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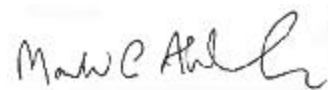


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DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
INDIA

MESSAGE

One of the important Tenth Plan initiatives of the Planning Commission was to sponsor the preparation of the State Development Reports with much of the work being done by reputed national level institutes. This exercise was undertaken in recognition of the fact that economic circumstances and performance in individual States varied considerably and it was necessary to examine development challenges for individual States in the light of State specific constraints and circumstances. The basic idea is to produce quality reference documents on development profiles of individual States and the possible strategies for accelerating growth, and reducing poverty and inequality.

The Himachal Pradesh Development Report reviews Himachal Pradesh's experience and highlights issues critical for the State's development in the years ahead. I hope its publication will stimulate debate on growth strategies appropriate for Himachal Pradesh. I am sure the road map indicated in the Report will stimulate a broader awareness of the critical policy issues facing the State and will assist the State to move to a higher growth path and to achieve all round human and economic development.


(M.S. AHLUWALIA)



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PREAMBLE

In keeping with the Central Plan Scheme of the "50th Year Initiative for the Planning", the Planning Commission has been preparing Development Reports (SDRs) for each State. These SDR's are an attempt to compile quality reference documents on the profile and strategy for accelerating the pace of development in the respective States.

The Himachal Pradesh State Development Report (HPSDR) has been prepared by the Planning Commission with the assistance of the Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, in partnership with the Government of Himachal Pradesh. A Core Committee reviewed the dimensions of the various developmental issues and helped to chart out the scope and coverage of the SDR for Himachal Pradesh in association with the State Government and the CRRID, Chandigarh.

I am sure this Report will serve as a resource material not only for the State and Central Government but also for all the Non-Governmental Organisations working for Himachal Pradesh.

I would like to place on record my appreciation for the work of Prof. Rashpal Malhotra, Founder Director, Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development, Chandigarh. I would like to thank Principal Adviser Smt. Kasturi Gupta Menon and Shri J.P. Vijay, Deputy Adviser, Planning Commission, as well as the officers of the Himachal Pradesh Government for their help in the preparation of this document.


(SYEDA HAMEED)

New Delhi

CHIEF MINISTER



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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, has prepared the State Development Report of Himachal Pradesh at the behest of the Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, in close coordination with the various departments of the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The Planning Commission is to be congratulated for its innovative initiative in sponsoring such studies for various states of India. These exercises not only unfold the development scene and needs of different states but also underline the imperative of interdependence in realising their development goals in the interest of nation-building.

Himachal Pradesh has made highly commendable progress since its formation in 1948. The State is widely acclaimed for its outstanding achievements in social development, leading to a visible social transformation. It is a notable success story born out of the progressive policies and programmes of the successive governments. This is no less a tribute to its relative political stability and efficacy of administrative delivery.

The discourse of the Report is a testimony to all this. I am happy to observe the critical issues which the State has to resolve and possible strategies towards that end are also indicated by the Report. It is a document of immense value for changing the course of development of the State. The State Planning Department performed the function of nodal department in coordinating the study at the State level and facilitating data inputs and interaction with various departments. I hope the report will prove helpful for policy planning, both at the Centre and State level, and also lead to better appreciation of the constraints of development at the level of the Central Government.

(Virbhadra Singh)



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