Foreword

I consider it my proud duty to release the 48th edition of the report 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India, 2014', an annual publication of National Crime Records Bureau since the year 1967.

The primary aim of this compendium is to fulfill the data requirements of various stakeholders in the domain of natural & un-natural accidents, traffic accidents and suicides statistics. Over the years, this report has become an important reference document on accidents & suicides statistics in our country as a large number of precious human lives are lost every year due to these reasons. As per the latest statistics, 52 persons died every hour in various accidents during 2014. The major causes of accidental deaths were 'Traffic accidents' 'Drowning', 'Lightning', 'Heart Attacks', 'Accidental Fire', 'Falls', 'Drowning' and 'Poisoning'. Similarly, nearly one lakh persons (1,31,666 in 2014) are committing suicides every year. 'Family problems' and 'Illness' are the most prominent causes of suicides in general whereas 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' happens to be the major cause of suicides by farmers. This report will indeed be of immense use to all stakeholders in analysing various aspects relating to accidents and suicides in India. Needless to add, this analysis will facilitate formulation of an effective strategy to prevent loss of human resources on account of accidents and suicides.

In order to capture more information, the Bureau has revised the proformae by incorporating the data needs of various agencies in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi. Thus, data for this edition have been collected through 24 newly developed proformae from SCRBs/CID of all States/UTs and 53 Mega Cities (City having population of 10 lakh or more); in earlier editions, data
was being captured in 12 proformae. Therefore, compared to two chapters in the last edition, the present edition has five chapters, namely 'Accidents in India', 'Traffic Accidents', 'Suicides in India', 'Farmers' Suicides' and 'Accidents & Suicides in Central Armed Police Forces'.

I commend the efforts of our Statistical Branch, Software Development Team for having successfully developed a new user-friendly software for collection of data in the revised 24 proformae used in this report. This new software has facilitated data entry in a multilingual format both at police station and district level. All validation and consistency checks have been incorporated in this software which reduces the time lag in publication. We are rightfully proud of this achievement and I congratulate the NCRB staff who have worked tirelessly to bring out this edition in time.

I am grateful to the State Crime Records Bureaux/CID of the States and UT Police Departments for their efforts and valuable support in sending the validated and consistent data under the revised formats within the timeframe. Since the new proformae and software are now fully in place and comprehended, we will appreciate if the validated and consistent data for the year 2015 is sent by February, 2016 so as to ensure the publication of the next edition by March, 2016.

I also take this opportunity to apprise the readers of the fact that due to constraint of cost and size, only limited data have been published under this publication. The remaining is published separately in 'Additional Table for ADSI' on our website http://ncrb.gov.in under publication link. Besides, the historical data on crime statistics in an open format are also being uploaded on national data portal on an annual basis. An external link of the same has been given on our website under 'NCRB on Data Portal'.

We are confident that this annual publication of the NCRB would meet the requirements and expectations of the policy makers, traffic administrators, media, NGOs, general public and government offices. We would be obliged if the readers could send their inputs and suggestions to us in the feedback form attached at the end of this report for enhancing the content as well as the quality of this publication.

(Archana Ramasundaram)