

## I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Creation of the State of Chhattisgarh

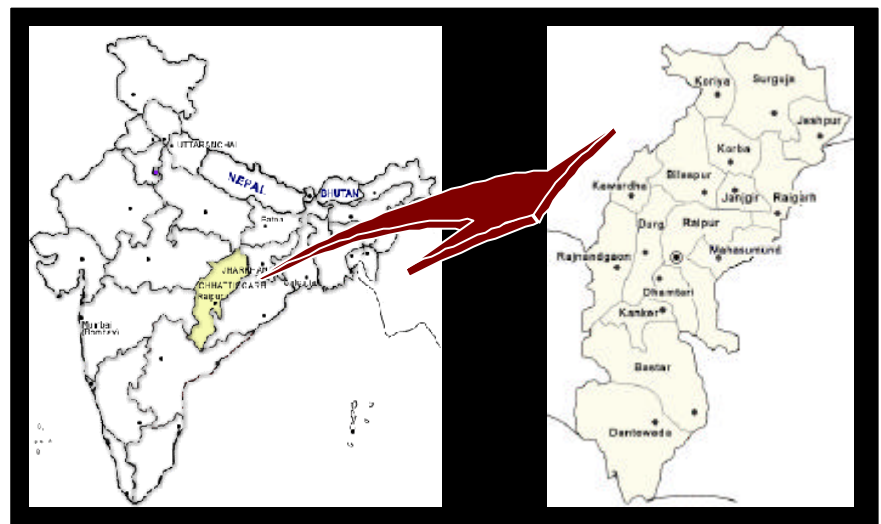
The creation of Chhattisgarh on November 01, 2000 fulfilled the demand for separate statehood that was originally raised in 1925 and subsequently rejected in the post independence era by the State Reorganisation Commission set up in 1954. The 'Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2000' was eventually passed by both houses of Parliament and approved by the President of India on August 25, 2000. This paved the way for the creation of the 26th State of India on November 01, 2000.

The creation of the new State of Chhattisgarh has succeeded in granting a sense of identity to its people and has provided them with the unique opportunity to chart their own destiny.

Chhattisgarh has been carved out of the sixteen south-eastern districts of undivided Madhya Pradesh (Exhibit I.1). It is bound in the north by Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, in the east by Orissa, in the south by Andhra Pradesh and in the West by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The creation of the new State of Chhattisgarh has been successful in imparting a sense of distinct identity to its people and an opportunity for the State to chart its own destiny

Exhibit I.1

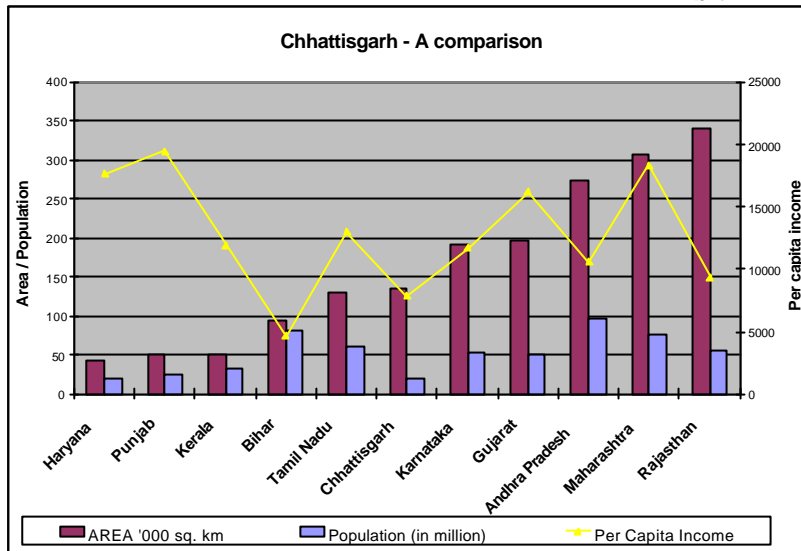


Chhattisgarh is the ninth largest State in India with an area of approximately 135000 sq kms (Exhibit I.2 - overleaf). In terms of population however the State ranks 17<sup>th</sup>. A large portion of the State's population comprises of tribals, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Although the state a fairly low population density coupled with rich natural resources, the per capita NSDP of approximately Rs.8000 (1997-98 – current prices) is well below the national average and ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in India.

These statistics are clearly reflective of the development challenges that lie ahead and the urgent need for focussed

attention and strategies to improve the overall quality of life of the people of Chhattisgarh.

Exhibit I.2



**Chhattisgarh is one of the largest States in the country, larger than States such as Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Punjab**

**1.2 What is a Vision Document and why does Chhattisgarh need one?**

Governments all over the world are confronted with development challenges. How they deal with them depends on (and is reflective of) their respective thought processes. The case of Chhattisgarh is no different. Today the State faces considerable challenges with regard to:

- Optimal utilisation of natural and human resources,
- Ensuring economic growth and stability,
- Building and maintaining physical infrastructure,
- Developing the potential of local markets,
- Ensuring public accountability by promoting transparent and interactive governance,
- Fiscal prudence and balanced sectoral development,
- Meeting public expectations

Articulating the longer term objectives of the State to meet these challenges in the form of a single statement (CHHATTISGARH 2010) is therefore a reflection of its priorities. It is a statement of the government’s proposed orientation to address the needs of its people and a demonstration of its commitment to explore and implement sustainable strategies over a period of time.

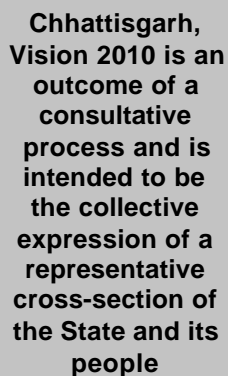
Whereas it is essential in such an exercise to reflect on more immediate development priorities, the magnitude of these challenges and the urgency with which issues need to be tackled; it is equally important to focus on and articulate the longer term process and direction of growth, which describe

the expectations and aspirations of the people of Chhattisgarh.

This Vision Document has intentionally been written with a 10 year perspective. It has been developed with the objective of setting and achieving realistic targets in a foreseeable future. Achievement of these targets on a rolling basis would be critical to build credibility and to set the State on its chosen path for longer term socio-economic growth and development.

### 1.3 Approach and Structure

The approach adopted by the State for the preparation of this Vision document has been based on a **consultative process** involving the elected representatives of the people, the bureaucracy, the fourth estate, non governmental organisations (NGOs), academicians, industry representatives, varied interest groups and finally, responsible and informed citizens. This Vision Document is therefore intended to be the collective expression of a representative cross-section of the State and its people.



Chhattisgarh, Vision 2010 is an outcome of a consultative process and is intended to be the collective expression of a representative cross-section of the State and its people