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Arunachal Pradesh

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Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh is the first place in India to see the sun each day. It began as the North-East Frontier Agency, became a Union Territory and then a state. This lesson covers its name, history, mountains, wildlife and people.

At a glance

Four key facts on this topic

01 **1987** Statehood on 20 February.

02 **1972** Union Territory.

03 **Tawang** Monastery over 400 years old.

04 **Gorichen** The highest point.

What does Arunachal Pradesh mean?

1 Name and Place

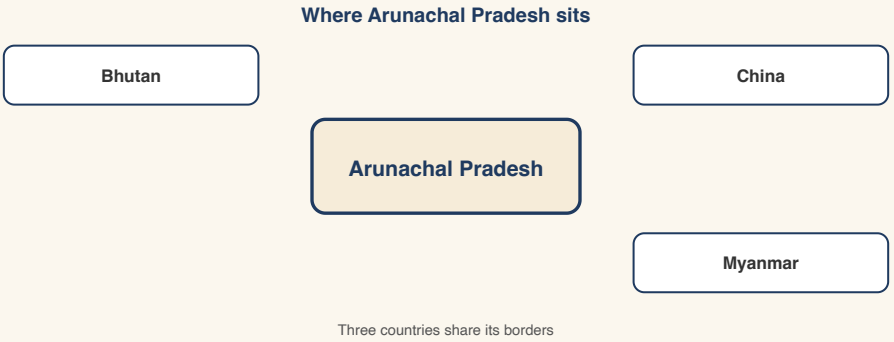
1.1 What does Arunachal Pradesh mean?

Arunachal Pradesh is known as the land of the dawn-lit mountains. The first sunrays touch Indian soil here each morning.

That is why it is called the land of the rising sun.

1.2 Who are its neighbours?

China, Bhutan and Myanmar share borders with the state. It is also the largest of the seven sister states in north-east India.



Memory hook only. Not a surveyed map.

> 9. **Think it through:** How many countries? See answer ↓

> **Quick check 1.** True or false: Arunachal Pradesh shares borders with China, Bhutan and Myanmar. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in; arunachal.mygov.in

How did NEFA become Arunachal Pradesh?

2 From NEFA to Union Territory

2.1 What was the region called before?

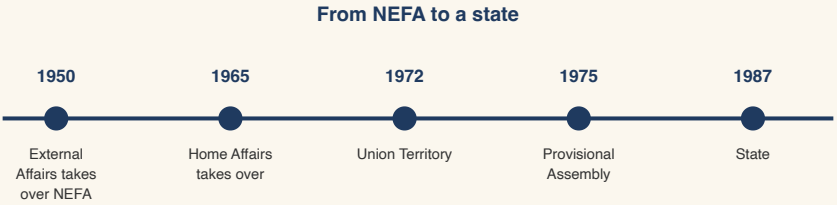
The area was called the North-East Frontier Agency, or NEFA. On 26 January 1950 the Ministry of External Affairs took over its administration from the Government of Assam.

It was split into five divisions: Kameng, Subansiri, Lohit, Siang and Tirap.

2.2 When did it become a Union Territory?

Administration moved to the Ministry of Home Affairs from 1 August 1965. On 21 January 1972 NEFA was reconstituted as the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

The law used was the North Eastern Area Re-Organisation Act 1971. On 15 August 1975 the Pradesh Council became the Provisional Legislative Assembly.



Dates as given on the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission history page.

10. **Think it through:** Which ministry first? See answer ↓

Quick check 2. True or false: NEFA became the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh in 1972. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: appsc.gov.in

When did Arunachal Pradesh become a state?

3 Statehood in 1987

3.1 When did it become a state?

On 20 February 1987 the Union Territory was reconstituted as the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The law used was the Arunachal Pradesh Act of 1986.

It became the 24th state of the Republic of India. Statehood Day is marked on this date.

> 11. **Think it through:** Which number? See answer ↓

Arunachal timeline

Year	Event
26 January 1950	External Affairs takes over NEFA
1 August 1965	Home Affairs takes over
21 January 1972	Union Territory

Year	Event
15 August 1975	Provisional Legislative Assembly
20 February 1987	24th state

Quick check 3. True or false: Arunachal Pradesh became a state on 20 February 1987. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What do old texts and ruins say?

4 Myths and Old Sites

4.1 What do old texts say?

Arunachal Pradesh is mentioned in ancient texts such as the Kalika Purana and the Mahabharata. Each January pilgrims come to Parshuram Kund for a sacred dip. Malinithan has ancient Hindu ruins that show the architectural skill of the Chutia kings.

12. **Think it through:** Which kings? See answer ↓

Quick check 4. True or false: Parshuram Kund draws pilgrims every January. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Why are Tawang and Gorichen important?

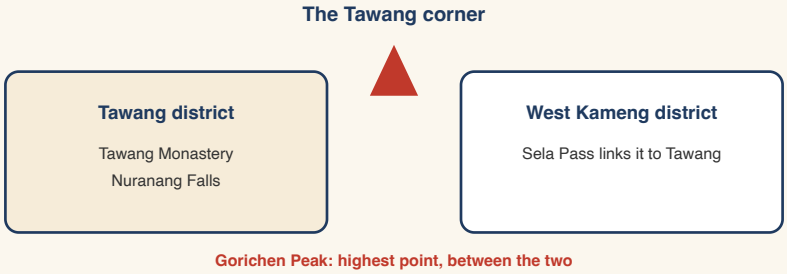
5 Tawang and the Highest Point

5.1 Why is Tawang famous?

Tawang Monastery is more than 400 years old and is described as India's largest monastery. It makes Tawang an important Buddhist site.

5.2 Where is the highest point?

Gorichen Peak, called Sa-Nga Phu locally, is the highest point of the state. It lies between Tawang and West Kameng districts. Sela Pass connects Tawang district to the rest of India.



Memory hook only. Not to scale.

13. **Think it through:** Where is Gorichen? See answer ↓

Quick check 5. True or false: Gorichen Peak is the highest point of Arunachal Pradesh. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What wildlife lives in Arunachal Pradesh?

6 Wildlife and Orchids

6.1 What lives in the forests?

The forests hold over 500 rare orchid species. Wildlife includes tigers, leopards, snow leopards, langurs and red pandas. The state has 2 national parks, 1 orchid sanctuary and 8 wildlife sanctuaries.

14. **Think it through:** How many parks? See answer ↓

Protected areas to remember

Name	Note
Namdapha National Park	Refuge for rare and endangered species
Mouling National Park	Second national park, named for a peak
Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary	In the capital
Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary	Untouched nature

Quick check 6. True or false: Arunachal Pradesh has two national parks. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Which tribes and festivals matter?

7 Tribes, Dances and Festivals

7.1 Who lives there?

Arunachal Pradesh is home to twenty-six prominent tribes. Each keeps its own way of life.

7.2 Which dances and festivals matter?

Dances fall into four types: festive, ritual, recreational and dance dramas. The Lion and Peacock dances are popular.

Festivals include Mopin, Losar, the Dree festival of the Apatani, Chalo-Loku of the Nocte and Solung of the Adis. The Ziro Festival of Music is held too.

15. **Think it through:** Whose Dree? See answer ↓

Quick check 7. True or false: Solung is a festival of the Adis. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What should you remember for the exam?

8 Exam Point of View

8.1 What should you remember for the exam?

> **Exam angle:** Link Arunachal Pradesh with the first sunrise, NEFA in 1950, Union Territory in 1972 and statehood on 20 February 1987. Remember Gorichen Peak as the highest point.

8.2 Which past questions came from this topic?

8.3 Which small facts are easy to mix up?

Do not mix up 1972 and 1987. In 1972 NEFA became a Union Territory. In 1987 it became a state.

Do not mix up the two ministries. External Affairs took over in 1950 and Home Affairs in 1965.

> **Quick check 8.** True or false: Arunachal Pradesh became a Union Territory in 1987. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember this

- **Name:** land of the dawn-lit mountains.
- **Earlier:** NEFA, then a Union Territory in 1972.
- **Statehood:** 20 February 1987, the 24th state.
- **Highest point:** Gorichen Peak.
- **Monastery:** Tawang, over 400 years old.
- **Tribes:** twenty-six prominent tribes.

Explain it back: Say how NEFA became a state in 1987.

Practice MCQs

1. On which date did Arunachal Pradesh become a state?

A. 21 January 1972

B. 26 January 1950

C. 20 February 1987

D. 15 August 1975

See answer ↓

2. Arunachal Pradesh was earlier known as which agency?

A. North-East Frontier Agency

B. Naga Hills Agency

C. Lushai Hills Agency

D. Assam Border Agency

See answer ↓

3. Which is the highest point of Arunachal Pradesh?

A. Sela Pass

B. Mouling Peak

C. Gorichen Peak

D. Tawang Hill

See answer ↓

4. Parshuram Kund draws pilgrims in which month?

A. October

B. July

C. March

D. January

See answer ↓

5. Which festival belongs to the Apatani?

A. Chalo-Loku

B. Mopin

C. Dree

D. Solung

See answer ↓

6. Which ministry took over NEFA on 26 January 1950?

A. Home Affairs

B. Defence

C. External Affairs

D. Tribal Affairs

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **C.**
   On 20 February 1987 the Union Territory became the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It was the 24th state.
   ↑ Q1
2. **A.**
   It was the North-East Frontier Agency, or NEFA. It became a Union Territory in 1972.
   ↑ Q2
3. **C.**
   Gorichen Peak, called Sa-Nga Phu locally, is the highest point. It lies between Tawang and West Kameng districts.
   ↑ Q3
4. **D.**
   Pilgrims descend on Parshuram Kund each January for a sacred dip.
   ↑ Q4
5. **C.**
   Dree is the festival of the Apatani. Solung belongs to the Adis and Chalo-Loku to the Nocte.
   ↑ Q5
6. **C.**
   External Affairs took over in 1950. Home Affairs took over from 1 August 1965.
   ↑ Q6

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** These are its three international neighbours. ↑ 1
2. **True.** The date given is 21 January 1972. ↑ 2
3. **True.** It was the 24th state. ↑ 3
4. **True.** They come for a sacred dip. ↑ 4
5. **True.** It lies between Tawang and West Kameng. ↑ 5
6. **True.** Namdapha and Mouling. ↑ 6
7. **True.** Chalo-Loku belongs to the Nocte. ↑ 7

8. **False.** It became a Union Territory in 1972. Statehood came in 1987. ↑ 8
9. **Think it through.** Three. China, Bhutan and Myanmar. ↑ 9
10. **Think it through.** External Affairs came first, in 1950. Home Affairs took over in 1965. ↑ 10
11. **Think it through.** The 24th state, from NEFA. ↑ 11
12. **Think it through.** The Chutia kings, at Malinithan. ↑ 12
13. **Think it through.** Between Tawang and West Kameng. ↑ 13
14. **Think it through.** Two national parks and eight wildlife sanctuaries. ↑ 14
15. **Think it through.** Dree is the festival of the Apatani. ↑ 15

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