

## Foreword

Growth in population is one of the major determinants of economic development. In Karnataka, we have been able to maintain the growth of population in a desirable range and that has contributed to the progress of the State. We have reached a replacement rate of fertility with TFR of 2.1. However, the changes in population across the age group, gender and rural urban differentials have many hidden stories to tell. Similarly, the regional patterns in these growth indicators of population also have important implications. What have been debated in the recent past are the demographic dividends that will be visible due to the changing age composition and patterns of population growth. For Karnataka, this will have positive implications.

This study by Dr C M Lakshmana is a regional analysis tracing population growth in Karnataka up to the taluka level and enriching our understanding of the changes over the last three censuses. I am quite happy that Dr Lakshmana has covered a substantial area in terms of pattern analysis and provided rich data across the talukas and districts of Karnataka as well as some of the important states in the country. This will certainly form a rich source of information for many researchers and administrators seeking to study the various aspects of population dynamics in Karnataka and the regional patterns of population growth.

I am quite happy that Dr Lakshmana has done a substantial work to bring out this monograph and I am sure it will be of great use to those working in the policy and research arena.

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