Chhattisgarh: Relief and Structure

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Chhattisgarh has area of 135194 square km which is 4.14% of the geographical area of India. It is located in the centre of 17.43' to 24.5 degree North latitude and 80.15 to 84.20 degree East longitude.

Chhattisgarh was formed on 1 November 2000 by partitioning 16 Chhattisgarhi-speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. The capital city of Chhattisgarh is Raipur. Uttar Pradesh in North, Jharkhand in North-East, Orissa in East, Andhra Pradesh in South, Maharashtra in South-West and M.P. & Maharashtra in West form its borders. Currently chhattisgarh comprises 27 districts.. 43% Land is covered by Forests.

There are 3geographical zones northen hills, central plains and Bastar plateau.



- Northern Hills: The area of this agroclimatic zone accounts for 21% of the total geographical area. Koriya, Sarguja, Surajpur, BalrampurJashpur, Raigarh and Korba are districts situated in this part.
- Central Plain Zone: this agroclimatic zone covers 50% of the geographical area of the state. Raipur, BalodabajarBhathpara, Gariyaband, Bilaspur, MungeliJanjgir-Champa, Kabirdham, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Balod, BemetaraDhamtari and Mahasamund are districts included in this plain region.

River System – There is a network of 4 rivers. These rivers are Mahanadi, Godawari, Ganga and Narmada. In this network, 31 large, small rivers and tributories, flow from East to West, covering a length of about 3573 Kms. in the State.

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- Bastar Plateau Zone: It account for 29% of the geographical area of the state. Kanker (North Bastar), Bastar, Kondagaon, Dantewada (South Bastar), Bijapur, Sukma and Narayanpur are districts included in this region.

Soil, has water retention capacity in the range of light to medium 55%-65% i.e. the Soil represents low water retention capacity.

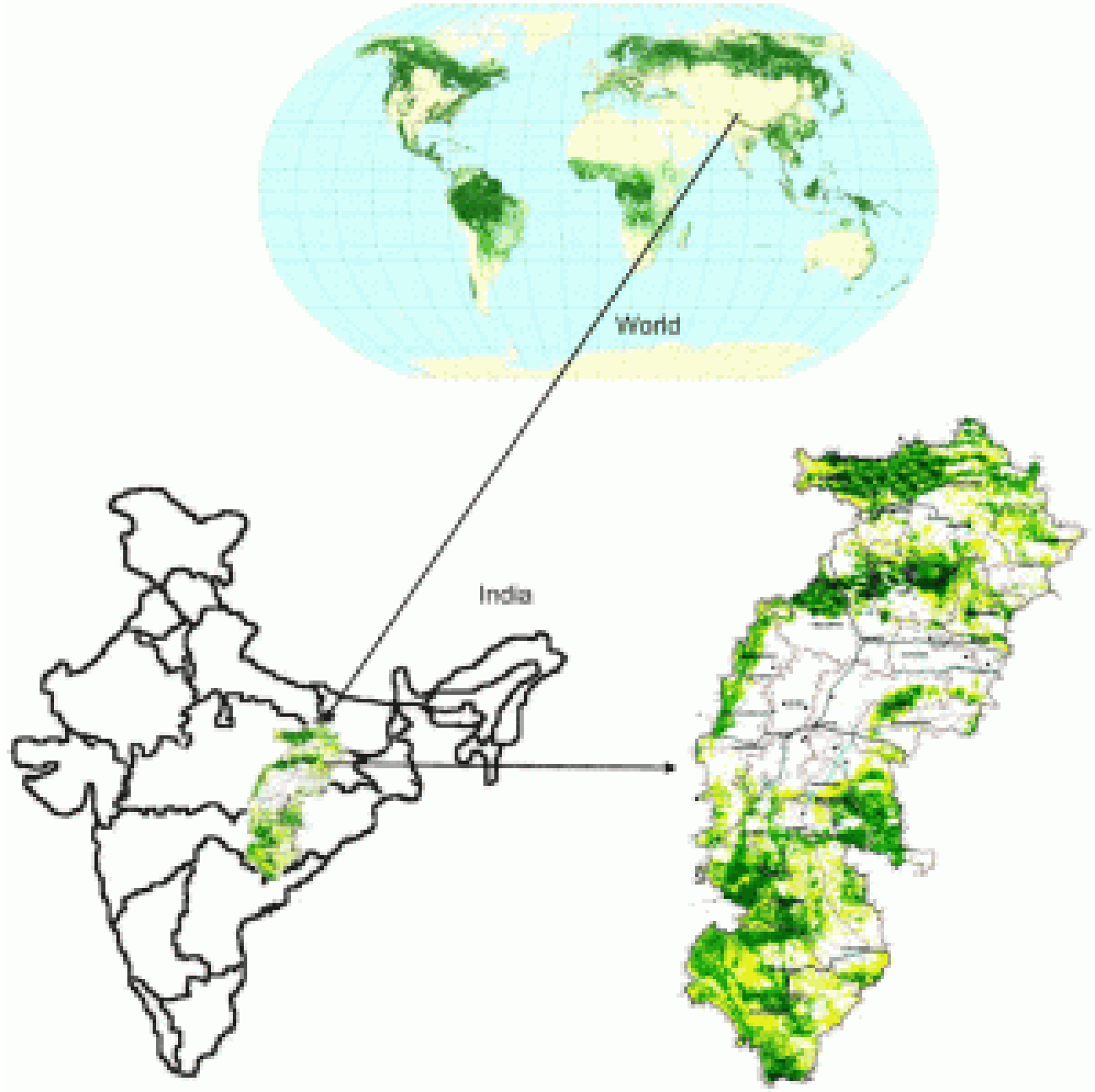
Region Name	Soil Type	Water Retention Capacity
Northern Hills Zone	Light to medium (Reddish-Yellow)	55%
	Med. Heavy to heavy(Brownish-Black)	15%
Central Plain Zone	Light to medium (Reddish-Yellow)	65%
	Light to medium (Reddish-Yellow)	35%
Southern Plateau Zone	Light to medium (Reddish-Yellow)	58%
	Light to medium (Reddish-Yellow)	42%

Chhattisgarh : Geographic Location- Chhattisgarh is located 17° 46' north to 24° 5' north latitude and from 80° 15' east to 84° 20' east longitude. The state is located at the central part of India and has a total area of 135194 Sqkm. Chhattisgarh is surrounded by Orissa in the east, Maharashtra in the west, Andhra Pradesh in south, Madhya Pradesh in the North West and Jharkhand in the north east. Almost 44% of Chhattisgarh is covered by forests and is one of the richest bio-diversity habitats in India. The northern part of Chhattisgarh lies on the edge of the great Indo-Gangetic plain, central part of the state lies in the fertile upper basin of the Mahanadi and its tributaries and the southern part of the state lies on the Deccan plateau. Mahanadi is the main river in Chhattisgarh and Iravati, Hasdeo, Rihand etc..., are other major rivers.Chhattisgarh is one of the few landlocked states of the country.

The northern and southern parts of the state are hilly, while the central part is a fertile plain. The highest point in the Chhattisgarh is the Bailadila Range. Deciduous forests of the Eastern Highlands Forests cover roughly 44% of the stateChhattisgarh animal is the van bhainsa, or wild water buffalo.Chhattisgarh bird is the pahari myna, or hill myna. The state tree is the Sal (Sarai) found in Bastar division.

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.

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The central part of the Chhattisgarh 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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AmritDhara Waterfall. The natural beauty of Koriya includes dense forests, mountains, rivers and waterfalls. AmritDhara Waterfall in Koriya is among the most famous waterfalls in Koriya. Koriya in Chhattisgarh was a princely state during the British rule in India. Koriya is also known for the rich mineral deposits. Coal is found in abundance in this part of the country. The dense forests are rich in wildlife.

The AmritDhara Water fall, Koriya is a natural waterfall which originates from the Hasdo River. The fall is situated at a distance of seven kilometers from Koriya. The waterfall is ideally located on the Manendragarh-Baikunthpur road. The AmritDhara Waterfall in Koriya in Chhattisgarh in India falls from a height of 27 m. The waterfall is about 3–4.5 m wide. The point where the water falls, there, a cloudy atmosphere is formed all around. Chirimiri is one of the more popular places, known for its pristine beauty, and healthy climate in Chhattisgarh.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF CHATTISGARH

Rivers of **Chhattisgarh** adorn the Indian state and shapes the affluence of the region. The rivers of Chhattisgarh are of much significance to the state from a stand point of economic, social, political and religious views. Chhattisgarh, situated amidst lush green hills and plateaus, is interspersed with several rivers that flow through the state. Due to the presence of natural drainage systems, Chhattisgarh is blessed abundantly with prolific and fertile plains.

There is a huge demand for water required for irrigation and cultivation. Most of the major towns and cities of the state have emerged on the banks of the rivers. **Raipur**, the capital of Chhattisgarh, is situated on the banks of Kole River. Moreover, Maniyari River flows through Taalagaon, Jagdalpur is placed on the river banks of **Indravati River**and Bilaspur is located near river Arpa.

Numerous religious and pilgrimage destinations have also emerged near these rivers. **Danteshwari temple** in **Dantewada** is located on the confluence of two rivers, namely Dankini and Shankini Rivers. Moreover, Rajim is situated on the confluence of the rivers Sondhul, **Mahanadi** and Pairi. The Rivers of Chhattisgarh have become a major tourist attraction in the state due to the various beautiful waterfalls and stunning rapids in the rivers.

The most significant rivers of Chhattisgarh are **Narmada River**, Mahanadi, **Godavari River**, **Indravati** and few more. The state is manly drained by these rivers and their tributaries, distributaries and streams. The Mahanadi River basin, which is segregated by the **Chota Nagpur Plateau** and the Satpura Range, is considered as the central portion of the state. Northern region of the state includes the **Indo-Gangetic Plain** where as the southern part comprises of the Godavari river and tributaries.

The State is divided in to five river basins. Mahanadi Basin drains out 75,858.45 Sq km, Godavari Basin drains out 38,694.02 Sq km, Ganga Basin drains out 18,406.65 Sq km, Brahmani Basin drains out 1,394.55 Sq

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km and Narmada Basin drains out 743.88 Sq km of catchment area in the state.

1. **Mahanadi Basin**

River Mahanadi, draining the vast central region of Chhattisgarh state, forms the most important and biggest water body of the state. This river system collects almost all the rainwater of the basin and carries it to the Bay of Bengal. The volume of water varies considerably between the rainy and the dry season. The Mahanadi, after collecting a number of streams in the Kanker tehsil, flows towards the north traversing Raipur district in a northeast direction for about 204 kms, until it is met from the west by its biggest tributary, the Seonath.

The portion of Mahanadi Basin located in Chhattisgarh is divided further into a few more basins. The Chhattisgarh Basin lies in the central districts, in the north are the Raigarh basin, HasdoRampur basin and the Korba, and in the south is the Kanker basin. The Chhattisgarh Basin, formed by the Mahanadi and its main tributary Seonath, drains the central districts of Rajnandgaon, Durg, Raipur and southern Bilaspur, and is the most extensive and agriculturally rich region in the state.

It is referred to as the `rice bowl' of the country and supports a large chunk of the population of the state. Paradoxically, this is also the area of greatest drought related distress. Most of the tributaries of Mahanadi join in from the western and northern side. The major ones among these are Maini, Kelo, Mand, Baroi and Hasdo

Seonath Sub Basin(Shivnath river)

Shivnath river originates from Panabaras hill 624 m above from sea level in AmbagarhChowki division of Rajnandgaon District of chattisgarh.

Shivnath River is the biggest tributary of Mahanadi river, which it joins in **Khargahni** in Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh, India. It has a total course of 290 km. **Shivnath** could also mean a lord shiva for the Hindu religion .

Hasdeo Sub Basin

Hasdeo River, a major tributary of the Mahanadi, is one of the important rivers of Chhattisgarh. It flows towards south of the state,through Koriya, Bilaspur and Korba Districts. During its course, this river merges with its tributaries such as Gej and the Chornai on the left bank and the Tan and the Ahiran on the right before it meets the Mahanadi .Hasdeo has a total length of 245 km and has its origin in Mendra village. Other tributaries of Hasdeo include Jhumka and Bania. Along the river lie rocks and hilly areas, thin forest areas and important settlements such as Sonhat, Ghugra, Manendragarh, Kosgain, Korba and Champa.

Mand Sub Basin

The **Mand River** is a tributary of the **Mahanadi** in India. It joins the Mahanadi in **Chandrapur**, in Maharashtra,

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