



Vikas Sheel Appointed Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 26 Sep 2025

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.

World Para Athletics Championships (WPAC) 2025 | National Current Affairs | 26 Sep 2025

Why in News?

The **World Para Athletics Championships (WPAC) 2025** was inaugurated at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi**, where the Prime Minister hailed para athletes as breaking barriers and setting new benchmarks, underscoring **India's identity as a sporting and inclusive nation**.

Key Points

- **About:** This year's championship, scheduled from 27th September to 5th October 2025, boasts a record-breaking **2,200 participants from 104 nations**, marking it as the **largest para sports** event ever **hosted on Indian soil**.
 - The event will also feature **India's largest-ever contingent** of 74 athletes.
- **India's First:** India will host the World Para Athletics Championships **for the first time**, becoming the **fourth Asian nation** to do so, following Qatar, the UAE, and Japan.
- **Infrastructure:** The event is being held on the **newly-laid Mondo track** at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which was previously used at the **Paris Paralympics 2024** and inaugurated on **National Sports Day**.
 - Alongside the main competition track, a Mondo warm-up track and a multi-speciality gymnasium, capable of training 200 athletes simultaneously, were also inaugurated, emphasising India's commitment to world-class sports infrastructure.
- **Previous Achievement:** India's remarkable rise in para sports is evident, with the country achieving its best-ever performance at the **2024 World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan**, securing sixth place overall with 17 medals, including six golds, five silvers, and six bronzes.
- **Significance:** This event is part of **India's long-term strategy** to host major global sporting events, with plans already underway for the **Commonwealth Games in 2030** and aspirations to host the **Olympic Games in 2036**.

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