

# The CityMakers *(homeless residents)*

-- Still INTRUDERS?

- Dr. indu prakash singh

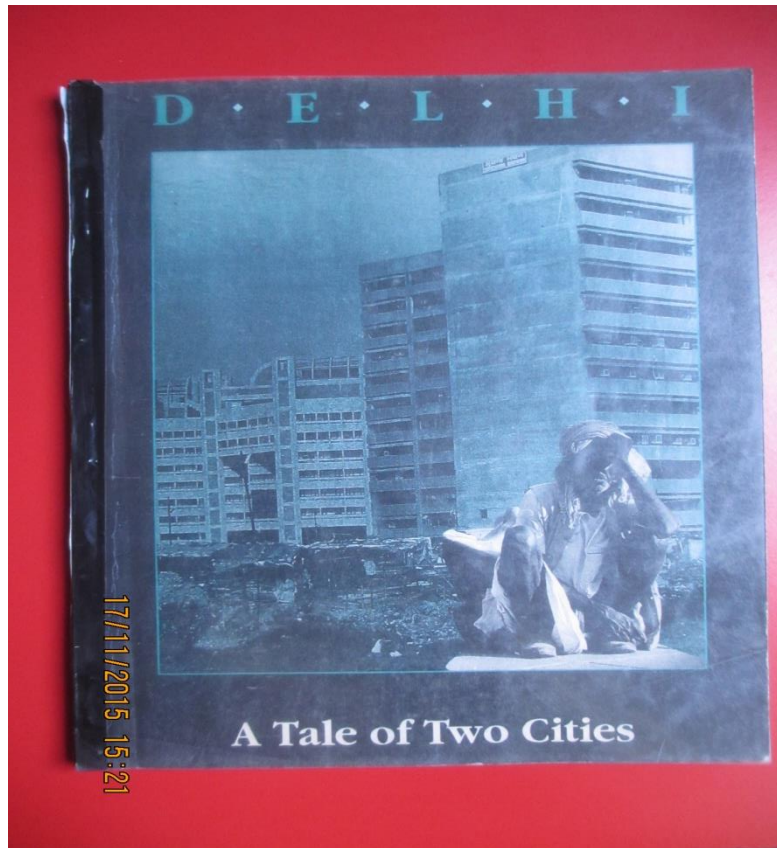
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# On Urban Poverty

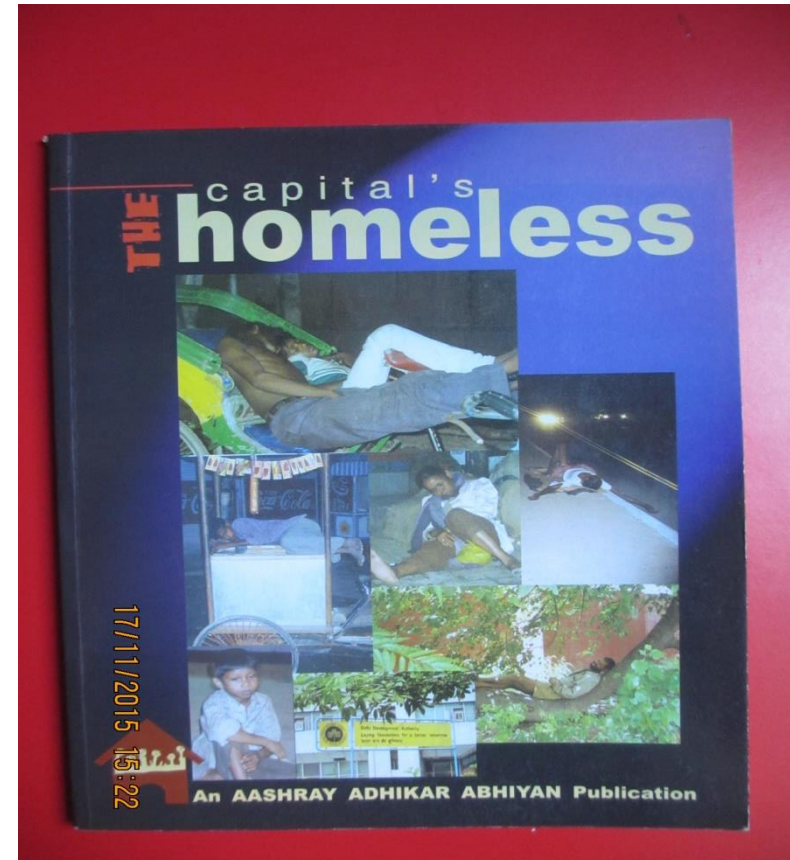
**1993 - Publication**

**This publication had no word like homeless**



**2000**

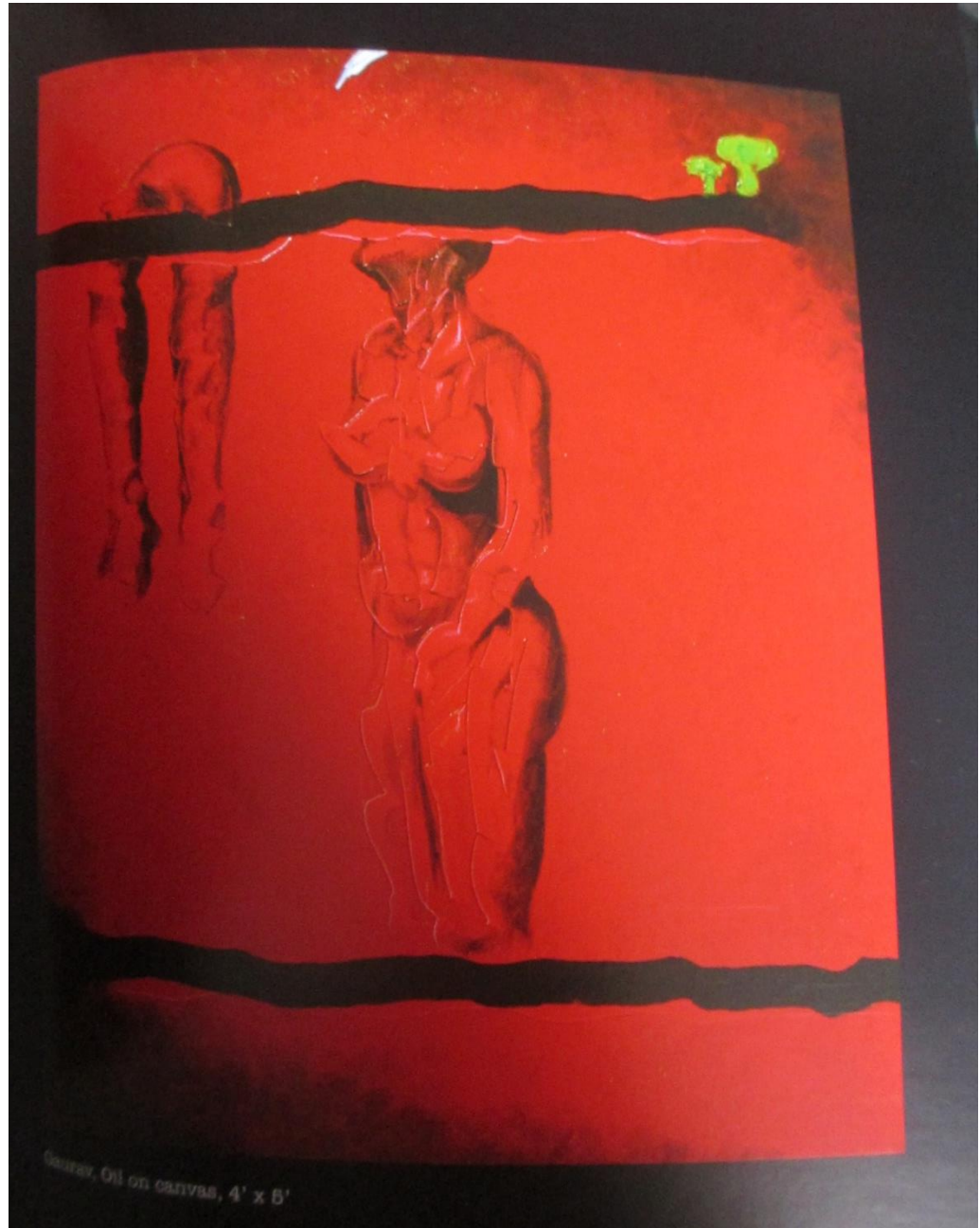
**The 1<sup>st</sup> Publication on Homeless**



# Not in one piece

As drawn by a student, after the night walk  
on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010, from Jama Masjid to  
Chandni Chowk.

Surely, hope is there.



Earlier the **CityMakers (CMs)** were called houseless by census. We found the term of no use. Hence we started calling them homeless, homeless people, homeless friends. By early 2010, our dear friend, late Gerry Pinto told that we should call them homeless citizens. We did so.

But still were not happy with the word homeless. That's when **the word CityMakers was born around May 2010**. It was created by us.

# CityMakers



# CityMakers



Homeless (women, children, disabled, elderly, destitute {people surviving on the sharings / offerings of caring citizens, let's not call them beggars, it's not just demeaning but inhuman as well to do so and dismissive of the onus of the state}, mentally ill, elderly, men ...) is a person who has no roof over her/his head. Even if a person has a home in the village, is that home of any use in the urban context. Besides, if the home in the village could serve all the purpose of a HOME: security, love, health, education, employment, food, land ... why would anybody leave it to sleep on (in) the Footpaths/ corridors/parks, flyovers, handcarts, rickshaws, night shelters (wherever it is there)... of a city.

Our surveys in all the cities have shown that **it is not the pull factor which is dominant but rather the push factor**. Majority of the homeless in almost all the cities have had no livelihood option in their villages. So it is not the glamour of the cities which invites the poor, rather it is abject poverty, unemployment, atrocities, riots, communal venom induced killing (like the one in Dadri – Akhlaq's killing), droughts, floods etc. which pushes the vulnerable communities out of the villages to cities. It's purely a distress migration.

We would also call them ***drought refugees***, as it happens in most of India. The CityMakers are **REFUGEES**, due all the above factors, within one's own country. Migrant is too mild a term.



And in the city the homeless citizens and the urban poor work and **subsidise the cost of living of the elite**. They are the **real builders of the city**. And when the time comes to share the fruit of their labour, they are shunted out to the fringes of the city. Dubbing their existence as **illegal**.

We, call the Homeless Residents, **CityMakers (CMs)** because *they are the ones through whose labour, drudgery and sweat, any city gets made.* **They are the unsung builders of the nation, called India or any country in the world.** They continue to remain on the fringes. **CityMakers is a positive connotation on what they do in / to the city.** While homeless term is a situational description.

**CityMakers also subsumes the worth of the makers and their values, who might be poor due to lack of reach / access to resources; but they are rich in terms of their labour, which brings the being of a city into existence.** It's a tribute to the **sacrifices the CityMakers have made.** And now the time has come for their being acknowledged and provided all their entitlements. They richly deserve. As a right, not as a dole. This is also inherent in the World Charter on the **Right to City.**

**The term CityMakers springs from the positive human rights discourse.** This discourse is supported by the Constitution of India and various UN Charters, Covenants and Conventions to which India is a signatory. What better than having new CMs (not Chief Minister, rather CityMakers) of the city, **not one but hundreds, thousands and millions.** Each empowered by their rights. Each contributing, and the contribution being richly rewarded.

# TWO INDIAs: INDIA Vs. non-india

## INDIA

- **(everything works here)**
- Constitution of India
- Acts that move into the Statute books
- UN Declarations, Charters, Covenants and Convention
- Courts (Supreme, High & lower courts) – function well here
- Human Rights protected
- Affluence

## non-india

- (nothing works here)
- Everything you get here, you get with great difficulty
- Poverty: nothing and no one remains untouched by it (little wonder, govt is still not clear on the definition of poverty)
- All institutions, are ineffective, insensitive (exceptions notwithstanding, like *suo moto* case of the High Court of Delhi: WP – 29/2010)
- Census (2001, 2011) leaves many homeless residents unenumerated
- Some enlightened journalists, judges, support
- Court orders flouted by the govt, still no contempt proceedings against them

# TWO INDIAs: INDIA Vs. non-india

## INDIA

- The entire corporate sector
- All arms of the STATE work here
- Convergence of services happen here
- Bureaucracy at its suave best
- Bureaucracy / people's representatives sponsored NGOs
- 'Shining'
- All schemes accessed by the elite in the garb of poor (Mumbai is the best example)

## non-india

- DDA Master Plan, 2021 - attempts to amend the clause of 1 shelter per 100,000 urban population to 500,000 urban population
- Housing deficit – 24.7 million urban houses – 99.9% for EWS and LIG sections
- Child's nightmare of becoming HITLER
- Stick of police more powerful than 100s and 1000s homeless residents
- Delhi Police, no India Police (as a constable told one CityMaker – homeless resident)
- Spoliasation of bureaucracy, "dilli mein thand pardati kahan hain, thand hoti hain anand lene ke liye" (where do you have winters in Delhi, it's there to be enjoyed)
- No entitlements (voters card, ration cards, birth registration, bank accounts, health coverage, pensions, ...)
- Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 (criminalising destitution and poverty, is perpetrated)
- Voluntary organisations heckled, questioned, threatened, ...
- ...

# The biggest lies:

1. We are a democratic country  
(difficult for the CityMakers to get voters cards; honest elections, a far cry)
2. India is shining
3. Poverty has reduced(hence not able to decide the poverty figures)
4. PPPPPP: stands for Police Powered People Public Private Partnership (only for profit)
5. We have a dedicated bureaucracy
6. We have an efficient government
7. Schemes are there to benefit the poor
8. Judiciary is interfering in governance
9. Constitution of India and various Acts under it applies to all

10.UN Charters, Convention, Covenants is adhered to by our government

11.Our government believes in non-violence(just putting Bapu on currency notes, means nothing)

12.Atithi devo bhava (guest are gods, only the rich)

13.Govt's Department of Social Welfare works for common good(of its own staff)

14.Vasudeva Kutumbakam(all world's a divine family, except Muslims, Christians, Dalits, Tribals... )

15.RWAsResidents Welfare Associations, PHAsPlot Holders Associations , DDA, Gol, Govt/ Private Hospitals, Constitutional Authorities, LG, Police, ... work in the interest of the poor/excluded/exiled/ sections of our society



# **'Homeless should be killed'**

(Thus spake an MSW student) 1st Aug., 2013

Q. "The homeless don't improve; their addiction keeps on going. Government should not give them any facilities. Actually they should be killed. For we can do nothing to improve their lot. They don't want to improve. Government is wasting resources on them."

Me: "I take strong objection and offence to this statement of yours. You are a student of social work and how can you make such an irresponsible statement.

Tell me one scheme of government that reaches the homeless? Has government got any programme to deaddict the chemical dependents? "

This youth then was an aspirant for the IAS

Well, when you talk of the homeless, whom we call CityMakers, they are the people with whom or in whom, there's been no investment from the side of our society. They are at ground zero. We will have to work with them, for them to come out of the situation that they are in. We will have to have shelters for them with good toilets, fans, drinking water etc. We at Nigambodh Ghat shelter provide one hot meal to them in the evening.

They have made the cities with their sweat and labour. And they have every right to the city. Our own studies have shown that over 93% of them work.

In fact when you work the CityMakers, it's a tough area of work. But deeply rewarding. You need to look out for such areas to work in. For it's here where the maximum learning will take place.

For us our work with the CityMakers (CMs) started way back in 1999 . We had to do everything from a scratch, as there were no studies or any organisations working with the CityMakers.

1.The first step that we (in Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan [AAA] – a direct initiative of ActionAid India) took was to do an action oriented study (May – June 2000).

2.Kept the media in loop and posted them on what all we were finding during the study as well.

3.Then we shared its findings in meeting on 10th August 2000, where we invited a large number of organisations, which were active on different issues, but not working on homelessness. Asked for their support as we were handful.

4.Collaborations started with IHBAS (Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Science), Sahara, Dr. Shroff's Eye Charity Hospital for the street medicine that we started in last fortnight of September 2000.

5. **Beyond Zebra:** Celebrating Colours of Life for life is not black and white, was a network we created along with Pravah, Youthreach, Butterflies, Toxic Links, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Development Alternatives and AAA. This was for a school sensitisation programme that was rolled out by us as a curriculum.

6. **Night Outs** (a programme where we were on the streets of Delhi from 9 pm to 5-6 am on every Tuesdays and Fridays) started from Tuesday, 5th Dec., 2000. Which we still do, but it's now called Night Vigil.

7. And many many programmes we started after getting trained in PRA (Participatory Reflection and Action, also called Participatory Rural Appraisal / Participatory Reflection and Action) conducted by PRAXIS and mentored by Robert Chambers.

8. On **11th Sept. 2001** the largest shelter for the CityMakers at Meena Bazar, Jama Masjid was closed and demolished in 2003. In 2001 we filed a **PIL (WP (C) 6138/2001)** in the High Court of Delhi. Due to which AAA was given initially two shelters to run on a model basis. It got more shelters to run, gradually.

9. In 2003 we filed a PIL (WP (C) 572/ 2003) in the Supreme Court of India against government's callousness in handling homelessness. It came up in 2013. The matter is going on now.

**THE MEDIA WAS / IS OUR CONSTANT ALLY.** And we work (ed) always through Networks. That's the reason. We kept getting our issues covered by the entire media: Print (Newspapers/ Magazines/ Newsletters) / A-V / Social Media/ etc. we never had to struggle for media attention. We got that in plenty then, even as of now.

## **SAM: BKS Advocacy and Networking**

Advocacy and Networking has been an integral part of our work with the CityMakers (homeless residents). In 2008, Shahri Adhikar Manch – Begharon Ke Liye (now referred as: **Shahri Adhikar Manch – Begharon Ke Saath**) {*Urban Rights Forum – With the Homeless*} was formed in Delhi. As an outcome of the finding of the IGSSS study, “The Unsung CityMakers: A Study of the Homeless Residents of Delhi”. The network comprises of more than 20 like-minded voluntary organisations (VOs) / civil society organisations (CSOs). SAM-BKS played an important role in getting judiciary and media’s notice to the issues of CityMakers.

**BUT NO ADVOCACY IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT GRASSROOTS ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.**

SAM- BKS's concern for CityMakers in Delhi and **its drive against the demolition of shelters for the homeless in December 2009**, along with reports about the same in mainstream media, formed the background of the Delhi High Court's and the Supreme Court's directives to the Delhi Government (and later to other States) to set up permanent and temporary shelters for the homeless on a priority basis, in January 2010.

## Chronology of events

- ❖ SAM-BKL (now SAM:BKS) meeting was in progress at its secretariat in IGSSS on **December 22, 2009** when it was informed to the members that a temporary shelter was demolished by MCD at Rachna Gol Chakkar (West Delhi, near Karol Bagh)
- ❖ On December **23rd & 24th**, SAM-BKL members facilitated the visit of Times of India (ToI) journalist, Ms. Ambika Pandit to the evicted site & affected people were interviewed
- ❖ **December 25, 2009** - ToI publishes it as the 'Cover story' (Out in the Cold on Xmas Eve:<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Out-in-the-cold-on-X-mas-eve/articleshow/5375962.cms>)



- ❖ <http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Default/Scripting/ArticleWin.asp?From=Archive&Source=Page&Skin=TOI&BaseHref=CAP/2009/12/25&PageLabel=7&EntityId=Ar00700&ViewMode=HTML&GZ=T>
- ❖ Soon after, 2 deaths took place (of a child & an adult who were rendered shelterless after the tent demolition)
- ❖ **December 29, 2009** another meeting of SAM-BKL convened where members considered filing of PIL on the issue & decided to hold press conference on January 04, 2011
- ❖ **January 04, 2010** - SAM-BKL organized a Press conference (Press Release, 4 January 2010: Experts Condemn on Homelessness in Delhi)

- ❖ **January 05, 2010** - wide media coverage of the press conference, quoting SAM-BKL members (Mansoor Khan, Miloon Kothari, Usha Ramanathan, and indu prakash singh) {Cold Worsening Plight of the Homeless (The Hindu, 5 January 2010) <http://www.hindu.com/2010/01/05/stories/2010010550700200.htm>}
- ❖ **January 06, 2010** - High Court of Delhi issued suo moto notice to Delhi Government, based on the media report of SAM-BKL press conference
- ❖ **January 13, 2010** - Supreme Court Commissioners on Right to Food, Harsh Mander & N.C Saxena wrote letter to the Supreme Court, highlighting the plight of the homeless, vulnerabilities during winter & the starvation deaths

- ❖ **January 20, 2010** - Supreme Court ordered Delhi Government to immediately provide shelter and food to the homeless
- ❖ **January 25, 2010** - the Supreme Court Commissioners again wrote a letter to Supreme Court, citing IGSSS' study on the homeless (the number of homeless people disaggregated by sex and age in Delhi and the need for adequate number of shelters- 1 shelter per 1 lakh population as per Master Plan for Delhi, 2021)
- ❖ **May 05, 2010** - Supreme Court issued notices to all states & UTs seeking information on what they are doing for the homeless. It directed all states & UTs to build at least 1 well equipped shelter per one lakh population & to make these 24 hours shelters, functional throughout the year.

**In 2000 there were of 21 planned, 19 shelters. By 2001 it came down to 10.** Then through the work that we did in 2001-2, many schools opened up. Then numbers went to around 30 shelters. After that from 2003 there were in all around 20 shelters that functioned. In winters few shelters would come up and be removed by mid-March every year. Through intense advocacy with judiciary and government, 148 shelters came into existence in Delhi by 2011 – the highest ever, courtesy efforts of SAM-BKS. In the year 2014 , there are 184 shelters (82 permanent, 102 porta cabins.

In Jan 2015, 252 shelters were there.

In Jan 2016, 262 shelters came up.

In Jan 2017, 269 shelters got created.

There's a senior bureaucrat, **Mr. D M Spolia**, the then Principal Secretary (now the Chief Secretary, who was removed by Arvind Kejriwal, when he became Delhi's CM, reinstated by the LG now to the same position), Revenue, in Delhi who when asked by all of us, in the last week of November 2009 (27.11.2009) to pitch 70 tents for the homeless that year (for the winter was going to be extreme) shot it down to 17 tents. He scoffed at the idea asking us, "Where do you have winters in Delhi? Winters are meant to be enjoyed." (दिल्ली में ठण्ड पड़ती कहाँ हैं? ठण्ड होती है आनंद लेने के लिए). **For the deaths (301 in December 2009, & 287 in Jan., 2010, the highest in the respective months from 2004 onward till 2016)** that took place of the hapless homeless citizens, in the year 2009-2010, **shouldn't he be held accountable. Shouldn't he be behind bars. This insensitivity and arrogance is the hallmark of Delhi's and India's bureaucracy, notwithstanding some good ones'.**

How else can we explain this? The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has listed this matter (WP (C) 29/2010) over 100 times. Passed lots of orders: shelters came up, but payment got delayed, for over 10 – 10 months; Ordered for Joint Apex Advisory Committee (JAAC) of DUSIB to meet regularly, but yet the meetings continues to be called at the whims and fancies of DUSIB (now it's getting a bit regular); asked for additional shelters to be put up, but DUSIB insisted that the shelters they had in 2013 were enough to deal with the winters of 2013-2014. And the CEO of DUSIB, Mr. Amar Nath on 27th Nov., 2013 assured the Hon'ble Court that there will be no deaths and he will be held responsible for deaths, if it took place. 100s died in 2013 (2895) as well as 2014 (3313).

Of the **19,37,520 sq. ft.** space required under the MPD – 2021 (4.3 clause: 1 shelter per 1 lakh urban population, each of 1000 sq.mt. [10724 sq. ft.], which can only house 38,750 persons {going by 215 persons who can be accommodated per 1000 sq. mt.}), **DUSIB has only 2,44,507 sq. ft.** (only 12.6 % of the MPD – 2021 norms) as on date for the shelters. **The shelter space is deficient by 87.4 % of the MPD – 2021 norms.**



## HARD Facts of DUSIB's Largesse!

Dr. Indu Prakash Singh  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dec., 2014; [induw@rediffmail.com](mailto:induw@rediffmail.com); 9911362925

**F**or the CityMakers (homeless residents) in Delhi, **184 shelters (82 Permanent & 102 temporary)** accounts for mere **12.6 % of the proposed space** for them under the Master Plan for Delhi – 2021 (MPD - 2021).

Only 4890 persons can be accommodated going by the National Urban Livelihood Mission's Scheme for Shelters for the Urban Homeless (NULM-SUH) benchmark of 50 sq. ft. per person (mentioned in our affidavit submitted in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2014). Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) claims to cater to 14584 persons (coming to 16.76 sq. ft per person). A true largesse of DUSIB.

For DUSIB as per its affidavit dt 20.2.2014 in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi its 231 shelters (then) provided space for 17079 persons, which comes to 14.53 sq. ft per person (over 3 times less than the NULM-SUH parameter). In the recent newspaper report (Sandhya Times, 25.11.14, p.5), the Director of DUSIB (Night Shelters) informed that as per them the 184 shelters can accommodate 25,000 homeless. **Going by this, the per person space in the shelters will be 9.7 sq. ft.** ([one would have to sit and sleep] not even 15 sq. ft. the railway berth benchmark followed by DUSIB earlier, which was made unacceptable by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 23.3.2014; and way below the 50 sq. ft. per person (under NULM-SUH), finally accepted by the CEO, DUSIB on 2.4.14).

Of the 19,37,520 sq. ft. space required under the MPD – 2021 (4.3 clause: 1 shelter per 1 lakh urban population, each of 1000 sq. mt. [10724 sq. ft. (Clause: 4.4.3 (F), of MPD, 2021)]), which can only house 38,750 persons (going by 215 persons who can be accommodated per 1000 sq. mt.)), **DUSIB has only 2,44,507 sq. ft. (only 12.6 % of the MPD – 2021 norms)** as on date for the shelters. **The shelter space is deficient by 87.4 % of the MPD – 2021 norms.**

And mind you there are not less than 150,000 CityMakers in Delhi. Of which only 4890 homeless persons get shelter. Amounting to mere 3.2% of the CityMakers in Delhi being provided a dignified shelter. Remaining are left to fend for themselves. Or squeezed into the limited spaces, running the risk of sick building syndrome.

This is the CARING Capital of India: Delhi / New Delhi. Welcome to Delhi. Where AtithiDevoBhavah (अतिथिं देवो भवः; Treat guests like God) is practiced. Is it practised?

The space configuration of DUSIB's shelters is likewise: Large shelters few, small shelters many, defeating the MPD - 2021 norms:

Total Shelter	1000 to 800 sq. mt.	799 to 500 sq. mt.	499 to 300 sq. mt.	299 to 200 sq. mt.	199 to 100 sq. mt.	Less than 99 sq. mt.
184	01	05	10	13	28	127

17/11/2015 15:11



### Inspector succumbs to dengue

A Delhi Police inspector died due to dengue on Saturday. With his death, the toll due to dengue in the city now stands at 41. >> Page 4



# As winter approaches, search for a roof begins

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

**NEW DELHI:** Capital's harsh winters are just around the corner and the government with its 184 shelter homes (82 permanent & 102 temporary) accounts for mere 12.6 per cent of the proposed space for them under the Master Plan for Delhi - 2021 (MPD - 2021). Simply put a mere 3.2 per cent of the homeless people in Delhi are being provided a dignified shelter.

This would leave a large majority of homeless residents - including women, children, older population and those suffering from illness (physical, mental and emotional) - fighting for space and shelter that simply does not exist. The shelter space is deficient by 87.4 per cent of the MPD - 2021 norms.

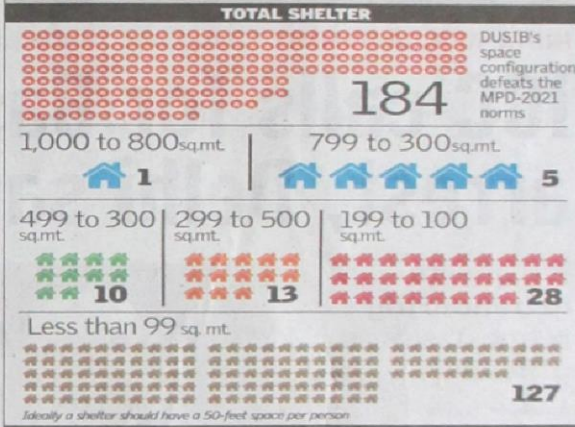
Highlighting the sad plight of these homeless residents of the Capital, Dr. Indu Prakash Singh, who has been working with the homeless says: "Only 4,890 persons can be accommodated going by the National Urban Livelihood Mission's Scheme for Shelters for the Urban Homeless (NULM-SUH) benchmark of 50 sq.ft. per person (mentioned in our affidavit submitted in the High Court of Delhi on 14th Nov., 2014)."

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), however, claims to cater to 14,584 persons (that comes to 16.76 sq.ft per person).

DUSIB as per its affidavit (20.2.2014) submitted in High Court of Delhi its 231 shelters

## FINDING A PLACE

A mere 3.2 per cent of the homeless people in Delhi are being provided a dignified shelter



(then) provided space for 17,079 persons.

"This comes to 14.53 sq. ft per person (over 3 times less than the NULM-SUH parameter)," notes Sunil Kumar Aledia, who runs an organisation for the homeless, Centre for Holistic Development.

"DUSIB (Night Shelters) officials claim that 184 shelters can accommodate 25,000 homeless. Going by this, the per person space in the shelters will be 9.7 sq. ft. (one would have to sit and sleep in that space) not even 15 sq. ft. the Railway berth benchmark followed by DUSIB earlier,

which was made unacceptable by the Delhi High Court last year," he adds.

Of the 19,37,520 sq. ft. space required under the MPD - 2021 DUSIB has only 2,44,507 sq. ft. (only 12.6 % of the MPD - 2021 norms) as on date for the shelters.

"And mind you there are not less than 1,50,000 homeless residents in Delhi. Of which only 4,890 homeless persons get shelter. Remaining are left to fend for themselves. Or squeezed into the limited spaces, running the risk of sick building syndrome," notes Mr. Sunil.

And mind you there are not less than 150,000 CityMakers in Delhi. Of which only 4890 homeless persons get shelter. **Amounting to mere 3.2% of the CityMakers in Delhi being provided a dignified shelter.** Remaining are left to fend for themselves. Or squeezed into the limited spaces, running the risk of **sick building syndrome.**

### Data on the CityMakers (Homeless Residents) in DELHI

SL. No.	YEAR	STUDY Conducted by the ORGANISATIONS / INSTITUTIONS	No. of CityMakers Counted (Estimated figures are in parenthesis)
	(A)	(B)	(C)
1.	2014	Commissioners of the Supreme Court Book: "Shelters for the Urban Homeless - A Handbook for Administrators and Policymakers" (Books for Change: Bangalore / Delhi; 2014)	180,000 (*We estimate that at least one per cent of the population of cities is homeless'; p.iv).
2.	2014	DUSIB	16,760 (Rapid survey in nature of guesstimate. Totally unacceptable. Ad hoc and arbitrary)
3.	2011	Census	46,724*
4.	2011	Supreme Court Commissioner's Office (SCCO)/ DUSIB/ MNGO/ HCRCs	2,46,800 (Mapped: a new technique adopted by the SCCO)
5.	2010	MNGO (for GNCTD, financed by UNDP) Out of 280 Pockets, 243 pockets surveyed; 37 survey pockets missed out	55,955 (67,151 mapped from 243 pockets; it was to be done again, which never got done. Report still not published)
6.	2008	IGSSS (Indo-Global Social Service Society)	88410 (1,50,000**)
7.	2007	IHD (Institute of Human Development) for GNCTD	46,788
	2006	Delhi Human Development Report (DHDR), 2006 (GNCTD, p. 31)	1,00,000***
8.	2001	Census	24,966*
9.	2000	AAA (Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan) - then a Programme of ActionAid India	52,765 (100,000**)
10.	<p>*Census figures are not being considered, as there were huge numbers of CityMakers (Homeless Residents) left unenumerated by Census of 2001 &amp; 2011 (We participated both the times). Truly, it was a fraud played on the nation and the CityMakers (CMs). Hence we can't rely on the Census figures.</p> <p>**The Caveat: For everyone counted we missed one, as we could not go into all the lanes and by lanes and there were many CityMakers still working until 3am, in trading centres of old Delhi, sabzi mandis etc.</p> <p>*** DHDR mentions this AAA figure in its Report</p>		

Abbreviations Used: GNCTD: Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi; DUSIB: Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board of GNCTD  
MNGO: Mother NGO (St. Stephen's Hospital), in collaboration with Mission Convergence, GNCTD  
HCRC: Homeless Citizens' Resource Centres in collaboration with the MNGO

Prepared by: Dr. Indu prakash singh, Executive Committee Member, Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Saath (SAM:BKS);  
Convenor, National Forum for Housing Rights (NFHR). 2014.

17/11/2015 15:12

A simple thing that bears out from this presentation is that our work has to be sincere, uncompromising on rights violations, and a presence which is never going to be limited to a 9 am – 5 pm job. **Such work demands total immersion. Media which is our strong ally**, it's so because it sees our work on the ground. And with media backing, **Court support comes in**, through a ***suo moto* (court on its own motion) action**, a very difficult action to come in. But in our case it came in due to what's stated above. And even today we are on our feet. Can't yet rest.

WE know we've your support, we require, the entire nation's support.

On 29.4.2015, the Delhi High Court ended the matter.

# Innovations

As we had nothing to fall back upon we kept trudging paths that we were guided.

Our guides and mentors were the CityMakers, including: Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr, Nelson Mandela, Rumi, Erich Fromm, Kahlil Gibran, Jiddu Krishnamurti, Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Rani Lakshmbai, Richard Bach, Simone de Beauvoir, Sri M, Justice V R Krishna Iyer, Justice A P Shah, ...

- ❖ Head Count – Study on the Homeless, 2000 (Delhi), 2003 (Chennai), 2004 (Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, & Kolkata), 2005 (Patna, Guwahati), 2008 (Delhi), 2010 (Bangalore)
- ❖ Networking, 2000
- ❖ Street Medicine, 2000
- ❖ Night Outs / Vigil, 2000
- ❖ Using PRA in urban settings, 2000
- ❖ Khula (Open Forum) Manch in Urdu Park, 2001
- ❖ Facilitating Collective Action, 2001
- ❖ Empathetic Listening with the Police, 2001
- ❖ 360° Appraisal – excellent team building, 2001
- ❖ nCMc: **National CityMakers Caravan** (17.8.2010 – 12.1.2011), across the country
- ❖ Orientation → volunteering → internships → joining the team → spreading the word → more support coming in → → → → → → → →
- ❖ 100% positive ☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️
- ❖ many more, ...

# Under the Metro Line, ROHINI



# Under the Metro Line, ROHINI





# At Azadpur Sabji Mandi



# At Azadpur Sabji Mandi



# At Azadpur Sabji Mandi



# LG's home and the home (?) of the CityMakers at Connaught Place (CP)



At CP: The Vichitra Life goes on – in market corridors and under the NDMC truck



# Outside Bangla Sahib Gurudwara



# At Lodhi Road: 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov., 2015



Our Flag at CP flutters; while the DUSIB 24-hrs control room staff are asleep!





“Injustice any where is a threat to justice everywhere.”

- Dr. (Rev.) Martin Luther King, Jr.

“We should cultivate boundless love to offer to all living beings in the entire cosmos. Let our boundless love pervade the whole universe, above, below, and across. Our love will know no obstacles, our heart will be absolutely free from hatred and enmity. ”

- Buddha (Translated by Thich Nhat Hanh. 2004. Teachings on Love. New Delhi: Full Circle, p. 12.)

“Everyone listens to the complaints of the powerful people, no one listens to the implorings of the weak.”

- Premchand (Algyojha)

**“They have everything given by God,  
but nothing given by man [Human  
Beings].”**

**-Manik Khanna**

Class IX A, Blue Bells International School, New Delhi,  
in 2000 (wrote this after the sensitisation session on  
homeless –  
in *The Capital's Homeless*, p. xvi.)

# Publications

Before 2000, just one

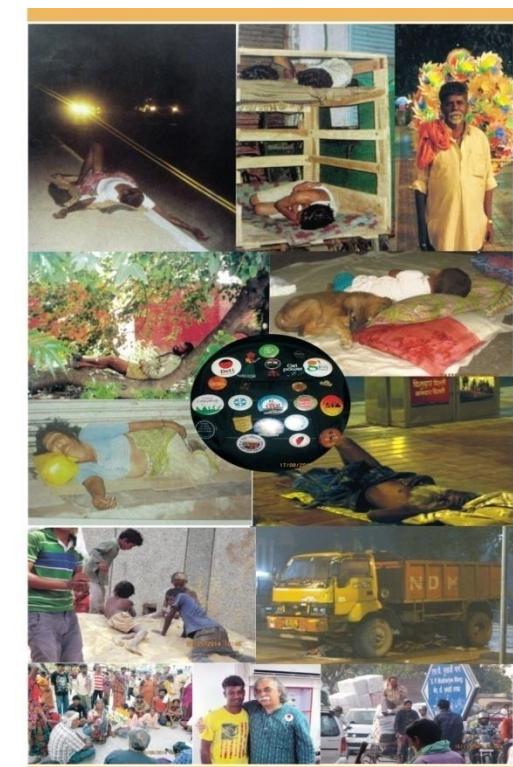
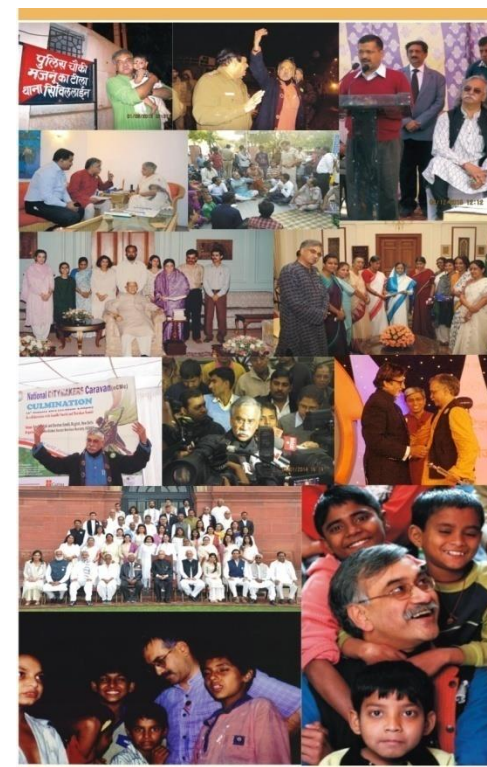
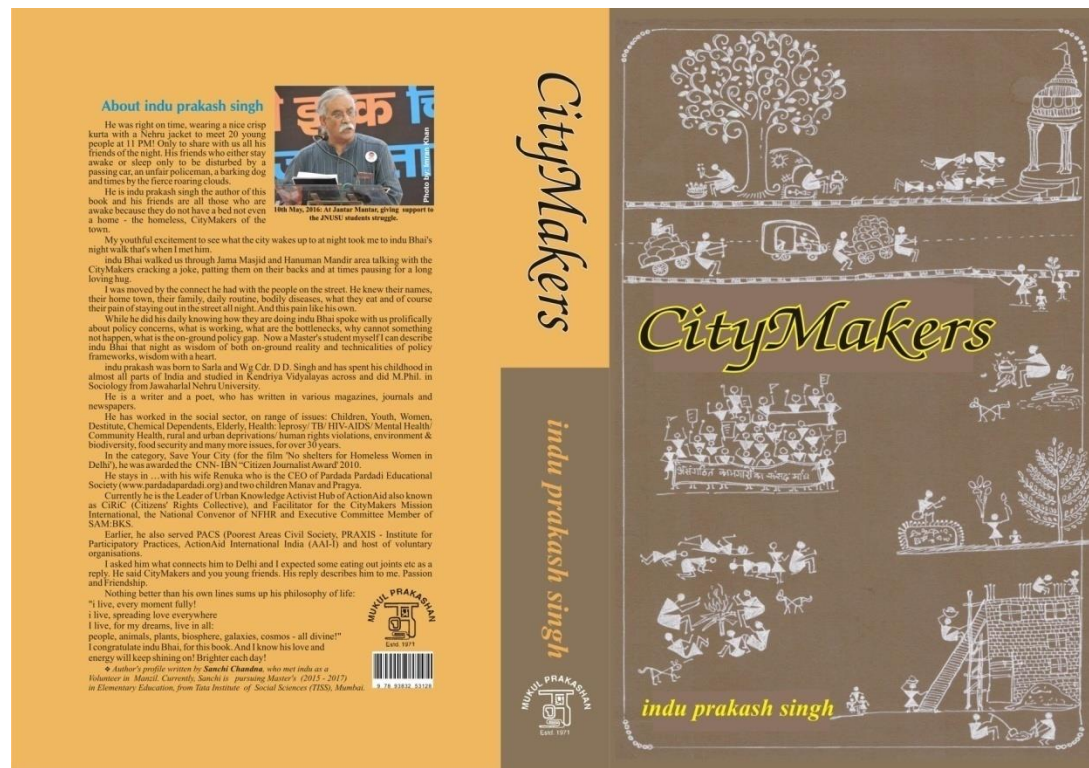
After 2000 till date:

Over 30+ books / documents

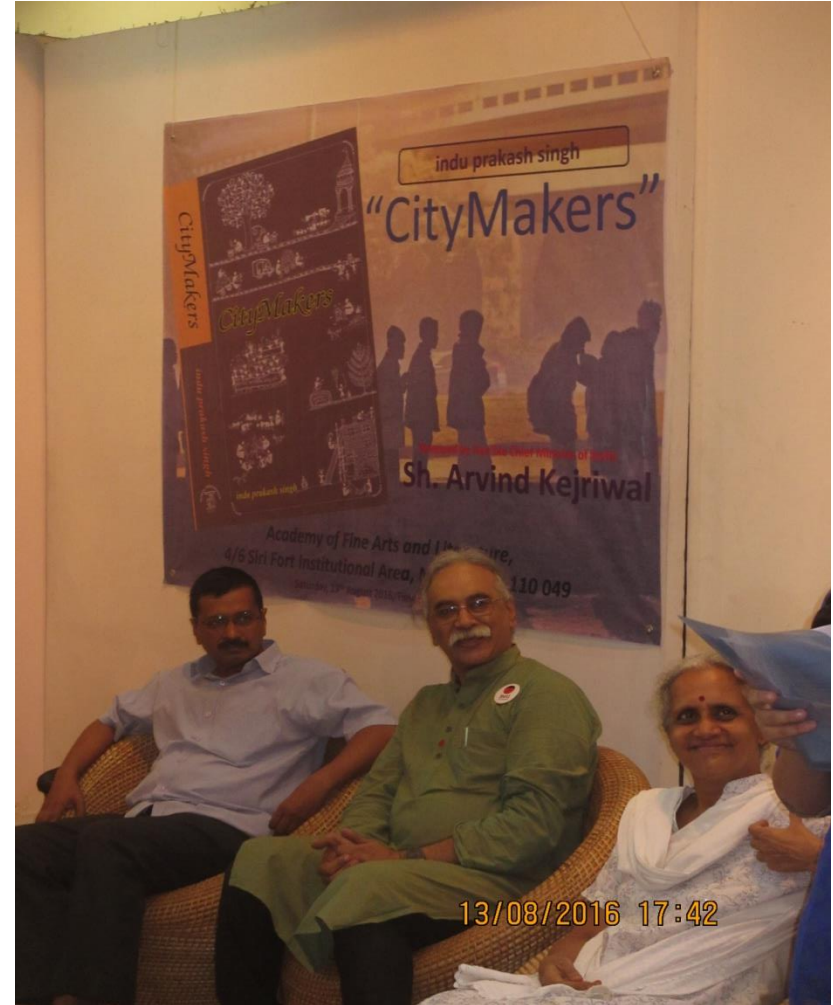
Over 10000 write-ups/ interviews/ articles/ media stories / comics / paintings / plays/ documentaries/

Feature Film on its way, First book capturing the work since 1999, will be released in 2016 ...

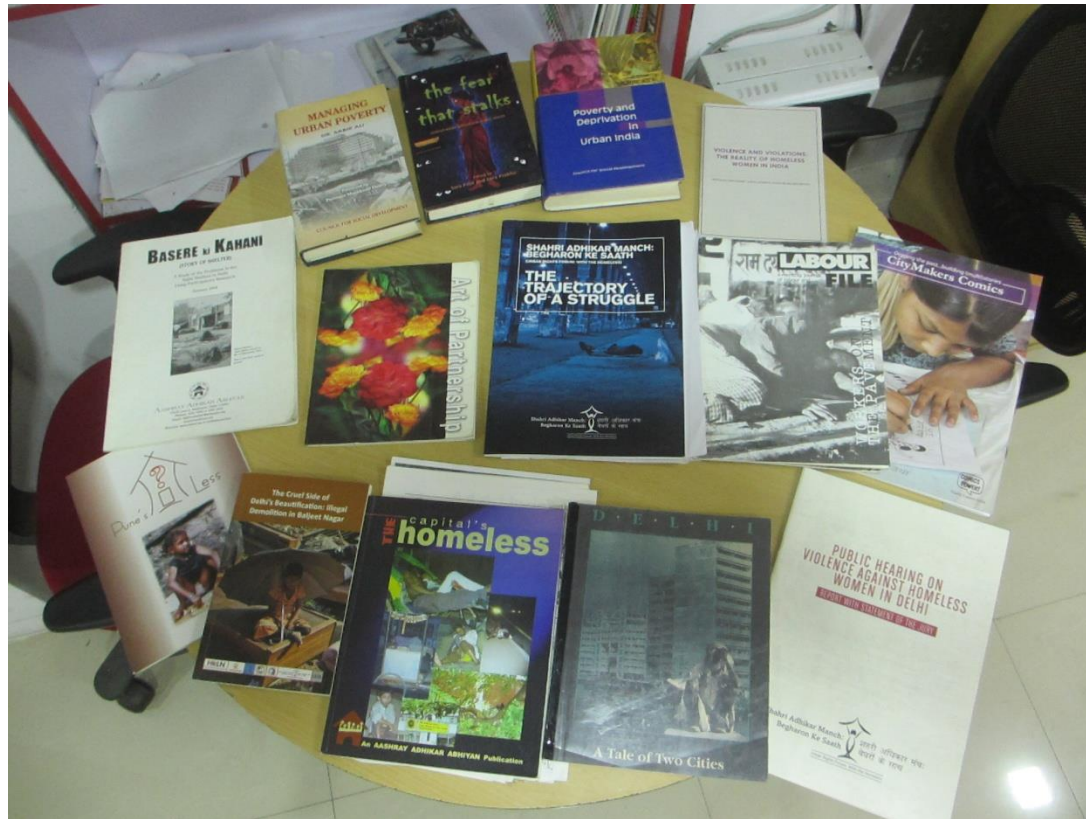
# CityMakers: Tribulations & Triumphs – A Saga of Historic Struggle of the Homeless Residents of India



# The Book **CityMakers** was released by the Delhi Chief Minister, Shri Arvind Kejriwal on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug., 2016



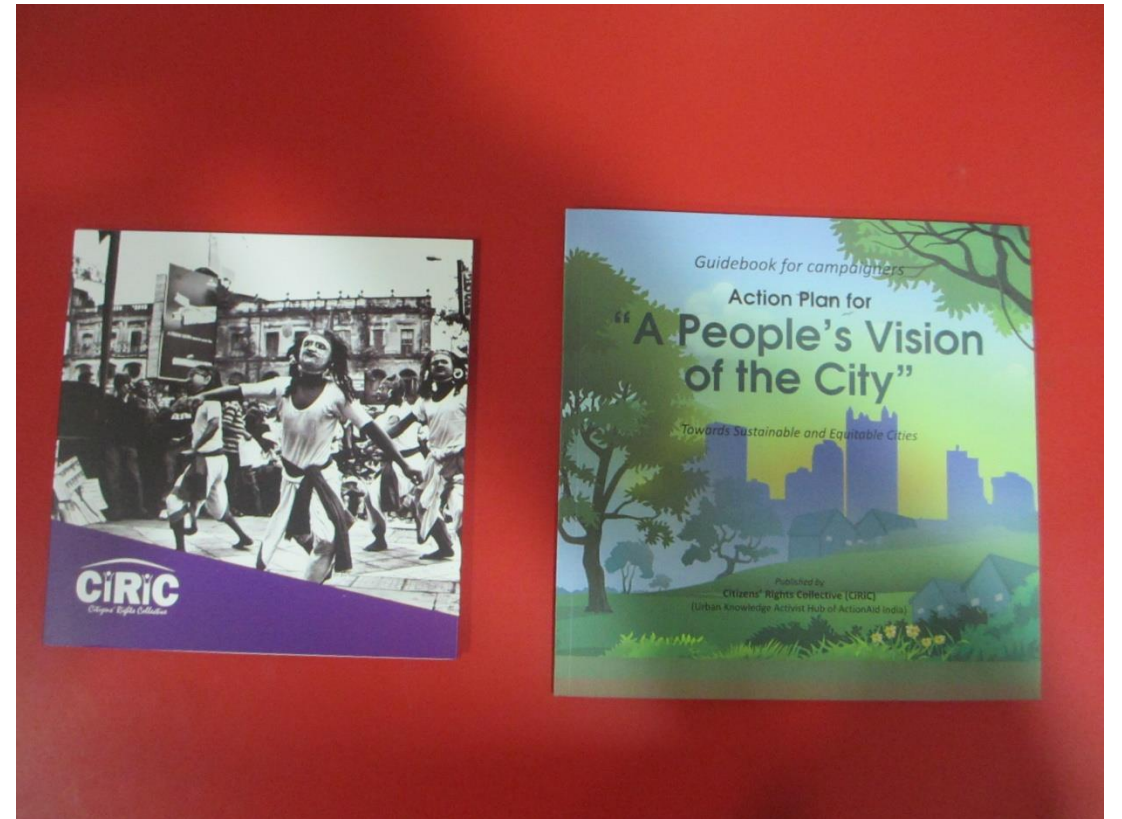
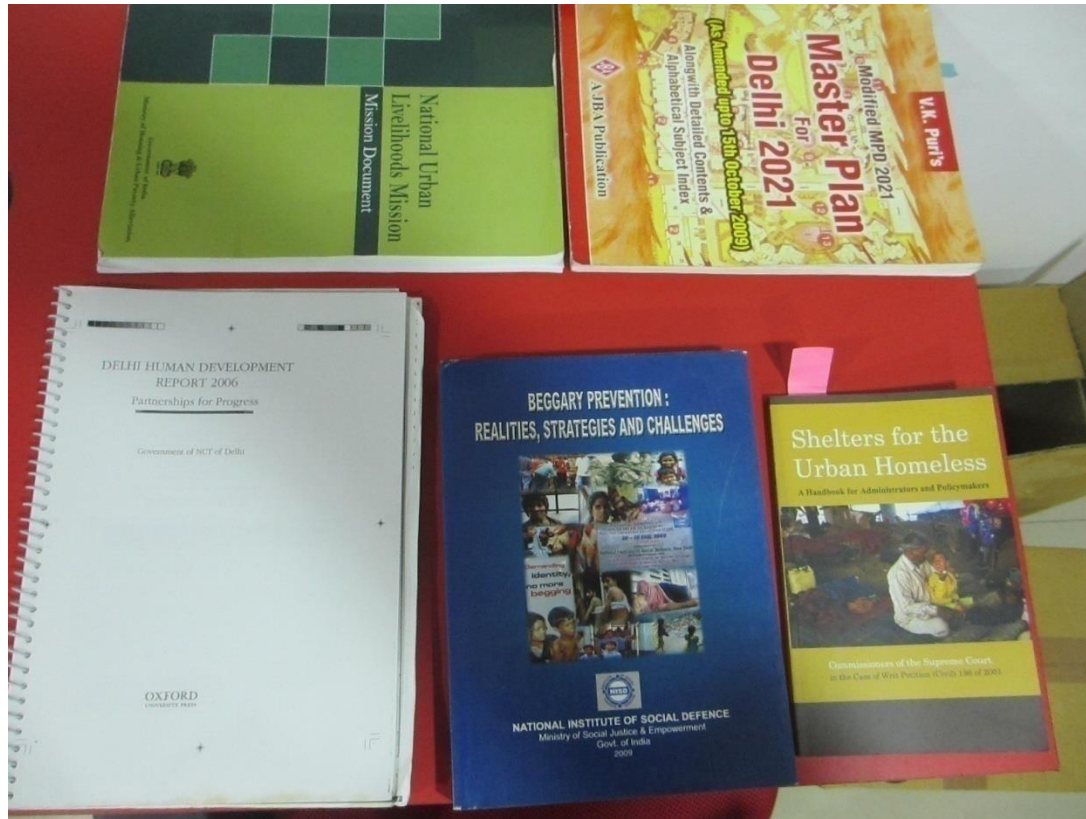
# From Houseless to Homeless to CityMakers



Then

and

Now



**Media Links - small font.docx**



“(i) The prayer for closure of the temporary night shelters is unacceptable and, accordingly, the same stands rejected.” – Hon’ble High Court of Delhi, WP (C) 29/2010 ; Orders dated 9.8.2011 and 13.12.2011 . Cited in indu prakash singh. 2017 & 2016. *CityMakers: Tribulations & Triumphs - A Saga of Heroic Struggle of the Homeless Residents of India.* pages: 272- 3 & 280-1

**The shelter that came about due to this order**



**An activity, underway in this shelter**



“iv) There is a specific reference in the status report of the Police to a Rain Basera stated to have been constructed by Shakti Shalini NGO. The exact status of this Rain Basera is not stated in the status report, i.e. as to whether it is set up with the prior permission of the concerned authority or not. If the same has a valid subsisting permission from the concerned authority, then only it will not be subjected to any coercive step as envisaged in the order as above.”  
The Hon’ble High Court of Delhi, W P (C) 7955/2015: 19.10.2015

## On 18.5.2017: DDA Demolished the shelter



## Children and women were in daze!



# Our postings on FB & Twitter

- On 2017: 27<sup>th</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155132252825218?pnref=story>
  - On 2017: 24<sup>th</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155116782040218?pnref=story>
  - On 2017: 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155112302305218?pnref=story>
  - On 2017: 21<sup>st</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155107705580218?pnref=story>
  - On 2017: 20<sup>th</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155103764480218>
  - On 2017: 19<sup>th</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155102451325218?pnref=story>
  - On 2017: 18<sup>th</sup> May  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155098926785218?pnref=story>
- Aditi Malik's Petition on Change.org:** [https://www.change.org/p/dda-rebuild-nizamuddin-s-women-andchildrenshelter?recruiter=612247562&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=share\\_email\\_responsive](https://www.change.org/p/dda-rebuild-nizamuddin-s-women-andchildrenshelter?recruiter=612247562&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive)
- Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/induprakashsin1/status/866321050954485760>  
<https://twitter.com/induprakashsin1/status/865771853553451008>  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155103798110218?pnref=story>  
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<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155101168400218?pnref=story>  
<https://www.facebook.com/induprakashsingh/posts/10155101073205218?pnref=story>

# Representations made: Actions Nil!



 सत्यमेव जयते

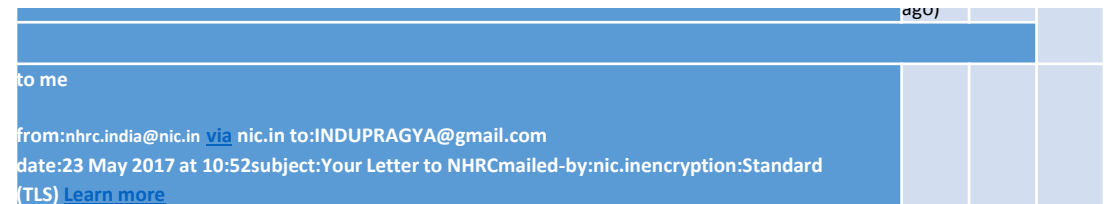
**Listening Post of  
Lt. Governor, Delhi**

[Home](#)

Grievance No. : 20172304

Please Note your Grievance No. for future reference:

NHRC has received your letter regarding indu prakash singh. The Diary No. is : 75863/CR/2017. You may use this Diary Number for future reference.



to me

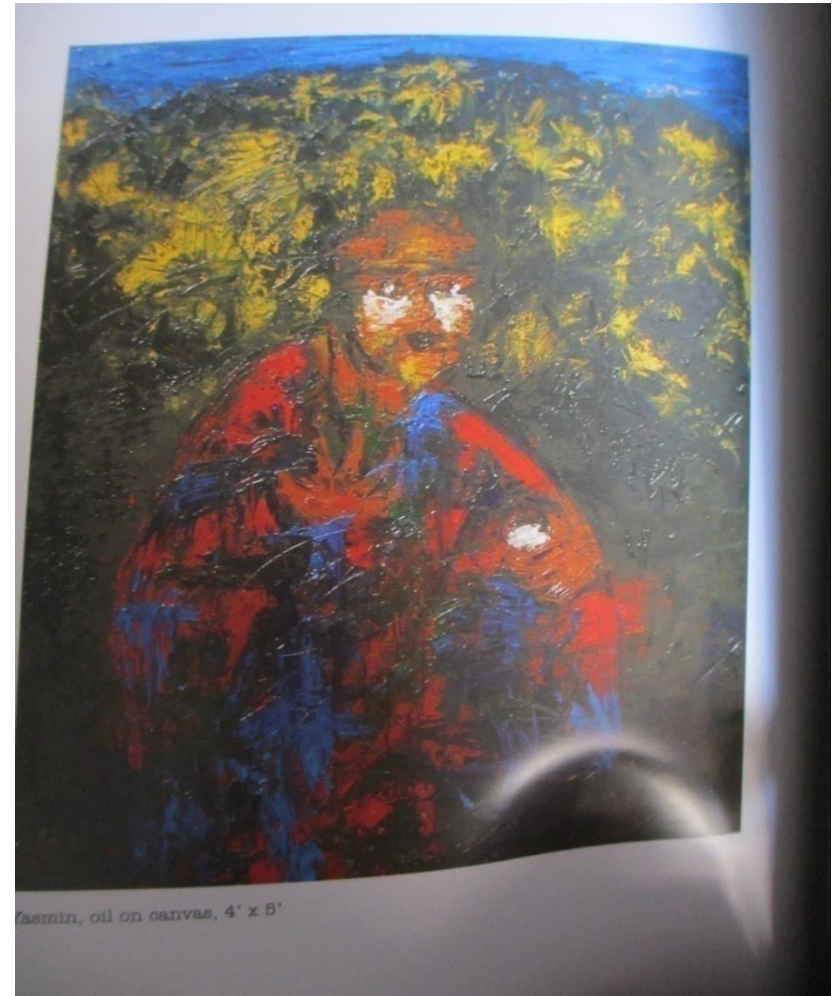
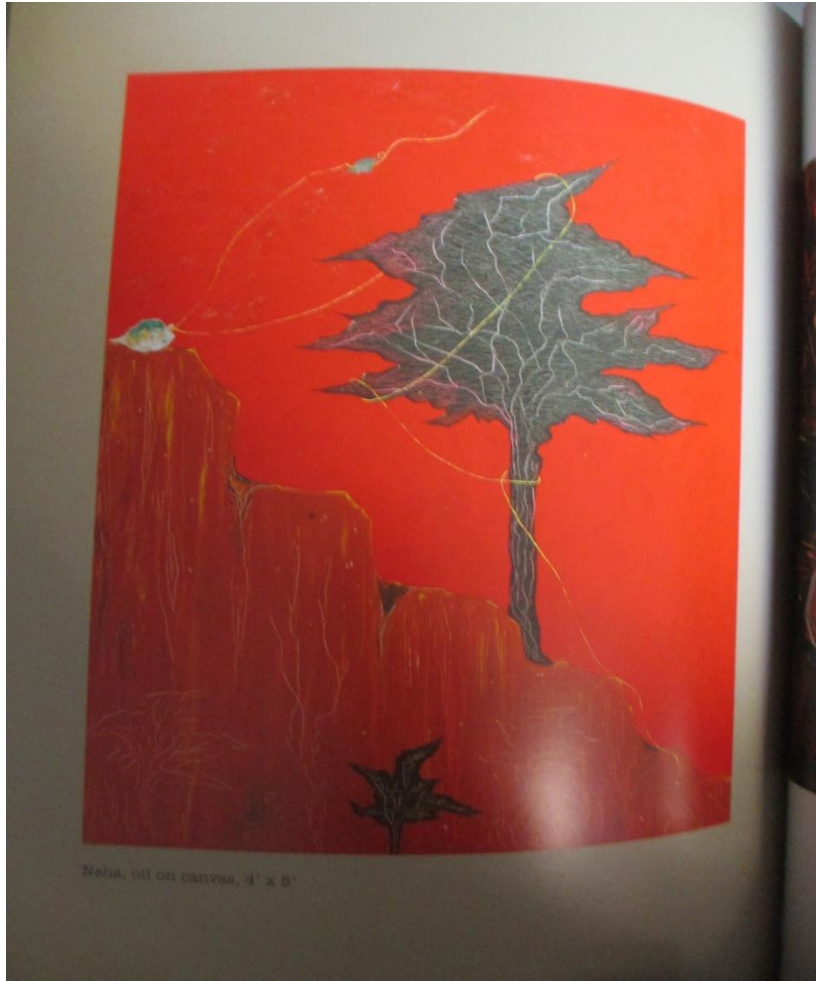
from:nhrc.india@nic.in via nic.in to:INDUPRAGYA@gmail.com  
date:23 May 2017 at 10:52subject:Your Letter to NHRCmailed-by:nic.inencryption:Standard (TLS) [Learn more](#)

## CHICAGO RESOLUTION

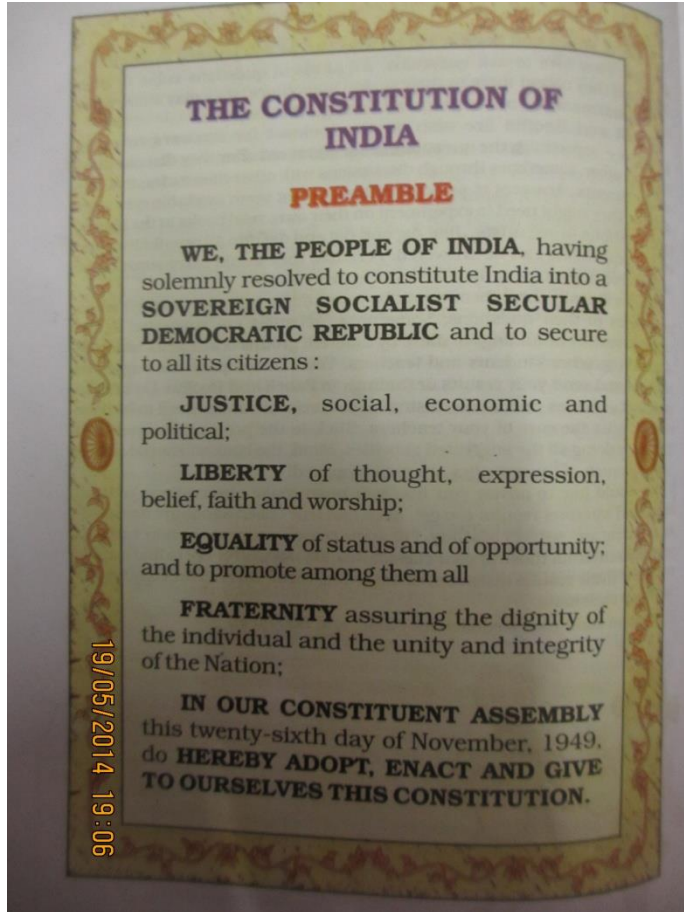
WE, the delegates at the second biennial International Conference of Institute of Global Homelessness, “**Ending Street Homelessness in Your City**”, 5-6th June, 2017 in Chicago; are deeply disturbed and shocked on knowing that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished a Homeless Shelter, put up and continued, on the Orders of the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi on 18th May, 2017. No orders of demolition were served on the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD), which created this shelter from its funds, from the taxes of residents of Delhi, since 2011.

Over 100 women and children have been rendered homeless. We condemn the demolition of this shelter and demand a permanent shelter as ordered by the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi, in WP (C) 29 / 2010, dated 9.8.2011 and 13.12.2011.

# The HOPE!



# Justice, Liberty, Equality, Sorority – Fraternity For ALL!







ZindAbad! (Long Live and Thrive)

ZindAbad Shahr(City),

ZindAbad Gaon (Village),

ZindAbad Vishwa (World),

ZindAbad, ZindAbad!

BETI (Daughter) ZindAbad!

“Zindabad Shahr:  
A city, wherein resides:  
LIFE, EQUITY, JUSTICE, DIGNITY, JOY, FREEDOM,  
TRUTH, HONESTY, all RIGHTS ....

CityMakers (Nagar/ Shahr Nirmata) Zindabad!

**CityMakers Mission International, Zindabad!”**

(indu prakash singh. 2017 & 2016. CityMakers. New Delhi. Mukul Prakashan, p. vi)

ZINDABAD SHAHR , ZINDABAD AMERICA, ZINDABAD  
CHICAGO, ZINDABAD CityMakers!

<https://www.facebook.com/zindabad.shahar/>