

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

Gurugram, often affectionately known as the "**Millennium City**," stands as a bustling urban crossroads. It's a place where tradition and modernity coexist harmoniously, where the aroma of street food blends with the buzz of corporate hubs. Gurugram's heart unveils a captivating blend of history and progress, offering something for every visitor to savour.

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

Gurugram	
State	Haryana
Official Language	Hindi
City Animal	Blackbuck
City Bird	Indian Roller
City Tree	Peepal Tree
City MLA	Sudhir Singla
Other Names of Gurugram	Millennium City Cultural Hub of Haryana Corporate Capital of India Gurgaon (Old Name)

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[Source: Travel Triangle]

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

History of Gurugram

Gurugram, formerly known as Gurgaon, has a captivating history that dates back through the ages. From its origins in the Kuru Kingdom to its transformation into the modern city of Gurugram, let's explore its remarkable journey.

Early Roots: Gurugram's history traces back to the Kuru Kingdom. In ancient times, it was inhabited by Hindus ruled by the Ahir clan, with the Yadu tribes being part of this lineage. These descendants often bear the surname Yadav. In the late 4th century BCE, Gurugram became part of the Maurya Empire under Chandragupta Maurya's expansion.

Medieval Times: The 12th-century text Prithviraja Vijaya mentions a town called Gudapura, possibly Gurugram, where Nagarjuna rebelled against King Prithviraj Chauhan but was later subdued by the king.

Colonial Era: During the Mughal and British colonial periods, Gurugram remained a small village in the Jharsa paragana of Delhi subah. A stone pillar dating back to 672 CE or 871 CE with an inscription mentioning "Durgga Naga" attests to its historical significance. In the 15th century, the idol of Sitla Mata was brought to Gurugram. The British established civil lines and a cavalry cantonment in the region.

District Establishment: In 1818, Bharawas district was dissolved, and Gurugram became a new district. Over time, historic buildings like the "Aliwardi mosque," "Badshahpur baoli," "Bhondsi," "Church of the Epiphany," and "Kaman Serai" were built during the Mughal and British eras.

20th Century Developments: During the 1980s, the city saw the construction of an airstrip, hangar, air-conditioned yoga ashram, and TV studio, thanks to Indira Gandhi's yoga mentor, Dhirendra Brahmachari. Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar also established an ashram near the airstrip.

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The Name Change: On April 12, 2016, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar proposed renaming the city Gurugram to emphasise its historical and mythological ties to Drona. The Union Government approved the change on September 27, 2016, officially making it Gurugram, although "Gurgaon" is still commonly used.

Gurugram's history is a fascinating journey, marked by its ancient roots, colonial influence, and a modern identity that bridges the past and present.

Timeline for the major events that occurred in the history of Gurugram:

- **Ancient Era:** Part of the Kuru Kingdom, inhabited by Hindus.
- **Late 4th Century BCE:** Absorbed into the Maurya Empire.
- **12th Century:** Mentioned as Gudapura in Prithviraja Vijaya.
- **Colonial Period:** Became a small village; historic buildings constructed.
- **1818:** Gurugram established as a district.
- **20th Century:** Development of an airstrip, ashrams, and schools.
- **2016:** Officially renamed Gurugram, preserving its heritage.



[Source: Hindustan Times]

This timeline showcases Gurugram's rich and diverse history in a simple way. Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e. **Geographical Aspect**.

Geographical Aspects of Gurugram

Gurugram, located in Haryana, India, offers a diverse range of geographical aspects. Here's a concise overview:

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- **Strategic Location:** Gurugram is situated in the southeastern part of Haryana, bordering Delhi to the northeast, encompassing a total area of 232 square kilometres (90 sq mi).
- **Elevation:** The city's average land elevation stands at 217 metres (712 ft) above sea level, presenting a relatively higher topography compared to its surroundings.
- **Ecology:** Gurugram lies along the Sahibi River, a tributary of the Yamuna, originating from the Aravalli range in Rajasthan. The region is rich in biodiversity and features Important Bird Areas (IBA), wetlands, and forests, including the Outfall Drain Number 6, Outfall Drain Number 8, Sarba Shirpur wetland, Sultanpur National Park, Basai wetland, and many more. These areas are vital for endangered and migratory bird species but face threats from urbanisation.
- **Mangar Bani:** A sacred grove and forest with wetlands, Mangar Bani, situated between Gurugram and Faridabad, is one of the last surviving natural forests in the NCR region. It is protected by the Gurjars of the nearby area. Gwal Pahari and Bandhwari forested areas are contiguous to Mangar Bani, forming part of the Southern Delhi Ridge of the Aravalli range.

Demographic Snapshots

- **Population:** Gurugram's district area had an estimated population of 1,153,000 according to the 2011 Census of India, making it a significant urban centre within Haryana.
- **Cultural Diversity:** Gurugram is home to people from various regions and backgrounds, reflecting India's cultural diversity.
- **Economic Dynamics:** The city boasts a thriving economy with a mix of industries, contributing significantly to the region's GDP.

Physiological Aspects

- **Tropical Climate:** The city experiences a tropical climate with warm winters and hot summers, with temperatures ranging from 19–40 °C (66–104 °F).
- **Monsoon Dependency:** Gurugram relies heavily on the northeast monsoon for its annual rainfall, which can lead to floods during the monsoon season.
- **Groundwater Levels:** The groundwater table in Gurugram varies but is generally at 4–5 metres below ground level, supported by rainwater harvesting systems.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Efforts to preserve natural water bodies and green spaces are critical for Gurugram's sustainability, addressing both environmental and urbanisation challenges.

In Gurugram, you can explore a variety of famous landmarks that offer a rich blend of entertainment and culture. Cyber Hub stands as a bustling centre for dining and entertainment, while the Kingdom of Dreams mesmerises with live performances. Nature enthusiasts can enjoy the avian wonders at Sultanpur National Park and find tranquillity in the lush Leisure Valley Park.

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Ambience Mall beckons with shopping and leisure options, while the Sheetala Mata Mandir provides a spiritual retreat. MGF Metropolitan Mall caters to retail therapy, and the Heritage Transport Museum offers a captivating journey through India's transportation history. Gurugram's landmarks promise a memorable and diverse experience for all.



[Source: Times Property]

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

Political Aspects of Gurugram

Gurugram has a dynamic political landscape. Policing in Gurugram is efficiently managed by the local police department, ensuring safety for its residents.

- Gurugram's municipal administration is handled by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, overseeing day-to-day governance. The city, despite its modernity, holds a historical significance as it was part of the ancient Kurukshetra region.
- Gurugram is a vital part of the Gurugram Lok Sabha constituency, sending representatives to the national parliament.
- It also elects 9 MLAs to the Haryana State Legislative Assembly, contributing to the state's governance.
- In recent years, Gurugram has witnessed a growing interest in politics, reflected in the substantial voter turnout of 70.8% during the 2019 Haryana State Legislative Assembly elections. This demonstrates the city's commitment to participating in the democratic process.

Gurugram's political landscape is evolving, as it continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Haryana's future. Its blend of urban development and historical significance makes it a fascinating hub of political activity.

Culture of Gurugram



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Gurugram's art and culture thrive in its fusion of tradition and modernity, making it a captivating city with a unique charm.

- **Language:** Hindi is the primary language spoken in Gurugram, with a touch of Delhi's neutral dialect. English is widely understood, thanks to the city's international call centers.
- **People:** Gurugram is a melting pot, with residents hailing from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab. This diversity adds unique accents and flavors to the local culture.
- **Attire:** People here sport a blend of modern and traditional attire. While you'll see Western clothing, traditional outfits like salwar kameez and turbans are still cherished.
- **Festivals:** Gurugram celebrates festivals with enthusiasm. Diwali, Holi, Eid, and Christmas light up the city with joy and togetherness.
- **Cuisine:** The food scene is a delightful mix of North Indian flavors. Relish spicy chaats, succulent kebabs, and delectable parathas at local eateries.
- **Handicrafts:** While Gurugram is a bustling urban hub, you can find beautiful handicrafts, like pottery and textiles, showcasing the region's artistry.
- **Literature:** Literature enthusiasts gather for book clubs and poetry readings. The city nurtures a vibrant literary community.
- **Religion:** Temples, mosques, and churches coexist peacefully, reflecting the city's religious harmony.
- **Dance and Music:** Folk dances like Bhangra and Kathak are appreciated, and live music performances add rhythm to the city's nightlife.
- **Cinema:** Movie buffs can catch the latest Bollywood hits in modern multiplexes or explore indie films at local theaters.
- **Temples:** Seek solace at serene temples like Sheetla Mata Mandir and Sai Ka Angan.



[Source: The Times of India]

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

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Environment in Gurugram

Gurugram is on a quest to embrace greenery and urban biodiversity. Despite facing pollution and waste management challenges, it's making strides in environmental preservation.

Green Cover: Gurugram boasts approximately 10% green cover, slightly below the national average of 24.56%. However, efforts are underway to expand green spaces.

Urban Biodiversity: Despite its urban hustle, Gurugram houses diverse urban wildlife, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Vital ecosystems include parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and green belts.

Lakes and Water Bodies: Gurugram showcases several lakes and water bodies, such as the picturesque Damdama Lake and serene Badshahpur Lake.

Flora and Fauna: Amongst its greenery, you'll encounter the elegance of eucalyptus and peepal trees. Wildlife enthusiasts can spot peacocks and jackals within the city limits.

National Park: Sultanpur National Park, a verdant haven nestled amidst urban development, is home to migratory birds and local wildlife.

Environmental Sensitivity: Gurugram recognizes the need for environmental preservation. Initiatives like the "Clean Gurugram, Green Gurugram" campaign aim to tackle pollution and promote sustainability.

Gurugram, though facing environmental challenges like pollution and waste management, is determined to protect its unique ecosystem. With ongoing efforts, it aspires to become a greener and more sustainable city.



[Source: DLF]

Now, let's look at the **Economy of Gurugram**.

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Economy of Gurugram

Gurugram is one of the most economically vibrant cities in India. It is home to a large number of multinational companies and Indian startups, and it is a major hub for IT, ITES, and manufacturing. The economy of Gurugram is growing rapidly, and the city is expected to continue to be a major driver of India's economic growth in the coming years.

Here are some of the key sectors of the Gurugram economy:

- **IT and ITES:** Gurugram is a major hub for the IT and ITES industries. The city is home to a large number of multinational IT companies, such as Google, Microsoft, and IBM. Gurugram is also a major center for Indian IT companies, such as Infosys and TCS.
- **Manufacturing:** Gurugram is a major manufacturing hub. The city is home to a large number of multinational manufacturing companies, such as Maruti Suzuki, Honda, and Hero MotoCorp. Gurugram is also a major center for Indian manufacturing companies, such as Dabur and Godrej.
- **Financial services:** Gurugram is a major financial services hub. The city is home to a large number of banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions. Gurugram is also home to the National Stock Exchange of India, one of the largest stock exchanges in the world.
- **Real estate:** Gurugram is a major real estate hub. The city is home to a large number of residential and commercial properties. Gurugram is also home to some of the most expensive real estate in India.



[Source: Forbes India]

The economy of Gurugram is important to the Indian economy as a whole. The city contributes a significant amount to India's GDP and exports. Gurugram is also a major source of employment for people from all over India.

However, the rapid growth of Gurugram has also led to some challenges, such as traffic congestion, air pollution, and rising cost of living. The government is working to address these challenges, but they remain a major concern for the city's residents.



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

Some Interesting Facts about Gurugram

Gurugram, India's millennium city, is a melting pot of cultures and a hub of innovation. Here are a few unique and impressive facts about this vibrant metropolis:

- Gurugram is home to the world's largest corporate park, Cyber City, which houses over 300 multinational companies.
- Gurugram is also home to India's tallest building, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Tower, which stands at 325 meters (1,066 feet) tall.
- Gurugram is home to a museum dedicated to the history of the toilet. The Sulabh International Toilet Museum is a one-of-a-kind museum that showcases the evolution of toilets from ancient times to the present day.

In conclusion, Gurugram's journey from a humble agricultural village to a bustling metropolis is a testament to India's rapid urbanization and economic growth. As we've explored its rich history, witnessed its contemporary transformation, and delved into its intriguing trivia, it's evident that Gurugram has become a symbol of India's economic prowess and a global business hub. Its iconic skyscrapers, thriving IT and corporate sectors, and cosmopolitan culture make it a dynamic and ever-evolving city.

The blend of tradition and modernity, evident in the coexistence of village life and multinational corporations, adds to Gurugram's unique charm. As this city continues to develop and redefine itself, it remains a symbol of India's aspirations and the opportunities it offers. Gurugram's story is far from over; it's a city poised to shape India's future and contribute to its global standing.