

# *Headgears of India*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank  
Mr. Brijendra Rehi, Ms. Niddhi Singh and  
Ms. Jacqueline Garewal for their  
help with the write-up for this booklet.



“A man is recognised by the hat he wears”.

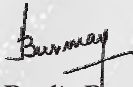
A Sombrero is worn by Mexicans. A cowboy hat (Stetson) in the “Wild West” of USA.

English bankers wear bowler hats. A person without a bowler hat is not a banker.

A “Jockey” cap of the racing horse rider, is used in all countries.

In India, there are more than 100 varieties of headgears. This year we have shown a colourful array of headgears, worn in different States of India. The Gandhi cap was worn by freedom fighters. People wearing ‘Gandhi Cap’ will be recognised as Indians, in any country.

Enjoy it, recognise it and be able to tell where it is from.



Pradip Burman

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#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

“Headgears of India” was a topic that needed dedication and expertise to bring out fine details in each painting. To paint headgear of different states in India, each having unique features was a demanding task, but is presented well by him through paintings. You can really see how much care has been taken while painting each piece. His paintings help us escape to different states without taking a step.

“Amazing” is all we can say. Both prints and original arts are gorgeous. Artist’s dedication and commitment to his task is commendable. We sure will have many compliments on this project, no one would have ever seen such unique beautiful paintings of headgears.

Gautam Partho Roy holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata and is the only artist for our calendars since we started making calendars.

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Gautam Partho Roy

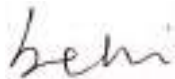
## Why Headgear?

In a way, this topic can be called a glimpse of the cultural and social journey of India. When I was offered the privilege of researching and writing for the booklet, I found the topic very fascinating and challenging. When the work started on this subject, the need for extensive study and research was felt. In this study, I got the cooperation and guidance of Mr. Burman and the cooperation of the “National Museum” at the primary level.

Looking back at India’s cultural history, India’s jewellery, the caves of Ajanta and Ellora, ancient temples and their sculptures, Buddhist monastic murals, metal and clay sculptures, and ancient paintings and miniatures all feature a variety of attractive headgear.

If you look at the tribal dances and rituals, as well as people’s daily lives in all states, you will notice a variety of caps on people’s heads. The headgear is so mingled with social customs and various occasions that it has become the identity of its region or area.

This booklet is for reference purposes only. It provides brief information about the Indian headgear. I express my gratitude for giving me a place on the Foundation’s presentation team on this broad but important topic.



**Brijendra Rehi**



# Headgears of India

The tradition of wearing headgears has existed since ancient times. In the social, religious and cultural lives of the people of India. There is evidence of this in sculptures, paintings, classical and folk-dance forms and items obtained during historical excavations. Also, in the development of the tradition of jewellery, there is a detailed description of headdresses and makeup.

Indian dances like Rasleela, Yakshagana, Odishi, Bharatnatyam and Kathakali are testimony to the fact that headgears are part of our cultural tradition. Not only this, the "Gandhi cap", prepared on the instructions of Mahatma Gandhi during India's independence movement, became a symbol of solidarity and freedom from slavery.

Furthermore, caps have been and will continue to be a symbol of community and gotra identity in Indian tribes.

These turbans are known by names depending on the languages, provinces, regions and communities. For example: Turban, Mysore Peta, Pheta, Safa, Keski, Chandtora, Puneri, Jaapi, Karakas, Dastar, Khindka, Tomara, Gultan, Khumbeu etc.

By looking at any cap, one can easily deduce whether it pertains to men or women. Women's caps have many names, like Dupatta, Chadar, Odhni, Chunni, Pacheri Hijab, Gonda, etc.

In many parts of the country, it is customary to wear safa on the occasion of a wedding. The safa worn by the Gharati (the bride's side) and the Baratis (the groom's side) are different colours, making it easy to distinguish which guest is from the groom's side and who is from the bride's side.

Looking back in time, the kings in Indian princely states were identified by their royal crowns and the ornaments that adorned them. Here is a brief glimpse of the high artistic culture of India's headgears through this Calendar /booklet.

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## Andaman & Nicobar अंडमान और निकोबार



The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is an archipelago that became a union territory of the Republic of India on November 1, 1956. The islands are located in the Bay of Bengal within the north-eastern part of the Indian Ocean. Since November 1982, a Lieutenant Governor has been heading the administration. The capital city, Port Blair, is located on Andaman Island. During the British Raj, the Cellular Jail (Kalapani), which was used to house political prisoners, was constructed in Port Blair.

In December 2018, Ross Island was renamed Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island; Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep Island and Havelock Island as Swaraj Island. The Islands are home to six aboriginal tribes, including the Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens.

A dominant group of people from the islands, known as the Jarawas, wear a coconut leaf around their heads that resembles a strip. During the Pig Festival, Nicobarese tribal dancers perform a circular dance while wearing **seashell garlands (4)** on their heads. This dance commemorates the death of the family patriarch. It is celebrated with all-night dancing beneath the swaying palms and the full moon. The dancers walk beautifully to the beat of age-old songs while wearing coconut frond costumes.

Whenever festivals are organized by the Eastern Regional Cultural Center, a crown-like ornament is worn on the head with **bamboo, paper mâché, and silk thread (1)**. During performances, they also wear a **red thread-woven cap (3)**.

The aboriginal tribes of the islands still roam naked. Nowadays, there is some change in the lifestyles of some tribes and they have started wearing modern clothes. The youth of the Onges tribe have abandoned the no-dress culture and adorn their heads with sea-shell ornaments and flower leaves while dancing and singing. The population of this tribe is currently 94.

On the islands, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus also reside and wear their traditional headgear.

# Andhra Pradesh ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



The state of Andhra Pradesh was formed on 1st November 1956. An area of 162,975 sq. km. was separated from the state of Madras. It is the seventh largest state of the country, with its capital - Amaravati. Andhra Pradesh is a Telugu speaking state. The common man no longer wears a turban or any headgear, but some tribal communities have a custom of wearing a turban. On special occasions, a few people can still be seen wearing turbans, keeping the tradition alive.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the famous philosopher and former President of India, hailed from Sarvepalli village in Nellore district. He used to wear a white-cloth turban which is known as 'Pheta'(4). The men of the Telugu speaking "Konda Reddy" tribe, wear a white cloth wrapped around their heads to avoid the heat, which looks like a turban. Its length is 2 to 3 yards. They live in hilly areas with the "Koya" tribe.

"Lambadies" are the most populous tribal group of Andhra also known as 'Banjaras'. The traditional dress of 'Lambadi' women is bright, colorful, heavy, with thick colorful borders. The entire "Head dupatta" (3) is decorated with mirrors, beads and stones.

In a Telugu-Hindu wedding ceremony, the bride wears a "Mangal-Tikka" (a head-ornament) worn on the forehead. The groom wears an ornamented gold chain wrapped around his forehead.

Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Vari Devasthanam, Simhachalam Temple is located in Visakhapatnam district. In this temple, as a blessing from the temple, it has been a tradition to honor the dignitaries by tying a **traditional turban** (1).

'Kalyanotsavam' and 'Chandanotsavam' are the two major festivals celebrated in the temple. During calibrations, devotees wear "white pheta" and play drums, sing hymns and chant shlokas. This white cotton 'Pheta' is about 8 to 10 yards long and is attractively draped over the head.



# Arunachal Pradesh अरुणाचल प्रदेश



Arunachal Pradesh is situated on the northeastern tip of India, bordering China, Bhutan and Myanmar. It became the 24th state of India on February 20, 1987, with Itanagar as its capital. Arunachal Pradesh is a land of festivals and celebrations. According to a Hindu legend, Arunachal Pradesh was the place where Lord Krishna married Rukmini.

The state is home to 26 different tribes and 110 sub-tribes. They celebrate many religious and socio-cultural festivals. Some of the major festivals are the Siang River Festival, Pangsau Pass Winter Festival, Ziro Festival of Music, Losar Festival, Dree Festival, Buri Boot, Loku and Sankan.

"**Byopa**" (1) is a traditional headgear of the "Nyishi" tribe. Elderly "Nyishi" men wear the elaborate headgear called "podum." This is a woven cane cap, traditionally adorned with the beak and casque of the great hornbill. The Apatani tribals are skilled at creating beautifully woven hats, adorned with various articles, including beaks, feathers and arrows.

They also use coiled hats that fit on the head like a skull cap. The "Monpas" and "Sherdukpens" tribes make beautiful and colorful headgear using bamboo, cane and even yak hair. The "Monpas" use a shallow conical two-layer hat as protection from the sun and rain. The "Noctes" use dyed cane strips for making their headgear.

The "Geli" headgear also has a hornbill beak and a feather fixed towards the posterior side.

"Dum" or "Pudum" tribes use artificial hair that is fixed to the rear of headgear. Colored yarn and artificial hair are used for making "**Dumso**" (2) headgear. Yellow, green, and red yarns are used for rapping.

Arunachal Pradesh makes and uses a very rich variety of headgear, made from cane, feathers, bamboo, yarn, flowers and leaves. It makes colorful use of red, yellow, green, blue and orange colors.

# Assam অসম



The state of Assam is in the northeastern part of India. With an area of 78,438 square kilometers, it is just a little smaller than Portugal. The state is dominated by the mighty "Brahmaputra," one of the major rivers of the world. A large part of Assam is covered by hills and forests.

The Assamese have a rich cultural heritage built over centuries. "Srimanta Sankardev" has had a great influence on the socio-cultural life of Assam. The Assamese are festival lovers and have a keen interest in dance and music.

The tribal population is 12.45% of the total population of the state. Some of the unique tribal groups in Assam are the Bodo, Karbi, Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, Deori, Raba, Dimasa, Tiwas, Kuki, etc. Each tribal community has its own unique culture. Headgear forms an important part of that culture.

The "Ahoms", a Thai Buddhist tribe, arrived in the area in the early part of the 13th century. Me-Dum-Me-Phi, the ancestor worship festival, is the most important Ahom festival.

Men wear a cream- or white-colored silk "safa" (turban) on their heads, knotted in the front and displaying a loose "plume" on top of the forehead on this occasion (2).

The "Jaapi" (1) is a traditional hat, round, broad-rimmed and with a conical center. It is made from bamboo, cane, and large palm leaf "Tokoupaat".

Plain "Jaapis" were used by farmers for protection from the sun and rain. However, the Assamese royalty and nobility used ornate "Jaapis" as a status symbol and these were decorated with rich colors, such as red, blue, green, yellow and black.

"Paghuri" is a very attractive traditional Assamese headdress worn by men during festivals and dances. The fabric used for "Paghuri" has geometric patterns woven with red thread on white or cream-colored silk or cotton fabric.

## Bihar बिहार



The eastern Indian state of Bihar is a landlocked state, bordered by Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Nepal. The Bihar state capital is Patna, formerly known as Pataliputra. Bihar is the birthplace of Gautam Buddha and Lord Mahavir, who showed the path of enlightenment to mankind and the place where Guru Gobind Singh Ji gave his message of brotherhood and peace. It is believed that Devi Sita was born in Sitamarhi district, in the Mithila region of Bihar.

The wearing of caps, pagari, etc. is not as essential in social life in Bihar as it is in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, or Gujarat. However, the "paag" is worn with pride by the people of Mithila. The circular cap made of silk cloth and decorated with the **Mithila painting is the special cap (1)** of this region. A turban, safa, cap, or any headgear is generally worn during festivals, rituals and social occasions.

Today's **Paags (2)** are made of cotton and silk, such as pink, white, yellow, saffron, etc. These days, caps decorated with Madhubani paintings are becoming very popular among the youth. In the "Seemanchal" district of neighboring Nepal, Nepali caps are also found in some areas.

In Patna and other parts of the state, "Prakash Parv" is celebrated on the auspicious occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj Jayanti (his birthday).

Bihar is a culturally rich state. Some popular folk dances are Bidesia, Jhijhiya, Jharni, Holi or Dhamar, Jat Jatin, and popular tribal dances are Karma, Maghi, Jadur and Jatra. In Jhijhiya dance performances, women dance with an empty earthen pot (matka), dry grass, and leaves on their heads and pray to Lord Indra for rain.

In the "Dhamar Jogira" dance performance on the occasion of "Holi," the dancers wear red, green, yellow and saffron-colored "Safas" on their heads.



# Chhattisgarh छत्तीसगढ़



Chhattisgarh, India's 26th state, was formed on November 1, 2000. The capital of Chhattisgarh is Raipur.

The Maria tribal dancers wear a **Bison Horn headgear** (1) made with bamboo, feathers of various birds, and other materials that are very attractive, appearing one or two feet above the head. Conch shell garlands tied to it dangle in front of the face like a fringe. The horns on his head and the feathered crest look spectacular. The Bison Horn Dance is usually performed during weddings or festival rituals.

"Parab," a popular dance of the Dhurwa tribe, lives in the Bastar region. Men and women collectively participate. Men put **peacock feathers in their turbans** (2), while women are fond of wearing a lot of silver jewelry and wear headbands made of cowrie shells.

"Ganvar" is a popular dance of the Madiya tribe. In this dance, the young males wear a crown decorated with the horns of a wild animal named Ganvar. The girls wear a brass crown on their heads. The famous anthropologist "Verrier Alvin" has called the Ganvar dance the most beautiful folk dance in the world.

In the group dance "Sarhul" of the Oraon and Munda tribes, the male dancers wear a special type of **yellow or orange headdress** (3), whereas the women put a feather in their bun. "Kaksad" is the religious dance of the Muria tribe of Narayanpur and Konda. In this, the dancers tie a waistband made of brass or iron bells around the waist and on the head, the turban is adorned with a "kalangi" (plume) and cods. In most parts of Chhattisgarh, both rural and urban, people traditionally wear "Khumri," a hat made of bamboo.

The "principal tribes" of Chhattisgarh are the Gonds, Abhuj Maria, Bison Horn Maria, Muria, Halba, Bhatra and Dhurwa. Most of the tribal communities have rich traditions of music and dance.

## Daman and Diu દમણ અને દીવ



Daman and Diu were under the Portuguese at the time of independence. Daman and Diu became a part of the U.T. of Goa, Daman and Diu under the Government of India after being liberated from Portuguese rule for more than four centuries on December 19, 1961. After the delinking of Goa, which attained statehood, the U.T. of Daman and Diu came into existence on May 30, 1987. Daman, the U.T. capital, is located near Gujarat's southern border. Vapi is the nearest railway station (13 km) from Daman.

Diu is an island near Una in Junagarh District in Gujarat State. The nearest railway station is Delwada, at a distance of 9 km from Diu. The island is connected to the mainland by a channel to the north.

In this Union Territory, Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi languages are spoken and people believe in Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Jainism. The Bhili and Bhilodi languages are also spoken here. The Bhagwan and Kalim rivers flow in this area.

The turban, safa, or pheta is not worn as an identity of the state, but colorful and unique headgear is worn during folk dance **performances** (2/3), **ceremonies** (4) and **marriages** (1).

Gujarati and Portuguese cultures influenced the costumes of Daman and Diu. In rural areas, many people usually wear white caps to protect themselves from the heat. In the marriage ceremony, the groom and relatives wear Shiledar Pheta and Pagadi, as seen in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The traditional Kathiawadi headgear, Rajwadi Pagdi and Topi are popular in many societies. The Rajputana Safa, or Rajputi Safa, is also popular among youth.

The Garba Dance Festival is also an important social dance event here. During this festival, people wear colorful clothes and dance with gaiety. During the dances, they also wear pagadi and pheta.



August 11th, 1961, is the formation day of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. It was annexed by the Portuguese in 1779 and incorporated into India after independence in 1954. Until 1961, this union territory was self-governing. This Union Territory, which lies between Gujarat and Maharashtra, is influenced by Portuguese culture. Silvassa is the capital city of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

People belonging to different tribes dress up in colorful attire and dance to the tunes of various folk songs and musical instruments on special occasions, such as childbirth, weddings, festivals and important ceremonies. People wear white caps in everyday life, which look like Gandhi caps. It is customary to wear a turban or pheta at certain ceremonies.

During the wedding ceremony in the tribal community, the bride and groom are dressed in colorful headgear and face covers called "**Sehra**" (1). The sehra is made from colorful paper, flowers, silk thread and coconut leaves. Garlands made of sea shells hang in front of the sehra, which looks very attractive.

Tarpa Dance, Bhavada Dance, Dhol Dance and Tur and Thali Dances are popular folk dances. The distinctive designs, exquisite needlework and other traditional clothing are worn during the festivity. These also include the white safa or pheta that males wear which has a protruding tail. The men of the Warlis tribe wrap the turban around their heads in a way that the ends cover the ears and keep coming out. The most popular headgear, which comes in various colors and shapes, is the warali.

During the Bhavada dance, male dancers wrap their heads in red and white cloth and adorn them with flowers and leaves.

The Silvassa Tribal Museum is located in the Khanvel area, the main city center. Tribal masks, hunting weapons, musical instruments and headgear are displayed in the museum.





Goa became a state of the Indian Union on May 30, 1987. It has a population of 14.59 lakh. The state capital is Panaji. Goa borders Maharashtra and Karnataka. Panaji is situated on the mouth of the Mandovi River, where it meets the Arabian Sea. Goa is known as the "Pearl of the Orient" because it has of India's best beaches.

In the Mahabharata period, this land was called "Gomant." Goa's tribal population is 10.23% of the total. They still follow the traditional lifestyle. The tribes include Velip, Kunbi, Zalmi, Dhangar and Gauda.

"Kashi" (a loincloth) and a drape on the shoulders are still a part of the traditional tribal dress. **Fedora hats (1)** are popular headwear in Goa. A fedora is a soft-brimmed hat with an indented crown. It is typically creased lengthwise down the crown and "pinched" on both sides near the front. The brim of a fedora hat is typically 2.5 inches wide, but it can be wider. The term "fedora" was first used in 1891.

Goan Christian weddings: The bride wears a gorgeous white wedding dress. The lace veil is over the head and face. A wreath of flowers on the head, for staying the veil on the head. The groom, standing at the altar, to see his beautiful bride. Goan fishermen wear **palm-leaf hats (4)**. The tribes' people wear small sea oysters, conch shells and beads on their heads.

Men wear colourful caps decorated with pearls, flower leaves and ribbons during festivals. Women wear large crowns made of paper mache and bamboo leaves. The Hawaii Hat is popular as a fancy accessory for boys and men. The hat is made of synthetic fabric that has the appearance of jute fabric. Participants, in the festival parade, dress up as mythological characters. These "Gods and Demons" wear very attractive crowns on their heads. Saffron Maratha turbans are also seen on special occasions when locals are dancing, playing, or listening to the instrument's dhole, taasha and kasale.

Gujarat  
ગુજરાત



The state of Gujarat was formed on May 1st, 1960, has its capital as Gandhinagar and predominantly consists of Gujarati-speaking people. Mahatma Gandhi was born in Porbandar and set up his Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.

Gujarat is a thriving state with incredible cultural diversity that can be traced back to the Harappa civilisation. It is a state with vibrant, colourful life and culture. The headgear and outfits worn by the people, men and women, are also very colourful and accessorised with jewels and other ornaments. These are especially visible during festivals, social ceremonies and the famous Garba dance.

The Gandhi cap is popular in many districts of Gujarat. The farmers in western Gujarat wear white pagdi and safa. In rural areas, Gujarati men generally wear a headgear called "Phento," a typical turban made out of a long, rectangular cloth wound in thick layers around the head. The Gujarati groom wears a colourful turban, embellished with pearls and other precious stones.

The people of Kutch, in Gujarat, wear **headgear (1)** in vibrant colors. On special occasions, Kutchi women also wear "Chunni" embellished with intricate embroidery and mirror work., which is used to cover their heads. Kutchi old women also wear glass-studded nose pins and headgear.

"**Ajrakh**" (3) is a piece of colorful, hand-printed cloth wrapped around the head of Kutchi locals. The word "Ajrakh" means "keep it today." The Kutchi communities such as "Rabaris," "Maldharis" and "Ahirs" wear this "ajrakh" as turbans.

"Bokani" is a hand-embroidered sash worn over the headgear and covering the ears during the sword dances performed during festivals by the "Ahirs," another community in Gujarat. The "Bokani" has embroidery on a red-and-black cloth. It has geometric or floral patterns stitched in multi-coloured threads.

# Himachal Pradesh हिमाचल प्रदेश



2



3



4

On January 25, 1971, Himachal Pradesh was made a full-fledged state with Shimla as the capital. An ethnically diverse state, Himachal Pradesh is also known as the "Devbhoomi" (Land of the Gods). The warm hospitality of the people of Himachal and the sacred culture of the land of Gods is reflected in everything from their dress and dance to their festivals and fairs.

Kinnaur is one of the 12 administrative districts of Himachal Pradesh. The cold climate makes people wear woollen clothes all the year. The "Kinnauri Topi," a trademark headgear, is part of the Kinnaur region's traditional dress.

"Thepang," a round woollen cap with a flat top, is worn by both men and women. Light grey, with a green or red velvet band around the cap's outer fold, adorning the wearer's brow. The traditional "Kullu" cap is comfortable, worn by men. It is made of lamb's wool, fine pashmina or angora rabbit's wool, with beautiful designs on the front of the caps. The circular cap is available in every colour and pattern, makes an ideal gift.

"Gaddis" are nomadic people who live in the Chamba region. The men wear caps made of wool. They also wear a pointed cap, that represents Mount Kailash. "Gaddi" women wear "**Jhund**" (1) or "Dor," which is a veil, also known as "Ghunghat" or "Ghundu."

"The 'chiri' is worn on the brow and is held in place by strings. 'Chakdi', worn on the back of the head with the help of silver clips and Gorju and Toke (silver bracelets worn in pairs) are all part of the traditional attire that local women wear.

The **Gaddi topi** (2) is a distinctive headpiece worn by both men and women and decorated with dried flowers, beads or a feather "kalgi."

Himachali people's fascinating and mysterious headgear amazes all.



## Haryana हरियाणा



Haryana, which was formed on November 1, 1966, was carved out of Punjab. Haryana is the site of the historical battles of Panipat and the Mahabharata at Kurukshetra.

In Haryana, men proudly wear "safas" (turbans). It is a long, rectangular cloth, wrapped around the head or caps as a sign of self-respect. The "safa," is one of the most important men's attires. It is worn by all castes, including the Jats, Rajputs, Brahmins, Baniyas, Ahirs and Sikhs.

Turbans are worn by older men but young people can be seen wearing them at social events.

The green and white turban is very popular among Haryana's Jat community. It is regarded as a symbol of self-respect. This turban has a dome shape, a fan-shaped "turra" (crest) adorns the safa and has a long tail.

In Gurgaon, the Dhamaal folk dance is well known. The men's headgear in this dance is breathtaking.

During the Holi festival, the "Loor" dance is especially popular. The dancers are dressed in traditional - Ghagra, Kurti, Chuda and the Odhani headdress.

The Odhani is very appealing, with its bright and scintillating, salma sitaras. In addition to odhani girls wear a large tikka, with pearls on their foreheads.

Ahir and Jat women dress differently, when working outside; an Ahir woman can use a large "odhani" to cover her torso.

Yellow and red are the most typical colours, used for an Ahir odhani. Ornamental odhanis, worn on important occasions like weddings etc., have ornamental borders.

In many communities in Haryana, turbans are less visible, but they continue to be an important part of the Haryanvi culture.



# Jharkhand झारखंड



Jharkhand state was created on November 15, 2000, by partitioning the southern part of Bihar in eastern India. It is the 15th-largest state in terms of land area. The state's official language is Hindi. Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand and interestingly, it also has a "sub-capital," Dumka.

"Sal" is one of the dominant tree species in the tropical moist and dry deciduous forests in the West Singhbhum, district of Jharkhand. In this area, traditional headgear made of "Sal" leaves (1) is popular and worn on special occasions.

Inspired by martial arts, "Chhau" is a classical dance form of Jharkhand. The striking feature of Chhau, is the use of elaborate masks and one-of-a-kind headgear. It is made with a combination of beads of various colours, shapes and sizes, strung together on thin wires and fitted together to form a large headpiece.

The "Santhal" tribal routinely use cotton gamcha as headgear when leaving home. During the folk-dance performance, the Santhal women wear their traditional dresses and vibrant flowers and leaf headdresses. Artificial flowers are also used by the Santhal women to adorn their heads.

The "Kadsa" dance of the Oraon tribe is performed with a "kalash" (earthen pot) on the head. Women dominate this dance form. The male only plays the instruments. They wrap a colourful striped cloth around their heads and decorate them with flowers and twigs.

Sometimes, the men tie a white and red-coloured "gamchha" tightly around their forehead and adorn it with white feathers. The "Paika" dance is a traditional dance of the "Munda" people of Jharkhand. The dancers wear colourful headgears, also wear bells around their ankles.

Their main festival is "Sarhul", during which they worship the Sal tree (*Shorea Robusta*). Some tribal communities make large leaf headgears, which they wear during dancing.

# Jammu & Kashmir جَمْمُو وَ کَاشْمِیر



Jammu and Kashmir was established on October 26, 1947. Srinagar is its capital. The Dogra dynasty ruled Jammu and Kashmir for a century (1846 to 1947). The Jammu region is traditionally dominated by the Dogra culture, while the Kashmir Valley is dominated by Islam.

Jammu is called the 'City of Temples' and Kashmir is often known as 'Heaven-on-Earth.' Its beautiful lakes, verdant valleys, and snow-covered peaks have drawn pilgrims and travelers since time immemorial. This land of saffron flowers is a tourist paradise. The state is bound by Afghanistan and China on the north, Tibet on the east, Pakistan on the west and the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab on the south.

Skull caps are prevalent, especially among the peasants. The "**Karakul**" (2) sheepskin skull caps, made with fur, are worn in the winter. The Kashmiri Pandits wore turbans. This is the traditional headgear of males, though its use is very restricted now.

Ladakhi women wear caps called "**Perk**" (1). The Perk headgear is made of black lambskin leather and turquoise stones, resembling the hood of a cobra and tapering to a slender tail that reaches the back.

Kashmiri women wear red caps called "**Kasaba**" (3) to cover their heads. The Kasaba is padded using a turban and is pinned together by brooches. The traditional headgear is made of fine wool and thick, keeping people warm in the extreme cold of Kashmir.

The unmarried Muslim girls wear skull caps, which are decorated by embroidery made with gold thread and ornaments, trinkets, pendants and amulets.

The Dogras of Jammu are a community of people known for their bravery. Traditionally, they wore "Safa" or "Pagari". For the Dogras, "Pagari" is a symbol of honour and respect. Pagaris of different styles and colours are worn, depending on the occasion.

## Karnataka ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ



The state of Karnataka, previously known as Mysore, was founded on November 1st, 1956.

The name was changed on November 1, 1973. Bengaluru its capital, is also India's largest IT hub.

The Mysuru "peta" (peta is a Kannada word that means 'turban' in English.) Is the traditional royal attire worn by Mysore's erstwhile kings. The peta headgear has been recognised as a symbol of the state's culture across the country.

The normal Mysore "peta" (turban) is a classic headgear made from colourful pieces of cotton scarf bestrewn in silk and zari. As part of the royal headwear, Mysuru rulers were the Wodeyars, a richly jewelled turban made of silk and zari (gold thread) lace to match the colourful dresses. The head-dress is made of a single long rectangular piece of cloth made of silk or cotton that is wound around the head cap and is often decorated with a zari borders (golden or silver laces) and beautiful metal pendants that add to its richness.

Tipu Sultan, the ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore in the sixteenth century, used to wear sarpech along with kalgi on his **boat-shaped headgear** (1). Gems like jamarud, diamond, etc. were studded in their en-panelled sarpech.

Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya, India's first civil engineer and a statesman, always proudly wore the **gold and white Mysore turban** (2). Nowadays, "free-size" petas are also available. These have hooks on the back that help adjust the peta to the size for the head.

During the performance of "Dollu Kunitha," a traditional dance form associated with Lord Shiva, the men playing the drum wear a yellow turban with a tail that hangs down till the waist. "Krishna Parijat" is a well-known folk theatre in northern Karnataka. The actor playing Krishna wears an artistic crown made of silk, imitation pearls and peacock feathers.



# Kerala കേരളം



The state of Kerala was formed on November 1, 1956. Kerala lies between the Arabian Sea in the west and the Western Ghats in the east. It is one of the five states in the linguistic-cultural area known as South India. Its capital is Thiruvananthapuram and Malayalam is the language spoken by 96.5% of its population.

Kerala people have traditionally worn a headgear known as a "Thalakettu" (1). "Thalappavu" (turban)(2), "Kireedam" (crown)(3) and "Thoppi" (caps) are the other forms of headgear worn in Kerala. "Nair" men wrap their shawls around their heads and tie them; this is also called "Thalakettu."

While working in the field, farmers keep a white towel wrapped around their heads and women tie a long scarf around their heads. The Maharaja's headgears were adorned with gems and pearls. The Travancore royal turban was very heavy. The turbans had two raised portions, one in the front and the other in the back, both adorned with jewels.

Kerala has a rich cultural tradition, dating back to ancient India. A number of highly sophisticated performing arts, classical and folk dances are performed and rich people do theaters. Surprising styles and designs of headgear are seen as part of the costumes in these dances and theaters.

One cannot help but appreciate the headgear and head decorations worn in "Thulal," "Koodiyattam," "Yatrakali," "Thottam," "Yakshagana" and the classical dances "Kathakali" and "Mohiniattam." Most of the dancers and theatrical headgear is made with used paper, paper dust, chalk powder, etc. The designs are usually depictions of Gods, Goddesses, birds, animals, etc. Kathakali, Krishnanattam and Koodiyattam performers wear the most elaborate headdresses. The female characters, styled as "Minukku", wear an odhani, (long scarf covering the head.) A red turban, or "Thalappavu," is worn during the "Vallakali" performance, which is the traditional victory dance of "Nair" soldiers.

# Lakshadweep ലക്ഷദ്വീപ്



Lakshadweep is the most the smallest union territory of India. Is an archipelago of 36 islands in the Arabian Sea, with a total area of 32 sq km. This union territory was formed on November 1, 1956. The major islands are Lakshadweep, Minicoy and Amendivi Islands which were separated from Madras on November 1, 1973, and re-named “Lakshadweep”.

The capital of the Union Territory is Kavaratti, which is 220–440 km from the coastal city of Kochi in Kerala. Local traditions attribute the first settlement on these islands to the period of Cheraman Perumal, the last king of Kerala. It is believed that after their conversion to Islam, the people adopted Islamic traditions.

Lakshadweep's costumes are filled with a rainbow of hues. Women's and men's costumes are different. In addition to wearing traditional attire, the women adorn themselves with jewellery and accessories. Women wear a "kachi" silk garment, as part of their attire. The thattam, or colour-stained dupatta, is worn as a gorgeous headdress.

A prevalent folk dance in Lakshadweep is Lava dance. During the dance, men tie a red cloth around their heads. The clothes worn by the people of this Union Territory's other island, Minicoy, is quite appealing Traditional clothing from different groups, including Manikfan, Thakrufan, Thakru and Raveri, is worn here. Women wear the Thattam, a head-dress that looks like a long scarf that wraps around the head and shoulders, is another component of this traditional outfit.

The "Vein," or long cloak, worn by Minicoy women, covers them from shoulder to ankle. These women frequently don head dresses as part of their tradition. Women occasionally cover their faces with white or colours for her. Entry to the Lakshadweep Islands is restricted. It requires an entry permit, issued by the Lakshadweep Administration.

# Maharashtra

## महाराष्ट्र



The state of Maharashtra was set up on May 1, 1960. Maharashtra is made of Marathi-speaking areas of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency and the Central Provinces. Mumbai is the capital of Maharashtra and people in Mumbai proudly call themselves Mumbaikars. According to cultural perceptions, Maharashtra has three main regions: Konkan, Marathwada and Vidarbha.

Maharashtra has a rich tradition of wearing different kinds of headgear, including caps, turbans, safas and phetas. Different occasions, such as traditional festivals, social and religious functions, celebrations, etc.

The **Shivaji turban** (2) uses a longer cloth. Prior to wearing, the cloth is twisted in a rope-like fashion and then wrapped around the head.

The saffron colour "**Pheta**" (1) symbolises the pride and prestige of the Maratha people. Such headgear is worn mostly at religious ceremonies and weddings.

In rural and urban areas, people generally wear a white cotton cap, or "topi." In a hot environment, it provides safety and comfort. Caps are thin and fit loosely, resembling a Gandhi cap. The traditional pheta is a long, rectangular cloth - typically 3.5–6 meters long and 1 meter wide. Wearing a pheta was once an essential part of the outfit. At times, the cotton fabric, used for Pheta, also has a golden trim on the edge, giving it a royal look. Different regions of Maharashtra have different Phetas styles, such as Kolhapuri, Mavali, Puneri, Lahiri, Shahi, Mahatma Gandhi, Tukaram Maharaj etc.

Different types of turbans are popular, such as those worn by Shivaji, Tilak, Maratha, Holkar, Bajirao and so on.

The Lokmanya Tilak Pagadi is usually worn in red and is decorated with strings of white beads. The Pagadi is raised in the middle in a pyramid shape.



# Meghalaya

## मेघालय



Meghalaya is located in the country's northeast. It has a length of roughly 300 kilometers and a width of about 100 kilometers. On January 21, 1972, the region attained complete statehood. Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, is situated at a height of 1496 meters above sea level.

Meghalaya is home to several tribes, including the “Garo”, “Khasi” and “Jaintia.” Each of these tribes has its own unique attire. Women wear a gold or silver crown with silver threads during the Khasi celebration. **Red flowers decorate the centre of the headgear (2)** and the flower branches are elevated, which is extremely lovely.

During the festival, male dancers wear a beautiful **turban (3)** made of silk along with a gold or silver semi-circular plate around their necks.

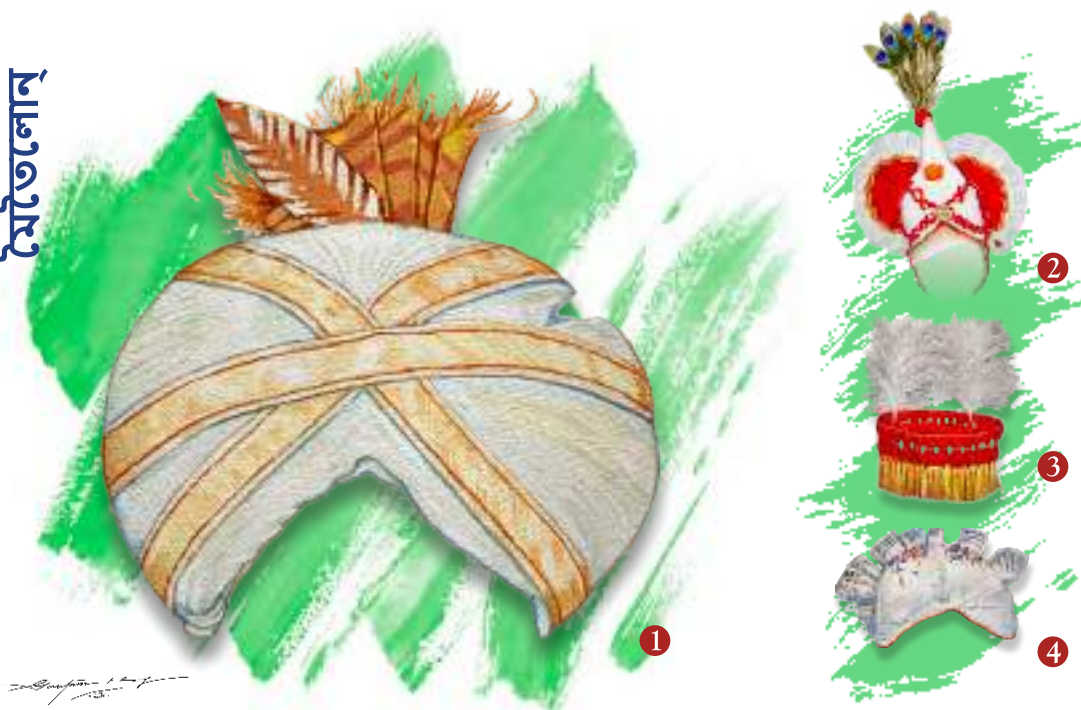
During "Nongkrem" a religious dance of Khasi tribes, the men wear a turban studded with feathers of fowls and carry an ornamental hand plume on their right hand. The purpose of having the plumage is to ward off evil. This dance is also performed by young, unmarried Khasi girls. Their attire consists of vivid yellow “jainsem”, with exquisitely embroidered panels, tassels and a silver crown decorated with orchids and other flowers in the autumn bloom.

The Wangala Festival, also known as the “Meghalaya 100 Drums Festival”, is a harvest festival celebrated in honour of “Saljong,” the Sun God of fertility. People dress in bright costumes and feathered headgear and dance to music, played on long, oval-shaped drums. In the Laho dance, women wear jewelry and colourful clothing, with a white cloth tied around their heads. Male artists wear minimal jewelry and a white turban. This turban is more significant than the usual turban.

Every year, the people of Meghalaya celebrate numerous festivals that are an integral part of tribal culture.



# Manipur মৈতৈলোন



Manipur, the "Land of jewels," was formed on January 21, 1972. The state capital is Imphal, which is in the heart of an oval-shaped valley. The majority of the population are Vaishnavite Hindus. They belong to the Meithei tribe. The traditional musical genres of the valley's inhabitants are closely related to Vishnu worship.

The Manipuri groom wears a white turban called a "**Kokyet**" (1), which is edged with golden braiding. Traditional colourful, tribal headgear, made of beads, cowries, feathers and bamboo spikes, also popular. Manipuri Ras dance costumes are brightly coloured, attractive and lavishly worn with **Mukut** (2). The female dancers' heads are covered in a transparent veil, allowing the audience to see their expressions and emotions. The transparent and thin veil thrown over the head is called "Meikhumbi." A "Koktombi" is a cap that covers their head.

The male dancers' head-dresses are Leittreng (Kajenglei) (a golden head-dress around the head) and Chura (made of peacock feathers, wired on top of the head). The Meitei people describe the concept of the universe and the values of life through their dances during the annual ritual festival of Lai-Haraoba. The various headgear worn during this period, seems to symbolise artistic expression.

"Luivat Pheizak" is one of Manipur's most popular Tangkhul Naga dances, the headgears are exquisite. The girls wear a broad band woven with golden and red threads around their heads and adorn their hair with flowers and feathers in the middle. Male dancers wear crowns, made of feathers, silk threads, beads and bamboo.

"Shim Lam" performers, dressed in brightly coloured traditional attire, spin in circles around each other. Men and women perform this dance together. During this time, girls decorate their hair-buns with white feathers, a black bandage and flowers.

# Mizoram मिजोरम



Mizoram is a mountainous region in the north-eastern of India, that became the 23rd state of the Indian Union in February 1987.

The prime costume of the Mizos is known by the name "Puan". Men usually wear a simple long cloth as a turban to protect them from the scorching heat.

Young Mizo-women wear **headgears in red, yellow and green (4)**, during the traditional bamboo dance. The round base has geometrical shapes in solid colours and from this rises a crown of small sticks of bamboo or cane, that is topped with bright red flowers.

Mizo women wear "**Vikiriya**"(1) as a crown on their heads. This consists of a wide, colourful woven band, going around the head, above the brow bone. This band bears a crown of small sticks, to each of which a bird's feather is neatly tied. The top is adorned with red flowers. It makes for very attractive headgears.

During dances, the girls wear a crown of red flowers, woven into a thick and strong cloth bandage. These flowers stand up straight, forming the crown. Apart from this, they also wear a garland made of conch shell.

"Mim Kut" is celebrated with great fanfare and drinking of rice beer, singing, dancing and feasting. Men and women tie a wide cloth band around they head.

"Cheraw" is the most colourful and distinctive bamboo dance of the Mizos. Boys and girls both wear a crown-like headgear made with bird feathers.

Historians believe that the Mizos are part of the Mongolian wave that spread through eastern India, centuries ago.

# Madhya Pradesh मध्य प्रदेश



Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in India, with an area of 3,08,000 square kilometers. It is the heartland of India, with Bhopal as its capital. The cap, safa and turban are important parts of male attire in most areas of Madhya Pradesh.

Women wear lugra or odhani, which cover their shoulders and heads. "Lugara" is made from cotton cloth, but during festivals and religious ceremonies, silk, zari and hand-woven lugra (or odhani) are also used.

The royal turban of the Scindias of Gwalior is also a special **Maratha turban** (2). This red silk turban, decorated with strings of pearls, sarpech and kalgi, also has a different history. The boat-shaped turban of the Scindia family is also 300 years old.

During the era of monarchy, the crown of Maharaja Rewa was considered very attractive. It was decorated with diamonds, emeralds and pearls, as well as gold and silver wires, with the head adorned with a gem-studded crest. In Madhya Pradesh, many tribal groups have varied customs and a very rich culture. Different types of headgear are worn during tribal dance performances.

The headdresses worn during dances are made with bamboo, flowers, animal horns and beads.

The Bhils tie phenta on their heads, like the Rajputs. The "phenta" is a rectangular cotton cloth six to seven meters long. The white "phenta" is associated with rites performed after a death in the family. In routine social life, pink hues or those in the "colours of spring" are more popular. Nowadays, coloured caps are also used.

The Madhya young male dancer ties a white turban on his head that is decorated with oysters and corals. They are also decorated with peacock feathers or the crest of a rooster. The young women tie a white band around their heads, in which scarlet flowers are hung.



# Nagaland नगालैंड



Nagaland was conferred the status of a state of India on December 1, 1963, under the State of Nagaland Act 1962. The capital of Nagaland is Kohima. Nagaland is famous for its unique scenic beauty. It holds historical and cultural significance, with colourful festivals every year.

Many tribal groups celebrate the “Hornbill” Festival every year, in the first week of December. The state has 17 major tribal groups, as well as numerous sub-tribes. All tribes celebrate their festivals with pageantry, colour, music, costumes and dances. Watching different types of headgears at festivals like “Hornbill”, “Sekrenyi”, “Tsukheneye”, “Aoleang”, “Naknyulem”, “Mimkut”, “Tokhu Emong” and “Tuluni” is an excellent experience in itself.

The Aoleang festival is celebrated by the “Konyak” tribe, a tribe known to hunt human and animal heads. During the festival, they wear a large cap, prepared with bear hair, bones, feathers, bamboo etc. The Hornbill Festival is a well-known festival celebrated by the “Naga” tribes. The Dhanesh bird is another name for the hornbill. Many tribal groups participate in this festival by wearing different headgear.

Nagaland is a treasure trove of artistic headdresses and crowns. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the variety of headgears used by the Naga people during festivals and celebrations will not be found in any other state of India.

The Naga tribal males' headgear, known as “Khangwom”, resembles a crown. It represents the wearer's bravery, hunting ability and social standing. This spectacular headdress is now worn at festivals.

These headgears are made of more than 12 different materials that were found in the jungle, including tiger claws, wild boar teeth, hornbill feathers, wild goat hair and bear hair. Making Naga headgear a symbol of cultural identity and pride.

# Odisha ଓଡ଼ିଶା



The state of Odisha, on the eastern coast of India, is a state with a glorious past, endowed with sea beaches, rivers, lakes, hills and forests. Bhubaneswar is the capital city of the state. Odisha is well-known of the history of India, because of Chanakya, Chandragupta Maurya and the Kalinga War.

The state is home for to 62 different tribal groups, like the Gadaba, Dhuruba Gonds, Kondhs, Koyas, etc., Many types of dance styles are prevalent there, among them are Odissi, Chhau, Gotipua, Danda Nata, Sambapuri, Dalkhai, Chaitighoda and Medha Nacha. Chhau is a semi-classical dance, with tribal, martial and folk origins.

The Odissi classic dancer, wears the beautiful "Tahia," a round floral wreath, made from Indian cork tree flowers. "Tahi" is a sacred costume for Odissi people.

In the Koya tribe, men wear a huge headgear of bison horns, while dancing. These are richly decorated with peacock feathers and cowries shells. Women wear brass caps and hold sticks, fitted with small bells that tinkle, during the dance.

The Chhaau the dancers wear headgear as the characters of the "Katha." The drum player wears a flower-adorned headdress in green, pink or red.

"Gond" and "Oraon" tribal people perform the Karma Dance in front of the Karma Tree every year. In this dance, male drummers wear a white turban adorned with a red band.

During the wedding ceremony, the "Oriya" grooms wear a colourful and glittering Sehra, or Mukut, made of shola or cork.

The brides too, wear similar headgears. These mukuts are colourful, with yellow, white, red and green. Traditionally the Shola is the dried stem of an aquatic plant, is now made from thermical.

Punjab  
ਪੰਜਾਬ



The north-western state of Punjab was divided into three parts, on November 1, 1956. The Punjabi-speaking area continued to be called Punjab, the Hindi-speaking area became Haryana and Chandigarh was declared a Union Territory, and also the joint capital city of Punjab and Haryana.

The Sikh is the predominant religion in Punjab. The tenth spiritual head, Guru Gobind Singh, became Amritdhari (Pure Sikh) on April 13, 1699, marking the beginning of the Khalsa ideology. According to their code of conduct, all Sikhs wear the 5 K's. These are "Kesh" (hair), "Kachha" (cotton underwear), "Kada" (iron bangle), "Kirpan" (dagger) and "Kanghi" (comb).

When entering a Gurdwara, all Sikhs cover their heads. The long hair of a Sikh man, has tied up in a "joora" (bun) over on top of the head and is covered with a turban, usually five meters of cloth, mostly cotton. A Sikh woman also wears a "chunni" (long scarf, muslin or chiffon) draped over the head and shoulders. In their house, they can drape on the shoulders. The salwar-kurta has gone all over India. It easier to walk, less heavy and they can climb a tree.

The turban is worn in many styles and they have different names too. "Dastar" is the name of the traditional single turban of four to six yards.

There is also a "Domala," which is a double-length turban of 10 or more yards.

Normal "pagari" or "paag" is a turban of five to six yards, but with double width.

Keski is a short turban of two or three yards, whereas a "Patka" is a small square cloth of half to one yard tied over the jura (top knot) on the head.

Women dance the famous "Giddha." In this dance, they cover their heads with colourful "chunnis" and wear a "tikka" (dot of red on the forehead)



# Rajasthan राजस्थान



Rajasthan, the state situated between the Thar Desert and the Aravalli Mountain range in western India, has been synonymous with valour and splendour. The pink city of Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan. Its invincible forts, artistic palaces and beautifully carved havelis are world-famous due to their unique architectural style.

The festivals, which have been an integral part of the Rajasthani culture, come alive with folk tales, dances and music. Rajasthan has a rich heritage of headgears. In this context, it takes on a completely different meaning because wearing headgear such as "pagadi" and "safa" has traditionally been associated with honour. It is considered an insult to the elders for men to appear before them without any headgear. The headgear of different regions of Rajasthan is distinctive. Just by looking at the Pagdi or Safa, one can identify the region, like Marwar, Mewar, Dhoondadh, Hadoti, Vagad, etc., to which that person belongs. Similarly, different castes such as Rajputs, Jats, Gujars and Vaishyas have different ways of tying the "Paag" or "Safa". The length of the "Paag" worn, in the Marwar region, is generally 7 yards, whereas the Safa is 10 yards. Brahmin turbans are smaller and made in lengths of 5–6 yards. The saffron and pink turban is a symbol of auspiciousness and victory.

The common people and merchant class wear red, pink and saffron "pagadis." Whereas, "pachrangi," "lehariya," and "bandhej" turbans and using gold threads made to adorn the proud heads of the former rulers. In the folk drama "Gavari" of the "Bhil" tribe, the heads of the deities and some of the characters are crowned with flowers and leaves.

Nowadays, even tourists visiting Rajasthan, wear a turban or safa. Turbans or safas are also popular at weddings and other celebrations. Traditionally, the bride side wears pink, whereas the "barathis" (groom's side) wears chunari or lehariya.



# Sikkim सिक्किम



Sikkim is the 22nd state as of April 26, 1975. It was a princely state ruled by Chogyal. Tibet borders China in the north, Bhutan in the east, and West Bengal in the south. Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest peak, is located here and the Teesta is an important river flowing through this state. One-third of the land is covered by dense forests, which have several hundred different kinds of orchids and are called a botanist's paradise.

Sikkim consists of three ethnic groups: Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepali. The Lepchas are considered to be the earliest inhabitants of Sikkim. They live in the East and North districts. The male community of Sikkim wears embroidered caps called "Shambo" caps, which are primarily worn by men in the Lepcha and Bhutia groups. They are also worn by women in the Bhutia community, though they have different designs and patterns. It plays a significant role in Lepcha and Bhutia clothing. Some Bhutia women wear a precious coral head-dress. Agate - Buddhist prayer beads, turquoise earrings and a silk "chub", but this headwear is slowly disappearing.

Shambo caps first appeared in the 9th century, when a famous Buddhist saint named "Guru Rinpoche" initiated and patronised them. This cap-wearing custom was later recognised as a ritualistic practice. Lepcha and Bhutia's caps are mostly the same design. "Taro," a cap, is normally worn by Lepcha women. A scarf called "gorey" is used to cover the head.

The "Thyaktuk" and its varieties are finely woven hats, that are genuine to their origins and traditions. Except for "Anok Thakytuk," which is fashioned from fine velvet cloth, these hats are crafted from fine canes of bamboo, straws and even leaves. This hat is required for weddings and religious celebrations nowadays. Nepalese women wear a piece of colourful cloth suspended from head to waist, while dancing. It is called "Pachauri."

## Tamil Nadu தமிழ்நாடு



The Tamil Nadu state was formed on January 14, 1969, following the bi-furcation of the Madras Province. The capital city of Tamil Nadu is Chennai. Situated on the eastern coast at the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula, Tamil Nadu has a coastline of about 1000 km.

The Tamil culture boasts of rich, colourful festivals; sophisticated and melodious Carnatic music and the world-famous dance form of Bharatanatyam.

Elaborate head jewelry is a very important part of the ensemble for dancer. during a Bharatanatyam performance. For a dancer, the head symbolises heaven and the "Nethi Chutti" is an elaborate jewelry, worn in the hair. Additionally, a talisman, which is called a "headpiece". It is worn on the forehead.

Two round jewel pieces, that look like brooches, are worn on either side of the on the head. They are said to represent the moon and the sun. The bun or plait of the hair is decorated with a semi-circle of flowers. The forehead is decorated with an impressive "tikka" on the forehead

Tamil Nadu does no social tradition of wearing a turban, safa or peta. Probably due to the hot and humid weather.

The "peta", worn by scholars and the elite, is similar to the Mysuru "peta", but with a golden stripe forming an x-shaped cross in the front. During the wedding, the bridegroom wearing an attractive "peta", which is beautifully decorated with gold laces.

During the period of monarchs, the "Devarattam" dance was performed in honour of Tamil kings, on their victorious return from war. This dance is still performed during festivals and social occasions. The dancers wear a yellow turban-type headgear and hold a handkerchief, which they wave during the dance.

Tripura  
ত্রিপুরা



North Eastern State, Tripura, was made a full-fledged state on January 21, 1972. The third-smallest state in the country, is situated between river valleys of Myanmar and Bangladesh. Agartala is the capital city of Tripura State.

Tripura's culture includes tribals Garia dance, Garia worship and non-tribals "Dhamail" dance, which is organised for wedding ceremonies. Some tribal folk-dance forms are Wangala, Bizjhu, Lebang Boomani, Jhum, Galamuchamo, Wya, etc. "Bizhu", a popular dances of the Chakma community, is characterised by women's head-dresses. "Chakma" women wear flowers and jewelry in their hair which is attractive for the headgear.

"Hojagiri" is the female dance of the "Reang" community is quite different from other dances. This entails standing on an earthen pitcher, placing a bottle on the head and moving the lower body rhythmically with a lamp lit, leaves the audience. The flowers on their hair-buns adds to the beauty.

Wangala, the first rice-eating ceremony is performed in every household after a happy harvest. On this occasion, men wear long white cloths on their heads. They decorate their heads with feathers and flowers.

The Welcome Dance of the "Lusai" Tribe is a colourful dance, in which young girls from the community participate. The girls are dressed beautifully and wear a round, red and golden cap that is open in the centre while dancing. This is decorated with a golden-coloured panache.

In the days of the monarchy, the crown of Maharaja Bir Chandra Manikya was studded with diamonds, emeralds and pearls. Like the crest of the tribal people, a gold-studded sarpech (like a brooch) was fixed on it, which can be called the hallmark of tribal culture.

In Tripura, there is no tradition of wearing head-dresses.



## Telangana తెలంగాణ



Telangana was formed on June 2, 2014. The Telangana region was a part of the Hyderabad state from September 17th, 1948, to November 1st, 1956. Prior to Independence, the princely state of Hyderabad, Nizam's jewelry, crown and turban was a hot topic among the people. Now Hyderabad is the capital of Telangana state.

The Nizams ruled for more than two hundred years. They are fond of different types of crowns and head ornaments. The last Nizam wore a round-shaped silk headgear. His headgear was adorned with sarpech 'Yakoot-Wa-Kanval Alimas' and Kalagi '**Zammarrud wa Alimas**' (1).

Many people in Hyderabad believe that wearing a turban symbolises prestige of the past. Nowadays, has become a fashion symbol and remains the groom's attire on his wedding day. In ordinary social life, turbans are considered old-fashioned. In some cases, as women in Maharashtra and Karnataka wear turbans, women in Hyderabad have also been seen wearing turbans during celebrations.

The pagadis are made in Telangana with organza, silk and cotton.

The emerald-studded crown of the Nizam of Hyderabad was adorned with rubies and diamonds in the sarpech. This crown appears to be raised above the head and always is shining. The Nizams of Hyderabad popularised the "Dastar," a neatly arranged turban resembling a stitched cap. According to the minister's position in the princely state of Nizam, the colour of the turban was fixed for the court's attire.

During the Deepavali festival, the "Raj Gonds" of Adilabad district in Telangana perform the "Gusadi" Dance. Each dancer puts on a turban of peacock feathers and horns, a fake beard and moustache and goatskin to cover their bodies. The "Koya" dance is similar to that of the "Maria" tribe of Bastar. Koya dancers dance wearing bison-horned headdresses.

## Uttarakhand उत्तराखण्ड



Uttaranchal renamed as Uttarakhand in 2007, was formed as India's 27th state on November 9, 2000, after being carved out of the northern part of Uttar Pradesh. Dehradun is the capital of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand is a hilly state; its international boundaries are with China (Tibet) in the north and Nepal in the east.

The people of Uttarakhand adorn themselves with topees or turbans, known as pagadees. Garhwalis' traditional topi, (cap), is their most popular piece of clothing. It protects the face and eyes from the sun. Older men wear pagadees to shield themselves from the cold, while younger men wear topees.

The state is widely known for communities like Jaunsari, Bhotia, Raji, etc. The women of the "Jaunsari" Tribal Group wear Digwa, (woolen caps.) The "Bhotiya" Tribe lives in icy and frigid climatic conditions. They wear woollen caps or hats.

"Ramman" is a traditional dance form of Uttarakhand, that was added to UNESCO's cultural heritage list in 2009. Documents show that "Ramman" is more than a century old. The first routine of the masked dance is Mwar Mwarin.

The performers use elaborate costumes and masks, with white cloth headdresses on their heads. A portion of the cloth remains in the middle of the safa, which gives the feeling of an open wing. Strings of black thread hang from safa. The faces and heads of many folk artists are covered with masks.

It occurs in the Chamoli district's twin villages of Saloor and Dungra. This dancing style is presented within the boundaries of the Bhumiya Devta temple, as an offering to the deity. There is a tradition of covering the head.

Various types of headgear are worn in folk dances, like Nat Naati, Raga Rajeshwari, Pandava, Chau Phula, Peacock, Ghughti, Sui, Radha Khandi, Jhumriyo, etc., which is very attractive.

## Uttar Pradesh उत्तर प्रदेश



Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, has an equally rich religious and cultural life that has an impact on the entire country. Lucknow is the capital of the state. People of different castes, communities and religions have distinctive costumes and lifestyles.

Hindus cover their heads with "Pagari," prepared by tying knots in cotton cloth, in colours like blue, pink and orange, or mixing colours with strips like red, orange etc.

It is customary to wear a "dopalli topi" (cap) in Lucknow, Banaras and other areas in UP. These silk, zari and brocade caps can be seen at traditional rich households' ceremonies.

Many Muslims wear a "Qaraqul" hat, which is made from the fur of the Qaraqul breed of sheep.

Sufis wear green turbans. It is also worn by the elderly people in rural areas, as a symbol of honour.

In Shi'a Islam, a black head wrapped around a small white cap is worn by descendants of Muhammad, called Sayyids, and a white turban by other well-educated people and scholars.

The "Gandhi topi" (cap), named after "Rashtrapita" Mahatma Gandhi, emerged in India during the non-cooperation movement of 1920-22.

During the freedom struggle, every freedom fighter wore a Gandhi topi, a symbol of Indian solidarity. The cap is a white side cap, pointed in front and back and has a wide band. It is made out of khadi.

Gandhi Ji once said that he looked at several cap to the various parts of India and wanted to design a cap that would cover the head in hot weather and would be easy to store in a ,pocket. He then used white khadi cloth for the cap, because it was easier to wash.

Uttar Pradesh is also home to several tribal communities. These people wear special types of headgears, made of flowers, leaves, bamboo etc. during festivals.



# West Bengal পশ্চিমবঙ্গ



The Indian state of West Bengal occupies about 88,752 square kilometers – more than double the area of Switzerland. The state is on the Ganga Delta, which includes the Sundarban Mangrove Forest. Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal.

Talking about the headgear of Bengal, Swami Vivekananda's **saffron safa** (3) is considered a symbol of Bengal's culture and Indian-ness, all over the world.

On the other hand, the **red-coloured round turban** (4) of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the great poet of Bengal, the creator of 'Vande Mataram', also represents Bengali culture and tradition.

The "Sehara", worn by the Bengali groom, is called the "**Topor**" (1) and is made from "Shola", or Indian cork. During the wedding, the bride is to wear a white crown called "Sola Sehara". A gold crown is also worn in wealthy families and is called "Sonar Mukut" or 'Sehara'.

Folk dances, in Bengal, variety of headgears are worn. The "Gambhira" dance is performed during festivals in the Malda district. The dance usually involves two dancers who take on the roles of mythological characters, like Radha and Krishna, or Shiva and Parvati. All the characters wear crowns, or "Mukuts," on their heads, which identify the deities. Apart from this, there are other dances like "Purulia Chhau", "Nat", "Barita", "Alkap", "Domani", etc. In these dances too, a crown or a "Mukut" is worn according to the character of the deity.

One of the biggest and most spectacular traditional festivals, the procession of flowers in Darjeeling has a special significance. During the "Ful Pati" and "Lakhe" dancers' performances. Dancers wear a huge mask on their faces and large tufts of white, black and brown hair on their heads.

Different ethnic groups of Bengal have their own distinctive dress, folk dance, music and folk arts, which are the hallmarks of their culture.







## January

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## February

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## August

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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## Headgears of India



