Coordinates: 28.99°N 77.70°E

Meerut

Meerut (♠) pronunciation, <u>IAST</u>: <u>Meratha</u>), is a city in the <u>Indian state</u> of <u>Uttar Pradesh</u> [5] It is an ancient city with settlements dating back to the <u>Indus Valley civilisation</u> having been found in and around the area. The city lies 70 km (43 mi) northeast of the national capital <u>New Delhi</u>, and 453 km (281 mi) northwest of the state capital Lucknow. [6]

As of 2011, Meerut is the 33rd most populous urban agglomeration and the 26th most populous city in India. $^{[7][8]}$ It ranked 292 in 2006 and is projected to rank 242 in 2020 in the list of largest cities and urban areas in the world. $^{[9]}$ The municipal area (as of 2001) is 141.89 km² (54.78 sq mi) $^{[10]}$ with the cantonment covering 35.68 km² (3,568.06 ha). $^{[11]}$ The city is one of the largest producers of sports goods, and the largest producer of musical instruments in India. The city is also an education hub in western Uttar Pradesh, and also known as the "Sports City Of India". The city is famous for being the starting point of the $\underline{1857}$ rebellion against $\underline{\text{British}}$ colonial rule.

Contents

Origin of the word

History

Ancient era

Muslim conquests and rule

Colonial era

Post-independence era

The Great Upsurge of 1857

Mythology

Climate

Geography

Administration

General Administration

Police Administration

Infrastructure and Civic Administration

Central Government Ofices

Meerut Cantonment

Development

Economy

Industry

Revenue generation

Transport

Air

Road

Railways

Demographics

Culture

Nauchandi Mela (Fair)

Film and television

Education

Media

Sports Industries

Crime

Tourist destinations

Notable people

Indian Rebellion of 1857

King

Politics

Sports

See also

References

Notes

Citations

Further reading

External links

Meerut

$City^{[1]}$



Top to Bottom; Left to Right: Martyr Memorial, Pracheen Bada Mandirin Hastinapur, Basilica of Our Lady of Graces, St. John's Church, Meerut



Country	India			
State	Uttar Pradesh			
Division	Meerut			
District	Meerut			
Government				

Body
 Meerut Municipal
 Corporation

• Mayor Sunita Verma (B.S.P.)

• Divisional Commissioner

• District Magistrate Anil Dhingra, IAS

Anita Meshram, IAS

• Senior Superintendent Manzil Saini, IPS

Origin of the word

The city may have derived its name from 'Mayarashtrd (Sanskrit: ন্যান্ত), the capital of the kingdom of Mayasura, Mandodari's father and Ravana's father-in-law. This name may have mutated to Mairashtra, Maidant-ka-khera, Mairasht and eventually Meerut [12][13]

According to another version, Maya(sura), being a distinguished architect, received from King $\underline{\text{Yudhishthira}}$ the land on which the city of Meerut now stands and he called this place Mayarashtra, a name which in the course of time became shortened to Meerut. Tradition also has it that the city formed a part of the dominions of Mahipala, the king of $\underline{\text{Indraprastha}}$, and the word Meerut is associated with his name.

History

Ancient era

After the archaeological excavations at 'Vidura-ka-tila', a collection of several mounds named after <u>Vidura</u>, in 1950–52, a site 37 km (23 miles) north-east of Meerut, it was concluded to be remains of the ancient city of <u>Hastinapur</u>, the capital of <u>Kauravas</u> and <u>Pandavas</u> of <u>Mahabharata</u>, which was washed away by <u>Ganges floods [15][16][17]</u>



Fragment of the 6thAshoka Pillar in sandstone, with inscription orEdicts of Ashoka, in Brahmi, originally from Meerut, now in theBritish Museum.^[18]

Meerut also contained a Harappan settlement known as <u>Alamgirpur</u>. It was also the eastern-most settlement of the <u>Indus valley civilisation</u> Meerut had been a centre of Buddhism in the period of Mauryan Emperor Ashoka (r. 273

BC to 232 BC.), and remains of <u>Buddhist</u> structures were found near the Jama Masjid in the present day city.^[19] The <u>Ashoka Pillar</u>, at <u>Delhi ridge</u>, next to the 'Bara <u>Hindu Rao</u> Hospital', near <u>Delhi University</u>, was carried to <u>Delhi</u> from Meerut, by <u>Firuz</u> Shah Tughluq (r. 1351–1388), ^[16] it was later damaged in a 1713 explosion, and restored in 186 ^[22]

of Police	
• Municipal	Manoj Kumar
Commissioner	Chauhan, PCS
Area	
• City ^[1]	141.94 km ²
	(54.80 sq mi)
Elevation	224.659 m
	(737.070 ft)
Population (2011) ^[2]	
• City ^[1]	1,309,023
• Rank	26
 Density 	9,200/km ²
	(24,000/sq mi)
• Metro ^[3]	1,424,908
Languages	
• Official	Hindi and Urdu
Time zone	UTC+5:30 (IST)
PIN	250 0xx
Telephone code	91- 121- XXXX XXX
Vehicle registration	UP-15
Website	meerut.nic.in
[4]	

Muslim conquests and rule

In the eleventh century AD, the region to the south-west of the city was ruled by Har Dat, the *Dor Rajput Raja* of <u>Bulandshahr</u> who built a fort, which was long known for its strength and finds mention in *Ain-i-Akbari*. [23] He was later defeated by Mahmud

of Ghazni in 1018, surrendering along with his forces to Mahmud. The prominent local landmark known as the Jama Masjid, dates from this period and is said to have been built by Mahmud's vizir. Shortly after its capture the city was regained by the local Hindu Raja and part of his fortifications, built for the city's defence, survived until recent times. Muhammad of Ghor's mamluk general Qutb-ud-din Aybak who went on to establish the Delhi Sultanate in 1206, attacked and captured Meerut in 193.

After capturing and sacking <u>Delhi</u> where thousands of inhabitants were killed after a general massacre was ordered after a civilian uprising, <u>Timur</u> in 1399 attacked and sacked Meerut. It was held by Ilyas Afghan and his son Maula Muhammad Thaneswari who were assisted by non-Muslims led by Safi. Timur tried to negotiate a surrender, to which the inhabitants of the fort replied by stating that <u>Tarmashirin</u> had tried to capture it in the past but failed. Incensed, he set forth with 10,000 cavalry. The forces scaled the walls and Safi was killed in the battle. The inhabitants were killed and their wives and children enslaved. The fortifications and houses were razed to the ground with prisoners ordered to be flayed alive.^{[27][28]}

The city then came under the rule of the Mughal Empire and saw a period of relative tranquility. [29] During the rule of Mughal Emperor, Akbar the Great (r. 1556–1605), there was a mint for copper coins here. [19] During the decline of the Mughal Empire, after the death of Aurangzeb, the city came effectively under the control of local chieftains, the Saiyids of Muzaffarnagar in the north, the Jats in the south-east, and the Gujars along the Ganges and in the south-west. The city saw Sikh and Maratha invasions in the 18th century, with interruptions by Jats and Rohillas. Walter Reinhardt, an English soldier, established himself at Sardhana and some parts of the district came under his rule. Upon his death, they came into the hands of Begum Samru During this time, the southern part of the district had remained unde Maratha rule.

Colonial era

In 1803, with the fall of Delhi, Daulat Rao Scindia of the Marathas ceded the territory to the British. The city was made headquarters of the eponymous district in 1818. [29][30][31]



1857 Mutineers' Mosque

Meerut is famously associated with the <u>Indian Rebellion of 1857</u> against the <u>British East India Company</u>. The famous slogan "Dilli Chalo" ("Let's march to Delhi!") was first raised here. Meerut <u>cantonment</u> is the place where the rebellion started when Hindu and Muslim soldiers were given rifle cartridges rumoured to have a coating made of animal fat.

The revolt, which catapulted Meerut into international prominence, started in March 1857 at Barrackpore, Bengal. Sepoy Mangal Pandey shot and missed two Europeans, failed to kill himself, and was hanged. By April, the fire of Pandey's Uprising scorched north India and reached Meerut, the second-largest East India Company garrison. Here, Europeans and native sepoys were evenly balanced, with a little more than 2,000 on each side. The European cantonment was separated from the 'native lines.' Close by were Sadar Bazar and Lal Kurti Bazar, the latter named after the red uniforms worn by Company soldiers. On 24 April 1857, Meerut's commander, Colonel CarmichaelSmyth, paraded 90 Indian sepoys of the Bengal Cavalry, hired mostly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He ordered them to fire the new Enfield cartridges: 85 refused. The cartridges were covered with paper that

had to be torn off: Muslims believed the paper was greased with pig fat and Hindus, with cow fat. [33]

All 85 were stripped of their uniforms, imprisoned for ten years and shackled - this was a major humiliation. The rebels were from the 3rd cavalry: they owned their horses, and were the upper-caste elite. If they could be shackled, what could others expect from the Company? On Sunday, 10 May 1857, Kotwal Dhan Singh Gurjar opened the gates of the prison. These soldiers, along with the other imprisoned soldiers, escaped prison and declared themselves free, revolted, attacked and killed several of the British authorities to take

the city under their control. This marked the beginning of a widespread revolt across northern India as these soldiers marched towards Delhi. 10 May is still celebrated as a local holiday in Meerut^[34]



The United Provinces, in 1903

Meerut was also the venue of the controversial Meerut Conspiracy Case in March 1929, in which several trade unionists, including three Englishmen, were arrested for organising Indian-rail strike. This immediately caught attention back in England, inspired the 1932 play titled Meerut Prisoners, by Manchester street theatre group, the 'Red Megaphones', highlighting the detrimental effects of colonisation and industrialisation^[35] Electricity was brought to Meerut in 1931.^[30] In the 1940s, Meerut cinemas had a "Don't Move" policy during playing of the British national anthem. The last session of the Indian National Congress before Indian independence was held at Victoria Park in Meerut on 26 November 1946. It was in this session that the Constitution-making committee was constituted. [36]

Post-independence era

The city and district also suffered from communal (<u>Hindu-Sikh</u>) riots in 1984^[37] and (Hindu-Muslim) riots in 1982^[38] and in 1987, during which the <u>Hashimpura massacre</u>took place, in May 1987, when personnel of the <u>Provincial Armed Constabulary</u>(PAC) allegedly shot dead 42 Muslims, the trial of the case is still pending. In 2006, a <u>fire</u> at a consumer electronics "Brand India" fair in Victoria Park Stadium killed at least 100 people, with authorities already confirming 45 fatalities, although a specific figure on a toll was difficult to put and was predicted to be much higher [41]

The Great Upsurge of 1857

The British formally touched base in Meerut in 1803, through an arrangement with the Marathas. The cantonment of Meerut was set up in 1806 with particular key interests including its closeness to Delhi and its area inside the riclGanges – Yamuna doab. With time Meerut advanced intoone of the biggest and most vital military stations of India.

Mythology

- Meerut was founded as Mayarashtra (lit. Maya's country) b\(\) b\(\) Maya, who was the father of\(\) Mandodari, Ravana's wife in the \(\) Ramayana \(\) Meerut was the capital of Maya\(\) Thus the city is also known as 'Ravan Ka Sasural' literally meaning "Ravana's wife's home". There is an o\(\) Chandi Devi temple in the compound of Nauchandi ground. It is believed that Ravan's wife Mandodari used to come here to worship Goddess Chandi.
- Every year, after the festival of Holi, a fair is onducted at the Nauchandi grounds. There is a temple, known a chandi Devi temple, and a mosque near Bale Miyan's mausoleum facing each other Hence, this fair represents the unity between the Hindus and the Muslims.
- It is said that, this is where KingDasharatha had accidentally shotShravan begetting the curse of the old and blind parents. Therefore, Meerut is supposed to be the grounds from where the entire epicRamayana grew.

Climate

Meerut has a monsoon influenced humid subtropical climate characterised by hot summers and cooler winters. Summers last from early April to late June during and are extremely hot, with temperatures reaching 49 °C (120 °F). The monsoon arrives in late June and continues till the middle of September. Temperatures drop slightly, with plenty of cloud cover but with higher humidity. Temperatures rise again in October and the city then has a mild, dry winter season from late October to the middle of March The lowest temperature ever recorded is -0.4 °C (31.3 °F), recorded on Sunday, 6 January 2013. Annuary 2013. Rainfall is about 845 millimetres (33 in) per annum, which is suitable for growing crops. Most of the rainfall is received during themonsoon. Humidity varies from 30 to 100%. The city receives no snow

Climate data for Meerut (1971–2000)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	29.3	32.2	39.5	43.5	45.8	46.1	46.0	40.0	39.0	38.0	34.5	30.0	46.1
	(84.7)	(90)	(103.1)	(110.3)	(114.4)	(115)	(114.8)	(104)	(102.2)	(100.4)	(94.1)	(86)	(115)
Average	21.9	23.1	28.7	36.3	39.1	37.6	33.6	32.6	33.7	32.8	28.6	23.5	31.1
high °C (°F)	(71.4)	(73.6)	(83.7)	(97.3)	(102.4)	(99.7)	(92.5)	(90.7)	(92.7)	(91)	(83.5)	(74.3)	(88)
Average low	7.2	9.1	13.8	19.9	24.3	26.0	25.9	25.5	23.6	18.2	12.4	8.0	17.7
°C (°F)	(45)	(48.4)	(56.8)	(67.8)	(75.7)	(78.8)	(78.6)	(77.9)	(74.5)	(64.8)	(54.3)	(46.4)	(63.9)
Record low	0.2	0.1	5.4	8.3	15.4	17.7	16.5	19.0	15.7	7.2	1.8	0.2	0.1
°C (°F)	(32.4)	(32.2)	(41.7)	(46.9)	(59.7)	(63.9)	(61.7)	(66.2)	(60.3)	(45)	(35.2)	(32.4)	(32.2)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	19.7	24.9	24.4	12.8	19.1	71.2	269.0	264.7	95.4	25.9	4.3	13.4	845.0
	(0.776)	(0.98)	(0.961)	(0.504)	(0.752)	(2.803)	(10.591)	(10.421)	(3.756)	(1.02)	(0.169)	(0.528)	(33.268)
Average rainy days	1.5	1.7	1.7	0.9	1.6	3.9	10.2	9.4	4.2	1.6	0.4	0.9	38.0
Source: India Meteorological Department (record high and low up to 2010) [45][46]													

Geography

Meerut is the largest city in NCR after Delhi. Meerut lies between the plains of the Ganges and those of the Yamuna. In area Meerut district covers 2,522 km² (974 sq mi), which is larger than Delhi (Delhi covers an area of 1,484 km² [573 sq mi]). However, Meerut's population is three times less than that of Delhi (Current population of Meerut is 3,443,689).

Administration

General Administration

Meerut division which consists of seven districts, and is headed by the Divisional Commissionerof Meerut, who is an IAS officer of high seniority, the Commissioner is the head of local government institutions (including Municipal Corporations) in the division, is in charge of infrastructural development in his division and is also responsible for maintaining law and order in the division. [47][48][49][50][51] The District Magistrate of Meerut reports to the Divisional Commissioner. The current Commissioner is Prabhat Kumar.[52][53]

Meerut district administration is headed by the District Magistrate of Meerut, who is an IAS officer. The DM is in charge of property records and revenue colletion for the central government and oversees the elections held in the city. The DM is also responsible for maintaining law and order in the city, hence the SSP of Meerut also reports to the DM of Meerut. [47][54][55][56][57] The district is subdivided into three tehsils, namely Meerut, Mawana and Sardhana, each headed by a Sub-Divisional Magistrate The tehsils are further divided into 12 blocks. The current District Magistrate of Meerut is Anil Dhingra.

Police Administration

Meerut district comes under Meerut police zone and Meerut police range of Uttar Pradesh Police. Meerut zone is headed by an IPS officer in the rank of Additional Director General of Police (ADG), whereas Meerut range is headed by an IPS officer in the rank of Inspector General of Police (IG). The Current ADG, Meerut Zone is Prashant Kumar,^[60] whereas the current IG, Meerut Range is Ram Kuma^[61]

District Police of Meerut is headed by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) who is an IPS officer and is accountable to the District Magistrate for Law and Order enforcement. He is assisted by four Superintendents of Police (SP)/Additional Superintendent of Police (Addl. SP) (City, Rural Area, Traffic and Crime). The Meerut district is divided into numerous police circles, each headed by a Circle Officer in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. SP (Traffic) and SP (Crime) are assisted by one Circle Officer in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Blice each.^[62] The current SSP is Manzil Saini^[62]

Infrastructure and Civic Administration

The development of infrastructure in the city is overseen by Meerut Development Authority (MDA), which comes under the Housing Department of Uttar Pradesh government. The Divisional Commissionerof Meerut acts as the ex-officio Chairman of MDA, whereas a Vice Chairman, a government-appointedIAS officer, looks after the daily matters of the authority. The current Vice-Chairman of Meetit Development Authority is Sita Ram Ydav. [63]

The city is administered by Meerut Municipal Corporation, which is responsible for performing civic administrative functions administered by Municipal Commissioner (PCS Officer) whereas Mayor is ceremonial head of the Corporation. The current Municipal Commissioner of Meerut Municipal Corporation Manoj Kumar Chauhan

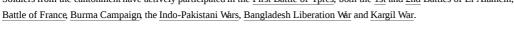
Central Government Offices

The office of the Chief Commissioner, Customs & Central Excise, Meerut Zone, has jurisdiction over 13 districts of Uttrakhand and 14 districts of Uttrakhand. This jurisdiction was carved out of the Lucknow Zone. It comprises the erstwhile Customs & Central Excise Commissionerates of Meerut & Noida. The Meerut Commissionerate was bifurcated into two Commissionerates, namely, 'Meerut-I and Ghaziabad' and the Noida Commissionerate was bifurcated into 'Noida and Meerut-II'. In addition, jurisdiction of Central Excise Division Bareilly was included in the jurisdiction of Meerut-II Commissionera [6.4]

Meerut Cantonment

Meerut Cantonment was established by the British East India Company in 1803 after the Battle of Laswari. It is the one of the largest cantonment of India both in land area 3,568.06 hectares (35.68 km²) and population of 93684 (civil + military) people as per 2011 census). [65] The Revolt of 1857 started from "Kali Paltan" in Meerut Cantonment and Indian soldiers stationed here actively participated in the rebellion. [6][11] The cantonment surrounds the old city from 3 sides – from Pallavpuram to Sainik Vihar to Ganga Nagar^[66] It is well connected with the rest of country by roads as well as by rail. The Delhi Niti Paas Road (State Highway No. 45) passes through Meerut Cantonment. [11] Meerut cantonment was the divisional headquarters of the 7th (Meerut) Division of the British Indian Armyfrom 1829 to 1920.

Soldiers from the cantonment have actively participated in the First Battle of Ypres, both the 1st and 2nd Battles of El Alamein,





Mall Road in Meerut Cantonment

It has been the regimental center of Punjab RegimentCorps of Signals, Jat Regiment, Sikh Regiment and Dogra Regiment in the past.

Development

Meerut is the 63rd-fastest-growingurban area in the world. [67] It is the 14th fastest developing city in India. A June 2011 report by US financial services firm Morgan Stanley gave Meerut the 5th spot on the "vibrancy" index, ahead of Delhi and Mumbai. [68] Meerut ranked second on both the financial penetration index, which measures things like the presence of ATMs and bank branches, and on the consumption index, indicating the city's transformation into an urban town. While the city ranked in the bottom 10 in job creations, the report suggests that overall there are plenty of signs of "potential for urbanisation," including future employment opportunities. [69] The infrastructure segment of Meerut is currently going through a boom phase with many new projects coming up in and around the city. [70][71] There are many new buildings, shopping complexes, malls, roads, flyovers and apartments coming up. The Upper Ganga Canal Expressway is also under development. On the India City Competitiveness Index, the city ranked 45th in 2010^[72] 37th in 2011^[73] and 39th in 2012^[74]



Atop an under-construction overpass

Economy

Industry

Meerut is one of the important industrial towns of western Uttar Pradesh with several traditional and modern industries.^[5] It is traditionally known for <u>handloom</u> works and <u>scissors</u> industry.^[75] Meerut was one of the first cities in northern India where publishing was set up during the 19th century. It was a major center of commercial publishing during the 1860s and 1870s. [76]

Meerut is a rich agricultural area with such pockets of land that do not fit in for crop purpose. Being in the proximity of Delhi, it is ideal for industry. It is home to 520 micro, small and medium scale industries.^[77] As of August 2006, Meerut has about 23,471 industrial units, including 15,510 small-scale units and 7,922 cottage industrie^[8]

Existing industries in the city include tyres, textile, transformer, sugar, distillery, chemical, engineering, paper, publishing, and sports goods manufacture. [75][79][77] Prospective industries includeIT and ITES. [80]

Revenue generation

Meerut has shown healthy numbers in terms of revenue generation. In 2005–06, Meerut occupied the fifth slot and contributed Rs 10,306 crore to the direct tax collection. It slipped to number six in 2006–07 when the revenue collection at Rs 11,203 crore was 18% lower than the target of Rs 13,627 crore. According to statistics compiled by the Income Tax department, Meerut contributed a Rs.10,089 crore to the national treasury in 2007/08, overall it was ranked 9th outperforming Lucknow, Jaipur, Bhopal, Kochi and Bhubaneshwar.



The cover of the book Sangeet Puranmal Ka (lit. The Music of Puranmal) by Ramlal. The book was published in 1879 from the city

Transport

Air

The nearest airport is the Indira Gandhi International Airportwhich is about 100 km away

The <u>Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Airport</u>is located at <u>Partapur</u>. It was proposed by the state government that the airstrip be converted to an international airport to reduce pressure on Delhi airport. [84] However, Plans to expand the Domestic airport were called off after protests against land acquisition started in other parts of the state. [85] Following an accident in May 2012, the city administration barred private flights from using the airstrip.

Road

By road Meerut is well-connected to major cities like <u>Delhi</u>, <u>Noida</u>, <u>Faridabad</u>, <u>Ghaziabad</u>, <u>Haridwar</u>, etc. A large number of people commute to Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon every day for work. Three national highways (<u>NH-58</u>, <u>NH-119</u> & <u>NH-235</u>) pass through Meerut. <u>Upper Ganga Canal Expressway</u> which passes through outskirts of the city is under development.

There are 2 main bus terminals, namely Bhainsali bus terminal and Sohrab Gate bus terminal from where Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) buses ply to cities all over the state and all nearby cities. A JNNURM scheme was put in place. [87] Low Floor City Buses (under JNNURM), Normal City Buses, auto rickshaws and rickshaws are convenient public transport options to commute within the city. [88] Many new transport infrastructure projects like inner ring road, outer ring road and construction of new flyovers are proposed [89][90]

Delhi-Meerut Expressway (Under Construction)

Delhi–Meerut Expressway is an under construction 90 km long controlled-access expressway connecting Delhi with Meerut via Dasna in Ghaziabad in India. While the present stretch of National Highway 24(NH-24) up to Uttar Pradesh Gate will be widened to 14 lanes from the present 8, the road between UP Gate and Dasna will be also be fourteenlaned. According to NHAI the entire construction work has been divided into three stages. The first stage will be from Delhi to Dasna (km 0 to km 27.5, 14 lanes), while the second stage will be from Dasna to Hapur (km 27.5 to km 49.9) on NH-24 (8 lanes). The third stage will include construction of a 37 km long new alignment, a green-field alignment, from Dasna to Meerut (6 lanes).

 $Prime\ Minister \underline{Narendra\ Modi}\ laid\ the\ foundation\ stone\ for\ expressway\ on\ December\ 31,\ 2015.$

Railways

Meerut lies on the Delhi–Saharanpur electrified railway line [91] and has five railway stations: Meerut City, Meerut Cantt, Partapur, Mohiuddinpur and Pabli Khas. Meerut City railway station is the busiest. The railway line between Delhi and Meerut was constructed in 1864^[30] and the Meerut Cantt station, which serves as a secondary railway station was founded in 1865.

About 20,000 passengers travel daily to Delhi and back. Around 27 pairs of trains run between Meerut and Delhi, and four between Meerut and Khurja. Two trains are available for Lucknow daily, namely Nauchandi Express and Rajya Rani Express. A weekly train goes to Chennai and Kuchuvelli. Daily trains connect Meerut to Bombay, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Rajkot and cities in other states.

Metro Project

On December 30, 2014, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet had approved the proposed Metro Rail projects in Meerut, to boost urban mass transport infrastructure in Meerut. The state government has nominated RITES Limited and Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) for preparing the respective detailed project report (DPR) and as coordinatorespectively. The development authorities would be nodal agencies for DPR. [92]

The metro project got the green signal from the divisional commissioner. It was decided in the meeting that the project would be along two corridors - Partapur to Pallavpuram Phase 2 and Rajban Market to Gokalpur village. The main stations on the first corridor will be Partapur, Panchwati Enclave, Rithani, Rithani West, Shatabdi Nagar, Devlok, Madhavpuram, Meerut Railway Station Road, Lajpat Bazaar, Begampul, Gandhi Bagh, Lekha Nagar, Pallavpuram Dorli, Ansal City and Pallavpuram Phase 2. While the corridor in the Partapur-Pallavpuram Phase 2 route will cover 20 km and will have a total number of 18 stations in between, the 10 km-long route from Rajban Market to Gokalpur village will have nine stations. [93]



Meerut City Junction

Rapid Rail

The NCR Transport Plan 2021 proposed a rail-based mass transit system called Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) between Delhi to Meerut with the Shahdara-Ghaziabad section scheduled for construction during 200111and the Ghaziabad-Meerut section scheduled for 201-21. [94]

In September 2010, the RRTS was reported to be proposed between Anand Vihar and Meerut with the project in its initial stages. The cost was projected to be around ₹1,000 crore (US\$140 million) with the expected time of the journey being 45 minutes. In November 2010, the train speed was proposed to be between 130-160 kmph with stations at Anand Vihar, Sahibabad, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai, Moradnagar, Modinagar, Meerut South, Shatabdi Nagar, Meerut Centre, Begumpul, Meerut North, Pallavpuram.

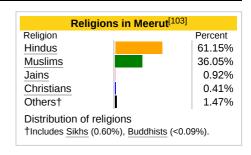
On 14 December 2010, the NCR Planning Board, Meerut Development Authority (MDA) an Meerut Nagar Nigam approved this system! In August 2011, it was reported that the project tender had been awarded to Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS). The proposed system was to have dedicated trains between Anand Vihar and Meerut, which stop nowhere in between, and trains which stop at stations to be constructed after a gap of 4–5 km. The reported stations were Anand Vihar, Vaishali, Mohan Nagar, Meerut Road (Airtel Cut) Morta, Duhai, Muradnagar, Gang Nahar, Modi Nagar, Mohiuddinpur, Meerut Bypass Cut and Pallavpuram with completion expected in 2017. The track between Anand Vihar to Dabur was proposed to be underground with the rest of the track overhead.

On 11 July 2013, the Union Cabinet of India approved the formation of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTCL) with a seed capital of ₹100 crore (US\$14 million). The corporation is to take up the construction of the 90 km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor on a priority basis (along with two other corridors) with planned completion in 2016. [99] It was reported that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the three corridors were under the process of finalisation.

In December 2013, problems were reported in the proposed alignment of the Delhi-Meerut corridor. [101] In January 2014, it was reported that the proposed alignment had to be changed due to objections by NHAI and the feasibility report had to be prepared again. The new proposed alignment increased the length from 90 km to 106 km. [102]

Demographics

According to the 2011 census, the **Meerut Urban Agglomeration (Meerut UA)** has a population of around 1.42 million, [3] (comparable to kingdom of <u>Bahrain</u> or <u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>) with the municipality contributing roughly 1.31 million of it. [2] The Meerut Urban Agglomeration consists of area falling under Meerut Municipal Coorportation, Meerut Cantonment Board and 4 <u>census towns</u> of Sindhawali, Amehra Adipur, <u>Aminagar Urf Bhurbaral</u> and <u>Mohiuddinpur. [104][105]</u> This makes Meerut the <u>33rd most populous urban agglomeration</u> and the <u>28th most populous city in India. The sex ratio in Meerut UA is 887, lower than the state average of 908; while the child sex ratio is 845, lower than the state average of 899. 12.99% of the population is under 6 years of age. [105] The overall literacy rate is 76.28%, higher than the state average of 69.72%. [3][106] Meerut has a crime rate (total cognisable crimes under <u>IPC</u> per lakh population) of 309.1, higher than the state average of 96.4 and the national average of 196.7. [107]</u>



As of 2017, Meerut ranks 328th(based on population), 189th(based on population density), 648th(based on built-up area) among world's urban areas.

According to the 2001 census, the city ranked 2nd in terms of population in $NO[R^{09}]$ and 25th in India. [110]

Demographics of Meerut Metropolitan area (Meerut UA) (Census 2011, update $^{[0^5]}$ [hide]

Metropolis	City/Town/Village ^[i]	Population			Sex Ratio	Literacy Rate ^[ii]		
		Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Total
	Meerut (CB)	53024	40288	93,312	760	87.99%	79.48%	84.33%
Meerut UA	Meerut (M Corp.)	688118	617311	1,305,429	897	80.97%	69.79%	75.66%
	Mohiuddinpur (CT)	2811	2389	5,200	850	89.17%	69.63%	80.13%
	Aminagar Urf Bhurbaral (CT)	3314	2827	6,141	853	91.01%	69.68%	81.02%
	Amehra Adipur (CT)	2844	2641	5,485	929	85.68%	68.05%	77.14%
	Sindhawali (CT)	2782	2553	5,335	918	79.92%	64.44%	72.53%
Meerut UA - Total		752,893	668,009	1,420,902	887	81.57 %	70.36 %	76.28 %

i. M Corp. = Municipal Corporation NP = Nagar panchayat NPP = Nagar Palika Parishad CB = Cantonment Board CT = Census Town

ii. For Literacy rate, population aged 7 and above only is considered in India.

Historical Population Statistics [23][30][111][a]

Year	Male	Female	Total	Growth
1847	NA	NA	29,014	
1853	NA	NA	82,035	182.74%
1872	NA	NA	81,386	-0.79%
1881	NA	NA	99,565	22.34%
1891	NA	NA	119,390	19.91%
1901	65,822 (55.53%)	52,717 (44.47%)	118,539	-0.71%
1911	66,542 (57.05%)	50,089 (42.95%)	116,631	-1.6%
1921	71,816 (58.57%)	50,793 (41.43%)	122,609	5.12%
1931	80,073 (58.57%)	56,636 (41.43%)	136,709	11.49%
1941	98,829 (58.38%)	70,461 (41.62%)	169,290	23.83%
1951	133,094 (57.08%)	100,089 (42.92%)	233,183	37.74%
1961	157,572 (55.48%)	126,425 (44.52%)	283,997	21.79%

a. Includes municipality and cantonment populations

Meerut Urban Agglomeration (Meerut UA)Population Statistics[a]

Year	Male	Female	Total	Growth rate	Sex ratio ^[b]
2001 ^[112]	621,481 (53.50%)	540,235 (46.50%)	1,161,716	NA	NA
2011 ^{[3][105][c]}	752,893 (52.99%)	668,009 (47.01%)	1,420,902	22.31%	887

- a. For Meerut Urban Agglomeration, includes municipality and cantonment populations and 4 census towns of Sindhawali, Amehra Adipur , Aminagar Urf Bhurbaral and Mohiuddinpur.
- b. In females per 1000 males
- c. Provisional Data was revised and finalized when govt. updated 2011 census data on 20 May 2013.

Literacy Rate (Percentage)

Year	Male	Female	Total
2001 ^[113]	65.22	53.17	59.62
2011 ^{[105][3]}	83.74 (+18.52)	72.19 (+19.02)	78.29 (+18.67)

Culture

Most traditional Indian festivals, including Holi, Dussehra, Diwali, Eid among others are celebrated with fervor in the city. Notably, a fair by the name of *Nauchandi Fair* is held two weeks after Holi every year. [114] The fair, which started in 1672, [115] continues for about 15 days and is attended by lakhs of people. It includes events such as poetry recitations in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi etc. [116] The Khariboli dialect of the Hindustani language is the dominant language for conversation with official business being conducted in either English, Hindi or Urdu.

Meerut is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Meerut Diocese, which covers the districts of Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Dehradun, Haridwar, Moradabad, Rampur, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Ghaziabad, Baghpat and Dhampur Tehsil of Bijnor district.^[117]



Mustafa Castlewas built in 1900

Nauchandi Mela (Fair)

The **Nauchandi Mela** is an annual <u>fair</u> held at Nauchandi Ground in Meerut.^{[118][119]} The fair stretches for about a month and is organized by the Municipal Corporation of Meerut. It generally starts from the second Sunday after <u>Holi. [118]</u> The main exhibits are the artistic and religious rituals followed in rustic Uttar Pradesh. The fair witness more than 50,000 visitors every year. The Indian Railways' Nauchandi Expresstrain is named after this fair

The fair has a prominent history dating back several hundreds of years. It started in the year 1672 AD as a one-day cattle trading fair. The fair has been held every year excluding 1858, the year after 1857 revolt, which started from Meerut^[120]

Since then cattle trading has been replaced by a number of other activities. The fair feature shops for $\underline{Lucknow}$'s \underline{Chikan} work, $\underline{Moradabad}$'s $\underline{brassware}$, $\underline{Varanasi}$'s carpets, rugs and silk \underline{sarees} , \underline{Agra} 's footwear, \underline{Meerut} 's leather items, etc. \underline{Meerut} 's own products like sports goods, scissors, \underline{gajaks} , $\underline{nan-khatai}$ are also sold. $\underline{I119}$ \underline{Giant} \underline{rides} , \underline{wheels} , circus and various other recreational arenas where artists perform stunts, remains a big attraction of the $\underline{falt^{21}}$



One of the entrance gates of Nauchandi mela ground at Meerut.

Film and television

Meerut is home to a film industry, which has a following in Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The films are usually folklore stories or comedies or localised versions of Bollywood hits.^[122]

Notable people from Meerut in the film and television industry include Bharat Bhushan, Aziz Mian, Mandakini, M

Education

Meerut is an education hub of Western Uttar Pradesh with four universities, approximately 50 engineering colleges, 23 management colleges, seven pharmacy colleges, four colleges offering hotel management, one college offering fashion design, over 150 academic colleges and over 50 schools. The city is home to Chaudhary Charan Singh University (formerly Meerut University), Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University and Shobhit University. The city has one government-run engineering college, Sir Chhotu Ram Institute of Engineering and Technology, a constituent college of Chaudhary Charan Singh University. There are schools affiliated to recognized boards such as ICSE, CBSE, IB and the state board. One such school is the St. John's Sr. Sec School (established by Begum Samru) which is over 130 years old, also the first IB school in Uttar Pradesh was Mya Global school.

Meerut Institute of Engineering & Technology is the oldest engineering institute of Meerut district. It was established in year 1997.

Chaudhary Charan Singh University(CCSU) is public and state university which has many degree colleges affiliated to it. They fall in two divisions: Saharanpur and Meerut with nine districts including Saharanpur, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Gautam Budh Nagar, Bagpat, Hapur, Bulandshahr and Ghaziabad administered by Vice-Chancellor and Registrar (PCS officer). The Indian Film and Television Institute is located at the western bypass of the city. The city has three medical colleges: Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, Subharti Medical Collegeand Mulayam Singh Yadav Medical College & Hospial.

The nearest government university which offers degrees in Engineering, Science, Management and Humanities i Gautam Buddha Universitylocated in Greater Noida.

Media

Meerut is becoming a media centre, as journalists from all over <u>Uttar Pradesh</u> and other Indian states are working in Meerut. Radio stations shared with Delhi are <u>Radio City</u> 91.1 MHz, <u>Big FM</u> 92.7 MHz, <u>Red FM</u> 93.5 MHz, <u>Radio One</u> 94.3 MHz, Hit 95 (95 MHz), <u>Radio Mirchi</u> 98.3 MHz, <u>AIR FM Rainbow</u> 102.6 MHz, <u>Meow FM</u> 104.8 MHz, <u>AIR FM Gold</u> 106.4 MHz. Radio <u>IIMT</u> (90.4 MHz)^[130] is the only radio station located in the city. The Hindi-language daily newspapers <u>Hindustan (newspaper)</u> Rajasthan Patrika, <u>Dainik Jagran</u> [131] <u>Amar Ujala</u> Dainik Janwani, The Hindu, Rashtrasewa, Dainik Jagran I-Next are published from the city. The English daily <u>Times of India</u>, Meerut edition [132] and the English language supplement HT CityMeerut with <u>Hindustan Times</u> is also published there. Moneymakers, an English daily is also published there. Asian Express, Hindi newspaper and news magazine Citizen of the **W**rld are also published there.

Sports Industries

Meerut is one of the prominent Center in the country besides <u>Jalandhar</u> for the manufacture of sports goods. There are numerous sports companies in the city especially for cricket namely <u>SS</u>, <u>SF</u>, <u>SG</u>, <u>BDM</u>. Players like <u>MS Dhoni</u>, <u>Virender Sehwag Yuvraj Singh</u>, <u>Kieron Pollard</u>, <u>Virat Kohli</u>, <u>Kumar Sangakkara</u> and many others have used bats made in Meerut.

Crime

The crime rate in the city is surprisingly high. In 2015, it was reported that Meerut had the second highest Murder Rate in India. [134] In 2009, Meerut topped the list of Uttar Pradesh cities in facing crimes. [135] Most of the stolen vehicles are reported to be sold off in Meerut. [136] Recently, a factory and shops selling fake protein supplements were raided. [137]

Tourist destinations

Tourist destinations in and around Meerut include:

- Jain temples, Hastinapur Located on the banks of old ravine of Ganges, Hastinapur is considered one of the holiest places on earth by Jains. It is believed to be the birthplace of three Jaininthankaras. There are many ancient Jain temples in Hastinapur Shri Digamber Jain Mandir, Jambudweep, Kailash Parvat rachna, Shwetambar Jain Temple are the main and famous temples in Hastinapur Apart from Jain temples, Pandeshwar temple, Historical Gurdwara and Hastinapur Sanctuaryare worth being seen [138]
- St. John's Church This church was established by Chaplain the Reverend Henry Fisher on behalf of theast India Company in 1819 in the cantonment area and was completed in 182½. It is considered one of the oldest churches in North India. The Church was dedicated to the people by Bishop Wilson. It has a seating capacity of 10,000 people. During the war of 1857, this church was the scene of heavy fighting between Indians and the British forces.
- Augarnath Temple This temple (also known as Kalipaltan Mandir locally) is located at the site where the soldiers of the war of 1857 planned their operations. The temple also houses a memorial built to honour the martyrs of the revolt of 1857, Indian Rebellion of 1857. The old temple has been replaced by a modern version [140]
- Jama Masjid The Jama Masjid was built by Hasan MahdiSultan Mahmud Ghaznavs Wazir (=Chief Minister) in 1019 AD (older than theQutb Minar). [15][141] That makes it the firstMasjid in North India. hough it was restored by Humayun, [15][141] it is one of the oldest mosques in India.



Ashtapad Jain temple, Hastinapur

- Martyr's Memorial (Hindi: शहीद स्मारक Shaheed Smarak): The memorial is a 30 metres (98 feet) high pillar of marble situated at Bhainsali. Functions are organised at the memorial around thenational holidays of India [17] The memorial complex also houses the Government Freedom Struggle Museum which is dedicated to the first war of Indian independence [142]
- Gandhi Bagh This centrally located garden has a very beautiful and serene environment. Locally known as "Company Garden", it has been present since before independence, when it got renamed to its current name. It runs a musical fountain show every evening. The park also houses a small water storage chamber and motor which is noted to have been removed from the Fort in Delhi and erected here. Earlier the garden used to have multiple entrances,

similar to the one shown in the image, which were always kept open, and there was no entry fee. But nownly one entrance is kept open and a ticketing system with nominal charges has been put in place.

- Shahpeer's Mausoleum(<u>Hindi</u>: शाहपीर की दरगाह Shahpeer ki dargah) This is a Mughal mausoleum erected by the empress <u>Nur Jahan</u> in 1628 in honour of a local Muslim Hazrat Shahpee^{[141][143]} It is a red stone structure that was partly built and is incomplete till date^[143] The tomb is adorned by intricate Nakkashi (stone painting). There is no roof on the main tomb. It is saidhat Shahpeer was the teacher of Mughal Empero<u>dehangir</u>. The tomb is listed by the Archaeological Survey of Indiaas a national heritage monument^{[142][144]}
- Shahi Eid Gaah (Hindi: शाही ईदगाह) It was built by Nasir ud din Mahmud the youngest son of Illutmish, and the eighth Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate. It is about six hundred years old and has a capacity of about one lac people to offer prayers (Namaz) on Eid. There is Nakkashi on the walls of Eidgah which reflect the Sulatani Gulam era.
- Parikshitgarh Fort

 — The place is associated with and derives its name from King Parikshit of Hastinapur (the grandson of Arjuna). The fort was built by Parikshit and restored b@urjar Raja Nain Singh in the eighteenth century.[12][15]
- Dargah of Baley Miyan(<u>Hindi</u>: बले मिटााँ की दरगाह Bale Miyan ki Dargah) This dargah was built by<u>Qutb-ud-din Aybak</u> in 1194 in the memory of<u>Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud</u>(known locally as Baley Miyan).^{[15][145]} An *urs* is organised annually at the Dargah during the Nauchandi fai^[15] It is adjacent to the Chandi Devi Mandirwhich signifies the Hindu-Muslim unity
- Suraj Kund This is a pond, built by a businessman Lawar Jahawar Lal in 1714. It is filled with water from the Ganga Canal. It is surrounded by several temples, including the Baba Manohar Nath temple, which is said to have been built during the period of Shahjaharf. It is also believed that there are a total of five ponds (kunds) in India out of which Suraj kund of Meerut is the biggestThe pond was naturally filled with the sacred water but with time it evaporated and the pond was left all dried. Presentlythe Municipal Corporation has transformed it into a public place of visit with entry ticket at a cost.

Other places of interest include Mansa Devi Temple, Baleni, Basilica of Our Lady of Graces, <u>Sardhana</u> and the Chandi Devi Temple which was built by <u>Holkar</u> queen <u>Devi Ahiliyabai Holkar</u> [15][17]



Indian Rebellion of 1857

- Dhan Singh Gurjar, [146].
- Kadam Singh,was a leader of agroup of <u>Gurjars</u> who fought against the <u>British East India Company</u>during the <u>Indian Rebellion of 1857.^[147]</u>



Raja Nain Singhalso known as was a notable Gurjar king of Meerut district in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh in the 18th century

Politics

- Somendra Tomar, Member of the Legislative Assemblyfor Meerut South
- Ravindra Kumar Bhadana politician. [148]
- Mriganka Singh politician. [149]
- Malook Nagar, businessman and politician^[150]
- Lakhi Ram Nagar, businessman and politician^[151]
- Hemlata Chaudhary, politician^[152]

Sports

- Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Indian Cricketer
- <u>Karn Sharma</u>, Indian Cricketer
- Praveen Kumar, Indian Cricketer
- Shivam Mavi, Indian Cricketer^[153].
- Dharampal Singh Gudha, Oldest Gurjar athlete [154].

See also

- 2006 Meerut fire
- Meerut division
- Meerut district
- Meerut (Lok Sabha constituency)
- Meerut (Assembly constituency)
- Meerut Cantt. (Assembly constituency)
- Meerut South (Assembly constituency)
- Hapur (Assembly constituency)
- Kithore (Assembly constituency)



Augarnath Temple at 2nd Navratri



Statue of Mangal Pandey at Martyr's Memorial



An entrance to Gandhi Bagh



Suraj Kunda Park Meerut

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External links

- Old Village Mahadeo
- Official website
- Government Freedom Struggle Museum, Meerut

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