



## 'Naya Raipur will emerge as a bustling city'

How is the new capital shaping up? You have been maintaining that it will be the symbol of a resurgent Chhattisgarh.

Ten years after the new state was carved out of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh has come a long way in terms of development but the state's visibility needs to be raised further. We started from scratch to establish India's first and best-planned green-field city. Our ef-

Q&A  
WITH  
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Chief Minister,  
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orts are to adopt the best of international standards. Naya Raipur will definitely give the whole state an identity as a modern state besides serving as an engine of growth.

**How will it be different from the other new cities, Chandigarh and Gandhinagar?**

Naya Raipur is being developed as a modern and livable city. It has to be economically, socially and environ-

mentally sustainable. It will be the most advanced eco-friendly city in India where solar energy will be used extensively in the entire capital zone. While 26 per cent of the total area has already been earmarked as a 'green belt', we have also set in motion an action plan to develop Asia's biggest botanical garden.

**Do you see the possibility of Naya Raipur ending up as a seat of government, instead of being an ac-**

**tive and lively city?**

'Naya Raipur' will not just be a new capital but an extension of the present Raipur city, which will be connected with an express highway, besides having rail connectivity. Simultaneously, we are developing infrastructure in Raipur so that both the old and the new can eventually merge. In Naya Raipur, the Housing Board has already started building 2,600 apartments and a sector will be allotted to private developers. It will

certainly emerge as a bustling city.

**Naya Raipur has taken off without any major problems over land acquisition. How did you achieve this?**

Our rehabilitation and inclusive development plan will become a model whenever a new city comes up anywhere in the country. There were several rounds of consultations with those who would be affected and I personally attended these meetings.