

Student Thesis Competition- Season 2 Re-imagining Urban Rivers







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1. INTRODUCTION

Sponsored Thesis Competition on 'Re-imagining Urban Rivers' is a joint initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which aims at capacity building of the students towards river sensitive planning and development in the Indian cities. Under this initiative, 20 undergraduate and postgraduate students across the country are being supported through mentorship as well as financial assistance. These students were working on different urban river stretches across the country.

The purpose of this sponsored thesis competition was to invite students to take up their academic thesis projects on the five different themes of the competition i.e. river pollution, rejuvenating water bodies, creating a vibrant river zone, generating river related economy and engaging citizens in river management activities. The competition aspires to provide students with an opportunity to design blue sky and innovative solutions for re-imagining the outlook and management of rivers that flow through Indian cities.



The competition was open for all the students pursuing bachelors or Masters in any disciple. Following are the eligibility criteria applicable to both categories of participants.

(i) Students are undertaking or will undertake a mandatory thesis/research project as part of their academic curriculum.

(ii) The mandatory thesis/research project is atleast a semester-long (4-6 months) between January and June.

(iii) The topic of the thesis/research project fits the themes of the competition

(iv) The student has (or will have) a supervisor assigned by their Schools/Institutes for guiding the student during the duration of the thesis/project.

10 entries from each category {i.e., Undergraduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG)} were selected. All selected students received a grant of INR 50,000 each to undertake the activities associated with the thesis/research project. All selected students received a special Certificate of Meritorious Achievement issued by NMCG and NIUA, subject to successful completion and submission of the thesis/research project. All selected students were invited to participate in a two-day workshop in Delhi before they started their thesis. During the workshop, they had an opportunity to interact with several experts in the domain to help them fine-tune their proposals. All selected students were invited to Varanasi for the final presentation in front of a panel of eminent jury members. The top three projects(in each category), as assessed by the jury panel were recognized and awarded. NIUA and NMCG will facilitate the development of projects that have a high potential for implementation.



2. GRAND FINALE AT IIT - BHU

NIUA in collaboration with IIt-BHU organised the STC season -2 finale in IIT -BHU, Varanasi on 28th and 29th July 2022. This two day event contained presentations by the students, IIT Faculties, NIUA Water and Environment team, launch of E-Gov Magazine and launch of STC-Season-3. Major focus of the event was the presentation by the students where they presented their thesis work in front of a panel of esteemed jury members. The students were given 15 minutes each, 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for the question- answer round. The students were then marked accordingly. 28th July was dedicated to the UG students and 29th July for the PG students of the respective fields.

The objective of this competition was to bring different minds of different fields together under one roof and expose them to different perspectives, thoughts and ideas which would help them grow professionally as well as personally.

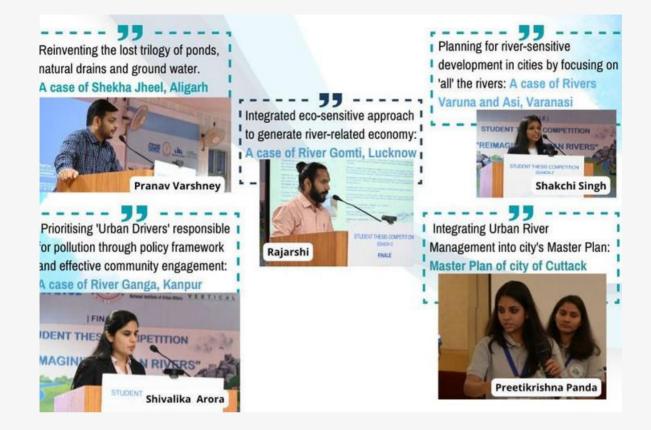
SI.	Category	Student	Institute
1	UG	Akriti Jaiswal	SPA Bhopal
2	UG	Daman Dogra	SPA Bhopal
3	UG	Dhaval Mistry	Academy of Architecture, Mumbai
4	UG	Sanika Upasani	Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture, Pune
5	UG	Mohini Vikas Bhosekar	Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture, Pune
6	UG	Mubashir Arshid	NIT Srinagar
7	UG	Radhika Garg	Apeejay Institute of Technology
8	UG	Rupal Srivastava	SPA Delhi
9	UG	Sabnekar Sai Sharan	Vignana Bharathi Institute of Technology
10	UG	Ujjawal Singh	SPA Bhopal
11	PG	Abhishek Kailash Burkuley	IIT Kharagpur
12	PG	Arunima K T	NIT Calicut
13	PG	Karpagavalli S	IIT Kharagpur
	PG	Madhavi Gajre	IIRS Dehradun

15	PG	Mrignayani Chandra	Amty University, Noida
16	PG	Pranav Varshney	SPA Delhi
17	PG	Preetikrishna Panda	XIM University, Bhubaneswar
18	PG	Rajarshi	Faculty of Architecture and Planning (FOAP), AKTU Lucknow
19	PG	Shakchi Singh	SPA Delhi
20	PG	Shivalika Arora	SVNIT Surat

3. KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF STUDENT PRESENTATIONS







4. JURY



Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, **Chief Technical Advisor National Institute of Urban Affairs** and Former Director General National Mission for Clean Ganga.



Prof Gaurav Raheja, **Head of Architechture and Planning, IIT Roorkee.**



Prof Amrita Dwivedi, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanistic Studies IIT (BHU).



Sh. S Vishwanath, Founder and Director of *Biome Environmental Solutions*.



5. WINNERS (UG)



Under Undergraduate category Ms. Rupal was awarded the first prize. She presented her work with effective data while also considering the practical problems of Indian cities. Mr. Ujjawal was awarded the second position. His focus area was citizenship engagement and generating economy through the rivers. There was a tie for the third position. Ms. Mohini and Mr. Mubashir Arshid were placed third in the competition.

WINNERS (PG)



Under Post-Graduate category, Ms. Arunima KT was awarded the first prize. She presented her work on "Strategic spatial planning based on Ecosystem service assessment- a case of Cauvery Watershed region". Inspite of having a very wide study area, she did a tremendous job and finished first in her category. Ms. Karpagavalli S was awarded the second position. Her focus area was "Blue-Green Infrastructure Planning for a sustainable development – An opportunity for Tirunelveli". She was awarded the second position. Ms. Shakchi singh presented her work on "Water Quality Monitoring System Using Machine Learning Technique" and finished third in the competition.

6. SPECIAL SESSIONS



Prof Rana P.B. Singh

delivered a presentation titled 'Benaras ki Kahaani' where he talked about the rich cultural heritage of the ancient city of Varanasi. Much of his presentation focused on the influence of the holy river Ganga on the origin and evolution of the city, its riverfront, ghats, ancient kunds and waterbodies, temples etc and their intrinsic relationships. He stressed on the importance of utilizing and conserving the rich cultural heritage of the city.



Mr. Rahul Sachdeva an Dr. Uday Bhonde delivered a session on Managing Urban Rivers. Mr. Rahul Sachdeva set the context of the discussion with an interactive discussion based on mentimeter quiz. The questions were basically focused on water security related issues. Dr. Uday Bhonde then presented various works of the Water & Environment Vertical at NIUA. NIUA has prepared an Urban River Management Plan (URMP) Framework and conducted the pilot implementation of the framework in the city of Kanpur. Other cities like Auranbgabad, Ayodhya, Moradabad and Bareilley are being supported in preparing their Urban River Management Plans. Also, NIUA has developed a guideline for Mainstreaming River Management in a Master Plan. A framework for Comprehensive Water Management has been prepared by NIUA and the same is being applied for the cities of Udaipur and Varanasi. Apart from these, the team is also working on preparation of dashboards and digital tools (e.g. Digital Waterwall, Urban Waterbody Diagnostic Tool).

7. REMARKS BY EMINENT GUESTS



Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director NIUA delivered his welcome remarks during which he highlighted the fact that NIUA is continuously working towards bridging the gap between academia and practice by nurturing young talents.

Prof Pramod Kumar Jain, Director Indian Institute of Technology Varanasi, in his remarks said that the competition on "Re-imagining Urban Rivers' will help strengthening both urban as well as rural India.



Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General National Mission for Clean Ganga congratulated the finalists through a video message. He also mentioned that a new theme on 'Managing Riverine Biodiversity' has been added to the season 3 of the competition. He also highlighted the importance of various emerging aspects such as the economic importance of the river, reuse of treated wastewater, Fecal Sludge Management etc and the need for action research on these aspects.





Ms. D. Thara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, virtually delivered her motivational address in which she urged the students to study various innovative technologies for river management. She also stressed on the need of sensitization of people towards river related issues, reimagining the riverfront as a beautiful public space by incorporating recreational elements, naturalization of river edges though creation of green buffers, understanding the surface water groundwater interaction and aquifer recharge etc.

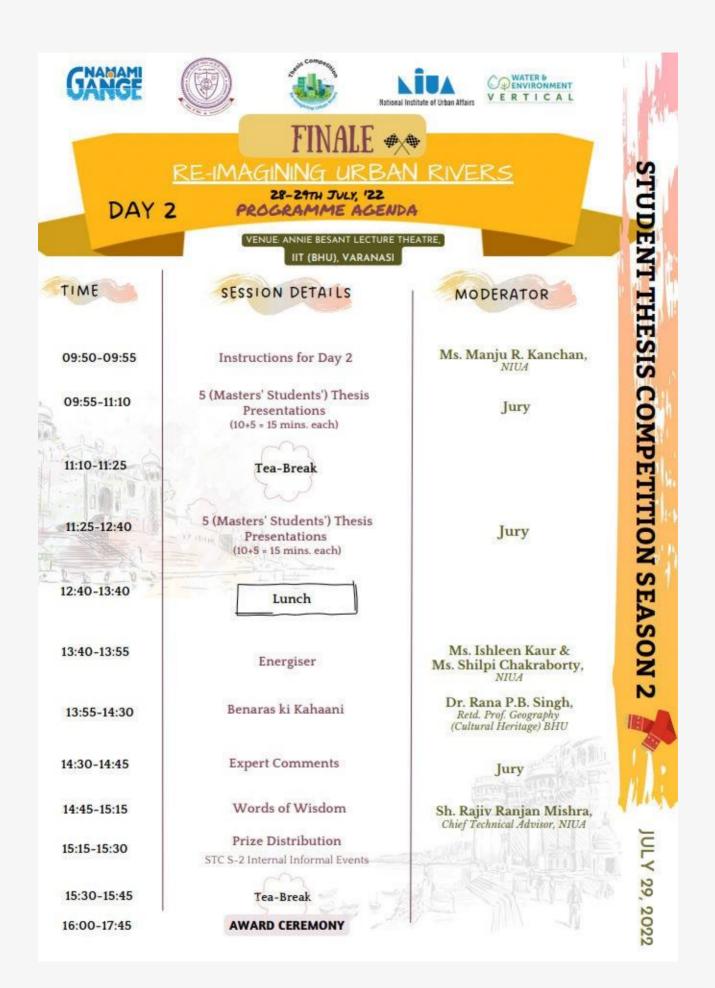
Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Govt of Uttar Pradesh, in his inspirational address mentioned that the competition emerged as part of different activities taken up under the Hon'ble Prime Minister shared his vision for the river sensitive urban development during the Meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur in 2019. He highlighted the importance of water conservation in totality, especially the conservation of waterbodies and also mentioned that as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the whole country is working towards developing Amrit Sarovar and Amrit Van. He urged the students to address different scales of waterbodies (rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands etc) in their research works. In this context he also mentioned that the recent initiatives of Ministry towards making the cities water plus is also helping them improving the quality of their rivers, citing the example of Indore.

Shri Mishra also announced the winners of this competition and felicitated them. Season 3 of the competition was also launched by him.



7. ANNEXURE - 1 AGENDA OF THE COMPETITION

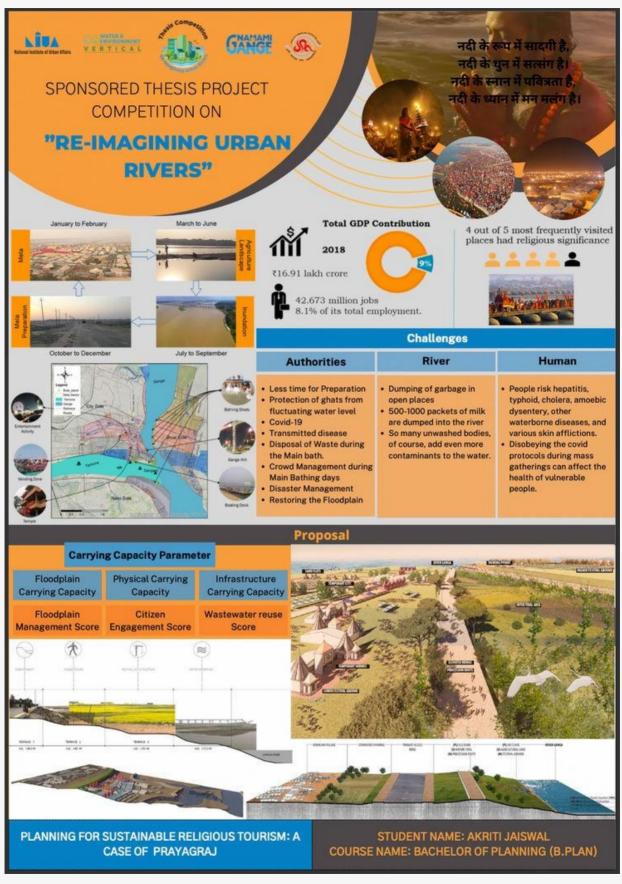




8. ANNEXURE - 2 PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

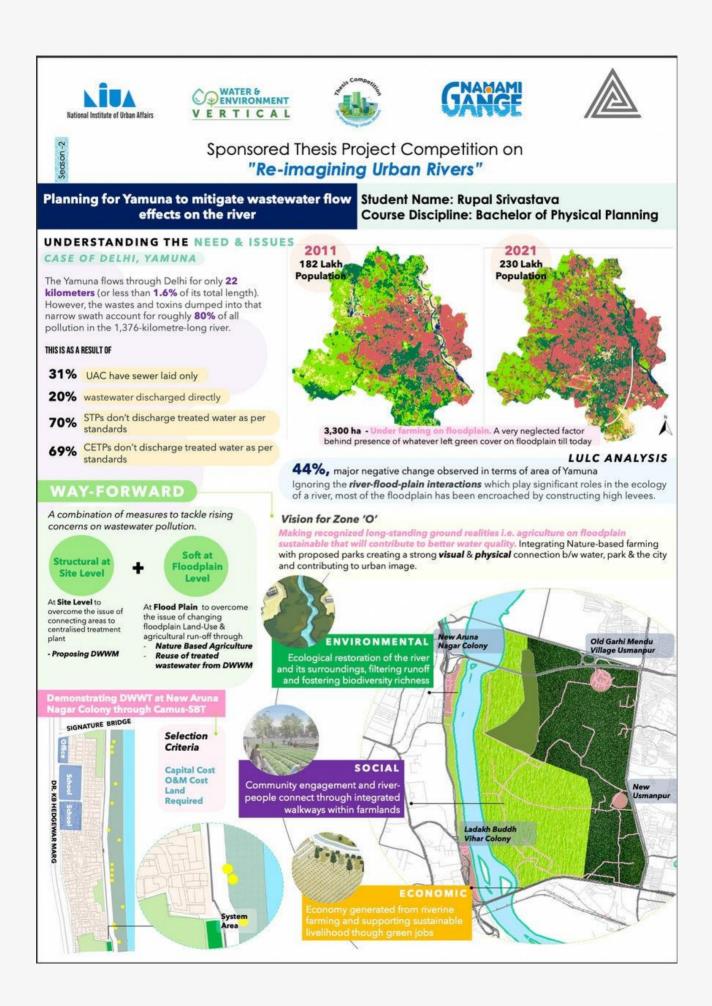


9. ANNEXURE - 3 PROJECT POSTERS

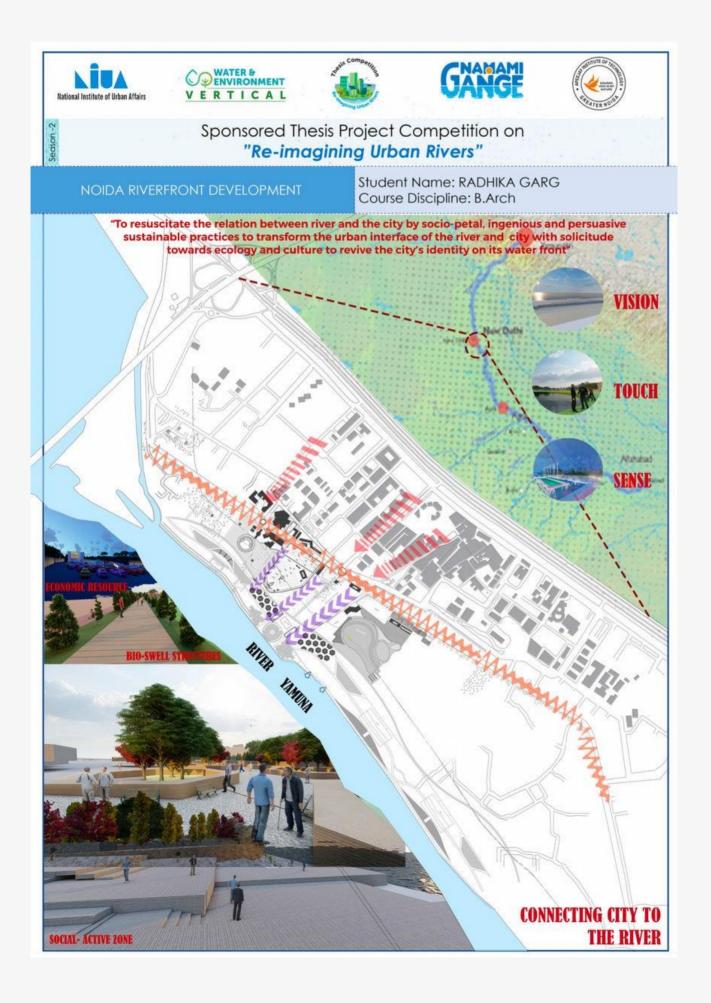


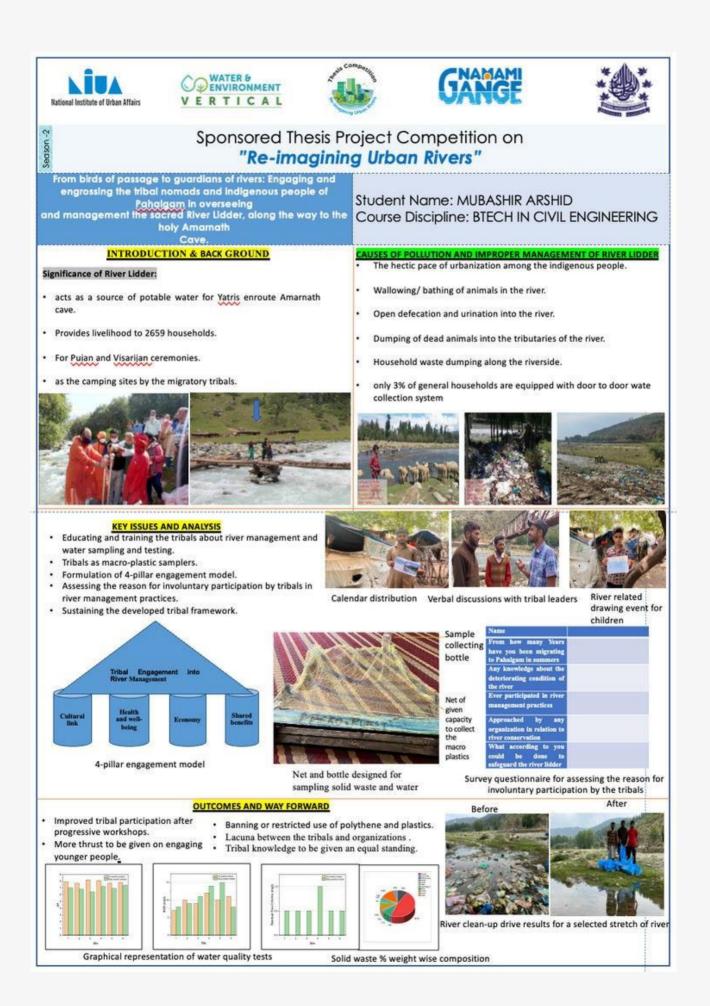


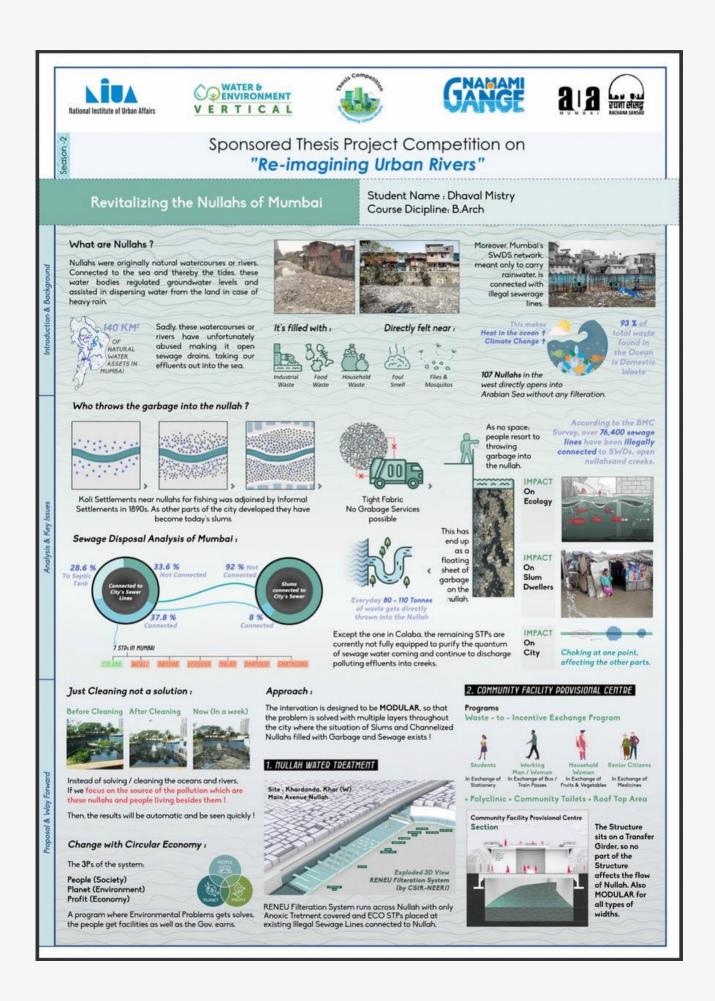


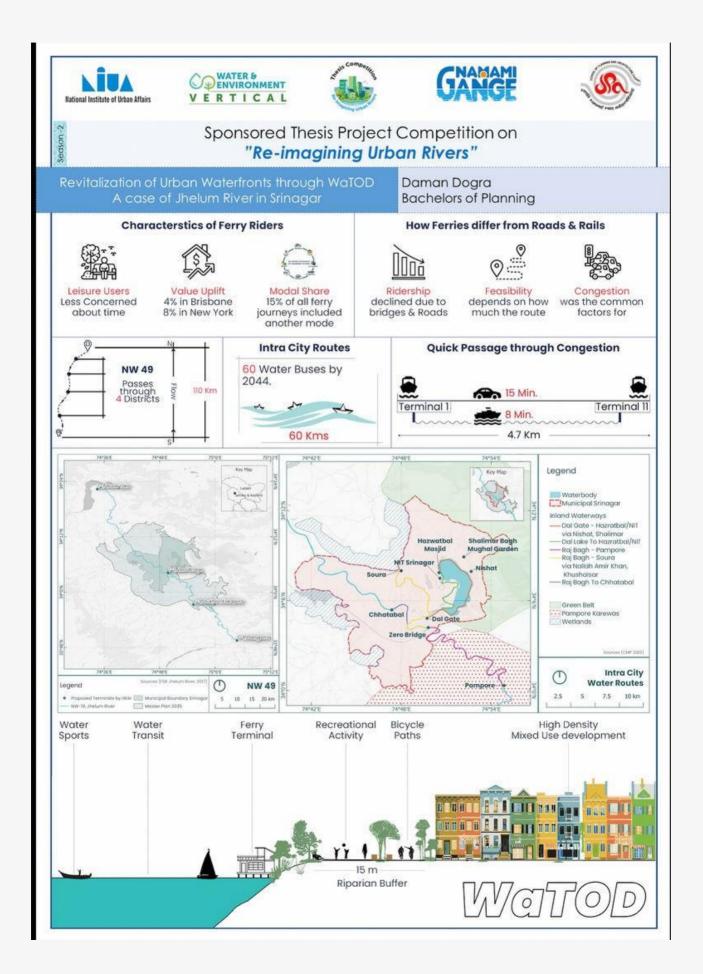


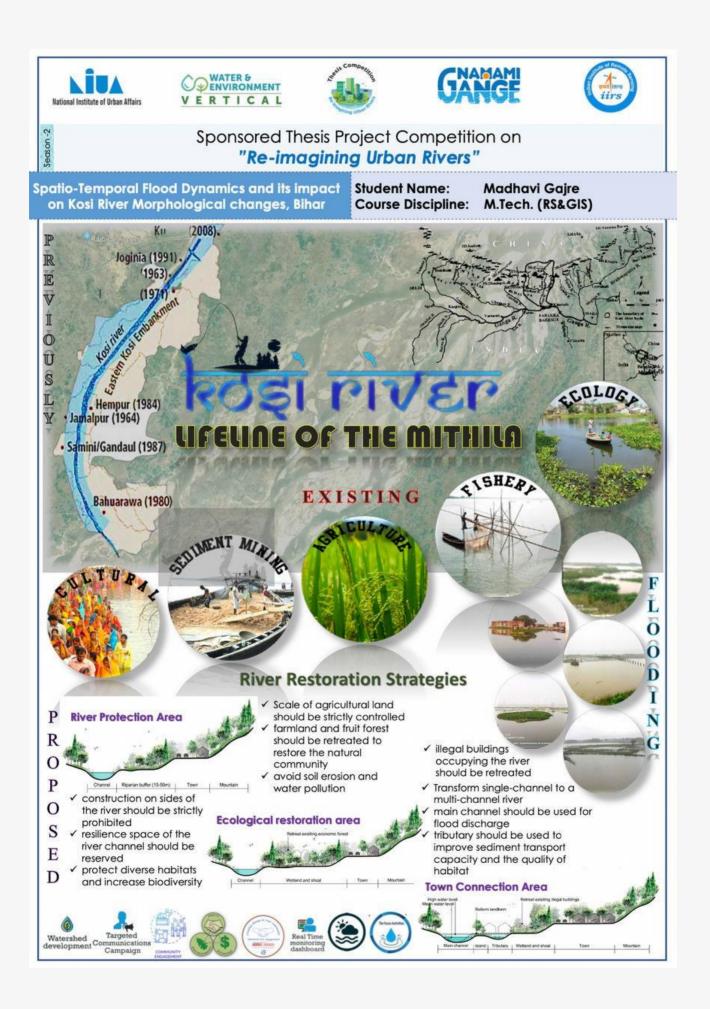


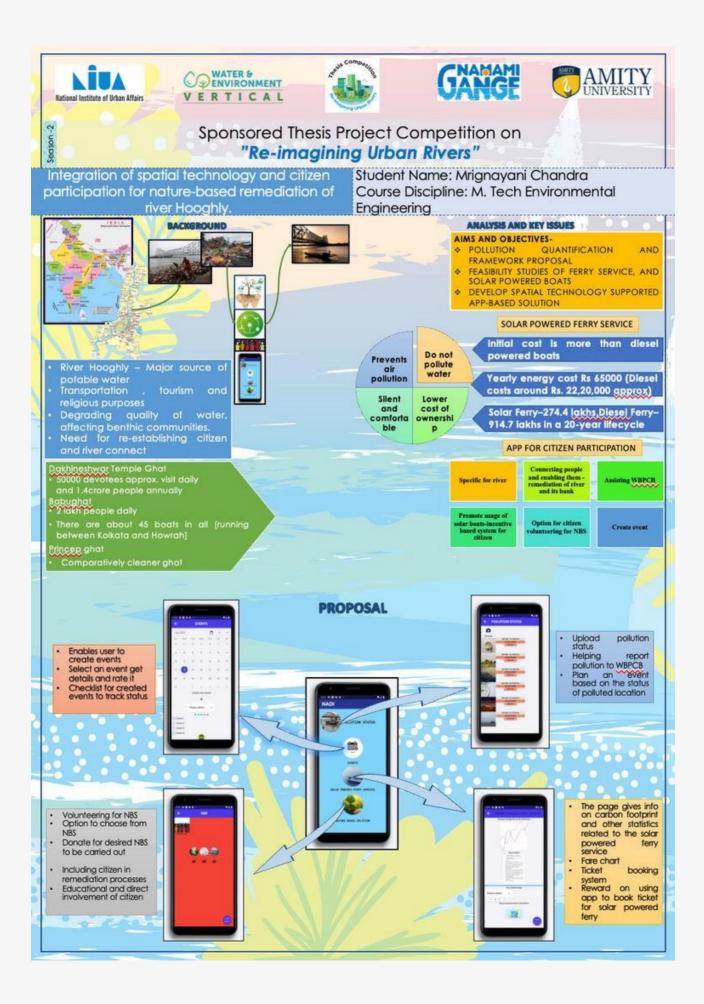


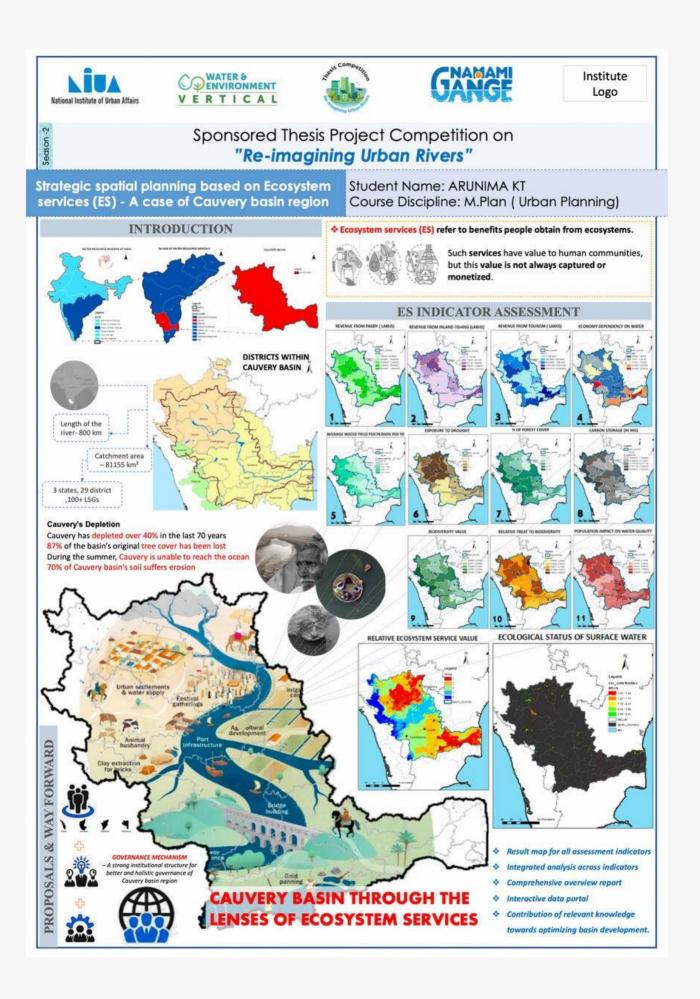


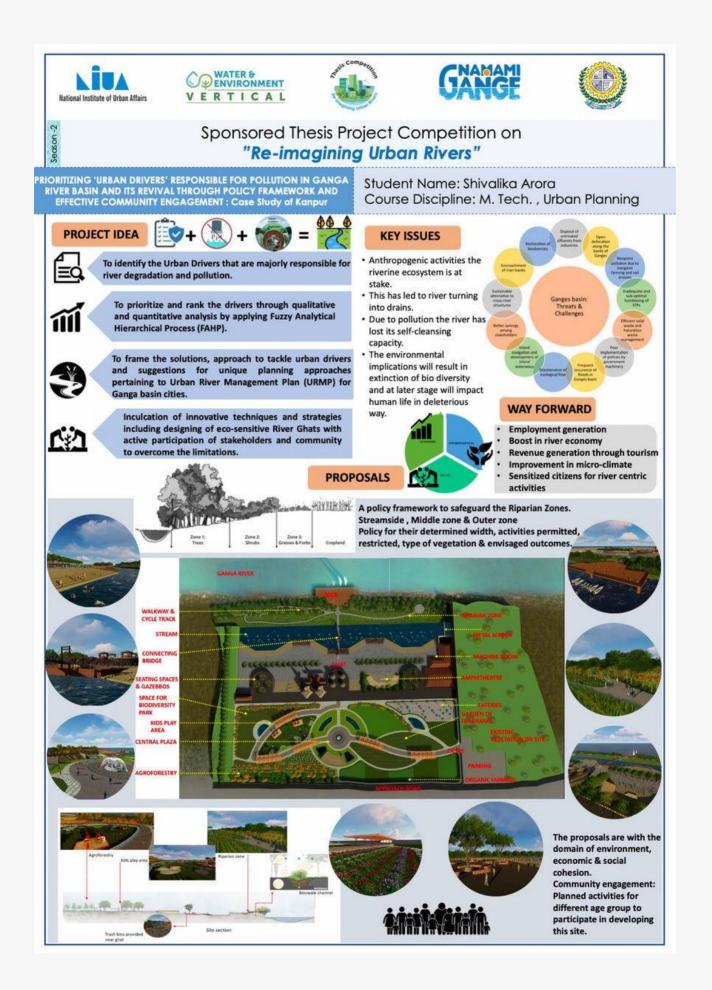


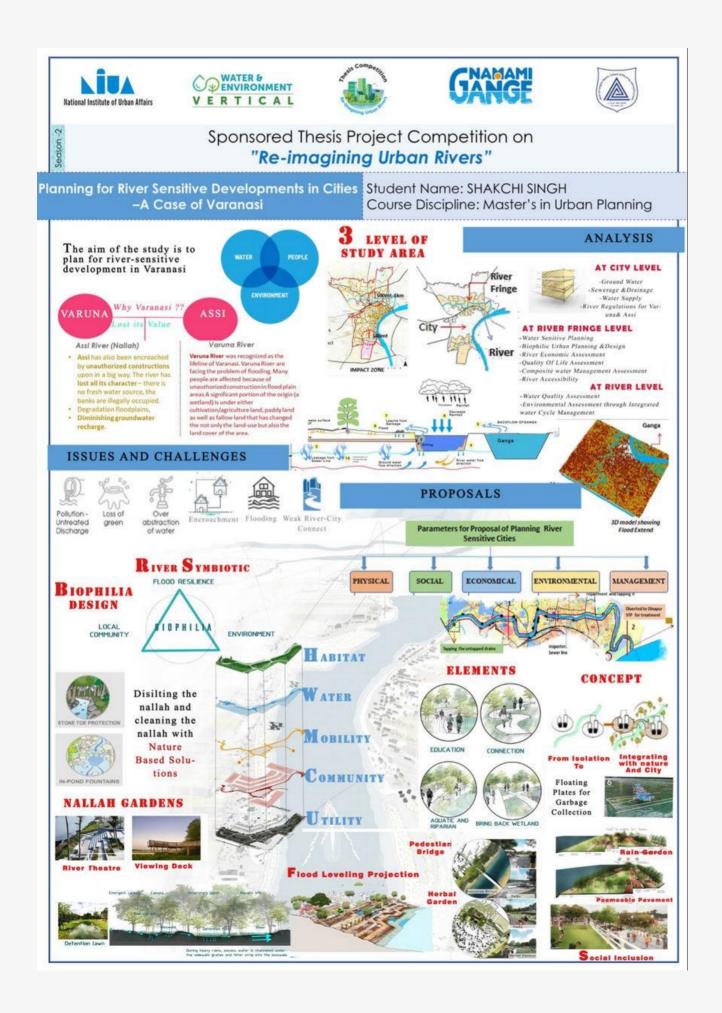


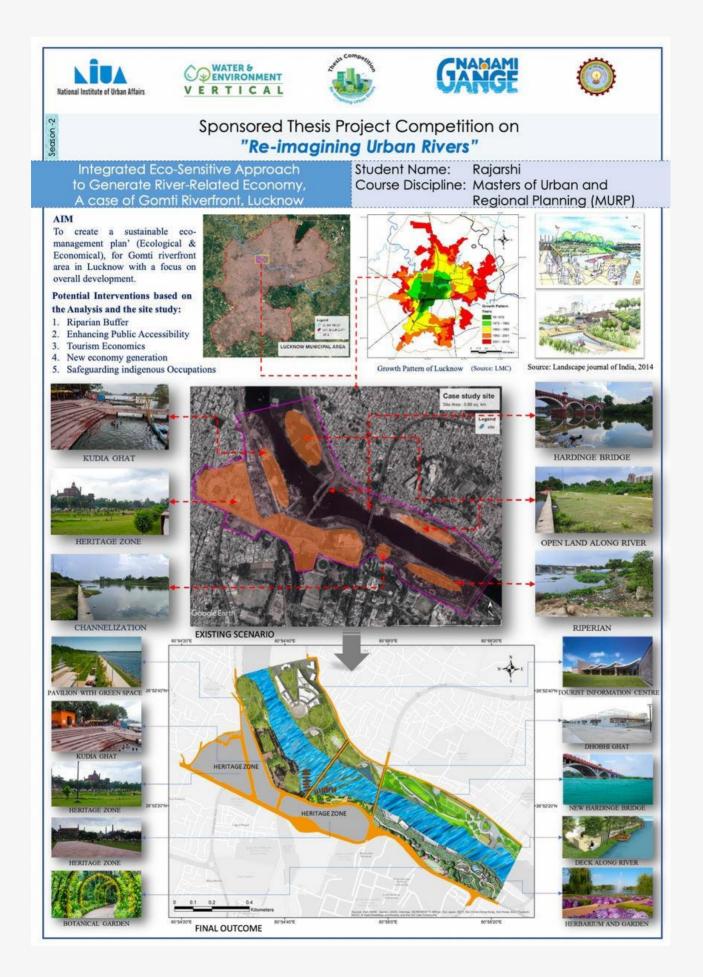






















Sponsored Thesis Project Competition on "Re-imagining Urban Rivers"

INTEGRATING RIVERS IN THE CITY PLANNING PROCESS

Student Name: PREETIKRISHNA PANDA Course Discipline: Master In Urban & Regional Planning

VISION

BACKGROUND

KEY ISSUES

Congestion

Deterioration

Of Rivers

Lost People

River Connect

Illegal Sand Mining

Lack of

Enforcement

Integrating Urban River Management with the City's Master Plan by designing a Policy based initiative to Plan and Manage Urban Rivers within the ambit of the City's Master Planning process.

- Cuttack is the former capital and second biggest city in the Indian state of Odisha. It is Odisha's commercial hub, with many trading and business establishments in and around the city.
- The city's historic and most significant section is situated on a strip of land between the Kathajodi and Mahanadi rivers. The city is traversed by four rivers, including the Mahanadi and its tributaries Kathajodi, Kuakhai, and Birupa.

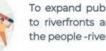
OBJECTIVES



To enliven the waterfront with a range of attractive uses



To improve governmental regulation, coordination and oversight of the riverfront



To expand public access to riverfronts and revive the people -river connect

PROPOSAL 1. ZONING REGULATIONS



DIMENSIONS OF RIVER



PROPOSAL 2. RIVER MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

To scale up citizen involvement in river management activities

To identify resources for project implementation, management and funding

To establish a wholesome multi-disciplinary and intersectoral framework for river management in a city



PROPOSAL 3. ENHANCING THE PEOPLE-RIVER CONNECT



To make the riverfront accessible to the public To create a stronger economic value for the river





