

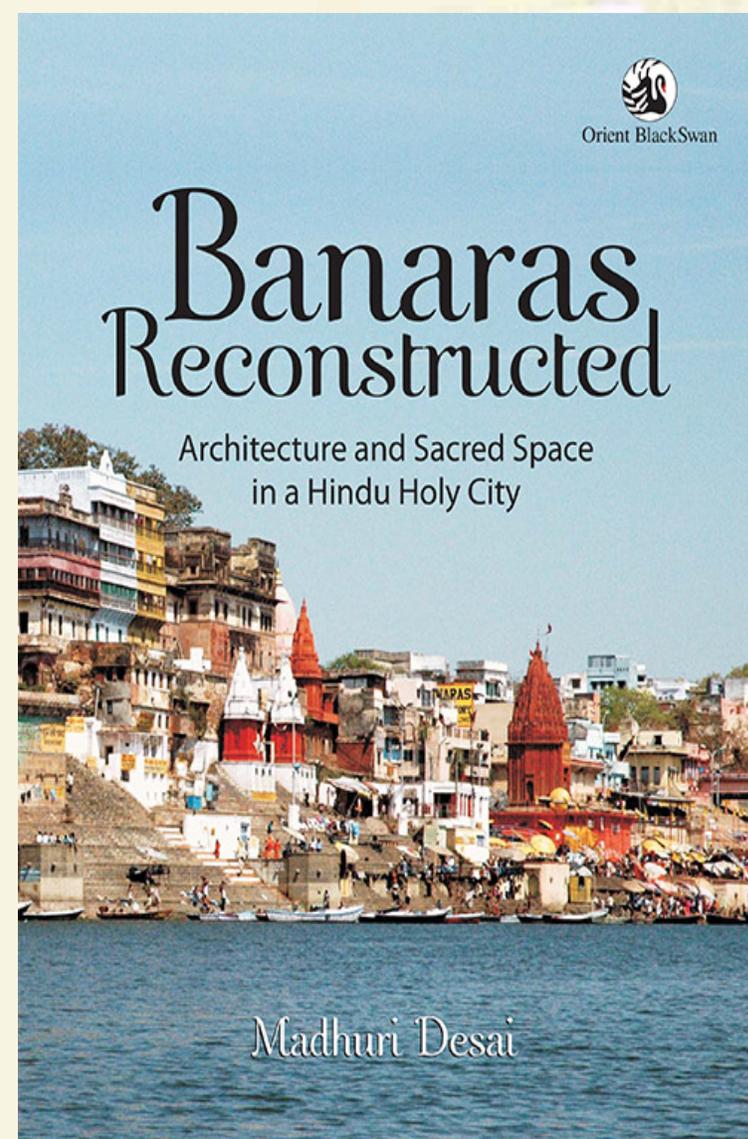
{ EDITOR'S PICK }

HT's editors offer a book recommendation every Saturday, which provides history, context, and helps understand recent news events

THE REMAKING OF THE CITY OF BANARAS

On December 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, connecting Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi (Banaras) to the ghats of the Ganga. The ₹800-crore project, launched in 2019, aims to restore the “lost glory” of the spiritual centre.

This week, we recommend Madhuri Desai's *Banaras Reconstructed: Architecture and Sacred Space in a Hindu Holy City*. The book, a comprehensive study of the remaking of the city between the 16th and 20th centuries, presents a broad perspective on Banaras and the making of sacred urban environments. The book narrates how the iconic Hindu centre was reconstructed, embellished with temples, monasteries, mansions, and ghats. Desai examines the confluences that have shaped this city and raises issues central to the historical and contemporary Indian identity, delving into questions about religious urban environments in South Asia.



Book Name: *Banaras Reconstructed*
Year: 2017