Foreword

During the ancient times, ‘Prisons’ were considered as a ‘House of Captives’ where the prisoners were held for deterrent and retributory punishment. Determined and sustained efforts of the thinkers and human right activists in this field led to progressive transformation of the concept of ‘deterrence and retribution’ into ‘reformation and rehabilitation’. Therefore, under the modern correctional philosophy prisons are now considered as correctional institutions where the prisoners are sent after punishment for their reformation and rehabilitation.

Prisons have now been considered as a ‘community’, reflecting the multifaceted socio-cultural, socio-economic and socio-political scenario of the society as a whole. Prisoners of all sections of society are confined in prisons and conscious efforts are being made to provide such conditions to the prisoners in prisons as are conducive to their physical as well as mental treatment and care, and to maintain their human dignity, as also visualized by our father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi had visualized crime and prisons in therapeutical context and observed that ‘Crime is the outcome of a disease mind and jail must have an environment of hospital for their treatment and care’. This principle has become a State Policy in India and efforts have all along been made to protect all basic rights of prisoners to maintain their human dignity during the period of their incarceration.

In view of this, the main objective of the prison administration is to make prison a safe place by maintaining the required level of security and discipline and to make the best use of prison stay period for reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners by providing them basic minimum facilities in consistent with their human dignity. In India, prison is State subject. Thus, States have the primary role, responsibility and authority w. r. t. prison laws, rules and regulations. Moreover, the judiciary and union executive keep constant and close scrutiny over prison management since long with a view to make it more transparent and humane.
The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, has been compiling and disseminating comprehensive compendium of statistical information related to various aspects of prison inmates and prison administration since 1995. The present publication, "Prison Statistics India 2012", is the eighteenth in the series of annual publication. This publication contains twelve chapters which covers different aspects like Prison institutions, Inmate population and overcrowding in prisons, Type of prison inmates, Distribution of convicts and undertrials under IPC and SLL crimes, Demographic particulars of inmates, Period of detention of undertrials, Period of sentences, Vocational training, Jail inspections and visits, Strength and Training of jail officials and Prison budget and expenditure along with graphs, tables and maps. However, brief contents of the report are summarised in ‘Snapshots’. It is hoped that this report would meet the requirements of the legislators, Central & State/UT Governments, policy makers, prison administrators, researchers, criminologists, media and other stakeholders.

I express my gratitude to the Directors General/ Inspectors General of Prisons of States/UTs for sending validated data timely. The timely of publication of this annual report is of paramount importance in preserving the relevance and utility of the information that this report provides. Hence, I request the Directors General/ Inspectors General of Prisons of all States/UTs to take personal interest in the matter so that the complete data reaches us expeditiously by the end of April every year. In the context of capacity-building, needs of the Prison departments of the States/UTs, NCRB, like previous years, will conduct training programmes to impart the requisite knowledge and skills to the personnel dealing with data compilation at the State/UT level this year also.

I also take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the sustained hard work put in by the officers and staff of the Statistical Branch of the Bureau in coordinating with the Prison Departments of the States/UTs and bringing out this report.

It is our continuous endeavour to enrich the content and presentation of this report. I request the readers to be our partners in our enterprise by sending their suggestions and inputs in the feedback form attached at the end of this report.

(Shafi Alam)

New Delhi
30th August, 2013