



The Diamond City of India!!!

*Surat
@
A Glance!!!*



India's 10 fastest growing cities

Business Today article February, 2008

A lot has been said about India's robust economic growth with economists predicting a bright future for the country. But few know of the booming Indian cities that are adding to the nation's growth. So which are the country's fastest growing cities? Read on to find out? SURAT is No-1 Growth rate: 11.5%

Surat is Gujarat's second largest city with a population of 4 million. It is the fastest growing Indian city in terms of economic prosperity. The city has registered an annualized GDP growth rate of 11.5 per cent over the past seven fiscal years, according to the data compiled by economic research firm Indicus Analytics.

Known for its thriving diamond and textile industry, Surat is situated on the banks of the Tapti river. More than 90 per cent of world's diamonds are cut and polished here. These two industries have largely contributed to the city's growth as the economic powerhouse of India. Though often affected by floods and earthquakes, the city has always come out on top.

Improved infrastructure has been key to Surat's rapid rise. A number of elevated roads and flyovers have facilitated the thriving diamond and textile business of the city. The city's Varachcha flyover is claimed to be India's longest.

Surat with its low unemployment rates, high job rates and one of the highest per capita small business credit is the top destination for jobs and business.

It is said that if you want to make money, Surat is the place to be in.

City	Growth Rate
Surat	11.5%
Bangalore	10.3%
Ahmedabad	10.1%
Mumbai	8.5%
New Delhi	8.4%
Hyderabad	7.8%
Pune	7.4%
Bardhwan	6.6%
Kolkata	6.3%
Chennai	6.2%



'Surat households richest in India'

Times of India

9 Aug 2008, 0422 hrs IST, Yagnesh Mehta, TNN

Study by: National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Future Capital Research's Roopa Purushothaman

The average annual household income (AHI) in the diamond city is Rs 4.57 lakh - the highest in the country. It has displaced Chandigarh in a list of 20 cities because of its lower cost of living.

Gujarat, in fact, is the only state with two cities in the top five - Ahmedabad has been ranked fifth, ahead of Mumbai and Delhi. "The ranking is natural, given Gujarat's growth. Surat's employment generation is equal to many fast-growing cities of the world," says Dr YK Alagh, economist and former member of Planning Commission.

The study says Surat's AHI is almost equal to China's per capita income of 2007 and double the national per capita income. Even its GDP growth of 11.5 per cent for the last consecutive years is the fastest in the country. Here is why Surti households have bulging pockets. The city has become the heart of diamond polishing and textile manufacturing globally. It processes eight out of 10 diamonds polished in the world, accounts for 80 per cent of India's Rs 80,000 crore gems and jewellery exports and employs nearly seven lakh people in diamond cutting and polishing. Surat's Rs 45,000-crore textile industry accounts for 20 per cent of India's total textile output and provides employment to eight lakh people. Given the boom, people from across the country have been migrating to it.

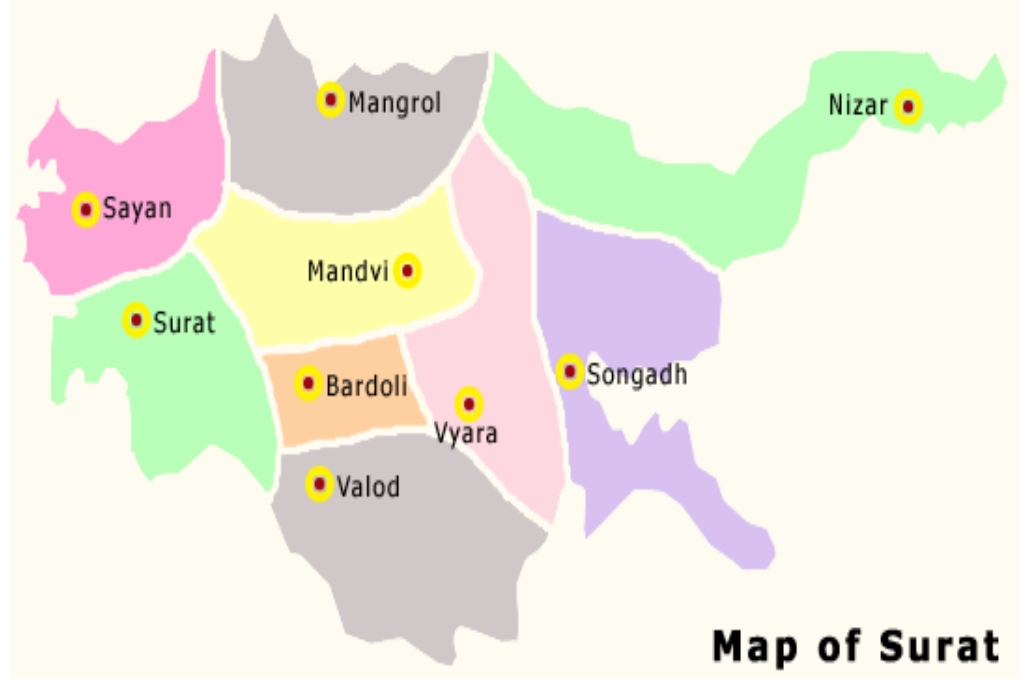
The 2001 census showed that Surat had the fastest population growth nationally at 62 per cent. "The study has shown that Gujarat is more prosperous than 90 per cent of the country," says former IIM-A director Bakul Dholakia.

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Surat: An Introduction

Surat is a port city in the Indian state of Gujarat and administrative headquarters of the Surat District.

As of 2007, Surat and its metropolitan area has approx. 4 million population. It is the second largest city in Gujarat and ninth largest in India.

The city is situated on the left bank of the Tapi river. A moat divides the older parts of the city, with its wider streets, handsome houses, and the newer suburbs.



The city is largely recognized for its textile and diamond businesses. It is also known as the diamond city of Gujarat.



Surat is also considered a relatively clean city in India.

It has one of the highest GDP growth rates in India at 16.5% as of 2008.

Surat was the primary port of India during the Mughal period.



HISTORY

Surat finds mention in the Mahabharata when Lord Krishna stopped here during his journey from Mathura to Dwarka with his cows. According to the Sanskrit scriptures, this area was under the control of the western Chalukyas in AD 610 and remained under Hindu kings till 12th century when a general of Qutub-ud-din Aibak captured the city.



Old Fort

In 1612, the British established their trading factory here, soon to be followed by the Dutch and French. Due to political and climatic problems and growing importance of Mumbai, Surat lost its prominence. In 1852, Surat became the first municipality of Gujarat and gradually it became a major business city famous for its textile and diamond industry



Old Fort

The wealth and prosperity of the city started in the 12th century when Parsis first settled here. Akbar captured the city in 1573 after a long siege and it became an important Mughal trading point. Arabian traders started calling this place Bunder-E-Khubsoorat (the beautiful port), which later shortened to Surat.



Municipal Corporation Building



Fact File

- Population: Approx 4 million
- Area: 112.27 Sq Kms
- Languages : Gujrati, Hindi , Marathi, Sindhi
- Major Industry : Textiles, Diamond Polishing, chemical, Petrochem
- Literacy: 77%
- Climate: Winter Temperature: Max 31 °C, Min 12 °C
Summer Temperature: Max 42 °C, Min 24 °C
- Rainfall: 40" -45"
- Visit Surat @ <http://www.mycitysurat.com/suratmap.php>



How to reach:

•Surat occupies an pivotal position on Ahmedabad-Mumbai corridor is also connected very well by railway at a distance Ahmedabad-230km(3.5 hrs) , Mumbai -256 Km (3.5 hrs),Vadodara-129 Km(2 hrs) .It has long distance train connecting various parts of the country.

•Surat is well connected by road on route from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, GSRTC services connects all parts of state with Surat

•Surat is also connected with New Delhi by air

•Arabian sea is only 16 Kms from the city and Magdalla port is near vicinity.

Air: <http://www.suratairport.com/>

Rail: http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/TAG0809/PDF/TAG-IR_Map_2008.pdf



Infrastructure



Surat may not be a metropolitan city but the infrastructure of Surat can be a subject of envy to any metro cities in India.

The infrastructure focuses on industry, medical base, information technology, entertainment, tourism, electricity, transportation, communication, education etc.

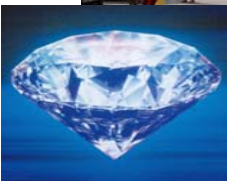
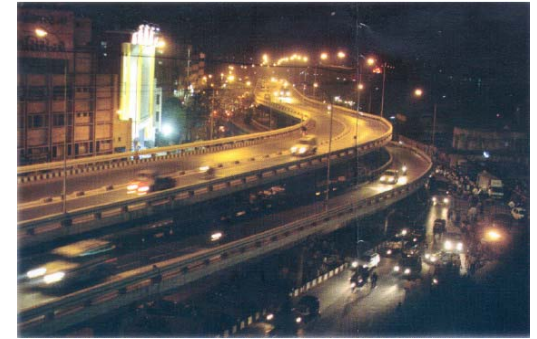
Several hospitals are there in Surat to provide excellent medical assistance .

Good schools and colleges enrich the education scenario of the Surat City.

The city has the most numbers of flyovers in a city in Gujarat.

Surat is expected to get BRTS, Bus Rapid Transit System, by 2010.

The authority has stressed on E-Governance to bring speed in the overall administration works.



Infra Structure

Surat is one of the most well planned cities in the country.

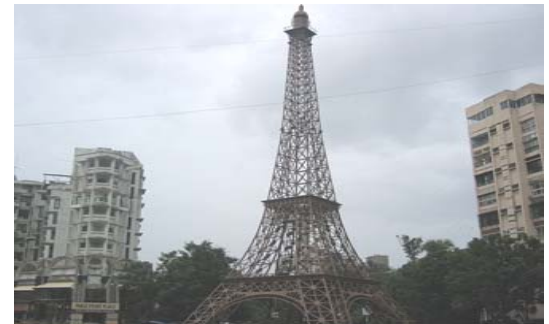
- Ranked one among the top ten fastest growing cities in India
- Ranked the second cleanest city in India

Surat is one of the most important industrial centers of the state of Gujarat. The diamond cutting and polishing industry of the city can be the perfect advertisement for the industrial scenario of the city.

The city also homes to a rich textile industry and several heavy engineering plants.



Varacha Road fly over



Mini Eiffel tower Parle point round about



1st flight landing at Surat Airport



Ring Road Flyover-Textile Market

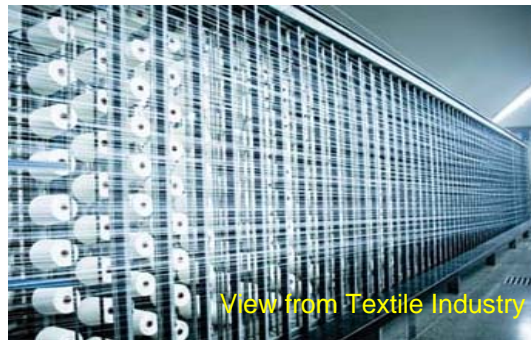


Industry

Surat is famous for its diamond industry and textile industry, along with silk and chemicals.

It is at the heart of India's thriving diamond-polishing industry, which in 2007 cut 92% of the world's diamond pieces and earned India \$18 billion in exports.

It is a major production centre for synthetic textiles in India and known as silk capital of India. 40% of India's total man made fabric is produced from Surat besides also contributing to nearly 28% of India's total synthetic output



Surat has infrastructure and conducive environment for industrial growth, Most renowned and big corporate houses like

GUJARAT GAS
ESSAR,
ONGC,
RELIANCE,
SHELL,
L&T,
I.O.C,
G.A.I.L,
NTPC
ABG Shipyard,

and many big renowned companies have their presence and contributing to make Surat as one of the most industrialized city of India.



Education

There are several secondary and higher educational institutes in the city. The medium of education in the schools of Surat are in English and Gujarati



Ryan international School has 3 schools in different part of Surat, affiliated to ICSE, CBWE and GSEB respectively

ryansuraticse@yahoo.com

Some Prominent Schools in Surat City

Delhi Public School	CBSE	+91)-(261)-2213434
Ryan International School	CBSE/ICSE/ GSEB	+91)-(0261) 659 60 92
Seventh Day Adventist School	ICSE	+91)-(261)-2667591
SD Jain Public School	CBSE	+91)-(261)-2222840
L.P.Sawani School	CBSE	+91)-(261)-6452626
St Xavier School	GSBE	+91)-(261)-2653383
Lancers Army School	CBSE	+91)-(261)-2257621
S J.H.Ambani sarswati Vidya Mandir	CBSE	+91)-(261)-2257880
Divine Child High School,	CBSE	+91)-(261)-2231660
Fountain Head Pre school	CBSE	+91)-(261)-3257551



Delhi Public School:

Estd in 2003., has two schools in Surat

- Vesu Road branch
 - Adajan branch-Opening shortly
- It is a part of the DPS Society, Affiliated to CBSE

info@dpssurat.net



Higher Education

There are several private and government higher educational institutes in the city. Surat has two medical colleges and four engineering colleges including

Medical College:

- SMIMER (Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Education & Research)
- New Civil Hospital & Medical college

Engineering College:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT)
- Sarvajanik College of Engg and Technology (SCET)
- C K Pithawala College of Engineering and Technology (CKPCET)
- Government Engineering College

Other prominent educational institutions in Surat city are :

- Sir K.P. College of Commerce
- MTB Arts College
- PT Science College
- V.T. Choksi Sarvajanik College of Education
- Dr.S & S.S. Gandhi College of Polytechnic Engineering,
- Sheth P T Mahila College of arts and Home science

Most higher educational institutional institutions are affiliated to The south Gujarat University



Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Edu & Research



Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Tech.

Health Care

The **Surat hospitals** offer the best of medical facilities. Equipped with the latest medical aids, state of the art operation theaters with hi-tech gadgets, efficient ambulance services and well stocked pharmacies and blood banks, the Surat Hospitals are deeply committed to saving the patient's lives.



BAPS Pramukh Hospital



Wockhardt Hospital

Prominent Hospitals in Surat:

- Wockardt hospital
- Apple Hospital
- K P Sanghvi Hospital
- Gabani Kidney Hospital
- Jivani Ortho Hospital
- Lokhat Hospital
- Mahadev Orthopedic Hospital
- Mahavir Cardiac Hospital
- Maskati Hospital
- Mahavir General Hospital
- Swami Pramukh Hospital
- Care Hospital



Apple Hospital



•Mahavir Cardiac Hospital



Hotels in Surat

Surat is one of the most vital trade centers in India. Surat has proximity to some nice beaches like Dandi, Dumas and Hazira. These beaches along with other tourism destinations keep a steady flow of tourists in Surat.

Also, as an industrial city it entertain business visitors coming from all over the world, hotels in Surat plays the perfect host to their guests.

There are several star studded hotels in Surat and plenty of budget hotels. Some of the best hotels in the city.

The Taj-Gateways

The only five star hotel in Surat is located on the banks of Tapi river. It lies in the posh business and shopping district and twelve kilometers away from the Surat railway station.

Surat has plenty of other hotels with fine arrangements and budget hotels to suit the pocket of the visitor.



Restaurants in Surat

The **restaurants in Surat** very well manifest this passion of the people living there.

Surat restaurants are perfect places for them to try out the local delicacies as well as the other regional specialties of India.

Restaurants of Surat are not restricted to their regional specialties and there are Restaurants that serve Continental, Chinese and other Western dishes.



Authentic Gujarati Restaurant



Ponk Market



Mc D@Surat



Culture and Festivals

All major Indian festivals are celebrated in Surat. Navratri, Diwali and Ganesh Chaturthi , Sri Krishna Janmashthmi are celebrated with great enthusiasm.



Garbha celebrations in Indoor stadium



A couple enjoying Garbha beats



Kite Flying on Utrayan Festival;



Ganesh Chaturthi Possession



Surat Shopping

Surat shopping is enjoyed by the visitors as they can choose from a variety of products. There are a number of shopping centers in Surat to shop from.

Surat is mainly known for the textiles manufactured in the industries. Thus shopping in Surat should include collection of dress materials and silk sarees, jari works and embroidered fabrics.

The city is also famous for diamond cutting. The dazzling and beautifully designed jewelery should be collected while on Surat shopping.

Shopping in the shopping malls of Surat are always a pleasurable experience.



ISCON Mall



Bombay Saree Bazar



Big Bazar



Places of Interest

Beaches:-Dumas & Hajira- Dumas, 16 km from Surat, and Hajira, 28 km on a creek emptying into the Arabian Sea. Hajira has two wells with water rich in iron and sulphur.

Surat Zoological Park: It is a home to leopards, tigers, panthers and wild boars.

Dutch Cemetery - Baron Adrian Van Reede's mausoleum built in 1691. A massive Dome, beautiful pillars and the huge gallery make it a very outstanding monument.

Science City - It is being developed by SMC and will be one of the most attractive places in city in coming days.

Chintamani Jain Temple - The exquisite wooden carvings and paintings are the major attractions of the 15th century temple.

Dutch Garden - The ancient Dutch gardens, the Dutch cemetery ,the ancient original port from where the ships sailed to other parts of the world are other attractions.

Old Fort - The Old Fort was built by Muhammad Tugalak in the 14th century .It is now used for municipal offices.

Sardar Patel Museum –about a 100yrs old, the museum has a collection of over 10,000 specimens of arts and crafts.

Rangupavan- It is an open air theater with a capacity of around 4000 spectators. This is one of the biggest theaters in the country.



Source

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surat

www.thesurat.com/

www.shoppingsurat.com

www.surat.com/

www.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/asia/india/surat

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