

KNOW OUR COUNTRY

1. ANDHRA PRADESH

- Andhra Pradesh is situated on the southeastern coast of the country. The state is the eight-largest state in India covering an area of 162,970 Square km. It is tenth largest by population with 49,386,799 inhabitants.
- The state has a coast line of 974km. it is the second longest coastline among the states of India after Gujarat.
- *Literacy rate* – 67.41%
- Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati is one of the world's most visited religious sites, with 18.25 million visitors per year.
- Sport - Kabaddi
- Bird - Indian Roller
- Tree - Neem
- Kuchipudi, the state dance originated in the village of Kuchipudi in Krishna district, had entered the Guinness World Records for performing Mahabrinada Natyam with a total of 6,117 dancers in Vijayawada.
- Geographical Indications - Banaganapalle mangoes and Bandar Laddu, Kondapalli Toys, Tirupati Laddu, Venkatagiri Sari
- Traditional sweet- Pootharekulu originated from Atreyapuram village AP.
- Araku Valley is a hill station in Visakhapatanam district in the state of AP.
- Karnam Malleswari, the first female Indian to win an Olympic medal, hails from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. She won the bronze medal on 19th September 2000, in the 69 kg category with a lift of 240kg.

2. ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- Arunachal Pradesh is the northeastern-most state of the country. Arunachal Pradesh borders the states of Assam and Nagaland to the south and shares international borders with Bhutan in the west, Myanmar in the east and is separated from China in the north by the disputed McMahon line.
- *Capital* - Itanagar
- Major part of the state is claimed by the Republic of China, and the People's Republic of China referring to it as "South Tibet"
- Arunachal Pradesh contains one of the highest proportions of Tibetan Buddhists in India.
- It is also known as the *Orchid State of India* or the *Paradise of the Botanists*.
- Geographically it is the *largest of the North-eastern States* known as the Seven Sister States.
- Official language – English
- Tree- Hollong
- Arunachal Pradesh became a state on 20 February 1987.

3. BIHAR

- It is the 13th-largest state of India with an area of 94,163 sqkm²
- It is third largest state by population
- *Borders*: Nepal to the North, West Bengal to the East, with Jharkhand to the South.
- The Bihar plain is split by the river Ganges which flows from west to east
- On 15 November 2000, southern Bihar was carved out form Jharkhand.
- *Maurya Empire* was very strong in Magadh region. Buddhism arose from Magadh.
- *Bihar has bicameral*: Legislative Council 75, Legislative assembly 243

- Area Rank 13
- Population Rank 3
- HDI rank 16th
- *Literacy* 63.8%
- *Languages* - Hindi, Maithili
- The *Mahabodhi Temple* is among the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha and is UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Since 2010, Bihar has celebrated its birthday as Bihar Diwas on 22nd March.
- The tenth and the last Guru of Sikhism, Guru Gobind Singh was born in Patna
- After the battle of Buxar 1764, the British East India Company obtained the Diwani rights (rights to administer, collect revenue or tax for Bihar, Bengal and Odisha).
- Farmers in Champaran had revolted against indigo cultivation in 1914 (at Pipra) and 1916. *Champaran Satyagraha* happened.
- The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917, in the Champaran district of Bihar, India during the period of the British Raj, was the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mohandas Gandhi and a major revolt in the Independence Movement.
- Another important Satyagraha just after this revolt was Kheda Satyagraha.
- Champaran Satyagraha was the first to be started, but word Satyagraha was used for the first time in Anti Rowlatt Act agitation.
- Bihar has only 7.2% of land as forests.
- Valmiki National Park, West Champaran district is the 18th Tiger Reserve of India and is ranked fourth in terms of density of tiger population.
- Bihar is the fastest growing state in terms of Gross state domestic product (GSDP) clocking a growth rate of 17.06% in 2014-15. Projected growth rate: 13.4% during 2012-17.
- Bihar accounts for 71% of India's annual Litchi production.
- Bihar is the largest producer of vegetables and the second-largest producer of fruits in India.
- *Mithila Painting*: Madhubani art or Mithila art is practiced in the Mithila region of India. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterized by eye-catching geometrical patterns. There is ritual content for a particular occasion, such as birth or marriage, and festivals, such as Holi, Surya Shasti, Kali Puja, Upanayana, Durga Puja. Mainly created by the women of various communities in Mithila region. Madhubani paintings mostly depict the men & its association with nature and the scenes & deity from the ancient epics. Natural objects like the sun, the moon, and the religious plants like tulsi are also widely painted, along with the scenes from royal court and social events like weddings. Generally, no space is left empty.
- Sita Devi and Jagdamba Devi are prominent artists of *Madhubani Painting*. Sita Devi was awarded Padma Shri in 2011. Other names are: Bauwa Devi, Yamuna Devi, Chano Devi, Bindeshwari Devi, Shashi Devi, Bharti Dayal were also given National Award.
- *Gaya* is amongst the most famous places in Bihar, which is a Hindu pilgrimage hub and a transit point for Buddhist pilgrimage centre of Bodhgaya. Hiuen Tsang mentioned about it in his travelogues.
- *Seraikella Chhau* is main folk dance
- *Chhath* is the main festival of Bihar which is being celebrated from ancient vedic times. It is devoted to Surya Dev and Chhathi Maiya.
- Sonpur Animal fair is internationally famous. It is held on Kartik Purnima in November at Sonpur. The legend says that Chandragupta Maurya used to purchase War elephants and horses from this mela.

- *Famous people from Bihar:* Rajendra Prasad was the first President of India, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was the most famous modern hindi poets, Bismillah Khan Shahnai maestro, Kapoori Thakur was better known as Jan Nayak. He was born in Samastipur district in 1924. His contribution is remembered for Quit India Movement. He also served as Chief Minister of Bihar.

4. GOA

- Goa is a state in western India with coastlines stretching along the Arabian Sea.
- Goa was a Portuguese colony prior to 1961.
- Coastal region known as the Konkan.
- It is bounded by Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, Arabian Sea forming western coast.
- It is the *India's smallest state* by area and fourth smallest by population.
- Goa has the highest GDP per capita among all Indian States.
- Goa state is ranked on top for 'the best quality of life' in India by the National Commission on Population based on the 12 indicators.
- Panaji is the state capital.
- Vasco da Gama is the largest city.
- Portuguese landed in the early 16th century as merchants and conquered it soon thereafter. They ruled Goa for about 450yrs.
- Area 3,702 sqm
- HDI 0.779
- *Official language* Konkani
- Goa state was formed on May 30 1987 as twenty fifth state
- Goa has more than 40 estuarine, 8 marine and about 90 riverine islands.
- The total navigable length of Goa's rivers is 253km.
- Goa has more than 300 ancient water-tanks built during the rule of the Kadamba dynasty and over 100 medicinal springs
- On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded Goa as Operation Vijay resulting in annexation of Goa.

5. GUJARAT

- Gujarat has an area of 196,024 sq.km
- Coast line 1600 km
- It is bordered by Rajasthan to the northeast, Daman and Diu to the south, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Maharashtra to the southeast, Madhya Pradesh to the east, and the Arabian Sea and Pakistani province of Sindh to the west.
- *Capital:* Gandhinagar
- Gujarat is one of the three states to prohibit the sale of alcohol. (Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland and UT of Lakshadweep has prohibition in sale of alcohol.)
- Gujarat was one of the main central areas of the Indus Valley Civilization. Lothal, Dholavira and Gola Dhoro.
- Dahod: birthplace of Aurangzeb
- Gujarat has seen a high average annual growth of 9% in the agricultural sector as compared to all India only 3%.
- Gujarat is the main producer of tobacco, cotton and groundnuts in India.
- *AMUL* = Anand Milk Union Limited
- Gujarat has the lowest rate of unemployment 1%.
- Gujarat has the biggest industrial area of ceramic business in MORBI, Himmatnagar, which produces around 80% of the country's gross ceramic production and 80% of compact

- Fluorescent lamps (CFL)
- Global Prosperity Index 2012 Gujarat was highest-scoring amongst all states
- Gujarat has 9.7% of its total area under forest cover.
- Gujarat has four national parks and 21 sanctuaries. It is the only home of Asiatic Lions.
- *National Parks:* Gir forest National Park
Vansda National Park
Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar
Narara Marine National Park, Gulf of Kutch, Jamnagar
- In 1980s paleontologists found dinosaur bones and fossils of atleast 13 species Balasinor in Kheda District.
- *The Tarnetar Fair* is held during the first week of Bhadrapad (Sep-Oct) and mostly serves as a place to find a suitable bride for tribal people from Gujarat.
- State has a *Ro-Ro* (Roll-On Roll-Off) ferry service. The service was launched on 22 October 2017, between Ghogha and Dahej. It will reduce the travel time between the two places from 6-8 hours to 1-1.5 hours. It can carry up to 100 vehicles (Cars, buses and trucks) and 250 passengers between the two ports of Ghogha and Dahej in Gujarat. It is in Gulf of Khambhat.

6. JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- J&K is located mostly in the Himalayan Mountains, and shares borders with the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to the south.
- The line of control separates it from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north respectively. And a Line of Actual Control separates it from the Chinese-administered territory of Aksai Chin in the east
- The state has special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India
- A part of the erstwhile Princely State of Kashmir and Jammu, the region is the subject of territorial conflict among China, India and Pakistan. The western districts of the former princely state known as Azad Kashmir and the northern territories known as Gilgit-Baltistan have been under Pakistani control since 1947. The Aksai Chin region in the east, bordering Tibet, has been under Chinese control since 1962.
- J&K is the only state in India with a Muslim-majority population.
- HDI 0.542
- *Official language:* Urdu
- *Animal* Kashmir Stag, Bird Black necked crane,
- *Flower:* Lotus, Tree: Chinar tree
- Maharaja Hari Singh became the ruler of the princely state of J&K in 1925.
- On 22 October 1947, rebellious citizens from the western districts of the State and Pushtun tribesmen from Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan invaded the State, backed by Pakistan. The Maharaja initially fought back but appealed for assistance to the India, who agreed on the condition that the ruler accedes to India. Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession on 26th October 1947 in return of military aid and assistance.

7. KARNATAKA

- Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India.
- It was formed on 1 November 1956.
- Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973.
- Karnataka is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, Goa to the northwest, Maharashtra to the north, Telangana to the northeast, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the southeast and Kerala to the south.

- It is the seventh largest Indian State by area and eight largest state by population.
- The two main river systems of the state are the Krishna and Kaveri.

8. MADHYA PRADESH

- Madhya Pradesh is a state in central India.
- *Capital Bhopal*, other major cities are Indore, Gwalior, Ujjain
- MP is the *second largest state in area*.
- MP is the *fifth largest state by population*
- It borders the state of UP to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the west, and Rajasthan to the northwest.
- After India's independence, MP state was created with Nagpur as its capital. In 1956, the state was reorganized, and its parts were combined with the states of Madhya Bharat,
- Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal to form the new state MP
- Marathi speaking Vidharbha region was removed and merged with the then Bombay State.
- MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India
- Nana Saheb (born 19 May 1824-1859) born as Dhondu Pant, was an Indian Peshwa of Maratha empire who led the rebellion in Cawnpore during 1857 uprising. He was the adopted son of the exiled Maratha Peshwa Bajji Rao II. He gained control of Cawnpore for a few days. British forces recaptured Cawnpore after few days. He was led to the Nepal Hills in 1859, where he is thought to have died.
- *Tantia Tope* (1814- 18 April 1859) was a general in the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and one of its notable leaders. He was born as Ramachandra Panduranga to a Maratha Brahman family and took the title Tope meaning commanding officer. He was adherent to Nana Sahib of Bithur. He came to the relief of Rani Lakshmi of Jhansi and with her seized the city of Gwalior. However, he was defeated by General Napier's British Indian troops at Ranod and after a further defeat at Sikar abandoned the campaign. He was executed by the British Government at Shivpuri on 18 April 1859.
- In 2013, state govt. declared *Mallakhamb as the state sport*.
- *Four sites in MP have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO:*
KHUJRAHO GROUP OF MONUMENTS
DEVI JAGDAMBA TEMPLE KHAJRAHO
BUDDHIST MONUMENTS AT SANCHI
ROCK SHELTERS OF BHIMBETKA
- Tansen and Baiju Bawra were born near Gwalior
- The adivasi population in MP was 73.34 million constituting 21% of the total population.
- The *Narmada is the longest river in MP*. The Tapti river runs parallel to Narmada.

9. MAHARASHTRA

- Maharashtra has the fifth-highest life expectancy at birth 71.6 among all Indian states.
- The name Maharashtra is believed to be originated from rathi, which means charioteer. The name Maharashtra first appeared in 7th century in the account of a contemporary Chinese traveler, Huan Tsang.
- It is third-largest and second most populous State in India.

10. MANIPUR

- Manipur is a state in Northeast India, with the city of Imphal as its capital
- It is bounded by Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, and Assam to the west. Burma lies to its east.
- *FAMOUS FOOD*- Chamthong or Kangshoi is a stew of any seasonal vegetables with coarsely chopped onions or spring onion, maroi- both yennam nakuppi, ginger ngari and salt topped with ngari and dried fish or fried fish pieces and water. It is soupy in consistency and is eaten with rice.
- By the late 1930s the princely state of Manipur negotiated with British administration its preference to be part of India, rather than Burma.
- *JEWEL OF INDIA*- Surrounded by nine hills with an oval shaped valley at the centre, a natural made jewel and hence the name “A jeweled land” or Manipur.
- *Language* - Meitei
- *Favorite fish* - Ngari
- *Famous festival* - The Lai Haraoba of God – Thangjing Yaoshang (Dol Jatra) celebrated for five days commencing from the full-moon day of Phalgun
- *Dance*: Manipuri dance also known as Jagoi

11. MIZORAM

- Mizoram is a state in Northeast India, with Aizwal as its capital city. The name is derived from “Mizo”, which is the name of the native inhabitants and ‘Ram” means land, thus Mizoram means Land of the Mizos.
- Mizoram produces over 7 million tonnes of Anthurium supplying the domestic market as well as exporting it to UAE, UK and Japan. The majority of producers and income earners from this business are Mizoram women.
- *Anthurium Festival* is celebrated every year in Mizoram.
- Within the northeast region, Mizoram is the southernmost landlocked state, sharing borders with Tripura, Assam, and Manipur
- Mizoram also shares a 722-kilometer border with the neighboring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Mizoram was previously part of Assam until 1972. It was carved out as Union Territory first and then became 23rd state of India, with 53rd amendment of the constitution.
- It is the second least populous state
- About 91% of the area is forest
- It has highest concentration of tribal people among all states of India.
- Mizoram is one of three states of India with Christian majority.
- *Cultivation system*: Jhum or shifting cultivation
- NH 54 and NH 150 connect to Assam and Manipur respectively
- Kukis are the earliest known residents of Mizo hills
- Female sex ratio 976/1000 higher than national average of 940/1000
- Literacy rate above 90%
- Mizoram supplies 14% of bamboo
- Airport- Lempui Airport
- Railway station: Bairabi
- River Chhimtuipui it drains into Burma’s Rakhine state
- Kaladan Multi-modal Transit transport Project
- Dances: Cheraw- bamboo dance women stepping in between and out of the bamboo with the music.
Khuallam

Chheihlam

Chai

- Sport - Football is popular here. Mizoram has football league.
- Bird - Mrs Hume's pheasant or bar-tailed pheasant it is the state bird

12. NAGALAND

- Nagaland is a mountainous state in Northeast India, bordering Myanmar. Its capital is Kohima.
- Nagaland became the 16th state of India on 1 December 1963.
- Hornbill festival is the most important festival of Nagaland. The festival takes place between 1 and 10 December every year. Horn Bill festival was launched by The Govt. of Nagaland in December 2000 to encourage inter tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of the state.
- The State is also known as the "falcon capital of the world".
Amur Falcons are long distance migratory birds, spend about one month in Wokha, Nagaland every autumn where they feast on insects to gain fitness for their onward journey to Africa. Lakhs of falcon visit Nagaland every year.
Amur falcon (*Falco amurensis*) is a small raptor of the falcon family. It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating in large flocks across India and over the Arabian sea to winter in Southern Africa.
- Rhododendron is the state flower.
- Official language of Nagaland is English.
- Nagaland is home to the bhut jolokia or ghost pepper, one of the hottest chillis in the world at 855,000 SHU on the Scoville scale.
- Kohima War Cemetery- In 1944 during World War II, The Indian National Army with the help of Japanese Army led by Netaji Subhashchandra Bose, invaded through Burma and attempted to free India through Kohima. Nearly 4000 British Empire troops lost their lives along with 3000 Japanese.

13. ODISHA

- Odisha is an eastern Indian State on Bay of Bengal. It is known for tribal cultures and many ancient Hindu temples.
- The capital Bhubaneshwar
- Odisha has 485km of coast line
- 9th largest state by area, 11th state by population and 3rd most populous state of India in terms of tribal population.
- April 1 is celebrated as Odisha Day
- The region is also known as Utkala and is mentioned in India's national anthem Jana Gana Mana
- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon on the east coast of Odisha with an area of 1105 square km. Lagoon has small population of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins
- The kitchen of the Jagannath Temple, Puri is reputed to be the largest in the world, with 1000 chefs, working around 752 chulas, to feed over 10,000 people each day.
- Sweets- The syrupy desert Pahala rasgulla and Chhenapoda
- Odissi dance and music are classical art forms. Odissi is the oldest surviving dance form in India on the basis of archeological evidence. Odissi has a long, unbroken tradition of 2000 yrs and finds mention in the Natyashastra of Bharatamuni possibly written 200BC.

13. PUNJAB

- Punjab, a state bordering Pakistan, is the heart of India's Sikh community.
- The city of Amritsar founded in the 1570s by Sikh Guru Ram Das. Harmandir Sahib also known as Golden Temple is surrounded by the Pool of Nectar.
- In Amritsar there is a Durgiana Temple, a Hindu shrine famed for its engraved silver doors.

14. RAJASTHAN

- Largest state in area. 3.42 lakh km. 10.4% of India's land Population wise 7th
- Shares border with Pakistan province of Punjab and Sindh. With Punjab, Haryana, UP, MP and Gujarat.
- Dilwara temple
- *Keoladeo National Park, World Heritage site*
- *Three National Parks:*
The Ranthambore National Park
Sawai Madhopur Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar
Mukundra Hill Tiger Reserve in Kota
- The state was formed on 30 March 1949
- Legislature: Unicameral
- Literacy 67%. HDI 0.5768,
- Flower: Rohida, Tree: Khejri
- The Desert National Park in Jaisalmer is spread over an area of 3,162 square kilometers.
- The great Indian bustard has been classed as critically endangered since 2011
- Rajasthan state is the first state in the world to provide email address to every citizen in their own language.
- Crude Oil- Oil is extracted in Barmer region. The extraction is approximately 300 thousand a barrel a day.
- Rajasthan is the largest producer of barley, mustard, pearl millet, coriander, fenugreek and gaur in India
- Cuisines: Dal-Bati- Churma, Ghewar
- Dances: Ghoomar, Kalbeliya
- Festivals: Gangaur, Teej,
- Rajasthan produces 30% of CA's of India
- Tourism: 14% of total foreign tourists
- Jaipur = Pink City, Jodhpur = Blue city

15. SIKKIM.

- Sikkim is a state in Northeast India, bordered by Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal. It is part of Himalayas includes India's highest mountain 8,586m Kanchenjunga
- *Points of Interests:* Lake Tsomgo, Rumtek Monastery, Kecheopalri lake, Hanuman Tok, Sa-Ngor-Chotshog Centre
- Sikkim was ruled by a Buddhist priest-king known as the Chogyal. It became a princely state of British India in 1890. After 1947, Sikkim continued its protectorate status with the republic of India. A referendum in 1975 led to Sikkim joining India as its 22nd state on 26th April 1975.
- *Language:* Nepali, Lepcha
- *Flag of Sikkim:* A Buddhist Khorlo prayer wheel with the gankyil as the central element.

16. TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu, a South Indian State
- TN is famous for Dravidian-Style Hindu temples
- Meenakshi Amman Temple has high 'Gopuram' towers ornamented with colourful figures.
- On Pamban Island, Ramanathaswamy Temple is a pilgrimage site
- The town of Kanyakumari, at India's Southernmost tip, is the site of ritual sunrises.
- Capital Chennai is known for beaches and landmarks including 1644 colonial Fort St. George.
- BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK
- MEENAKSHI AMMAN TEMPLE
- MUDUMALI NATIONAL PARK
- BRIHADISVARA TEMPLE, THANJAVUR
- DODDABETTA
- MARINA BEACH
- ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE
- *KANCHIPURAM*- City of a Thousand temples is located around 80 km from Chennai on the main Road to Bangalore, it was once the capital of the
- Kanchipuram, Mammallapuram and Chennai are often referred to as Tamil Nadu's Golden Triangle for tourists.
- *Kanchipuram Silk Saris* also called Kanjivaram saris are among the finest saris in India. They are distinguished by their motifs, and heavy silk and gold cloth. Silk weavers in Kanchipuram are believed to be descendents of Sage Markanda, a master weaver who wove tissue from lotus fibre in Hindu mythology. Due to intricate nature and complexity of the Kanchipuram saris, it takes between 10 days to a month to complete one. Genuine, original Kanchipuram sarees are woven using pure mulberry silk from neighboring Karnataka and gold Zari (thread) from Gujarat. Three silk threads are used in the process, which gives the saris their weight. 2kg+. The bodies and borders are woven separately and then interlocked together making the joint so strong that the border won't detach even if the sari tears. Kanchipuram sari borders are usually very different in colour and design to the rest of the sari. All kinds of motifs are woven into their patterns, such as suns, moons, chariots, peacocks, parrots, swans, lions, elephants, flowers, and leaves. Kanchipuram saris are protected under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999.
- If you are buying a Kanchipuram sari, make sure you look out for the special GI tag that comes with authentic saris. Only 21 cooperative silk societies and 10 individual weavers have been authorized to use the term.
NOTE THAT THE PURE ZARI USED IN KANCHIPURAM SARIS IS A SILK THREAD COVERED WITH FLATTENED SILVER IN THE CENTER, AND GOLD ON THE OUTER SURFACE. TO TEST THE ZARI, SCRATCH OR SCRAPE IT. A RED SILK SHOULD EMERGE FROM THE CORE.

17. TELANGANA

- Telangana is a state in Southern India
- *Capital*: Hyderabad
- Charminar is a 16th century mosque with 4 arches supporting 4 towering minarets. The monument overlooks the city's long-running Laad Bazaar.
- *Golconda*: Once seat of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, the sprawling Fort is a former diamond-trading center.

- *Warangal Fort*- features carved stone towers and gateways.
- Telangana was awarded separate statehood on 2 June 2014.
- Hyderabad will continue to serve as the joint capital city for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for 10 years.
- *Emblem*: Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, Charminar
- KAKATIYA KALA THORANAM: also called Warangal Gate is a historical arch in the Warangal district. Warangal fort has four ornamental gates which originally formed the gates to the now defunct great Shiva temple which are known as Kakatiya Kala Thoranam or Warangal Gates. The arch was built around 12th century during the rule of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- *Nizam of Hyderabad* did not want to merge with the Indian Union and wanted to remain independent. The Government of India annexed Hyderabad State on 17 September 1948 after a military operation called Operation Polo.
- *Telangana has three National Parks*:
Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park
Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park
Mrugavani National Park in Ranga Reddy district
- The assembly is bicameral with 119 Members of the Legislative Assembly and 40 members of the Legislative Council.

18. TRIPURA

- Tripura is a state in Northeast India. It is the third-smallest state behind Goa and Sikkim in the country. It covers 10,491 km square.
- It is bordered by Bangladesh to the north, south and west and the Indian states of Assam and Mizoram to the east.
- The area of modern 'Tripura' was ruled for several centuries by the Tripuri dynasty.
- The independent Tripuri Kingdom joined the newly independent India in 1949.
- Tripura has the highest number of primate species found in any Indian state.
- Tripura is the most literate state in India with a literacy of 94.65%
- Tripura lies in a geographically disadvantageous location in India, as only major Highway 8 connects it with rest of the world.
- Tripura is a landlocked state in North East India, where the seven contiguous states- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura- are collectively known as the Seven Sister States.
- The Green imperial pigeon is the state bird of Tripura.
- National parks of the state are Clouded Leopard National Park and Rajbari National Park.
- The state has 400 billion cubic meters of natural gas with 16 billion cubic meters is recoverable
- Bengali is the most widely spoken language. Kokborok is a prominent language among Tripura tribes.
- The length of the international border is 856km. i.e. 84% of its total border
- Capital: Agartala
- Tripura gained full state hood on January 21, 1972.

19. UTTAR PRADESH

- UP is the most populous state in India.
- Have over 200 million inhabitants
- It was created on April 1937 as the United Provinces during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950.
- On 9 November 2000, a new state Uttarakhand was carved out.

- The two major rivers of the state Ganga and Yamuna join at Allahabad and then flow as the Ganges further east.
- The state is bordered by Rajasthan to the West, Haryana, HP, and Delhi to the northwest, Uttarakhand and Nepal to the north, Bihar to the east, MP to the south and touches the states of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh to the southeast.
- It covers 7.33% of total area of India.
- It is fourth largest state by area.
- It is the fourth largest Indian state by economy, with a GDP of Rs. 14.89 lakh crore.
- President rule was imposed ten times since 1968 for a total of 17,00 days.
- HDI 0.5415 rank 18th
- Literacy 69.72%
- State animal: Swamp deer
- State bird: Sarus crane
- State tree: Ashoka
- State flower: Palash
- State dance: Kathak
- State sport: Hockey
- Forest area 6.88%
- Sonbhadra district is known as Energy Capital of India.
- Major Dhyan Chand hockey legend was from UP
- Cricket stadium Kanpur: Green Park Stadium
- Buddh International Circuit hosted India's inaugural F1 Grand Prix race October 2011. Track length 5.14 km.
- Kumbh Mela: organized in the month Feb-March is major festival held every 12 years in rotation at Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain on the river Ganga and Nasik on the Godavari river.
- The Pioneer paper was founded in Allahabad in 1865 by George Allen.
- Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Handicapped University is the only university established exclusively for the disabled in the world.

20. UTTARAKHAND

- Uttarakhand also known as Uttaranchal and Devbhumi.
- On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th State
- It borders Tibet to the north, Province No. 7 of Nepal to the east, and UP to the south and HP to the west as well as Haryana on its south-western corner.
- The state is divided into Garhwal and Kumaon
- Total 13 districts
- Capital Dehradun (interim) Proposed Gairsain
- Nanda Devi the second highest mountain in India is located in Uttarakhand.
- 20th most populous state in India
- HDI 0.515 rank 7th
- 1970s saw Chipko environment movement. "Soil ours, water ours, ours are these forests. Our forefathers raised them, it's we must protect them" Old Chipko Song.
- Gaura Devi was the main activist who started this movement other participants were Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Suderlal Bahuguna and Ghansyam Raturi, the popular Chipko poet.
- Uttarakhand has total area of 53,483 sqkm area. 86% is mountainous and 65% is covered by forest.

21. ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

- The Andaman Islands are an Indian archipelago in the Bay of Bengal. These roughly 300 islands are known for their palm-lined, white-sand beaches, mangroves and tropical rainforests. Coral reefs supporting marine life such as sharks and rays make for popular diving and snorkeling sites.
- Indigenous Andaman Islanders inhabit the more remote islands, many of which are off limits to visitors
- The total land area of these islands is approximately 8249 square kilometers.
- Capital Port Blair
- Distance from Chennai to Andaman and Nicobar Islands = 1353 km
- Kolkata to Andaman and Nicobar Island = 1287 km
- Myanmar to Andaman and Nicobar = 674 km
- Singapore to Andaman and Nicobar = 1687 km
- Thailand to Andaman and Nicobar = 1009 km
- Bangkok to Andaman and Nicobar = 879 km
- Of the 572 islands only 37 are inhabited.
- Port Blair to Diglipur Rail Line- 240 km line connecting two major islands Proposal is there.
- While the northernmost part of the archipelago is only 22 nautical miles away from Myanmar, the southernmost point, called the Indra Point, is a mere 90 nautical miles from Indonesia.
- Indra Point or Pygmalion Point (or Parson's Point) is a village in the Nicobar district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. It is located in the Great Nicobar tehsil.
- It was named in 1985 as Indra Point.
- *Tsunami* has swallowed India's southern tip. It is still under water. This was the first landmass hit by the tsunami waves in the northwest direction gulping about 20 km of land. Land mass gone down by about a couple of meters under sea.
- *Indra Point* the most important landmark at the southernmost tip of India is still submerged under water, with the famous red and white light house earlier on the shore standing halfway in the sea.