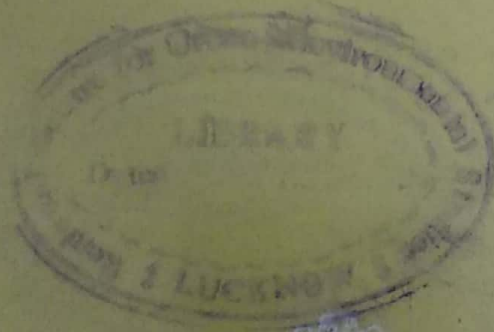


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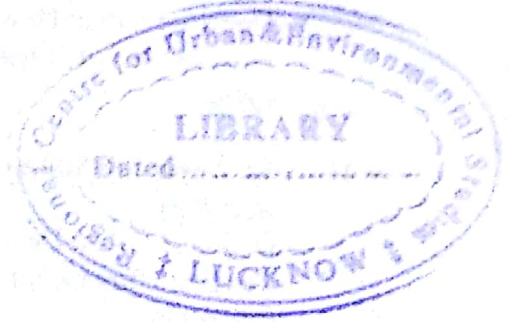
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FROM THE DESK OF PATRON

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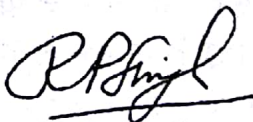
Dear Readers,

I am happy that the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, (RCUES) Lucknow is performing its academic activities well and has recently made its presence felt in its constituent States (viz. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand). The programmes conducted by the RCUES include training, research and consultancy in the field of urban administration and management, as well as publication of its biannual journal 'URBAN PANORAMA' and quarterly 'RCUES NEWSLETTER'.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Prof. Nishith Rai, Director, RCUES and his team, and wish them all success in their academic endeavours in the years to come.

All the best.

Date : 20 June, 2005


(Prof. R.P. Singh)



FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR



प्रो० निशीथ राय
निदेशक
Prof. Nishith Rai
Director

क्षेत्रीय नगर एवं पर्यावरण अध्ययन केन्द्र, लखनऊ
शहरी विकास प्रशासन
भारत सरकार
Regional Centre For Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow
Ministry of Urban Development
Government of India

प्रिय मित्रों,

भारत में दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी जनसंख्या निवास करती है। शहरी भारत में देश के लगभग तीस प्रतिशत लोग रहते हैं, परन्तु राष्ट्र के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में इसका साठ प्रतिशत से भी अधिक योगदान है। गत पचास वर्षों के दौरान भारत की जनसंख्या में ढाई गुनी बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है जबकि शहरी जनसंख्या में लगभग पाँच गुनी वृद्धि हुई है।

शहर भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के प्रमुख वाहक तथा राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति के जनक के रूप में सामने आये हैं। भारत के विगत पचास वर्षों को देखने से और दुनिया भर के अनुभव सिद्ध प्रमाण से यह स्पष्ट है कि भारत का भविष्य अनिवार्यतः शहरों में छिपा हुआ है, शहरीकरण आर्थिक बदलाव का अवश्यंभावी सहवर्ती है यह उपयुक्त समय है कि राष्ट्र शहरों के नियत सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक प्रकार्यों में निवेश करे ताकि शहर में इस प्रकार के जीवन का उद्भव हो कि यह राष्ट्रीय परिसम्पत्ति एवं आर्थिक वृद्धि का वाहक बन सके।

इस संदर्भ में प्रभावी विकेन्द्रीकरण, सीमित संसाधनों का कुशल प्रबन्धन, लोकप्रिय सहभागिता तथा निजी क्षेत्र के साथ-साथ राज्य, सम्य समाज तथा निम्न तबकों के मध्य उत्पादक भागीदारी इस चुनौती का सामना करने के अनिवार्य माध्यम हैं। इसी क्रम में क्षेत्रीय नगर एवं पर्यावरण अध्ययन केन्द्र, लखनऊ, नगरीय विकास के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों को समाहित करते हुए अपने अर्द्धवार्षिक जर्नल 'अर्बन पेनोरमा' का प्रकाशन वर्ष में दो बार करता है।

मैं नगरीय प्रशासन से जुड़े हुए सभी व्यक्तियों एवं संस्थाओं का आह्वान करता हूँ कि वे इस कार्य में केन्द्र को सहयोग प्रदान करें एवं इस जर्नल में प्रकाशित करने हेतु अपने विचारों एवं सुझावों से हमें अवश्य अवगत करायें।

हार्दिक शुभकामनाओं सहित,

दिनांक : 15 जून, 2005

(निशीथ राय)

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

In terms of urbanization levels, India is one of the least urbanized countries in the world. However, if the size of the population is considered, India has the second largest urban population in the world. Urban centres-owing to increased activity – lead to copious usage of water, energy and other raw materials transforming them into goods and services and returning the wastes into the environment in the form of emissions and waste. Thus, cities become major contributors to local, regional and global environmental problems. The extent of resource use by a city can be captured by its 'ecological footprints'.

The positive role of urbanization has often been overshadowed by the deterioration in the physical environment and quality of life caused by the widening gap between the demand and supply of essential services and infrastructure. Water, transport, housing, electricity, health and sanitation and education are some of the areas of concern.

To achieve urban sustainability, the factors that could be considered most important are equity among various strata of society and efficiency of resource utilization. Implementation of these measures raises a number of methodological and policy issues. It is also important to critically examine the efficacy of various policy. 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 urban government.

India has had a glorious tradition of urban local-self government whose roots are there in ancient time. Dr. Vineeta Pathak states that there is a rosy picture of the existence and functioning of local bodies in prehistoric and ancient times and the beginning of the existing form of local government in India can be traced to 1687 when the local government for Madras city was established for the first time. Dr. R.K. Jaiswal and Ms. Shailja Gupta describe the origin of local self government in India from the Buddha period to present scenario. They also quote some committees constituted for the decentralization of urban administration and their main recommendations.

India is one of the few nations in the world having a developed culture and rich heritage spanning long years of history. There is a great need for conservation, preservation and management of this rich heritage of our country. Mr. S.K. Sinha examines the existing initiatives, legislative tools, financial resources and main constraints in heritage management. He also suggests new initiatives for the same.

Holding of regular elections at specified intervals for urban local bodies have been made a constitutional obligation for the first time under the 74th CAA. Periodic elections are indispensable for the success of indirect democracy as they provide legitimacy to the governing body. Dr. R.K. Prabhakar and Prof. S.C. Arora familiarize the readers about the politics of elections of urban local bodies in Haryana.

Services are responsible for creation of number of jobs both skilled and unskilled, around the world. Urbanization can't be possible without the proper growth of service sector. Dr. Himanshu Shekhar Singh and Prof. H.P. Pandey describe that the Management of services is a tough job because of its basic characters as inseparability, intangibility, heterogeneity and perishability etc. Housing Problem is a key issue of problem of urban slum. Actual problem is based on job oriented development so that strategy should be planned.

Ms. Akanksha Srivastava suggests that the participatory management and city-to-city cooperation in the urban services is required.

There is a major role of political parties in the urban local administration strong political party may be cooperative in the awareness of voters and association of people to the local management. Dr. Dinesh Singh and Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh argue that a person can provide leadership at national or state level from the experiences associated with urban local institutions.

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. The challenges of environmental threats to human health have been dealt with effectively by Dr. Abhishek Lakhtakia. He suggests that the information on the health impacts, attributable on environmental pollution at local and national levels, is urgently needed so that the implications of environmental health decisions can be assessed, the potential effects of different decisions and choices compared, and irreversible and costly health and environmental damage prevented.

The management of solid waste is one of the obligatory duties of municipal bodies. The urban local bodies generally fail to make adequate arrangement for the primary collection, transportation and disposal of waste in an environmentally acceptable manner. Mr. Gaurav Sinha examines the prevalent techniques and their deficiencies in details and suggests measure to improvement.

Demographic condition in India finds itself in a transitive phase where a situation of rapid population growth is persisting. Population at the national level has been growing at above two percent annually since last four decades. Objective of the article of Dr. Manoj Kumar is to identify some of the socio-economic determinants of fertility. It would help as desired by the National Population Policy-2000, at the national level to slow down the high growth rate of population.

Dealing with the changing environment characterized by rapid urbanization, decentralization and globalization requires not only sustainable urban management, but also a strategic vision for the future of the city. Cities should develop a realistic assessment of what developments will shape their future over the next 10, 20 or 50 years. Cities need to balance growth with maintaining quality of life. The challenges and issues relating to sustainable urban management and their concerns have been dealt with effectively by Dr. Anjali Mishra in her article.

The concept of sustainable urban management lies in the theory of optimum utilization of present resources to fulfill the need of today without endangering them so they can be available for next generation. Mr. Ratnesh Kumar Misra and Dr. Lalit Narayan Mishra describe different dimensions and approaches of sustainable urban management in details.

Efficient and effective functioning of any organization depends mainly on the competence of the staff employed for implementing its policies and programmes. In India existing situation in the realm of municipal services shows notable variations not only from state to state but also within the state at different levels of municipal government. Dr. Rajesh Kumar describes municipal personnel management in Haryana in details.

Dr. B.V. Chalapathi highlights the organization and performance of the Proddatur municipality in Andhra Pradesh in details, identifying the problems it faces and the manner

in which they have been tackled. Further, he aims at pointing out, the drawbacks of the municipality in its functioning and makes some practicable suggestions to improve its operative efficiency and fulfill its objectives. Dr. Kamal Kishore Singh presents an empirical study of urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh. He discusses the present statistical scenario of urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh after 74th CAA.

Dr. Richa Varmani discusses the case of good governance in Guangzhou Municipality in South China in her write-up. This city implemented the five year strategic plan for its development resulting in various changes which can be emulated by urban local institutions in our country, as has been discussed in the concluding part of the article.

The UN declared 1990-2000 as the International Decade for National Disaster Reduction. The objective of the IDNDR was to reduce, through concerted international action, especially in developing countries, the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, landslides, locust infestations, drought and desertification and offer calamities of natural origin. Dr. Alka Singh explains four phases in Emergency Management : Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery in details.

Date : 14 June, 2005

Anjuli
(ANJULI MISHRA)

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Nishith Rai

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