**India and Its States: Capitals & Specialities**

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# About India

India, officially the Republic of India, is a diverse, democratic nation in South Asia. It spans the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean, hosts a mosaic of languages and cultures, and is the world’s largest democracy. India’s economy is one of the fastest‑growing, with strengths in technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and services. Its cultural heritage includes ancient civilizations, classical arts, architecture, and festivals that vary widely across states.

# States, Capitals & Specialities

**Andhra Pradesh** (Capital: Amaravati) — Tirupati Balaji Temple, Kuchipudi dance, long coastline and fertile deltas (Godavari–Krishna).

**Arunachal Pradesh** (Capital: Itanagar) — Tawang Monastery, rich biodiversity, vibrant tribal cultures, pristine Himalayan landscapes.

**Assam** (Capital: Dispur) — World‑famous tea gardens, Kaziranga National Park (one‑horned rhinoceros), Bihu festivals.

**Bihar** (Capital: Patna) — Bodh Gaya (Buddha’s enlightenment), Nalanda’s ancient learning legacy, Madhubani art.

**Chhattisgarh** (Capital: Raipur) — Dense forests and waterfalls (Chitrakote), tribal handicrafts, mineral resources and steel.

**Goa** (Capital: Panaji) — Golden beaches, Portuguese‑influenced heritage, churches of Old Goa, vibrant tourism.

**Gujarat** (Capital: Gandhinagar) — Gir National Park (Asiatic lions), crafts and textiles, Statue of Unity, dynamic industry.

**Haryana** (Capital: Chandigarh) — Agricultural productivity, sports excellence, and proximity to India’s capital region.

**Himachal Pradesh** (Capital: Shimla) — Hill stations (Shimla, Manali), apple orchards, snow‑clad peaks and adventure tourism.

**Jharkhand** (Capital: Ranchi) — Mineral wealth (coal, iron ore), dense forests, waterfalls (Dassam, Hundru), tribal culture.

**Karnataka** (Capital: Bengaluru) — India’s tech hub (Bengaluru), UNESCO site Hampi, rich Carnatic music and cuisine.

**Kerala** (Capital: Thiruvananthapuram) — Backwaters (Alappuzha), Ayurveda, high literacy and health indices, Kathakali and Theyyam.

**Madhya Pradesh** (Capital: Bhopal) — Heart of India: Khajuraho temples, Sanchi Stupa, tiger reserves (Kanha, Bandhavgarh).

**Maharashtra** (Capital: Mumbai) — India’s financial capital (Mumbai), Bollywood, Ajanta–Ellora caves, diverse coastal cuisine.

**Manipur** (Capital: Imphal) — Loktak Lake (phumdis), classical Manipuri dance, handloom and handicrafts.

**Meghalaya** (Capital: Shillong) — Living root bridges, Cherrapunji–Mawsynram rainfall belt, caves and verdant hills.

**Mizoram** (Capital: Aizawl) — Picturesque hills, bamboo dance (Cheraw), high literacy and cohesive community life.

**Nagaland** (Capital: Kohima) — Hornbill Festival, distinct Naga tribes and crafts, scenic highlands.

**Odisha** (Capital: Bhubaneswar) — Konark Sun Temple, Jagannath Puri, classical Odissi dance, handloom (Sambalpuri).

**Punjab** (Capital: Chandigarh) — Golden Temple (Amritsar), vibrant Bhangra, robust agriculture and Punjabi cuisine.

**Rajasthan** (Capital: Jaipur) — Grand forts and palaces (Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur), Thar Desert, colorful textiles and crafts.

**Sikkim** (Capital: Gangtok) — Organic‑farming leadership, Khangchendzonga landscapes, monasteries and alpine flora.

**Tamil Nadu** (Capital: Chennai) — Dravidian temple architecture (Madurai, Thanjavur), Bharatanatyam, classical Carnatic music.

**Telangana** (Capital: Hyderabad) — Charminar and Golconda, pearl and IT industries, Deccani heritage and cuisine (biryani).

**Tripura** (Capital: Agartala) — Ujjayanta and Neermahal palaces, temples and handlooms, lush green hills.

**Uttar Pradesh** (Capital: Lucknow) — Taj Mahal (Agra), Varanasi ghats, Awadhi cuisine, rich composite Ganga‑Jamuni culture.

**Uttarakhand** (Capital: Dehradun) — Himalayan pilgrimages (Char Dham), yoga capital Rishikesh, national parks (Jim Corbett).

**West Bengal** (Capital: Kolkata) — Cultural capital (literature, theatre), Durga Puja, Sundarbans mangroves and sweets (rosogolla).