

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
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## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Saumya Kapil, Registration Number: 2190077, PhD Scholar at the Department of Tourism Management, School of Business and Management, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Wednesday, 01 April 2026 at 10.00 am in Seminar Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Academic Block, Bangalore Bannerghatta Road Campus, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560076, Karnataka, India.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Lake Conservation and Community Well-Being in Udaipur: A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Tourism</b>
<b>External Examiner - I</b>	:	<b>Dr M Devendra</b> Professor Oxford College of Hotel Management 1st Phase, J P Nagar Bengaluru – 560078 Karnataka
<b>External Examiner - II</b>	:	<b>Dr Sunil Kabia</b> Professor Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management Bundelkhand University Jhansi - 284128 Uttara Pradesh
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Bindi Varghese</b> Professor Department of Tourism Management School of Business & Management Bangalore Bannerghatta road campus CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bangalore - 560076 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: 23 March 2026

  
Registrar (Academics)

## ABSTRACT

Urban cities worldwide are increasingly prioritizing ecological restoration as a key component of sustainable development by recognizing that natural infrastructure is essential for long-term urban health. Udaipur, Rajasthan, reflects this global trend, having recently earned the Ramsar Wetland City accreditation for its efforts to integrate cultural heritage with its lake systems. Despite this status, the city faces significant challenges, as its lakes are currently threatened by rapid urban growth and inconsistent environmental management. This situation creates a conservation paradox where the local community's deep emotional and cultural connection to the water is being overshadowed by visible ecological decline. This study investigates the link between lake preservation and community well-being, identifying Environmentally Responsible Behaviour (ERB) as a potential bridge between the two. The research used a mixed-methods approach to connect individual behaviour theories, specifically the Value- Belief-Norm (VBN) model and Bottom-Up Spillover Theory, to the broader Social-Ecological Systems (SES) framework. The results show that although residents express high levels of environmental concern and positive attitudes toward sustainable tourism, a persistent value-action gap prevents these feelings from resulting in better ecological health. The evidence suggests that ERB serves as a structural anchor that turns passive attitudes into active environmental outcomes. Interestingly, the data indicates that attitudes toward sustainable tourism have become a stronger driver for local stewardship than general environmental concern. This suggests that in cities where the economy depends on visitors, conservation is most effective when it is linked to the community's economic identity. The study concludes with the Integrated Udaipur Socio-Ecological Framework, a model designed to address institutional barriers and fill the current governance vacuum, offering a practical path toward more resilient city management.

**Keywords:** Socio-Ecological Systems, Urban Lake Conservation, Community Well-being, Environmentally Responsible Behaviour, Sustainable Destination Management.

### Publications:

1. **Kapil, Saumya**, and Varghese, Bindi. (2024). Sustainability in hospitality: The pathway to destination well-being in the "City of Lakes" Udaipur. In *Sustainable Disposal Methods of Food Wastes in Hospitality Operations* (pp. 228-240). IGI Global Scientific Publishing.
2. **Kapil, Saumya**, and Varghese, Bindi. (2023). Crafting an Experiencescape for Sustainable Cultural Tourism: A Case Study of Udaipur's Craft Village "Shilpgram". In *Exploring Culture and Heritage Through Experience Tourism* (pp. 46-61). IGI Global Scientific Publishing.
3. **Kapil, Saumya**, and Dave, V. N. (2025). Snowy Allure and Environmental Stress: Kishangarh's Marble Slurry Dilemma. In *Innovations in Energy Efficient Construction Through Sustainable Materials* (pp. 367-386). IGI Global Scientific Publishing.

### Patent:

1. **Kapil, Saumya** and Varghese, Bindi. (2025). *Integrated framework for lake conservation and community well-being* (Indian Patent No. 202541100069 A). Patent Journal Office, Government of India.