

Geographical features:

Geographically, Chhattisgarh is divided into three distinct land areas viz.,

- Chhattisgarh Plains,
- Bastar Plateau and
- Northern Hill Zones.

In the north of the state are the mighty Satpura Ranges, in the center the plains of River Mahanadi and its tributaries and in the South is the plateau of Bastar. The state receives annual rainfall ranging from less than 1200 mm to greater than 1600 mm in different areas. The border of Chhattisgarh is touched by the states Uttar Pradesh in the North, Bihar in the North East, Orissa in the East, Andhra Pradesh in the South and South East, Maharashtra in South West and Madhya Pradesh in the West. Paddy is the main crop of the state and due to abundance of production of paddy Chhattisgarh was earlier known as 'Rice Bowl of Central India.'

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River system:

In, the north lies the edge of the great Indo-Gangetic plain. The Rihand River, a tributary of the Ganges, drains this area. The eastern end of the Satpura Range and the western edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau form an east-west belt of hills that divide the Mahanadi River basin from the Indo-Gangetic plain. The outline of Chhattisgarh is like a sea horse.

The central part of the state lies in the fertile upper basin of the Mahanadi river and its tributaries. This area has extensive rice cultivation. The upper Mahanadi basin is separated from the upper Narmada basin to the west by the Maikal Hills (part of the Satpuras) and from the plains of Odisha to the east by ranges of hills.

The southern part of the state lies on the Deccan plateau, in the watershed of the Godavari River and its tributary, the Indravati River. The Mahanadi is the chief river of the state. The other main rivers are Hasdo (a tributary of Mahanadi), Rihand, Indravati, Jonk, Arpa and Shivnath. It is situated in the east of Madhya Pradesh.

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Agriculture in chhattisgarh:

Nearly, 80 % population of the state is dependent on agriculture & agro-based industry and occupations. In the state out of 32.5 Lakh farmers households, 76% comes under small & marginal class. At present, 29% of Land is having irrigation facility considering all source of irrigation, out of all irrigation facility available, highest 66% of land are irrigated from reservoirs and canals, 55% arable land is having less water retention power for which second crop is not possible from this land without irrigation facility.

After the formation of the state, highest priority is being given to Agriculture development. The sustained effort of the state govt. towards agriculture oriented plan/schemes resulted in the higher pace of growth in the

agriculture. The state govt. has been making effective and continuous stride for the economic development of the ferment.

Shakambhari Scheme : Shakambhari scheme has been started by the State Govt. from the year 2005-06 for development of own irrigation resources of small and marginal category of farmers, under which 75% subsidy is given on Electric/Diesel drawn/Kerosene pumps (Upto 5HP) of farmers and 50% subsidy is provided on dugwells.

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Climate

The climate of Chhattisgarh is tropical. It is hot and humid because of its proximity to the Tropic of Cancer and its dependence on the monsoons for rains. Summer in Chhattisgarh temperatures can reach 45°C (113°F). The monsoon season is from late June to October and is a welcome respite from the heat. Chhattisgarh receives an average of 1,292 millimetres (50.9 in) of rain. Winter is from November to January and it is a good time to visit Chhattisgarh. Winters are pleasant with low temperatures and less humidity

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Soils of Chhattisgarh:

The soils of Chhattisgarh vary considerably in the three agro-climatic zones. Though the nomenclature is different, the types of the soils especially the physical properties are the same. The different soils that exist in the three agro-climatic zones are as follows:

Chhattisgarh Plains	Bastar Plateau	Northern hills
Bhata (Lateritic)	Marhan (coarse sandy)	Hilly soils
Matasi (Sandy loam)	Tikra (sandy)	Tikra
Dorsa (clay loam)	Mal (sandy loam)	Goda chawar
Kanhar (clay)	Gabhar (clay & clay loam)	Bahara

The first two categories of the soils in the three Agroclimatic zones are very light type of soils with very low water retentive capacity. As a result water stress or drought conditions occur either during the crop growing season when there is a break of monsoon for more than 5-7 days or immediately after the withdrawal of monsoon. In Bastar plateau and northern hill zone rice is grown in upland conditions without bunds and they are called uplands. In Chhattisgarh plains rice is mostly grown under bunded condition.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to diversify cropping pattern wherever conditions are favourable to grow horticultural crops and to earn higher net profit in unit area.

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Forestry in Chhattisgarh:

In India, 23.38 percent portion of the total geographical area of is under forest cover, whereas forest area in Chhattisgarh is 43.85% of the total geographical area. Forest area of Chhattisgarh is at third position in India. Forest area of reserved forest is 25782 sq.km. (43.13%), protected forest is 24036 sq.km. (40.21%) and undemarcated forest is 9954 sq.km. in the State. Working Plan for 32 forest divisions is approved by the Govt. of India for scientific management of forests of the State. Working Plan is approved scheme by the Govt. of India for exploitation/felling of forests of any forest division by scientific technique.

Working Plan of forest division is prepared by senior forest officer (officer of the level of Deputy Conservator of forest). Period of working plan is 10 years. Review of working plan is started 3 years prior to the completion of working plan, so that new working plan can be implemented in forest division after completion of time period. Presently, review task of working plan is under progress in 13 forest divisions. Digitization work of forest areas of all forest divisions of the State has been completed

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Minerals in chhattisgarh:

Land of Chhattisgarh is replete with minerals. Quality of minerals and mineral reserves found in Chhattisgarh attract entrepreneurs to establish industries in the State. Approximately 27 percent revenue of Chhattisgarh is received in form of mineral revenue from exploitation of minerals. There was production of minerals of approximately Rs. 15777.45 lakh value last year . State Govt. received mineral revenue of Rs. 2737.25 crore from minerals in the financial year 2011-12, which is Rs. 275.79 more compared to the previous year. Mineral revenue of Rs. 2156.40 crore has been received up to December, 2012 in the year 2012-13.

There is abundance and diversity of minerals in Chhattisgarh State. Along with famous iron ore reserve of Bailadila, iron Ore reserve of very high grade has been found in Kabirdham Distt. recently. There is abundance of coal, bauxite, lime stone and dolomite in the State but along with this Chhattisgarh is the sole producer of tin ore of strategic importance in the country.

Achievements of Mineral Exploration Works in the Year 2012-13

Iron Ore	District Kondagaon	51.69 lakh ton reserve estimated in Paavaras kachora area
Bauxite	District Surguja	4.00 lakh ton reserve estimated in Sarbhanja/Dandakesara areas New areas of bauxite identified in Distt. Mahuari tikra
	District Kabirdham	3.25 lakh ton estimated in Darai area
Coal	District Korba	511.15 lakh ton of additional reserve of coal estimated as a result of prospecting operation in Saila area
	District Raigarh	140 lakh ton reserve estimated from prospecting work in

		Garepelma area
Lime Stone	District Bastar	Estimation of obtaining 10 lakh ton reserve in village Chitapur/Raikot areas
	District Raipur	179.8 lakh ton of lime stone certified and 680 lakh ton reserve estimated from prospecting operation in village Deogaon-Kurra
	District Kabridham	New area of lime stone identified during survey in village Baroda
Granite	District Kanker	8 new areas of cut & polised granite identified during survey, in which areas of 28 lakhs cubic meter black granite has been demarcated.

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