

## FOREWORD

Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow was established by the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India, in January 1968. The Centre is operational in seven states of India, covering Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, & Uttarakhand. The Centre is working in the field of Urban Administration, Urban Management & Urban Development in the above mentioned seven States. In those states, the Centre conducts training and capacity building programmes for the Officials & Elected Representatives of the Urban Local Bodies and other parastatals. Apart from this the Centre also undertakes Research, provides Consultancy and maintains Data Bank on urban issues. The Centre also implements, monitors and evaluates and provides training under different projects in collaboration with various International Organizations. The Centre is one of the National Resource Centres on Urban Poverty Alleviation and Nodal Resource Centre under SJSRY & USHA. Under this banner the Govt. of India has allotted 16 states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh) for organizing Capacity Development Programmes.

India is the second largest populous country in the world. Approximately thirty percent of the population resides in the urban India while their contribution to the GDP accounts for more than sixty percent. The population of India has increased more than two and a half times, while in population in urban areas has increased more than four times in the last fifty years. Due to increasing population pressure in the urban areas the condition of basic civic services is deteriorating day by day.

Bihar is the third populous state in the country and a little more than one-tenth of its population lives in urban areas. The urban population of the state has increased more than four times in last fifty years. Bihar has 138 Urban Local Bodies (11 Nagar Nigams, 43 Nagar Palika Parishads and 84 Nagar Panchayats). The statistical data relating to urban local bodies has an important role to play in research and implementation of various governmental programmes and policies.

As a part of its academic responsibilities, the Centre has prepared this Booklet by compiling the statistics related to Bihar. I am sure it will be of immense help in policy formulation at different levels.

With best wishes,

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Lucknow.  
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