

### **A Word from Director**

I welcome all to our restructured website. To live in a clean, green, pleasant and interesting city is a dream - we all share. Our urban heritage offers great potential and also presents many obstacles to development of well managed cities. The greatest challenge faced by our urban policy makers and city administrators and managers is how to reshape the physical, functional and social fabric of our cities to make it inclusive so that increased competitiveness and livability can improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. Our country has entered the 12th Five-Year Plan period where inclusive growth and governance are viewed as the vital pillars for decentralized planning and governance as enshrined under 74th CAA.. While over the last two decades, the 74th Constitutional Amendment has accorded constitutional status to urban governments, a number of challenges remain in ensuring the success of decentralized planning and governance in the country. With the pervasive forces of globalization, liberalization and the transformation to market economy, the city governments are faced with far more complex and gigantic urban problems. To encounter the challenges, urban sector has seen remarkable initiatives / changes in the form of policies, reforms etc. during past years. A key challenge is to develop knowledge and capacities of elected representatives and functionaries of state / municipal bodies and associated parastatals and equip them adequately with relevant Acts, rules and guidelines, innovations etc. related to urban governance / services / projects etc. capacity development frameworks; technical approaches useful for good governance and good practices and learning that are emerging from around the country. Our Centre functions as a knowledge and information dissemination / exchange gateway for policy makers, planners and practitioners engaged in urban governance. It also provides a window on research, good practices, innovations, news, events and data on urban local bodies of the states that are under its functional jurisdiction. It has been our consistent endeavor that information is disseminated, knowledge is updated, capacities of city managers are built up, institutions are strengthened for attaining the ultimate aim of good governance and that the benefits continue to accrue to all concerned for the long time to come. It is my firm belief that it is the right time for all stakeholders to come together and make sincere and committed efforts to transform the future of our towns / cities for realizing safe, comfortable and sustainable cities in which people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Valuable suggestions from all are welcome to improve upon our ventures.

Regards,

Director