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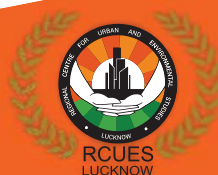
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FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR

Dr. Nishith Rai, Director

Human civilization is funneled by innovations and discoveries through which we have pushed the boundaries of what once was considered impossible. However, in our race to enhance the living experience not all discoveries have helped us in the long. The discovery of plastic is among the most life changing one that perhaps is going to leave the most everlasting impact on the planet we call our home. Plastic is part of our everyday life. From the toothbrush to the food packing materials, from medical devices that save lives to cosmetic items that we use for personal grooming, plastic is ubiquitous in its presence in our lives. The population explosion and the resultant dependence on mass produced and consumed goods have further aggravated the problem of plastic. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced worldwide every year, half of which is single use plastics. Only a fraction of this waste is actually recycled which raises serious concerns.

Plastics were discovered as a wondrous material. Strong, easy to mold into any desired shape, of varying strength and capabilities, plastic due to its ability to be non-porous and yet transparent is very useful in unimaginable ways. The fact that it is synthetic in nature and very difficult to decompose and cannot easily be absorbed into the soil is perhaps one of the biggest causes for worry for environmental scientists and ecologically conscious people. The resultant plastic waste is now recognized as perhaps one of the greatest contributors of pollution that is killing our planet. The ability of micro-plastic to practically exist as forever chemicals is another area of concern. The plastics that break down over a period of time into smaller particles enter into the ecosystem including the soil and water and enter into our bodies through the food chain. These particles are known to cause gene mutation in organisms leading to several diseases and death.

Recognition of this grave problem has resulted in many initiatives to cut down our dependency on plastics especially the single use plastics. There have been efforts to provide segregation of waste at the source to combat the plastic waste. However, due to lack of awareness and casual attitude of

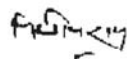


people these efforts have seldom provided desired results. The way forward is not just a single solution to this myriad problem. There has to be a concerted effort to minimize the dependence on plastics and adopting eco-friendly biodegradable options for food and packaging is one of the many solutions. Careful monitoring of the impact of plastic pollution in the marine ecosystem is also an integral part of combating this insurmountable problem. Considering the grave nature of the problem this year on June 5th 2023 on World Environment Day a global initiative was taken in highlighting the problem. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) campaign #BeatPlasticPollution was aimed to create awareness and a global call from all to force governments, industrial sectors to ensure sustainable steps are taken in this regard. There needs to be a united front in ensuring we save our planet before its too late. Every voice counts and can be the change that is required in this. Let's do our bit.

The contribution to this end is also done by the experts, researchers, 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, 2023



(Dr. Nishith Rai)
Director



FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

The Journal Urban Panorama aims to provide an effective means for the exchange of research findings, ideas and information in the fields of urban development and environment among researchers, activists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) international agency staff, students and teachers.

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.

In this issue of Urban Panorama, Prof. Indrasen Singh and Prof. Saurabh Jindal, in their joint paper in his paper titled, '*An analysis of barriers to adopt Project Management softwares by AEC industry in India,*' attempts to investigate and rank the causes of the non-implementation of project management software in Indian construction firms.

Swagota Saha, in her paper titled, '*A study on Female Employment in India: Pre and Post COVID*', discusses about the downward turn in Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India from few decades and how lockdown led to an extreme reduction in economic activities. The paper tries to analyse the trend of female employment after liberalization in some aspects such as the FLFPR trend in rural and urban areas, the status of female employment and the quality of employment. It also tries to analyse the impacts of the pandemic on women's labour market and addresses some reasons behind this substantial decline in FLFPR.

Vibhav Kumar, in his paper titled, '*Conservation and Restoration of Water Bodies*', discusses about the decline of water bodies in India and the need to address the issue for a sustainable water management system in both urban and rural context. Water conservation practices have been overpowered by the growing urbanization can still reduce environmental stress. By assessing the water quality of the water bodies, the paper tries to gauge the immediate impact of such water bodies on the surroundings. Through conversations with technical staff, field observations, and resident interviews, numerous analysis methodologies have been practiced comprehending the long-term viability of these certain measures. The paper also examines the hydrological system of the associated water body and discusses the conservation practices that can be implemented for the research



setting. The comprehensive study has enhanced understanding of the spatio-temporal behaviour of the water bodies which can also be useful in the future for policymakers and authorities in designing or improving similar traditional water bodies anywhere in India.

Er. A.K. Gupta, *Ecosan Management : Sustainable Sanitation and waste management* in his paper titled, highlights the importance of access to safe sanitation services. The paper discusses the need to develop a comprehensive strategy that meets the bare minimum standards in order to effectively manage the issue of faecal sludge and septage. In light of this, the current paper examines the state of faecal and septage management in cities and offers a road map for enhancing hygienic conditions.

Dr. A. K. Singh and Dr. Nasruddin, in their joint paper titled, *'Implementation of Prime Minister Housing for All Schemes in India: A Study of Performance and Achievements in Uttar Pradesh'*- delves into the issues of urban housing with particular emphasis on the Prime Minister Housing for All (Urban) programmes which was implemented with the goal of providing housing to all qualified families/beneficiaries by 2022. The Mission aims to address the housing needs of the urban poor, including slum dwellers, through the following verticals: (1) Slum Rehabilitation; (2) Promotion of Affordable Housing for the Weaker Section through Credit-Linked Subsidies; (3) Affordable Housing in Partnership with the Public and Private Sectors; and (4) Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction. The performance of the Mission in India has improved significantly. In light of this, the current study aims to assess the performance of Prime Minister Housing for All Scheme in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Ajit Kumar Mishra, Rachna Rishi, Kalpana Arora, in their joint case study titled, *'A Case Study of Ramna STP 10 MLD Varanasi'*- discuss the new state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant of 10 MLD capacity at Ramnagar in Varanasi. Uttar Pradesh. Under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) a wide network of sewage treatment plants is setup to tap the flow of dirty water into the Ganga, so as to ensure cleanliness and e-flow of the holy river. The study also highlights the Namami Gange Mission which is emphasising on the construction of such sewage treatment plants that can meet the requirements of next 10-15 years, as well as rejuvenation of the entire flow area of the river Ganga instead of just a few cities and towns.

A.K Gupta and Aditi Gupta, in their joint paper titled, *'From Trash to Treasure: The Evolution of Urban Solid Waste Management into Sustainable Energy Solutions'*, discuss in detail about the remarkable transformation, transitioning from



a traditional method of merely disposing of trash to an innovative approach of converting waste into energy. The paper also focuses how this shift has not only revolutionized waste management but also played a significant role in sustainable energy solutions.

Dr Lal Krishna Mishra and Professor V.K. Tripathi, in their joint paper titled, 'भारत में श्री अन्न एक स्वस्थ विकल्प — इस शोध में लोगों में स्वास्थ्य के प्रति बढ़ती चेतना पर प्रकाश डाला गया है। पौष्टिक और संतुलित भोजन के बेहतर विकल्प के रूप में श्री अन्न लोगों के बीच प्रसिद्ध हो रहा है और शोध पत्र में इस पर विशेष बल दिया गया है। शोध पत्र में मोटा अनाज के विभिन्न आयामों का विश्लेषण किया गया है।

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 Housing and Urban Affairs, 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, 2023



Rachna Rishi
Publication Officer



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Nishith Rai



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CONTENTS

1. An analysis of barriers to adopt Project Management softwares by AEC industry in India. 1-8
- Prof. Indrasen Singh and Prof. Saurabh Jindal
2. A study on Female Employment in India: Pre and Post COVID. 9-18
- Swagota Saha
3. Conservation and Restoration of Water Bodies. 19-38
- Vibhav Kumar
4. Ecosan Management : Sustainable Sanitation and waste management. 39-56
- Er. A.K. Gupta
5. Implementation of Prime Minister Housing for All Schemes in India: A Study of Performance and Achievements in Uttar Pradesh. 57-70
- Dr. A.K. Singh and Dr. Nasruddin
6. A Case Study Of Ramna STP 10 Mld Varanasi. 71-76
- Ajit Kumar Mishra, Rachna Rishi, Kalpana Arora
7. From Trash to Treasure: The Evolution of Urban Solid Waste Management into Sustainable Energy Solutions. 77-90
- A K Gupta and Aditi Gupta
8. भारत में श्री अन्न एक स्वस्थ विकल्प । 91-98
- Dr Lal Krishna Mishra and Professor V.K. Tripathi



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