

## Book Review

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# Cities and Canopies: A Refreshing Perspective on Urban Trees

**Authors:** Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli

**Publisher:** Penguin Random House India

Prof. PK Ahluwalia\*

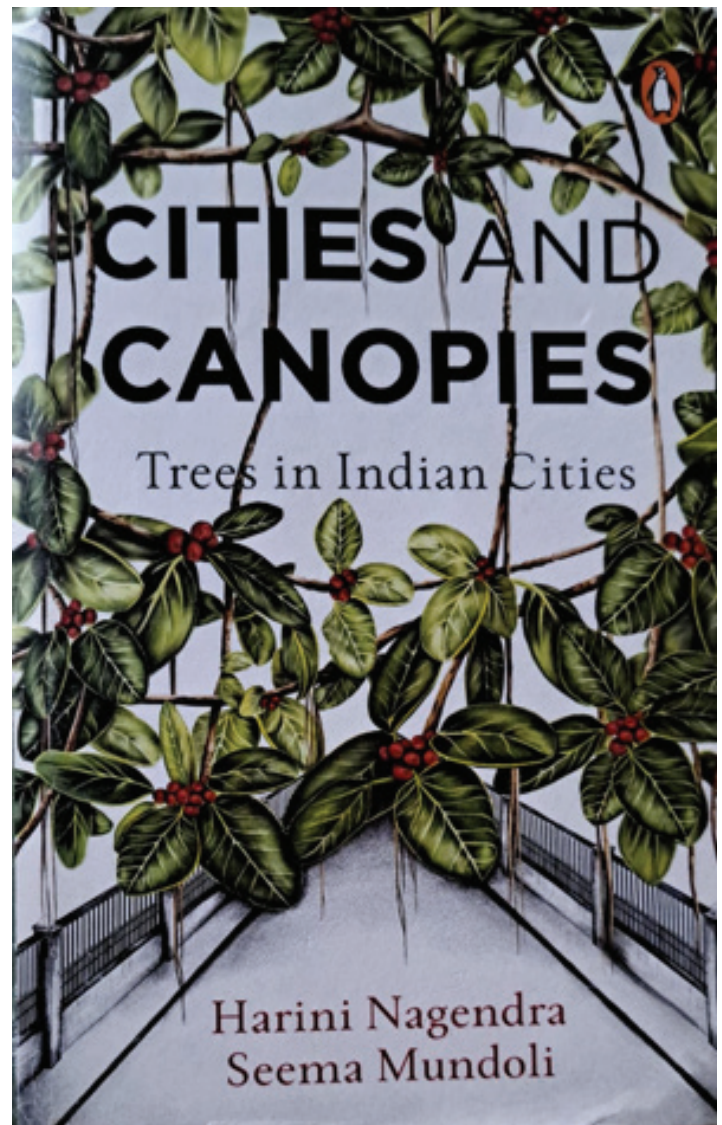
In the realm of environmental literature, it's rare to come across a book that is both informative and uplifting. "*Cities and Canopies: Trees in Indian Cities*" by Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli is a delightful exception. This engaging book tells the story of urban trees, highlighting their significance in our daily lives and the urgent need for their conservation.

Each chapter is dedicated to a specific tree species, weaving together its cultural, ecological, and practical aspects. The authors, both ecologists, have conducted extensive research on the growth of urban canopies, drawing examples from cities like Chandigarh and Bengaluru. Their writing style is accessible, making the book an enjoyable read for both experts and non-experts.

One of the book's strengths is its multidimensional approach. It explores how communities have evolved around trees, relying on them for survival and cultural expression. The authors also delve into the scientific documentation of tree species, highlighting the importance of conservation efforts.

The book's focus on urban trees is particularly significant, as these trees are often overlooked despite their vital role in maintaining ecological balance. The authors sound an alarm bell, emphasizing that the loss of urban trees can lead to the erosion of a city's character.

Throughout the book, Nagendra and Mundoli strike a fine balance between their personal admiration for urban canopies and their scientific expertise. The result is a compelling narrative that inspires readers to take action.



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“Cities and Canopies” is more than just a book – it’s a call to action. It reminds us that trees are an integral part of our cultural heritage and biodiversity, providing a sense of place and identity. The book’s appendices, which include recipes and scientific descriptions of tree species, add to its value.

In conclusion, “*Cities and Canopies*” is a must-read for anyone interested in urban ecology, conservation, and sustainability. It offers a refreshing perspective on the importance of urban trees and provides a prototype for future research and conservation efforts.