

VIBGYOR OF SPECTRUM REFLECTS ON COLOURED CITY OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

India showcases a vibrant **VIBGYOR** of color-coded cities, with examples like Jaipur.

(Pink City), Jodhpur

(Blue City), Udaipur

(White City), Nagpur

(Orange City), Amritsar

(Golden City), and Chandigarh

(Green City), representing different hues from the rainbow (Violet, Indigo, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Red) through their architecture, produce, or cultural significance.

Blue City: Jodhpur, Rajasthan, known for its blue-painted houses.

Pink City: Jaipur, Rajasthan, famous for its terracotta pink buildings symbolizing hospitality.

White City: Udaipur, Rajasthan, recognized for its white marble palaces and serene lakes.

Orange City: Nagpur, Maharashtra, famous for its abundant orange cultivation.

Golden City: Amritsar, Punjab, home to the gleaming Golden Temple.

Green City: Chandigarh, known for its urban planning and greenery.

Silver City: Cuttack, Odisha, known for its intricate silver filigree work.

These cities highlight India's diverse culture, where colors often hold deep meanings, from spiritual connections to local produce and historical traditions, creating a real-life VIBGYOR of hues across the country.

KEYWORDS: Blue City, Pink City, White City, Orange City, Golden City, Green City, Silver City.

Preamble: India's **Blue City** is Jodhpur, located in Rajasthan, famous for its blue-painted buildings in the old town, a tradition believed to have originated with Brahmins to signify status, cool homes in the desert heat, and repel termites, all overlooked by the majestic Mehrangarh Fort.

Symbolism: Historically, upper-caste Brahmins painted their homes blue to show their piety and social standing.

Practicality: The blue lime wash with copper sulfate helped cool houses and repel insects, a useful feature in the desert.

Visuals: From the Mehrangarh Fort, the blue-hued old city creates a stunning visual spectacle.

Mehrangarh Fort: A massive 15th-century fort offering panoramic views of the blue city.

Brahmapuri: The oldest district where most blue houses are concentrated.



Bazaars: Vibrant markets full of local crafts and textiles.

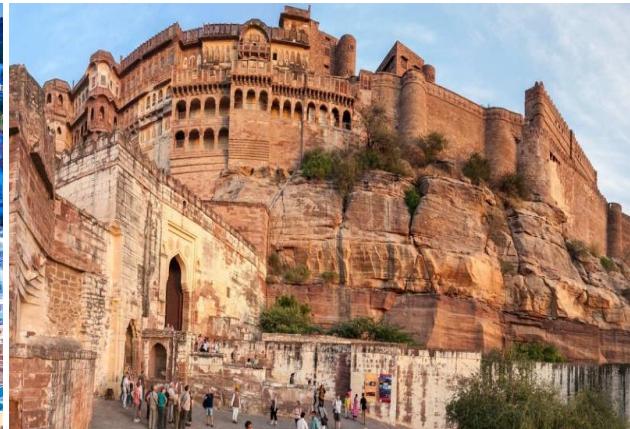


Figure 1: Blue City (Rajasthan) & Mehrangarh Fort.

Other Nicknames

Sun City: Due to its bright, sunny climate in the Thar Desert. Jodhpur, founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha, remains a significant cultural and historical destination in Rajasthan, blending ancient traditions with vibrant local life.

The Blue City of India is Jodhpur, located in the state of Rajasthan, known for its distinctive blue-painted houses, particularly in the old city, which helps keep buildings cool in the Thar Desert heat and originally served to repel termites.

Why it's blue: The blue colour, traditionally used by Brahmins and later adopted by others, was practical (reflects sun, repels insects) and became a beloved city-wide trend.

Location: Jodhpur is in the heart of the Thar Desert, making its architecture and culture unique.

Other names: It's also known as the "Sun City" due to its sunny weather. The city known as the "Blue City" is Jodhpur, located in Rajasthan, India, famous for the blue-painted houses in its old town, a tradition believed to

have started with Brahmins and potentially to repel insects and heat.

Origin of the colour: The blue hue was initially used by the Brahmin caste to signify their homes, but later became a widespread practice for many buildings in the old city area.

Practical reasons: Some legends suggest the blue wash, often containing copper sulfate, helped repel termites and kept houses cooler in the desert heat.

Landmark view: From the majestic Mehrangarh Fort overlooking the city, you can see the sprawling blue landscape of the old city.

India's **Pink City** is Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, known for its terracotta-pink coloured buildings that symbolize hospitality, a tradition started in 1876 to welcome Prince Albert and reinforced by laws requiring the colour to be maintained. This historic, planned city boasts royal heritage, forts, and palaces like the iconic Hawa Mahal, vibrant markets, and unique crafts, making it a major tourist destination.



Figure 2: Pink City (Jaipur) & Hawa Mahal and City Palace.

Why Jaipur is Called the Pink City: Royal Welcome: In 1876, Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh I ordered the old city painted pink to welcome the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), as pink symbolized hospitality.

Preserved Tradition: The tradition of painting buildings pink continues today, with laws mandating the use of the colour for many structures, including hotels and shops.

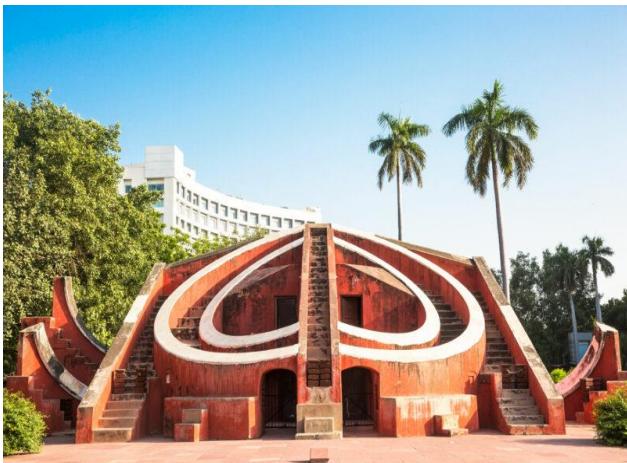


Figure 3: Amber Fort (Rajasthan) & Jantar Mantar.

Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds): An iconic facade with numerous windows, built in 1799.

Amber Fort: A massive hilltop fort with rich history.

City Palace: A royal residence and museum showcasing Rajput and Mughal architecture.

Jantar Mantar: An ancient astronomical observatory.

Bazaars: Bustling markets famous for textiles, gemstones, and handicrafts, like hand block prints.

A UNESCO World Heritage City with a blend of history, culture, and charm. A hub for traditional Rajasthani food, crafts, and colourful festivals. At the time, pink was the

symbolic colour of hospitality. As the people of Jaipur are known for their incredible hospitality, Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh I had the whole city painted pink to welcome the royals. It's said that Prince Albert nicknamed Jaipur the 'Pink City' and the name stuck.

The **Yellow City** or **Golden City** of India is Jaisalmer, located in Rajasthan, famous for its stunning architecture built from yellow sandstone that glows golden in the desert sun, especially at sunset. This historic city in the Thar Desert features the magnificent Jaisalmer Fort (Sonar Qila) and ornate Havelis, all constructed with the characteristic golden-yellow stone, creating a unique shimmering effect.



Figure 4: Yellow City & Jaisalmer Fort.

Why it's called the Golden/Yellow City

Yellow Sandstone: The primary reason is the extensive use of yellow sandstone in buildings, fortresses, and homes, giving the entire city a golden hue.

Desert Landscape: The surrounding Thar Desert sands and the way sunlight hits the architecture enhance this golden appearance.

Fort (Sonar Qila): The massive Jaisalmer Fort, also called the "Golden Fort," blends seamlessly with the desert, appearing as a golden lion from afar.

Jaisalmer Fort (Sonar Qila): A living fort with palaces, temples, and homes.



Patwon Ki Haveli: A cluster of five intricately carved mansions.

Salim Singh Ki Haveli: Known for its unique, peacock-shaped roof.

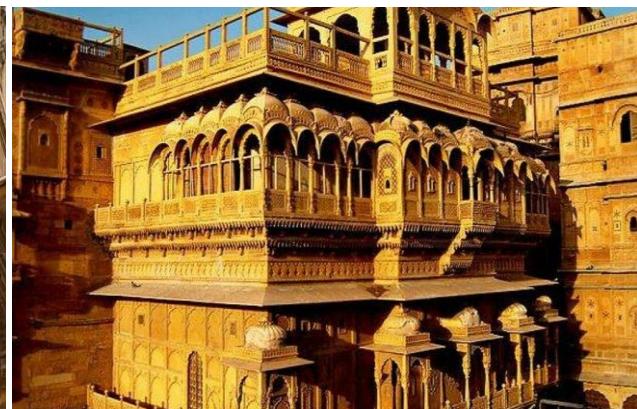


Figure 5: Patwon Ki Haveli (Jaisalmer; Rajasthan).

The term "Yellow City" usually refers to Jaisalmer, India, known as the "Golden City" due to its stunning yellow sandstone architecture that glows at sunrise and sunset. Another contender is Izamal, Mexico, a charming colonial town painted in distinct yellow hues, earning it the nickname "The Yellow City". Buildings and the fort are made from yellow sandstone, blending with the Thar Desert's golden sands, especially in the sunlight. Rajasthan, India, in the heart of the Thar Desert. So, depending on whether you're thinking of desert

landscapes or colonial charm, it could be Jaisalmer or Izamal.

Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana and a union territory, is often referred to as the **Green City** due to its beautiful parks and gardens. Competing with Mysore for the title of the greenest city in India, Chandigarh features clean surroundings with large green trees lining the roads. Greenest City of India: Mysore, sometimes known as "Mysuru", which is located in Karnataka, is known as the greenest city in India.



Figure 6: Green City (Chandigarh).

This second-largest city in Karnataka is home to the famous Mysore Palace, surrounded by beautiful gardens. Recently, about 40,000 saplings were planted on Chamundi Hill. Mysore: This city is famous for its gardens, palaces, temples etc. and was ranked as the second cleanest city of India and top cleanest city in Karnataka by Urban Development Ministry. Mysore is known as the center of tourism and has been holding top rankings as one of the greenest cities from last few years.

The **Red City** of India is primarily Bikaner, a desert city in Rajasthan known for its stunning architecture built from red sandstone, including palaces like Laxmi Niwas and Lalgarh, and forts like Junagarh. While some sources mention Jaipur as the "Pink City" or even "Red City" due to its terracotta-pink hue, Bikaner is more consistently associated with the "Red City" nickname because of its distinct red sandstone structures.

Why Bikaner is called the Red City

Red Sandstone Architecture: The buildings, forts (like Junagarh Fort), and Havelis (traditional mansions) in Bikaner are predominantly constructed from a trademark red sandstone, giving the city its distinctive color.

Historical Significance: Bikaner, a former princely state, boasts rich history and heritage, with many structures preserved in their original red glory, making it a cultural treasure.



Figure 7: Red City (Bikaner; Rajasthan).

Key Places to See in Bikaner

Junagarh Fort
Laxmi Niwas Palace
Lalgarh Palace
Bhandasar Jain Temple

So, when you hear "Red City," think of the vibrant red sandstone of Bikaner in Rajasthan.

The **Brown City** of India usually refers to Jaisalmer, known for its golden-yellow sandstone architecture and surrounding Thar Desert dunes, often called the "Golden City," but sometimes the "Brown City" as well. Another city sometimes called the "Brown City" is Kannur, in Kerala, due to its brown sand beaches and laterite stone buildings.

Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)

Nickname: Golden City / Brown City.

Reason: Buildings made from yellow sandstone blend with the desert, especially at sunset.

Features: A majestic fort, intricate, havelis and the Thar Desert.

Kannur (Kerala)

Nickname: Brown City.

Reason: Brown-hued laterite soil, brown sand beaches, and buildings constructed from laterite stone.

Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, is famously known as the **City of Joy** due to its vibrant culture, rich history, soulful arts, and the resilient, joyful spirit of its people, a nickname popularized by Dominique Lapierre's novel of the same name, celebrating life amidst hardship. It's a city of contrasts, blending colonial architecture with modern life, known for its intellectualism, delicious street food, iconic Howrah Bridge, and deep-rooted traditions.

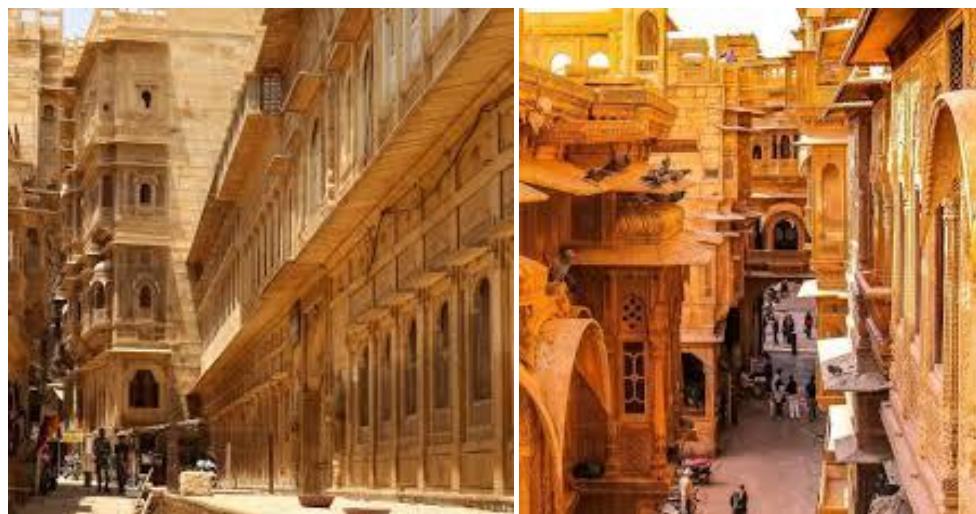


Figure 8: Brown City (Jaisalmer; Rajasthan).



Figure 9: City of Joy (Calcutta; West Bengal).

The city known as the **White City of India** is Udaipur, located in Rajasthan, famous for its stunning architecture of white marble and limestone palaces, temples, and buildings, especially the iconic City Palace, reflecting purity and regal elegance.

Why Udaipur is called the White City

Marble Palaces: Rajput kings built grand palaces, like the City Palace, using white marble, giving the city a prominent white look.



Figure 10: White City (Udaipur; Rajasthan).

White Structures: Many buildings, including temples and private residences, feature white sandstone and plaster, creating a cohesive white cityscape.

Symbolism: The white colour symbolizes purity, serenity, and the opulent lifestyle of the royals.

Other Nicknames for Udaipur

City of Lakes: Due to the numerous artificial lakes like Pichola and Fateh Sagar that surround the city.

Venice of the East: A comparison to the Italian city for its beautiful lakes and romantic ambiance.

"Orange India" can refer to Nagpur, the **Orange City**, known for its citrus, the global telecom brand Orange Business Services (digital/network services for enterprises), or Orange Retail Finance (ORFIL), a financial services firm for semi-urban/rural India, or even Orange Health Labs, a diagnostics company, highlighting a diverse landscape of businesses and cultural nicknames related to the fruit in India.



Figure-11: Orange City (Nagpur; Maharashtra)

Key Meanings of "Orange India"

Nagpur (The Orange City): A major metropolis in Maharashtra famous for its oranges, blending tradition with modernity.

Orange Business Services (OBS India): The enterprise arm of the Orange Group, providing connectivity, cloud, cybersecurity, and digital transformation for Indian businesses.

Orange Retail Finance (ORFIL): An RBI-registered NBFC offering financial products (loans, etc.) to semi-urban and rural communities in India.

Orange Health Labs: A diagnostic service provider focusing on convenient sample collection and lab testing.

Other Contexts: Fruit Production: India is a significant producer of oranges, ranking among the top countries globally, with major growing regions in Rajasthan, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. In essence, "Orange India" reflects both the agricultural bounty (Nagpur) and the presence of modern international and domestic businesses leveraging the name for various sectors like tech, finance, and healthcare.

The **Indigo City of India** refers to Jodhpur, Rajasthan, famous for its sea of blue-painted houses in the old city, creating a striking visual contrast against the desert landscape, with the name possibly stemming from Brahmin caste tradition, climate benefits (keeping homes cool), or a connection to indigo dye trade.

Key Facts About Jodhpur (The Blue City)



Figure 12: Indigo City (Jodhpur; Rajasthan).

Location: On the edge of the Thar Desert in Rajasthan.

Appearance: A maze of indigo houses surrounding the imposing Mehrangarh Fort.

Nickname: Also known as the "Sun City" due to sunny weather.

Origin of Blue Color: Theories include Brahmins painting their houses blue, the color's ability to repel insects, or its association with the dye's historical significance, says an Al Jazeera article on India's 'blue gold', the indigo dye trade..

Other Indigo Connections in India: Indigo Dyeing: India has a rich history of natural indigo farming and dyeing, with regions like Tamil Nadu and Bengal known for producing this "blue gold," notes an Al Jazeera article about the history of indigo.

IndiGo Airlines: The popular Indian airline also operates flights to Jodhpur and other cities, but the "Indigo City" nickname specifically refers to Jodhpur. While India has many "colour cities" like Pink City (Jaipur) or Blue City (Jodhpur), Jhalawar in Rajasthan is often called the Purple City (or Violet City) due to its lush orange orchards, green fields, and serene atmosphere, though "purple" is sometimes used interchangeably with "violet" to describe it.

Why Jhalawar?

Natural Beauty: It's surrounded by rivers and fertile plains, with many orange groves that give it a distinct, vibrant look, often described with shades of purple/violet, says Indian Panorama.

Historical Charm: The city also boasts ancient forts and temples, showcasing rich history and architecture, adds Indian Panorama. So, if you're looking for India's "Violet City," think of Jhalawar in Rajasthan.

India doesn't have one official "Rainbow City," but several places are known for vibrant colors or are called "Rainbow City" as project names, with Jodhpur (the Blue City), Jaipur (the Pink City), and the natural beauty of Munnar (with tea plantations and flowers) being top contenders for the metaphorical title, while actual residential projects are named "Rainbow City" in places like Trichy (Tamil Nadu) and Darbhanga (Bihar).

Metaphorical "Rainbow Cities" (Based on Colors/Nature): Jodhpur, Rajasthan: Famous as the "Blue City," its old town is painted in various shades of blue, creating a colorful spectacle.

Jaipur, Rajasthan: Known as the "Pink City" because its buildings are painted pink, symbolizing hospitality, notes Google Arts & Culture and Holidify.



Figure 13: Rainbow City (Munnar; Kerala).

Munnar, Kerala: A natural "rainbow" with emerald tea plantations, white mist, and purple Neelakurinji flowers, says this article.

Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand: A national park filled with hundreds of varieties of alpine flowers, offering a true rainbow of natural colors.

Actual "Rainbow City" Developments

Rainbow City, Trichy (Sethurapatti, Tamil Nadu): A luxury residential plot project by Green Valley Promoters.

Rainbow City, Darbhanga (Sobhan, Bihar): A residential and commercial development offering designed plots. So, depending on if you mean natural beauty, a specific color theme, or a real estate project, different places fit the "Rainbow City" description in India.



Figure 14: Diamond City (Surat; Gujarat).

The **Diamond City** of India is Surat, Gujarat, renowned globally for its massive diamond cutting and polishing industry, processing around 90% of the world's rough

diamonds and employing hundreds of thousands, also known for its strong textile sector.

Why Surat is the Diamond City

Dominant Industry: Surat handles the lion's share of the world's diamond polishing and cutting, making it a crucial hub in the global diamond trade.

Skilled Workforce: The city's skilled artisans meticulously cut, polish, and prepare diamonds for the international market, a craft that evolved from small workshops.

Economic Powerhouse: The diamond industry is a major contributor to India's export economy, despite recent challenges from global events.

Other Nicknames

Silk City: Surat is also famous for its vibrant textile industry and silk production.

Green City: It's recognized as one of India's cleanest cities.

Jamshedpur: It, located in Jharkhand, is widely known as the **Steel City of India** because it's home to Tata Steel,

India's first private sector steel plant established by Jamsetji Tata in 1907, making it a major industrial hub with a strong focus on steel production and a symbol of India's industrial development.

Key Reasons for the Nickname

Tata Steel: The city's identity is intrinsically linked to the establishment of the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) and its headquarters.

First Planned Industrial City: It was meticulously planned around the steel plant, becoming India's first such city, with infrastructure designed to support heavy industry.

Major Industrial Hub: Jamshedpur's economy is heavily driven by steel and other heavy industries, contributing significantly to the nation's economy.

Other Cities with Steel Connections: While Jamshedpur holds the primary title, other cities are also significant in India's steel industry:

Bhilai (Chhattisgarh): Known for its large Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), a major producer of steel rails, and often called the "Steel City of Central India".



Figure-15: Steel City (Jamshedpur; Jharkhand).

Bokaro (Jharkhand): Home to another large plant operated by SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited).

Rourkela (Odisha): Also features a significant SAIL plant.

Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, is famously known as the "Temple City of India" due to its vast collection of ancient Hindu temples, once numbering over 7,000, with hundreds still standing today, showcasing rich Kalinga architecture dedicated mostly to Lord Shiva, forming part of India's significant religious and architectural heritage.

Why Bhubaneswar is called the Temple City

Ancient Heritage: It boasts a history spanning millennia, with temples from the 6th century AD onwards.

Architectural Marvels: The city features exquisite temple designs, including the famous Lingaraj Temple, Mukteshwar Temple, and Rajarani Temple.

Religious Significance: It's considered a holy place for Shaivites (followers of Lord Shiva), with many temples dedicated to him.

"Ekamra Kshetra": The old town was known as Ekamra Kshetra (area with mango trees), highlighting its deep spiritual roots.

Other Temple Cities/Regions

Tamil Nadu: Known as "The Land of Temples," with over 30,000 temples, including the massive Meenakshi Temple in Madurai.

Kanchipuram: Famous as the "City of Thousand Temples," another key temple town in Tamil Nadu.

Hampi: A UNESCO World Heritage site with well-preserved ruins of the Vijayanagara Empire's temples in

Karnataka. While other cities have numerous temples, Bhubaneswar holds the specific title "Temple City of India" due to its sheer concentration and historical significance of temples, particularly in its old town.

The **Garden City** of India is Bengaluru (Bangalore), Karnataka's capital, known for its lush greenery, numerous public parks like Lalbagh and Cubbon Park, and tree-lined avenues, a legacy dating back to the Mysore rulers who cultivated its gardens, though urban development has reduced its green cover in recent times.



Figure-16: Garden City (Bangalore; Karnataka)

Rich Green Spaces: Bengaluru boasts extensive parks, botanical gardens, and wide, tree-filled streets.

Historical Roots: The title stems from the efforts of Mysore Kings, particularly Hyder Ali, who established the famous Lalbagh Botanical Garden in the 18th century, followed by further development by Maharaja Krishna Raja Wodeyar and botanist Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel.

Gujarat has many peaceful places, Palitana is uniquely known as a **City of Peace** for its Jain commitment to absolute non-violence (no meat, slaughter, or animal

products), and Baroda (Vadodara) is officially recognized as an "International City of Peace," both reflecting deep spiritual and tranquil aspects within Gujarat's diverse landscape. Cities in Gujarat with "Peace" Associations:

Palitana (Bhavnagar District): A holiest Jain city, it's the world's first city to ban non-vegetarian food and animal slaughter, making it a symbol of purity and non-violence.

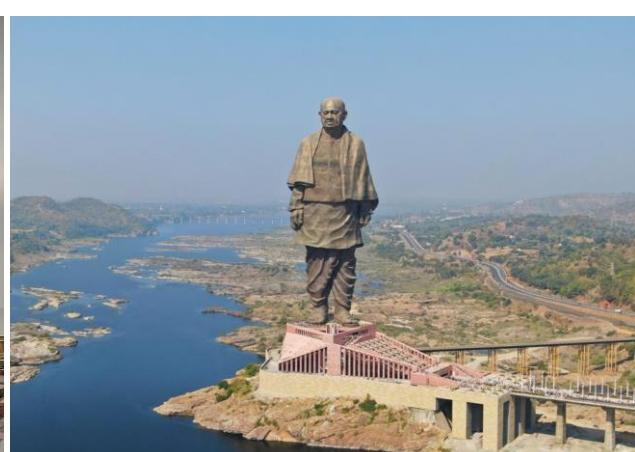


Figure-17: City of Peace (Gujarat).

Baroda (Vadodara): Designated an "International City of Peace" due to local peace initiatives led by figures like Mukund M. Purohit, emphasizing religious harmony and peace education.

Dwarka: A major Hindu pilgrimage site (Chardham) associated with Lord Krishna, offering spiritual calm, beautiful coastlines, and a sense of timeless peace.

Why "Peace" is Varied in Gujarat

Gujarat offers different types of peace, from Palitana's religious sanctity to Baroda's organized peace efforts, and Dwarka's spiritual tranquility, alongside its bustling cities like Ahmedabad and Surat. In essence, while not a single "City of Peace," Palitana is the most literal answer,

with Baroda holding an official title, and places like Dwarka offering profound spiritual peace.

Iconic Gardens: Key green areas include Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park, which host rare plants and annual flower shows.

Lalbagh Botanical Garden: Famous for its glasshouse and diverse plant species.

Cubbon Park: A large green lung in the city center.

Bangalore Palace: A historic landmark.

While it's also known as the "Silicon Valley of India" for its IT industry, its "Garden City" moniker highlights its beautiful botanical heritage and parks.



Figure 18: India the Nation of Colours VIBGYOR of Spectrum.

CONCLUSION

India has several enchanting cities, with Jaipur (Pink City), Udaipur (City of Lakes), Jodhpur (Blue City), and Varanasi (Spiritual City) often highlighted for their unique charm, history, and vibrant culture, offering palaces, ghats, colorful bazaars, and deep spiritual significance that captivate visitors. Other contenders include Jaisalmer (Golden City) for desert beauty and Kolkata for cultural richness.

Why it's enchanting: Known as the "Pink City" due to its terracotta-pink buildings, it's famous for majestic forts, opulent palaces (like Hawa Mahal), and lively markets

filled with jewels and textiles, blending history with vibrant culture.

Udaipur, Rajasthan

Why it's enchanting: A romantic "City of Lakes," it features stunning lakeside palaces, serene gardens, and boat rides on Lake Pichola, creating a fairy-tale atmosphere.

Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Why it's enchanting: The "Blue City," with its indigo-painted houses contrasting against the Thar Desert, is dominated by the imposing Mehrangarh Fort, offering a unique visual spectacle.

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Why it's enchanting: One of the world's oldest living cities, situated on the sacred Ganges River, it's a major pilgrimage site known for its spiritual ambiance, ancient ghats, and deep cultural traditions.

Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Why it's enchanting: The "Golden City," a desert jewel featuring a massive living fort, ancient temples, and mesmerizing sand dunes, brings history to life.

Kolkata, West Bengal

Why it's enchanting: Known as the "City of Joy," it's celebrated for its grand Durga Puja festival (a UNESCO heritage event), colonial architecture, intellectual spirit, and rich artistic heritage.

These cities offer diverse experiences, from regal history in Rajasthan to deep spirituality in Varanasi, each holding a unique enchantment for travellers.

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