

# Assessment of Spatio-Temporal and diurnal Urban Heat Island Intensities in Delhi Urban agglomeration using a high resolution Weather Research and Forecasting Model

Kshama Gupta<sup>1</sup>, Pushplata Garg<sup>2</sup>, and Arijit Roy<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, India

<sup>2</sup>Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

November 23, 2022

## Abstract

Urban Heat Island (UHI) is defined as increased surface and air temperatures of urban areas as compared to rural surroundings. Thermal remote sensing data have been used extensively to study Surface Urban Heat Island Intensities (SUHII). However, it fails to provide information on diurnal profile of UHI as well as information on Canopy Layer Urban Heat Island Intensities (CLUHII). To overcome these limitations, integrated Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF)-Urban model have been employed in this study to downscale meteorological variables to urban scale (~500 m) for assessment of spatio-temporal and diurnal profile of SUHII and CLUHII in Delhi Urban Agglomeration (UA). Delhi UA is third largest UA of the world and largest interstate, densely populated and multi nuclei UA of India. WRF model has been set up with two way nested domains of 1.5 km and 0.5 km to take into consideration of local as well as regional weather phenomenon. Simulations has been carried out for a time period of three days (due to computationally intensive simulation) in each season viz. 4-6 June, 2017 in summer season and 15-17 January, 2017 in winter season. Evaluation of model performance with ground based observations revealed improved RMSE values for Temperature at 2m, wind speed and surface pressure. Analysis of spatio-temporal and diurnal variability of SUHII in the study region revealed more UHI during nighttime to morning time (maximum SUHII was observed at 5:30 IST), whereas minimum SUHII value were observed during daytime at 11:30 IST and 14:30 IST in summer season (Figure 1). As a matter of fact, urban area displayed cool island effect at 11:30 IST. Similar observations were noted while studying the pattern of winter SUHII. Diurnal variability in CLUHII which is computed from model outputs of Temperature at 2m also displayed similar pattern of UHI during winter and summer season as displayed by SUHII. However, in winter CLUHII displayed comparatively more magnitude as compared with winter SUHII. Since, urban areas displayed lower temperature as compared to its surrounding at 11:30 AM time, the time of pass of thermal remote sensing satellites (pass time 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM IST) raises concern for SUHII studies especially in arid and semi-arid regions like Delhi which is surrounded by sand or bare soil that heats up faster than urban built up.



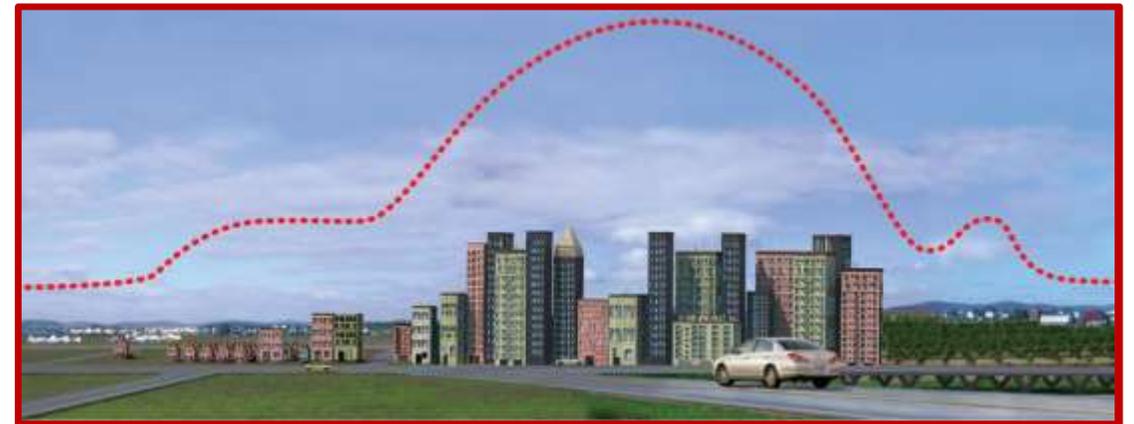
# ASSESSMENT OF SPATIO-TEMPORAL AND DIURNAL URBAN HEAT ISLAND INTENSITIES IN DELHI URBAN AGGLOMERATION USING A HIGH RESOLUTION WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING MODEL

**Dr. Kshama Gupta, IIRS/ISRO, India**

**Dr. Pushplata Garg, IIT Roorkee,  
India**

**Dr. Arijit Roy, IIRS/ISRO, India**

**Monday, 13 December 2021**



Credit: NASA



# DR. KSHAMA GUPTA

---

Scientist/Engr. , Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, India

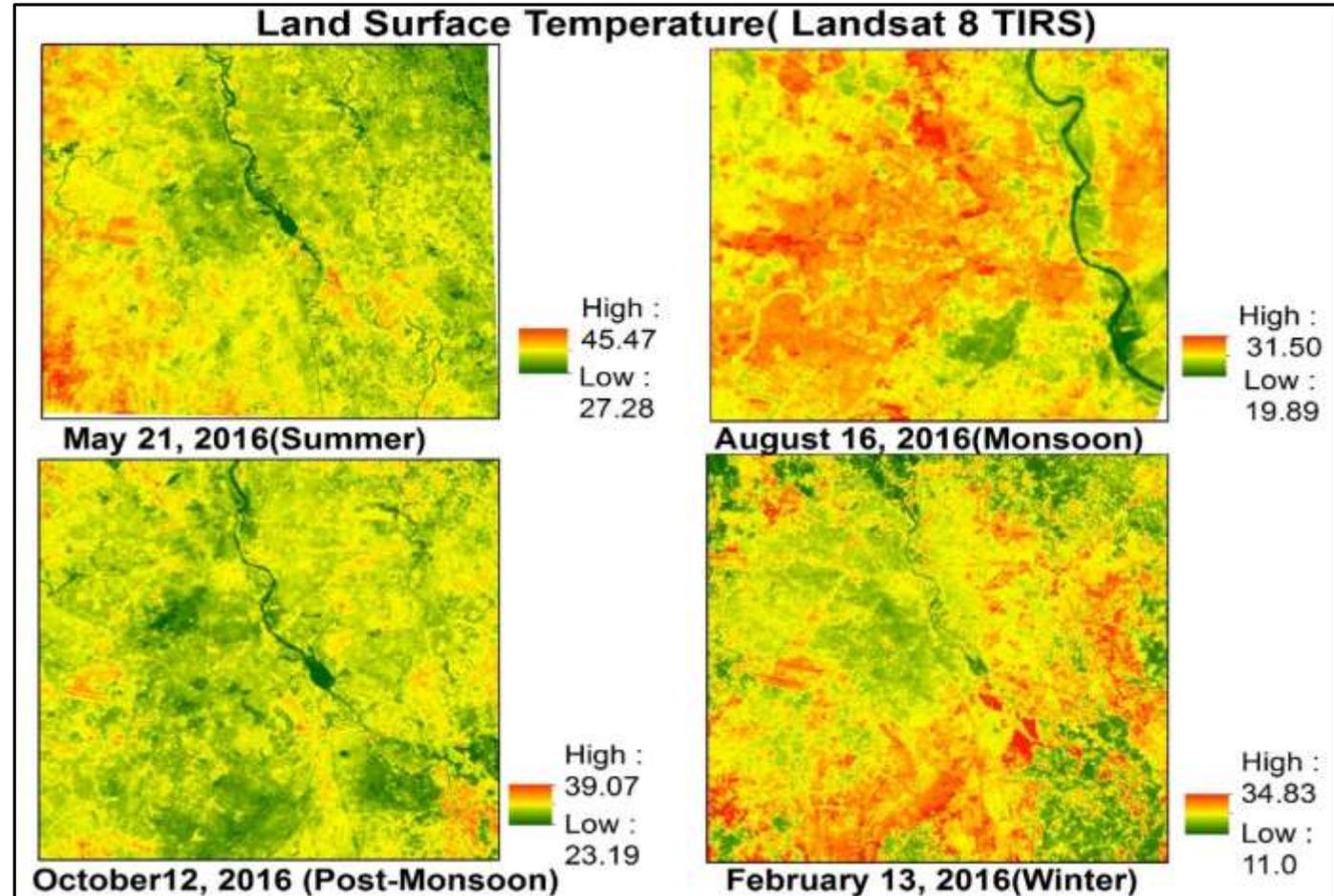


INDIAN INSTITUTE OF REMOTE SENSING, DEHRADUN



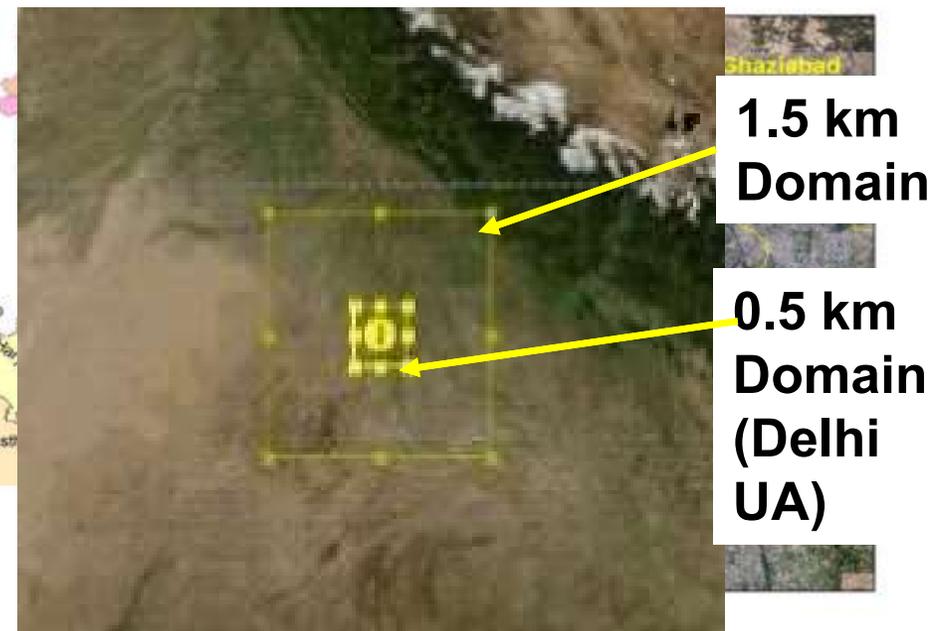
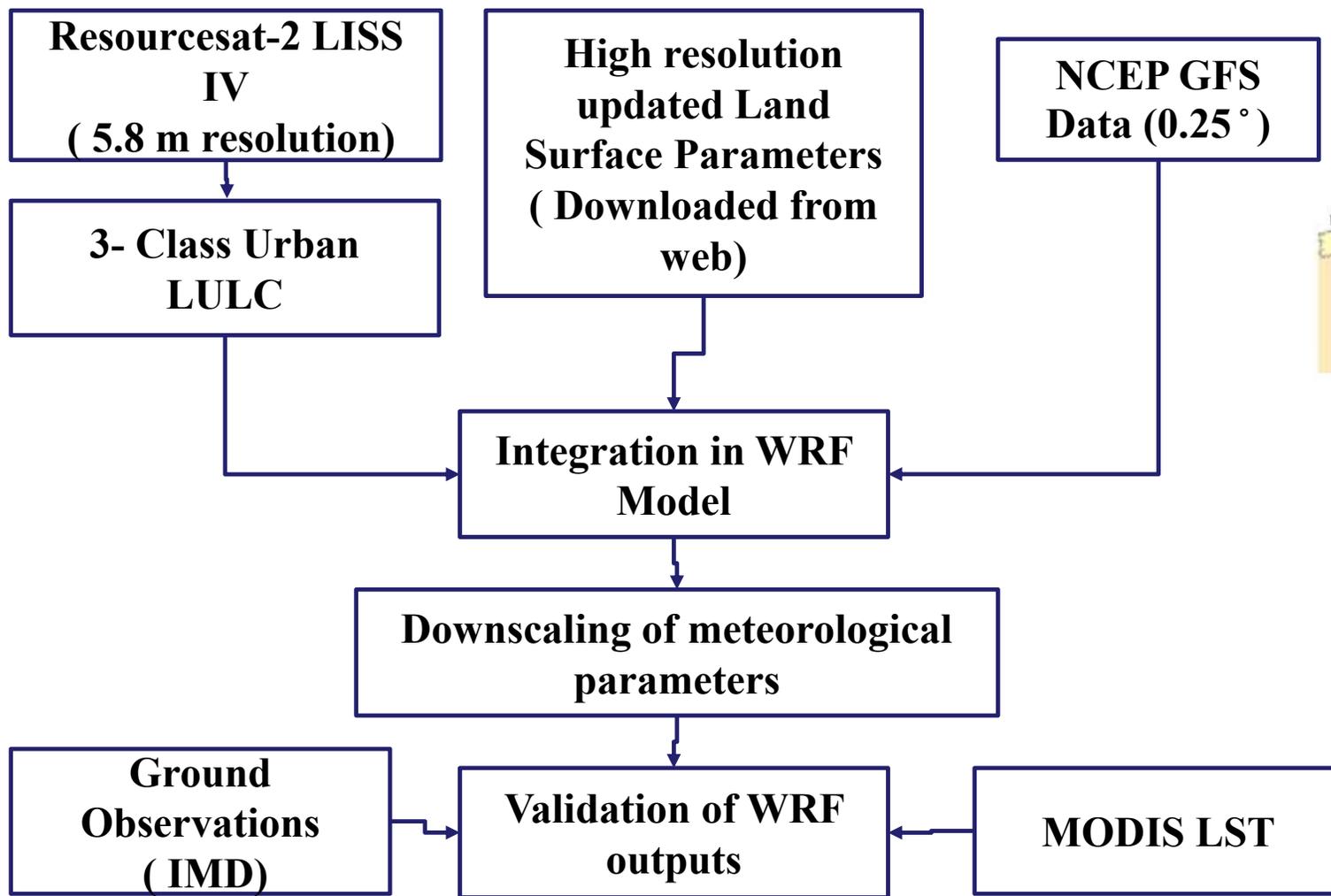
# THERMAL REMOTE SENSING

- Data Acquisition time?- usually do not coincide with maximum UHI
- Diurnal Profile ? - Widely used data - Landsat – Day time pass
- Cloud cover? – data gaps- decreases data utility
- High spectral, spatial and temporal resolution with same instrument?





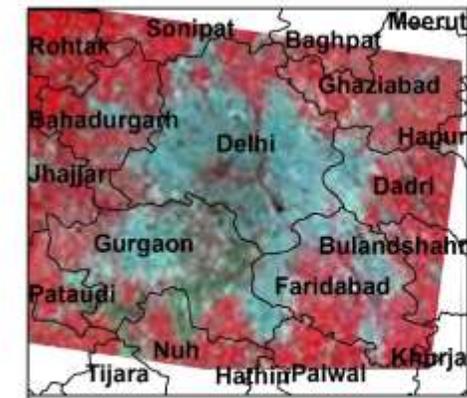
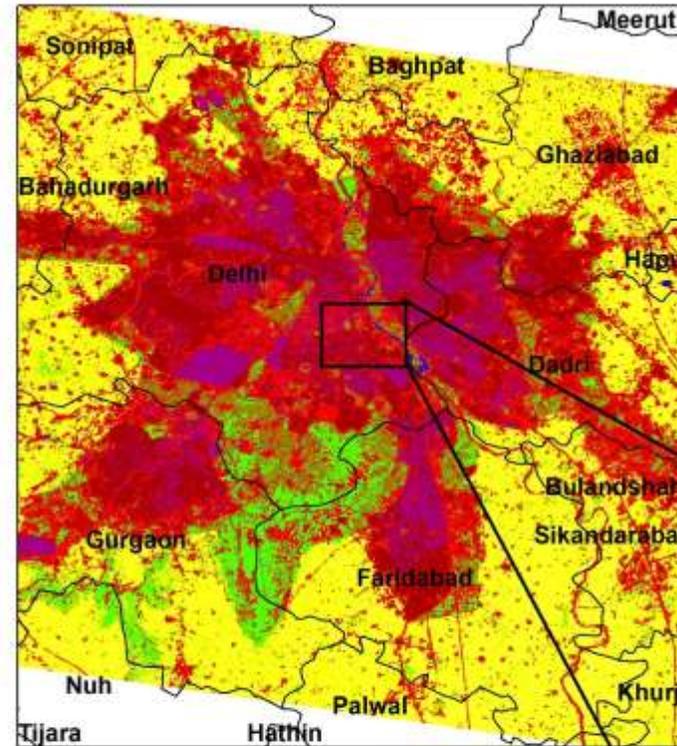
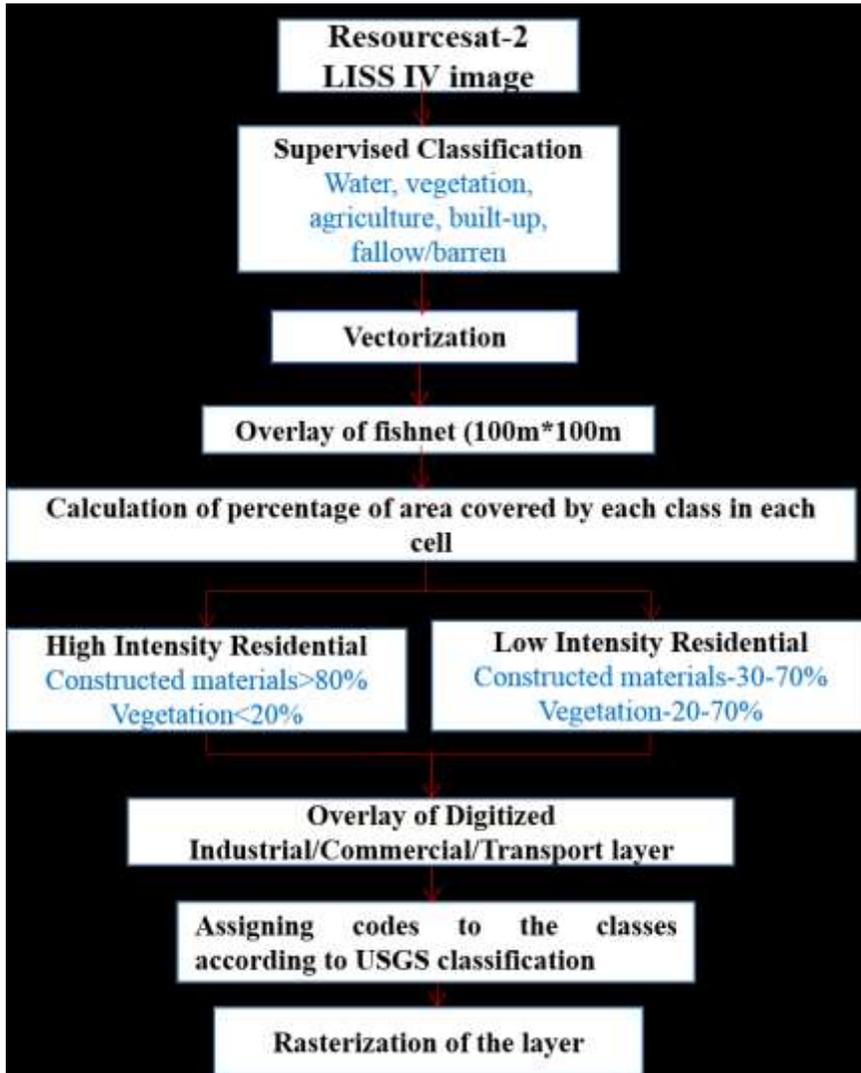
# DELHI UA (THIRD LARGEST UA OF THE WORLD) SELECTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH RESOLUTION INTEGRATED WRF-URBAN MODEL SIMULATIONS FOR UHI STUDIES



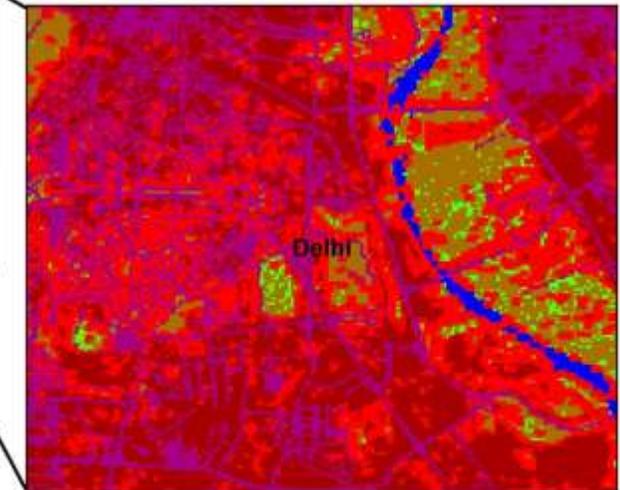
Season	Date of simulation
Summer	June 04-06, 2017
Monsoon	August 08-10, 2017
Winter	December 15-17, 2017



## DELHI UA IS SURROUNDED BY AGRICULTURE CROP LAND , COMPOSITION OF WHICH CHANGES WITH SEASON.



False Color Composite of Satellite data



Zommed view of Low Density Residential



# INTEGRATION OF URBAN LULC IN WRF-URBAN IMPROVES REPRESENTATION OF URBAN AREA IN URBAN CANOPY MODEL, IMPROVED MODEL PERFORMANCE.

Simulations	Pressure (mb)				Temperature at 2m (°C)				Wind Speed (m/s)			
	MAE	RMSE	MEAN	STDV	MAE	RMSE	MEAN	STDV	MAE	RMSE	MEAN	STDV
Simulation 1 (Default LULC + Default LSP)	1.56	1.80	991.54	2.07	1.05	3.77	16.01	2.42	1.98	4.61	6.31	3.39
Simulation 2 (Updated LULC + Default LSP)	1.58	1.82	992.80	1.31	2.07	3.42	14.73	2.44	2.10	3.72	3.10	2.51
Simulation 3 (Default LULC + Updated LSP)	1.22	1.48	991.98	0.93	1.28	2.67	13.68	2.26	0.91	2.83	4.11	2.54
Simulation 4 (Updated LULC+ Updated LSP)	0.30	0.94	991.47	0.85	1.04	2.31	14.12	1.89	0.80	1.79	4.77	2.38

Source: Gupta et al., 2021



**RESULTS: EVALUATION OF MODEL PERFORMANCE SHOWS HIGH CORRELATION AND IMPROVED RMSE VALUES FOR MODELED OUTPUTS.**

Temperature at 2m						Relative Humidity at 2m				
Month	Mean	RMS E	MAE	STDV	Correlation	Mean	RM SE	MAE	STDV	Correlation
June (Summer)	38.58	1.44	0.19	3.89	0.95	30.81	3.25	1.5	10.07	0.96
August (Monsoon)	30.24	2.45	1.41	2.68	0.64	88.07	3.56	1.46	13.6	0.9
December (Winter)	14.62	2.31	0.61	4.87	0.86	73.84	2.88	0.16	21.27	0.99

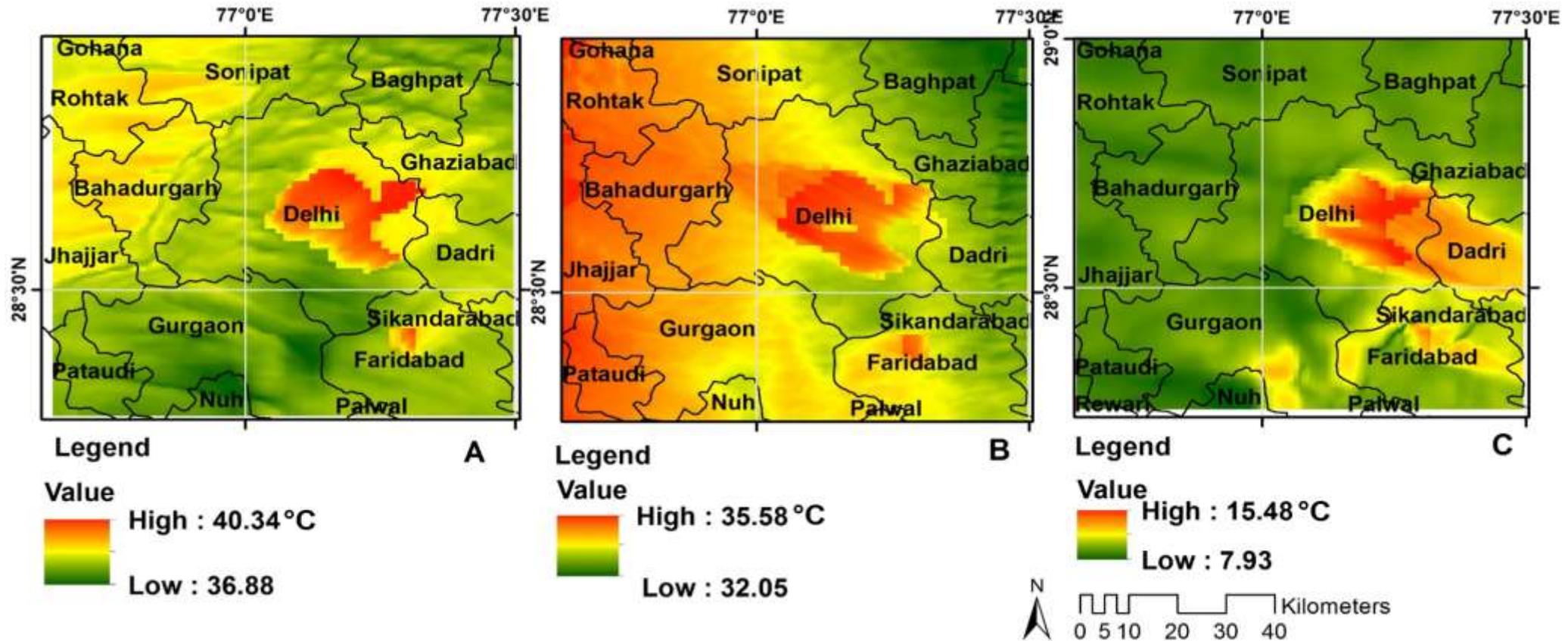


**EVALUATION OF MODEL PERFORMANCE WITH MODIS LAND SURFACE TEMPERATURE DATA (1 KM DAILY PASS) SHOWS SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE OF MODELED OUTPUTS OF SURFACE TEMPERATURE. ~ 85% OF PIXELS WITH IN -1 TO +1 DEGREE DIFFERENCE RANGE.**

RANGE	Urban LULC- June		Urban LULC-August		Urban LULC-December	
	No. of pixels	% of Pixels	No. of pixels	% of Pixels	No. of pixels	% of Pixels
<-2 to -1	27	1.75	291	8.91	201	1.41
-1 to 1	1316	85.51	1053	78.43	1043	84.72
>2	196	12.74	195	12.67	205	12.87
SUM	1539		1539		1539	



**RESULTS: UHI FORMATION CAN BE CLEARLY SEEN OVER DELHI UA ESPECIALLY DURING NIGHT HRS.**



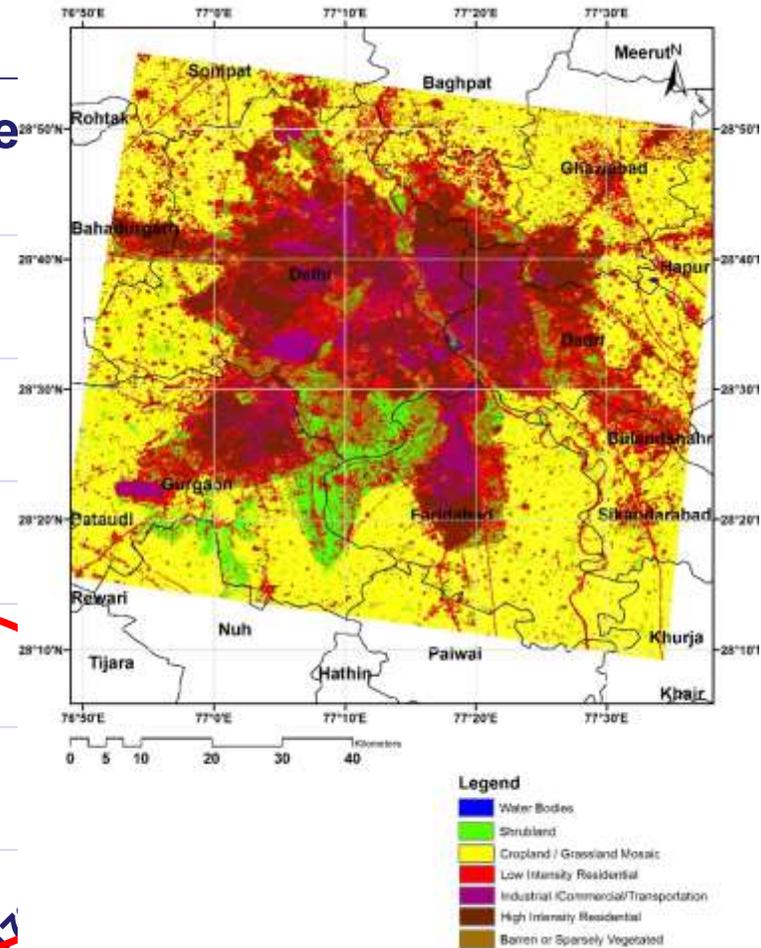
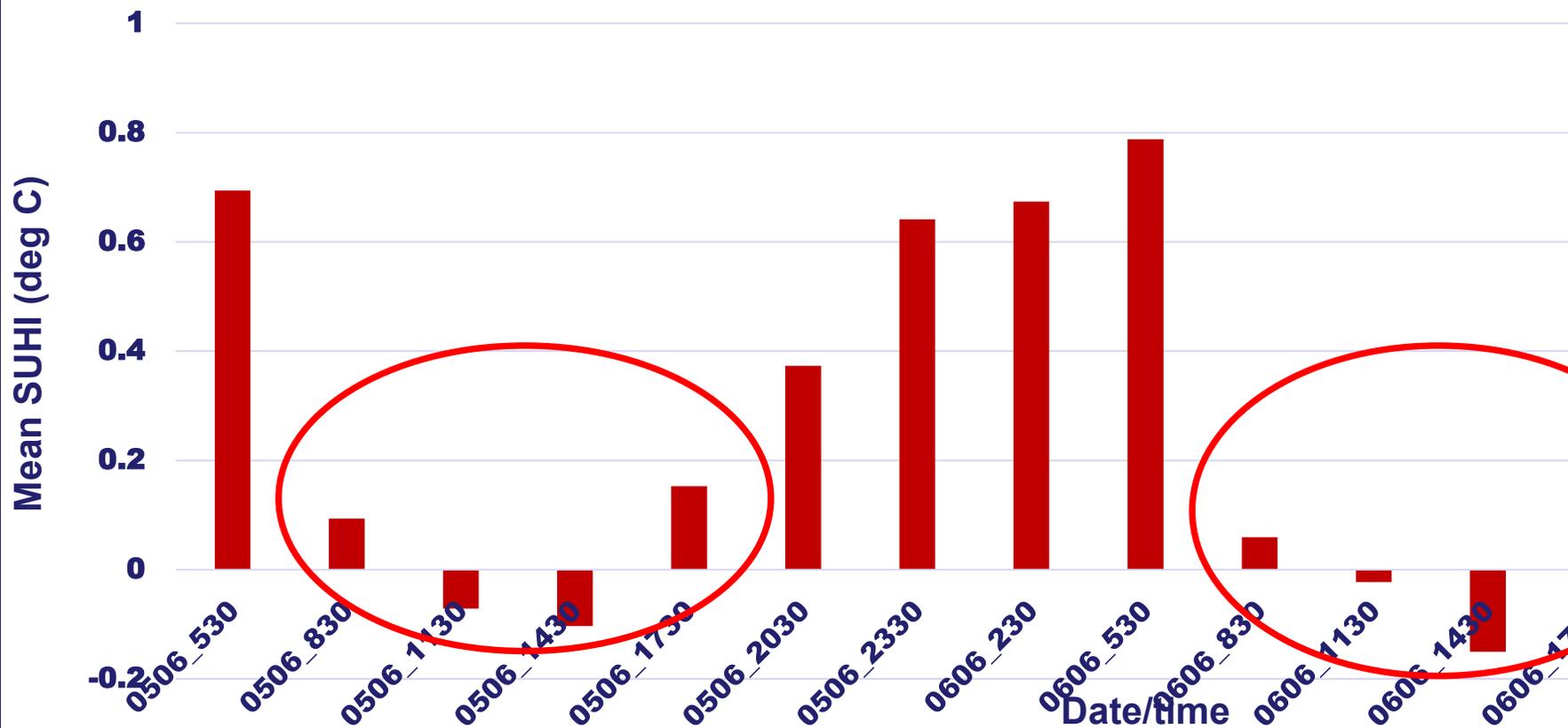
Spatial distribution of temperature at 2m (°C) over D02.

A. June 4th, 2017 20:30 IST, B. August 8th, 2017 20:30 IST, C. December 16th, 2017 23:30 IST



**RESULTS: FALLOW LAND/ BARE SOIL AREA IN SURROUNDINGS HEATS UP FASTER THAN URBAN AREA (LOW ALBEDO MATERIALS MOSTLY CONCRETE, ASPHALT) IN SUMMER SEASON, DISPLAYED NEGATIVE HEAT ISLAND INTENSITIES DURING 1130 TO 1430 IST.**

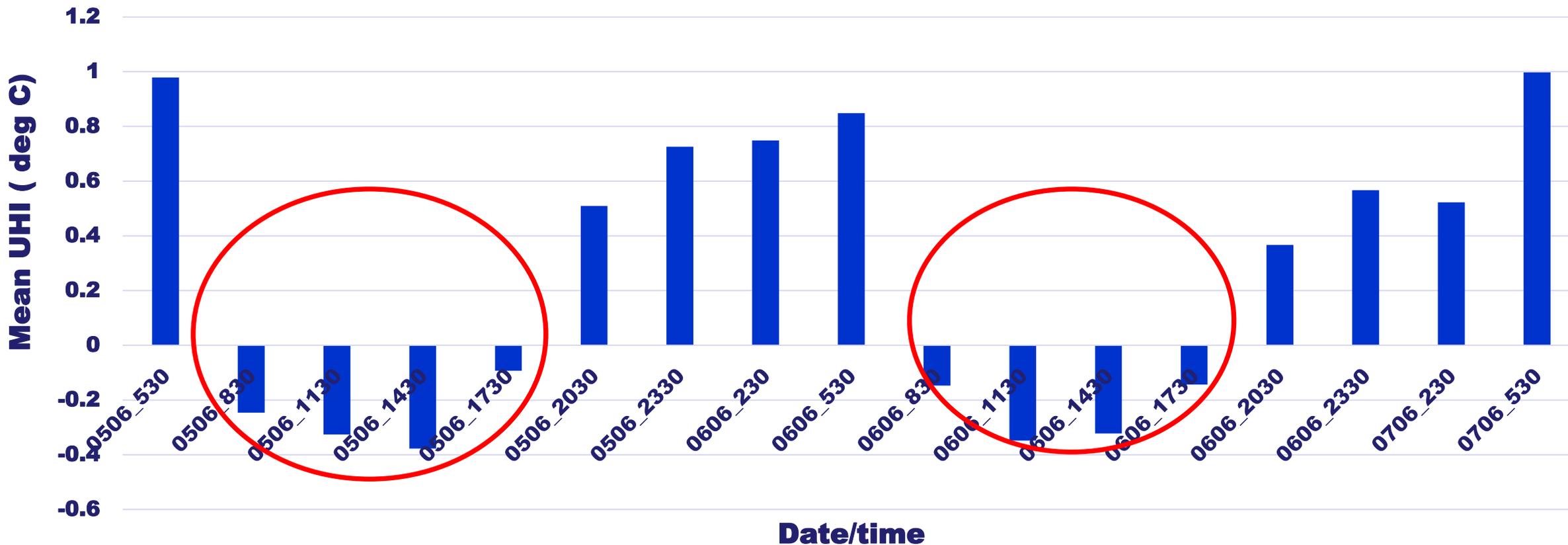
**Diurnal Variation of Surface Urban Heat Island Intensity**





**RESULTS: SIMILAR PATTERN OBSERVED FOR CANOPY LAYER HEAT ISLAND INTENSITIES (0830 TO 1730 IST) IN SUMMER SEASON .**

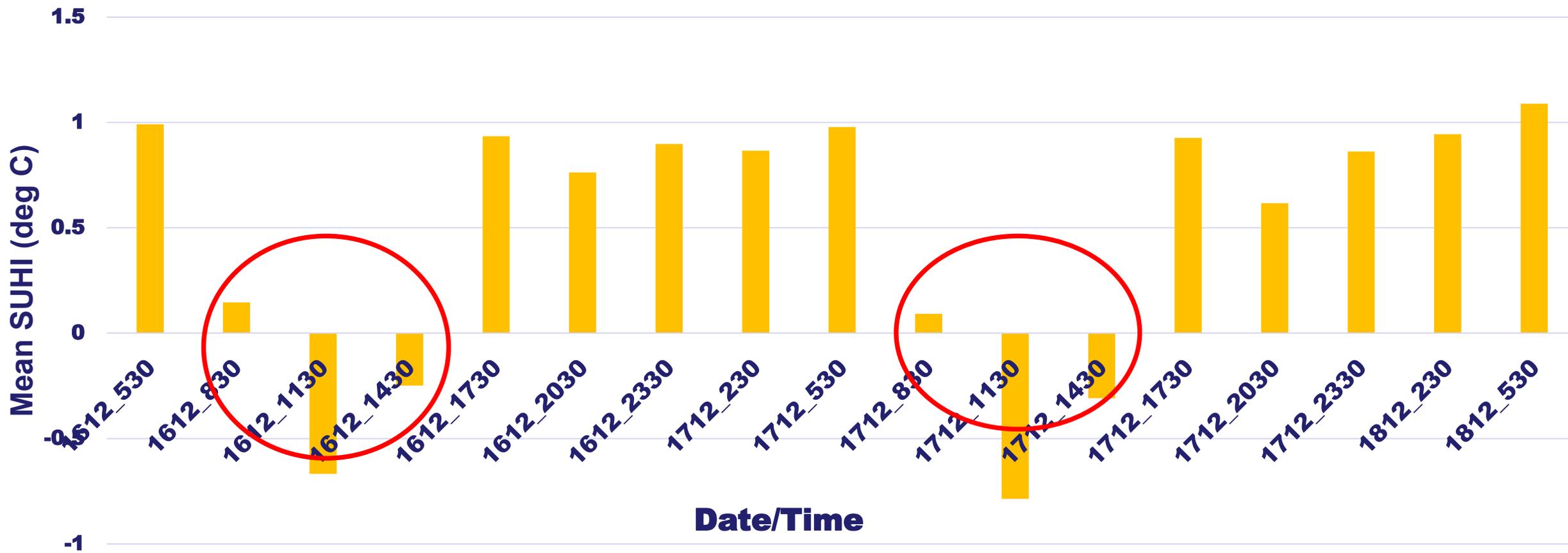
**Diurnal Variation of Urban Canopy Heat Island Intensities (Summer)**





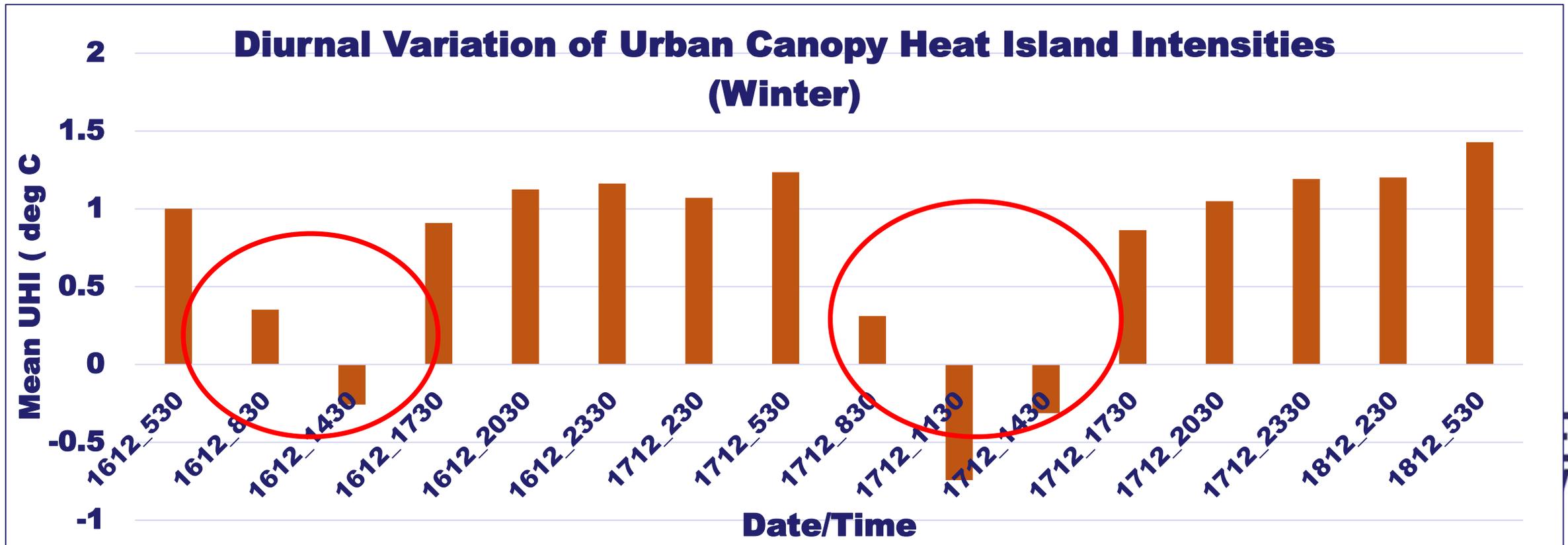
**RESULTS: IN WINTER SEASON, SHADING DUE TO 3D GEOMETRY OF URBAN AREAS AND INCLINED ELEVATION OF SUN CAUSES URBAN AREAS TO GAIN HEAT SLOWLY AS COMPARED TO SURROUNDING RURAL AREAS.**

**Diurnal Variation of Surface Urban Heat Island Intensities (Winter)**





**RESULTS: LOWER SUHII AND CANOPY LAYER HEAT ISLAND INTENSITIES AT 1130 IST RAISES CONCERN FOR USE OF THERMAL REMOTE SENSING SATELLITES (PASS TIME 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM IST) FOR SUHII STUDIES ESPECIALLY IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID REGIONS LIKE DELHI WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY AGRICULTURE CROP LAND/SAND / BARE SOIL.**





# THANK YOU

Integrated WRF-urban model employed for assessment of SUHI and CLUHI provides complete diurnal profile for UHI studies and shows negative UHI at 1130 IST for Delhi UA, usual time of pass for thermal remote sensing satellites .

*Kshama Gupta*

*Email: [gupta.kshama@gmail.com](mailto:gupta.kshama@gmail.com)*