FOREWORD

'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' is an annual report brought out by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). This report contains comprehensive data on a range of aspects of deaths due to accidents and suicides. The present edition, which pertains to the year 2011, is the 45th in the series which started in 1967.

Accidents and Suicides have been claiming a large number of human lives every year in our country. These accidents include both – accidents attributable to nature and accidents due to human error. These phenomena and related trends are a cause of concern to every stakeholder, especially to policy makers primarily for two reasons. Firstly, the government is committed to improving the living conditions of the populace, and secondly the loss of lives has a profound and traumatic effect on the society at large.

An exhaustive database covering a variety of parameters is a sine qua non for any meaningful and serious academic probe or policy oriented research for evolving apposite intervention strategies/measures and macro level policies. This publication proves useful in this respect by furnishing an in depth information on accidental deaths and suicides. This publication covers data on accidental deaths due to causes attributable to nature – such as ‘Avalanche’, ‘Cyclone/ Tornado’, ‘Earthquake’, ‘Flood’, ‘Landslide’, ‘Torrential Rains’, ‘Cold & Exposure’, ‘Starvation/Thirst’, ‘Heatstroke’ & ‘Lightning’. The data on accidental deaths not attributable to nature covers ‘Explosion’, ‘Fire’, ‘Air Crash’, ‘Collapse of Structure’, ‘Drowning’, ‘Poisoning’, ‘Sudden Deaths’, ‘Stampede’ and ‘Traffic Accidents’. In particular, ‘month-wise’ data on occurrence of traffic accidents and ‘time slot of the day’ when traffic accidents have occurred provide a wealth of information for the concerned stakeholders.
I am sure the policy makers, police leadership at various levels, transport departments, road safety professionals, researchers, academia, media, NGOs and other stakeholders would find this report enormously useful as it fulfills a wide variety of data requirements of the stakeholders. Over a period of time, this report has become a reference book on the subject.

I am grateful to the heads of State Police, UTs and Mega Cities for making publication of this report possible by their cooperation in providing the data to us within the stipulated timeframe. We have been striving to reduce the time-lag in publishing this report as much as possible but it can be done only with the cooperation of States/UTs. Very shortly when our project ‘Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System’ is rolled out, the future issues will come out almost immediately after the completion of the year.

I also take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the sincere efforts of the officers and staff of the Statistical Branch of the NCRB who have toiled hard to bring out this report as per stipulated timeline. The Inspector General (Administration & Training) Sri Nasir Kamal and the Chief Statistical Officer (CSO) worked tirelessly to keep the timeline. I commend their efforts.

Considering the usefulness of this data and in order to cater to the requirements of the users of our data in a better manner, we have digitized all the previous editions of the publication and made them available on our website http://ncrb.gov.in. This highlights our commitment to make the available data easily accessible to members of the public.

I would appreciate if the readers could kindly send their suggestions to us in the feedback form attached at the end of this report to further perk up the content and quality of the publication.

27th June, 2012
New Delhi

(Shafi Alam)