Balanced regional development has been one of the principal objectives of planned development in India. This has to be achieved through focussing efforts towards reducing regional disparities and increasing the rate of regional industrial growth. The existence of backward pockets in developed regions and developed pockets in backward regions in a developing country like ours necessitates further the emphasis on balanced regional development. The approach initiated since 1968 for achieving this task has far reaching implications on the state level regional development efforts.

Gujarat, in particular, put up an impressive picture of industrial development during the decade of the sixties. Its diversified industrial structure is the testimony of State's endeavours towards bringing in balanced industrial development. With the introduction of the sequential planned industrial development in the spatial context, industrial diversification had to be a common feature even at the regional level in the State. The apparent feature of an overall development observed at the state level is primarily due to the foresighted state development programmes. Similar picture, however, does not emerge at the sub-regional level in the State. This is because of different
levels of industrial development in industrially homogeneous regions of the State.

This calls for a study to examine the levels and patterns of industrialisation at the regional level in the context of the resource endowments. Industrially homogeneous regions are delineated. The pattern of industrialisation is suggested in a regional perspective. The focus is, therefore, made on the approaches envisaged to bring in overall regional industrial development in accordance with those at the national level. Considering the regional cost advantages/disadvantages and production technologies adopted by industries at the regional level, appropriate regional development strategies are suggested to help achieve a steady industrial development. The growth strategy suggested for developing backward pockets in a given region provides, however, a tentative initial regional development programme. The proposed growth strategy is based on a priori knowledge of the settlement structure existing in or around a given region.

The development of labour-intensive or capital-intensive core industries is suggested for industrially homogeneous regions on the basis of their levels of industrial development. A list of candidate labour-intensive and medium capital-intensive industry groups is given for backward and developing regions of the State.
This has been done considering the resource endowments in these regions.

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