



Preface

Chhattisgarh is one of the youngest members of the Indian Union, born on 1st November 2000. The *raison d'être* of Chhattisgarh was economic and social underdevelopment of this region in undivided Madhya Pradesh. The formation of the new State has thrown both challenges and opportunities for the development of the State. These challenges assume a new dimension in the backdrop of the fact that around 32 percent of the population of Chhattisgarh belongs to Scheduled Tribes and another 12 percent belongs to the Scheduled Castes. Undoubtedly, economic growth without social growth would further accentuate the regional, sectoral and communal disparities. It is in this backdrop that the concept of human development and this Report are of vital importance to the State of Chhattisgarh.

In an amazing exercise without parallel, village *Jan Rapats* were written by the people in 19,128 villages of Chhattisgarh. These reports were then ratified by the village communities. District Reports were prepared for the 16 districts of Chhattisgarh based on a 10 to 15 percent sample of the Village Reports, selected on the basis of 16 criteria. Of the total number of Village *Jan Rapats*, 2869 reports were selected for the perception analysis. A matrix was developed to categorise people's perceptions on a qualitative scale, from the discussions and comments documented in the reports. People's

perceptions are the cornerstone of this Report. Members of the *Jan Rapat* project team at the State level prepared the State Report. The Human Development Report of the State has tried to capture the essence of the village and the District *Jan Rapats* without compromising on the big picture. The State Report does have wider perception and contains many of the actionable suggestions, which have been made in the district and Village Reports.

The Human Development Report of Chhattisgarh is a unique document in more ways than one. The documentation exercise itself is without any parallel. The sheer number of people who participated in preparation of this Report is mind-boggling. Facts and figures, which have been quoted by various Government agencies, have been commented upon by the people and various claims and counterclaims have also been verified or refuted by the people themselves. One of the many remarkable features of this Report is that the perceptions of people at the grassroot level and the facts and figures have been presented in original without any cosmetic doctoring, irrespective of their sweetness or bitterness. Apparently, accuracy in reporting was one of the guiding principles of this Report.

There are no simple growth and development solutions to be adopted. The complexities

and wide ranging disparities prevailing in the State have been adequately highlighted in the text of the HDR. The northern, southern and central regions have their own peculiarities and therefore there are no common solutions. The growth and development road map has to be evolved factoring the ground realities. The strategy of growth has to be tailored as per the regional fabric i.e. the Human and Material Resources. We have to be extremely careful as diverse action plans often lead to dilution of goals, frittering away scant resources. While it is true that being a young State, we

lack organisational maturity and infrastructure; it is also true that the young possess youthful exuberance, enthusiasm, greater energy and determination. We must exploit our greatest strength – our participative work culture (as demonstrated in the preparation in the Report) to take our people ahead rapidly, along the road leading to an improved quality of life.

It now devolves on us, leaders and administrators to study this Report and develop a holistic growth model.

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