

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings!

Urbanization is amongst the most important contributors to the economy of the nation as they both are inextricably linked. To strengthen urban development the Government has launched many reform-linked urban investment programmes in India.

In India out of the total population of 1210.2 million as on 1st March, 2011, about 377.1 million are in urban areas. The net addition of population in urban areas over the last decade is 91.0 million. The proportion of urban population has increased from 19.9% in the year 1971 to 31.16% in the year 2001. There has been an increase 3.35 percentage points in the proportion of urban population in the country during 2001-2011.

There are different schools of thought regarding Rural-Urban continuum. Some sociologists have used the concept of rural-urban continuum to stress the idea that there are no sharp breaking points to be found in the degree or quantity of rural urban differences. Other sociologists treat rural-urban as dichotomous categories and they found difference between two at various levels including occupational differences, environmental differences, differences in the sizes of communities, differences in the density of population, differences in social mobility and direction of migration, differences in social stratification and in the systems of social interaction. A third view regarding rural and urban communities comes from Pocock and Hudson (1978) who believe that, both village and city are the elements of the same civilization and hence neither



rural-urban dichotomy nor continuum is meaningful.

The indicators in the process of socio-economic development of urban areas of a state can broadly be placed into four categories. These are: (a) economic, (b) employment and poverty (c) infrastructure development, and (d) socio-demographic development. The economic indicators can further be classified into macro indicators such as per capita income, per capita FDI, etc. Employment and poverty dimension comprise WPR, unemployment rates, and poverty

ratios taken separately for rural and urban areas. The infrastructural development indicators pertain to the facilities that promote the development and growth of other sectors, such as roads per 100 sq. km, railways per 100 sq. km, etc. The socio-demographic indicators constitute sex ratio in rural and urban areas, and indicators of social development like literacy in rural and urban areas, schooling facility per thousand persons, hospitals and dispensaries per thousand persons, etc.

This issue presents a good number of articles on the cover story theme 'Urban Development and Economic Growth' by distinguished experts and authors and interview from industry stalwart. We look forward to constructive feedback from our readers on the articles and overall development of the journal under this section. Please send your mails at editor@icmai.in. We thank all the contributors to this important issue and hope our readers enjoy the articles.