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FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR

Prof. Nishith Rai, Director

Urbanisation is a foreseeable outcome of the rapid growth rate to which the economy has now transited. India is poised to witness a large number of its population migrate to urban areas in next decade and that poses a big challenge for urban development.

As we say that urbanization is inevitable so are the challenges. Success of large scale urbanization rests on responsible planning and development of urban areas in an orderly fashion, investment in infrastructure thus improving the quality of life in our cities. The rich result that urbanization brings cannot be denied. Cities create jobs thus attracting migrant workers. The migrant workers make contribution to the development of the city. But in fact, many workers living qualities are very bad. Overpopulation puts pressure on housing; many people are unable to afford the price of the houses; their children have schooling problems.

To sum up, urbanization has positive impact on people, but it does disturb the equilibrium of living standard from time to time. It promotes the economic and cultural communication between cities, puts development on the fast track and introduces cutting-edge technology.

Effective planning and a clear vision can prevent things from going haywire. A planned framework for governance and financing will enable the municipal corporations, municipalities and nagar panchayats to discharge their responsibilities of delivering public services of specified standards to all including the poor. In doing so, they will have to be accountable to the people. Both the Government of India and state governments play a major role in making this happen.

The contribution to this end is also done by the experts, researches, academicians; etc. in the field of Urban Development with whose support we at RCUES Lucknow bring out the Biannual Journal Urban Panorama. The journal presents the refereed results of original scientific research, and new developments in policy and practice in the fields of housing, spatial planning, building and urban development.

The aim is to give exposure to recent developments, providing a forum for the exchange and discussion of new ideas. The journal benefits a diverse readership of scientists, specialists, practitioners and policy-makers in government and in organizations dealing with housing and urban issues.

Lucknow

June, 2014

Prof. Nishith Rai
Director

PREFACE

A new regime brings a new hope. Urbanization is also a result of new ideas and policies. With every new issue of Urban Panorama we focus on newer areas of urban and environmental issues and their interconnections. In this issue we have a bouquet of articles by experts and researchers in the field of urban governance and management.

Tanima Choudhuri in her paper titled Women and Urban Informal Sector: The Case of Rice Mill Workers in Burdwan, West Bengal has attempted to shed some critical light on the issue of women's increasing entry into the urban informal sector since economic globalisation in India and the study is based on the experiences of women working in the rice mills of Burdwan, a Municipal town in West Bengal. The study reveals that employment did not introduce any major change in gender relations within and outside home though it is found to be very vital in the life of women workers and their family members. The changes workers are witnessing today expose the limits of the 'feminisation of labour' thesis. It is little more than a survival strategy for the vast majority of women workers as low income is always better than no income.

Dr. Awadhesh Kumar Singh & Dr. Atul Pratap Singh in their joint paper titled Urban Sanitation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers in India discuss how sanitation is the basis of a healthy and civilized living. It highlights how absence of sanitation facilities leads to water-borne diseases. This paper focuses on Integrated Low Cost Sanitation programme, a flagship scheme implemented by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation in association with HUDCO and urban local bodies to improve urban sanitation.

Arun K. Singh & Karuna Raj in their paper titled Urban Slums: An Enquiry into Concept, Characteristics and Policy Interventions discuss how in today's world, slums and their existence is a reality in urban areas across the globe. The paper attempts to examine the concept, characteristics and policy interventions to improve living conditions of slum dwellers.

Prof. A.M. Reddy in his paper titled Implementation of UIDSSMT – Andhra Pradesh experience discusses about the eleventh plan which introduced UIDSSMT to provide urban infrastructure.

Dr. Nasruddin & Prof M Ishtiaq in their joint paper titled Slums of Delhi: Issues, Planning and Management analyzes the various schemes launched by the concerned authorities in order to improve the quality of life in the slums and rehousing/resettling these settlements on the outskirts of the city. The paper also proposes an alternate housing scheme for the slum dwellers on the same site where they live. For this purpose JJ Camp (Nehru Nagar) was selected. This scheme may be affordable, accessible, and habitable to them as well manageable by the authorities.

The research paper is based on both secondary and primary data. Generated Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques were also used to gather some relevant information.

Mr. Sandeep Kumar & Dr. O. P. Singh in their joint paper Rural Urban Continuum and Development of Peri-Urban Areas in Lucknow focus on the problems of rural-urban fringe which pose a major challenge to urban policy planners. This paper attempts to highlight the environmental degradation, natural resources, conflicts, health concerns, socio-economic, cultural and psychological factors and social injustice which are particularly acute in the peri-urban situation and needs immediate attention of the academicians, planners and administrators.

Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta in his paper titled 74th Constitutional Amendment and Municipal Corporation, Shimla attempts to compile and evaluate the provisions in the conformity legislations regarding three of the most important aspects of municipal decentralisation, namely functional decentralisation, financial decentralisation and popular participation in the provision and monitoring of affairs of Municipal Corporation, Shimla.

Er. TD Daryana in his article titled Sanitary Toilet and Open Defecation Scenario in India looks at the menace of open defecation in context of the urbanization happening at a fast pace. And how despite the efforts made by Central and State governments the open defecation is still on the rise.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh in his article titled हड़प्पा संस्कृति का नगरीय पक्ष : एक अनुशीलन discusses how urbanization had its roots in the Harappa culture and how it has helped shape the India of today.

It is expected that the readers at large will be benefitted by the content and new presentation of the journal. Urban Panorama has achieved the present status due to all round support from our authors, referees, members of Editorial & Advisory Board of the journal and also time to time guidance and suggestions from the officials of the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi, and of course the readers.

I am sure joint efforts of all of us will make our task easier to achieve the heights of new successes in the field of Urban Development education and research through such publications.

Lucknow

June, 2014

Rachna Rishi
Publication Officer

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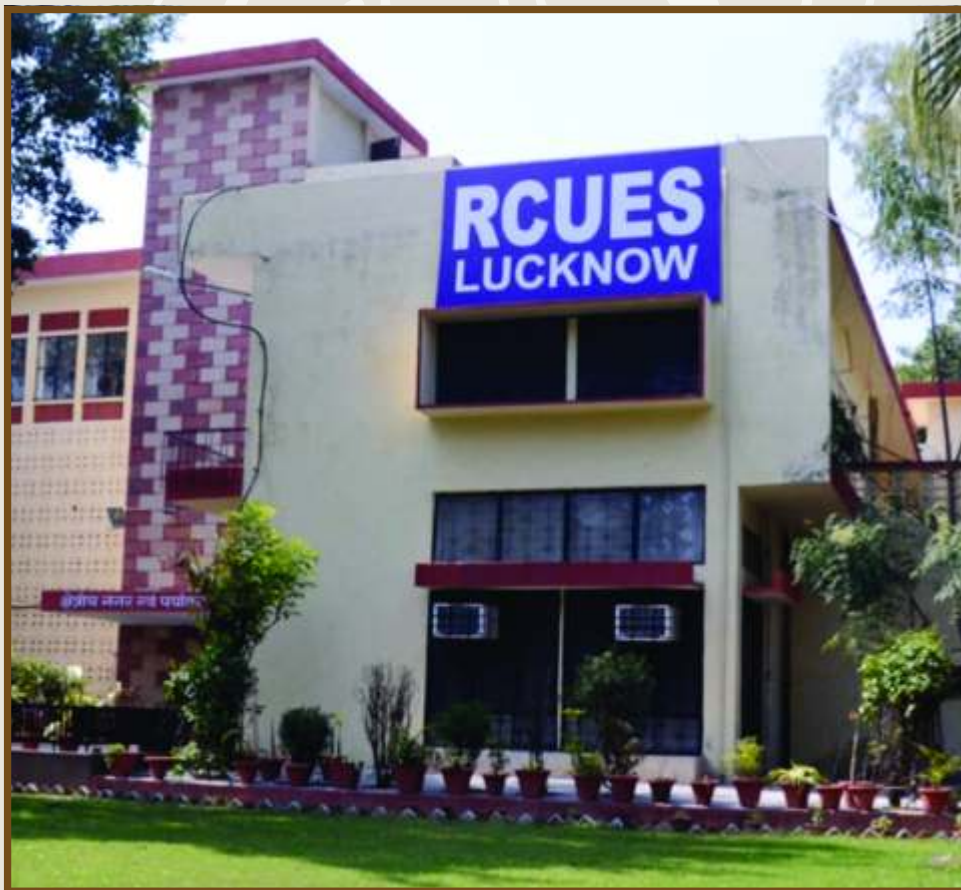
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