guest visitors can reach easily the temple with its convenient services for pilgrims.

3. Architectural Design

Traditional South Indian temple design from Tirumala serves as the base but the temple takes cues from building practices unique to Jammu and Kashmir. A towering shikhara stands alongside stone-carved beauty and gold appointments to make an inspiring and peaceful temple environment. At its core the temple serves as a place of worship for the grand idol of Lord Venkateshwara who people honor as Lord Balaji.

The Tirupati Balaji Temple in Sidhra, Jammu, is a beacon of devotion, peace, and cultural heritage. It attracts devotees not only for its spiritual significance but also for the serene and divine atmosphere it provides. Its architectural beauty, adherence to traditional rituals, and strong ties to the local community make it an important landmark in the region, offering solace and blessings to all who visit. Whether it's for spiritual growth, a sense of belonging, or simply to witness the grandeur of Lord Venkateshwara, the temple stands as a testament to faith, devotion, and unity.

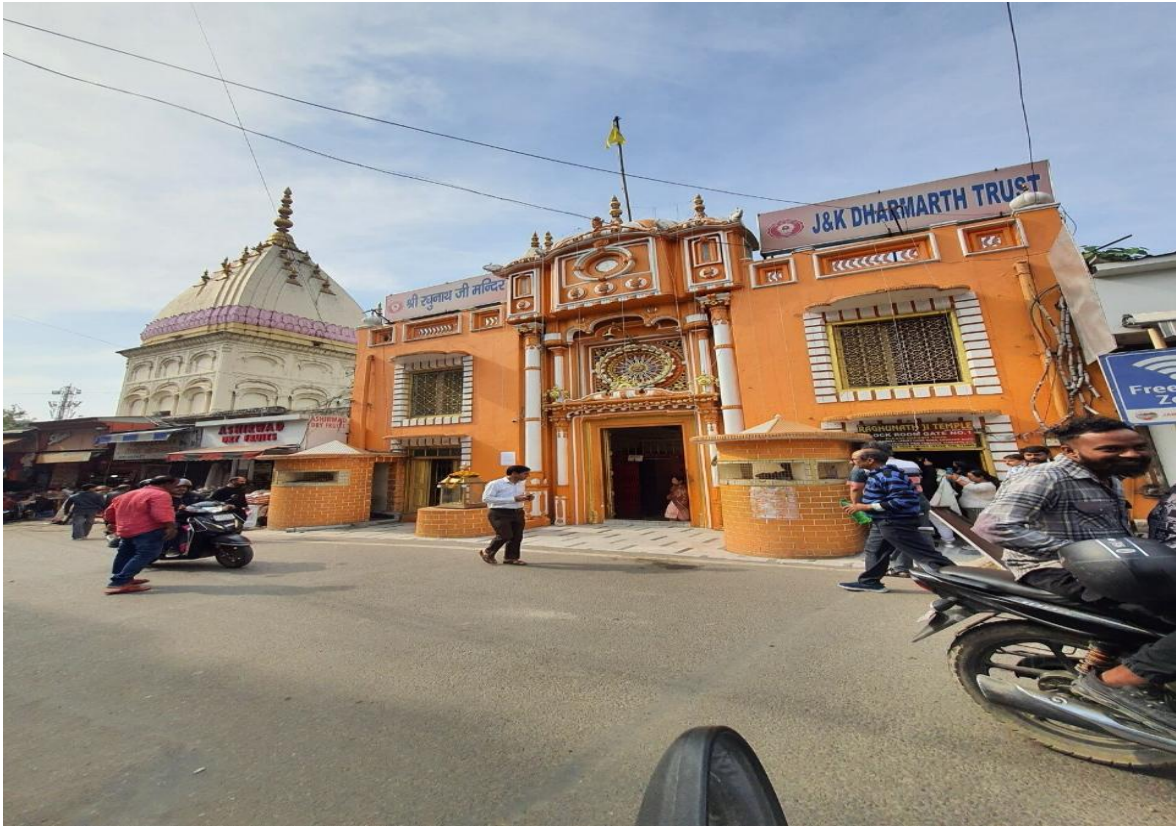
These factors combined make the Tirupati Balaji Mandir in Sidhra not just a place of worship but a cultural and spiritual hub, making it a significant landmark for devotees from all over the country.

Raghunath Temple

Raghunath Temple is one of the most famous and historic temples in Jammu, located in the heart of the city. Dedicated to **Lord Rama**, an incarnation of **Lord Vishnu**, the temple is a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus. It was built between 1835 and 1860 by Maharaja Gulab Singh and his son Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the rulers of Jammu and Kashmir.

The uniqueness of this temple complex lies in the fact that it has seven shrines inside it, each specializing in worshipping various Hindu gods and goddesses Lord Shiva, Lord Krishna, and Goddess Durga. The central shrine in this temple houses the majestic idol of Lord Rama along with Sita and Lakshman. The architecture in the temple is huge, with extricate carvings and golden spires that epitomize beauty.

Raghunath Temple is also known for its collection of ancient scriptures and manuscripts. Devotees and tourists from all over the country come to experience the spiritual atmosphere. Even after surviving a terror attack in 2002, the temple still stands as a symbol of faith and resilience.



The Raghunath Temple holds great spiritual, historical, and cultural significance, making it a revered destination for devotees. Here are some of the key specialties and significance of the temple:

1. **Spiritual Importance:** Dedicated to Lord Rama, the temple is one of the most significant places of worship for Hindus, especially for those who revere Lord Rama as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The temple is also home to idols of Lord Rama's family, including Sita, Lakshman, and Hanuman, which makes it a focal point for devotion to the entire Ramayana narrative.
2. **Architectural Splendor:** The temple complex is a magnificent example of traditional North Indian temple architecture, with intricate carvings and a beautiful marble structure. The grand central sanctum, adorned with elaborate paintings and murals, reflects a blend of Dogra and Kashmiri architectural styles, making it unique and visually striking.

3. **Cultural Hub:** Raghunath Temple serves as a cultural center in Jammu. It hosts various religious and cultural events throughout the year, such as Ram Navami, which is celebrated with grand processions and festivities. The temple also offers a space for spiritual discourse and worship, providing a sense of community for locals and visitors.
4. **A Symbol of Peace and Harmony:** The temple stands as a symbol of religious harmony and unity, as it incorporates various shrines to different deities within the same complex. This inclusivity reflects the region's tolerant and diverse religious practices, where devotees of different faiths have found peace and solace.

Historic evolution

The historic evolution of Raghunath Temple is closely tied to the rise of the Dogra dynasty and the unification of Jammu. Here's an overview of its development over time:

The foundation of Raghunath Temple is credited to Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of the princely Dogra dynasty in Jammu and Kashmir. He commissioned the temple in the early 19th century as a symbol of unity and religious devotion. The aim was to create a grand place of worship dedicated to Lord Rama, who was highly revered in the region. The construction work for the temple started in 1835, and it was envisioned as a monumental complex that would serve both spiritual and political purposes, signifying the consolidation of Dogra rule.

The temple's construction was completed by Maharaja Ranbir Singh, Gulab Singh's son, in 1860. The temple, with its imposing architecture and grand design, became a major center of religious activity in Jammu. Ranbir Singh also expanded the temple complex by adding several smaller shrines to other deities, such as Lord Shiva, Lord Hanuman, and Goddess Durga, enriching the temple's significance as a multi-deity complex.

Over the years, Raghunath Temple developed into a major architectural and cultural landmark. It is renowned for its beautiful blend of North Indian temple architecture with elements unique to the region. The complex's intricate carvings, murals, and sculptures depict scenes from the

Ramayana and various Hindu mythological tales, making it not just a place of worship, but also a site of historical and artistic importance.

In the 20th century, the temple continued to grow, with ongoing efforts to preserve its historical and cultural heritage. The Dogra rulers maintained the temple, and its role as a religious center was solidified. The temple has undergone various renovations and restorations to maintain its structural integrity, especially after natural calamities and external damages.

Today, Raghunath Temple is an essential pilgrimage site for Hindus, attracting thousands of devotees every year. It is also a major cultural hub in Jammu, hosting religious festivals like Ram Navami, Diwali, and other significant events. The temple stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Dogra dynasty and the region's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Raghunath Temple stands as a remarkable testament to the rich spiritual, cultural, and historical heritage of Jammu. Its unique blend of architectural styles, multi-deity worship, and deep connection to the Dogra dynasty and Hindu mythology make it not only a place of worship but also a symbol of unity, faith, and resilience. The temple's artistic masterpieces, its vibrant role in cultural festivals, and the enduring devotion of pilgrims who visit from all corners of the world add to its timeless significance. Raghunath Temple is not just a spiritual destination, but a living monument that continues to inspire, enlighten, and connect generations of devotees, making it a cherished jewel of Jammu's religious landscape.

Chapter 4

4.2 Jammu's Festivals: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures

Jammu, often referred to as the "City of Temples," is not only a land of spiritual devotion but also a region that bursts into life during its vibrant festivals. These celebrations reflect the city's rich cultural diversity, bringing together people from different communities and backgrounds in joyous harmony. Each festival, whether rooted in religion, tradition, or folklore, offers a unique glimpse into the spirit of Jammu.

One of the most prominent festivals in Jammu is Lohri, celebrated with immense enthusiasm. Traditionally marking the end of winter and the harvest season, Lohri is a time for people to come together around bonfires, sing folk songs, and share festive treats like sesame seeds, jaggery, and popcorn. The festival symbolizes warmth, prosperity, and gratitude, fostering a sense of unity among families and communities.

Equally significant is Baisakhi, the festival that coincides with the Sikh New Year and the harvest of the rabi crop. In Jammu, Baisakhi is celebrated with fervor in Gurudwaras, where prayers are offered, and community feasts (*langars*) are organized. The festival also features cultural performances, including traditional Punjabi dances like Bhangra and Gidda, showcasing the region's vibrant energy and communal harmony.

Another cherished celebration is Navratri, a nine-day festival dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga. During this time, the city's temples, especially the revered Bawe Wali Mata Temple, are adorned with lights and flowers. Devotees fast, perform traditional rituals, and participate in night-long prayers and folk dances like Dandiya and Garba. The festival represents the triumph of good over evil and serves as a reminder of the spiritual strength that binds Jammu's people.

Adding to the cultural tapestry is Eid-ul-Fitr, which highlights the region's secular spirit. Celebrated by the Muslim community with prayers, feasts, and acts of charity, Eid brings people from different faiths together to share the joy and camaraderie of the occasion. It's a testament to the inclusive nature of Jammu's society, where festivals transcend religious boundaries to foster mutual respect and understanding.

These festivals, with their varied themes and celebrations, create a kaleidoscope of colors, sounds, and emotions that define Jammu's cultural identity. They are not merely occasions of festivity but also expressions of unity, tradition, and shared heritage. In Jammu, each festival is a reminder of the enduring values of togetherness, gratitude, and respect for diverse cultures—qualities that make the region truly unique.



Chapter 5

Transport

Railways

Development of the railway system in Jammu forms an important part of India's infrastructure journey. It has served to link the region with the rest of the country and thereby has played a significant role in economic, social, and cultural integration. Let's dive into it, keeping in view the case of Jammu exclusively.

1. Early Railway Development in Jammu

- Until the 20th century, there was no railway system of Jammu in India as Himalayas and, the then princely state, presented great difficulty towards connectivity. Only roadway and carts propelled by animals catered to its logistics of material transport as well as people movement.
- After 1947 Post Independence: Accession of the princely states to India further spurred efforts connecting Jammu to Indian Mainland with geographical disadvantages.

2. Jammu Tawi Railway Station

- The first railway connection came to Jammu Tawi from Pathankot in 1971. It was built when the Indian government wanted to ensure rail connectivity in the region.
- Jammu Tawi (Inaugurated in 1972):
- This station became one of the key centers of the railway, and thus people could travel to important cities directly, such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and others.
- Over the years, the station has been developed to be an important link in the transportation of goods and pilgrims to Vaishno Devi and Amarnath.

Status of Railway Infrastructure in Jammu at Present (2025)

- Dailies trains: The railway station accommodates hundreds of daily trains, that connect Jammu to Delhi and other cities, such as Amritsar, Mumbai, and Kolkata.
- This is still the most busy railway station in Jammu.

➤ **Economic and Social Impact:**

- The railway system has improved connectivity and economic growth in Jammu.
- It facilitates the transport of raw materials, agricultural goods, and other commodities, boosting trade.
- It is a lifeline for pilgrims traveling to religious destinations like Vaishno Devi and Amarnath.



Chapter 6

Case of Gorkha Nagar

6.1 GORKHA AND THEIR HISTORY

The Gorkhas are historically known for their unparalleled bravery and unwavering loyalty. Their reputation as fierce warriors dates back to the late 18th century when Nepal's Gorkha kingdom expanded its influence under King Prithvi Narayan Shah. However, their entry into the broader Indian subcontinent was solidified after the **Anglo-Nepalese War (1814–1816)** and the signing of the **Treaty of Sugauli**, which allowed the British to recruit Gorkhas into their army.

When the British Indian Army recognized the Gorkhas' military skills, the Dogra rulers of Jammu and Kashmir—particularly Maharaja Gulab Singh—followed suit. The Maharaja's ambitious military campaigns in the rugged terrains of Ladakh, Baltistan, and Tibet required skilled and resilient soldiers. The Gorkhas, with their ability to navigate difficult terrains and their unflinching courage in battle, became a vital part of the Dogra forces.

The Birth of Gorkha Nagar

As the Gorkha community grew in numbers, they began to form a closely-knit settlement. This area, which would eventually be named **Gorkha Nagar**, became a hub for retired soldiers and their families. Over the decades, it evolved into a vibrant neighborhood, characterized by a mix of traditional Nepali architecture and modern infrastructure.

The name “Gorkha Nagar” itself holds deep significance:

- **“Gorkha”** reflects the pride of the community in their ancestral roots and their history as warriors.
- **“Nagar”**, meaning town or colony, symbolizes their organized settlement and the establishment of a distinct identity within Jammu.

The Gorkhas' Arrival in Jammu

The Gorkhas' arrival in Jammu was initially tied to military service. Many were stationed in the region as part of the Dogra and later British Indian armies. Their integration into the local military structure was not merely transactional it was a bond of mutual respect. Gorkha soldiers, often referred to as the “backbone” of the Dogra campaigns, earned the trust and admiration of the Maharaja and the local population.

6.2 Cultural Practices in Gorkha Nagar

1. Festivals and Religious Celebrations

The cultural landscape of Gorkha Nagar is deeply intertwined with the religious festivals and rituals of the Gorkha people. These festivals, celebrated with great enthusiasm, not only reflect the Hindu traditions but also emphasize the unique practices of the Nepalese Gorkhas.

- **Dashain:** This is one of the most important festivals for the Gorkha community, similar to the Dussehra festival celebrated in India. It marks the victory of good over evil and is a time for family reunions, feasts, and the honoring of ancestors. Rituals involving animal sacrifices, offerings, and prayers to the goddess Durga are commonly observed.
- **Tihar:** Known as the Festival of Lights, Tihar is another significant festival in Gorkha Nagar. It is similar to Diwali but with a distinctive emphasis on honoring animals like cows, dogs, and crows, alongside the worship of Laxmi, the goddess of wealth.
- **Shivaratri and Navratri:** Being a Hindu-majority area, festivals like Shivaratri (dedicated to Lord Shiva) and Navratri (dedicated to Goddess Durga) are celebrated with elaborate prayers, processions, and fasting. These festivals serve as a time for the community to come together in devotion and celebrate the spiritual heritage.

1. Arts and Music

The arts and music in Gorkha Nagar are a significant part of the community's cultural expression. Traditional Nepalese music such as Sarangi, Madal, and Dholak instruments are often played during festivals, religious functions, and gatherings. Folk dances like Maruni and Gorkha dance are performed during celebrations to honour the gods and ancestors.

6.3 The Gorkhas' Role in Jammu's Development

Beyond their cultural contributions, the Gorkhas have played a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of Jammu. Many members of the community have diversified into various fields, including education, government services, and entrepreneurship. At the same time, their legacy as soldiers lives on, with many Gorkhas continuing to serve in the Indian Army, paramilitary forces, and police services.

Their loyalty and discipline have earned them a reputation as model citizens, and their presence in Jammu has fostered a sense of unity among the diverse communities in the region.

6.4 Geographical Location of Gorkha Nagar, Jammu

Gorkha Nagar is a prominent neighborhood located in the southern part of Jammu city, within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Its geographical and strategic position plays an important role in shaping its identity and connection to the surrounding areas.



Location

- **Latitude and Longitude:** Approximately **32.72°N, 74.87°E**.
- **Elevation:** Situated at an average elevation of **327 meters (1,073 feet)** above sea level, Gorkha Nagar shares the typical hilly terrain of Jammu, with slopes leading down to the plains.
- **Proximity to Key Areas:**
 - It lies near **Bahu Fort**, a significant historical and religious site in Jammu, which adds cultural and historical relevance to the area.
 - The neighborhood is connected to major parts of Jammu city through a network of roads, making it accessible and well-integrated.

6.5 Recent Developments in Gorkha Nagar

In recent years, Gorkha Nagar, a historically significant neighborhood in Jammu, has witnessed a series of developments aimed at modernizing the area while addressing some of the long-standing urban challenges. These developments have spanned various sectors, including infrastructure improvement, housing, economic growth, and urban planning. The following outlines some of the most notable recent developments in Gorkha Nagar:

1. Infrastructure Upgrades

One of the primary focuses of recent development in Gorkha Nagar has been improving the local infrastructure to accommodate the growing population and enhance the quality of life for residents. Key initiatives include:

- **Road and Transportation Improvements:** Gorkha Nagar has seen the construction of new roads, road widening, and better connectivity to other parts of Jammu. The development of roads has improved mobility and reduced congestion, providing better access to commercial hubs and residential areas.
- **Public Services and Utilities:** There have been significant efforts to upgrade basic services, including the provision of clean water, better drainage systems, and improved waste management. The Jammu Municipal Corporation has initiated several projects to ensure a more efficient waste collection system, addressing sanitation concerns in the area.
- **Street Lighting and Safety Measures:** To improve public safety, Gorkha Nagar has benefited from enhanced street lighting and the installation of CCTV cameras in key areas, contributing to a safer environment for residents.

6.6 Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

Gorkha Nagar faces several critical challenges that impact its growth and development:

1. Environmental Issues:

The region suffers from **soil erosion**, **deforestation**, and **water scarcity**, which affect agricultural productivity and the availability of natural resources. These environmental challenges also lead to decreased land fertility and disrupt the ecological balance of the area.

2. Population Pressure:

The growing population has led to **overcrowding** and increased strain on existing infrastructure, including roads, housing, and public facilities. Limited resources and inadequate urban planning further exacerbate these issues.

3. Lack of Modern Amenities:

The absence of adequate healthcare, education, and transport facilities hinders the overall development of Gorkha Nagar. Many residents face difficulties accessing essential services, which affects their quality of life and economic potential.

Opportunities

Despite its challenges, Gorkha Nagar offers numerous opportunities for sustainable growth and community development:

1. Tourism Development:

Gorkha Nagar's rich cultural heritage and historical significance provide a strong foundation for promoting eco-tourism and heritage tourism. Investments in tourism infrastructure, such as improved transport and lodging facilities, can boost the local economy and create employment opportunities.

2. **Agricultural Innovation:**

The region's reliance on agriculture can be optimized through the promotion of sustainable farming practices, crop diversification, and modern irrigation techniques. These measures can enhance productivity while conserving natural resources.

3. **Infrastructure Improvement:**

Developing essential infrastructure, such as roads, public transportation, schools, and healthcare facilities, can significantly improve the quality of life for residents. It also creates a foundation for long-term economic growth and connectivity with nearby regions.

4. **Cultural Preservation:**

The unique traditions and heritage of Gorkha Nagar present an opportunity for **cultural preservation** through festivals, art, and community initiatives. These efforts can strengthen the community's identity while attracting tourism and investment.

6.7 Problem Statement of Gorkha Nagar

This problem statement underscores the necessity for collaborative efforts among policymakers, community members, and stakeholders to create a balanced approach to urban development in Gorkha Nagar, ensuring a prosperous future while respecting its rich heritage.

1. Connectivity and Transportation

Limited transportation facilities and poor connectivity within and around Gorkha Nagar hinder accessibility, mobility, and integration with the broader urban fabric of Jammu.

2. Housing and Urban Density

Inadequate housing facilities and unplanned urban density in Gorkha Nagar lead to overcrowding, informal settlements, and strain on existing resources and infrastructure.

3. Environmental Degradation

Urban expansion in Gorkha Nagar has led to increasing waste generation, reduction in green spaces, and environmental pollution, posing challenges to sustainability and public health.

4. Health and Sanitation Issues:

Poor sanitation facilities, lack of proper healthcare infrastructure, and inadequate waste management systems in Gorkha Nagar contribute to public health issues and reduced quality of life.

5. Infrastructure Development

The lack of adequate infrastructure in Gorkha Nagar, including roads, drainage systems, and public utilities, hampers the quality of life for residents and limits opportunities for economic growth.

These pointers provide a structured overview of the problem statement, highlighting the need for a balanced, inclusive, and collaborative approach to urban development in Gorkha Nagar. Let me know if you'd like further elaboration.

6.8 Solutions for Urban Development in Gorkha Nagar

These are some of the solutions suggested through the understandings of the report.

1. Connectivity and Transportation

Solution:

- **Road Upgrades:** Widen and improve existing roads to enhance accessibility and reduce congestion.
- **Public Transport:** Introduce affordable and reliable public transportation options, such as buses or shared e-rickshaws, to improve mobility.
- **Smart Traffic Management:** Implement smart traffic lights and designated parking areas to manage traffic flow effectively.
- **Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure:** Develop walkways and cycling tracks to promote eco-friendly modes of transport.

2. Housing and Urban Density

Solution:

- **Affordable Housing Projects:** Develop affordable and sustainable housing units that accommodate growing population needs.
- **Vertical Development:** Encourage the construction of multi-story residential buildings to optimize land use while preserving open spaces.
- **Regulated Urban Planning:** Enforce zoning laws and urban planning guidelines to control unplanned construction and ensure balanced density.

3. Environmental Degradation

Solution:

- **Green Spaces:** Create parks and community gardens to increase green cover and improve air quality.
- **Waste Management:** Implement waste segregation at the source and establish recycling centers and composting facilities.

- **Eco-Friendly Practices:** Promote the use of renewable energy, such as solar panels, and ban single-use plastics in the area.
- **Tree Plantation Drives:** Conduct regular plantation campaigns involving local communities to combat deforestation.

4. Health and Sanitation Issues

Solution:

- **Improved Sanitation Facilities:** Construct public toilets, and upgrade sewage and drainage systems to prevent waterlogging and contamination.
- **Healthcare Access:** Establish primary healthcare centers with affordable or free medical services for residents.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educate the community on hygiene practices, waste disposal, and health issues through workshops and campaigns.
- **Clean Water Supply:** Ensure access to clean and safe drinking water through modern filtration systems.

5. Infrastructure Development

Solution:

- **Roads and Utilities:** Upgrade roads, electricity, water, and sewage systems to support urban growth.
- **Smart Infrastructure:** Invest in smart city technologies, such as energy-efficient streetlights and automated systems for utility management.
- **Community Centers:** Build multipurpose community centers to serve as hubs for social, educational, and cultural activities.
- **Marketplaces and Commercial Areas:** Develop organized markets and commercial zones to support local businesses.

6.9 Interview

Interview 1: The Historical Legacy of Gorkha Nagar

Key Questions Asked:

1. "When and why did the Gorkhas come to Jammu?"
2. "What was their role in the Dogra army?"
3. "Why is this settlement called Gorkha Nagar?"

Summary:

The interview provided an overview of the migration of the Gorkha community to Jammu, their significant role in the Dogra military campaigns, and the naming of Gorkha Nagar to honor their heritage. The interviewee highlighted how the Dogra rulers valued their bravery and loyalty, granting them land to settle after their service.



Strengths:

- The questions were concise and allowed the interviewee to give detailed historical insights without feeling overwhelmed.
- The focus on the name "Gorkha Nagar" was effective in linking the past with the present, fostering a sense of cultural identity.
- The interviewer's approach reflected respect for the interviewee's expertise, creating a conducive environment for an informative discussion.

Weaknesses:

- The interviewer failed to include questions about the challenges faced by the Gorkhas during their transition to civilian life. This omission limited the exploration of hardships and sacrifices made by the community.

Interview 2: Socio-Economic Challenges in Gorkha Nagar

Key Questions Asked:

1. "What jobs are available for the youth here?"
2. "How many schools or colleges are near Gorkha Nagar?"
3. "Does the government or anyone else help with training or jobs?"

Summary:

The interview focused on the lack of employment opportunities for the youth and the limited access to quality education in Gorkha Nagar. The interviewee discussed how most young people rely on manual labor or small businesses due to the absence of higher education institutions and vocational training centers in the area. They also mentioned sporadic government efforts that have yet to meet the community's needs.



Strengths:

- The simple and direct questions ensured that the interviewee could clearly highlight specific challenges without confusion.
- By addressing employment and education together, the interviewer linked two interconnected issues, making the discussion more comprehensive.
- The interviewer showed empathy when discussing sensitive issues like unemployment, creating a trusting atmosphere.

Weaknesses:

- The interview lacked depth in exploring solutions. While the problems were well-highlighted, the conversation could have included discussions on possible improvements or suggestions for future action.
- The interviewer missed asking about gender-specific challenges, such as whether women in the community face additional hurdles in accessing education or jobs.

Interview 3: Preserving Culture and Identity in Gorkha Nagar

Efforts to preserve Gorkha traditions and culture in a modernizing world.

➤ **Key Questions Asked:**

- "How do people in Gorkha Nagar celebrate festivals like Dashain?"
- "Are young people still interested in learning traditional dances or songs?"
- "What challenges do you face in keeping traditions alive?"

➤ **Summary:**

This interview explored the cultural life of Gorkha Nagar, focusing on how residents celebrate traditional festivals, practice Nepali art forms, and maintain their unique identity. The interviewee discussed the growing influence of modern lifestyles and technology, which have distracted the youth from their cultural roots. They also highlighted community efforts to teach children traditional dances and songs and celebrate festivals with enthusiasm.



Strengths:

- The questions effectively captured the core issue of cultural preservation, covering both practices and challenges.
- The interviewer encouraged the interviewee to share examples, such as how the Dashain festival is celebrated, making the discussion vivid and relatable. The interview touched on intergenerational differences, creating a nuanced narrative about cultural shifts within the community.

Weaknesses:

- The interviewer did not ask about collaboration with other communities or organizations to preserve culture, which could have added another layer to the discussion.
- The impact of urbanization and economic pressures on cultural practices was not addressed, missing an opportunity to explore external influences.

Interview 4: Infrastructure and Development in Gorkha Nagar

Challenges in infrastructure and basic amenities in Gorkha Nagar.

Key Questions Asked:

"What are the biggest problems with roads and water here?"

"Have any government projects helped improve the area?"

"What do people need the most right now?"

Summary:

The interview covered issues related to poor road conditions, irregular water supply, and limited waste management facilities in Gorkha Nagar. The interviewee, a municipal worker, highlighted recent government initiatives but admitted they were either delayed or insufficient. The community's most pressing needs include better drainage systems, consistent electricity, and upgraded transportation.



Strengths:

- The questions were practical and relevant, addressing the daily concerns of the residents directly.
- By focusing on both problems and solutions, the interviewer balanced the discussion and allowed the interviewee to share constructive feedback.
- The interviewer succeeded in creating a structured flow, starting with specific issues and moving toward broader community needs.

Weaknesses:

- The interview lacked follow-up questions to probe deeper into why government projects were delayed or what barriers exist in their execution.
- There was no mention of the role of residents in addressing these challenges, such as community-led initiatives for waste management or self-help program.

Chapter 7

River Tawi & Tawi barrage

The Jammu Tawi River, flowing through the picturesque landscapes of Jammu, is not only a natural marvel but also a lifeline for the region. Known for its historical and cultural importance, the river has been a central feature in the lives of the local population, providing water for agriculture, sustenance for fishers, and a scenic backdrop for tourism. This study explores the multifaceted role of the Tawi River in Jammu, focusing on its ecological, cultural, and economic dimensions.

History:

The Tawi River, also known as Surya Putri in ancient texts, is a significant river in the Jammu region with deep historical and cultural importance. Originating from Kalpas Kund in the Bhaderwah region of Doda district, the river flows through Jammu city, dividing it into two parts before merging with the Chenab River in Pakistan. The river has been crucial to Jammu's development and urban landscape. According to local mythology, the river's location played a pivotal role in the city's founding. During the medieval period, the Jammu region flourished as a part of the Dogra kingdom, and the Tawi River played a central role in sustaining the agrarian economy. The river's fertile banks facilitated the cultivation of crops, which supported the local population and contributed to trade with neighboring regions. In the 19th century, under the Dogra rulers such as Maharaja Gulab Singh and Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the river became an integral part of the urban planning of Jammu. The construction of forts, palaces, and temples along its banks reflected its strategic and cultural importance. Archaeological findings suggest that the river valley has been inhabited since prehistoric times due to its fertile plains and abundant water supply. Early settlements likely used the river as a source of sustenance and transportation. The surrounding region is also dotted with temples and shrines that date back to antiquity, many of which are located along the Tawi's banks, underscoring its spiritual and practical significance.



Importance of river Tawi:

1. Geographical and Ecological Significance:

- The Tawi River originates from the hills of the Trikuta mountains and flows through the Jammu region. It plays a crucial role in the region's ecology, supporting a variety of flora and fauna.
- The river contributes to the region's groundwater recharge, impacting agriculture and local water supply.

2. Cultural and Religious Importance:

- The Tawi River is deeply embedded in the cultural and religious fabric of Jammu. It is considered sacred by Hindus, and many people visit the riverbanks for religious rituals and ceremonies.
- The river is associated with the revered Vaishno Devi Temple, one of the most famous pilgrimage sites in India, and the Tawi is often mentioned in local legends.

3. Economic Impact:

- The river's waters are used for irrigation, helping to sustain agriculture in the surrounding areas. It plays a vital role in providing water to agricultural fields and supports livelihoods.
- The Tawi River is also important for tourism, as its scenic beauty attracts visitors to the region.

4. Urban Development:

- The river flows through the city of Jammu, contributing to the development of the region. It serves as a major water resource for the city, including drinking water and recreational activities along its banks.
- The river has been incorporated into the city's landscape, with bridges and other infrastructure built around it.

5. Flood Control and Water Management:

- During the monsoon season, the Tawi River's flow can increase significantly, leading to potential floods. Efforts have been made to manage and control flooding, such as creating embankments and improving drainage systems

Key Findings:

1. Water Quality Issues:

- One of the major concerns regarding the Jammu Tawi River is the deterioration of water quality due to untreated sewage, industrial waste, and solid waste disposal. This has raised concerns over public health and the safety of using river water for agricultural or domestic purposes.

2. Urbanization and Encroachment:

- Rapid urbanization along the riverbanks has led to encroachments and reduced the natural flow of the river. Construction activities, waste dumping, and unregulated development are contributing to the shrinking of the river's ecosystem.

3. Pollution:

- The river faces pollution from multiple sources, such as untreated domestic waste, industrial effluents, and religious practices (e.g., immersion of idols, offerings). This pollution poses a threat to aquatic biodiversity and public health.

4. Flooding and Infrastructure Challenges:

- The river has been prone to flooding, especially during the monsoon season, which exacerbates the environmental and infrastructural problems. Insufficient flood management systems and poor drainage facilities in some areas have compounded the situation.

5. Conservation Efforts:

- Various government and non-governmental initiatives have been undertaken to address these challenges, including river cleaning campaigns, the construction of sewage treatment plants, and the promotion of sustainable development practices. Despite these efforts, progress has been slow due to limited resources and coordination between agencies.

7.2 Peer Baba of Ziyarat

Nestled amidst serene landscapes, the Peer Baba Ziyarat is a site of immense spiritual significance. Dedicated to a saint known for his wisdom and compassion, the shrine attracts people from all walks of life. The Ziyarat transcends religious boundaries, serving as a center for devotion, introspection, and communal harmony. This document aims to provide an overview of the shrine's history, its importance in modern society, and the challenges it faces.

Peer Baba Ziyarat: A Sanctuary of Spiritual Harmony

Nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Jammu, the **Peer Baba Ziyarat** is a sacred site that holds immense spiritual significance for devotees and visitors alike. It is dedicated to a revered saint, affectionately known as Peer Baba, whose life was marked by wisdom, compassion, and a commitment to fostering unity among people. Over the centuries, the shrine has evolved into more than just a place of worship; it has become a symbol of interfaith harmony, cultural heritage, and spiritual solace.

Historical Background

The origins of Peer Baba Ziyarat are deeply rooted in the region's spiritual and cultural fabric. The saint, whose name the shrine honors, was known for his teachings of love, peace, and humility. He attracted followers from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, uniting them under the shared values of humanity and respect for one another.

Historical accounts suggest that Peer Baba was a mystic who dedicated his life to selflessness and service to the community. Stories of his miracles, wisdom, and unwavering compassion spread far and wide, leading to the establishment of this shrine as a place where people could seek his blessings, guidance, and intercession. Over time, the Ziyarat became a focal point for people seeking not only spiritual healing but also a deeper sense of purpose and connection.

The Spiritual Significance

The Peer Baba Ziyarat holds a unique position as a spiritual center that transcends religious and social boundaries. People from all faiths Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others visit the shrine to pay homage, seek blessings, and offer prayers. It is a space where communal differences dissolve, replaced by a shared sense of devotion and introspection.

The shrine is particularly known for its serene ambiance, which invites visitors to reflect on their lives and connect with a higher power. The rituals performed at the Ziyarat, including lighting candles, offering flowers, and reciting prayers, carry profound symbolic meaning. They represent hope, gratitude, and the aspiration for inner peace. The teachings of Peer Baba, emphasizing compassion and coexistence, resonate deeply with visitors and continue to inspire generations.



Importance

1. Cultural and Religious Significance:

Peer Baba's Ziyarat is a symbol of interfaith harmony. The shrine hosts several religious events and festivals, such as Urs, a grand annual celebration commemorating the saint's death anniversary. During this event, devotees gather in large numbers to offer prayers, recite verses, and participate in community feasts. The Ziyarat serves as a unifying force, bringing people together irrespective of their religious backgrounds.

2. Social Role:

The Ziyarat functions as more than a spiritual site; it is a hub for community activities. Free meals (langar) are provided to visitors daily, demonstrating the spirit of selfless service. The shrine also supports charitable initiatives such as educational scholarships, medical camps, and financial aid for underprivileged families, thereby playing a crucial role in uplifting the local community.

3. Tourism:

Beyond its spiritual significance, the Peer Baba Ziyarat attracts tourists who are drawn to its serene ambiance and architectural beauty. Surrounded by picturesque landscapes, the shrine offers visitors a tranquil retreat. The local economy benefits significantly from tourism, with shops, eateries, and artisans thriving on the influx of pilgrims and tourists. The shrine has become a landmark, contributing to the region's identity.

4. Spiritual Relevance:

For countless devotees, the Ziyarat is a place of solace and spiritual rejuvenation. Visitors often light candles, offer floral tributes, and tie threads as symbols of their prayers and wishes. Many devotees share stories of miraculous blessings, attributing their well-being, success, and healing to Peer Baba's intercession. The shrine's aura of peace and devotion makes it a sanctuary for introspection and spiritual growth.

The Peer Baba Ziyarat remains a symbol of faith, unity, and compassion. Its significance transcends generations, offering spiritual solace and cultural enrichment. Despite challenges such as modernization and resource constraints, the shrine continues to thrive as a center of devotion and community service. Preserving and promoting the legacy of Peer Baba is vital to ensuring that this revered institution continues to inspire and uplift future generations.

7.3 Bahu Ropeway Station

Jammu, known as the "City of Temples," is rich in culture and heritage. The Bahu Ropeway Station, connecting the Bahu Fort and Mahamaya Temple with Peer Kho, exemplifies the fusion of tradition and modernity. This facility was envisioned to alleviate urban congestion and promote tourism, offering visitors a unique aerial perspective of the Tawi River and surrounding areas. The ropeway in India (also known as aerial lift, cable car or chair lift) is a public transportation system where cabins, gondolas or open chairs are hauled above the ground with the help of cables. Jammu ropeway it is 1.65 km long cable car, with first section from Peer Kho to the Mahamaya temple over the Tawi River and second section is from the Mahamaya temple to the Bahu Fort.

History

The Bahu Ropeway Station is a landmark project in Jammu that has transformed urban transportation and bolstered tourism in the region. The ropeway project was planned as far back as 1995 and was intended to connect key cultural and religious sites in Jammu, providing both transportation and scenic experiences. However, the project faced numerous delays over the years, ranging from funding issues to administrative hurdles and technical challenges. It took **25 years** of continued struggle for this esteemed project to eventually come into reality, to the joy of residents and tourists alike in Jammu. Initially, the route was proposed to function between Bahu Fort and Mubarak Mandi Complex. Later, however, both these places were declared protected monuments and required a change in the route. The revised plan connected Bahu Fort, Mahamaya Temple, and Peer Kho, ensuring accessibility to these iconic sites while adhering to preservation guidelines. The ropeway construction began in earnest in 2016 under the supervision of the **Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC)**. A significant milestone was achieved in April 2019 when the first trial run was successfully conducted. Despite the difficulties, the critical components of the project were imported to ensure the maintenance of international safety and operational standards. The ropeway system is 1.66 km long and has two phases: the first is from Bahu Fort to Mahamaya Park, and the second is from

Mahamaya to Peer Kho over the Tawi River. The ropeway for the Bahu Fort to Mahamaya section has 22 cabins, and for the Mahamaya to Peer Kho section, it has 14, supported by nine towers. Inaugurated in 2020 by the then Lieutenant Governor (L-G) G.C. Murmu and his wife Smita Murmu, the ropeway marked the culmination of decades of effort and collaboration. During the inaugural function, Mr. Murmu told that the ropeway will turn the tourism face of Jammu, create more employment, and contribute to the local economy. He said the project was achieved because of concentrated interventions by the administration and sustained efforts from all stakeholders. This project cost about Rs.75 crore, 95 percent of the expense had been incurred at the time of its completion. A complete experience of transportation, sightseeing, and entertainment by the ropeway, the ride will surely assure the tourists to be of great quality. With an aerial sceneries overlooking the Tawi River and surroundings, it definitely becomes a significant tourism destination. With the safety record, the Bahu Ropeway has set an example and all the operating procedures have been strictly followed on international standards. The facility has now become a symbol of modernization in the Jammu tourism infrastructure, and this enables the city to welcome the increasing flow of tourists while still conserving its cultural heritage. Today, the Bahu Ropeway stands not only as a transport solution but also as an emblem of Jammu aspirations for growth and development. Its impact resonates in the enhanced connectivity between major tourist spots, the economic opportunities it generates, and the pride it instills in the people of Jammu.



Route and Pricing

The Bahu Ropeway connects three prominent locations in Jammu: Bahu Fort, Mahamaya Temple, and Peer Kho. The total length of the ropeway is 1.66 kilometers, divided into two distinct phases:

Phase 1: From Bahu Fort to Mahamaya Temple.

- This segment provides visitors with a scenic view of the city and its surrounding areas, including the lush greenery of Mahamaya Park.
- It features 8 cabins for passengers.

Phase 2: From Mahamaya Temple to Peer Kho over the Tawi River.

- This stretch offers breathtaking aerial views of the Tawi River and its picturesque surroundings.
- It has 14 cabins, making it the longer segment of the ropeway.

The two sections are supported by nine towers strategically placed to ensure stability and safety. The critical components of the system, such as cables and gondolas, have been imported to meet international standards.

Pricing:

- Standard Ticket (Round Trip): INR 500 per person.
- Concessions: Discounts are available for children and senior citizens to encourage accessibility for all.
- The ticket price covers both phases of the ropeway, allowing passengers to experience the full journey between Bahu Fort, Mahamaya Temple, and Peer Kho.

Importance of Ropeway

- It connects major tourist attractions like Bahu Fort, Mahamaya Temple, and Peer Kho, thereby enhancing the appeal of Jammu as a destination for tourists.
- It provides an aerial view of the Tawi River and the surrounding landscape.
- It connects the key locations seamlessly, thus reducing travel time and effort.
- It reduces road congestion in the area, especially during peak tourist seasons.
- Creates employment in construction, operations, and maintenance of the ropeway
- It is an eco-friendly mode of transport compared to traditional vehicular transport as it reduces carbon footprint.
- Access to protected sites without damaging historical monuments or their surroundings.
- Highlight Jammu's cultural heritage, thus focusing on the historical landmarks of the place.
- Represents a milestone in Jammu's urban development, showcasing the city's efforts to blend tradition with modern infrastructure.

7.4 Ranbir Canal

The **Ranbir Canal**, originating from the Chenab River, is a lifeline for Jammu, irrigating thousands of hectares of farmland and ensuring water availability for agricultural and domestic purposes. Constructed during the reign of Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1905, the canal was envisioned to improve agricultural productivity and secure the livelihoods of farmers in the Jammu plains.

The canal stretches approximately **60 km**, with a network of distributaries covering an additional 400 km. Besides its agricultural significance, the canal is a popular site for recreation and leisure, with its lush surroundings attracting visitors. This case study examines its historical development, operational features, and the ongoing challenges it faces in balancing agricultural demand, urban growth, and environmental concerns.

History

The construction of Ranbir Canal was initiated by Maharaja Ranbir Singh and completed during Maharaja Pratap Singh's reign in the early 20th century. The canal was designed to utilize the waters of the Chenab River effectively for agricultural irrigation, addressing the region's chronic dependence on monsoons.

Built using traditional engineering techniques, the canal initially covered a limited area but was later expanded to accommodate the growing agricultural needs of Jammu. Over time, modernization efforts introduced concrete lining and reinforced structures to improve water flow and reduce seepage.

The Ranbir Canal stands as a testament to the foresight of the Dogra rulers, who recognized the critical role of water management in regional prosperity. It symbolizes a legacy of infrastructural development that prioritizes both economic growth and resource sustainability.



Route and Features

The Ranbir Canal originates near **Akhnoor**, where water is diverted from the Chenab River. Its main channel stretches for approximately **60 km**, with a network of distributaries branching out to irrigate the Jammu plains.

Key Features

- **Length:** 60 km (main channel) and 400 km (distributaries).
- **Flow Capacity:** Designed to carry 950 cusecs of water.
- **Coverage:** Irrigates over **27,000 hectares** of agricultural land.
- **Engineering:** Concrete-lined channels to minimize seepage and improve efficiency.
- **Recreational Role:** Popular for picnics and leisure activities, particularly near the canal banks.

Importance of Ranbir Canal

1. Agricultural Backbone

The canal plays a critical role in sustaining Jammu's agricultural economy. It provides consistent irrigation to farmlands, ensuring crop productivity even during dry spells. Key crops such as wheat, rice, and maize heavily rely on its waters.

2. Economic Contributions

By supporting agriculture, the canal indirectly contributes to the local economy, providing livelihoods to farmers and boosting agro-based industries. The canal has also encouraged horticulture and floriculture in the region.

3. Water Management

The Ranbir Canal exemplifies effective water management, diverting river water to areas otherwise dependent on erratic monsoon rainfall. It reduces reliance on groundwater, contributing to ecological sustainability.

4. Cultural and Recreational Value

The canal banks are a favorite spot for locals, offering scenic views and a tranquil environment. Its cultural significance is evident in its role as a gathering place for community events and recreation.

Challenges

1. Maintenance and Upkeep

Aging infrastructure poses a significant challenge, with parts of the canal requiring urgent repairs to prevent leakage and maintain flow efficiency.

2. Urban Encroachment

Rapid urbanization in Jammu has led to encroachments along the canal banks, disrupting its flow and threatening its ecological balance.

3. Water Pollution

Waste disposal into the canal has become a pressing issue, affecting water quality and endangering agricultural and human use.

4. Seasonal Variability

The canal's dependence on the Chenab River makes it vulnerable to seasonal variations, including reduced water levels during dry months and overflow during monsoons.

The **Ranbir Canal** is not just an engineering marvel but also a cornerstone of Jammu's socio-economic fabric. Its contributions to agriculture, water management, and cultural life underscore its importance to the region. However, addressing challenges like maintenance, pollution, and urban encroachment is critical for ensuring its sustainability.

With proper interventions and community engagement, the Ranbir Canal can continue to serve as a model for water resource management, balancing the demands of development and environmental conservation. It remains a proud legacy of visionary leadership, reflecting the enduring bond between nature, culture, and infrastructure in Jammu.

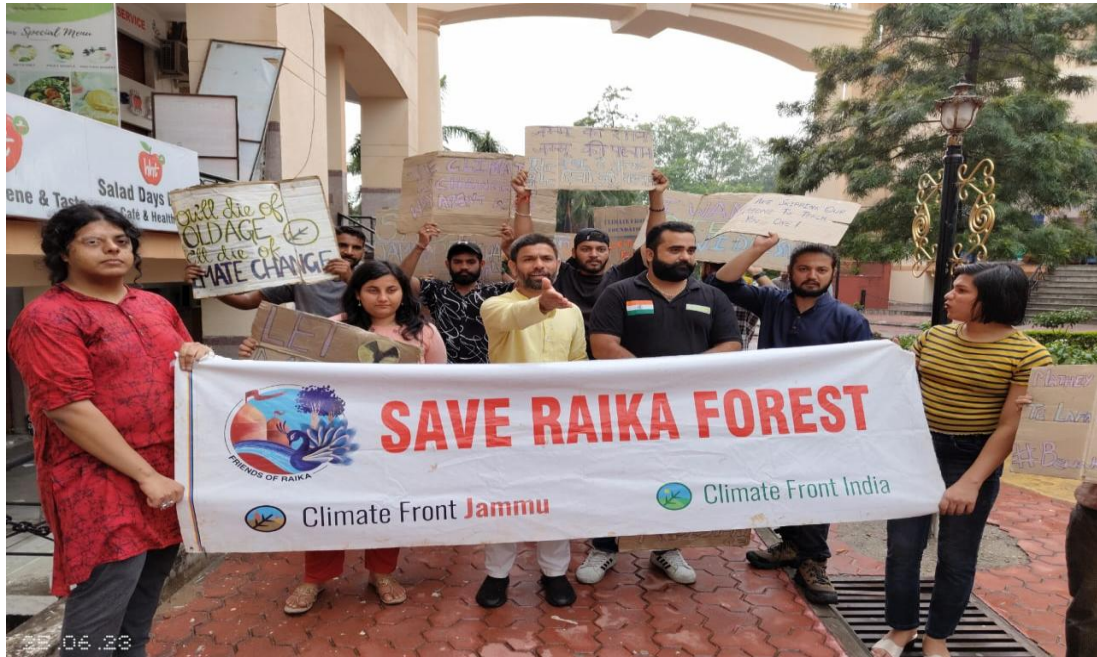
7.5 Eco-Restoration Project in Raika Forest

Raika Forest, located near Jammu, is a vital part of the region's ecological landscape. Over the years, deforestation, soil erosion, and human encroachment have severely degraded the area, affecting biodiversity and the environment. To combat these issues, the **Eco-Restoration Project** was launched with the aim to restore the forest's natural state, promote sustainable land-use practices, and enhance the ecological health of the region. The project is part of a broader initiative by the Jammu and Kashmir government to focus on reforestation and environmental sustainability.

History

Historically, Raika Forest has been a critical part of Jammu's biodiversity, home to numerous plant and animal species. However, in recent decades, deforestation, illegal logging, and agricultural expansion led to significant ecological damage. The forest's degradation resulted in the loss of habitat for wildlife, soil erosion, and decreased water retention.

In response, the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department initiated the Eco-Restoration Project, aiming to reverse the environmental damage through afforestation, reforestation, and the development of sustainable resource management practices. The project commenced in **2015** and is planned to run in phases, with active involvement from local communities and environmental groups.



Project Strategies and Activities

1. Afforestation and Reforestation

The first phase of the project focused on planting native tree species to restore the lost green cover. Over **5,000 saplings** of local species were planted, and additional efforts were made to protect the saplings from grazing and illegal logging.

2. Soil Erosion Control

To combat soil erosion, check dams and water-retention structures were constructed. Terracing and contour plowing were introduced to prevent water runoff, allowing the soil to retain moisture and nutrients.

3. Biodiversity Conservation

The project also aimed to protect and revitalize wildlife in the area. Special efforts were made to enhance the habitat for local species, including the establishment of wildlife corridors to allow safe movement between forested areas.

4. Community Involvement and Awareness

Engaging local communities has been a key strategy of the project. Local residents were trained in sustainable farming practices and given incentives to participate in afforestation and conservation efforts. Awareness programs were organized to educate the public on the importance of forest conservation and its benefits to local livelihoods.

Impact on Local Communities

The project's positive impact on local communities has been multi-faceted

- **Livelihood Support:** The eco-restoration initiative provided job opportunities for locals in tree planting, forest maintenance, and environmental education.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Communities were trained to adopt more sustainable agricultural practices, helping prevent deforestation for farming purposes.
- **Improved Resources:** The restoration of water retention systems has enhanced the availability of water for nearby communities, improving local agriculture and daily needs.

Challenges Faced

Despite the progress, the project faced several challenges

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** As the forest was restored, encounters between humans and wildlife, such as livestock grazing and crop damage, became a concern.
- **Illegal Logging and Poaching:** The project faced continuous threats from illegal logging, poaching, and land encroachments, undermining the restoration efforts.
- **Climate Change:** Unpredictable weather patterns and climate change had an impact on the survival rate of newly planted trees, especially during periods of extreme temperatures or drought.

The **Eco-Restoration Project in Raika Forest** represents a successful model for combating deforestation and ecological degradation. Through a combination of afforestation, community involvement, and sustainable practices, the project has made significant strides in restoring the forest ecosystem. Although challenges such as human-wildlife conflict and illegal activities persist, the project's long-term goals of enhancing biodiversity, improving water retention, and supporting local livelihoods are gradually being achieved.

As environmental challenges continue to grow, projects like the one in Raika Forest are crucial in building resilience in the face of climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for local communities.

Chapter 8

8.2 Conclusion

The report "Jammu Reimagined: Perspectives on Urban Evolution" provides a comprehensive analysis of Jammu's urban development, with a particular focus on neighborhoods like Gorkha Nagar. It explores the intricate interplay between infrastructure, cultural heritage, and socio-economic progress, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities that arise in this dynamic urban landscape.

A central theme of the report is the tension between modernization and the preservation of cultural identity. Gorkha Nagar exemplifies this struggle, showcasing the need for thoughtful urban planning that harmonizes modern development with the area's rich cultural heritage.

Socio-Economic Challenges:

Socio-economic issues, such as limited access to affordable housing and employment opportunities, are prevalent in Gorkha Nagar. Recent initiatives, including housing projects and entrepreneurial programs, show promise for improvement. Collaborative efforts between policymakers and local communities are essential for translating these initiatives into meaningful change.

The expansion of transportation infrastructure, such as the Jammu Tawi Railway and Bahu Ropeway, has enhanced connectivity and facilitated economic growth. However, residents of Gorkha Nagar face challenges related to traffic congestion and inadequate public transport systems, which must be addressed to improve mobility and accessibility.

The importance of ecological conservation in urban development is underscored through initiatives like the eco-restoration of Raika Forest and the maintenance of the Ranbir Canal. These projects benefit not only the environment but also the local communities, including those in Gorkha Nagar, by promoting sustainable practices.

Active community participation is crucial for the development of Gorkha Nagar. Involving residents in decision-making processes fosters a sense of ownership and ensures urban planning aligns with the community's needs and aspirations.

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