

The Oxford Anthology of the  
Modern Indian City

Making and Unmaking the City  
Politics, Culture, and Life Forms

Edited, Compiled, and Introduced by  
VINAY LAL

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Contents

<i>Preface and Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>Introduction: Modern India and the Claims of the City</i>	xv
VINAY LAL	

## Identities, Interests, Institutions: Politics and Violence in the City

RAGHUNATH KUNWAR	
<i>The Battle for Lucknow</i>	1
S.M. EDWARDES	
<i>The Tilak Riots: A Reminiscence</i>	2
MANOJ MITTA AND H.S. PHOOLKA	
<i>Block 32</i>	6
M.J. AKBAR	
<i>A Split-level War in Jamshepur</i>	12
SHIV VISVANATHAN	
<i>Land to the Killer</i>	23
THOMAS BLOM HANSEN	
<i>Shiv Sena, the City, and Communal Populism</i>	30

## The Social Web of Life in the Metropolis

RABINDRANATH TAGORE	
<i>Flute-music</i>	47

vi	DOOSI RAJAGOPALA BHOOPATHY	
Contents	<i>Urban Frauds</i>	49
	NISSIM EZEKIEL	
	<i>The Truth about Dhanya</i>	55
	PREMENDRA MITRA	
	<i>Juthika</i>	56
	SAHIR LUDHIANVI	
	<i>Main Bambai Ka Baabu Naam Mera Anjaana</i>	64
	PREMENDRA MITRA	
	<i>The Great Big City</i>	66
	HARRIET RONKEN LYNTON AND MOHINI RAJAN	
	<i>The Unworldly Ones: The Hijras</i>	76
	AMITAV GHOSH	
	<i>Winter in Calcutta</i>	85
	CHANDRAKANTA	
	<i>A Street in Srinagar</i>	95
	MARTHA ANN SELBY	
	<i>Thirst</i>	102
	VIVEK SHANBHAG	
	<i>Sharavana's Services</i>	110
	RUCHIR JOSHI	
	<i>Parking</i>	120
	WORLD COMICS INDIA	
	<i>A Comics Workshop with Positive Women Network</i>	132
	SUNITA NISHAD	
	<i>He Never Came Again</i>	134
	NEELOFAR	
	<i>In Your Name</i>	135
<b>Living at the City's Periphery: Dalits, Labourers, Slum-dwellers, and Outsiders</b>		
	NARAYAN SURVE	
	<i>Mumbai</i>	141

JAI SEN		
	<i>The Unintended City</i>	145
DAYA PAWAR		
	<i>'Son, Eat your Fill'</i>	154
PRAKASH JADHAV		
	<i>Under Dadar Bridge</i>	160
BHISHAM SAHNI		
	<i>Basanti</i>	163
JAMES MANOR		
	<i>The Poor and the 'System' amid an Urban Catastrophe</i>	185
JEREMY SEABROOK		
	<i>Dharavi</i>	196
VARSHA ADALJA		
	<i>Bichari Champudi</i>	209
NEERA ADARKAR AND MEENA MENON		
	<i>The Millworkers of Girangaon: An Oral History</i>	213
ASHIS NANDY		
	<i>Slums as Self-confrontation</i>	234
SHANKAR RAMASWAMI		
	<i>A Death in Delhi</i>	237

## Multiple Cities, Many Ethnicities: Claiming and Disowning the City

LAL BEHARI DAY		
	<i>Journeying to Calcutta and English Education in the Metropolis</i>	243
S.M. EDWARDES		
	<i>Shadows of Night</i>	253
KHWAJA AHMAD ABBAS AND V.P. SATHE		
	<i>The Tramp in the City and the Urban Nightmare: Dialogues from Shri 420</i>	257
ASHIS NANDY		
	<i>The After-life of the Raj in Indian Academe</i>	264
TANYA LUHRMANN		
	<i>The Good Parsi</i>	276

viii Contents	DAUD HAIDER	
	<i>Stranger in a Strange Land</i>	285
	PRABHA KHETAN	
	<i>Pili Aandhi</i>	291
	ASHIS NANDY	
	<i>The City of the Mind: The Darkness and the Shadows</i>	297
MANGALESH DABRAL		
<i>The Monologue of the City</i>	308	
GARGA CHATTERJEE AND PRIYANKA NANDY		
<i>Lower Chitpur Road, Kolkata: A Modern Multiculturalism in a Modern Megalopolis</i>	309	

## Art, Culture, and Conviviality in the City

H. FOX STRANGWAYS	
<i>The Music of Hindostan</i>	317
ABDUL HALIM SHARAR	
<i>Lucknow: The Last Phase of an Oriental Culture</i>	325
SUMANTA BANERJEE	
<i>Laughter as Subversion in Nineteenth Century Calcutta's Popular Culture</i>	343
KATHRYN HANSEN	
<i>A Place of Public Amusement: Locations, Spectators, and Patrons of the Parsi Theatre in 19th-Century Bombay</i>	359
ARVIND KALA	
<i>Babri Alang: Banaras's Ideology of Leisure</i>	372
AMARESH MISRA	
<i>The Town India Forgot: Allahabad Diary</i>	375
V. SRIRAM	
<i>A Cultural December: The Chennai Music Season</i>	378
TIMERI N. MURARI	
<i>New Wine in the Old Bottle</i>	384

## Ruins of Cities Past—and Future?

MIRZA GHALIB	
<i>Delhi: The Mutiny and its Aftermath</i>	391

CHANDRASHEKHAR KAMBAR	
<i>The Song of Those Who Tried to Escape Darkness of the City</i>	397
SHIV VISVANATHAN AND HARSH SETHI	
<i>Bhopal: A Report from the Future</i>	398
RAVI KALIA	
<i>Chandigarh</i>	416
M.V. RAMANA	
<i>Bombing Bombay?</i>	426
VINAY LAL	
<i>The Modern Indian City: A Very Short Reader's Guide</i>	431
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	451
<i>Copyright Statement</i>	465