

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

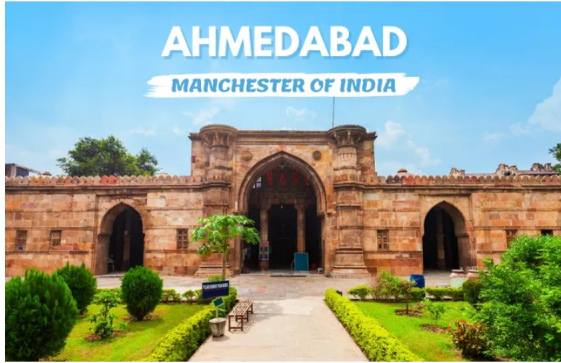
Hey aspirants! We're back with another blog on the blog series '**Know Your City**'. The city you're going to learn about is '**Ahmedabad**'. So, without a further delay, let's start exploring the city.

Nestled on the banks of the Sabarmati River, **Ahmedabad** is a city that weaves together a tapestry of history, culture, and modernity. With a population estimated at over 8 million people, it stands as the largest city in the state of Gujarat. This dynamic metropolis boasts a diverse economy, with a GDP estimated at 68 billion dollars in 2020, anchored by industries such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and gemstones. It is also home to the world's largest cricket stadium, the Narendra Modi Stadium, with a staggering seating capacity of 132,000 spectators. As we delve deeper into the heart of Ahmedabad, we discover a city that bridges the gap between its rich heritage and its aspirations for the future.

Before looking at the different aspects, one must know the city symbols of the particular city. The city symbols of Ahmedabad are:

Ahmedabad	
State	Gujarat
Official Language	Gujarati
City Bird	Pariah Kite
City Animal	Greater Flamingo
City Tree	Neem tree
City Flower	Marigold
MP	Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki Hasmukh Patel
Mayor	Pratibha Jain
Municipal Commissioner	M. Thennarasan

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Source: Travel dairy]

So now, let's move on to the first aspect of the blog i.e., **History of Ahmedabad.**

History of Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, with its rich history, has deep roots dating back to the 11th century. It was originally known as Ashaval. During this time, the Chalukya ruler Karna waged a successful war against the Bhil king of Ashaval and established a city named Karnavati on the banks of the Sabarmati River.

- **Muzaffarid Dynasty and Ahmedabad's Naming:** In the 15th century, local Muslim governor Zafar Khan Muzaffar declared independence from the Delhi Sultanate, founding the Muzaffarid dynasty. In 1411, his grandson, Sultan Ahmed Shah, laid the foundation of a new city near Karnavati and named it Ahmedabad after himself.
- **Expansion and Fortification:** In 1487, Mahmud Begada, Ahmed Shah's grandson, fortified the city with a massive outer wall, twelve gates, 189 bastions, and over 6,000 battlements, making it a formidable stronghold.
- **Mughal and Colonial Influence:** During the Mughal rule, Ahmedabad became a thriving centre of trade, particularly in textiles that were even exported to Europe. The city's strategic importance continued through various dynasties and colonial rule, with the British East India Company taking over in 1818.
- **Gandhi's Ashrams and Independence Movement:** The Indian independence movement had its roots in Ahmedabad when Mahatma Gandhi established ashrams here. The city witnessed significant protests and acts of civil disobedience, including the famous Salt Satyagraha in 1930.
- **Post-Independence Era:** After India's independence in 1947 and the partition, Ahmedabad saw an influx of Hindu migrants from Pakistan. It became the capital of the newly formed Gujarat state in 1960, marking a period of growth in education and industry.
- **Challenges and Modern Developments:** Ahmedabad faced challenges like the 2001 earthquake and the 2002 Gujarat riots. In recent times, it has hosted global leaders and events, with visits from leaders like President Trump in 2020.



5 LAKH+ STUDENTS
Already enrolled with our selection focused courses.



30+ EXPERT INSTRUCTORS
Our instructors are the best in the industry



10000+ HOURS OF VIDEOS
All videos are well-explained for you to get every bit out of the videos

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Source: ahmedabadonline.in]

Ahmedabad's history is a tapestry of resilience, cultural exchange, and socio-political movements, making it a city of great historical significance.

Timeline for the major events that occurred in the History of Ahmedabad:

- **11th Century:** Area around Ahmedabad inhabited, known as Ashaval.
- **1411:** Sultan Ahmed Shah, I found Ahmedabad, naming it after himself.
- **1487:** Mahmud Begada fortifies the city with walls and gates.
- **1573:** Gujarat is conquered by the Mughal Emperor Akbar.
- **1915-1917:** Mahatma Gandhi establishes ashrams in Ahmedabad, becoming centres of nationalist activities.
- **1919:** Mass protests against the Rowlatt Act result in the burning of government buildings.
- **1930:** Gandhi initiates the Salt Satyagraha from Ahmedabad.
- **1947:** Communal violence breaks out during the partition of India.
- **1960:** Ahmedabad becomes the capital of Gujarat after the state's formation.
- **1974:** Nav Nirman agitation and protests against Chiman Bhai Patel's rule.
- **1980s:** Anti-reservation protests and caste-based clashes.
- **2001:** The devastating Gujarat earthquake.
- **2002:** Communal violence in Gujarat, including the Gulbarg Society massacre.

This timeline highlights key events that have shaped Ahmedabad's history, from its foundation by Sultan Ahmed Shah I to its pivotal role in India's struggle for independence and the challenges it has faced in more recent times.

Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e., **Geographical Aspects**.

Geographical Aspects of Ahmedabad

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Ahmedabad, situated in western India, is located at an elevation of approximately 53 metres (174 feet) above sea level.

- It is positioned on the banks of the **Sabarmati River**, in the state of Gujarat. The city covers an area of 505 square kilometres.
- With a semi-arid climate, Ahmedabad experiences three distinct seasons: summer, monsoon, and winter.
- Its strategic location along the Sabarmati River has made it a historically significant urban centre in the region.



[Source: Times of India]

Physiographic Aspects:

Geographically, Ahmedabad is characterised by a relatively flat landscape, except for the small hills of Thaltej-Jodhpur Tekra.

- **Temperature:** Average summer temperatures reach 43°C, while winter averages around 30°C.
- **Rainfall:** Ahmedabad receives an annual rainfall of about 800 millimetres, with occasional flooding during heavy rains.
- **Air Quality Index:** The city's air quality is influenced by its industrial activity, and measures are taken to address pollution. It's located in seismic zone 3, and its flat landscape is complemented by the Sabarmati Riverfront Project.
- **Lakes:** Three lakes can be found within Ahmedabad's city limits: Kankaria, Vastrapur, and Chandola. The Kankaria Lake, constructed in 1451, is one of the city's largest water bodies.

Demographic Snapshots:

- **Poverty Ratio:** The city has experienced urbanisation and has made efforts to reduce poverty, with the urban poverty rate declining from 28% in 1993-1994 to 10% in 2011-2012.
- **Population:** Ahmedabad's population was estimated at approximately 8,059,441, with significant growth since 1950 when the population was 854,959. The city has experienced urbanisation
- **Literacy Rate:** The city boasts a literacy rate of 88.29%, with 92.30% for men and 83.85% for women.

Soil and Vegetation:

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Ahmedabad's soil predominantly consists of alluvial and black soil types, suitable for agriculture.

- The region exhibits various types of vegetation, including thorny shrubs, dry deciduous forests, and grasslands.
- The natural vegetation is adapted to the semi-arid climate and consists of species like acacias, neem, and babool trees, along with various grasses.

Ahmedabad boasts iconic landmarks, including the Sabarmati Ashram, where Mahatma Gandhi lived; the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque with its intricate stone lattice windows; the Kankaria Lake, a historic artificial lake; and the IIM-A campus designed by Louis Kahn. The city is also known for its well-preserved pols, traditional housing clusters.



[Source: The Economic Times]

Now let's move on to the **political aspects of Ahmedabad**.

Political Aspects of Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, a dynamic city in Gujarat, is the administrative hub of Ahmedabad district. The city's governance falls under the purview of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), established in July 1950.

- The AMC is crucial in managing key city services, including water and sewerage, primary education, healthcare, fire services, public transport, and infrastructure.
- The mayor leads the AMC, with 192 municipal councillors elected by city residents. These councillors, in turn, select the deputy mayor and mayor. In 2018, Bijal Patel assumed the role of mayor.
- Ahmedabad is divided into seven zones, encompassing 48 wards, each contributing to the city's overall governance. The Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) oversees the urban and suburban regions.
- Two members represent Ahmedabad in the Lok Sabha, India's lower house, while 21 members represent the city in the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha, the state legislative assembly.
- The Gujarat High Court, based in Ahmedabad, solidifies the city's status as Gujarat's judicial capital. Law enforcement is maintained by the Ahmedabad City Police, led by the Police Commissioner, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer.

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Health services are predominantly provided at Ahmedabad civil hospital, one of Asia's largest. Electricity is generated and distributed by Torrent Power Limited, a privately-owned company, a unique aspect of Ahmedabad's power sector.



[Source: Business standard]

Now let's discuss the **culture of Ahmedabad**.

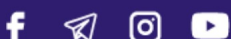
Culture of Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad is a city brimming with vibrant culture and traditions. Its rich tapestry of heritage is a testament to the harmonious blend of diverse elements.

- **Language:** Gujarati is the predominant language, but Hindi and English are widely spoken and understood.
- **People:** The people of Ahmedabad are known for their warm hospitality and are largely divided into Hindu and Jain communities.
- **Attire:** Traditional attire like chaniya choli for women and kurta-pyjama for men is commonly worn, but modern clothing is also popular.
- **Cuisine:** The city offers a culinary delight, with the iconic Gujarati thali being a favourite. Local delicacies like dhoklas, theplas, and sweets such as laddoo are cherished.
- **Handicrafts:** Ahmedabad is renowned for its mirror work and bandhani textiles. Traditional mojdi footwear and eco-friendly Ganesha idols are also crafted here.
- **Temples:** The city is adorned with numerous temples, and the Jagannath Temple hosts the annual Rath Yatra. Idols of deities are made in the Gulbai Tekra area.
- **Literature:** Ahmedabad is a hub for Gujarati literature, with institutions like Gujarat Sahitya Sabha promoting the language.
- **Festivals:** The city celebrates a wide range of festivals, including Uttarayan, Navratri, Diwali, Holi, and Christmas. The Uttarayan kite festival is a spectacular event.
- **Religion:** Hinduism and Jainism are the prominent religions, with numerous temples, including the Akshardham Temple.
- **Music and Dance:** Saptak School of Music and Garba dance during Navratri are cherished cultural expressions.
- **Art and Museums:** The city boasts the Sanskar Kendra Museum, Calico Museum of Textiles, and more, preserving art, culture, and history.

6

Follow us on



Address : 1997, Mukherjee Nagar, 110009

Email : online@kdcampus.org

Call : +91 95551 08888

Download the App



Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Ahmedabad's culture is a colourful mosaic, reflecting the city's rich traditions and its modern, dynamic spirit. It's a place where the old and the new coexist in harmony, making it a truly unique and culturally diverse destination.



[Source: ahmedabadonline.in]

Now let's talk about the next aspect i.e., **Environment in Ahmedabad.**

Environment in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad's environment is a dynamic interplay of urban life and natural biodiversity. The city faces several environmental challenges while striving to maintain its green cover.

- **Urban Biodiversity:** Ahmedabad's landscape supports a range of flora and fauna. The Sabarmati Riverfront Project rejuvenated the Sabarmati River, enhancing urban biodiversity and promoting eco-tourism.
- **Green Cover:** The city's green spaces are essential for its ecological balance. Ahmedabad has 5.91 square metres of open green area per person, exceeding the national standard of 3 square metres.
- **Flora:** Parks, gardens, and tree-lined avenues offer a diverse array of plant species. There's a concerted effort to promote tree plantation and maintain green belts.
- **Fauna:** The Sabarmati riverfront has attracted various bird species and wildlife, making it an urban haven for nature enthusiasts.
- **Environment Challenges:** The city faces pollution challenges, particularly in air quality. It's working to curb emissions and reduce pollution levels.

Ahmedabad is committed to fostering an environmentally sustainable urban environment by balancing development with the preservation of its natural heritage, ensuring a cleaner, greener, and healthier future.

Let's talk about the **economic aspects** of the city Ahmedabad.

Economy of Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad's economy has undergone a remarkable transformation, making it one of India's key economic and industrial hubs. It's known for its historical prominence in the textile industry, earning the moniker "**Manchester of India.**" The city has since diversified into various sectors, including information technology, pharmaceuticals, and automobile manufacturing.



5 LAKH+ STUDENTS
Already enrolled with our selection focused courses.



30+ EXPERT INSTRUCTORS
Our instructors are the best in the industry



10000+ HOURS OF VIDEOS
All videos are well-explained for you to get every bit out of the videos

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

- **GDP:** In 2020, the GDP of Ahmedabad's metropolitan area was estimated at 68 billion dollars.
- **Economic Growth:** Ahmedabad was ranked the third-fastest growing city of the decade by Forbes in 2010.
- **Industrial Diversity:** Besides textiles, industries like pharmaceuticals, gemstones, and jewellery have thrived. The city hosts major corporate headquarters, including Adani Group.
- **Smart City:** Ahmedabad is part of the Smart Cities Mission, aiming for sustainable urban development.
- **UNESCO Heritage:** In 2017, the historic Old Ahmedabad was declared a UNESCO World Heritage City.
- **Textile Hub:** It remains a significant player in the textile industry, with a legacy of cotton manufacturing units.

Ahmedabad's evolving economy, combined with its rich history, has cemented its position as a dynamic and thriving city in India.

Now let's delve into a few **Interesting Facts about Ahmedabad**.

Some Interesting Facts about Ahmedabad

These facts showcase Ahmedabad's blend of culture, modernity, and industrial significance.

- **World's Largest Cricket Stadium:** Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium is the largest cricket stadium globally, with a seating capacity of 132,000 spectators.
- **World's Oldest Stock Exchange:** The Ahmedabad Stock Exchange, established in 1894, holds the distinction of being one of the oldest stock exchanges globally.
- **Unique Poles:** Ahmedabad boasts a unique feature called "Pols," traditional housing clusters with narrow, labyrinthine streets, each with its own community and heritage.



[Source: The Tribune]

In conclusion, Ahmedabad, a city with deep historical roots dating back to the 11th century, has evolved into a vibrant metropolis that beautifully weaves together its rich past and modern aspirations. From its foundation by Sultan Ahmed Shah I to its pivotal role in India's struggle for independence, Ahmedabad's timeline is a testament to resilience and socio-political movements.



STUDY CONTENTS THAT GET YOU SELECTED

**FREE
PDF**



5 LAKH+ STUDENTS
Already enrolled with our
selection focused courses.



30+ EXPERT INSTRUCTORS
Our instructors are the best
In the industry



10000+ HOURS OF VIDEOS
All videos are well-explained for you
to get every bit out of the videos

Exploring Ahmedabad - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Geographically, it is situated along the Sabarmati River, a historically significant urban centre. The city's culture is a colourful tapestry, celebrating traditions and embracing modernity. With a diverse economy spanning textiles, information technology, and more, Ahmedabad is a thriving economic hub. It's a city where history, culture, and progress come together, creating a unique and dynamic urban landscape.



Follow us on



Address : 1997, Mukherjee Nagar, 110009

Email : online@kdcampus.org

Call : +91 95551 08888

Download the App

