

# **The resurgence of urban India: urban renewal & slum reform for the State of Delhi**

## **Abstract**

Political considerations, bureaucratic inertia, ideological differences, and most importantly – financial constraints, have created a situation where effective slum reform has floundered. This paper puts forth the argument that a successful slum reform and urban renewal program should consist of five elements – (1) Resource availability, (2) Location and commuteability, (3) Willingness of stakeholders to participate, (4) Credibility of government promises, and (5) sustainability. The paper concentrates on the city-state of Delhi and presents an action plan (APSARA) that is likely to be acceptable to all stakeholders. The operational details of the plan are such that all the five elements are accounted for. More importantly it shows that resources are not a constraint if innovative means are used. It involves converting the currently squatter occupied land to commercial or residential land, and auctioning it. The resources generated from this are more than adequate for relocating squatters, providing them basic amenities, **and** providing them with frequent, and affordable, public transport. The estimates show that even after these investments there is likely to be a significant left over surplus that could be used for other urban development activities.