



Vikas Sheel Appointed Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Vikas Sheel, a senior IAS officer, has been appointed as the **13th Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh**, succeeding **Amitabh Jain**, who will retire on 30th September 2025.

- He has **held key positions**, including Collector of Raipur and Bilaspur districts, Secretary in various state departments, and is currently serving as an advisor to the Executive Director at the [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#).

Key Facts About Chief Secretary

- **Origin:** The office of the **Chief Secretary** in India originated during British rule in **1799** under [Lord Wellesley](#) and has since become integral to the state's administration.
 - The **Chief Secretary** serves as the highest-ranking civil servant in a state, overseeing the **state Secretariat** and coordinating **government functions**.
- **Appointment and Status:** The Chief Secretary is appointed by the [Chief Minister](#) (in the name of the Governor of the state) from senior **IAS officers** based on factors like seniority, merit, and trust.
 - The office was standardized in **1973** to equate it with the position of **Secretary to the Government of India**.
- **Powers and Functions:**
 - **Advisor to Chief Minister:** Acts as the **principal advisor** on matters of **state administration** and provides guidance on **policy issues**.
 - **Secretary to the Cabinet:** Prepares the **Cabinet meeting agenda**, records proceedings, and oversees **decision implementation**.
 - **Head of Civil Service:** Oversees **appointments, transfers, and promotions** within the state civil service and maintains the **morale** of civil servants.
 - **Chief Coordinator:** Ensures **inter-departmental coordination**, presides over **coordination committees**, and resolves **disputes** between departments.
 - **Head of Certain Departments:** Directly manages key departments such as **General Administration, Personnel, and Planning**.
 - **Crisis Administrator:** Leads **relief operations** during crises like **floods, droughts**, and **communal disturbances**, representing the state government during emergencies.