

# PREFACE

Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000, as the 27<sup>th</sup> state of India. Uttarakhand is spread over an area of 53,484 sq. km. It is ranked at 18<sup>th</sup> place and its share is 1.69 percent of the area of the country. As per 2001 census, this newly created state contributes 0.82 percent to the total population of the country. It stands at 20<sup>th</sup> place among State and Union Territories in terms of population. The population of Uttarakhand at the 2001 census come to 84,79,562, comprising 43,16,401 male and 41,63,161 female. The density of population in the state is 159 per sq.km. The literacy rate is 72.28 percent. The state consists of 13 District covering two administrative division, Garhwal and Kumaon.

As per Census 2001 Uttarakhand has total 63 Urban Local Bodies (1 Nagar Nigam, 32 Nagar Palika Parishad and 30 Nagar Panchayat), presently constituting 25.59 percent of population in urban areas in the state, Decennial growth of urban population in 1991 to 2001 is 32.81 percent which is less then the population of 1981 to 1991 which was 42.20 percent. The literacy rate of urban area is 81.50 percent. The capital city Dehradun is the largest urban centre in the state. During the past 100 years (1901-2001), the population of the city has increased approximately 14 times. It was 30995 in 1901 and now it has raised upto 426674 according to census 2001. The second largest town of the state is Hardwar. The population of this city has also raised approximately 7 times in last one century.

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.

In the spirit of 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment the state of Uttarakhand 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.

This handbook covers statistical analyses all Urban Local Bodies of Uttarakhand. 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 Uttarakhand. We hope that the readers would find this handbook useful.

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