

Geography and climate

Raigarh is located at [21.9°N 83.4°E](#).^[2] 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 and demographics

See also: [List of cities in Chhattisgarh](#)

Languages spoken are Chhattisgarhi [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](#),^[3] Raigarh district had a population of 12,69,925,^[4] 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.

New Raigarh

'*New 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](#) a festival 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



Kosa Silk culture at Kosabadi

Raigarh is well known for its 'kosa' or [tasar](#), a kind of fine silk created by the silk worm feeding on [mulberry](#) fruit.



Black Dust Pollution and its impact on Medicinal Flora in Raigarh

Most of the public buildings in Raigarh were built by Seth Kirodimal^[clarification needed Who or what is this?] 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.

Raigarh is an old city and the marketplace is congested with narrow and curving roads. More than 50 sponge iron plants have already been started in the vicinity of Raigarh. The new Raigarh consists of various shopping complexes, broad four-lane roads, 3 star hotels, upcoming malls (Ela Mall, Galaxy Mall and Grand Mall) and much more.

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^[5] collection is one of major sources of income for villagers while Raigarh District is a major producer of rice.