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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS
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MESSAGE

Over the last few years, the Government of India and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have led several efforts to provide a better quality of life for citizens. These efforts have materialized through various programs in sectors such as health, education, livelihoods, and infrastructure. With cities acting as engines of growth, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has undertaken several initiatives that include the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-U), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-U), Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM).

These programs align with India's commitment to **Sustainable Development Goals**. Achieving SDG targets at the city level will be paramount in fulfilling India's targets. It goes without saying that local governments will play a central role in this endeavour.

Focusing on urban development has become critical, and it has made the role of local governments more important than ever before. **The 74th Amendment Act, 1992** gave urban local bodies the status of the third-tier of government. Various functions under the 12th Schedule still do not lie under their purview because of Municipal Laws in practice in the States. It, therefore, becomes critical to decode the roles, responsibilities, and extent of power that the local municipal bodies wield.

The key enablers that influence the performance of urban local bodies can be broadly classified into five verticals- **Services, Finance, Planning, Technology, and Governance**. These are the pillars based on which the **Municipal Performance Index** has been framed. The index aims to cultivate informed policy decisions based on performance evaluation of municipalities, which would, in turn, accelerate successful development outcomes, especially pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Municipal Performance Index essentially examines how well a municipal body is functioning in respect of service delivery, financial management, efficiency of planning, the adoption of technology and governance practices.

Learnings from the index will help improve urban development efforts by guiding evidence-based policymaking at the local level and creating healthy competition between municipal bodies across the country. The Index will empower citizens by transparent disclosure of information regarding their Municipal Corporations in comparison with other Municipal bodies in the country.

(KUNAL KUMAR)

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