



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

Lucknow, the capital and largest city of Uttar Pradesh, boasts a rich history and a vibrant present. With a population of 2.8 million as of the 2011 census, it stands as the eleventh most populous city in India. This city has a unique multicultural identity and is known for its artistic heritage. Lucknow was once the seat of power for the Nawabs during the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, it thrives as a hub for governance, education, commerce, technology, and more. It's the second largest urban agglomeration in Uttar Pradesh, following Kanpur. This city encapsulates the essence of India's diverse culture and continues to be a centre for art, music, and poetry.

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

Lucknow	
State	Uttar Pradesh
Official Language	Hindi
City Bird	Sarus Crane
City Animal	Swamp Deer
City Tree	Ashoka
City Flower	Palash
MLA	Ravidas Mehrotra
MP	Rajnath Singh
Mayor	Sushma Kharakwal
Municipal Commissioner	Inderjeet Singh



Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Source: The Economic Times]

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

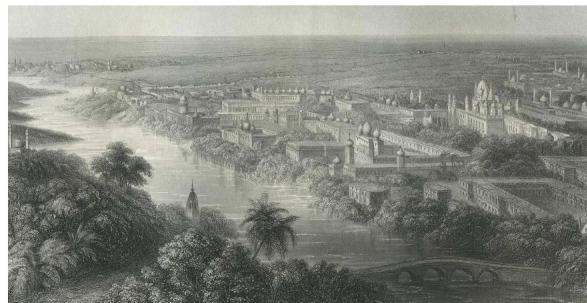
History of Lucknow

Lucknow's history is a captivating tale of transitions. It began as part of the Delhi Sultanate, passing through the hands of the Sharqi Sultanate and Mughal Empire. However, it was the Nawabs of Awadh who made it their capital and set the stage for an extravagant cultural renaissance.

- **Nawabs and Cultural Flourish:** Under the Nawabs, Lucknow emerged as North India's cultural hub. Music, dance, and magnificent monuments like the Bara Imambara and Chhota Imambara flourished. The Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb, a blend of Hindu and Muslim cultures, was born.
- **British Rule and 1857 Rebellion:** The British gradually gained control over Awadh, leading to the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Lucknow played a central role, with the Siege of Lucknow becoming a defining moment. The city actively participated in the fight for independence.
- **Post-Independence Era:** After India's independence in 1947, Lucknow remained the capital of Uttar Pradesh, bearing witness to key events like the Lucknow Pact and the Kakori Conspiracy. It was in Lucknow that Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mohd Ali Jinnah came together during the 1916 Indian National Congress session.

Today, Lucknow's history is a testament to its rich cultural tapestry, a city that seamlessly blends its past with its vibrant present.

Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Source: Scroll.in]

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

- **1350 onwards:** Lucknow and Awadh region under various rules including the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire.
- **1722:** Saadat Khan becomes Nizam of Awadh.
- **1775:** Asaf-ud-Daula shifts the Nawabi capital to Lucknow.
- **1801:** Treaty with the East India Company makes Awadh a British vassal state.
- **1856:** British East India Company takes complete control.
- **1857:** Indian Rebellion, Siege of Lucknow.
- **1956:** Lucknow becomes the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

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

Geographical Aspects of Lucknow

Lucknow's geography, marked by the Gomti River and the expanse of the Indus-Gangetic Plain, has a profound influence on its climate, demographics, and way of life. The city's charm is a reflection of its unique position in the heart of Northern India.

- **Geographic Location:** Lucknow is situated in the central-northern region of India, well away from the coastline, and it does not share Salsette Island with any other district.
- **Elevation:** The city's elevation is relatively low, with the highest natural point being around 123 metres (400 feet) above sea level.
- **Rivers and Terrain:** It is characterised by its surrounding plains and intersected by rivers like the Gomti River. The region's topography features fertile plains and areas with marshy terrain.
- **Urban Landscape:** Lucknow is predominantly an urban area with a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial zones.
- **Seismic Zone:** Lucknow is situated in seismic zone III.



Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Source: lucknowonline.in]

Physiographic Aspects:

Lucknow's physiographic aspects greatly influence its way of life, from its tropical climate to healthcare services. Let's explore how these factors shape the city's liability.

- **Climate:** Lucknow experiences a humid subtropical climate. Winters are cooler, with temperatures around 3 to 25°C (37.4 to 77°F), and summers are hot, with maximum temperatures reaching the high 30s Celsius.
- **Rainfall:** The city primarily receives rainfall during the monsoon season, with an average annual rainfall of about 1,006 millimetres.
- **Air Quality:** The city's air quality is influenced by local factors, with variations in the Air Quality Index (AQI).
- **Healthcare:** Lucknow provides access to healthcare facilities, with a reasonably good doctor-patient ratio.

Demographic Snapshots:

Lucknow's demographic features paint a fascinating picture of a city that's both diverse and populous. Let's take a closer look at the city's demographics.

Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

- **Population:** As of the 2011 census, Lucknow had a population of around 2.8 million. It stands as the eleventh most populous city in India.
- **Density:** The city's population density is approximately 5,000/km² (13,000/sq. mi), significantly lower than densely populated coastal cities.
- **Economic Characteristics:** The city experiences economic disparities, with affluent and underprivileged neighbourhoods coexisting.
- **Gender Ratio:** There are approximately 915 females for every 1,000 males in the city. This indicates a fairly equitable distribution of genders, fostering an environment of inclusivity and diversity.
- **Literacy Rate:** The city's Literacy Rate stands at 84.72%.

Soil and Vegetation:

Lucknow's soil is predominantly composed of alluvial soil, thanks to its location in the fertile Indo-Gangetic plain.

- This soil is rich in nutrients, making it ideal for agriculture. The city's land is a mixture of clay and loam, ensuring good water retention and fertility.
- In terms of vegetation, Lucknow showcases lush greenery.
- There are numerous parks and gardens, including the famous Hazratganj and Ambedkar parks.
- The city is adorned with various trees, such as mango, neem, and peepal. With an average annual rainfall of about 1,006 millimetres, the vegetation thrives, creating a refreshing green landscape that adds to the city's charm.

Lucknow boasts iconic landmarks that captivate visitors. The Bara Imambara, an architectural marvel, was built in 1784 and spans 50,000 square feet. The intricate design of Rumi Darwaza, a colossal gateway, is a sight to behold. The Residency, a historic site, was witness to the Indian Rebellion of 1857. The Chota Imam bara's grandeur is exemplified by its 19th-century elegance. These landmarks stand as testament to Lucknow's rich past and cultural heritage.

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

Political Aspects of Lucknow

Lucknow's political aspects are a harmonious blend of administration, governance, and security measures, ensuring the city's effective functioning within the state of Uttar Pradesh.

- **Administrative Hub:** Lucknow serves as the administrative hub of Lucknow division, encompassing six districts. This division is led by the Divisional Commissioner, an IAS officer of high seniority, who oversees local government institutions, infrastructure development, and law and order. The current Commissioner is Mukesh Meshram.
- **Civic Administration:** The Lucknow Municipal Corporation governs civic activities. The first municipal board was established in 1862, with the first Indian mayor, Syed Nabiullah, elected in 1917. The last municipal election in 2017 saw Sanyukta Bhatia becoming the first female mayor of Lucknow. The municipal commissioner, an IAS officer, manages the corporation's executive and administration. Ajay Kumar Dwivedi presently holds this position.
- **Police Commissionerate System:** Introduced in 2020, Lucknow is divided into five zones, each headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police. The city boasts a high-tech surveillance system with over 10,000 CCTV cameras deployed by the Lucknow Police Department. The Modern Police 5 Central Room is India's largest (110) command centre.

Follow us on



Address : 1997, Mukherjee Nagar, 110009

Email : online@kdcampus.org

Call : +91 95551 08888

Download the App



Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Lucknow's political landscape reflects its significance as a major administrative and political hub in India, upholding law, order, and governance.



[Source: NDTV]

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

Culture of Lucknow

The cultural tapestry of Lucknow beautifully weaves together diverse elements, creating a unique and harmonious heritage celebrated by its residents and visitors alike.

- **Language:** Lucknow, known for its refined cultural ethos, speaks the language of syncretism. While Hindi is the primary official language in Uttar Pradesh, colloquial Hindustani is the most commonly spoken. Indian English finds extensive use, especially in business and administration. Urdu, a significant part of Lucknow culture, thrives in the realms of poetry and heritage. Awadhi, a dialect of Hindi, holds a special place in the city's history, spoken both in rural areas and by the urban population.
- **Religion:** Lucknow's cultural landscape is a harmonious coexistence of various religions. Temples and mosques stand as symbols of the city's religious diversity.
- **Festivals:** The festival calendar is replete with vibrant celebrations, from Diwali and Eid to Holi and Christmas. This inclusivity is a testament to the city's secular traditions.
- **Cuisine:** The city's culinary delights are a blend of Mughlai and Awadhi flavours. From kebabs and biryanis to melt-in-the-mouth keema and shahi tuka, Lucknow's cuisine is a gastronomic journey.
- **Handicrafts:** Lucknow is renowned for its intricate chikankari embroidery, a legacy of Nawabi aesthetics. The city's artisans craft exquisite chikan work on fabrics, offering a blend of tradition and modernity.
- **Traditional Attire:** The traditional attire of Lucknow includes the gharara, a resplendent outfit originating from the Nawabs. It's an ensemble characterised by loose trousers, a kurta, and a veil, beautifully adorned with zari, zardozi, and gota work.
- **Temples:** Religious sites like the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Bada Imambara stand as architectural marvels.

Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Lucknow's culture is a captivating melange of languages, traditions, and artistic expressions, reflecting its rich history and cosmopolitan outlook.



[Source: lucknowonline.in]

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

Environment in Lucknow

Lucknow is a testament to how urban areas can seamlessly integrate green spaces and a diverse ecosystem, fostering a more sustainable and pleasant environment for its residents.

- **Urban Biodiversity:** Lucknow, while immersed in urbanity, maintains its connection with nature. The city is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, contributing to its urban biodiversity. Shisham, Dhak, Mahuamm, Babul, Neem, Peepal, Ashok, Khajur, Mango, and Gular trees grace the landscape.
- **Green Cover:** The city offers a soothing green cover with a forest cover of 5.66 percent, slightly below the state average of 7 percent. Despite urbanisation, Lucknow retains its natural charm with its lush flora and fauna.
- **Flora and Fauna:** In the midst of city life, Lucknow houses a variety of trees and plants, including medicinal and herbal species. Common Indian monkeys inhabit patches in city forests, such as Musa Bagh, adding to the city's wildlife diversity.
- **Conservation Efforts:** The city takes pride in its conservation initiatives. The Lucknow Zoo, established in 1921, shelters a rich collection of animals from various continents and offers entertaining toy train rides. A botanical garden within the city is a sanctuary of botanical diversity. Moreover, the Uttar Pradesh State Museum showcases sculptural masterpieces dating back to the 3rd century AD.

Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Lucknow's environment is a harmonious blend of urban living and natural resplendence, ensuring that its residents can enjoy both the convenience of city life and the tranquility of nature.



[Source: Knocksense.com]

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

Economy of Lucknow

Lucknow proudly ranks among the top cities in India by GDP, highlighting its economic significance. While historically driven by the tertiary sector with a significant portion of the workforce employed in government services, the city has evolved. Today, it embraces a diverse economic landscape.

- **Industrial Diversity:** The city hosts a range of industries, including aeronautics, automotive, machine tools, distillery chemicals, furniture, and the renowned Chakan embroidery. It's an emerging automobile hub, with companies like Tata Motors and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited setting up plants. The textile industry is on the rise, with government investments to establish a textile business cluster.
- **IT and Export Hubs:** Lucknow is home to several prominent IT companies, including Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Technologies. The handicrafts sector significantly contributes to state exports, with 60 percent originating from Lucknow. Notably, there's an ambitious IT city project planned, promising thousands of job opportunities.
- **Mango Mandi and Biotech Focus:** The city's historical trade of mangoes and melons remains a significant part of its agricultural economy. The government is also focusing on biotechnology and information technology to spur economic development.

Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Source: Hindustan Times]

Lucknow's economic vibrancy is a testament to its evolving industrial landscape and the city's role as an economic hub in India.

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

Some Interesting Facts about Lucknow

These intriguing facts shed light on the rich culture, history, and evolving economy of this enchanting city.

- **Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb:** Lucknow is celebrated for its Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb, symbolising the harmonious blend of Hindu and Muslim cultures. It's a place where you can find grand Hindu temples and elegant Mughal-era mosques side by side.
- **Tehri Kothi:** An extraordinary piece of history, the Tehri Kothi in Lucknow, a part of the British Residency, is riddled with cannonball holes from the Siege of Lucknow during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- **Kakori Conspiracy:** The infamous Kakori Conspiracy of 1925, a daring train robbery by revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaq Ullah Khan, unfolded in Lucknow.
- **Bada Mangal:** The city celebrates a unique ritual called Bada Mangal dedicated to Lord Hanuman. This grand festival involves distributing free food to all, regardless of caste, creed, or religion.



[Source: Trip Advisor]



Exploring Lucknow - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

In conclusion, Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is a city that weaves a captivating tale of history, culture, and economic significance. With a population of 2.8 million, it's the eleventh most populous city in India. Its history, from the Nawabs' cultural renaissance to the Indian Rebellion of 1857, is a testament to its rich past. The city's geographical aspects, including a diverse ecosystem and a humid subtropical climate, add to its charm.

Lucknow's culture is a harmonious blend of languages, religions, and culinary delights. Economically, it's a diverse hub, with industries ranging from aeronautics to IT. With intriguing facts like the Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb and the Kakori Conspiracy, Lucknow stands as a city that truly encapsulates the essence of India's diverse culture.

