

***Centre for
Urban Governance
& Development***

June 2009

Centre for Urban Development and Management

Setting up Regional Centre for Urban Development

The Institute proposes to setup a Regional Centre for Urban Governance and Development to cater to the needs of Punjab and the adjoining states. The centre will undertake research studies, design need-based training programmes, organize interactions among various stakeholders and document success stories on the subject. A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri D. S. Saini, MD (Retd), Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Punjab to draft a comprehensive proposal to setup the Centre. The proposal is being submitted to Ministry of Urban Development, GOI, for funding. In the meanwhile, the Department of Local Bodies has expressed interest in collaboration with the Institute in organizing management consultancy for the JNURM and allied projects of urban renewal schemes. The Institute has accordingly set up Urban Governance Resource Cells at its Regional Centers at Patiala and Jalandhar.

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Capacity Building for Urban Local Bodies

Strengthening of urban local bodies through capacity building and better financial management is identified as a key strategy for urban development in the 11th Plan. The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India has undertaken several initiatives under JNNURM and other schemes to augment the capacity of urban local bodies to implement various projects and reforms. With the passage of 74th Amendment Bill of Constitution responsibility and work load of urban local bodies have increased.

The Institute has taken up the task of capacity building, better financial management and reforms of urban local bodies in the right earnest by setting up a Cell for Management of Civil Engineering Works and a Centre for Urban Governance with regional cells at Patiala and Jalandhar.

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The Institute has made the following list of key concerns of specific capacity gaps in strengthening urban local bodies

1. Inadequate manpower and shortage of properly qualified skilled manpower
2. Lack of proper database
3. Proper planning, designing and estimation of work
4. Project Management including contract management, procurement, quality control, monitoring, completion of plans and technical audit
5. Proper Municipal services delivery, O&M, public participation and public satisfaction
6. Financial Management and proper accountancy
7. Resource mobilization through
 - a. Property Tax Reforms
 - b. Development Charges
 - c. Rationalization of user charges and cost recovery
 - d. Reforms in accountancy
 - e. Computerization and E-Governance
 - f. Encouraging public private partnership
8. Planned development of cities and towns and coordination between different development agencies
9. Improvement of personnel and institutional management skills
10. Any other area approved or desired by Punjab Government

In the first Instance, only Municipal Corporations and Class I Nagar Councils are proposed to be taken up. For reforms oriented capacity building programmes of the urban local bodies of the State, this Institute seeks guidance, suggestions and participation from all.

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