

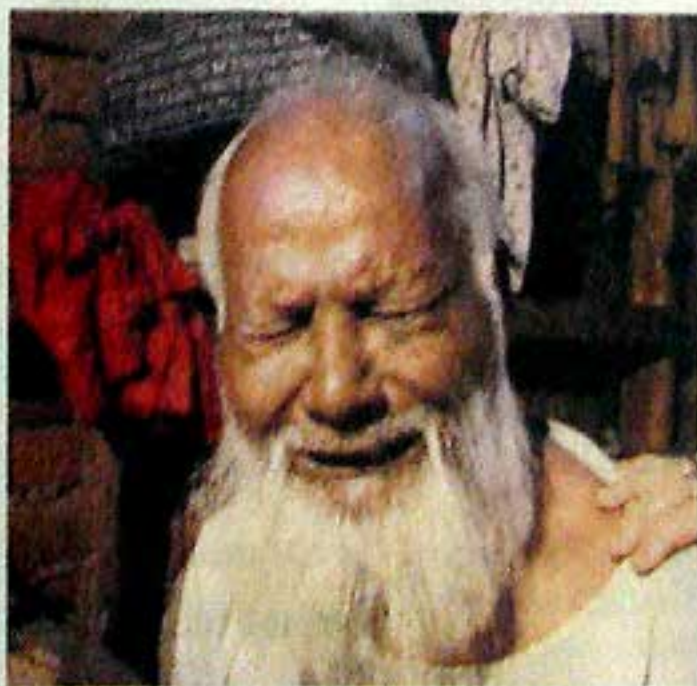
# 'Yamuna Gently Weeps'

**EVENT** Demolition of the biggest slum in Delhi is the theme of the documentary, 'Yamuna Gently Weeps', to be screened in the city

**D**esign & People are screening 'Yamuna Gently Weeps: A Journey Into the Yamuna Pushta Slum Demolitions' - a documentary film by Ruzbeh N Bharucha. Cine director Sibi Malayil will inaugurate the event at the Lumiere Hotel, opposite Andhra Cultural Centre, 11th Main Road, Panampilly Nagar on July 7, Saturday at 6:30pm. Entrance is Free.

## World within world

'Yamuna Gently Weeps' is the story of one of the biggest and oldest slums in Delhi called Yamuna Pushta. It was a chain of 22 slums, located on a three kilometre stretch along the Yamuna River. A world within a world existed in Yamuna Pushta. Schools, medical and healthcare centres, self-help groups, shops, restaurants, crèches, small businesses and various social organisations, worked closely with the community, bringing about immense positive change in the lives of the residents. Between late February and early May 2004, about 40,000 houses in Yamuna Pushta were demolished. More than 1, 20,000 people were left to the mercy of the cruel streets, says the documentary. Just 20 percent of the families whose homes were demol-



## HEARTRENDING One of the displaced

ished, were rehabilitated 40 kilometres away from the main city and civilization, onto a barren piece of land in Bawana, where there was no proper sanitation, no medical facility, pathetic water supply, no electricity, and worst of all, no scope of earning one's livelihood. Ruzbeh N Bharucha, journalist, author and documentary film maker, takes the viewer into the lives of the poor families, whose past, present and future are brutally demolished. Through interviews with slum-dwellers and politicians, eminent town planners, environmental-

ists and activists, as well as through the eyes of those who lost it all, Ruzbeh tells a heartrending tale, of tears, courage and determination. And most importantly, brings to light, the hollowness of the system. Design & People identify how design can intervene to make a contribution to the on-going efforts to improve the lives of people disadvantaged by war, disability, and political and environmental conditions. They unite and encourage graphic, industrial and architectural designers in India to use their experience and skills towards social and humanitarian projects. Ruzbeh has also scripted and directed a documentary called 'I Believe I Can Fly'.

The documentary gives a glimpse about life of mothers and their children in Indian prisons and the role of India Vision Foundation, an NGO, headed by Dr. Kiran Bedi, which focuses mainly on Prison reform.

Yamuna Gently Weeps, has been invited for screening at various international human rights film festivals. 'Yamuna Gently Weeps, a 300-page book with heart-wrenching photographs and interviews with slum dwellers, politicians, renowned town planners, environmentalists and activists, was released in August 2006.