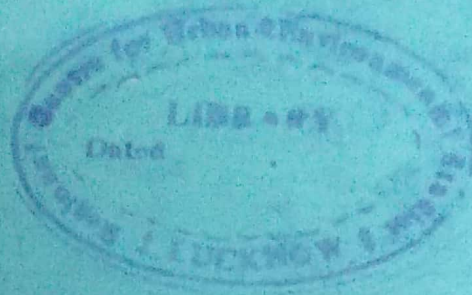


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Prof. Nishith Rai
Director

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR

We are witnessing an urban boom today. The accelerating rate of urbanization together with industrialization and commercialization has put a severe strain on basic infrastructure resulting in deterioration of urban environment. The rapid pace of urbanization has placed heavy demands on infrastructure and services, while poor governance and the low capacity of institutions have led to widespread public dissatisfaction.

Today there is not only broader challenge but also greater opportunity to make cities better place to live in. The challenge lies in directing & utilizing the emerging opportunities and increasing the capabilities for enhancing quality of life for citizens.

In this perspective the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow has been making continuous effort to play a positive role in contributing towards achievement of sustainable urban development. In its endeavor RCUES, Lucknow takes out its bi-annual journal "Urban Panorama". I hope that the journal will help readers in getting some insight on the issues relating to urban management. I request the readers to further enrich it through their views and ideas.

With best wishes

September, 2008

NISHITH RAI

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Urban centers have always been heart of culture and the hubs of the wealth creation. However today urban centers face enormous economic, social and infrastructure challenges. The intermittent policy reforms and other measures at central and local levels have resulted in positive impacts on urban management. But the local governments today are finding it difficult to deal effectively with the complex issues of urban management. The present issue of Urban Panorama focuses on some of these issues.

With the rapid population growth, cities are becoming centres of problem, there has been a substantial increase in the generation of solid waste resulting into contamination of air, water and land resources. Solid waste management is among the basic essential services provided by municipal authorities in the country to keep urban centres clean. However, it is among the most poorly rendered services. Dr. A.K.Sinha, Dr. Anil Kumar and Dr. Tunira through their article "Urban Solid Waste Management: Problems & Prospects" take view of the solid waste management as a serious environmental hazard confronting the municipal authorities. Dr. Pankaj K.Srivastava, Dr. Nandita Singh and Dr. H.M. Behl in their article "Impact of Mismanagement of Solid Waste on Natural Resources" are of the view that Solid Waste management is a multidisciplinary and complex issue and effective waste management strategy would require interrelationship between functional elements. Shri S.P.Srivastav, Shri A.K.Pandey & Shri A.K.Dixit through their article "Change Of Physico-Chemical Characteristics Of Ganges Water Due To Discharge Of Waste Material By Urban Population At Kanpur Uttar Pradesh" have attempted to investigate the effect of discharge and qualitative change in the water of river Ganga due to pollution. Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta in his article "Solid Waste Management in Shimla" evaluates the door-to-door waste collection scheme of Municipal Corporation Shimla. He is of the view that collective effort of government, community and elected representative can lead to better implementation of the schemes. Dr. Rajeev Narayan in his article "Effective Implementation of Solid Waste Management Projects" suggests a roadmap for the urban local bodies and discusses stepwise process for effective implementation of solid waste management projects.

Bio Medical Waste has emerged as a major area of concern. The paper on "Biomedical waste management current trends and practices" by Dr. Shyamala K.Mani and Ms. Reema Banerjee brings out some of the major findings on trends and practices of Bio Medical Waste Management in different parts of the country. Shri Gaurav Sinha through his article "Public Private Partnership in Solid Waste Management: Is it Viable" investigates the viability of Public Private Partnership option in better delivery of waste management services. Dr. Anjuli Mishra through her article "Achieving Sustainability - Solid Waste Management" talks about action areas for sustainable waste management and is of the opinion that urban managers need to look at alternatives and innovations for waste minimization and maximizing reuse and recycling activities. Ms. Vanadana Tripathi discusses the role of Waste pickers in the management of solid waste. In her article "Improving livelihoods of waste pickers through formal integration-a case study of Lucknow city", she suggests that sustainable livelihood for waste picker through integrated

management of waste is imperative for obtaining sustainable development. Dr. A.K.Singh takes an overview of the waste management situation in India. In his article "Sustainable Urban Waste Management", he discusses some of the major concerning issues related to collection, segregation and disposal of waste. Dr. R.A.Yadav critically examines the ground water situation in the city of Lucknow. His article "Ground Water Studies in the Stressed Urban Area of Lucknow City" suggests several measures for scientific and sustainable development of ground water to meet the future demands. Similar issue has also been discussed by Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Faruqi in his article "Groundwater-Arsenic Profile of Terai". The article discusses the affect of arsenic on ground water. Dr. Kamal Kumar Singh in his article "Urban Waste Problem: Solution through Awareness" suggests awareness as a major tool for moving towards zero garbage stage.

Apart from Solid Waste Management certain other issues relating to urban management have also been taken up in this issue. Fixed tenure is pre requisite for effective functioning of urban local bodies. Dr. R.K. Prabhakar and Dr. S.C. Arora's article "74th Amendment and Tenure of Urban Local bodies (A Study of Haryana State)" brings forth the case of Haryana State where sever violation of this constitutional provision has been observed. Shri Sanjay Bhoosreddy talks about the experiment of Uttar Pradesh Government with Panchayati Raj. His article "An Experiment Nineties with Panchyati Raj" highlights the success achieved in implementation of scheme by the State government through participation of village panchayat. Dr. Ramkrishan, Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh and Shri Rajni Ranjan Jaiswal in their article "Uttar Pradesh Mein Sthaniye Nikayon Mein Arrakshan: Rajnitik Dalon Evam Sanchar Sansadhano Ki Bhumika (Basti Janpad Ke Vishesh Sandharbh Mein)" discuss the role that political parties and media play in promoting independent use of rights and duties by elected representatives of all sections of society. Ms. Nandita Kaushal talks about women empowerment in political sphere. Her article "Women in local bodies of India" brings out the contribution of women in political and other spheres. She opines that despite challenges women are redefining the political priorities in India.

The present issue focusses on some of the concerning and complex issues of urban management. I sincerely hope that readers find this issue of journal interesting and useful.

With best wishes

Alka Singh

September, 2008

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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

CONTENTS

1	Urban Solid Waste Management : Problems & Prospects	1-3
	Dr. A.K. Sinha, Dr. Anil Kumar & Dr. Tunira	
2	Impact of Mismanagement of Solid Waste on Natural Resources	4-10
	Dr. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Dr. Nandita Singh and Dr. H.M. Behl	
3	Change Of Physico-Chemical Characteristics Of Ganges Water Due To Discharge Of Waste Material By Urban Population At Kanpur Uttar Pradesh	11-14
	Shri S.P. Srivastav, Shri A.K. Pandey & Shri A.K. Dixit	
4	Solid Waste Management in Shimla	15-22
	Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta	
5	Effective Implementation of Solid Waste Management Projects	23-38
	Dr. Rajeev Narayan	
6	Biomedical Waste Management Current Trends and Practices	39-48
	Dr. Shyamala K. Mani, Ms Reema Banerjee	
7	Public Private Partnership in Solid Waste Management: Is it Viable	49-61
	Shri Gaurav Sinha	
8	Achieving Sustainability - Solid Waste Management	62-65
	Dr. Anjali Mishra	
9	Improving Livelihoods of Waste Pickers Through Formal Integration- A Case Study of Lucknow City	66-84
	Ms. Vanadana Tripathi	
10	Sustainable Urban Waste Management	85-89
	Dr. Awadhesh Kumar Singh	
11	Ground Water Studies in the Stressed Urban Area of Lucknow City	90-94
	Dr. R.A. Yadav	
12	Groundwater-Arsenic Profile of Terai	95-102
	Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Faruqi	
13	Urban Waste Problem: Solution Through Awareness	103-109
	Dr. Kamal Kumar Singh	
14	74th Amendment and Tenure of Urban Local bodies (A Study of Haryana State)	110-115
	Dr. R.K. Prabhakar, Dr. S.C. Arora	
15	An Experiment Nineties with Panchyati Raj	116-118
	Shri Sanjay Bhoosreddy	
16	Women in Local Bodies of India	119-128
	Ms. Nandita Kaushal	
17	उत्तर प्रदेश में स्थानीय निकायों के निर्वाचन में आरक्षण: राजनीतिक दल एवं संचार साधनों की भूमिका (बस्ती जनपद के विशेष संदर्भ में)	129-148
	डॉ. रामकृष्ण जायसवाल, डॉ. धर्मेन्द्र कुमार सिंह, श्री रजनी रंजन जायसवाल	