

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

Exploring the center of Hyderabad is like opening a treasure chest full of adventures from different time periods. With each step, we are drawn deeper into a fascinating world where the past and present are seamlessly intertwined, and the future is full of promise. In this '**City of Pearls**', where history echoes through the cobblestone streets and the peacock, a symbol of beauty and majesty, reigns supreme, we can hear the stories of the past. Hyderabad attracts visitors with tales of its magnificent palaces, ancient artifacts, and diverse culture, which shimmers and dances like the vibrant feathers of a peacock.

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

Hyderabad	
State	Telangana
Official Language	Telugu
City Bird	Peacock
City Tree	Neem Tree
MLA of the City	T. Raja Singh
MP of the City	Asaduddin Owaisi

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

## History of Hyderabad

As we walk through the winding streets of Hyderabad, I am amazed by the history that can be felt all around us. With each step, I feel like I am traveling back in time to a period of luxury and splendor, when kings and queens ruled the city. They left their mark on the buildings and the culture of Hyderabad, which can still be seen today.

The story of Hyderabad begins with the Qutb Shahi dynasty, who built architectural marvels like the Charminar and Golconda Fort in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their talent for the arts turned this city into a gem of the Deccan.

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Then, the Nizams, Hyderabad's unmatched extravagance-loving rulers, made this metropolis the pinnacle of magnificence in the 18th and 19th centuries. The beautiful Falaknuma Palace, an architectural masterpiece, and the lovely Chowmohalla Palace, a tribute to Nizami opulence, are just two examples of their legacy.

Hyderabad also has a rich tapestry of stories of resilience, from its participation in the war for Indian independence in the early 20th century to its union with the Indian Union in 1948.

Hyderabad is an astonishing voyage through time that leaves an imprint on anyone who is fortunate enough to delve into its past. It is a city where the echoes of history dance with the rhythms of modernity.

## Here is a timeline of some key events in Hyderabad's history:

- **1591:** Hyderabad is founded by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth sultan of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.
- **1687:** Hyderabad is conquered by the Mughal Empire.
- **1724:** Asaf Jah I, the Mughal viceroy in the Deccan, declares his independence and founds the Asaf Jahi dynasty, also known as the Nizams.
- **1769:** Hyderabad becomes the imperial capital of the Asaf Jahi dynasty.
- **1857:** Hyderabad participates in the Indian Rebellion of 1857, but the rebellion is eventually suppressed by the British.
- **1947:** India gains independence from the British. However, the Nizam of Hyderabad refuses to accede to India and declares Hyderabad an independent state.
- **1948:** The Indian Army invades Hyderabad in Operation Polo. Hyderabad is annexed by India and becomes a state of the Indian Union.

Hyderabad is a city with a rich and vibrant history. It is a city that has been shaped by many different cultures and influences over the centuries. Today, Hyderabad is a modern and cosmopolitan city that is home to a diverse population. So now let's move on to the next aspect of the city.

## Geographical Aspects of Hyderabad

Hyderabad is a city in India that covers an area of about 650 square kilometers. It is located along the Musi River and has a diverse topography that includes both urban and natural landscapes.

## Geographical Features:

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- **Deccan Plateau:** Hyderabad sits atop the Deccan Plateau in southern India, characterized by its flat terrain, ideal for urban development.
- **Musi River:** The city is bisected by the Musi River, historically significant and prone to flooding.
- **Lakes and Reservoirs:** Hyderabad boasts numerous lakes, such as the iconic Hussain Sagar, playing essential roles in water supply and enhancing its scenic beauty.
- **Rocky Terrain:** Granite hills and outcrops punctuate the landscape, adding a rugged charm.

## Demographic Snapshot:

- **Population:** As of my last knowledge update in September 2023, Hyderabad's population exceeded 10 million, making it one of India's most populous cities.
- **Linguistic Diversity:** Telugu and Urdu are the primary languages spoken, reflecting the city's linguistic diversity.
- **Cosmopolitan Culture:** Hyderabad is a melting pot of cultures, drawing people from across India and the world.

## Physiographical Aspects:

- **Climate:** Hyderabad experiences a semi-arid climate with hot summers and moderate winters. Monsoons from June to September bring relief.
- **Urban Expansion:** Rapid urban sprawl into suburban districts has driven both challenges and opportunities in infrastructure and land use.
- **Biodiversity:** Protected areas like KBR National Park support a variety of flora and fauna.
- **Connectivity:** Hyderabad's strategic location and robust transportation network bolster its status as a commercial and transportation hub.

## Soil and Vegetation:

- **Red sandy soil:** This is the most common type of soil in Hyderabad. It is characterized by its coarse texture and low fertility. Red sandy soil is prone to erosion and drought, but it can be used to grow crops with the help of irrigation and fertilization.
- **Black cotton soil:** This type of soil is found in the low-lying areas of Hyderabad. It is characterized by its high clay content and black color. Black cotton soil is very fertile and can be used to grow a variety of crops, including cotton, rice, and wheat.
- **Trees:** The most common trees in Hyderabad are neem, tamarind, banyan, and mango. These trees are well-adapted to the dry tropical climate and provide shade and fruit.
- **Shrubs:** The most common shrubs in Hyderabad are lantana, bougainvillea, and hibiscus. These shrubs are colorful and flower throughout the year.
- **Grasses:** The most common grasses in Hyderabad are Cynodon dactylon (Bermuda grass) and Chloris gayana (Rhodes grass). These grasses are used for lawns and pastures.



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The vegetation of Hyderabad is important for a number of reasons. It helps to prevent soil erosion, improve air quality, and provide habitat for wildlife. The vegetation also plays an important role in the city's culture and economy. For example, the neem tree is considered sacred by Hindus and is used in a variety of traditional medicines. The tamarind tree is used in Indian cuisine and the mango tree is a major source of income for many farmers in the region.

One of the most famous landmarks in Hyderabad is the Golconda Fort, a rocky outcropping that was built in the 16th century. The fort is known for its beautiful architecture and its rich history.



[Image Source: Wikipedia]

Another popular tourist attraction in Hyderabad is Hussain Sagar Lake, a man-made lake that was created in 1563. The lake is home to a giant statue of Buddha, which is one of the tallest statues of Buddha in the world.



[Image Source: Hindustan Times]

Hyderabad is also a major center for technology and innovation. The city is home to HITEC City, a hub for IT and biotechnology companies.

Osman Sagar Lake is another popular tourist attraction in Hyderabad. The lake was created in 1912 and is one of the largest lakes in India.

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The Banjara and Jubilee Hills are two upscale neighborhoods in Hyderabad. These neighborhoods offer panoramic views of the city and are home to many luxury hotels and restaurants.

The Charminar, meaning 'four minarets,' stands as an architectural marvel in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Erected in the year 1591, this iconic structure not only serves as a symbol of Hyderabad but also holds a place of significance in Telangana's official emblem. Remarkably, the Charminar has a rich history, with a mosque having graced its top floor for over 425 years.



[Image Source: The Economic Times]

Hyderabad is a city that has something to offer everyone. Whether you are interested in history, culture, nature, or technology, you are sure to find something to enjoy in Hyderabad. Now let's move on to the **political aspects of Hyderabad**.

## Political Aspects of Hyderabad

Hyderabad, a city of historical significance, has played a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of India. Here, we delve into key political aspects that define the city's position on the national stage.

- 1. Administrative Hub:** Hyderabad serves as the capital of the Indian state of Telangana. This role highlights its importance as an administrative and political hub.
- 2. Formation of Telangana:** In 2014, Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated, leading to the formation of Telangana as a separate state with Hyderabad as its capital. This monumental decision reshaped the political map of southern India.
- 3. Role in National Politics:** Hyderabad has produced influential political leaders who have left a mark on Indian politics. Prominent figures like P. V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister of India, hail from this city.

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**4. Political Parties:** The city is a stronghold for various political parties, with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) being dominant in the state. It has witnessed fierce political competition between TRS, Indian National Congress (INC), and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), shaping the state's political dynamics.

**5. Nizam's Legacy:** Hyderabad's political history includes the Nizam's rule, which ended with its integration into India in 1948. This integration was a significant political milestone in the country's history.

**6. Economic Impact:** As an economic powerhouse, Hyderabad's political decisions and policies have far-reaching implications for the nation's economy. Its thriving IT sector and business-friendly policies contribute significantly to India's GDP.

In conclusion, Hyderabad's political significance extends beyond its administrative role. It has been a witness to historical transformations, played a crucial role in state formation, and continues to influence national politics through its leaders and economic contributions, making it a dynamic and politically vibrant city in India.

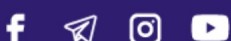
## Culture of Hyderabad

Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is a city steeped in culture and history. Here, we explore the vibrant cultural facets of this metropolis in southern India.

- **Language and Literature:** Hyderabad is a melting pot of linguistic diversity. Telugu and Urdu are the primary languages spoken, reflecting the rich literary heritage of the region. The city has produced renowned poets and writers in both languages, contributing significantly to Indian literature.
- **Cuisine:** Hyderabad's culinary culture is a feast for the senses. Beyond the famous Biryani, the city boasts a diverse range of dishes influenced by Mughal and Persian cuisines. Haleem, Dum Pukht, and Mirchi ka Salan are among the delectable dishes that tantalize the taste buds.
- **Festivals:** The city comes alive during festivals like Eid, Diwali, and Bonalu. These celebrations are marked by colorful processions, traditional music, and dance performances that showcase the city's cultural vibrancy.
- **Performing Arts:** Hyderabad is a hub for classical and folk arts. Kathak, Kuchipudi, and Qawwali performances are frequently held, providing a glimpse into the city's artistic soul.
- **Dress Code:** The traditional attire of Hyderabadi women includes the graceful 'Anarkali' and 'Sharara' suits, often embellished with intricate embroidery and mirror work. Men often wear 'Sherwani' suits during festive occasions.
- **Cultural Melting Pot:** Hyderabad's culture is an amalgamation of various influences - from the Nizam's opulence to the flavors brought in by the Mughals, Persians, and the indigenous Telugu culture. This fusion has resulted in a unique and vibrant cultural tapestry.
- **Handicrafts:** The city is known for its intricate Bidriware, a metal handicraft that involves inlaying silver or gold into blackened metal, as well as traditional textiles and pearl jewelry.
- **Film Industry:** Tollywood, the Telugu film industry based in Hyderabad, plays a significant role in the city's cultural landscape. It produces numerous films each year and has a dedicated fan following.
- **Music and Dance:** Hyderabad is known for its Sufi music and Ghazals, with several Sufi shrines and cultural centers promoting this musical heritage. Classical dance forms like Kuchipudi are deeply rooted in the city's culture.

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[Image Source: The Hans India]

In essence, the culture of Hyderabad is a captivating blend of languages, cuisines, arts, and traditions that have evolved over centuries, making it a truly unique and culturally rich city in India. Let's check out in detail about the environment and economy of the city.

## Environment in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, a bustling metropolis, strikes a harmonious balance between urban development and environmental preservation. Here's a succinct look at the city's environmental landscape:

- 1. Green Cover:** Hyderabad is adorned with lush greenery, boasting extensive parks like the KBR National Park and Nehru Zoological Park, offering urban dwellers a respite from the concrete jungle.
- 2. Lakes and Water Bodies:** The city is home to numerous lakes, including the iconic Hussain Sagar, although some face environmental challenges due to pollution and encroachment.
- 3. Urban Biodiversity:** Hyderabad takes pride in its diverse flora and fauna, including peacocks and a variety of migratory birds.
- 4. Sustainable Initiatives:** The city has initiated eco-friendly projects such as rainwater harvesting, afforestation drives, and waste management to mitigate environmental concerns.
- 5. Air Quality:** Despite growing industrialization, Hyderabad maintains relatively good air quality, often ranking better than many other Indian cities.
- 6. Green Transport:** The introduction of electric buses and the development of cycling lanes promote sustainable transportation options.
- 7. Climate Resilience:** Hyderabad has been striving to enhance its resilience against climate change through climate action plans and initiatives.

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**8. Environmental Awareness:** The city is home to numerous environmental organizations and initiatives, fostering a culture of environmental consciousness among its residents.

**9. Challenges Ahead:** Hyderabad faces ongoing challenges related to waste management, water scarcity, and urban sprawl, necessitating continued efforts for environmental sustainability.

In summary, Hyderabad, with its green spaces, environmental initiatives, and a growing awareness of environmental issues, exemplifies a city that values its natural surroundings while addressing the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

## Economy of Hyderabad

Here are some facts about the Hyderabad economy:

- Hyderabad is the capital of the Indian state of Telangana and the fifth-largest urban economy in India with an output of US\$74 billion.
- The service industry is the largest contributor to the Hyderabad economy, accounting for over 65% of the city's GDP.
- Hyderabad is a major center for information technology and biotechnology, and is home to many multinational companies, including Google, Microsoft, and Amazon.
- The city is also a major center for pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and education.
- Hyderabad is a rapidly growing city, with an annual GDP growth rate of over 8%.

Here are some other facts about Hyderabad apart from their ranks and index.

- Hyderabad is the second-largest exporter of IT services in India.
- Hyderabad is renowned as India's pharmaceutical capital, producing a staggering 33% of the country's medicines.
- Hyderabad is ranked as one of the best cities in India for doing business.
- The city is home to a number of Fortune 500 companies.
- Hyderabad is a major hub for startups and entrepreneurs.

The Hyderabad economy is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, driven by the city's strong focus on innovation and its growing pool of skilled workers.

In essence, Hyderabad is a city that beautifully combines its rich history with modern progress. Here, ancient landmarks stand tall alongside modern skyscrapers, and the city's lush greenery surrounds its bustling urban areas. With a strong economy and technological advancements, Hyderabad's vibrant history continues to shape its dynamic present. It welcomes everyone to experience its grandeur and be captivated by its enduring charm. This city seamlessly blends its heritage with the modern world.