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FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EDITOR

Prof. Nishith Rai

Director

The World Bank, in its July 2005 Report, has ranked India's economy as the world's tenth largest. The prospects of 6-8 per cent growth in the coming years also look brighter. There is however, a caveat. For maintaining the momentum of economic progress, the infrastructure and civic amenities in the Indian cities should be in an excellent condition. One should also not forget that the migrant population in cities makes up a large part of the workforce that contributes to the economic progress.

It is imperative that the Indian cities, like those across the world, manage their infrastructure and service deliveries systematically in order to achieve soaring success. This, in turn, requires proper planning, good governance and sustainable development. It is, thus, in this context that the subject of municipal reforms assumes significance and it may be mentioned that the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government of India recently is a step in the right direction.

The RCUES, Lucknow has been trying to contribute in its own way, towards the capacity building strategies so that city governments may successfully fulfill the aspirations and needs of its citizens in the long run, so that they may be active contributors in the sustained growth achieved during the past few years.

With best wishes

December, 2006

NISHITH RAI

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

If one recalls the famous opening lines of "*The Tale of Two Cities*" by Charles Dickens, Indian Cities are similarly placed in the best of times and the worst of times. '*Best of times*' because the faces of Indian cities are rapidly changing and there cannot be a better time than now to take up matters concerning municipal reforms. Spurred by the economic reforms of the nineties, most of the cities are rejuvenating with a brand new generation of executives, business persons and industrialists, who compete in the global market. '*Worst of times*' because the Indian cities have lamentably left out the underprivileged and the poor from the new economic success.

Being poor, as Professor Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate has observed, is not merely about low income, low consumption and low calorie intake - the criteria that the policymakers use to determine the poverty threshold; rather it is about a lack of access to essential services and amenities and amenities required for a decent living, economic opportunities, education, health, security, etc. It may be pointed out that the programme of urban reforms launched by the Government of India recently have been launched at the most opportune time, in the form of Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and its Sub-Programmes.

As you all may be aware, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow publishes its biannual journal, **URBAN PANORAMA** and a **RCUES NEWSLETTER** which tries to cover issues and concerns relating to the latest trends in urban management and city government. This issue of the journal deals with many such articles and papers.

The paper on "**Disaster Management with Special Reference to Earthquakes**" by **Sri G.P. Lal** was delivered as the Prof. R.B. Das Memorial Lecture on September 4, 2006, the Founder's Day of the Regional Centre, Lucknow. The pre-and post-disaster aspects of earthquakes have been discussed by him. He has also highlighted the need for creation of a Disaster Knowledge Network.

Prof. Kumkum Kishore has discussed the concept of Development and the Prerequisites associated with it in her paper "**Prerequisites of Development: The Context of Uttar Pradesh**". She has also dealt with the various measures needed for urban and rural sector reforms. The paper lays special emphasis on the focus areas for the development approach which are needed in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Sri J.N. Singh, in his paper on "**Eradication of Slums in Urban Areas**" discusses the background and approach to Slums during the various plans, the National Slum Policy, the magnitude of the problems relating to slums and the future strategy to tackle the problem.

There is an urgent need to augment municipal resources, and property tax is one of the main taxes levied and collected by urban local bodies. Needless to say, this tax is of

prime importance in non-octroi states, like Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India has also issued guidelines for reforms in property tax. Hence keeping in view their importance, **Dr. Richa Varmani** has discussed the latest system of unit area method of valuation of property tax, in her paper **"Property Tax Reforms with Special Reference to the State of Uttar Pradesh"**, based on the recommendations the State Finance Commissions of set up by the State Government.

It is very important for an organization to achieve its objectives and goals, and "team work" is one of the most significant processes. The characteristic indicators of a healthy team, and the problems faced by its members, along with concrete examples have been discussed by **Dr. Padma Iyer** in her article **"Team and its Working"**.

The challenges faced by urbanization, which is a continuing process and the urban problems relating to water supply, sanitation and solid waste management have been dealt with by **Dr. Alka Singh** in her article **"Urban Challenges: Need for Private Sector Participation"**, which also discusses the need and road-map for the entry of private sector in the provision of these essential services.

The various aspects in the proper management and disposal of **Bio-Medical Wastes**, the need for good planning and their safe disposal have been described by **Ms. Raj Kumari Daryana** in her article.

A Case Study of Anantapur Municipal Corporation in Andhra Pradesh has been described by **Dr. G. Venkata Ramana** and **Prof. M. Sambasiva Rao et.al.** in their presentation. The main objective of the study has been to study the morphological growth and its population growth and analyze the land use changes of Anantapur Municipal Corporation from 1971 to 2001. This study has described the changes in the growth of the town from an 'A' grade Municipality to a Municipal Corporation and the substantial changes in the five categories of land use after the inclusion of surrounding villages in their presentation **"Urban Morphology, Population Growth and Land Use changes of Anantapur Municipal Corporation."**

Urban public transport is of paramount importance due to rapid growth in urban population. In view of the gravity of problems associated with urban transport services and lack of adequate resources to tackle them, there is need to look out for alternative mechanism for the provision and delivery of these services. The applicability of the different privatization models used nationally and internationally have been discussed in the paper on **"Urban Public Transport: Search for an Alternative Delivery Mechanism"** by **Sri Gaurav Sinha**.

Another Case Study on the **"Status of Water Supply in Shimla Town"** has been described by **Dr. Pawan Kumar Banta**. He has described the existing water supply of this hilly town, as well as the effective steps to ensure proper water management and undertaking of new water developments, as well as a proposal for augmentation of the same.

The article on **"Tourism Development in Eastern U.P."** by **Sri Krishna Kumar Singh** describes the salient features of the U.P. State Tourism Policy, 1998, the increasing tourism influx in the State as well as the budget allocation under this head. He has also suggested measures to strengthen the tourism potential and develop various facilities, especially those of lesser known tourist destinations in the eastern part of the State.

Dr. Julia Snehprabha Simlai, in her paper titled **'A Geographical View of the Tribal Urban Hiatus in a Village Community'** has illustrated the important characteristics of the Munda tribes who are the original inhabitants of Jharkhand, and their living pattern and other details. She has described the transition of these tribals as a result of industrial developments in the State and its capital, Ranchi. The article concludes by pointing out the various issues that need to be addressed in order to preserve their culture and identity.

Sri T.D. Daryana, in his paper on **"Technical Options for Sustainable Water Supply"** has described the quantum of water needed in urban and rural areas and the detailed standards regarding water supply. Besides the various options for water supply, he has also discussed drinking water supply schemes of plains, hills and peninsular regions of the country with illustrations, besides comparing continuous and intermittent water supply systems.

Dr. S.S.A. Jafri has studied the levels of civic amenities in a project covering 61 towns and 6 cities belonging to the districts of Lucknow, Rae Bareli, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur and Lakhimpur and has described the observations in his article **"Levels of Civic Amenities in Urban Settlements of Avadh Region of Uttar Pradesh"**.

A vivid description of the efficient system of **"Solid Waste Management in Thailand"** has been given by **Dr. Anjali Mishra**. Besides giving the details of the organization, functioning and revenue of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, the paper describes the collection, disposal and subsequent treatment of different types of waste and the people's participation in the management of waste in that country.

The concept of **"New Public Management"** and the latest dimensions associated with it, according to modern thinkers has been detailed by **Dr. Nand Lal Bharti** in his paper **"Sarvajanic Khsetra Mein Nav Lok Prabandh"** (New Public Management in the Public Sector), in which he also describes the aspects of Good Governance and SMART Administration.

It is sincerely hoped that the present issue of the Journal will be of immense value to the esteemed readers. Any suggestions are most welcome.

With regards and best wishes.

Richa Varmani

December, 2006

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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

		Page No.
1.	Disaster Management with Special Reference to Earth-Quakes <i>G.P. Lal</i>	1
2.	Prerequisites of Development: The Context of Uttar Pradesh <i>Kumkum Kishore</i>	7
3.	Management and Disposal of Bio-medical Wastes <i>Raj Kumari Daryana</i>	14
4.	Eradication of Slums in Urban Areas <i>J.N. Singh</i>	17
5.	Property Tax Reforms (With Special Reference to Uttar Pradesh) <i>Richa Varmani</i>	23
6.	Team and Its Working <i>Padma Iyer</i>	36
7.	Urban Challenges: Need For Private Sector Participation <i>Alka Singh</i>	42
8.	Urban Morphology, Population Growth and Land Use Changes of Anantapur Municipal Corporation, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, India. <i>G. Venkata Ramana, M. Sambasiva Rao, S. Lakshminarayana</i>	49
9.	Tourism Development In Eastern Uttar Pradesh <i>Krishna Kumar Singh</i>	56
10.	A Geographical View of the Tribal-Urban Hiatus in a Village Community <i>Julia Snehprabha Simlai</i>	68
11.	Urban Public Transport : Search for an Alternative Delivery Mechanism <i>Gaurav Sinha</i>	88
12.	Status of Water Supply in Shimla Town <i>Pawan Kumar Banta</i>	105
13.	Technical Options for Sustainable Water Supply <i>T.D. Daryana</i>	115
14.	Levels of Civic Amenities in Urban Settlements of Avadh Region of Uttar Pradesh <i>S.S.A. Jafri</i>	129
15.	Solid Waste Management in Thailand <i>Anjuli Mishra</i>	138
16.	Sustainable Waste Management and Its Implications on Climate Protection <i>Awadhesh Kr. Singh</i>	151
17.	सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में नव लोक प्रबन्ध <i>नन्दलाल भारती</i>	158