We are living in the age of rural development. Rural industrialisation is a sound base of achieving the target of rural economic upliftment. Vegetative resources are the significant means of rural industrialisation because these resources provide a strong base of raw material supply to various small scale and household rural industries. The only thing required for industrialisation of rural areas is to create zeal and enthusiasm among the rural masses for adopting the small scale and household industries to enliven their economy. At this juncture the students of Geography must come forward to study the problems being faced by rural and backward areas. He must not only study the problems of rural industrialisation but also suggest a well thought industrial planning for the balanced and integrated rural development.

For the balanced and integrated development of the rural areas the joint efforts of the economists, social scientists, geographers, regional planners and political leaders are of utmost significance because integrated rural development is a multi-headed problem and requires multipronged attack to tackle it.

Agro-industrial development is an ideal economic development. The industrialisation of the rural areas is the present day need to attract the local entrepreneurs like prosperous farmers, businessmen, local artisans and educated youth. They must be made acquainted with the various schemes launched for the rural industrial development.

This is the time of dynamics of man, material, market
time and space. Therefore, the geographer should play an assimilating role. Geography deals with the real spatial situations, therefore, it can help up to a great extent in the dynamics of above mentioned economic ingredients. It can suggest suitable location for the suitable industry. Suitable location of an industry is a major thing in the regional economic development.

Though, the idea of small and tiny sector industry is decades old, it has drawn attention of entrepreneurs only recently. The universal ideology is in the favour of promoting small and cottage industries in rural areas instead of large scale units as they destroy the natural environment up to unrepairable limits. Therefore, the philosophy of small and cottage industries has been universally accepted by the developing nations. In India, where there are immense resources in the rural areas and serious problems of unemployment, the small and cottage industry can play a constructive role in solving the dual problems i.e. the use of local resources in the small and cottage industries and providing employment to the educated youth.

The present study makes a study of vegetative resources and suggest suitable industry at a suitable growth point in the form of growth centre, foci and service villages. The growth centre, foci and villages have been recognised in the whole study region and their potentials for the industrial development have been judged and appropriate industries have been suggested for the balanced regional development in future. Except some theoretical considerations, the work is based on field survey, personal observation, enquiries and primary, secondary
data collected from various offices related to the study. For the purpose of field work a set questionnaire was framed and investigation was made. The information regarding the number of vegetative resource based industrial units working and fixed capital, production, type of products, raw materials etc. were collected from the District Industry Offices of the Bundelkhand plain, the Joint-Director of the industries, Jhansi Division; and the Divisional Office of Cooperative Society, Jhansi was also approached and related data were collected. The District Forest Offices, Soil Conservation Offices, Hydro Power Offices, District Agriculture Planning Offices, District Animal Husbandry Offices and District Statistical Offices were consulted for having appropriate statistics.

The present study has been arranged in eight chapters. Chapter One deals with the frontiers of industrial geography, previous contributions of geographer to this branch of knowledge and analysis of physical personality of Bundelkhand plain. Chapter Two deals with the distribution and production of various agricultural resources. Chapter Three gives an appraisal of forest resources. Chapter Four deals with the study of infrastructural facilities e.g. transport, power and man power. After the analysis of vegetative resources Chapter Five gives a view of analysis of agro-based industries in terms of their historicity, origin, growth and development, capital, employment structure, production etc. Chapter Six analyses the forest-based industries while the Chapter Seven presents the analysis of fibre-based industries developed in the study region. Chapter Eight gives a picture of problems, ways of their solu-
tions and their regional plan for the balanced industrial growth which may uplift the depressed rural economy and conserve the natural environment of the rural areas. It emphasizes the development of the growth centres, foci and service villages with some suitable industries therein for the faster growth of the rural economy and solving the problems of the unemployment therein.

The surplus quantity of local resources has also been assessed for getting the proper number of industries based on these resources. The field application of this study will help in checking the flow of local resources outside of the region. The thesis ends with an additional bibliography, questionnaire and an index. The books mentioned in the bibliography were consulted but not quoted in the body of the thesis.