Centres of Excellence are expected to address urban development issues at national, state, and local levels and to provide support to State and Local Governments in the following areas:

- Raising awareness of urban elected leaders, officials and community leaders ion relevant issues and possible solutions
- Understanding the legislative framework within which Urban Local Bodies function
- Deepening managerial, technical and analytical skills for improving urban administration/management
- Developing leadership skills required for working with various stakeholders namely elected representatives, media, employee unions etc. with the objective of providing a citizen centric governance
- Providing opportunity to learn from alternative systems of public management based on comparative studies of various urban local bodies in India
- Offering courses and workshops coordinated with issues being tackled by the selected urban local bodies in financial management and accounting reforms, resource mobilization or water and sanitation service delivery improvements etc.
- Developing practical, hands-on trainings based on case studies of the experience of other urban local bodies/cities in India
- Providing capacity building support in terms of identification of training needs for elected representatives, personnel of ULBs/cities, preparation of training material, training of trainers, exchange of visits etc.
- Acting as resource centres for information dissemination (including managing a web site), drafting schemes, financial analysis, documentation, and sharing of best practices
- Networking with national and international agencies working in the urban sector to learn from each other
- Providing guidance to state/local governments on planning, implementing and monitoring projects and programmes
- > Best practices in water supply, sanitation and solid waste management
- > Bench marking of service delivery by ULBs
- > Urban Planning, Climate change, PPP in urban infrastructure
- E-governance and Urban reforms

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