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**Prof. Nishith Rai**  
Director

**FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR**

*As India is becoming more and more urban, there is a growing demand for better understanding and solutions to the problem of poverty. However, to address urban poverty, we need better data on the location, condition and characteristics of urban poor, Besides, because of the multidimensional nature of poverty, a wide range of issues are to be covered including land, housing and urban services, markets (both financial and labour) as well as employment and social protection, in terms of policies and programmes for the poor. This special number endeavours to deal with each of these issues and helps us in understanding those parameters that perhaps we are not able to perceive through our frame of reference. In addition, the number also deals in detail with the Kanhiram ji's Integrated Urban Development Scheme, commenced by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.*

*It has been the perpetual endeavour of RCUES Lucknow, to contribute substantially for the cause of urban development .. This has been achieved by it through training and development of urban personnel, research and consultancy services it has imparted. Nevertheless, our journal is also a medium through which people not only gain knowledge but are also enlightened to come up with innovative ideas for urban development.*

*This number, on 'Urban Development, Environment and Poverty Alleviation' is indeed thought to provoking and has brought out the ideas and studies of contributors from different parts of India. I am sure you would enjoy reading their interesting views and findings.*

*With best wishes*

**June, 2007**

**NISHITH RAI**

## FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

The process of urbanization is accompanied by a number of controversial changes. It brings along with it development and destruction opportunities and threats the leader and the follower, bosses and employees. It also witnesses some people earning money 'at the speed of thought' and others thrown into abject poverty, robbed of even of the basic necessities of their lives. The former group is of course greatly empowered having access to money power and knowledge while the latter group is incapable of even getting the basic necessities of life. It is to the latter group that this journal is consecrated. It also deals with the urban development trends and the constantly eroding environment that is one of the cause as well as the consequence of urban poverty.

Informal sector contributes to more than 80% of our country's employment, income generation and productivity. Yet this a sector where a majority of poor people are employed or self employed. Prof. Gnaneshwar 's paper enlightens us on how poverty could be alleviated in the informal sector.

Prestigious development projects like dams, industrial areas, urban renewal and development and natural resource extraction do bring about great development in the area. However, they are also responsible for thousands of people to be shunted out of their habitat. Dr. A.K. Singh's article highlights this problems and also talks about ways and means to minimise this problem.

Citing the Census, classifying cities and states with higher population and compare in urbanisation trends in India with those of more developed and less developed countries, Dr. D.K. Singh and Dr. A.K. Bhartiya have clearly explained urbanisation trends in India.

Bringing about a sustainable development and environment friendly urban development are the greatest challenges to those involved in urban development. Sri. T. N. Dhar belief that to do this it is important to increase resources, establish good governance, empower urban local bodies a renew urban areas and bring about greenery in the cities.

Lucknow, the beautiful capital city of Uttar Pradesh is facing problems like environmental pollution, rise in poverty and health hazards amongst it's citizens. Dr. Padma Iyer's article brings out a detailed case study of the city in the light of the three problems and also suggests certain prescriptions to over come these problems.

The remaining articles address child labour, a pertinent problem in India, that is also a cause and consequence of poverty.

Prof. Jafri's article brings out the deplorable conditions under which children of slum dwellers live. Hygiene is lacking in these slums and therefor the children suffer from one kind of disease or another. It also suggests ways and means to improve health and hygiene of these children.

Ms. Surabhi Agarwal's article describes the miserable conditions of children employed in beedi, brass and metal, carpet, fishing, footwear, gem polishing, locks, silk and textiles industries.

Prof. G.R. Krishna's article gives a detailed analysis of the economic consequences of child labour in India and also suggest some ways of preventing it.

Rag pickers are child labourers who toil from morning to evening and are devoid after many enjoyments that normal children have. Prof. A.N. Singh's article describes how work and play can mingle in the lives of rag pickles through socio economic interventions making their lives more exciting and joyful.

Dr. Fahimuddin and Ms. Atika Khatoon's article describes the National Child Labour Project with all it's advantages and shortcomings

The articles would reveal that much has been done to remove the uglymarks of pollution and poverty from the beautiful face of urban India, in terms of policy. But it would take the life time of several social workers, bureaucrats, academicians and perhaps the poor themselves to achieve this goal.

*With regards and best wishes*

**June, 2007**

**Padma Iyer**

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4. Consistency should be observed in the use of hyphen. For eg. either 'psycho-social' or 'psychosocial' should be used throughout the article.
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Nishith Rai



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