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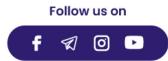All videos are well-explained for you to get every bit out of the videos

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Exploring Bengaluru - 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 '**Bengaluru**'. So, without a further delay, let's start exploring the city.

Nestled in the **heart of Karnataka**, Bengaluru emerges as a fascinating tapestry of tradition, technology, and a thriving urban landscape. As the capital and largest city of this southern Indian state, Bengaluru embodies a dynamic fusion of history and modernity. With a population surpassing 8 million and a metropolitan pulse beating for more than 11 million residents, it stands as an emblem of India's growth and diversity. Proudly sitting atop the Deccan Plateau at over 900 metres (3,000 feet) above sea level, Bengaluru's picturesque cityscape is embraced by a salubrious climate, earning it the title of India's "**Garden City.**" This vibrant metropolis, known as the Silicon Valley of India, encapsulates a rich legacy while propelling itself as a global tech, innovation, and cultural hub.

Before looking at the different aspects, one must know the city symbols of the particular city. The city symbols of Bengaluru are:
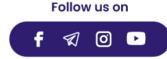
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Exploring Bengaluru - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Bengaluru	
State	Karnataka
Official Language	Kannada
City Bird	Indian roller blue jay
City Animal	Asian Elephant
City Flower	Lotus
City Tree	Sandalwood
City Fish	Carnatic Carp
City Fruit	Mango
City Butterfly	Southern birdwing
Corporation Commissioner	Tushar Giri Nath
MP	Tejasvi Surya P.C. Mohan
MLA	M. Krishnappa

[Source: Economic Times]

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

History of Bengaluru

The rich history of Bengaluru, spanning centuries, unveils a captivating tale of evolution and cultural amalgamation. Early traces, as far back as 4000 BCE, suggest human settlement in the region.

- **Ancient Origins- A Land of Settlers (c. 4000 BCE - 27 BCE):** The history of Bengaluru is deeply rooted in antiquity, with signs of human settlement dating back to around 4000 BCE. This early civilization left its mark through burial grounds established in places like Koramangala and Chikkajala. Surprisingly, even the Romans, under emperors Augustus, Tiberius, and Claudius, found themselves entangled in trade with this region, as evidenced by coins discovered at Yeshwantpur and HAL Airport in 27 BCE.
- **Rise and Fall of Dynasties (4th - 17th Century):** Through the centuries, Bengaluru was under the dominion of various South Indian dynasties, including the Western Ganga dynasty (4th - 10th century). The Western Ganga dynasty's reign witnessed the construction of significant temples, like the Begur Nageshwara Temple, which stands to this day. The Cholas also left their imprint on the city around 1004, during the reign of Raja Raja Chola I. The subsequent centuries saw a changing of the guard, with the Hoysalas, Vijayanagara Empire, and Mughals all making their mark.
- **Kempe Gowda's Vision and the British Era (1537 - 1947):** Bengaluru's modern history began with the establishment of a mud fort in 1537 by Kempe Gowda I, a chief under the Vijayanagara Empire. Over time, the city's strategic importance attracted the attention of the British, who took control after the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War in 1799. British cantonments and a rapidly growing city sprouted around this period. The old city, under the Maharaja of Mysore's dominion, coexisted with the British-controlled cantonment.
- **Independence and Urbanisation (1947 Onward):** With India's independence in 1947, Bengaluru became the capital of Mysore State, later rebranded as Karnataka. The post-independence period saw remarkable urbanisation, as the city's population surged. Key developments in the latter half of the 20th century, including the establishment of the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority and the city's transformation into India's "Silicon Valley," cemented its status as a thriving, modern metropolis.

[Source: kevin standage]

Today, Bengaluru stands as a dynamic and culturally rich city, holding a unique place in India's history and future.

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

- **Around 4000 BCE:** Discovery of Stone Age artefacts in Jalahalli, Siddapura, and Jadigenahalli suggests early human settlements in the region.
- **4th - 10th Century**: Bengaluru was under the dominion of the Western Ganga dynasty, with the construction of significant temples like the Begur Nageshwara Temple.
- **1004 CE**: The Cholas defeat the Western Ganges and capture Bengaluru, leading to migration from Tamil Nadu and Kannada-speaking regions to the area.
- **1537**: Kempe Gowda, I establish a mud fort, laying the foundation of modern Bengaluru.
- **1760**: Hyder Ali builds the Delhi and Mysore gates and expands the city's commercial and military significance.
- **1799**: British forces capture Bengaluru after the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War and return administrative control to the Maharaja of Mysore.
- **1809**: The British shift their cantonment to Bengaluru, marking the growth of the city's urbanisation.
- **1927**: Bengaluru gains the reputation of the "Garden City of India" during the silver jubilee celebrations of the rule of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.
- **1947**: After India's independence, Bengaluru became the capital of Mysore State, later renamed Karnataka.
- **Late 20th Century:** The city experiences rapid growth and urbanisation, transforming into India's "Silicon Valley."
- **21st Century:** Bengaluru faced major terrorist attacks in 2008, 2010, and 2013, while continuing to evolve as a thriving, vibrant metropolis.

This timeline encapsulates Bengaluru's evolution from an ancient settlement to a modern, dynamic city at the forefront of India's technological and cultural landscape.

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

Geographical Aspects of Bengaluru

Bengaluru, nestled in the heart of the Mysore Plateau, showcases a fascinating blend of geographic attributes. Here are key points highlighting its geographical aspects:

- **Elevation**: Located on the Mysore Plateau, Bengaluru stands at an average elevation of 900 metres (2,953 feet) above sea level.
- **Topography:** The city predominantly boasts a flat terrain, with hilly regions in the western part. Vidyaranyapura Doddabettahalli, at 962 metres (3,156 feet), is the highest point.
- **Rivers and Lakes:** Bengaluru lacks major rivers, but the Arkavathi and South Pennar converge at Nandi Hills. The city is dotted with several lakes, although a significant number are currently polluted.

[Source: bengaluruonline.in]

These geographical features paint a diverse landscape of Bengaluru, highlighting its elevation, topography and water bodies.

Physiographic Aspects:

Bengaluru, known for its tech hubs and vibrant culture, also boasts diverse physiographic characteristics that influence its climate and environment. Here's an overview:

- **Climate:** Bengaluru experiences a tropical savanna climate, with distinct wet and dry seasons. Rainfall from both northeast and southwest monsoons, with September being the wettest month.
- **Temperature**: The coolest month, January, records an average low temperature of 15.1 °C (59.2 °F), while the hottest, April, sees an average high of 34.1 °C (93.4 °F).
- **Air Quality:** The air quality index (AQI) fluctuates between 76 to 314, indicating heavy to severe air pollution in high traffic areas.
- **Rainfall**: The city experiences rainfall from both the northeast and southwest monsoons. The wettest months are September, October, and August.

These factors collectively contribute to Bengaluru's diverse physiographic profile, shaping its unique environment and climatic conditions.

Demographic Snapshot:

Bengaluru hosts a diverse demographic fabric reflecting its rapid urbanisation and cultural diversity. The city's demographic landscape embodies an intriguing mix of statistics that define its essence.

- **Population:** Bengaluru boasts a population of 8,443,675 within the city and 10,456,000 in the urban agglomeration, experiencing significant growth over the years.
- **Population Density:** The city covers 741 km² (286 sq. mi), leading to a dense urban concentration.
- **Literacy Rate:** With a literacy rate above the national average, Bengaluru stands at approximately 88.48%.
- **Sex Ratio:** The city exhibits a sex ratio of around 916 females per 1,000 males.
- **Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate in Bengaluru hovers around 4.2%, reflecting a relatively stable employment scenario amidst the urban dynamics.

These demographic features characterise Bengaluru as a vibrant, educated, and economically active urban centre.

Soil and Vegetation:

Bengaluru's soil and vegetation form an essential part of its landscape, contributing to its ecological diversity and environmental character.

- **Soil Composition:** The city's ground comprises red laterite, red, fine loamy to clayey soils, predominantly occurring in silty to sandy layers of alluvial sediments.
- **Dominant Rock Formation:** The Peninsular Gneissic Complex (PGC) governs the area, consisting of granites, gneisses, and migmatites.
- **Vegetation Profile:** The city's vegetation mostly comprises a large deciduous canopy and coconut trees.

While the city's natural elements are captivating, urban expansion has led to the removal of trees, affecting the overall green cover. Additionally, hilly regions face soil erosion concerns.

Bengaluru is adorned with iconic landmarks that reflect its rich heritage and technological prowess. The Vidhana Soudha, a grand legislative building, is an architectural marvel, covering over 5,00,000 square feet. The Lalbagh Botanical Garden, spanning 240 acres, showcases a stunning collection of plants and the famous Glass House. The Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, constructed in 1791, stands as a historical gem. Not to be missed is the soaring UB City, an opulent mall complex featuring the 32-story UB Tower, a symbol of modern Bengaluru.

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

Political Aspects of Bengaluru

Bengaluru's political landscape is multifaceted and pivotal to the state of Karnataka. The city's governance falls under the jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), formed in 2007 by merging wards from the erstwhile Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and neighbouring municipalities, expanding to 243 wards in 2022.

- BBMP is administered by a city council with 250 members, including 198 corporators representing city wards and 52 elected representatives from Parliament and the state legislature. The mayor and deputy mayor are elected from the council members.
- The BBMP collaborates with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Agenda for Bangalore's Infrastructure and Development Task Force (ABIDe) to tackle civic projects.
- The Bangalore City Police is organised into seven geographic zones, managing critical units such as the Traffic Police, City Armed Reserve, Central Crime Branch, and more.
- Bengaluru plays a central role in Karnataka's political landscape, housing vital government institutions like the Karnataka High Court, Vidhana Soudha (Karnataka's legislative home), and Raj Bhavan (the governor's residence).
- The city contributes significantly to the Indian Parliament with four Lok Sabha constituencies and holds 28 seats in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.
- Bengaluru hosts the consulates of Germany, France, Japan, Israel, the British Deputy High Commission, and several honorary consulates.

[Source: tripadvisor]

Despite its remarkable growth, the city grapples with various environmental challenges, producing around 6000 metric tonnes of solid waste daily, with dust pollution, hazardous waste disposal, and disorganised waste retrieval. In terms of politics and governance, Bengaluru remains a pivotal hub in Karnataka's dynamic political landscape.

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

Culture of Bengaluru

Bengaluru boasts a rich and diverse culture that beautifully encapsulates the spirit of Karnataka. The city's cultural tapestry is a captivating blend of traditions, languages, and modernity.

- **Language**: Kannada is the official language, but you'll hear a medley of languages due to a multicultural populace.
- **People**: The people of Bengaluru are known for their warmth and welcoming nature. The city's cosmopolitan character is exemplified by the presence of diverse communities.
- **Attire**: Traditional and Western attire coexist harmoniously. While many opt for modern clothing, you can still spot traditional attire during festivals.
- **Cuisine**: Bengaluru's gastronomy is a delightful reflection of its diversity. You can savour South Indian, North Indian, Chinese, and Western cuisines. Udupi restaurants are famed for their vegetarian fare.
- **Handicrafts**: The city is known for its silk and sandalwood crafts. The Sandalwood State Handicrafts Emporium is a treasure trove of these crafts.
- **Temples**: Ancient temples like the Halasuru Someshwara Temple and ISKCON Temple stand alongside the more contemporary structures, showcasing the city's spiritual blend.
- **Literature**: Bengaluru has a rich literary heritage, with Kannada literature thriving since the 18th century. The Kannada Sahitya Parishat plays a pivotal role.
- **Festivals**: Celebrations are aplenty, from Karnataka Rajyotsava to Ugadi, Ram Navami, Eid ul-Fitr, Ganesh Chaturthi, and more. Bengaluru Literature Festival highlights the city's literary passion.
- **Religion**: While Hinduism is the dominant religion, the city is home to diverse faiths, with numerous churches, mosques, and gurdwaras.
- **Music and Dance:** Classical arts like Bharat Natyam and Carnatic music are celebrated, along with the thriving contemporary music scene. "Bangalore Rock" is a genre unto itself.

[Source: Social news xyz]

Bengaluru's culture is a delightful tapestry woven with the threads of tradition and modernity, making it a captivating and vibrant city.

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

Environment in Bengaluru

Bengaluru's environment is a vital facet of the city's identity, where urban living harmonises with a commitment to preserving greenery and biodiversity.

- **Urban Biodiversity:** The city embraces urban biodiversity with its many parks and green spaces. Lal Bagh and Cubbon Park are iconic examples.
- **Green Cover:** Bengaluru's green cover is commendable, with an approximate 32.35% of the city's total area under vegetation.
- **Flora and Fauna:** The city is home to a variety of flora and fauna. Over 1,000 plant species and 150 bird species can be found within its boundaries.
- **Environment Challenges:** Bengaluru faces environmental challenges due to rapid urbanisation, such as air and water pollution. The city grapples with issues like waste management, traffic congestion, and depleting groundwater levels.
- **Lake Ecosystem:** The city's lake ecosystem is under pressure from pollution and encroachments, with only a fraction of its original 262 lakes surviving.
- **Sustainable Initiatives:** To combat these challenges, initiatives for rainwater harvesting, tree planting, and eco-friendly transportation are actively promoted.

The environment in Bengaluru is a dynamic interplay of nature and urban life, where conservation efforts and sustainability initiatives strive to strike a balance in the face of rapid development.

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

Economy of Bengaluru

Bengaluru's economy is a powerhouse of growth and innovation. It's one of the fastest-growing metropolises in India and a major contributor to the nation's economic landscape. The city is primarily service-oriented and industrial, with a focus on information technology, telecommunication, biotechnology, and manufacturing.

- **IT Hub:** Bengaluru is often referred to as the "Silicon Valley of India." It is home to numerous IT giants like Infosys, Wipro, and Flipkart. The city contributes a staggering 38% of India's total IT exports.
- **Industrial Zones:** Bengaluru boasts major industrial areas such as Electronic City, Peenya, and Hoskote, catering to electronics, machinery, automobiles, and more.
- **Biotech Capital:** With around 47% of India's biotechnology companies, including Biocon, Bengaluru has earned the title of the "Biotech Capital of India."
- **High-Net-Worth Individuals:** It's a hub for high-net-worth individuals and is the third largest in India.
- **Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG):** Bengaluru is the country's fourth-largest FMCG market, reflecting its economic diversity.
- **Ease of Living:** The city was ranked the most liveable Indian city in the Ease of Living Index 2020, with over a million residents.
- **IT Clusters:** Major IT clusters include Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), International Tech Park, Bangalore (ITPB), and Electronic City, where most IT companies are located.

[Source: Jagran josh]

Bengaluru's economy thrives on innovation, making it a key player in India's economic growth and development.

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

Some Interesting Facts about Bengaluru

Here are some interesting and lesser-known facts about Bengaluru that might astonish you:

- **Highest Number of Startups:** Bengaluru boasts the highest number of startups in India and is often referred to as the country's startup capital. Many successful startups, including Flipkart and Swiggy, originated here.
- **PUB Capital:** The city is sometimes known as the "Pub Capital of India" because it has the highest number of pubs in India. It's a vibrant nightlife destination.
- **Bangalore's Own Beer:** The city is home to many microbreweries, and the craft beer scene is booming. Bengaluru's breweries create unique and innovative flavours, making it a hub for beer enthusiasts.
- **Birthplace of Rava Idli:** The famous South Indian dish "Rava Idli" was invented in Bengaluru when there was a shortage of rice.
- **Indian Chess Hub:** Bengaluru is considered the chess capital of India. The city has produced many chess champions and has a thriving chess culture.

[Source: Passion2cook]

These facts showcase the dynamic and evolving nature of Bengaluru, making it a city with a unique blend of tradition and innovation.

In conclusion, Bengaluru, the "Garden City of India" and the "Silicon Valley of India," is a city of fascinating contrasts. With a rich history dating back millennia, it has evolved into a thriving metropolis of over 10 million residents, with a strong economy driven by IT, biotechnology, and more. The city's demographic diversity and dynamic culture make it a melting pot of traditions and modernity. Its environment, characterised by lush greenery and biodiversity, faces both challenges and sustainability efforts. Bengaluru's economic prowess and innovation in the tech sector make it a vital contributor to India's growth story. This city truly embodies the spirit of a dynamic, forward-looking India.