Location and Extent of Chhattisgarh 3
Geographical Boundaries of Chhattisgarh 5
Physiographic Divisions of Chhattisgarh 7
Chhattisgarh Plains 11
Bastar Plateau of Chhattisgarh 12
Northern Hills of Chhattisgarh 16
Climate of Chhattisgarh 17
Monsoon Patterns of Chhattisgarh 20
Rainfall Distribution of Chhattisgarh 22
Temperature Trends of Chhattisgarh 25
Soils of Chhattisgarh 26
Major Rivers of Chhattisgarh 29
Mahanadi Basin of Chhattisgarh 31
Godavari Basin of Chhattisgarh 35
Hasdeo River of Chhattisgarh 36
Indravati River 39
Lakes and Wetlands 40
Forests of Chhattisgarh 43
Forest Types and Cover 44
Wildlife Sanctuaries 48
National Parks 50
Biodiversity in Chhattisgarh 53
Flora and Fauna 54
Mineral Resources 57
Major Mining Areas 59
Coalfields in Chhattisgarh 62
Iron Ore Deposits 64
Bauxite Reserves 67
Limestone Deposits 68
Agriculture in Chhattisgarh 72
Major Crops 73
Horticulture 77
Irrigation in Chhattisgarh 79
Water Resources 82
Land Use Patterns 83
Tribal Settlements and Geography 86

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Urbanization Trends 88
Industrial Areas 91
Transport and Connectivity 93
Environmental Issues 97
Deforestation in Chhattisgarh 99
Soil Erosion 101
Floods in Chhattisgarh 103
Climate Change Impacts 106
Sustainable Development 107
Eco-tourism in Chhattisgarh 109
Major Tourist Destinations 111
Natural Hazards and Disaster Management 114
Role of Geography in Chhattisgarh's Economy 116
Chhattisgarh's Contribution to India's Resources 119

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Location and Extent of Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh, known as the “Rice Bowl of India,” is a central Indian state with a rich geographical, cultural, and historical significance. Its unique location and geographical attributes make it a crucial region in India's socio-economic and environmental landscape. This article explores the location and extent of Chhattisgarh in detail.

Geographical Location

Chhattisgarh lies in the central part of India and is considered a part of the peninsular plateau region. Its geographical coordinates are approximately:

- **Latitude:** Between 17°46'N and 24°5'N
- **Longitude:** Between 80°15'E and 84°20'E

This strategic positioning places Chhattisgarh in the heart of India, providing it with significant geographical and logistical advantages.

Borders and Neighboring States

Chhattisgarh shares its boundaries with six states:

1. **Uttar Pradesh** (North)
2. **Jharkhand** (Northeast)
3. **Odisha** (East)
4. **Telangana** (South)
5. **Maharashtra** (Southwest)
6. **Madhya Pradesh** (West)

These borders make Chhattisgarh a connecting hub between northern and southern India as well as eastern and western regions.

Extent and Area

- **Total Area:** Chhattisgarh covers an area of approximately **135,192 square kilometers**, making it the ninth-largest state in India by area.
- The state's vast extent includes diverse terrains such as plateaus, plains, forests, and hills.

Physiographic Divisions

Chhattisgarh's location allows for a variety of physiographic features that contribute to its ecological and economic diversity. These divisions are:

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1. **The Chhattisgarh Plains:**
    - Situated in the central part of the state, this region is the heart of agriculture.
    - Fertile alluvial soil deposits by the Mahanadi River and its tributaries make it a prime agricultural zone.
2. **The Bastar Plateau:**
    - Found in the southern part of the state, the Bastar Plateau is rich in minerals like iron ore, bauxite, and limestone.
    - It is also known for its dense forests and tribal population.
3. **The Northern Hill Region:**
    - Located in the northern part of the state, this region includes the Satpura and Maikal Hills.
    - It is rich in biodiversity and supports dense forest cover.

Climate and Vegetation

Chhattisgarh's location contributes to its tropical climate, characterized by:

- **Hot Summers:** Temperatures often exceed 45°C.
- **Moderate to Heavy Monsoons:** The state receives an average annual rainfall of 1,300-1,500 mm.
- **Mild Winters:** Temperatures range between 10°C and 20°C.

Vegetation includes:

- Tropical moist deciduous forests in the eastern regions.
- Sal and teak forests in the northern and southern regions.
- Bamboo forests spread across the state.

Rivers and Water Resources

Chhattisgarh's central location ensures a rich river network, with major rivers such as:

1. **Mahanadi River:** The lifeline of the state, flowing through the Chhattisgarh Plains.
2. **Indravati River:** A major tributary of the Godavari River, located in the southern part of the state.
3. **Shivnath River:** A tributary of the Mahanadi, crucial for irrigation.
4. **Hasdeo River:** Vital for coal mining and thermal power generation.

These rivers contribute to the state’s agricultural economy and hydroelectric projects.

Significance of Location

1. **Economic Advantage:**
    - Being centrally located, Chhattisgarh is a logistical hub for industries.
    - The state is rich in minerals, contributing to India's steel and aluminum industries.

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    - Fertile plains make it a leading producer of rice, earning it the title of "Rice Bowl of India."
2. **Cultural Connectivity:**
    - Chhattisgarh's location ensures a mix of northern and southern cultural influences.
    - It is home to various tribal communities, contributing to India's cultural mosaic.
3. **Environmental Importance:**
    - The dense forests of Chhattisgarh play a critical role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.
    - Its forest cover accounts for about 44% of the state's total area.

Challenges due to Location

While its location provides advantages, Chhattisgarh also faces challenges:

1. **Isolation of Certain Regions:** The Bastar region's rugged terrain and dense forests make it less accessible.
2. **Naxalism:** Proximity to regions with active Naxalite movements has created security concerns.
3. **Environmental Degradation:** Mining activities have led to deforestation and soil erosion.

Geographical Boundaries of Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh, a state in east-central India, is known for its diverse geography, rich cultural heritage, and abundant natural resources. Understanding its geographical boundaries is crucial to comprehending its unique characteristics and the influences that have shaped its identity.

1. Cardinal Directions:

- **North:** Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand
- **Northeast:** Jharkhand
- **East:** Odisha
- **Southeast:** Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
- **South:** Telangana (formerly part of Andhra Pradesh)
- **West:** Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
- **Northwest:** Madhya Pradesh

2. Bordering States:

Chhattisgarh shares its borders with a total of seven states, making it a centrally located state with diverse cultural influences. These states contribute to the rich tapestry of traditions, languages, and cuisines found within Chhattisgarh.

3. Geographical Coordinates:

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