This report is the outcome of the rigorous efforts and generous contributions of many individuals and organisations. The Planning Commission, Government of India, entrusted the task of co-ordinating and preparing the Maharashtra State Development Report (MSDR) to Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai. Other collaborating partners of this report are Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune, Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. We are grateful to all Authors, Experts and Peer Reviewers for their timely contributions.

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India, Shri N. K. Singh, former Member of the Planning Commission and Shri B. N. Yugandhar, Member of the Planning Commission served as the Chairman of the Core Committee for different periods during the preparation of the MSDR. They took personal interest, gave their valuable time and suggestions and provided overall support for the report. Ms. Sushma Choudhary, Principal Advisor, Shri P.S.S Thomas, Advisor and Shri N.D. George, Director, Planning Commission, efficiently coordinated the review of various drafts of MSDR and useful input from them and their colleagues helped a lot in improving the report.

Shri Jagdish Joshi, former Additional Chief Secretary and Dr. D. Shankaran, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra (GoM), have been very kind in convening several meetings to initiate the work, reviewing the progress of the report, arranging for crucial information and data and provide useful suggestions at various stages. Their efforts to get the drafts of MSDR reviewed in time by the concerned Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of the GoM improved the quality of the report to a great extent. In this regard, contribution of Ms. Maitreyi Das, Joint Secretary, Shri A. K. Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Ms. Chitkala Zutshi, Principal Secretary and Ms. S. M. Aparajit, Joint Secretary, and of all anonymous experts who reviewed the report deserve a very high appreciation.

Acknowledgments

Dr. R. Radhakrishna, Director of IGIDR cooperated wholeheartedly in co-ordinating the work on the report and provided useful guidance and encouragement right since the inception of the report. He also reviewed and provided valuable contributions to various Chapters of MSDR. Many other colleagues at IGIDR also contributed during this work. We highly appreciate the comments and suggestions received from Dr. Kirit Parikh, Former Director of IGIDR, and presently, Member of Planning Commission, and Professors D. Nachane, Nirmal Sengupta, M.H. Suryanarayana, Ashima Goyal, Shikha Jha, Jayati Sarkar, Rajendra Vaidya, P.V. Srinivasan, Kausik Chaudhuri, R. Nagaraj, K.V. Ramaswamy, Aldas Janaiah and Srijit Mishra.

Several Municipal Corporations extensively shared with us their information and data, which helped in updating different Chapters of the MSDR. We are particularly thankful to the Municipal Commissioners of Amravati, Aurangabad, Brihan Mumbai, Kolhapur, Nashik, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad, Solapur and Thane. Various reports obtained from Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran and Maharashtra Economic Development Council were very useful.

We sincerely thank Dr. M.G. Rao of NIPFP, Delhi, Mrs. Anita Garware, Chairperson of Indian Heritage Society, Mumbai, Dr. Burange, Director of Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Mumbai, Mr. Shailesh Haribhakti, President of IMC, Mumbai, Mr. A. Ramakrishnan, State Excise Commissioner, Mr. Chaini, President of MEDC, Mumbai and Mr. Garson Da Cunha of AGNI Foundation for their support in this work.

Assistance of Ms. Sangeeta Thakore of IIT Bombay in editing the manuscripts, of Mr. Sam Thomas of IIT Bombay in designing the covers, of Mr. G. Badri Narayanan, Ms. Mary Cherical and Mr. S. Ghatak (all from IGIDR) in providing research assistance is highly appreciated. Formatting of manuscript was done by Mr. Mahesh Mohan of IGIDR. Co-operation and support from IGIDR's administration, library and computer staff has been uninterrupted and timely.

> Vinod Kumar Sharma Editor and Coordinator