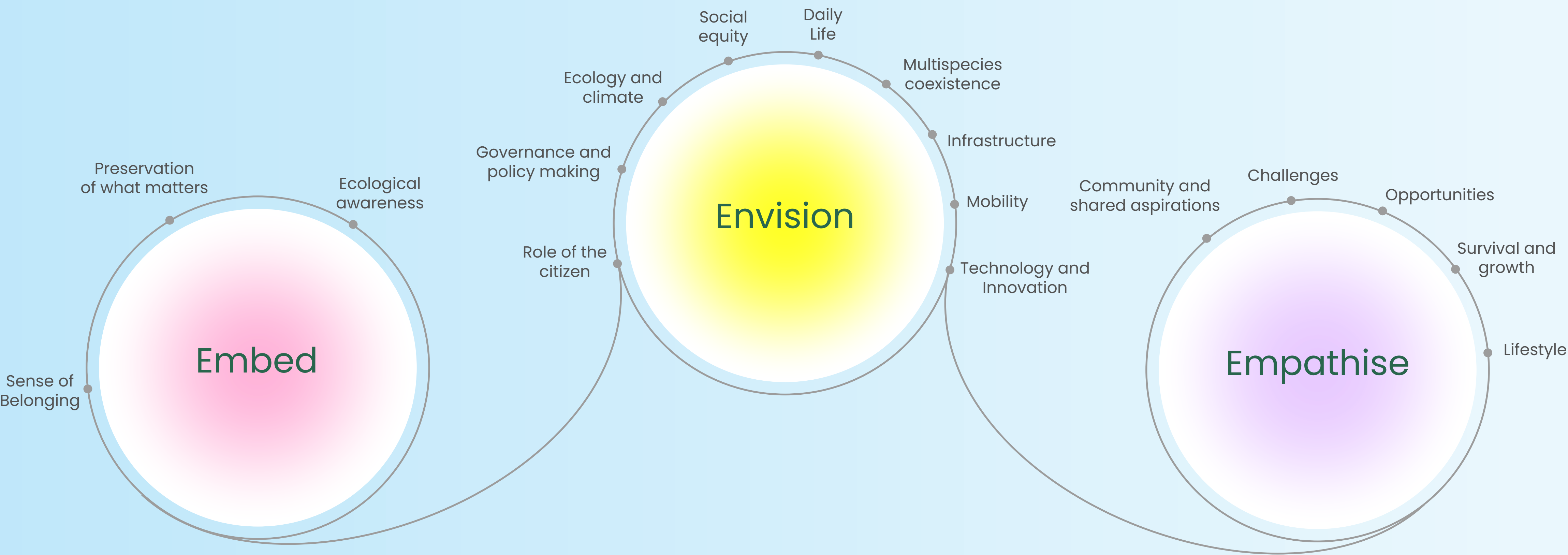


Breathing Futures

A participatory visioning framework that imagines an ecologically resilient and citizen-centered Mumbai 3.0.

Citizen Thinking



Citizen Thinking is a participatory visioning framework that empowers citizens to collectively imagine and shape the future of their city. It connects individuals to their past memories, lived experiences, and visions of their future, while encouraging empathy towards all species that coexist in urban environments.

By surfacing these deep rooted insights, Citizen Thinking transforms abstract imagination into actionable strategies for policymakers and planners. It is a civic method that gives people a real stake in decision-making and enables governments to create realistic, inclusive, and grounded urban development plans rooted in collective visions.

Beneficiaries: Citizens of all ages, classes, and communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Community-based organizations, Urban local bodies and planning authorities.

Sanyukta Mathure

A design futurist exploring how ecologically resilient, planet-first cities can take shape.

My research investigates participatory frameworks for inclusive and adaptive urban transformation.

Reserach Methodology



Figure 1. Research Methodology followed during the project.

A roadmap to an ecologically resilient, citizen-first Mumbai 3.0

	PHASE 1 Foundation (2025–2030)	PHASE 2 Acceleration (2030–2040)	PHASE 3 Transformation (2040–2050)
Goals	Build groundwork for citizen participation & ecological planning	Scale eco-infra and institutionalize citizen voices	Establish Mumbai 3.0 as a model for regenerative and inclusive urbanism
Key Actions	Citizen Thinking Workshops (270 villages), Eco-sensitive zoning rules, Eco-building codes, Digital Twin pilots and Ward committee empowerment	Permanent Citizen Advisory Councils, urban greening incentives, Integrated green mobility, bioregional planning and Real-time quality dashboards	Legal rights for nature, mangrove parks, flood-proof roads, green housing access, Planetary Resilience Certification, AI + participatory city planning
Enablers	Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT 2.0, GSDP for eco-literacy	FAME II, NEP 2020, NCAP	MoEFCC guidelines, green credit programme, PMAY Urban
Stakeholders	NTDA, ULBs, RWAs, NGOs, Housing Boards	MMRDA, Env. Ministry, EV startups, Real estate developers	Think Tanks (WRI, ISEG), Indigenous groups, Green startups, Env. courts
Risks	Pushback on decentralization, Low citizen awareness and zoning resistance	Data misuse, elite capture of resources and inter-agency friction	Delays in legal reform, corporate resistance, gentrification

Key Insights

- Lack of meaningful citizen engagement :** Local community voices are often absent from planning processes, leading to decisions that don’t fully reflect their needs or aspirations.
- Exclusion of indigenous knowledge and more-than-human intelligence:** Strategies overlook the lived experiences of indigenous groups and non-human ecosystems, limiting understanding of true ecological resilience.
- Limited coordination between departments:** Fragmented efforts across government agencies reduce the overall effectiveness of climate and resilience strategies.

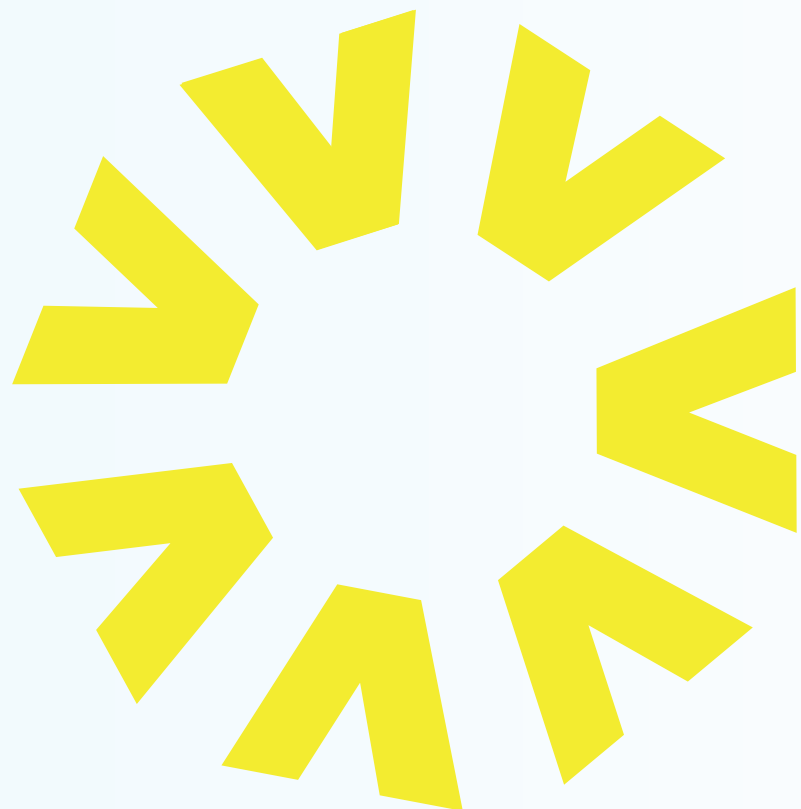
#URBAN
#VISIONING
#FORESIGHT

Preferable Future

By 2050, Mumbai 3.0 is a citizen-led, ecologically resilient city where communities co-govern urban commons, drive local planning through visioning assemblies, and live in harmony with nature. Powered by decentralised systems, civic literacy, and bioregional design, it becomes a regenerative, inclusive city rooted in public stewardship and multispecies justice.

Outcome & Impact

The Citizen Thinking Framework empowers Mumbai’s communities to become co-creators of their urban future through inclusive, ward-level participatory planning. Guided by a Visioning Framework and supported by a facilitation toolkit, it enables citizens to blend local wisdom with data to shape actionable strategies.



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