



West Bengal

- * **Capital:** Kolkata
- * **Date of formation:** January 26, 1950
- * **Languages:** Bengali, Hindi, Urdu
- * **Size:** 88,752 sq km
- * **Population:** 9,12,76,115
- * **Sex Ratio:** 950F/1000M
- * **Literacy:** 76.26%
- * **Density:** 1,028 per sq km
- * **Rivers:** Hooghly, Teesta, Torsa, Subarnarekha, Jaldhara
- * **Major crops:** Rice, Maize, Oil seeds, Sugarcane
- * **Minerals:** Coal, Kaolin, Iron ore, Quartz
- * **Highest Peak:** Sandakphu (3636m)
- * **Forests and reserved forest:** Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara
- * **Fairs and festivals:** Durga Puja, Rabindra Jayanti, Gajan, Nababarsha, Pausha mela
- * **Theatre form:** Jatra
- * **Major dance and music forms:** Jatra theatre, Baul, Rabindra Sangeet
- * **Arts and crafts:** Terracotta Bankura horses; Kalighat style of painting, hand woven Baluchari silk textiles, Dhoka, Murshidabad Silk
- * **Museum:** Everest Museum, Darjeeling; Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, Kolkata; Indian Museum, Kolkata
- * **Cuisine:** Bhopallish, Daab Chingri, Mishti Doi, Machher Jhol
- * **State animal:** Fishing Cat
- * **State bird:** White-throated Kingfisher
- * **State flower:** Night Flowering Jasmine
- * **State tree:** Shephali, Devil tree or Chatian
- * **Tourist attractions:** Victoria memorial, Vidyasagar Setu, Shantiniketan, Darjeeling, Howrah Bridge, Trams, Dakshineswar

Factoids:

- * Bengali literature developed early thanks to the cultural awakening brought about by the Brahmo Samaj.
- * Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, was from Bengal.

