

# PREFACE

The modern municipal government in urban units is essentially a creation and legacy of British rule. It was imported in India by Britishers from their own land. However, it is said that the origin of local self-government had very deep roots in ancient India. On the basis of historical records, excavations and archaeological investigations, it is believed that some form of local self-government did exist in the remote past. Madras was the first city to have a local government established under a charter, dated December 30, 1687, issued by the Company. The Municipality came into existence on September 29, 1688.

The United Provinces Municipalities Act of 1916 (which replaced the Act of 1900) is a landmark in the development of city government in U.P.

After independence the U.P. Government took a decision to set-up Municipal Corporation in five big cities of Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow, popularly known as KAVAL Towns. As a result, the state of U.P. adopted a new Act for Municipal Corporation in 1959.

Following the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, the Government of Uttar Pradesh adopted the needed conformity legislation and brought U.P. Local Self Government Laws (Amendment) Act, 1994, which come into force w.e.f. 31.05.1994. U.P. had three Acts concerning ULBs namely, U.P. Municipal Corporation Act, 1959. U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, and U.P. Town Area Act, 1914, As per 1994 (Amendment) Act, the U.P. Town Area Act, 1914 has been repealed. Presently U.P. has three types of urban local bodies viz. Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation), Nagar Palika Parishad (Municipal Councils) and Nagar Panchayat (Transitional Area). In the spirit of 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment the state of Uttar Pradesh took many steps to implement the system of democratic governance in Urban Local Bodies. The enactment has changed the scenario and injected a new life in these grass root urban institutions. These institutions have been made more democratic and their representative character broadened by way of providing representation to the weaker sections of the society and women.

Uttar Pradesh is spread over an area of 2,43,286 square kilometers with a population of 166,197,921, the state constitutes 16.17 percent of the total population of the country, the literacy rate of the state is 56.26 percent. Being agrarian in character, villages (97,134) far outnumber urban units (627) in the state. As per Census 2001, every fifth person in the state is residing in Urban Areas. Presently constituting 20.78 percent of population in urban areas in the state. Concurrent with the growth in urban population, number of urban settlements in the state has increased from 293 in 1971 to 659 in 1981 and further to 702 in 1991. In 2001 total urban centers in the state were recorded as 708 (including 66 census towns & 13 cantonment boards). In addition to being the most populous state in the country Uttar Pradesh enjoys the status of having the second largest number of urban local bodies in the country.

This handbook covers statistical analyses all Urban Local Bodies of Uttar Pradesh. The information has been collected, analyzed and consolidated in this handbook which would serve as a reference book for the policy makers, Urban Local Bodies, other stakeholders and citizens in general. The handbook aims to provide a general statistical overview of the urban local bodies of Uttar Pradesh. We hope that the readers would find this handbook useful.

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