

New Arrival

SOT

December - 2025 (Total Pages : 24)
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FOCUS PPE

Personal Protective Equipment

A monthly update on Occupational & Industrial Safety, Workers & Workplace Safety and Health Challenges

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Strengthening Safety Awareness at the Grassroots: READ India's Commitment to Dignity and Protection



essential workplace practices and the critical role of personal protective equipment.

During these programmes, reflector jackets and rubber gloves were distributed to community members. This reinforced the message that safety is not a privilege but a fundamental right. Beyond distributing protective gear, the sessions empowered workers with knowledge that can prevent injuries, enhance well-being and uphold dignity in their daily work.

Despite these efforts, a significant knowledge gap around workplace safety continues to persist at the grassroots level. Many rural and informal sector workers remain unaware of basic safety protocols that could protect their lives and livelihoods. By embedding safety education directly within communities and ensuring access to essential protective equipment, READ India is helping shape a more secure and informed workforce. As we continue addressing existing awareness gaps, our focus remains on promoting a culture where safety is recognised as an essential aspect of dignified work. Continued collaboration and support from stakeholders and corporate partners will strengthen these initiatives and contribute to safer and more resilient rural livelihoods.

These safety efforts are particularly important in the context of India's demographic transition. More than 60% of the rural population consists of young people seeking meaningful engagement with corporates and public sector units while requiring the necessary skills for employability. Although several skilling initiatives are available, the focus on educating youth about workplace safety and the protection of their lives along with their livelihoods is still limited.

At READ India, we believe that every individual, regardless of their occupation or location, deserves a safe, dignified and healthy working environment. Occupational safety is often discussed in formal sector spaces, yet the need is equally urgent in rural communities where awareness, access to protective gear and knowledge of safe practices remain limited. Bridging this gap has been central to our mission.

In recent years, READ India has intensified its efforts to strengthen occupational safety awareness among rural communities. In collaboration with OSH India and with the generous support of Action Safety and MTR Rubber, READ India organised community-focused safety outreach programmes in August 2025. Sessions were held on 5 August in Chinnai, Hatin Block in Palwal District and on 12 August in Jamalpur, Manesar in Haryana. These sessions focused on preventive safety measures,

Focus Personal Protective Equipment

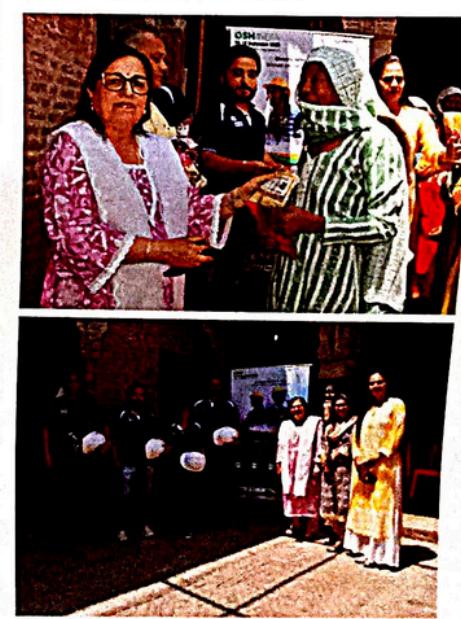
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importance of keeping families united becomes even more critical. If young people continue to migrate away from their communities in search of employment, managing the emotional, physical and financial needs of ageing parents will become increasingly difficult.

READ India works actively to address these challenges through its extensive grassroots presence. With 65 Community Library and Resource Centres across India, each covering more than 20 villages in its radius, READ India currently reaches over 1,300 villages. Nearly 60 per cent of the beneficiaries are youth. This widespread network enables READ India to support communities effectively, strengthen local livelihoods and promote safety and dignity for rural workers and their families.

Dr. Geeta Malhotra

Chief Executive Officer, READ India



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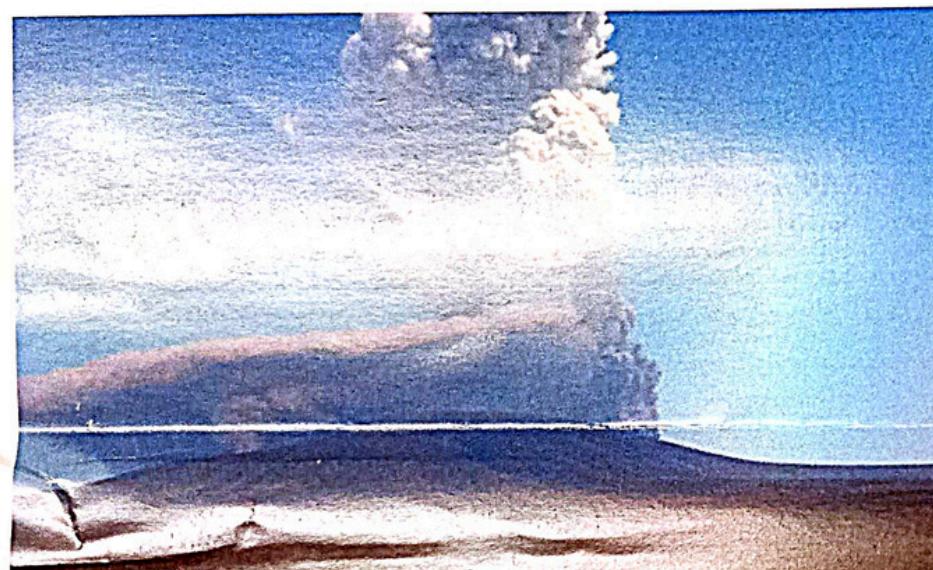
RESCUE MANAGEMENT

Redefining Emergency & Disaster Management

Volume 15 Issue 12 December 2025 (Total Pages : 16)

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Rescue Efforts During the Hayli Gubbi Volcano Eruption in Ethiopia



5. Infrastructure Safety and Transport Management

Rescue teams worked alongside local police to regulate movement on roads and prevent exposure to ash-covered pathways. Aircraft advisories were issued to prevent flights over the ash plume, while ground teams ensured that evacuation routes remained passable despite volcanic debris. Contingency plans were activated to assist communities cut off by ash-laden terrain.

6. Protection of Livelihoods and Livestock

In a region heavily dependent on pastoral activities, rescue efforts included moving livestock away from ash-fall zones and securing feed and water sources. Veterinary teams assisted in monitoring the health of animals exposed to ash, ensuring that livelihoods were not irreparably harmed.

7. Public Communication and Awareness

Authorities maintained constant communication with affected populations, providing updates on eruption activity, safe zones, and instructions for avoiding ash inhalation. Social media and radio announcements played a critical role in keeping remote communities informed.

The rescue operations during the Hayli Gubbi eruption demonstrate a coordinated multi-tiered approach: rapid evacuation, medical readiness, protective logistics, and community guidance. While the eruption was unprecedented in living memory, these interventions significantly reduced potential casualties and showcased the importance of preparedness and structured disaster-response systems in volcanic emergencies.



The sudden eruption of Hayli Gubbi in Ethiopia on 22 November 2025, after nearly 12,000 years of dormancy, presented an unprecedented emergency for local authorities and emergency responders. Despite the remoteness of the affected Afar region, coordinated rescue and relief operations were rapidly mobilized to mitigate the risks to human life, livestock, and infrastructure.

1. Immediate Evacuation of Communities

Local authorities prioritized the evacuation of villages closest to the volcanic vents, including Afdera and surrounding settlements. Residents were alerted through a combination of mobile communication, community leaders, and loudspeaker announcements. Evacuation efforts focused on relocating people to temporary shelters set up in safer zones away from lava flows and dense ash fallout. Because the eruption occurred suddenly, teams had to act quickly, guiding residents through ash-laden terrain while ensuring the safety of elderly individuals, children, and livestock. Evacuation routes were cleared by local police and volunteers, preventing delays that could have resulted in casualties.

2. Air Quality Monitoring and Respiratory Protection

Medical teams, including regional health officers and NGOs, were placed on standby to treat respiratory distress, eye irritation, and minor burns caused by falling ash or debris. Field medical camps were established near evacuation sites to provide first aid and triage. Any cases of severe exposure were prioritized for transport to hospitals in Semera and other accessible towns in the Afar region.

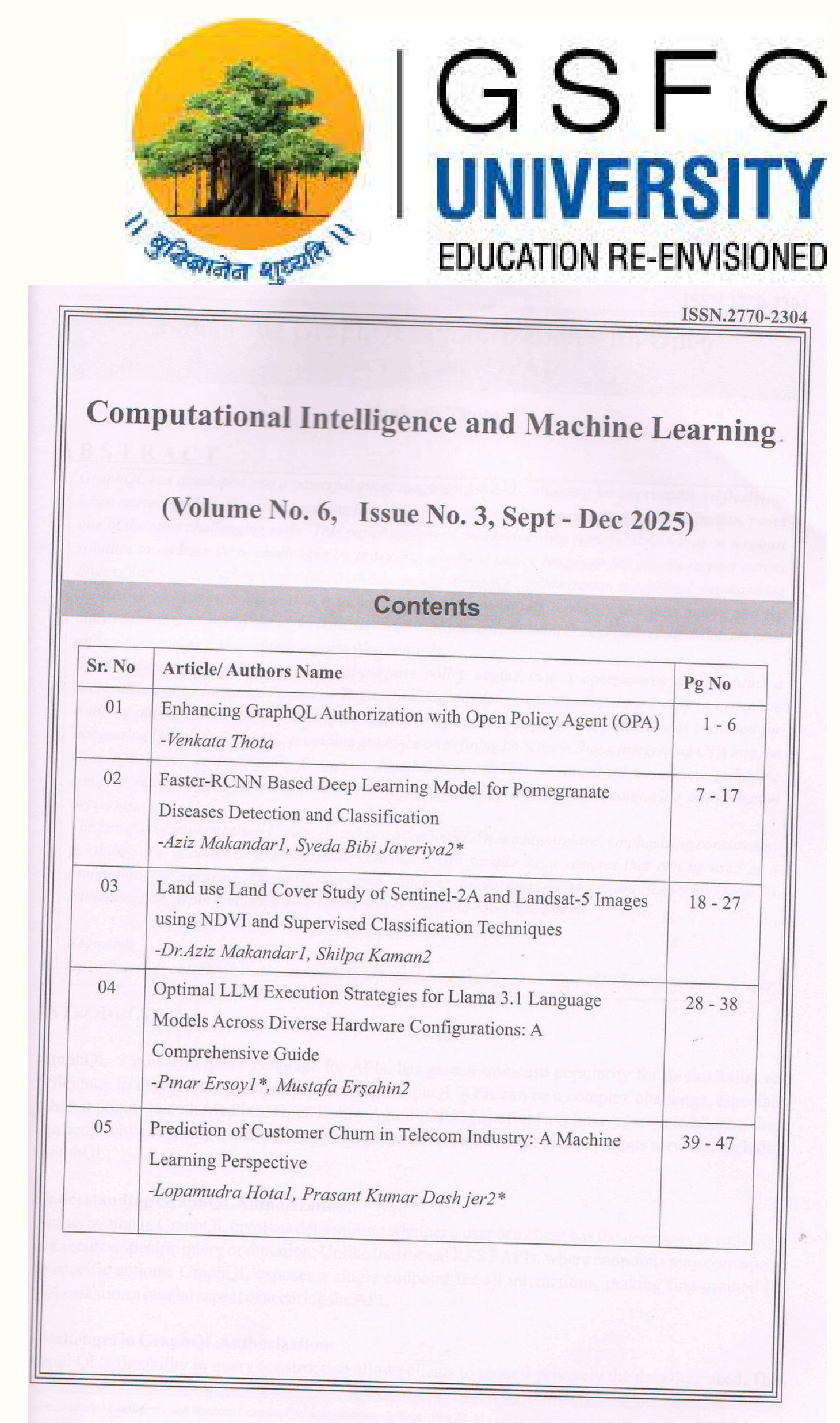
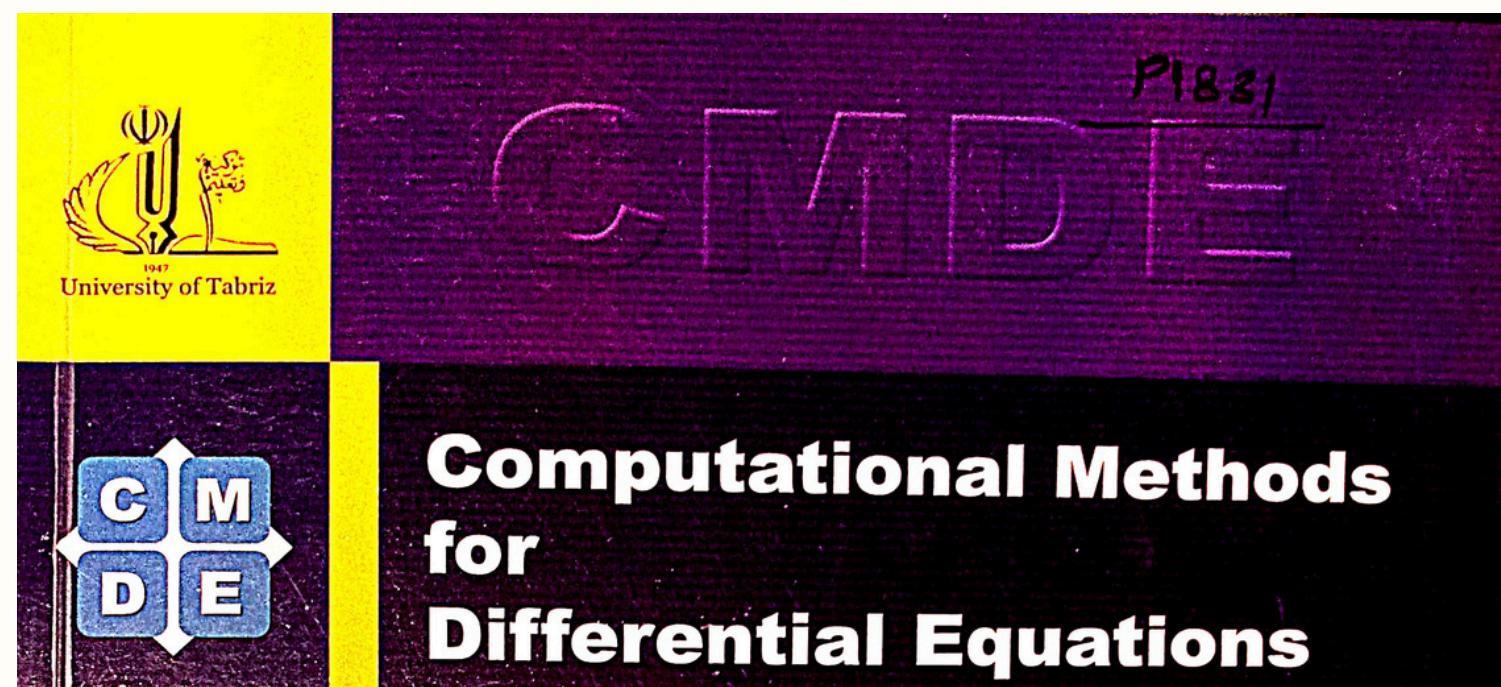
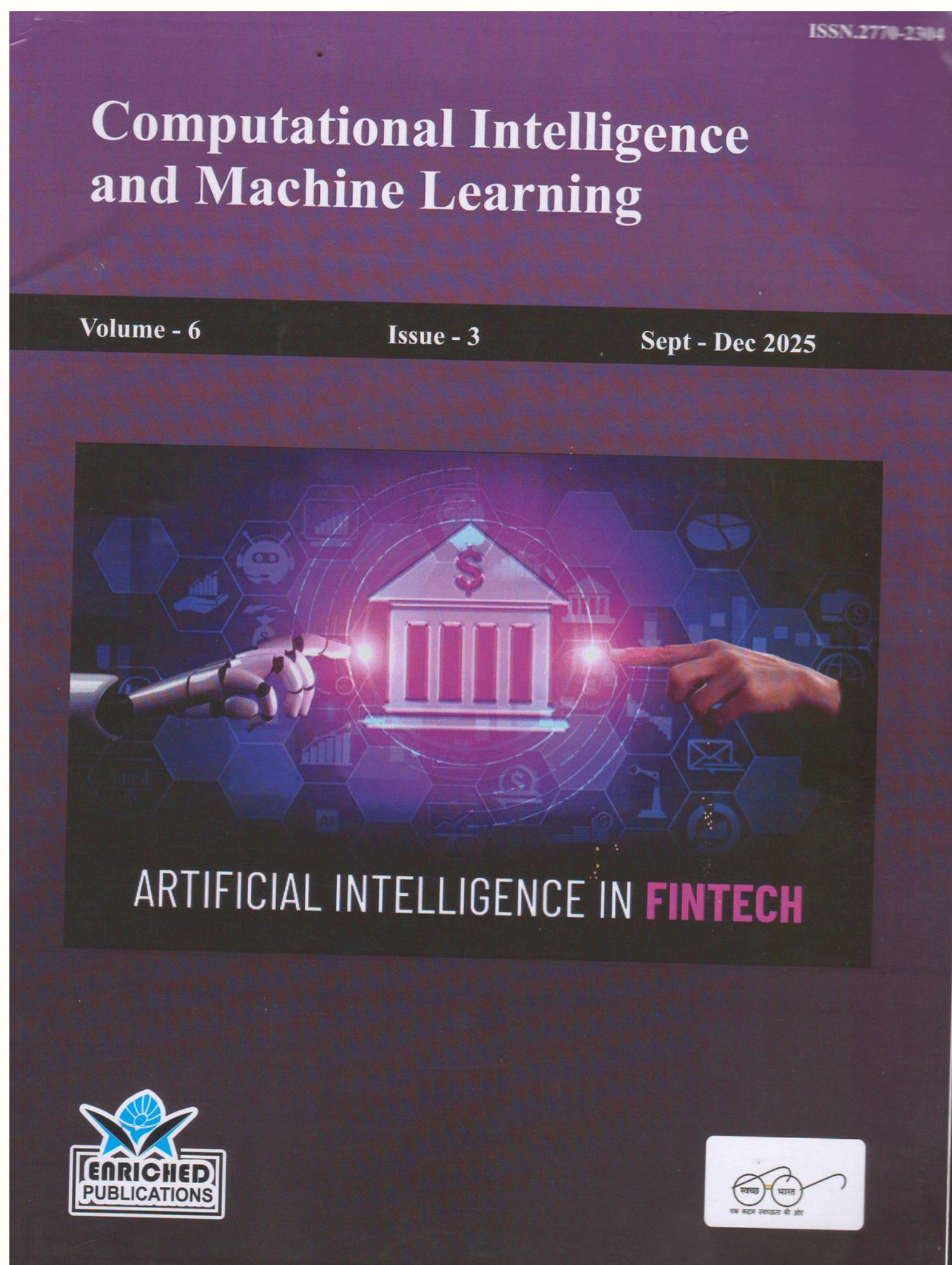
4. Coordination of National and International Agencies

The Ethiopian government coordinated with national disaster management authorities, the Red Cross, and UN agencies to manage relief logistics. Temporary shelters were stocked with food, water, and essential supplies. Satellite imagery and remote sensing data were shared internationally to monitor lava flows, ash dispersion, and potential secondary eruptions, allowing responders to plan routes and prioritize areas for assistance.

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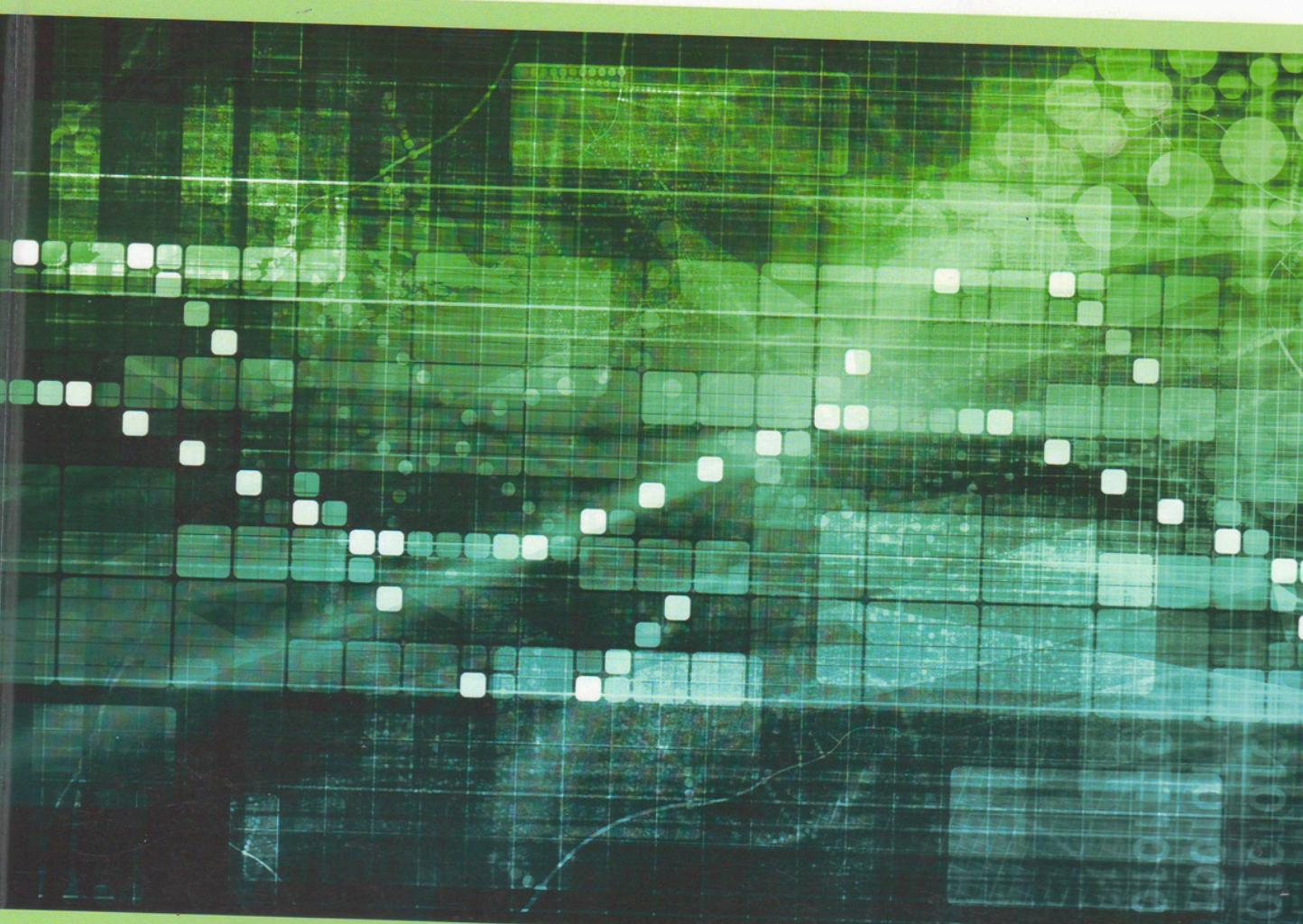
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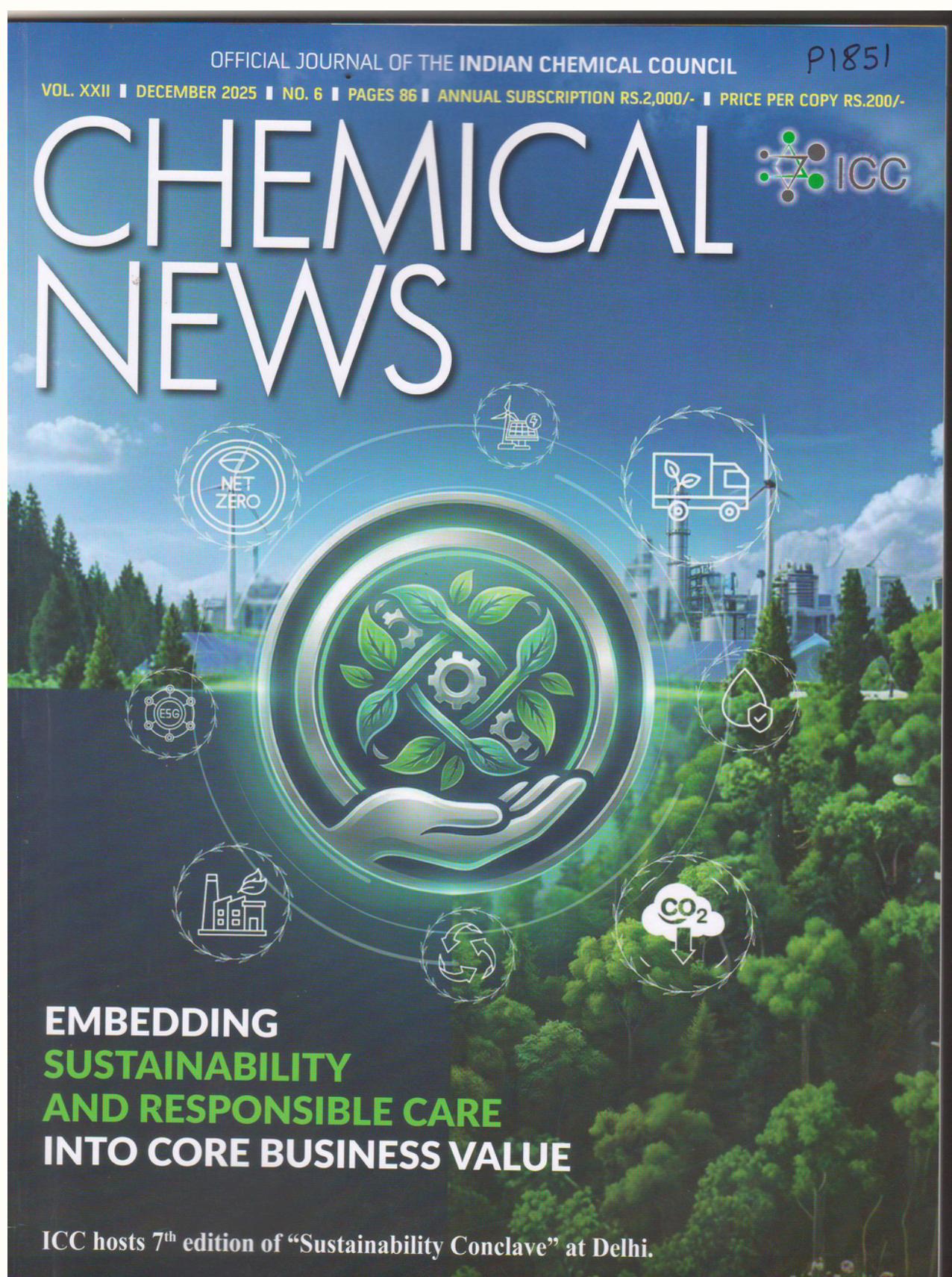
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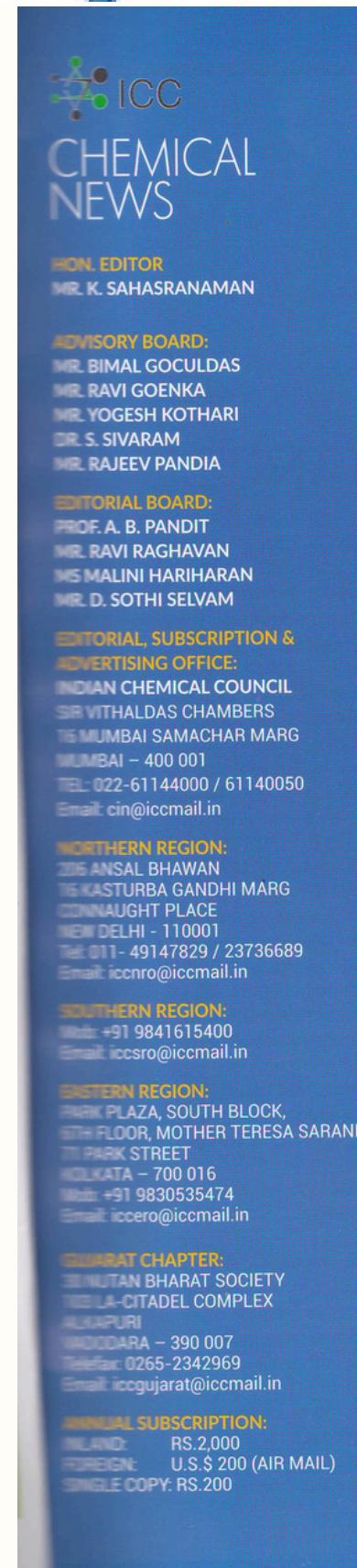
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