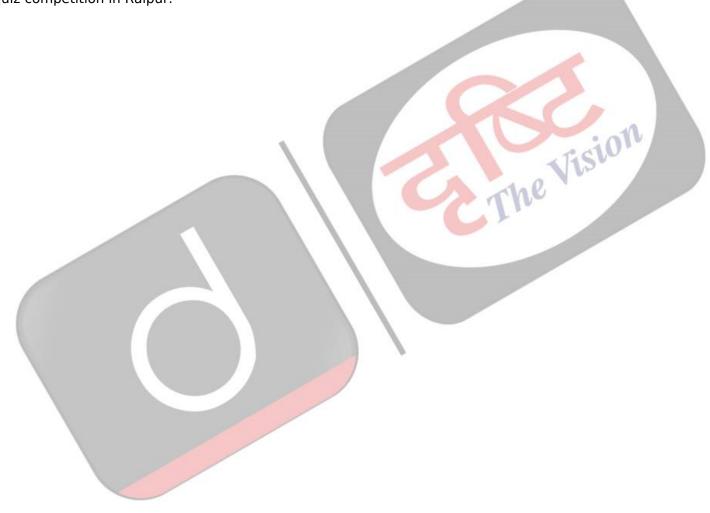


Formation of Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh is celebrating its Silver Jubilee year, marking 25 years since its formation. As part of its Silver Jubilee celebrations, the Public Relations Department organized a photo exhibition and quiz competition in Raipur.





Key Facts About Chhattisgarh

- History: The history of Chhattisgarh dates back to the 4th century C.E., when it was known
 as Dakshin Kosala. The name "Chhattisgarh" means "thirty-six forts," referring to the Hehaya
 dynasty of Ratanpur.
 - The **Kalachuri dynasty** ruled the region from the 9th to 18th century, with **Ratanpur** as their capital.
- Formation as a State: Chhattisgarh was formed on 1st November 2000, after being carved out of Madhya Pradesh.
 - Its **capital is Raipur**, with **Naya Raipur (Atal Nagar)** being developed as a modern smart city.
- **Geographical Significance:** It is the **9th largest state in India** with an area of 135,192 square kilometers. The state is rich in natural resources, especially coal, iron ore, and bauxite, making it a key hub for power, steel, and cement industries.
 - Chhattisgarh is also known as the 'Rice Bowl of India' due to its high rice

production. More than 40% of its land is forested.

Unique Facts About Chhattisgarh

- Both the Tropic of Cancer and the Indian Standard Time (IST) meridian pass through Chhattisgarh, with their intersection located in Surajpur.
- The Indian Standard Time meridian runs through several districts in Chhattisgarh, including Surajpur, Korba, Janjgir-Champa, Balodabazar, Mahasamund, Gariaband, and Balod.
 - This meridian, which is based on the 82.5° E longitude, is used to calculate IST.
 - The **standard meridian of India also passes through other states**, such as Uttar Pradesh (Mirzapur, village Kharavada), Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Tropic of Cancer, situated at 23° 26′ North latitude, crosses through eight Indian states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram.
 - In Chhattisgarh, the Tropic of Cancer passes through the districts of Korea (Koriya), Surajpur, Balrampur, and Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur.

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