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## FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR

India is experiencing steady urbanization along with population explosion. According to the 2011 census, the total population is 121.01 crore with urban population of 37.71 crore, which is 31.1% of the total population. The country has witnessed a steady growth in urban population which was 17.29% in 1951, 25.71% in 1991 and 27.8% in 2001. If we compare the India's Urban Population with other developed and developing countries, we find that our level of urbanization is much less as compared to others. The country had a total number of 5161 towns in 1991 which has grown upto 7935 in 2011 but the concentration of population as observed in earlier decades, remains in larger towns. This scenario is resulting into severe pressure on already strained urban infrastructure and services, resulting in poor/inadequate delivery of civic services.

To counter this scenario, the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have launched a number of schemes and programmes. The centrally sponsored scheme for Capacity Building of the elected representatives by the Ministry of Urban Development and National Urban Livelihood Mission & Rajiv Awas Yojana of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, are some of the pioneer initiatives of Government of India. To make these schemes and programmes successful, most important step is to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies & other associated agencies. The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow is always striving to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies & parastatals. In this direction the Centre publishes biannual journal "Urban Panorama".

I request the city managers & readers to share their thoughts and innovative approaches adopted by them through this publication.

With best wishes,

Lucknow

23rd September 2013

Prof. Nishith Rai Director

# FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

Although Urbanization being a global phenomenon, but the developing countries are facing immense pressure on the urban infrastructure and services which is mainly due to poor capacity of Urban Local bodies to handle the situation.

It is in this perspective that the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow brings out a journal "Urban Panorama" dealing with various aspects of urbanization and governance.

In the present issue Dr Anita Bhatnagar Jain in her article "The Nexus of Urban Flooding and Human Intervention" has tried to analyze the human interventions responsible for urban floods. She is of the opinion that urbanisation is rapidly increasing throughout the world and total immunity from natural disasters is not possible. However with proactive positive human interventions with both structural and non-structural measures, the present scenario of nexus of human interventions being the causative factors of Urban Floods, to a great extent, can consciously be reversed for mitigating them.

Dr. Syeda Azeem Unnisa, Prof.V.Gnaneshwar & Prof.Bhupatthi Rav in their article Integrated Solid Waste Management: A Case Study of Bobbili Municipality, Andhra Pradesh has tried to highlight good points of the initiatives taken by Bobbili Municipality to comply to the MSW Rules 2000 and resulting in, improved sanitary condition.

Dr.A. Muthulakshmi through her article on "Think. Eat. Save: Reduce Your Food Waste" has tried to highlight the issues relating to the theme for this year's world environment day celebration campaign which aims to minimize food waste and food loss which encourage you to be more aware of the food choices you make and it empowers you to make informed decisions which also highlights the magnitude of food waste, social, economic and environmental implications around the world.

Sri. T.D.Daryana through his article on "On Site Sanitation Works Indispensible solution for un-sewered areas" has tried to suggest a plan of action to save the ecology, and has opinioned that the urban areas not having sewage system, which are in large numbers can be easily served by On-Site-Sanitation Methods and Decentralized Waste Treatment Units. This will save large quantities of valuable drinking water supplies which are required to be used in sewerage for conveyance of waste matter, and ultimately to be discharged into water bodies like rivers, lakes, ponds etc. creating the

problem of pollution in the rivers and other water bodies, unless the sewage is properly treated before disposal.

Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta through his article on "Himachal Pradesh: A Disaster Mitigation Action Plan Functional at Lowest Level" has tried to bring forward the perception that the success of development plans, irrespective of what it is and how big it is, have strong social and political implications. No plans can be successfully implemented without public-private participation. So there is a need for participatory work and awareness programme to mold the public to follow in the line of sustained practices and participation to enable the bodies to perform their functions in a proper fashion. This would be beneficial both from the financial and environmental angle. Pursuing this exercise has subsequent benefits like financial that is tangible and disaster management, the intangible.

- Sri. G. S. Tewari in his article on "Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration in India" has tried to highlight the issues of transparency and accountability in Indian administration. He is of the view that the rising expectations of public have led to growing dissatisfaction in government. In the context of new political regime and international economic and political order, many political leaders and government officials are of the view that doing things in the old manner no longer serve the purpose and meet the demands of citizens. The aim of initiative under administrative reforms always remains to provide an efficient, accountable, transparent and citizencentric administration.
- Dr. S.K. Jaiswal through his article on "Modern Domestic Service Sector visavis Institution of Slavery in Ancient India: An Analytical Study" has tried to analyze the institution of slavery in ancient India to the present day domestic service sector and has viewed that even in the 21st century we find numerous cases of transporting women and minor girls from the poverty ridden areas to the metropolitan and mega cities or to foreign countries for domestic works. Their plight puts them at par the traditional slavery. Their working conditions are not commensurate to the modern labour laws. In reality the country needs a law to deal with the growing domestic workers. The present law deals mainly the cruelty against domestic workers, not the appropriate wage, social security etc. These members of unorganized service sector deserve all the facilities-social, financial, psychological, and emotional- of the organized sector workers. In absence the domestic workers would draw their parallel to slavery.
- Dr. A K Singh in his article on "Municipal Finance: A Study of Pre and Post JNNURM in India" has tried examine the impact of urban reforms on municipal resources in selected cities and towns of India.

Dr. Anjani Kumar Singh through his article on "Exploring Business Model For Microfinance With Specific Reference To Urban India" has tried to explore the internationally recognized microfinance model and conceptualize a model for urban microfinance in India.

Ms. Parvin Sultana through her article on "Urbanization and Exclusion: The Case of Indian Cities" is of the view that urbanization is an inevitable outcome of a growing economy, slowly more and more people are becoming residents of urban areas. Cities provide opportunities to many and aspire them to venture in different undertakings in a rapidly globalizing nation. Cities are becoming sites of massive economic interactions and changes. But how these changes are impacting people is a question that needs close scrutiny. It is pertinent to ask why poverty persists along with a higher growth rate as well as urbanization and visibly better livelihoods of people.

Dr. Priyanka Banerji through her article on "Mechanism of Fiscal Devolution in India" has tried to analyze the inter-state inequalities in fiscal and social infrastructure, fiscal devolution and transfers, as they have significant implications for balanced regional development in India in an environment of economic reforms and globalization. I hope that the readers will find this issue interesting and also hope that it provides an insight on various urban issues.

Dated: 23rd September 2013

Dr. Rajeev Narayan

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I, Nishith Rai, declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Nishith Rai

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- 2. Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate. Articles should be typed in A-4 size paper, on one side only, with sufficient margin on all 4 sides. An abstract should accompany the articles. The text, abstract, notes, references etc. should be typed in double space. Also send a soft copy (directorrcueslko@gmail.com) or CD on MS word. All materials submitted to Urban Panorama should be sent to the Chief Editor, Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow University, Lucknow. The authors must provide an undertaking along with the article, stating that "the article/study is my own work and has neither been published nor sent/submitted for publication elsewhere".
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#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

- Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain, IAS, Joint Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Govt of India.
- Dr. Syeda Azeem Unnisa, Research Officer, Regional Centre For Urban And Environmental Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
- Prof.V.Gnaneshwar, Professor, Regional Centre For Urban And Environmental Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
- 4. Prof.Bhupatthi Rav, Director, Regional Centre For Urban And Environmental Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
- 5. Dr.A. Muthulakshmi, Associate Professor, Department Of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl 796 004.
- 6. Mr. T.D.Daryana, Retired Executive Engineer U.P. Jal Nigam
- 7. Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta, Project Coordinator, Association for Social Health in India, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- 8. Mr. G. S. Tewari, Director, Administration, G.B. Pant University Of Agriculture and Technology Pant Nagar, Uttam Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand.
- 9. Dr. S.K. Jaiswal, Associate Professor, Department Of Ancient Indian History, Lucknow University, Lucknow.
- Dr. A K Singh, Assistant Director, Regional Center For Urban And Environmental Studies, Lucknow.
- 11. Dr. Anjani Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Amity Business School, Amity University, Noida.
- 12. Ms. Parvin Sultana, Research Scholar, Centre For Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 13. Dr. Priyanka Banerji, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Management, Selaqui Academy of Higher Education, Selaqui, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.