This report presents data on human fatality occurring in the most unfortunate circumstances namely accidents and by suicides in India during 1996. This is the 30th report in the series bringing out the nature and causes of inopportune deaths in broader perspectives and by various dimensions.

2. The increasing complexities in living style have greatly influenced the behavioural pattern and also the mental attitudes of the individuals. Men and women under different socio-economic groups specially in big cities constantly undergo a variety of stresses and strains. In the absence of adequate redressal support at any critical juncture they may succumb and take recourse to ending their lives prematurely. This report endeavours to bring forth the magnitude of such calamities in our country.

3. I trust the report would provide valuable information and would serve as useful reference material to administrators, sociologists, researchers, various Govt. and non-Governmental agencies, media etc. concerned with the prevention and analysis of avoidable loss of human lives through accidents & suicides.

4. I express my sincere thanks to the Directors General of Police/Inspectors General of Police who furnished the massive and comprehensive data required for this report. The Officers and Staff of NCRB associated with the compiling of this report deserve my congratulation and appreciation.

Suggestions for its improvement and modification will be most welcome.

JULY, 1998
NEW DELHI

SHARDA PRASAD
DIRECTOR