



Chhattisgarh HC Flags Fly Ash Hazards | Chhattisgarh | 21 Nov 2025

Why in News?

The **Chhattisgarh High Court** has expressed serious concern about persistent **environmental** and **public safety hazards** caused by **fly ash** from [thermal power plants](#) and [coal mines](#) in districts like **Korba**.

Key Points

▪ About Fly Ash:

- [Fly ash](#) is a **fine particulate residue** generated from burning coal; contains **silica, alumina, iron oxide**, and **trace heavy metals**.
- Classified as an **industrial by-product** and regulated under [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)'s Fly Ash Utilisation Guidelines](#).
- Mainly used in **cement, bricks, mine backfilling, road construction**, and **land reclamation**.
- Unmanaged fly ash leads to **respiratory problems, groundwater contamination**, and **soil infertility**.
- India aims for **100% fly ash utilisation**, but many states, including **Chhattisgarh**, fall short.

▪ About Korba Mines:

- [Korba district](#) in Chhattisgarh is known as the **“Power Capital of India”** due to its **large coal reserves** and concentration of **thermal power plants**.
- It hosts the major **Korba Coalfield**, operated mainly by **SECL (South Eastern Coalfields Limited)**, and forms one of India's **largest open-cast coal mining clusters** with key mines such as **Gevra, Dipka**, and **Kusmunda**.
- The **Gevra mine** is among the [largest coal mines in Asia](#) by output, making Korba a critical contributor to **India's domestic coal supply** and a major feeder for multiple **State and Central power plants**.
- Coal in the region has **high ash content (30-40%)**, resulting in significant **fly-ash generation**. This leads to persistent issues of [air pollution](#), [dust emissions](#), [land degradation](#), and **road deterioration** due to continuous heavy-vehicle movement.

World Fisheries Day 2025 | National Current Affairs | 21 Nov 2025

Why in News?

India marked **World Fisheries Day 2025** on **21st November**, celebrating sustainability, blue-economy

growth, and improved livelihoods for fishers.

Key Points

- **About:** [World Fisheries Day](#), observed annually on **21st November**, traces its origin to the formation of the **World Fisheries Forum** in **1997**, when delegates from **18 countries** met in **New Delhi** to promote sustainable fishing and safeguard fisher communities, making India the birthplace of this global observance.
- **Theme:** The theme for 2025 is “**India’s Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports.**”
 - Total fish production more than **doubled from 96 lakh tonnes (2013-14) to 195 lakh tonnes (2024-25).**
 - **Marine product exports** rose by **11.08%**, from **US\$ 0.81 billion (October 2024)** to **US\$ 0.90 billion (October 2025).**
- **Ranking:** India is the **second-largest [fish-producing country](#)** and among the **world’s top shrimp producers.**
- **Major Initiatives:**
 - The government launched the **National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries & Aquaculture** to ensure **safe, transparent, and globally compliant seafood supply chains.**
 - The [Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules](#) promote **environmentally responsible deep-sea fishing**, giving **priority access to Fishermen Cooperatives and FFPOs**, enhancing **income opportunities** for small-scale fishers.
 - **ReALCRaft** is a **digital platform** enabling **online registration, licensing, [e-payments](#), and vessel data updates**, with integrated **inspections** for [paperless fisheries governance](#).
 - **NABHMITRA**, a **two-way [satellite communication system](#)** for small vessels (<20 m), provides **real-time tracking, SOS alerts, and weather updates**, improving **fisher safety** and **coordination with coastal authorities.**