Chapter 16

CONCLUSION
The urban population of India has witnessed a rise from about 24 percent in the year 1981 to approximately 28% in 2001 as per the Census of India reports dated 1991 and 2001. Scholars predict that by the time the year 2020 sets in, more than fifty percent of the Indian population would be residing in urban rather than rural areas. It is the large urban centers that have experienced a huge demographic growth as opposed to the smaller settlements. As the population continues to rise steadily cities find themselves unable to manage the pressures of industrial development on the one hand and the growth of the service economy on the other. Addressing the basic needs of those who live below the poverty line such as proper sanitation, housing as well as other social services is not possible either. A long term framework for planning is needed in order to be able to cope with such a problem in a successful manner. Cities are very often faced with problems such as inadequate infrastructure, inadequate investment, the absence of adequate lands for housing and inadequate service levels. Lengthy procedures, legal systems and the incapacity on the part of local bodies to take effective measures is making it more and more difficult to confront problems that are faced by urban centers.

Cities are often perceived to be under the protection of the state government rather than as entities of their own. Cities are unable to for the most part, look within and build on their innate capacities both technical and financial. While cities are normally equipped with both technical and financial measures, there is a pressing need for the introduction of government related reforms that can help cities to identify the financial and human needs that are necessary in order to improve service delivery. The central government of India, against such a background has come up with the JNNURM or the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. This is an urban based program meant to facilitate capacity building measures in cities in order to make for better urban management.
This is a program that mainly targets neglected cities that are willing to undergo time bound reforms in order to improve quality of life and basic infrastructure, which is at present falling short of international standards. As much as a hundred thousand crores has been approved by the JNNURM for this purpose. Sixty three cities are covered by this project with this starting from as early as 2005-2006. The mission aims at covering as many as thirty cities that have a population of over one million people. The balance is going to prove to be quite crucial for urban centers where the infrastructure is on the verge of decay and where the population is of a sizeable magnitude. The smaller cities fall within the purview of the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme meant for medium sized and small towns as well as the integrated Housing and Slum Development Program.

The report attempts to address all the problems that have been created as a result of outdated systems, procedures and laws and to align these with the present day needs of Indian towns and cities. Its purpose is to do away with all the statutes that impose restrictions on housing and land markets and bring about improvements that will make city level institutions financially viable and strong.

The objective of this research lies in giving cities and towns and urban centers in general the incentive to undertake fiscal, structural and institutional changes that maybe necessary to bring about improvements in the system of service delivery, a system which is sustainable, which takes care of poverty and which enhances the performance of the local economy.

Several mandatory state and city level reforms are required in order for the following objectives to be achieved:

• E governance applications that can bring about great efficiency in the system of service delivery.
• Development of an efficient, equitable and a well-founded land market.

• Financially self-sustained agencies that can contribute to improved service delivery systems and urban management through reforms in some major revenue instruments.

• A city wide network that is meant for governance and planning and which is established as well as operational.

• All residents of urban areas having easy and quick access to the most basic of urban services

• Transparent and modern accounting, budgeting and financial systems that are adopted and designed for all governance functions and urban services.

The twin focus lies in

A) An improvement in urban infrastructure
B) An improvement in the rendition of basic services at the urban levels.

Governance reforms should act as a catalyst for such focus to move in a forward direction.

The above report therefore attempts to create a focused and sustainable city development plan through research for the city of Kanpur, in order to bring about an improvement in the quality of life in the city and which can help in giving Kanpur the status of a world class city someday.