Jana Nexus: Journal of Computer Science

ISSN(O): 3108-1916
Journal Homepage: jananexuscs.com
JN:JHST Volume 02 Issue 03 ***23-26***

| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Article DOI: 10.21474/JNCS01/120
DOI URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/JNCS01/120

EDGE INTELLIGENCE FOR SMART CITIES: ENHANCING REAL-TIME DATA PROCESSING THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EDGE COMPUTING

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| ABSTRACT

The rapid growth of smart city technologies has led to an unprecedented increase in data generated by Internet of Things (IoT) devices, sensors, cameras, and connected infrastructure. Traditional cloud-centric computing architectures often struggle to meet the low-latency and high-bandwidth requirements of real-time applications. Edge Intelligence, which combines Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Edge Computing, has emerged as a promising solution by enabling data processing closer to the source. This paper presents a comprehensive review of Edge Intelligence in smart city environments, discussing its architecture, enabling technologies, practical applications, benefits, challenges, and future research directions.

| KEYWORDS
Edge Intelligence, Edge Computing, Smart Cities, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Real-Time Analytics, 5G Networks.

|ARTICLE INFORMATION
RECEIVED: 10 January 2026 **ACCEPTED:** 14 February 2026 **PUBLISHED:** March 2026

Abstract:-

The rapid growth of smart city technologies has led to an unprecedented increase in data generated by Internet of Things (IoT) devices, sensors, cameras, and connected infrastructure. Traditional cloud-centric computing architectures often struggle to meet the low-latency and high-bandwidth requirements of real-time applications. Edge Intelligence, which combines Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Edge Computing, has emerged as a promising solution by enabling data processing closer to the source. This paper presents a comprehensive review of Edge Intelligence in smart city environments, discussing its architecture, enabling technologies, practical applications, benefits, challenges, and future research directions. The paper also examines the integration of edge computing with AI, 5G networks, blockchain, and digital twins to improve urban services. The findings indicate that Edge Intelligence can significantly enhance the efficiency, scalability, security, and responsiveness of next-generation smart city ecosystems.

Introduction:-

Urbanization has accelerated the adoption of smart city technologies designed to improve transportation, healthcare, energy management, environmental monitoring, and public safety. These systems rely on continuous streams of data generated by IoT devices and connected infrastructure. Traditionally, this data is transmitted to centralized cloud servers for storage and processing. However, the increasing volume of data and the need for real-time decision-making expose limitations such as network congestion, higher latency, and increased bandwidth consumption. Edge Computing addresses these issues by processing data closer to its source, while Artificial Intelligence enables intelligent decision-making at the network edge. Together, they form Edge Intelligence, a computing paradigm that supports low-latency services, reduces communication overhead, and improves system reliability. This paper explores the architecture, applications, benefits, and challenges of Edge Intelligence for smart city development.

Background:-

Smart Cities:-

A smart city uses digital technologies to improve urban infrastructure and public services.

Key components include:-

- Smart transportation
- Intelligent healthcare
- Smart energy systems
- Environmental monitoring
- Public safety
- Digital governance

Edge Computing:-

Edge computing moves computational resources closer to end users or IoT devices, reducing dependence on centralized cloud infrastructure.

Artificial Intelligence:-

Artificial Intelligence enables systems to learn from data, identify patterns, make predictions, and automate complex decision-making processes.

Architecture of Edge Intelligence:-

A typical Edge Intelligence framework consists of:-

- IoT Devices and Sensors
- Edge Nodes or Edge Servers
- Artificial Intelligence Processing Layer
- Cloud Data Center
- Communication Network (5G/Wi-Fi)
- Application Layer

Data generated by sensors are processed locally at edge nodes before selective transmission to cloud servers for long-term storage or advanced analytics.

Advantages of Edge Intelligence:-

Reduced Latency:-

Processing data near the source minimizes communication delays.

Bandwidth Optimization:-

Only essential information is transmitted to cloud servers, reducing network traffic.

Improved Privacy:-

Sensitive information can remain at the edge, minimizing exposure.

High Reliability:-

Local processing allows applications to continue functioning even during network interruptions.

Scalability:-

Distributed computing supports the growing number of IoT devices in smart cities.

Applications in Smart Cities:-

Intelligent Traffic Management:-

- Traffic flow optimization
- Smart traffic signal control
- Accident detection
- Congestion prediction

Smart Healthcare:-

- Remote patient monitoring
- Emergency response systems

- Wearable health devices

Environmental Monitoring:-
- Air quality monitoring
- Water quality analysis
- Noise pollution detection

Public Safety:-
- Video surveillance
- Crime detection
- Disaster management

Smart Energy:-
- Intelligent power grids
- Energy demand forecasting
- Renewable energy integration

Integration with Emerging Technologies:-
Artificial Intelligence:-
AI algorithms analyze data locally for immediate decision-making.

Internet of Things (IoT):-
IoT devices continuously collect environmental and operational data.

5G Networks:-
High-speed connectivity enables low-latency communication between edge devices.

Blockchain:-
Blockchain provides secure and transparent data exchange among distributed systems.

Digital Twins:-
Virtual representations of physical infrastructure enable predictive maintenance and urban planning.

Comparative Analysis:-

Feature	Cloud Computing	Edge Intelligence
Data Processing	Centralized	Distributed
Latency	Higher	Low
Bandwidth Usage	High	Reduced
Privacy	Moderate	High
Real-Time Decision Making	Limited	Excellent
Scalability	High	Very High

Challenges:-
Despite its advantages, Edge Intelligence faces several technical challenges.

Resource Constraints:-
Edge devices often have limited computational and storage capabilities.

Security Threats:-
Distributed systems increase the attack surface for cyber threats.

Device Heterogeneity:-
Different hardware platforms complicate system integration.

Energy Consumption:-
Continuous AI processing may increase power requirements.

System Management:-
Managing thousands of distributed edge devices requires advanced orchestration techniques.

Emerging Research Trends:-
Current developments include:-

- Tiny Machine Learning (TinyML)
- Edge Federated Learning
- AI-Powered Autonomous Infrastructure
- Green Edge Computing
- Explainable Edge AI
- Intelligent Edge Robotics
- Sustainable Smart City Platforms

Future Research Directions:-
Future work should emphasize:-

- Lightweight AI models for edge devices
- Secure edge orchestration frameworks
- Energy-efficient AI algorithms
- Privacy-preserving edge analytics
- AI-driven predictive maintenance
- Integration of 6G communication technologies
- Autonomous edge management systems

Conclusion:-

Edge Intelligence represents a significant advancement in the development of intelligent smart city ecosystems. By combining Artificial Intelligence with Edge Computing, organizations can process data closer to its source, reducing latency, improving privacy, and enabling real-time decision-making. Although challenges related to security, scalability, and resource limitations remain, ongoing research continues to improve the efficiency and practicality of Edge Intelligence solutions. As cities become increasingly connected, Edge Intelligence will play a crucial role in supporting sustainable, secure, and responsive urban services.

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