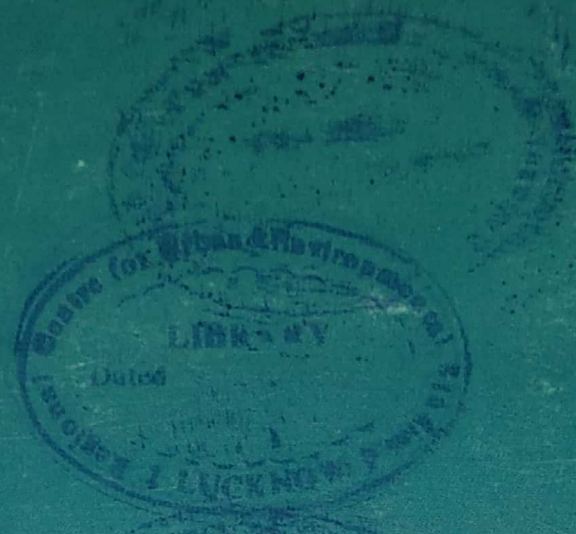


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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF EDITOR

Prof. Nishith Rai

Director/Chief Editor

India is experiencing steady urbanization along with population explosion. According to the 2001 census the total population was 1.02 billion with urban population of 258.3 million. The country has witnessed a steady growth in urban population which was 17.29% in 1951 and 25.71% in 1991, where as it has become 27.8% in 2001. If we compare this India's Urban Population with other developed and developing countries we find that our level of urbanization is much less compared to others. The country has a total number of 5161 towns but the concentration of population is in larger towns. In fact 37% of the total urban population resides in 35 million plus cities and 67% of total urban population is concentrated in only 423 class-1 towns. This scenario is resulting into pressure on urban infrastructure and services, resulting in poor/inadequate infrastructure and services.

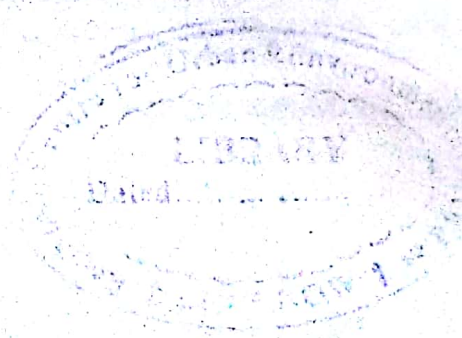
To counter this scenario the Government has launched number of schemes and programmes. To make these schemes and programmes successful most important step is to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies. The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, Lucknow is always striving to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies. In this direction the Centre publishes biannual journal "Urban Panorama".

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

With best wishes,

31st March, 2010

Nishith Rai



FROM THE DESK OF THE 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 Sri Vivek Dhand in his article "Bhagirath Nal-Jal Yojana in Chhattisgarh An Initiative for Inclusive Urban Growth" has tried to analyze the initiative which according to him is a good case study. Prof. A. Mala Reddy through his article on "Promotion of Entrepreneurs through SHG in Urban Poverty Alleviation-Tirupathi Experience" has tried to highlight good points of the Tirupathi experience.

Prof. (Dr.) S.S.A. Jafri & Ms. Milita Haldar through their article on "Rapid Urban Sprawl in Large Cities and its Swift Encroachment on Agricultural fringe Land of Uttar Pradesh" has tried to highlight the issues relating to Urbanization on agricultural land. Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta through his article on "Destruction of Forests in Northern India: An Ecological Assessment" has tried to suggest a plan of action to save the ecology of the Himalayas. Sri K.S. Ram through his article on "Urban Water-Bodies: For Environment, Aesthetics and Livelihood A Case Study of Dalpat Sagar, Jagdalpur (Bastar) Chhattisgarh" has tried to analyze the strengths of the project. Prof. M.K. Sharma through his article on "Lakholi Community Development Society: A Case Study" has tried to look at the factors responsible for the success of the society.

Prof. Subramaniam Chandran through his article on "Between Rural and Urban: The Case of Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu" has tried to bring forward the perception and treatment of local bodies in Tamil Nadu by political parties in power. Dr. Kumkum Narain & Dr. Mira Mridubhashini through their article on "Developing Skill of Urban Poor Women" have tried to bring forward the role of urban poor women in achieving good governance. Sri Dhruv Sen Singh & Sri Amit Awasthi through their article on "Impact of Land use and Landscape Change on Environment" have tried to focus on the issues relating to urbanization on environment. Dr. Kamal Kumar Singh through his article on "वेस अपशिष्ट प्रबन्धन : भद्रेश्वर नगरपालिका, पं० बंगाल का अध्ययन" has tried to highlight the good practices in solid waste management. Sri B.K. Pandey through his article on "भारत में एस०एच०जी०-उद्भव, विकास एवं विशेषताएं" has tried to focus on need and importance of SHG.

I hope that the readers will find this issue interesting and also hope that it provides an insight on various urban issues.

Dated: 31st March, 2010

Dr. Rajeev Narayan

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1. The length of the article should not normally exceed 8000 words.
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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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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