CHAPTER - II

AREA AND THE PEOPLE : A PROFILE
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Introduction

The work has been undertaken in two districts of Chhattisgarh, viz., Raigarh and Jashpur Nagar. Chhattisgarh is a new state created in 1 November 2000. It is the 29th state of India. The state has been carved out of Madhya Pradesh, which was the geographically largest state in India.

The undivided state of Madhya Pradesh had 45 districts. Out of which 6 districts viz., Raipur, Bilaspur, Bastar, Raigarh, Sarguja constitutes the new state of Chhattisgarh in the year 2000. At present there are 27 administrative districts. At the time of separation from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh originally had 16 districts. Two new districts; Bijapur and Narayanpur were carved out on May 11, 2007 and nine new districts on January 1, 2012.

Chhattisgarh has been well known since long in sociological and anthropological literature. Verrier Elwin’s study of the Murias and S.C. Dube’s study of Kamars have become immortal in the minds of sociologists and anthropologists.

The study area has been relatively a backward area in terms of planned development, in the sense infrastructure including educational institutions or industries are not much established. The study area has been in an around the state of Chhattisgarh, India. Chhattisgarh was a constituent unit of Madhya Pradesh till the year 2000.
It has an area of 135,190 km.$^2$ (52,200 sq mile). It is the 10$^{th}$ largest state in India in terms of area and in terms of population it is the 16$^{th}$ largest state in the country (population of about 2.5 crores). For the country it is the main sources of electricity and steel. It accounts of 15% of the total steel production of the country. Regarding the term Chhattisgarh, some say that the name was popularize during the Maratha period. Some say that the name has been taken from the 36 pillars of Chhattisgarin Devi temple. In hindi Chhattis means 36 and garh means fort. The old Chhattisgarh had 36 feudal territories. Beglar says that it is not Chhattisgarh, it is Chhattisghar, means 36 houses. He gave the instance of a tradition which says that in the age of Mahabharat 36 Chamar (leather worker) families immigrated from Jarasandh Kingdom and established themselves there. Another opinion says that it is home for 36 tribal clans. Yet another opinion says that Chhattisgarh is a corrupted form of Chedis (Kalchuris dynasty). According to Dr. Shrikant Khilari, the name Chhattisgarh comes from the time of Guru Ghasidas, a saint, named Chhattisgarh and the name was officially applied by the Marathas in 1975.

Chhattisgarh lies between 21$^0$ 30’ N latitude and 82$^0$ 0’E longitude. The different states lying in its different side are: on the East Orissa, on the North Bihar, on the West Madhya Pradesh and on the South Andhra Pradesh.

Chhattisgarh has a total population of 25,545,198(according to 2011 census), out of which 12,832,895 are males and 12,712303 are females. The Scheduled tribe population of Chhattisgarh is 7,822,902 (census 2011) out of which 3873191 are females. Chhattisgarh has 42 scheduled tribes listed in the constitution according to the state list. The all states list of the tribes in India is much higher than the actual number
of tribes in India because the same tribe is found in different states (Chaudhury and Patnaik 2008:12). According to Singh (1994) the people of India project of Anthropological survey of India identified 462 tribes with 172 segments of tribes. Whereas, the Government of India list has 593 tribes.

Chhattisgarh is a state in central India. It is the 10th largest state in India, with an area of 135,190 km$^2$ (52,200 sq mi). With a population of 25.5 million, Chhattisgarh is the 16th most-populated state of the nation. It is a source of electricity and steel for India. Chhattisgarh accounts for 15% of the total steel produced in the country. Chhattisgarh is one of the fastest-developing states in India.

The state was formed on 1 November 2000 by partitioning 16 Chhattisgarhi-speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. Raipur was made its capital city. Chhattisgarh borders the states of Madhya Pradesh in the northwest, Maharashtra in the southwest, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the south, Odisha in the east, Jharkhand in the northeast and Uttar Pradesh in the north. Currently the state comprises 27 districts.

**Geography**

The northern and southern parts of the state are hilly, while the central part is a fertile plain. Deciduous forests of the Eastern Highlands cover roughly 44% of the state. The state animal is the *van bhainsa*, or wild water buffalo. The state 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, drains this area. The eastern end of the Satpura Range and the western edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau
from 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.

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 Chhattishgarh. Winters are pleasant with low temperatures and less humidity.

Transport

Road, rail and air transportation from and to Chhattisgarh are good:

1. Roads

Chhattisgarh has wide coverage of roads which have pan-nation connectivity. The district headquarters, tehsils and development blocks
are well connected with good all-weather roads. 11 national highways passing through the state which are together 2,184 km in length. This includes NH 6, NH 16, NH 43, NH 12A, NH 78, NH 111, NH 200, NH 202, NH 216, NH 217, NH 221, NH 30.

The state highways and major district roads constitute another network of 8,031 km. As of 2012, there are a total of 6635 passenger vehicles plying on 2316 roads of the state. Transport is coordinated through 22 computerized transport offices in the state. A motor and driving school has also been proposed to be established.

2. Rail Network

Almost the entire railway network spread over the state comes under the geographical jurisdiction of the South East Central Zone of Indian Railways centered around Bilaspur, which is the zonal headquarters of this zone. The construction of Nagpur-Chhattisgarh railway line began in 1878 and was completed in 1882. The main railway junction is Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur Junction, which is also a starting point of many long distance trains. These three junctions are well-connected to the major cities of India.

3. Air

The air infrastructure in Chhattisgarh is small compared to other states. Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur is its sole airport with scheduled commercial air services.

History

In ancient times, this region was known as Dakshin –Kausal. This area also finds mention in Ramayana and Mahabharata. Between the sixth and twelfth centuries, Sarabhpurias, Panduavansi, Somvanshi, Kalachuri (53)
and Nagvanshi rulers dominated this region. Chhattisgarh was under Maratha rule (Bhonsales of Nagpur) from 1741 to 1845 AD. It came under British rule from 1845 to 1947 as the Chhattisgarh Division of the Central Provinces. Raipur gained prominence over the capital Ratanpur with the advent of the British in 1845. In 1905, the Sambalpur district was transferred to Odisha and the estates of Surguja were transferred from Bengal to Chhattisgarh.

The area constituting the new state merged into on November 1, 1956, under the States Re-organization Act and remained a part of that state for 44 years. Prior to its becoming a part of the new state of Madhya Pradesh, the region was part of old Madhya Pradesh State, with its capital at Nagpur. Prior to that, the region was part of the Central Provinces and Berar province (CP and Berar) under the British rule. Some areas constituting the Chhattisgarh state were princely states under the British rule, but later on were merged into Madhya Pradesh.

**Separation of Chhattisgarh**

The present state of Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000. The demand for a separate state was first raised in the 1920s. Similar demands kept cropping up at regular intervals; however, a well-organized movement was never launched. Several all-party platforms were formed and they usually resolved around petitions, public meetings, seminars, rallies and strikes. A demand for separate Chhattisgarh was raised in 1924 by the Raipur Congress unit and also discussed in the Annual Session of the Indian Congress at Tripuri. A discussion also took place of forming a Regional Congress organization for Chhattisgarh. When the State Reorganization Commission was set up in 1954, the demand for a separate Chhattisgarh was put forward, but was
not accepted. In 1955, a demand for a separate state was raised in the Nagpur assembly of the then state of Madhya Bharat.

The 1990s saw more activity for a demand for the new state, such as the formation of a statewide political forum, especially the Chhattisgarh Rajya Nirman Manch. Chandulal Chadrakar led this forum, several successful region-wide strikes and rallies were organized under the banner of the forum, all of which were supported by major political parties, including the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government sent the redrafted Separate Chhattisgarh Bill for the approval of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, where it was once again unanimously approved and then it was tabled in the Lok Sabha. This bill for a separate Chhattisgarh was passed in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, paving the way for the creation of a separate state of Chhattisgarh. The President of India gave his consent to the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Act 2000 on August 25, 2000. The Government of India subsequently set November 1, 2000, as the day the state of Madhya Pradesh would be divided into Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

**HDI**

As of 2011 Chhattisgarh had an HDI value of 0.358, the lowest of any Indian state. The national average is 0.467 according to 2011 Indian NHDR report.

**Standard of living**

Chhattisgarh has one of the lowest standard of living in India as per the Income Index (0.127) along with the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. These states have
incomes below the national average, with Bihar having the lowest income per capita.

These poor states, despite low absolute incomes, have witnessed high Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) growth rates especially Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Uttarakhand which had growth rates above 10 per cent per annum during the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002–7).

**Education Index**

Chhattisgarh has an Education Index of 0.526 according to 2011 NHDR which is higher than that of states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan which are below the 0.5 mark. Though, it is lower than the national average of 0.563.

With respect to literacy, the state fared just below the national average. The recent estimates from Census (2011) also depict a similar picture with the literacy rate of 71 per cent (81.4% Males & 60.5% Females), which is close to the all India literacy rate of 74 per cent.

According to NSS (2007–8), the literacy rate for STs (Scheduled Tribes) and SCs (Scheduled Castes) was better than the corresponding national average and this is a positive sign.

Among the marginalized groups, STs are at the bottom of the rankings, further emphasizing the lack of social development in the state. Bastar and Dantewada in south Chhattisgarh are the most illiterate districts and the drop out ratio is the highest among all the districts. The reason for this is the extreme poverty in rural areas.

**Health Index**

Health Index of Chhattisgarh is less than 0.49, one of the lowest in the country. The Health Index is defined in terms of life expectancy at
birth since a higher life expectancy at birth reflects better health outcomes for an individual.

Despite different health related schemes and programs, the health indicators such as percentage of women with BMI<18.5, Under Five Mortality Rate and underweight children are poor. This may be due to the difficulty in accessing the remote areas in the state. The prevalence of female malnutrition in Chhattisgarh is higher than the national average—half of the ST females are malnourished. The performance of SCs is a little better than the corresponding national and state average. The Under Five Mortality Rate among STs is significantly higher than the national average. The percentage of under-weight children in Chhattisgarh is also higher than the national average, further underlining the appalling health condition of the state’s population.

**Net state domestic product (NSDP)**

Chhattisgarh is one of the emerging states with relatively high growth rates of NSDP (8.2% vs. 7.1% All India over 2002–2008) and per capita NSDP (6.2% vs. 5.4% All India over 2002-2008). The growth rates of the said parameters are above the national averages and thus it appears that Chhattisgarh is catching up with other states in this respect. However, Chhattisgarh still has very low levels of per capita income as compared to the other states.

**Urbanization**

The demographic profile shows that about 80 per cent of the total population lived in rural areas.
Sex ratio

There are 1,30,32,895 (more than 1.28 crore) males and 1,29,12,303 (more than 1.27 crore) females in Chhattisgarh which is 2.11 per cent of the country’s total population. The sex ratio in the state is one of the best in India with 991 females per 1,000 males, as is the child sex-ratio with 969 females per 1,000 males (Census 2011)

Fertility rate

Chhattisgarh has a fairly high fertility rate (3.1) as compared to All India (2.6) and the replacement rate (2.1). Chhattisgarh has rural fertility rate of 3.2 and urban fertility rate of 2.1.

SC and ST population

With the exception of the hilly states of the north-east, Chhattisgarh has one of highest shares of Scheduled Tribe (ST) population within a state, accounting for about 10 per cent of the STs in India. Scheduled Castes and STs together constitute more than 50 per cent of the state’s population. The tribals of Chhattisgarh are an important part of the population and mainly inhabit the dense forests of Bastar and other districts of south Chhattisgarh. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Chhattisgarh is 2,418,722 as per 2001 census constituting 11.6 per cent of the total population (20,833,803). The proportion of Scheduled Castes has increased from 11.6 per cent in 2001 to 12.8% in 2011. The percentage increase in the population of the scheduled list of tribals during the 2001-2011 decade had been at the rate of 18.23 per cent. The share of the tribal population in the entire state had been 30.62 per cent which was 31.76 per cent during 2001.
Poverty

The incidence of poverty in Chhattisgarh is very high. The estimated poverty ratio in 2004–5 based on uniform reference period consumption was around 50 per cent, which is approximately double the all India level. The incidence of poverty in the rural and urban areas is almost the same.

More than half of the rural STs and urban SCs are poor. In general, the proportion of poor SC and ST households in the state is higher than the state average and their community’s respective national averages (except for rural SC households). Given that more than 50 per cent of the state’s population comprises STs and SCs, the high incidence of income poverty among them is a matter of serious concern in the state.

This indicates that the good economic performance in recent years has not percolated to this socially deprived group, which is reflected in their poor performance in human development indicators.

Access to drinking water

In terms of access to improved drinking water sources, at the aggregate level, Chhattisgarh fared better than the national average and the SCs of the state performed better than the corresponding national average. Scheduled Tribes are marginally below the state average, but still better than the STs at the all India level.

The proportion of households with access to improved sources of drinking water in 2008–9 was 91 per cent. This proportion was over 90 per cent even in states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. This was largely because these states had over 70 per cent of their households accessing tube wells / hand pumps as sources of drinking water.
Sanitation

Sanitation facilities in the state are abysmally low with only about 27 per cent having toilet facilities, which is far below the all-India average of 44%. The STs are the most deprived section in this regard with only 18 per cent of the ST households having toilet facilities, which is lower than the all India average for STs. The SCs also have a lower proportion of households with toilet facilities as compared to the all India average.

States with low sanitation coverage in 2001 that improved coverage by 4-10% points are [Chhattisgarh], Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh, Daman and Diu, Haryana, Sikkim, Punjab, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa and Uttarakhand registered increased coverage by more than 20 percentage points.

Demographics

Chhattisgarh is primarily a rural state with only 20% of population (around 5.1 million people in 2011) residing in urban areas. According to the report from the government of India, at least 34% are Scheduled Tribes, 12% are Scheduled Castes and over 50% belong to official list of OBC. Plain area is numerically dominated by castes such as Teli, Satnami and Kurmi; while forest area is mainly occupied by tribes such as Gond, Halbi, Halba and Kamar/Bujia and Oraon.

Religion

There were 22.8 million people in Chhattisgarh as per the census 2011. As per 2001 census, total population is 20,833,803. Hindu population is 19,729,670 (94.07%), 409,615 (1.94%) Muslim, 401,035
Christian, 69,621 (0.33%) Sikhs and 65,267 (0.3%) Buddhists. Chhattisgarh now has the highest Hindu percentage in India by state.

**Language**

The official language of the state is Hindi and is used by non-rural population of the state. Chhattisgarhi, a dialect of Hindi language, is spoken and understood by the majority of people in Chhattisgarh. Telugu is also spoken in parts of Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarhi was known as "Khaltahi" to the surrounding hill-people and as "Laria" to Sambalpuri and Odia speakers. Kosali, Odia and Bhojpuri are also spoken.

**Status of women**

Chhattisgarh has a high female-male sex ratio (991) ranking at the 5th position among other states of India. Although this ratio is small compared to other states, it is unique in India because Chhattisgarh is—— the 10th largest state in India.

The gender ratio (number of females per 1000 males) has been steadily declining over 20th century in Chhattisgarh. But it is conspicuous that Chhattisgarh always had a better female-to-male ratio compared with national average (see Appendix 1.2).

Probably, such social composition also results in some customs and cultural practices that seem unique to Chhattisgarh: The regional variants are common in India's diverse cultural pattern.

Rural women, although poor, are independent, better organized, socially outspoken. According to another local custom, women can choose to terminate a marriage relationship through a custom called *chudi*.
pahanana, if she desires. Most of the old temples and shrines here are related to 'women power' (e.g., Shabari, Mahamaya, Danteshwari) and the existence of these temples gives insight into historical and current social fabric of this state. However, a mention of these progressive local customs in no way suggests that the ideology of female subservience does not exist in Chhattisgarh. On the contrary, the male authority and dominance is seen quite clearly in the social and cultural life.

Detailed information on aspects of women's status in Chhattisgarh can be found in 'A situational analysis of women and girls in Chhattisgarh' prepared in 2004 by the National Commission of Women, a statutory body belonging to government of India.

**Culture**

The state hosts many religious sects such as Satnami Panth, Kabirpanth, Ramnami Samaj and others. Champaran (Chhattisgarh) is a small town with religious significance as the birthplace of the Saint Vallabhacharya, increasingly important as a pilgrimage site for the Gujarati community.

Chhattisgarh has a significant role in the life of lord Rama. Lord Rama along with his wife Sita and his younger brother Lakshaman had started his Vanvas (exile) in the Bastar region (more precisely Dandakaranya region) of Chhattisgarh. They lived more than 10 years of their 14 years of Vanvas in different places of Chhattisgarh. One of the remarkable place is Shivrinarayan which is nearby Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. Shivrinarayan was named after an old lady Shabari. When Ram visited Shabari she said "I do not have anything to offer other than my heart, but here are some berry fruits. May it please you, my Lord." Saying so, Shabari offered the fruits she had meticulously collected to Rama. When Rama was tasting them, Lakshmana raised the...
concern that Shabari had already tasted them and therefore unworthy of eating. To this Rama said that of the many types of food he had tasted, "nothing could equal these berry fruits, offered with such devotion. You taste them, then alone will you know. Whosoever offers a fruit, leaf, flower or some water with love, I partake it with great joy."

The Odia culture is prominent in the eastern parts of Chhattisgarh bordering Odisha.

**Literature**

Chhattisgarh is a storehouse of literature, performing arts and crafts - all of which derives its substance and sustenance from the day-to-day life experiences of its people. Religion, mythology, social and political events, nature and folklore are favorite motifs. Traditional crafts include painting, woodcarving, bell metal craft, bamboo ware and tribal jewellery. Chhattisgarh has a rich literary heritage with roots that lie deep in the sociological and historical movements of the region. Its literature reflects the regional consciousness and the evolution of an identity distinct from others in Central India. The social problems of the lower castes/untouchables were highlighted in the writings of Khub Chand Baghel through his plays ‘Jarnail Singh’ and ‘Unch Neech’. Chhattisgarh is also known for its literature. Many talented and gifted writers are from Chhattisgarh, including Abhishek Agrawal, one of the youngest authors from Bhilai.

**Crafts**

Chhattisgarh is known for "Kosa silk" and "lost wax art". Besides saris and salwar suits, the fabric is used to create lehengas, stoles, shawls and menswear including jackets, shirts, achkans and sherwanis. Works by

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the internationally renowned sculptor, Sushil Sahuja's Dhokra Nandi, are available at government's Shabari handicrafts emporium, Raipur.

**Traditional food**

The State of Chhattisgarh is known as the rice bowl of Central India and has a rich tradition of food culture. Most of the traditional and tribal foods are made of rice and rice flour, curd and a variety of green leafy vegetables like lal bhaaji, chowlai bhaaji, checho bhaaji, kaanda bhaaji, kochai patta, kohda and bohar bhaaji. Badi and Bijori are optional food categories; gulgula (bobra), bidiya, dhoodh fara, bafauli, kusli, balooshahi and khurmi fall in sweet categories. Some well known breakfast dishes made out of rice & rice flour include fara/muthiya (rice rolls in white sauce), cheela (dosa like dish made with rice batter), angakar roti, chousera roti (rice, puris), etc. One of the common meal had during the scorching summer is Bore Baasi (literally means dipped rice from last cooked meal) which mainly consists of cooked rice dipped water/dahi/buttermilk. It is mostly accompanied by pickle and raw onion. It helps maintain the water levels in the body, keeping it cool and hydrated during the hot and arid summer days.

One of the well known traditional dishes of Chhattisgarh is “Iddhar”. It is made with ground urad dal and kochai patta. Both are arranged in alternate layers 2-3 time and then rolled. This roll is then cooked in steam and cut into pieces. After that it is prepared with curd like curry. Some people also make it with gram flour (besan) instead of urad dal.

Tribal and village populations drink a brew made of the small, creamy white flower of a local tree called Mahuwa.
Economy

Chhattisgarh's gross state domestic product for 2010 is estimated at INR 60,079 crore in current prices. The economy of Chhattisgarh has grown rapidly in recent years with a growth rate of 11.49 per cent in GDP for 2009–2010. Chhattisgarh’s success factors in achieving high growth rate are growth in agriculture and industrial production.

Tea production

Chhattisgarh State is ranked as the 17th largest tea production state in India. The districts of Jashpur and Surguja are favorable tea production areas. In Jashpur district, the first tea plantation, Brahmnishthajaya Sogara Ashram was established under the direction of Pujya Pad Gurupad. Tea production started after two years at the Sogara Ashram. A tea processing unit was established in Sogara Ashram and the unit name set as the Aghor Tea Processing Plant. The forestry department has also started a tea plantation motivated by the Sogara Ashram. In Surguja district, a tea nursery is being developed by the Margdarshan Sansthan Agriculture College in Ambikapur, Surguja.

Agriculture

Agriculture is counted as the chief economic occupation of the state. According to a government estimate, net sown area of the state is 4.828 million hectares and the gross sown area is 5.788 million hectares. Horticulture and animal husbandry also engage a major share of the total population of the state. About 80% of the population of the state is rural and the main livelihood of the villagers is agriculture and agriculture-based small industry.
The majority of the farmers are still practicing the traditional methods of cultivation, resulting in low growth rates and productivity. The farmers have to be made aware of modern technologies suitable to their holdings. Providing adequate knowledge to the farmers is essential for better implementation of the agricultural development plans and to improve the productivity.

Considering this and a very limited irrigated area, the productivity of not only rice but also other crops is low, hence the farmers are unable to obtain economic benefits from agriculture and it has remained as subsistence agriculture till now.

**Agricultural products**

The main crops are rice, maize, _kodo-kutki_ and other small millets and pulses (tuar and kulthi); oilseeds, such as groundnuts (peanuts), soybeans and sunflowers, are also grown. In the mid-1990s, most of Chhattisgarh was still a monocrop belt. Only one-fourth to one-fifth of the sown area was double-cropped. When a very substantial portion of the population is dependent on agriculture, a situation where nearly 80% of a state's area is covered only by one crop, immediate attention to turn them into double crop areas is needed. Also, very few cash crops are grown in Chhattisgarh, so there is a need to diversify the agriculture produce towards oilseeds and other cash crops. Chhattisgarh is also called the "rice bowl of central India".

**Irrigation**

In Chhattisgarh, rice, the main crop, is grown on about 77% of the net sown area. Only about 20% of the area is under irrigation; the rest depends on rain. Of the three agroclimatic zones, about 73% of the Chhattisgarh plains, 97% of the Bastar plateau and 95% of the northern
hills are rainfed. The irrigated area available for double cropping is only 87,000 ha in Chhattisgarh plains and 2300 ha in Bastar plateau and northern hills. Due to this, the productivity of rice and other crops is low, hence the farmers are unable to obtain economic benefits from agriculture and it has remained as subsistence agriculture till now, though agriculture is the main occupation of more than 80% of the population.

In Chhattisgarh region about 22% of net cropped area was under irrigation as compared to 36.5% in Madhya Pradesh in 1998-99, whereas the average national irrigation was about 40%. The irrigation is characterized by a high order of variability ranging from 1.6% in Bastar to 75.0% in Dhamtari. Based on an average growth trend in irrigated area, about 0.43% additional area is brought under irrigation every year as compared to 1.89% in Madhya Pradesh and 1.0% in the country as a whole. Thus, irrigation has been growing at a very low rate in Chhattisgarh and the pace of irrigation is so slow, it would take about 122 years to reach the 75% level of net irrigated area in Chhattisgarh at the present rate of growth.

Chhattisgarh has a limited irrigation system, with dams and canals on some rivers. Average rainfall in the state is around 1400 mm and the entire state falls under the rice agroclimatic zone. Large variation in the yearly rainfall directly affects the production of rice. Irrigation is the prime need of the state for its overall development and therefore the state government has given top priority to development of irrigation.

A total of four major, 33 medium and 2199 minor irrigation projects have been completed and five major, 9 medium and 312 minor projects are under construction, as of 31 March 2006.
Industrial sector

Power sector

Chhattisgarh is one of the few states of India where the power sector is effectively developed. Based on the current production of surplus electric power, the position of the State is comfortable and profitable. The Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) is in a strong position to meet the electricity requirement of the new state and is in good financial health. Chhattisgarh provides electricity to several other states because of surplus production and its power hubs are Korba and Bilaspur.

In Chhattisgarh, NTPC has a thermal plant with the capacity of 2980 MW at Sipat, Bilaspur and a thermal plant with a capacity of 2600 MW at Korba, while CSEB's units have a thermal capacity of 1780 MW and hydel capacity of 130 MW. Apart from NTPC and CSEB, there are a number of private generation units of large and small capacity. The state government has pursued a liberal policy with regard to captive generation which has resulted in a number of private players coming up.

As per a study made by the Power Finance Corporation Ltd., New Delhi, the state has potential of 61000 MW of additional thermal power in terms of availability of coal for more than 100 years and more than 2500 MW hydel capacity. To use this vast potential, substantial additions to the existing generation capacity are already under way.

Steel sector

The steel industry is one of the biggest heavy industries of Chhattisgarh. Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai operated by SAIL, with a capacity of 5.4 million tons per year, is regarded as a significant growth indicator of the state. More than 100 steel rolling mills, 90 sponge iron plants and
ferro-alloy units are in Chhattisgarh. Along with Bhilai, today Raipur, Bilaspur, Korba and Raigarh have become the steel hub of Chhattisgarh. Today, Raipur has become the center of the steel sector, the biggest market for steel in India.

**Aluminium sector**

The aluminium industry of Chhattisgarh was established by Bharat Aluminum Company Limited, which has a capacity of around one million tons each year.

**Natural resources**

**Forest**

Forests occupy 41.33% of the total area (as per the latest report by the Indian Forest Service) and the rich forest resources include wood, tendu leaves, honey and lac.

**Mineral deposits**

Chhattisgarh is rich in minerals. It produces 20% of the country's total cement produce. It ranks first in the nation for coal production and second in reserves, third in iron ore production and first in tin production. Limestone, dolomite and bauxite are abundant. It is the only tin-ore producing state in the country. Other minerals include corandum, garnet, quartz, marble, alexandrite and diamonds.

**Information and technologies**

In recent years, Chhattisgarh is also getting exposure in information technology (IT) projects and consultancy. Its government is also promoting IT and has set up a body to take care of the IT solutions.
The body, known as CHIPS, is providing large IT projects such as Choice, Swan, etc.

**Major companies**

Major companies with a presence in the state include:

- **Metal**: Bhilai Steel Plant, Jindal Steel and Power, Bharat Aluminium Company, Baldev Alloys Pvt. Ltd
- **Oil**: Indian Oil Corporation
- **Engineering**: Simplex Casting Ltd,
- **Real estate**: CHPL-Dream-Homes (Chouhan Housing Pvt Ltd.)
- **Mining**: NMDC, South Eastern Coalfields

**Raigarh District**

Raigarh is a district of the state of Chhattisgarh, in India. Raigarh is the district headquarters. The languages spoken in the district are Chhattisgarhi, Odia and Hindi. Due to Railway and industrial development a fair representation from all over India we can see here. A large population of Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Bihari and other community are living here. The city has cosmopolitan nature.

The district was formed by merging the princely states of Raigarh, Sakti, Sarangarh, Udaipur and Jashpur. Jashpur is now a separate district. Sakti is now not a part of Raigarh district. It is rapidly growing as an industrial district of Chhattisgarh. One of the oldest Jute
mill of India is situated here, Mohan jute mill; it was the only Jute mill of the state CG and undivided MP. Raigarh is one of the major producers of steel in country. Here are situated many steel and power plants such as JSPL, MSP, Monnet steel, and many other small and medium producers. The volume can be judged by the statement that Raigarh itself is consuming about 20,000 tons of coal per day.

**Demography**

According to the 2011 census Raigarh district has a population of 1,493,627 roughly equal to the nation of Gabon or the US state of Hawaii. This gives it a ranking of 336th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 211 inhabitants per square kilometre (550/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 18.02%. Raigarh has a sex ratio of 993 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.7%.

**Languages**

Languages spoken here include Asuri, an Austroasiatic language spoken by approximately 17,000.

**History**

Prior to Indian Independence, Raigarh was capital of Princely State of Raigarh. After the independence of the country, the princely state was the first ones to join the Union of India. The Royal family still resides here, but due to Privy Purse and internal conflicts, the royalty seems to have faded away. Moreover, the palace - Moti Mahal - is in very bad shape. It has recently been declared a heritage site by the state government.
Geography and Climate

Raigarh is located at 21.9°N 83.4°E. It has an average elevation of 215 metres (705 feet). The Kelo river flows through the city, which is one of its main water sources. The minimum - maximum temperature range is 29.5 - 49 °C in summer, and 8 - 25 °C in winter.

Language

Languages spoken are Hindi, and Odia. The demographics of the city consist mainly of people from Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Orissa and Bihar. A sizeable community of Bengali, Telugu and Marathi speaking people also live here. As of 2001 India census, Raigarh district had a population of 12,69,925, and the city of Raigarh a population of 364,287. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Raigarh has an average literacy rate of 71%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 79%, and female literacy is 62%. About 80% of the population are Hindus, 15% Christians and remaining 5% are other religions. In Raigarh, 13% of the population is under 6 years of age.

Naya Raigarh

'Naya Raigarh' (New Raigarh) involves the transformation of old Raigarh into a better planned and a laid out town. Located around National Highway 216, it lies 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) to the south-east of the old town of Raigarh and 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) from the proposed NTPC Lara-Pussore site. Kodatarai Airport (the future domestic airport of Chhattisgarh) separates the old Raigarh, new Raigarh and the NTPC site. Naya Raigarh will serve as the industrial capital of the state and also cater to the infrastructure needs of industry and trade in the region. Naya Raigarh is spread over an area of about 600 acres (240 ha)
and includes a number of villages of which Kodatarai village forms the core of the Naya Raigarh. About half of the total acquired land is being used for afforestation, roads, parks, public conveniences, water facilities—canals, green belts etc. 23 percent of the land will be reserved for educational institutions, government offices and public auditoriums etc. 30 percent of the land will be designated for residential and economic use.

**Culture**

Raigarh is a cultural city known for its Kathak dance and classical music. Raja Chakradhar Singh of Raigarh made prominent contributions to the development of Kathak Dance. Every year on Ganesh Chaturthi festivals called ‘Chakradhar Samaroh’ is organized in which music and dance exponents from all over India visit and display their arts. This event is organized in memory of Raja Chakradhar Singh.

**Economy**

Raigarh is well known for its 'kosa' or tasar, a kind of fine silk created by the silk worm feeding on mulberry fruit. Most of the public buildings in Raigarh were built by Seth Kirodimal and afterwards made part of a charitable trust. These include the district government hospital, Mahatma Gandhi Eye Hospital, Kirodimal Polytechnic College, Kirodimal Degree College and many others. Raigarh is home to the world's second largest and India's largest sponge iron plants and 62 other industries. It has become a growing industrial hub for the steel market. Jindal Steel and Power Limited operate the world's largest sponge iron and steel plant 8 kilometres (5.0 mi) from Raigarh city while 20 kilometres (12 mi) from the city is Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd. The
director of the Jindal Group, Mr. Naveen Jindal provides cheap electricity to few industries at Punjipathra to encourage entrepreneurship.

A rapid change in the demographics has resulted in a number of colonies and apartments. Green View located near Jindal Hospital is the largest and most luxurious apartment in the city.

*Dhokra* or bell metal casting is world acclaimed art form of Raigarh. Based in the village of Ektaal, the bell metal structures are noted for their aesthetic value.

Tendu Patta collection is one of major sources of income for villagers while Raigarh District is a major producer of rice.

**Transportation**

Raigarh is a station on the Tatanagar–Bilaspur section of Howrah-Nagpur-Mumbai line the broad gauge line. It comes under Bilaspur railway division. All express and some superfast trains stop here, while Gondwana express and Janshatabdi express originate at Raigarh. It is well connected with many major cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kota, Patna, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Nagpur, Vishakhapatnam etc., while for other destinations it has to depend upon Bilaspur railway station, which is a regional rail hub connected to every part of country and 132 km from Raigarh district headquarter. The main railway station Raigarh is near the heart of the city. Kirodimal Nagar railway station is another suburb small station of Raigarh city. Raigarh railway station serving to the people of nearby area lie Ambikapur, Sarguja, Dharamjaigarh, Lailunga, Sarangarh. The Raigarh railway station has good Vehicle parking facility even overnight parking can be done on need.
Population 2011

In 2011, Raigarh had population of 1,493,984 of which male and female were 750,278 and 743,706 respectively. In 2001 census, Raigarh had a population of 1,265,529 of which males were 634,597 and remaining 630,932 were females. Raigarh District population constituted 5.85 percent of total Maharashtra population.

Density 2011

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Raigarh district for 2011 is 211 people per sq. km. In 2001, Raigarh district density was at 179 people per sq. km. Raigarh district administers 7,086 square kilometers of areas.

Literacy Rate 2011

Average literacy rate of Raigarh in 2011 were 73.26 compared to 70.16 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 83.49 and 63.02 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 82.70 and 57.62 in Raigarh District. Total literate in Raigarh District were 951,639 of which male and female were 542,756 and 408,883 respectively.

Sex Ratio 2011

With regards to Sex Ratio in Raigarh, it stood at 991 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 994. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 947 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 964 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.
Child Population 2011

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Raigarh. There were total 195,069 children under age of 0-6 against 201,555 of 2001 census. Of total 195,069 male and female were 100,204 and 94,865 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 947 compared to 964 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 13.06 percent of Raigarh District compared to 15.93 percent of 2001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Raigarh</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Population</td>
<td>1,493,984</td>
<td>1,265,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>750,278</td>
<td>634,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>743,706</td>
<td>630,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>18.05%</td>
<td>18.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Sq. Km</td>
<td>7,086</td>
<td>7,086</td>
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<tr>
<td>Density/km2</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion to Chhattisgarh Population</td>
<td>5.85%</td>
<td>6.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio (Per 1000)</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy</td>
<td>73.26</td>
<td>70.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td>83.49</td>
<td>82.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literacy</td>
<td>63.02</td>
<td>57.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Child Population (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>195,069</td>
<td>201,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>100,204</td>
<td>102,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Population (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>94,865</td>
<td>98,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literates</td>
<td>951,639</td>
<td>746,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male Literates</td>
<td>542,756</td>
<td>439,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literates</td>
<td>408,883</td>
<td>306,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Proportion (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>13.06%</td>
<td>15.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>13.36%</td>
<td>16.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)</td>
<td>12.76%</td>
<td>15.68%</td>
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</table>

(Source: Census of India 2011)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Raigarh</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (%)</td>
<td>83.51 %</td>
<td>16.49 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>1,247,682</td>
<td>246,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population</td>
<td>623,817</td>
<td>126,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Population</td>
<td>623,865</td>
<td>119,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (0-6)</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Population (0-6)</td>
<td>164,083</td>
<td>30,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Child(0-6)</td>
<td>83,971</td>
<td>16,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Child(0-6)</td>
<td>80,112</td>
<td>14,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Percentage (0-6)</td>
<td>13.15 %</td>
<td>12.58 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Child Percentage</td>
<td>13.46 %</td>
<td>12.84 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Child Percentage</td>
<td>12.84 %</td>
<td>12.31 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literates</td>
<td>768,151</td>
<td>183,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male Literates</td>
<td>441,331</td>
<td>101,425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Literates</td>
<td>326,820</td>
<td>82,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy</td>
<td>70.89 %</td>
<td>85.22 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td>81.75 %</td>
<td>92.01 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literacy</td>
<td>60.10 %</td>
<td>78.09 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Census of India 2011)

**Jashpur Nagar District**

Jashpur Nagar District lies in the north-eastern corner of the state of Chhattisgarh in India adjoining the border of Jharkhand and Odisha. Jashpur Nagar is the administrative headquarters of the district. It is currently a part of the Red Corridor. During the British Raj Jashpur town was the capital of Jashpur State, one of the princely states of the Eastern States Agency.
Geography

The north-south length of this district is about 150 km, and its east-west breadth is about 85 km. Its total area is 6,205 km². It is between 22° 17′ and 23° 15′ North latitude and 83° 30′ and 84° 24′ East longitude.

It is divided geographically into two parts. The northern hilly belt is called the Upper Ghat. The remaining, southern part, is called Nichghat.

The upper ghat runs from Loroghat Kastura, Narayanpur, Bagicha up to the Surguja district. This belt is a forest area and contains a reserve forest. It covers the Sanna, Bagicha and Narayanpur. The upper ghat is an extension plateau covering 1384 km² which is about 1200 meters above sea level and is covered by a dense forest. The elevated plateau is called "Pat". The Upper Ghat is climbed through Loroghat. Loroghat is about 4 km in length and there are three turnings that are very dangerous. Nichghat is flat in general but also has many big mountains. In Jashpur Raigarh road there are two more ghats, both climbing, Jhanda ghat before Kansabel and Belaghat after Kansabel.

Towns

The main towns situated on the national highway (N.H.78) are Lodam, Gholeng, and Jashpur in the Upper ghat and Kunkuri, Bandarchuwan, Kansabel, Ludeg, and Patthalgaon.

Climate

Kunkuri is the hottest region in Nichghat during the summer and Pandrapat is the coldest region in Upper Ghat in the winter. It is
situated between forests. It is a junction, from raigarh and from ambikapur or jashpur all the people need to cross patthalgaon first.

**Demographics**

According to the 2011 census Jashpur district has a population of 852,043, roughly equal to the nation of Qatar or the US state of South Dakota. This gives it a ranking of 473rd in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 146 inhabitants per square kilometre (380/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 14.65%. Jashpur has a sex ratio of 1004 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 68.6%.

**Jashpur Nagar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total No. of Village (Revenue)</th>
<th>755</th>
<th>SC CASTE (2001)</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>18123</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Patwari Halka</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>ST CASTE (2001)</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>236787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>233466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>469953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Inspector Circle</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Police Thana</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Village</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chauki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Society</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>SCHOOL</td>
<td>Education Department</td>
<td>ST Benefited Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nagar Panchayat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(A) Primary School</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gram Panchayat</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>(B) Middle School</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janpad Panchayat</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(B) High School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Assembly</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(C) Higher Secondary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Area (in Hec.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Kharib Area</td>
<td>249996</td>
<td>College</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Toal Ravi Area</td>
<td>14532</td>
<td>Private College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Rain Fall (in M.M)</td>
<td>1048.4</td>
<td>Hospital (District Health Centre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigated Area</td>
<td>9146</td>
<td>Community Health Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Un-Irrigated Area</td>
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<td>Sub Health Center</td>
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<td>Forest Area</td>
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<td>Primary Health Center</td>
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<td>UnMarked forest Area(Square KM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>743160</td>
<td>Hand pump</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Marked forest Area (Square KM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UnMarked forest Area(Square KM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>743160</td>
<td>Hand pump</td>
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(80)