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India

# Here Are The Indian States That Drink, Smoke And Smoke Up More Than Others. [Surprises Ahead]



**Kunal Anand**

December 24, 2015



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A small pre-election raid in September this year saw 83,067 litres of illicit liquor seized in Bihar – and that was just the final phase of election polling. Considering that Nitish Kumar, part of the Bihar's ruling faction had ambitiously declared the state to be dry one, there's a crackdown on what will become a parallel alcohol economy once the 100% alcohol ban goes live.

But you can't take the high out of India's third largest state, which is India's second biggest spender on ganja, according to the government's National Sample Survey (July 2011 and June 2012)

Here are India's leaders when it comes to Alcohol (toddy, country liquor, foreign liquor, and beer), smoking (cigarettes), and getting high (ganja)

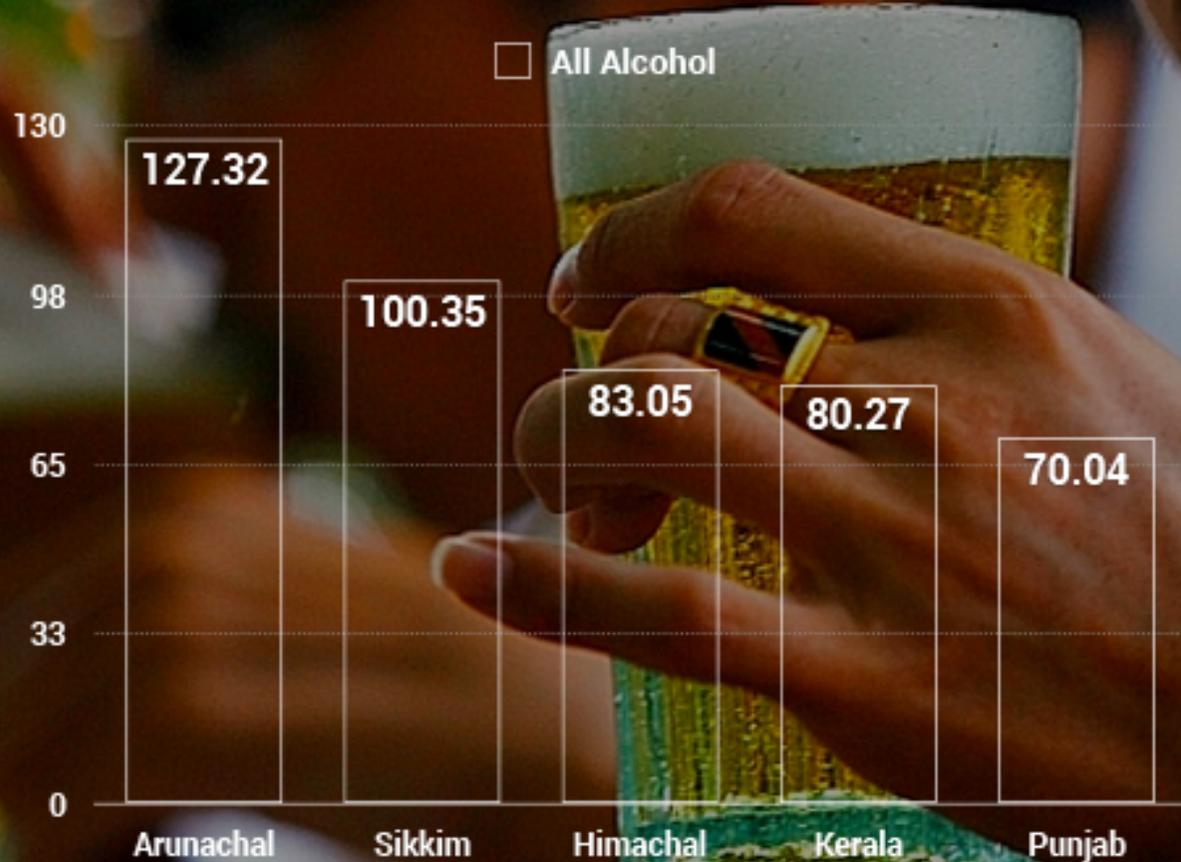
Despite its reputation as a hyper educated state, Kerala finds prominent presence in the 'All Alcohol', 'Cigarettes' and 'Ganja' categories.

# RUPEES SPENT ON A GRAM OF GANJA PER PERSON/MONTH



It may be surprising that urban metros like Delhi and Mumbai are not India's leaders when it comes to cigarette consumption. More surprisingly, Mizoram smokes a LOT - over a 100 Rupees per person every month on smoking!

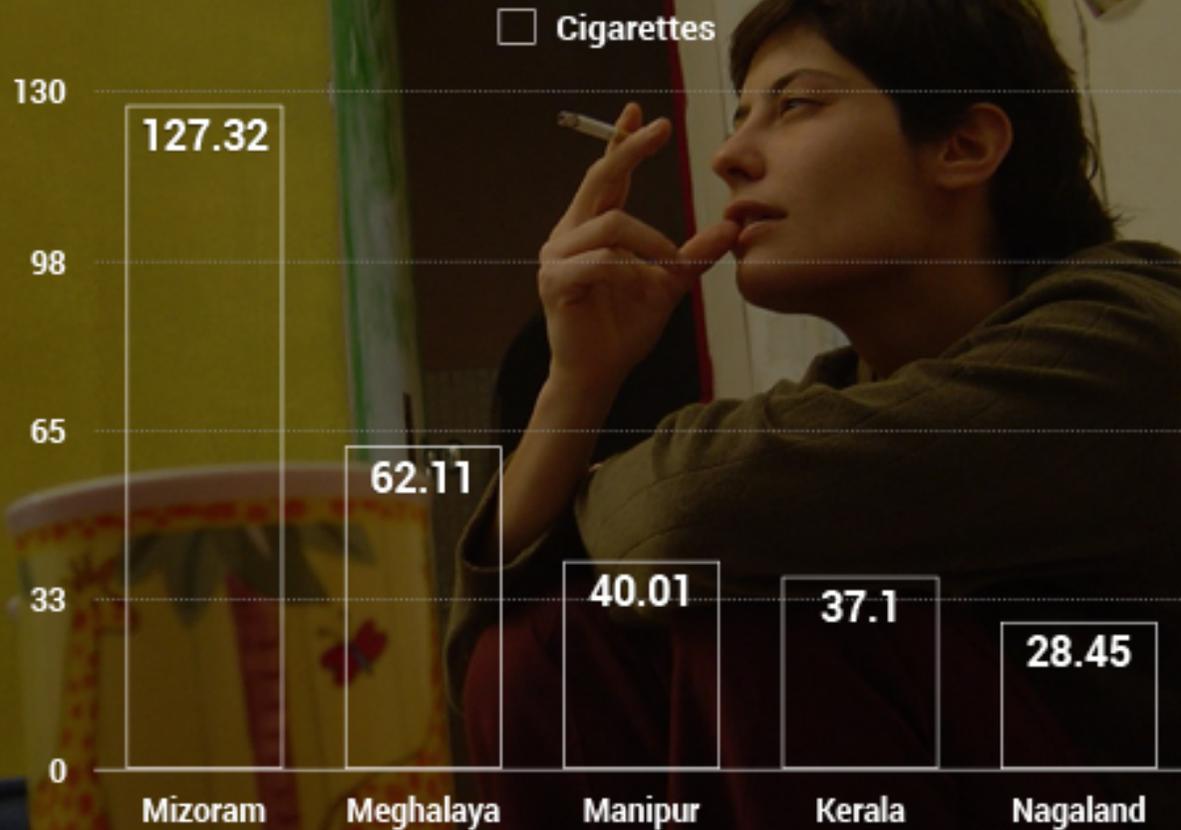
# RUPEES SPENT ON ALCOHOL PER PERSON/MONTH



reuters

The North East, represented by Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, leads the 'All Alcohol' category, which is not surprising considering their fondness for locally brewed liquor.

# RUPEES SPENT ON CIGARETTES PER PERSON/MONTH



The gap between Mizoram and Meghalaya in cigarette consumption is a startling one - the Mizo people clearly have a tobacco problem. This is confirmed when we went through the original data and found that Mizoram also lead in the 'Other Tobacco Products', and took third place in 'Leaf Tobacco'.



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# Women Barge Into Temple That Prohibits Women. Priests Purify It With Cow Urine After They Leave



**TNN**  
December 24, 2015



As many as 12 women on Wednesday entered the Shanaishwar temple at Solashi in Koregaon taluka of Satara district, after taking down a board outside which discourages women from entering.

## The Gomutra cleanse



reuters

Shanaishwar Devasthan Trust priests immediately "purified" the temple using 'gomutra' (cow urine), which

angered the women activists who decided to file a complaint against the trust for violating the constitutional rights of citizens. "The act of entering the temple was planned so that we could send a message to shrines where women are not allowed to enter," said lawyer and activist Varsha Deshpande, who led the women.

"It was a Satyagraha. They have placed a board asking women not to enter the temple. We went there today and removed the board, then entered the temple and worshipped the idol. It is not unconstitutional," she said. Nandgiri Maharaj, chief priest of temple, which is popular in southern Maharashtra, objected to the act and said that the Hindu religion has rules barring women from entering the Shani temple. Deshpande and Nandgiri Maharaj engaged in a heated debate after the women entered, during which the later challenged the women to enter shrines of other religious institutions.

"We told him we were entering the temple because we are Hindu. Religion is a personal matter and should not be exhibited. We removed the board as it is derogatory to women. If women of other religions want to do the same thing, they are free to do so," Deshpande said.

## The legacy of this temple



trakbook

The temple at Solashi was constructed some 8 years ago as the result of Nandgiri Maharaj's efforts. It attracts hundreds of devotees each month; especially those from nearby places. The devotees treat the temple as 'Prati Shani Shinganapur' or a replica of the Shani Shinganapur temple in Ahmednagar. It may be recalled that in November a woman climbed the security barricade at the Shani Shinganapur temple and entered the premises where the Shani idol is installed. Villagers and the Devasthan management "purified" the temple, which sparked a debate in Maharashtra over the tradition of barring women from entering the

sanctum sanctorums of various temples.

For the last five years, activists in Kolhapur have been demanding that women be allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum of Kolhapur's famous Mahalaxmi temple.



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