

Delhi

Delhi (English: /ˈdɛli/; Hindi: [ˈd̪ɪːliː] *Dillī*; Punjabi: [ˈd̪ɪːliː] *Dillī*; Urdu: [ˈd̪ɛɦliː] *Dêhlī*),^[15] officially the **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi**, is a city and a union territory of India containing New Delhi, the capital of India.^{[16][17]} It is bordered by the state of Haryana on three sides and by Uttar Pradesh to the east. The NCT covers an area of 1,484 square kilometres (573 sq mi).^[5] According to the 2011 census, Delhi's city proper population was over 11 million,^[6] the second-highest in India after Mumbai,^[18] while the whole NCT's population was about 16.8 million.^[7] Delhi's urban area is now considered to extend beyond the NCT boundaries, and include the neighbouring satellite cities of Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Noida in an area called the National Capital Region (NCR) and had an estimated 2016 population of over 26 million people, making it the world's second-largest urban area according to the United Nations.^[8] Recent estimates of the metro economy of its urban area have ranked Delhi either the most or second-most productive metro area of India.^{[11][19]} Delhi is the second-wealthiest city in India after Mumbai and is home to 18 billionaires and 23,000 millionaires.^[20] Delhi ranks fifth among the Indian states and union territories in human development index.^[13] Delhi has the second-highest GDP per capita in India.^[10] Delhi is of great historical significance as an important commercial, transport, and cultural hub, as well as the political centre of India.^[21]

Delhi is one of the oldest cities in the world, and has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BCE.^[22] Through most of its history, Delhi has served as a capital of various kingdoms and empires, most notably the Tomars, Chahamanas, Delhi Sultanate and Mughals. It is also assumed to be the location of Indraprastha, the capital of the Pandavas in the epic *Mahabharata*. The city has been captured, ransacked and rebuilt several times, particularly during the medieval period, and modern Delhi is a cluster of a number of cities spread across the metropolitan region. For many centuries Delhi has been a dominant trading and commercial centre in northern India, and since the 1990s it has emerged as an important node in the international corporate and financial network.^[23]

A union territory, the political administration of the NCT of Delhi today more closely resembles that of a state of India, with its own legislature, high court and an executive council of ministers headed by a Chief Minister. New Delhi is jointly administered by the federal government of India and the local government of Delhi, and serves as the capital of the nation as well as the NCT of Delhi. Delhi hosted the inaugural 1951 Asian Games, 1982 Asian Games, 1983 NAM Summit, 2010 Men's Hockey World Cup, 2010 Commonwealth Games, 2012 BRICS Summit and was one of the major host cities of the 2011 Cricket World Cup.

Delhi is also the centre of the National Capital Region (NCR), which is a unique 'interstate regional planning' area created by the National Capital Region Planning Board Act of 1985.^{[24][25]}

Delhi

Union Territory and Megacity

National Capital Territory of Delhi



From top clockwise: Lotus Temple, Humayun's Tomb, Connaught Place, Akshardham temple and India Gate



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi

Emblem

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Toponym

There are a number of myths and legends associated with the origin of the name *Delhi*. One of them is derived from *Dhillu* or *Dilu*, a king who built a city at this location in 50 BCE and named it after himself.^{[26][27][28]} Another legend holds that the name of the city is based on the Hindi/Prakrit word *dhili* (*loose*) and that it was used by the Tomaras to refer to the city because the iron pillar of Delhi had a weak foundation and had to be moved.^[28] According to Panjab Notes and Queries, the name of the city at the time of King Prithviraj was *dilpat*, and that *dilpat* and *dilli* are probably derived from the old Hindi word *dil* meaning "eminence". The former director of the Archaeological Survey of India,

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Location of Delhi in India	
Coordinates: 28°36′36″N 77°13′48″E﻿ / ﻿	
Country	 India
Settled	c. 2600 BCE
City Formation	c. 1052 CE
Capital formation	1911
Formation of Union Territory ^{[1][2]}	1956
Formation of National Capital Territory ^[3]	1 February 1992
Founded by	<u>Anangpal Tomar</u>
Capital	<u>New Delhi</u>
Districts	<u>11</u>
Government <div></div>	
 • Body	<u>Government of Delhi</u>
 • <u>Lt. Governor</u>	<u>Anil Baijal, IAS^[4]</u>
 • <u>Chief Minister</u>	<u>Arvind Kejriwal (AAP)</u>
 • <u>Deputy Chief Minister</u>	<u>Manish Sisodia (AAP)</u>
 • <u>Legislature</u>	<u>Unicameral (70 seats)</u>
 • <u>Parliamentary constituencies</u>	<u>Rajya Sabha (3 seats)</u> <div><u>Lok Sabha (7 seats)</u></div>
Area ^[5]	
 • <u>Union territory</u>	1,484.0 km ² (573.0 sq mi)
 • Water	18 km ² (6.9 sq mi)
Area rank	<u>31st</u>
Elevation <div></div>	200–250 m (650–820 ft)
Population (2011) ^[6]	
 • <u>Union territory</u>	16,787,941
 • Density	11,312/km ² (29,298/sq mi)
 • <u>Urban</u> ^[7]	16,349,831 (<u>1st</u>)
 • <u>Megacity</u> ^[6]	11,034,555 (<u>2nd</u>)
 • <u>Metro (2016)</u> ^[8]	26,454,000 (<u>1st</u>)

Alexander Cunningham, mentioned that *dilli* later became *dihli/dehli*.^[29] Some suggest the coins in circulation in the region under the Tomaras were called *dehliwal*.^[30] According to the *Bhavishya Purana*, King Prithiviraja of *Indraprastha* built a new fort in the modern-day *Purana Qila* area for the convenience of all four castes in his kingdom. He ordered the construction of a gateway to the fort and later named the fort *dehali*.^[31] Some historians believe that *Dhilli* or *Dhillika* is the original name for the city while others believe the name could be a corruption of the *Hindustani* words *dehleez* or *dehali*—both terms meaning "threshold" or "gateway"—and symbolic of the city as a gateway to the *Gangetic Plain*.^{[32][33][34]}

The people of Delhi are referred to as *Delhiites* or *Dilliwalas*.^[35] The city is referenced in various idioms of the Northern *Indo-Aryan languages*. Examples include:

- *Abhī Dillī dūr hai* (अभी दिल्ली दूर है) or its *Persian* version, *Hanuz Dehli dur ast* (هنوز دهلی دور است), literally meaning "Delhi is still far away", which is generically said about a task or journey still far from completion.^{[36][37]}
- *Dillī dilvālon kā śahar* (दिल्ली दिलवालों का शहर) or *Dillī dilvālon kī* (दिल्ली दिलवालों की), meaning "Delhi belongs to the large-hearted/daring".^[38]
- *Ās-pās barse, Dillī pānī tarse* (आस-पास बरसे, दिल्ली पानी तरसे), literally meaning "It pours all around, while Delhi lies parched". An allusion to the sometimes semi-arid climate of Delhi, it idiomatically refers to situations of deprivation when one is surrounded by plenty.^[37]

Demonym(s)	Delhiite
Languages	
• Official	Hindi • English ^[9]
• Additional official	Punjabi • Urdu ^[9]
GDP (2018–19) ^[10]	
• Nominal	₹14.80 lakh crore (US\$210 billion)
• Nominal Per Capita	₹365,529 (US\$5,100)
• Metro GDP/PPP (2016)	\$370 billion ^[11]
Time zone	UTC+5.30 (IST)
PINs ^[12]	110000–110099
Area code(s)	+91 11
ISO 3166 code	IN-DL
Vehicle registration	DL
HDI (2018)	▲ 0.746 ^[13] (High) · 5th
Literacy (2011)	86.21% ^[14]
Sex ratio (2011)	868 ♀ /1000 ♂ ^[14]
Website	delhi.gov.in (http://delhi.gov.in/)

History

Ancient and Early Medieval Periods

The area around Delhi was probably inhabited before the second millennium BCE and there is evidence of continuous inhabitation since at least the 6th-century BCE.^[22] There was *Ochre Coloured Pottery culture* in *Red fort* area which began around c.2600 BCE. Around c.1200 BCE the region was inhabited by people of *Painted Grey Ware culture* and was part of *Kuru Kingdom*.^[39] The city is believed to be the site of *Indraprastha*, the legendary capital of the *Pandavas* in the Indian epic *Mahabharata*.^[26] According to the *Mahabharata*, this land was initially a huge mass of forests called 'Khandavaprastha' which was burnt down by the *Pandavas* to build the city of *Indraprastha*. Later *Kurus* were defeated by the non-Vedic *Salva tribe*.

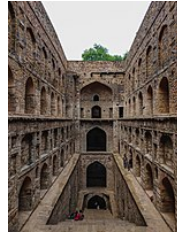
The earliest architectural relics date back to the *Maurya* period (c. 300 BCE); in 1966, an inscription of the Mauryan Emperor *Ashoka* (273–235 BCE) was discovered near *Srinivasपुरi*. Remains of several major cities can be found in Delhi. The first of these were in the southern part of present-day Delhi. King *Anang Pal* of the *Tomara dynasty* founded the city of *Lal Kot* in 1052 CE. *Prithviraj Chauhan* conquered *Lal Kot* in 1178 and renamed it *Qila Rai Pithora*.



The ancient Yogmaya Temple, claimed to be one of the five temples from the era of Mahabharata in Indraprastha.^[40]



The iron pillar of Delhi is said to have been fashioned at the time of Chandragupta a Vikramaditya (375–413 CE) of the Gupta Empire.^[41]



Agrasen ki Baoli is believed to be originally built by the legendary king Agrasen.^[42]



The bastion of Lal Kot fort in Delhi's Mehrauli attributed to the Tomara ruler, Anangpal in c. 1052 CE.^[43]



Sculpture of ancient temple in Qutb Minar complex

Late Medieval Period

The king Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated in 1192 by Muhammad Ghori in the second battle of Tarain, an invader from Afghanistan, who made a concerted effort to conquer northern India.^[26] By 1200, native Hindu resistance had begun to crumble, and the Muslim invaders were victorious. The newfound dominance of Muslim dynasties in north India would last for the next five centuries. The slave general of Ghori, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, was given the responsibility of governing the conquered territories of India until Ghori returned to his capital, Ghor. When Ghori died without an heir in 1206 CE, his territories fractured, with various generals claiming sovereignty over different areas. Qutb-ud-din assumed control of Ghori's Indian possessions, and laid the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mamluk dynasty. He began construction of the Qutb Minar and Quwwat-al-Islam (Might of Islam) mosque, the earliest extant mosque in India. It was his successor, Iluttmish (1211–1236), who consolidated the Turkic conquest of northern India.^{[26][44]} Razia Sultan, daughter of Iluttmish, succeeded him as the Sultan of Delhi. She was the first and only woman to rule over Delhi prior to the British Raj.



Museum and remnants of the walls at Qila Rai Pithora, the first city of Delhi, and ruled by Prithviraj Chauhan.

For the next three hundred years, Delhi was ruled by a succession of Turkic and an Afghan, Lodi dynasty. They built several forts and townships that are part of the seven cities of Delhi.^[46] Delhi was a major centre of Sufism during this period.^[47] The Mamluk Sultanate (Delhi) was overthrown in 1290 by Jalal ud din Firuz Khalji (1290–1320). Under the second Khalji ruler, Ala-ud-din Khalji, the Delhi sultanate extended its control south of the Narmada River in the Deccan. The Delhi sultanate reached its greatest extent during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq (1325–1351). In an attempt to bring the whole of the Deccan under control, he moved his capital to Daulatabad, Maharashtra in central India. However, by moving away from Delhi he lost control of the north and was forced to return to Delhi to restore order. The southern provinces then broke away. In the years following the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351–1388), the Delhi Sultanate rapidly began to lose its hold over its northern provinces. Delhi was captured and sacked by Timur in 1398,^[48] who massacred 100,000 captive civilian.^[49] Delhi's decline continued under the Sayyid dynasty (1414–1451), until the sultanate was reduced to Delhi and its hinterland. Under the Afghan Lodi dynasty (1451–1526), the Delhi sultanate recovered control of the Punjab and the Gangetic plain to once again achieve domination over Northern India. However, the recovery was short-lived and the sultanate was destroyed in 1526 by Babur, founder of the Mughal dynasty.

Early Modern Period



At 72.5 m (238 ft), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Qutub Minar is the world's tallest free-standing brick minaret.^[45]



Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the main residence of the Mughal emperors for nearly 200 years. The location is currently used by the Prime Minister of India to address the nation on Indian Independence Day.

Muhammad Shah I to beg him for mercy and granting him the keys of the city and the royal treasury.^[59] A treaty signed in 1752 made Marathas the protectors of the Mughal throne in Delhi.^[60]

Jat ruler Maharaja Suraj Mal attacked Delhi on 9 May 1753. He defeated Nawab of Delhi Ghazi-ud-din (second) on 10 May 1753 and captured Delhi.^[61] Jats sacked Delhi from 9 May 1753 to 4 June 1753.^[62] In 1757, the Afghan ruler, Ahmad Shah Durrani, sacked Delhi. He returned to Afghanistan leaving a Mughal ruler named Alamgir II in nominal control. The Marathas again occupied Delhi in 1758, and were in control until their defeat in 1761 at the Third Battle of Panipat when the city was captured again by Ahmad Shah Durrani.^[63] However, in 1771, the Marathas established a protectorate over Delhi when the Maratha ruler, Mahadji Shinde, recaptured Delhi and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II was installed as a client of the Maratha Confederacy in 1772.^[64] In 1783, Sikhs under Baghel Singh captured Delhi and Red Fort but due to the treaty signed, Sikhs withdrew from Red Fort and agreed to restore Shah Alam II as the emperor.

Colonial Period

In 1803, during the Second Anglo-Maratha War, the forces of British East India Company defeated the Maratha forces in the Battle of Delhi.^[65]

Babur was a descendant of Genghis Khan and Timur, from the Fergana Valley in modern-day Uzbekistan. In 1526, he invaded India, defeated the last Lodhi sultan in the First Battle of Panipat and founded the Mughal Empire that ruled from Delhi and Agra.^[26] The Mughal dynasty ruled Delhi for more than three centuries, with a sixteen-year hiatus during the reigns of Sher Shah Suri and Hemu from 1540 to 1556.^[50] In 1553, the Hindu king Hemu acceded to the throne of Delhi by defeating the forces of Mughal Emperor Humayun at Agra and Delhi. However, the Mughals re-established their rule after Akbar's army defeated Hemu during the Second Battle of Panipat in 1556.^{[51][52][53]} Shah Jahan built the seventh city of Delhi that bears his name Shahjahanabad, which served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1638 and is today known as the Old City or Old Delhi.^[54]

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the Mughal Empire's influence declined rapidly as the Hindu Maratha Empire from Deccan Plateau rose to prominence.^[55] In 1737, Maratha forces led by Baji Rao I sacked Delhi following their victory against the Mughals in the First Battle of Delhi. In 1739, the Mughal Empire lost the huge Battle of Kamal in less than three hours against the numerically outnumbered but militarily superior Persian army led by Nader Shah of Persia. After his invasion, he completely sacked and looted Delhi, carrying away immense wealth including the Peacock Throne, the Daria-i-Noor, and Koh-i-Noor. The Mughals, severely further weakened, could never overcome this crushing defeat and humiliation which also left the way open for more invaders to come, including eventually the British.^{[56][57][58]} Nader eventually agreed to leave the city and India after forcing the Mughal emperor



Hemu, after taking control of Delhi, claimed royal status, assumed the ancient Hindu title of Vikramaditya, and resisted Mughals in the 16th century.



Peshwa Baji Rao I, who sacked Delhi in the First Battle of Delhi, 1737.

During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, Delhi fell to the forces of East India Company after a bloody fight known as the Siege of Delhi. The city came under the direct control of the British Government in 1858. It was made a district province of the Punjab.^[26] In 1911, it was announced that the capital of British-held territories in India was to be transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.^[66] The name "New Delhi" was given in 1927, and the new capital was inaugurated on 13 February 1931. New Delhi, also known as *Lutyens' Delhi*,^[67] was officially declared as the capital of the Union of India after the country gained independence on 15 August 1947.^[68] During the partition of India, thousands of Hindu and Sikh refugees, mainly from West Punjab fled to Delhi, while many Muslim residents of the city migrated to Pakistan. Migration to Delhi from the rest of India continues (as of 2013), contributing more to the rise of Delhi's population than the birth rate, which is declining.^[69]

Post-Independence

The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 created the Union Territory of Delhi from its predecessor, the *Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi*.^{[1][2]} The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi.^[3] The Act gave Delhi its own legislative assembly along Civil lines, though with limited powers.^[3]

In 2001, the Parliament of India building in New Delhi was attacked by armed militants, killing six security personnel.^[70] India suspected Pakistan-based militant groups were behind the attack, which caused a major diplomatic crisis between the two countries.^[71] There were further terrorist attacks in Delhi in 2005 and 2008, resulting in a total of 103 deaths.^[72]

Ecology

Delhi is located in Northern India, at 28.61°N 77.23°E. The city is bordered on its northern, western, and southern sides by the state of Haryana and to the east by that of Uttar Pradesh (UP). Two prominent features of the geography of Delhi are the Yamuna flood plains and the Delhi ridge. The Yamuna River was the historical boundary between Punjab and UP, and its flood plains provide fertile alluvial soil suitable for agriculture but are prone to recurrent floods. The Yamuna, a sacred river in Hinduism, is the only major river flowing through Delhi. The Hindon River separates Ghaziabad from the eastern part of Delhi. The Delhi ridge originates from the Aravalli Range in the south and encircles the west, northeast, and northwest parts of the city. It reaches a height of 318 m (1,043 ft) and is a dominant feature of the region.^[77] In addition to the wetlands formed by the Yamuna river, Delhi continues to retain over 500 ponds (wetlands < 5 ha), that in turn support considerable number of bird species.^[78] Delhi's ponds, despite experiencing ecological deterioration due to garbage dumping and concretization, supports the largest number of bird species known to be using ponds anywhere in the world.^[79] Existing policy in Delhi prevents the conversion of wetlands and, quite inadvertently, has led to the city's ponds becoming invaluable refugia for birds.^{[78][79]}

The National Capital Territory of Delhi covers an area of 1,484 km² (573 sq mi), of which 783 km² (302 sq mi) is designated rural, and 700 km² (270 sq mi) urban therefore making it the largest city in terms of area in the country. It has a length of 51.9 km (32 mi) and a width of 48.48 km (30 mi).

Delhi is included in India's seismic zone-IV, indicating its vulnerability to major earthquakes.^[80]

Climate

Delhi features a dry-winter humid subtropical climate (Köppen Cwa) bordering a hot semi-arid climate (Köppen BSh). The warm season lasts from 21 March to 15 June with an average daily high temperature above 39 °C (102 °F). The hottest day of the year is 22 May, with an average high of 40 °C (104 °F) and low of 28 °C (82 °F).^[81] The cold season lasts from 26



Raghunath Rao, the Maratha Empire's Peshwa who played a key role in capturing Delhi from the Afghans in the Second Battle of Delhi.



Aerial view of Delhi in April 2016 with river Yamuna in top-right.

Local symbols of Delhi

Animal	Nilgai ^[73]	
Bird	House sparrow ^{[74][75]}	
Tree	Not designated ^[76]	
Flower	Alfalfa ^[73]	

November to 9 February with an average daily high temperature below 20 °C (68 °F). The coldest day of the year is 4 January, with an average low of 2 °C (36 °F) and high of 14 °C (57 °F).^[81] In early March, the wind direction changes from north-westerly to south-westerly. From April to October the weather is hot. The monsoon arrives at the end of June, along with an increase in humidity.^[82] The brief, mild winter starts in late November, peaks in January and heavy fog often occurs.^[83]

Temperatures in Delhi usually range from 2 to 47 °C (35.6 to 116.6 °F), with the lowest and highest temperatures ever recorded being −2.2 and 48.4 °C (28.0 and 119.1 °F), respectively.^[84] The annual mean temperature is 25 °C (77 °F); monthly mean temperatures range from 13 to 32 °C (55 to 90 °F). The highest temperature recorded in July was 45 °C (113 °F) in 1931.^{[85][86]} The average annual rainfall is approximately 886 mm (34.9 in), most of which falls during the monsoon in July and August.^[26] The average date of the advent of monsoon winds in Delhi is 29 June.^[87]

Climate data for New Delhi (Safdarjung) 1981–2010, extremes 1901–present													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	32.4 (90.3)	34.1 (93.4)	40.6 (105.1)	45.6 (114.1)	47.2 (117.0)	46.7 (116.1)	45.0 (113.0)	42.0 (107.6)	40.6 (105.1)	39.4 (102.9)	36.1 (97.0)	30.0 (86.0)	47.2 (117.0)
Mean maximum °C (°F)	25.5 (77.9)	29.1 (84.4)	35.3 (95.5)	41.3 (106.3)	43.7 (110.7)	43.8 (110.8)	39.7 (103.5)	37.4 (99.3)	37.1 (98.8)	36.0 (96.8)	32.2 (90.0)	27.0 (80.6)	44.5 (112.1)
Average high °C (°F)	20.5 (68.9)	23.9 (75.0)	29.6 (85.3)	36.3 (97.3)	39.5 (103.1)	39.2 (102.6)	35.4 (95.7)	34.1 (93.4)	34.1 (93.4)	32.8 (91.0)	28.2 (82.8)	23.1 (73.6)	31.4 (88.5)
Daily mean °C (°F)	14.1 (57.4)	17.4 (63.3)	22.7 (72.9)	28.9 (84.0)	32.7 (90.9)	33.2 (91.8)	31.4 (88.5)	30.3 (86.5)	29.6 (85.3)	26.0 (78.8)	20.5 (68.9)	15.5 (59.9)	25.2 (77.4)
Average low °C (°F)	7.6 (45.7)	10.4 (50.7)	15.6 (60.1)	21.3 (70.3)	25.8 (78.4)	27.9 (82.2)	27.4 (81.3)	26.6 (79.9)	25.0 (77.0)	19.1 (66.4)	12.9 (55.2)	8.3 (46.9)	19.0 (66.2)
Mean minimum °C (°F)	4.1 (39.4)	6.1 (43.0)	10.7 (51.3)	16.0 (60.8)	20.8 (69.4)	22.3 (72.1)	24.0 (75.2)	23.6 (74.5)	21.7 (71.1)	14.7 (58.5)	8.6 (47.5)	4.6 (40.3)	3.6 (38.5)
Record low °C (°F)	−0.6 (30.9)	1.6 (34.9)	4.4 (39.9)	10.7 (51.3)	15.2 (59.4)	18.0 (64.4)	20.3 (68.5)	20.7 (69.3)	17.3 (63.1)	9.4 (48.9)	3.9 (39.0)	0.0 (32.0)	−0.6 (30.9)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	19.3 (0.76)	22.1 (0.87)	15.9 (0.63)	13.0 (0.51)	31.5 (1.24)	82.2 (3.24)	187.3 (7.37)	232.5 (9.15)	129.8 (5.11)	14.3 (0.56)	4.9 (0.19)	9.4 (0.37)	762.3 (30.01)
Average rainy days	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	2.5	4.6	9.4	9.8	5.5	1.0	0.5	0.9	40.1
Average relative humidity (%) (at 17:30 IST)	52	42	35	23	26	39	62	66	58	44	48	54	45
Mean monthly sunshine hours	220.1	223.2	248.0	276.0	285.2	219.0	179.8	176.7	219.0	260.4	246.0	220.1	2,773.5
Mean daily sunshine hours	7.1	7.9	8.0	9.2	9.2	7.3	5.8	5.7	7.3	8.4	8.2	7.1	7.6
Source 1: India Meteorological Department (sun 1971–2000) ^{[88][89][90][91][92][93][94]}													
Source 2: Tokyo Climate Center (mean temperatures 1981–2010) ^[95]													

Climate data for Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) 1981–2010, extremes 1956–present													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	31.0 (87.8)	35.7 (96.3)	41.3 (106.3)	45.3 (113.5)	48.4 (119.1)	47.6 (117.7)	45.7 (114.3)	43.2 (109.8)	40.8 (105.4)	40.7 (105.3)	36.4 (97.5)	30.4 (86.7)	48.4 (119.1)
Mean maximum °C (°F)	25.8 (78.4)	29.4 (84.9)	36.0 (96.8)	42.5 (108.5)	45.0 (113.0)	44.9 (112.8)	40.8 (105.4)	38.3 (100.9)	38.2 (100.8)	36.7 (98.1)	32.7 (90.9)	27.0 (80.6)	45.8 (114.4)
Average high °C (°F)	20.4 (68.7)	24.1 (75.4)	29.9 (85.8)	37.1 (98.8)	40.3 (104.5)	39.9 (103.8)	35.9 (96.6)	34.4 (93.9)	34.7 (94.5)	33.4 (92.1)	28.5 (83.3)	22.8 (73.0)	31.8 (89.2)
Average low °C (°F)	7.3 (45.1)	10.2 (50.4)	15.1 (59.2)	21.4 (70.5)	26.0 (78.8)	27.7 (81.9)	27.0 (80.6)	26.2 (79.2)	24.7 (76.5)	19.5 (67.1)	13.6 (56.5)	8.8 (47.8)	19.0 (66.2)
Mean minimum °C (°F)	3.6 (38.5)	5.7 (42.3)	9.3 (48.7)	15.1 (59.2)	20.4 (68.7)	22.1 (71.8)	23.5 (74.3)	23.2 (73.8)	21.3 (70.3)	14.9 (58.8)	8.8 (47.8)	4.6 (40.3)	3.3 (37.9)
Record low °C (°F)	−2.2 (28.0)	−1.6 (29.1)	3.4 (38.1)	8.6 (47.5)	14.6 (58.3)	19.8 (67.6)	17.8 (64.0)	20.2 (68.4)	13.6 (56.5)	9.9 (49.8)	2.1 (35.8)	−1.3 (29.7)	−2.2 (28.0)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	18.4 (0.72)	20.0 (0.79)	13.2 (0.52)	9.1 (0.36)	37.7 (1.48)	82.1 (3.23)	174.4 (6.87)	188.7 (7.43)	105.3 (4.15)	13.7 (0.54)	5.1 (0.20)	6.9 (0.27)	674.5 (26.56)
Average rainy days	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.0	2.6	4.0	8.6	8.3	4.6	0.9	0.5	0.7	35.7
Average relative humidity (%) (at 17:30 IST)	53	44	34	23	26	40	61	66	56	41	42	52	45
Source: India Meteorological Department ^{[96][97][98]}													

Air pollution

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Delhi was the most polluted^[100] city in the world in 2014. In 2016 WHO downgraded Delhi to eleventh-worst in the urban air quality database.^[101] According to one estimate, air pollution causes the death of about 10,500 people in Delhi every year.^{[102][103][104]} Air quality index of Delhi is generally moderate (101–200) level between January to September, and then it drastically deteriorates to Very Poor (301–400), Severe (401–500) or Hazardous (500+) levels in three months between October to December, due to various factors including stubble burning, fire crackers burning during Diwali and cold weather.^{[105][106][107]} During 2013–14, peak levels of fine particulate matter (PM) in Delhi increased by about 44%, primarily due to high vehicular and industrial emissions, construction work and crop burning in adjoining states.^{[102][108][109][110]} It has the highest level of the airborne particulate matter, PM2.5 considered most harmful to health, with 153 micrograms.^[111] Rising air pollution level has significantly increased lung-related ailments (especially asthma and lung cancer) among Delhi's children and women.^{[112][113]} The dense smog and haze in Delhi during winter results in major air and rail traffic disruptions every year.^[114] According to Indian meteorologists, the average maximum temperature in Delhi during winters has declined notably since 1998 due to rising air pollution.^[115]



A dense toxic smog in New Delhi blocks out the sun. In November 2017, Delhi's chief minister described the city as a "gas chamber".^[99]

India's Ministry of Earth Sciences published a research paper in October 2018 attributing almost 41% of PM2.5 air pollution in Delhi to vehicular emissions, 21.5% to dust/fire and 18% to industries.^[116] The director of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) alleged that the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is lobbying "against the report" because it is "inconvenient" to the automobile industry.^[117] Environmentalists have also criticised the Delhi government for not doing enough to curb air pollution and to inform people about air quality issues.^[103] In 2014, an environmental panel appealed to India's Supreme Court to impose a 30% cess on diesel cars, but till date no action has been taken to penalise the automobile industry.^[118]



Dense smog blankets Connaught Place, New Delhi.

Most of Delhi's residents are unaware of alarming levels of air pollution in the city and the health risks associated with it,^{[109][110]} however, as of 2015, awareness, particularly among the foreign diplomatic community and high-income Indians, was noticeably increasing.^[119] Since the mid-1990s, Delhi has undertaken some measures to curb air pollution—Delhi has the third-highest quantity of trees among Indian cities^[120] and the Delhi Transport Corporation operates the world's largest fleet of environmentally friendly compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.^[121] In 1996, the CSE started a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court of India that ordered the conversion of Delhi's fleet of buses and taxis to run on CNG and banned the use of leaded petrol in 1998. In 2003, Delhi won the United States Department of Energy's first 'Clean Cities International Partner of the Year' award for its "bold efforts to curb air pollution and support alternative fuel initiatives".^[121] The Delhi Metro has also been credited for significantly reducing air pollutants in the city.^[122]

However, according to several authors, most of these gains have been lost, especially due to stubble burning, a rise in the market share of diesel cars and a considerable decline in bus ridership.^{[123][124]} According to CSE and System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), burning of agricultural waste in nearby Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh regions results in severe intensification of smog over Delhi.^{[125][126]}

The Circles of Sustainability assessment of Delhi gives a marginally more favourable impression of the ecological sustainability of the city only because it is based on a more comprehensive series of measures than only air pollution. Part of the reason that the city remains assessed at basic sustainability is because of the low resource-use and carbon emissions of its poorer neighbourhoods.^[127] On 3 January 2020, Delhi got its first smog tower to tackle air pollution.^{[128][129]}

Civic administration

Currently, the National Capital Territory of Delhi is made up of one division, 11 districts, 33 subdivisions, 59 census towns, and 300 villages.^[130] Local civic administration has, since the trifurcation of the former Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in January 2012,^[131] been in the hands of five bodies:

- the East Delhi Municipal Corporation;
- the North Delhi Municipal Corporation;
- the South Delhi Municipal Corporation;
- the New Delhi Municipal Council; and
- the Delhi Cantonment Board.

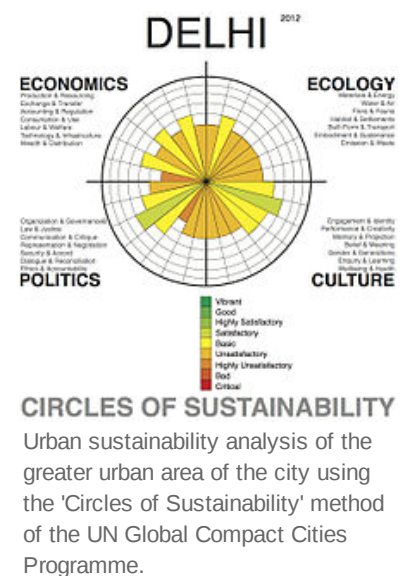
It was in July 2012, shortly after the MCD trifurcation, that the Government of Delhi increased the number of districts in the capital territory from nine to eleven.^[132]

In terms of good governance and best administrative practices, Delhi was ranked fifth out of 21 Indian cities in 2014. It scored 3.6 out of 10 compared to the national average of 3.3.^[133]

Delhi is home to the Supreme Court of India and the regional Delhi High Court. A Small Causes Court deals with civil cases, while a Magistrates' Court and the Sessions Court handle criminal cases in the city. For policing purposes Delhi is divided into eleven police districts which are further subdivided into 95 local police station zones.^[134]

Government and politics

As a first-level administrative division, the National Capital Territory of Delhi has its own Legislative Assembly, Lieutenant Governor, the council of ministers, and Chief Minister. Members of the legislative assembly are directly elected from territorial constituencies in the NCT. The legislative assembly was abolished in 1956, after which direct federal control was implemented until it was re-established in 1993. The Municipal corporation handles civic administration for the city as part of the Panchayati Raj Act. The Government of India and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi jointly administer New Delhi, where both bodies are located. The Parliament of India, the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace), Cabinet Secretariat, and the Supreme Court of India are located in the municipal district of New Delhi. There are 70 assembly constituencies and seven Lok Sabha (Indian parliament's lower house) constituencies in Delhi.^{[135][136]} The Indian National Congress (Congress) formed



all the governments in Delhi until the 1990s, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Madan Lal Khurana, came to power.^[137] In 1998, the Congress returned to power under the leadership of Sheila Dikshit, who was subsequently re-elected for 3 consecutive terms. But in 2013, the Congress was ousted from power by the newly formed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led by Arvind Kejriwal forming the government with outside support from the Congress.^[138] However, that government was short-lived, collapsing only after 49 days.^[139] Delhi was then under President's rule until February 2015.^[140] On 10 February 2015, the Aam Aadmi Party returned to power after a landslide victory, winning 67 out of the 70 seats in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.^[141]

Since 2011 Delhi has had three municipal corporations:^[142]

1. SDMC having jurisdiction over South and West Delhi areas including Mahipalpur, Rajouri Garden, Badarpur, Jaitpur, Janakpuri, Hari Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Dwarka, Jungpura, Greater Kailash, R K Puram, Malva Nagar, Kalkaji, Ambedkar Nagar and Pul pehladpur.
2. NDMC has jurisdiction over areas such as Badli, Rithala, Bawana, Kirari, Mangolpuri, Tri Nagar, Model Town, Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal, Karol Bagh, Moti Nagar
3. EDMC has jurisdiction over areas such as Patparganj, Kondli, Laxmi Nagar, Seemapuri, Gonda, Karawal Nagar, Babarpur and Shahadra

In 2017 the BJP emerged the victors in elections to all three corporations.^[143]

Economy



Connaught Place in New Delhi is an important economic hub of the National Capital Region.

Delhi is the largest commercial center in northern India. As of 2016 recent estimates of the economy of the Delhi urban area have ranged from \$167 to \$370 billion (PPP metro GDP) ranking it either the most or second-most productive metro area of India.^[19] The nominal GSDP of the NCT of Delhi for 2016–17 was estimated at ₹6,224 billion (US\$87 billion), 13% higher than in 2015–16.^{[144][11]} As per the Economic survey of Delhi (2005–2006), the tertiary sector contributes 70.95% of Delhi's gross GDP followed by secondary and primary sectors with 25.20% and 3.85% contributions, respectively.^[145] Delhi's workforce constitutes 32.82% of the population, and increased by 52.52% between 1991 and 2001.^[146] Delhi's unemployment rate decreased from 12.57% in 1999–2000 to 4.63% in 2003.^[146] In December 2004, 636,000 people were registered with various employment exchange programmes in Delhi.^[146]



Supreme Court in Delhi is the apex court in the country.



The Parliament House in New Delhi government block.



The Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi is the official residence of the President of India.



The Secretariat Building, New Delhi is where the Cabinet Secretariat of India is housed.

In 2001 the total workforce in national and state governments and the quasi-government sector was 620,000, and the private sector employed 219,000.^[146] Key service industries are information technology, telecommunications, hotels, banking, media and tourism.^[147] Construction, power, health and community services and real estate are also important to the city's economy. Delhi has one of India's largest and fastest growing retail industries.^[148] Manufacturing also grew considerably as consumer goods companies established manufacturing units and headquarters in the city. Delhi's large consumer market and the availability of skilled labour has also attracted foreign investment. In 2001, the manufacturing sector employed 1,440,000 workers and the city had 129,000 industrial units.^[149]

Utility services

Delhi's municipal water supply is managed by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). As of June 2005, it supplied 650 million gallons per day (MGD), whereas the estimated consumption requirement is 963 MGD.^[150] The shortfall is met by private and public tube wells and hand pumps. At 240 MGD, the Bhakra storage is DJB's largest water source, followed by the Yamuna and Ganges rivers. Delhi's groundwater level is falling and its population density is increasing, so residents often encounter acute water shortage.^[150] Research on Delhi suggests that up to half of the city's water use is unofficial groundwater.^[151]

In Delhi, daily domestic solid waste production is 8000 tonnes which is dumped at three landfill locations by MCD.^[152] The daily domestic waste water production is 470 MGD and industrial waste water is 70 MGD.^[153] A large portion of the sewage flows untreated into the Yamuna river.^[153]

The city's electricity consumption is about 1,265 kWh per capita but the actual demand is higher.^[154] In Delhi power distribution is managed by Tata Power Distribution and BSES Yamuna & Rajdhani since 2002. The Delhi Fire Service runs 43 fire stations that attend about 15,000 fire and rescue calls per year.^[155] The state-owned Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and private enterprises such as Vodafone, Airtel, Idea Cellular, Reliance Infocomm, Aircel, Reliance Jio and Tata Docomo provide telephone and cell phone services to the city. Cellular coverage is available in GSM, CDMA, 3G and 4G.

Transport

Air

Indira Gandhi International Airport, situated to the south-west of Delhi, is the main gateway for the city's domestic and international civilian air traffic. In 2015–16, the airport handled more than 48 million passengers,^[158] making it the busiest airport in India and South Asia. Terminal 3, which cost ₹96.8 billion (US\$1.4 billion) to construct between 2007 and 2010, handles an additional 37 million passengers annually.^[159] In 2010, IGIA was conferred the 4th best airport award in the world in the 15–25 million category, by Airports Council International. The airport was rated as the *Best airport in the world* in the 25–40 million passengers category in 2015, by Airports Council International. Delhi Airport was awarded *The Best Airport in Central Asia* and *Best Airport Staff in Central Asia* at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2015.^{[160][161]}

The *Delhi Flying Club*, established in 1928 with two de Havilland Moth aircraft named *Delhi* and *Roshanara*, was based at Safdarjung Airport which started operations in 1929, when it was the Delhi's only airport and the second in India.^[162] The airport functioned until 2001; however, in January 2002 the government closed the airport for flying activities because of security concerns following the New York attacks in September 2001. Since then, the club only carries out aircraft maintenance courses and is used for helicopter rides to Indira Gandhi International Airport for VIP including the president and the prime minister.^{[162][163]}

Hindon Domestic Airport in Ghaziabad was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the second airport for the Delhi-NCR Region on 8 March 2019.^[164]

A second international airport open for commercial flights has been suggested either by expansion of Meerut Airport or construction of a new airport in Greater Noida.^[165] The Taj International Airport project in Jewar has been approved by the Uttar Pradesh government.^[166]

Road

Delhi has the highest road density of 2103 km/100 km² in India.^[167] It is connected to other parts of India by five National Highways: NH 1, NH 2, NH 8, NH 10 and NH 24. The Delhi–Mumbai and Delhi–Kolkata prongs of the Golden Quadrilateral start from the city. The city's road network is maintained by MCD, NDMC, Delhi Cantonment Board, Public Works Department (PWD) and Delhi Development Authority.^[168]

Buses are the most popular means of road transport catering to about 60% of Delhi's total demand.^[169] Delhi has one of India's largest bus transport systems. In 1998, the Supreme Court of India ruled that all public transport vehicles in Delhi must be fuelled by compressed natural gas (CNG) to tackle increasing vehicular pollution.^[170] The state-owned Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) is a major bus service provider which operates the world's largest fleet of CNG-fuelled buses.^{[171][172]} In addition, cluster scheme buses are operated by Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) with the participation of private concessionaires and DTC.^{[173][174]} In December 2017, the DTC and cluster buses carried over 4.19 million passengers per day.^[175] Kashmiri Gate ISBT, Anand Vihar ISBT and Sarai Kale Khan ISBT are the main bus terminals for outstation buses plying to neighbouring states. Delhi's rapid rate of economic development and population growth has resulted in an increasing demand for transport, creating excessive pressure on the city's transport infrastructure. To meet the transport demand, the State and Union government constructed a mass rapid transit system, including the Delhi Metro.^[176] Delhi Bus Rapid Transit System runs between Ambedkar Nagar and Delhi Gate.

Personal vehicles especially cars also form a major chunk of vehicles plying on Delhi roads. As of 2007, private vehicles account for 30% of the total demand for transport.^[176] Delhi has the highest number of registered cars compared to any other metropolitan city in India.^[177] Taxis, auto rickshaws, and cycle rickshaws also ply on Delhi roads in large numbers. As of 2008, the number of vehicles in the metropolitan region, Delhi NCR, was 11.2 million (11.2 million).^[178] In 2008, there were 85 cars in Delhi for every 1,000 of its residents.^[179] In 2017, the number of vehicles in Delhi city alone crossed the ten million mark with the transport department of Delhi Government putting the total number of registered vehicles at 10,567,712 until 25 May of the year.^[180]

Important Roads in Delhi

Some roads and expressways serve as important pillars of Delhi's road infrastructure:

- The Inner Ring Road is one of the most important "state highways" in Delhi. It is a 51 km long circular road that connects important areas in Delhi. Owing to more than 2 dozen grade-separators/flyovers, the road is almost signal-free.
- The Outer Ring Road is another major artery in Delhi that links far-flung areas of Delhi.
- The Delhi Noida Direct Flyway or DND Flyway is an eight-laned access controlled tolled expressway which connects Delhi to Noida (an important satellite city of Uttar Pradesh).^{[181][182]}
- The Delhi Gurgaon Expressway is a 28 km (17 mi) expressway connecting Delhi to Gurgaon, an important satellite city of Haryana.
- The Delhi Faridabad Skyway is a controlled tolled expressway that connects Delhi to Faridabad, an important satellite city of Haryana.

National Highways Passing Through Delhi

Delhi is connected by road to various parts of the country through several National Highways: It is connected to other parts of India by five National Highways:

- NH 1 connects Amritsar in Punjab to New Delhi.
- NH 2 commonly referred to as Delhi-Kolkata Road that runs through the states of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- NH 8, now known as National Highway 48 connects the Indian capital city of New Delhi with the Indian financial capital city of Mumbai via Jaipur and terminates at Chennai.
- NH 10, connects Fazilka in Punjab, India to Delhi.
- NH 24 connects the National capital Delhi to Uttar Pradesh state capital Lucknow running 438 kilometres (272 miles) in length.

Railway



Indira Gandhi International Airport's new terminal in Delhi. It is the busiest airport in South Asia.^[156] Shown here is the immigration counter at Terminal 3 of the airport.



Anand Vihar Terminal railway station, opened in 2009



The Delhi Metro



Signature Bridge on Yamuna river during its construction



A view of Delhi Faridabad Skyway



The Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, connecting Delhi to the Indira Gandhi International Airport

Delhi is a major junction in the Indian railway network and is the headquarters of the Northern Railway. The main railway stations are New Delhi, Old Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar, Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Delhi Cantt.^[176] The Delhi Metro, a mass rapid transit system built and operated by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), serves many parts of Delhi and the neighbouring cities Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Noida.^[183] As of August 2018, the metro consists of eight operational lines with a total length of 296 km (184 mi) and 214 stations, and several other lines are under construction.^[184] The Phase-I was built at a cost of US\$2.3 billion and the Phase-II was expected to cost an additional ₹216 billion (US\$3.0 billion).^[185] Phase-II has a total length of 128 km and was completed by 2010.^[186] Delhi Metro completed 10 years of operation on 25 December 2012. It carries millions of passengers every day.^[187] In addition to the Delhi Metro, a suburban railway, the Delhi Suburban Railway exists.^[188]



A Delhi underground metro

Metro

The Delhi Metro is a rapid transit system serving Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Noida in the National Capital Region of India. Delhi Metro is the world's tenth-largest metro system in terms of length. Delhi Metro was India's second modern public transportation system. The network consists of eleven lines with a total length of 311 kilometres (193 miles) with 214 stations, which are a mix of underground, at-grade and elevated stations. All stations have escalators, lifts, and tactile tiles to guide the visually impaired from station entrances to trains. There are 18 designated parking sites at Metro stations to further encourage the use of the system. In March 2010, DMRC partnered with Google India (through Google Transit) to provide train schedule and route information to mobile devices with Google Maps. It has a combination of elevated, at-grade, and underground lines, and uses both broad gauge and standard gauge rolling stock. Four types of rolling stock are used: Mitsubishi–ROTEM Broad gauge, Bombardier MOVIA, Mitsubishi–ROTEM Standard gauge, and CAF Beasain Standard gauge. The Phase-I of Delhi Metro was built at a cost of US\$2.3 billion and the Phase-II was expected to cost an additional ₹216 billion (US\$3.0 billion).^[185] Phase-II has a total length of 128 km and was completed by 2010.^[186] Delhi Metro completed 10 years of operation on 25 December 2012. It carries millions of passengers every day.^[187]



Delhi Metro is the lifeline of Delhi-NCR.

Delhi Metro is being built and operated by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC), a state-owned company with equal equity participation from the Government of India and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, the organization is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. Besides the construction and operation of Delhi Metro, DMRC is also involved in the planning and implementation of metro rail, monorail, and high-speed rail projects in India and providing consultancy services to other metro projects in the country as well as abroad. The Delhi Metro project was spearheaded by Padma Vibhushan E. Sreedharan, the managing director of DMRC and popularly known as the "Metro Man" of India. He famously resigned from DMRC taking moral responsibility for a metro bridge collapse, which took five lives. Sreedharan was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French Government for his contribution to Delhi Metro.^[189]

Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

The 08 RRTS Corridors have been proposed by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) to facilitate the people travelling from nearby cities in NCR to Delhi.^[190] The three main corridors in the first phase are as follows:^[191]

1. **Delhi – Alwar** via Gurugram – 180.50 km
2. **Delhi – Panipat** via Sonipat – 111 km
3. **Delhi – Meerut** via Ghaziabad – 92.05 km

The remaining five corridors are also approved by National Capital Region Planning Board but are planned in the second phase.^[191]

Demographics

According to the 2011 census of India, the population of NCT of Delhi is 16,753,235.^[192] The corresponding population density was 11,297 persons per km² with a sex ratio of 866 women per 1000 men, and a literacy rate of 86.34%. In 2004, the

Population Growth of Delhi		
Census	Population	%±

birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate per 1000 population were 20.03, 5.59 and 13.08, respectively.^[193] In 2001, the population of Delhi increased by 285,000 as a result of migration and by 215,000 as a result of natural population growth,^[193] which made Delhi one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Dwarka Sub City, Asia's largest planned residential area, is located within the National Capital Territory of Delhi.^[194] Urban expansion has resulted in Delhi's urban area now being considered as extending beyond the NCT boundaries to incorporate the towns and cities of neighbouring states including Faridabad and Gurgaon of Haryana, and Ghaziabad and Noida of Uttar Pradesh, the total population of which is estimated by the United Nations at over 26 million. According to the UN this makes Delhi urban area the world's second-largest, after Tokyo,^[8] although Demographia declares the Jakarta urban area to be the second-largest.^[195] The 2011 census provided two figures for urban area population: 16,314,838 within the NCT boundary,^[196] and 21,753,486 for the Extended Urban Area.^[197] The 2021 regional plan released by the Government of India renamed the Extended Urban Area from Delhi Metropolitan Area (DMA) as defined by the 2001 plan^[198] to Central National Capital Region (CNCR).^{[198][199]} Around 49% of the population of Delhi lives in slums and unauthorized colonies without any civic amenities.^[200] The majority of the slums have inadequate provisions to the basic facilities and according to a DUSIB report, almost 22% of the people do open defecation.^[201]

Major social groups of Delhi include Ahir, Brahmins, Jats, Punjabis, Purvanchalis, Vaishyas, Gujjars, Sikhs, Muslims, Uttarakhandis, Bengalis, etc.^{[202][203][204][205][192]}

1901	405,819	—
1911	413,851	2.0%
1921	488,452	18.0%
1931	636,246	30.3%
1941	917,939	44.3%
1951	1,744,072	90.0%
1961	2,658,612	52.4%
1971	4,065,698	52.9%
1981	6,220,406	53.0%
1991	9,420,644	51.4%
2001	13,782,976	46.3%
2011	16,753,235	21.6%

source:^[192]
† Huge population rise in 1951 due to large scale migration after Partition of India in 1947.

Religion



Swaminarayan Akshardham in Delhi is the largest Hindu temple complex in the National Capital Territory. Hinduism is the predominant faith in Delhi.^[206]



Lal Mandir is a historic Jain temple in Old Delhi.



Gurudwara Bangla Sahib is one of the most prominent Sikh Gurudwara in Delhi, and known for its association with the eighth Sikh Guru, Guru Har Krishan.



The Jama Masjid is one of India's largest mosques.



Cathedral Church of the Redemption, belonging to the Church of North India.

Hinduism is Delhi's predominant religious faith, with 81.68% of Delhi's population, followed by Islam (12.86%), Sikhism (3.40%), Jainism (0.99%), Christianity (0.87%), and Buddhism (0.11%).^[208] Other minority religions include Zoroastrianism, Bahá'ism and Judaism.^[209]

Languages

According to the 50th report of the commissioner for linguistic minorities in India, which was submitted in 2014, Hindi is Delhi's most spoken language, with 80.94% speakers, followed by Punjabi (7.14%), Urdu (6.31%) and Bengali (1.50%). 4.11% of the Delhites speak other languages.^[211] Hindi is also the official language of Delhi while Urdu and Punjabi have been declared as additional official languages.^[211]

According to the Directorate of Education, GNCTD the following languages are taught in schools in Delhi under the three-language formula.^[212]

■ First Language

1. Hindi
2. Urdu
3. English

■ Second Language

1. English

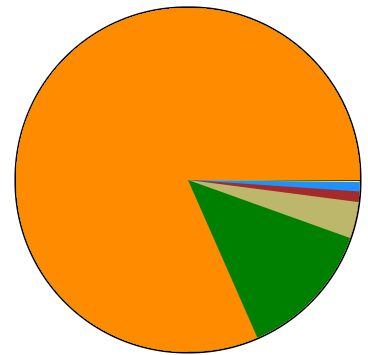
■ Third language

1. Urdu
2. Punjabi
3. Bengali
4. Sindhi
5. Tamil
6. Telugu
7. Malayalam
8. Kannada
9. Gujarati
10. Marathi
11. Sanskrit
12. Persian
13. Arabic

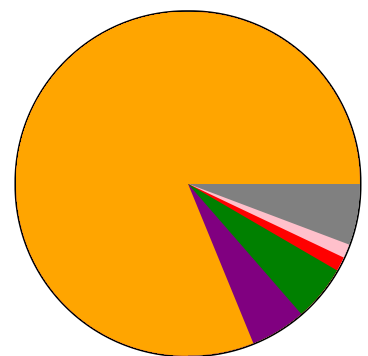
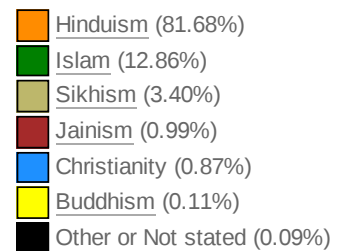
Culture

Delhi's culture has been influenced by its lengthy history and historic association as the capital of India. Although a strong Punjabi Influence can be seen in language, Dress and Cuisine brought by the large number of refugees who came following the partition in 1947 the recent migration from other parts of India has made it a melting pot. This is exemplified by many significant monuments in the city. Delhi is also identified as the location of Indraprastha, the ancient capital of the Pandavas. The Archaeological Survey of India recognises 1,200 heritage buildings^[213] and 175 monuments as national heritage sites.^[214]

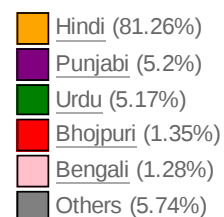
In the Old City, the Mughals and the Turkic rulers constructed several architecturally significant buildings, such as the Jama Masjid—India's largest mosque^[215] built in 1656^[216] and the Red Fort. Three World Heritage Sites—the Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb—are located in Delhi.^[217] Other monuments include the India Gate, the Jantar Mantar—an 18th-century astronomical observatory—and the Purana Qila—a 16th-century fortress. The Laxminarayan Temple, Akshardham temple, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, the Bahá'í Faith's Lotus Temple and the ISKCON temple are examples of modern architecture. Raj Ghat and associated memorials houses memorials of Mahatma Gandhi and other notable personalities. New Delhi houses several government buildings and official residences reminiscent of British colonial architecture,



Religion in NCT of Delhi (2011)^[207]



Languages in Delhi (2011)^[210]



Traditional pottery on display in Dilli Haat

including the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Secretariat, Rajpath, the Parliament of India and Vijay Chowk. Safdarjung's Tomb is an example of the Mughal gardens style. Some regal *havelis* (palatial residences) are in the Old City.^[218]

Lotus Temple is a Bahá'í House of Worship completed in 1986. Notable for its flowerlike shape, it serves as the Mother Temple of the Indian subcontinent and has become a prominent attraction in the city. The Lotus Temple has won numerous architectural awards and been featured in hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles. Like all other Bahá'í Houses of Worship, is open to all regardless of religion, or any other distinction, as emphasized in Bahá'í texts. The Bahá'í laws emphasize that the spirit of the House of Worship be that it is a gathering place where people of all religions may worship God without denominational restrictions.^[219] The Bahá'í laws also stipulate that only the holy scriptures of the Bahá'í Faith and other religions can be read or chanted inside in any language; while readings and prayers can be set to music by choirs, no musical instruments can be played inside. Furthermore, no sermons can be delivered, and there can be no ritualistic ceremonies practiced.^[219]

The National Museum and National Gallery of Modern Art are some of the largest museums in the country. Other museums in Delhi include the National Museum of Natural History, National Rail Museum and National Philatelic Museum.

Chandni Chowk, a 17th-century market, is one of the most popular shopping areas in Delhi for jewellery and *Zari* saris.^[220] Delhi's arts and crafts include, Zardozi^[221]—an embroidery done with gold thread—^[222] and Meenakari^[223]—the art of enamelling.

Festivals



Rashtrapati Bhavan lit up for Republic Day of India

Delhi's association and geographic proximity to the capital, New Delhi, has amplified the importance of national events and holidays like Republic Day, Independence Day (15 August) and Gandhi Jayanti. On Independence Day, the Prime Minister addresses the nation from the Red Fort. Most Delhiites celebrate the day by flying kites, which are considered a symbol of freedom.^[224] The Republic Day Parade is a large cultural and military parade showcasing India's cultural diversity and military strength.^{[225][226]} Over the centuries, Delhi has become known for its composite culture, and a festival that symbolises this is the Phool Walon Ki Sair, which takes place in September. Flowers and *pankhe*—fans embroidered with flowers—are offered to the shrine of the 13th-

century Sufi saint Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki and the Yogmaya Temple, both situated in Mehrauli.^[227]

Religious festivals include Diwali (the festival of lights), Mahavir Jayanti, Guru Nanak's Birthday, Raksha Bandhan, Durga Puja, Holi, Lohri, Chauth, Krishna Janmastami, Maha Shivratri, Eid ul-Fitr, Moharram and Buddha Jayanti.^[226] The Qutub Festival is a cultural event during which performances of musicians and dancers from all over India are showcased at night, with the Qutub Minar as a backdrop.^[228] Other events such as Kite Flying Festival, International Mango Festival and Vasant Panchami (the Spring Festival) are held every year in Delhi. The Auto Expo, Asia's largest auto show,^[229] is held in Delhi biennially. The New Delhi World Book Fair, held biennially at the Pragati Maidan, is the second-largest exhibition of books in the world.^[230] Delhi is often regarded as the "Book Capital" of India because of high readership.^[231] India International Trade Fair (IITF), organised by ITPO is the biggest cultural and shopping fair of Delhi which takes place in November each year and is visited by more than 1.5 million people.^[232]



The Pragati Maidan in Delhi hosts the World Book Fair biennially

Cuisine

As India's national capital and centuries old Mughal capital, Delhi influenced the food habits of its residents and is where Mughlai cuisine originated. Along with Indian cuisine, a variety of international cuisines are popular among the residents.^[234] The dearth of food habits among the city's residents created a unique style of cooking which became popular throughout the world, with dishes such as Kebab, biryani, tandoori. The city's classic dishes include butter chicken, dal makhani, shahi paneer, aloo chaat, chaat, dahi bhalla, kachori, gol gappe, samosa, chole bhature, chole kulche, gulab jamun, jalebi and lassi.^{[234][235]:40–50, 189–196}

The fast living habits of Delhi's people has motivated the growth of street food outlets.^{[235]:41} A trend of dining at local dhabas is popular among the residents. High-profile restaurants have gained popularity in recent years, among the popular restaurants are the Karim Hotel, the Punjab Grill and Bukhara.^[236] The Gali Paranthe Wali (the street of fried bread) is a street in Chandni Chowk particularly for food eateries since the 1870s. Almost the entire street is occupied by fast food stalls or street vendors. It



Daulat Chaat is made using a complicated technique of condensing milk foam on a cold night, this dish is only available during winters.^[233]

has nearly become a tradition that almost every prime minister of India has visited the street to eat *paratha* at least once. Other Indian cuisines are also available in this area even though the street specialises in north Indian food.^{[235]:40–50}^[237]

Tourism

According to Euromonitor International, Delhi ranked as 28th-most visited city in the world and first in India by foreign visitors in 2015.^[238] There are numerous tourist attractions in Delhi, both historic and modern. The three UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Delhi, Qutb Complex, Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb are among the finest



Jantar Mantar

examples of Indo-Islamic architecture.^[239] Another prominent landmark of Delhi is India Gate, a 1931 built war memorial to soldiers of British Indian Army who died during First World War.^[240] Delhi has several famous places of worship of various religions. One of the largest Hindu temple complexes in the world,^[241] Akshardham is a major tourist attraction in the city. Other famous religious sites include Lal Mandir, Laxminarayan Temple, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Lotus Temple, Jama Masjid and ISKCON Temple.

Delhi is also a hub for shopping of all kinds. Connaught Place, Chandni Chowk, Sarojini Nagar, Khan Market and Dilli Haat are some of the major retail markets in Delhi.^[242] Major shopping malls include Select Citywalk, Pacific Mall, DLF Promenade, DLF Emporio, Metro Walk and Ansal Plaza.^[243]

Education

Private schools in Delhi—which use either English or Hindi as the language of instruction—are affiliated to one of three administering bodies, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE)^[244] or the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). In 2004–05, approximately 1,529,000 students were enrolled in primary schools, 822,000 in middle schools and 669,000 in secondary schools across Delhi.^[245] Female students represented 49% of the total enrolment. The same year, the Delhi government spent between 1.58% and 1.95% of its gross state domestic product on education.^[245]

Schools and higher educational institutions in Delhi are administered either by the Directorate of Education, the NCT government or private organisations. In 2006, Delhi had 165 colleges, five medical colleges and eight engineering colleges,^[245] seven major universities and nine deemed universities.^[245]



All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi



Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi



National Law University, Delhi



University of Delhi

The premier management colleges of Delhi such as Faculty of Management Studies (Delhi) and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade rank the best in India. All India Institute of Medical Sciences Delhi is a premier medical school for treatment and research. National Law University, Delhi is a prominent law school and is affiliated to the Bar Council of India. The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi situated in Hauz Khas is a premier engineering college of India and ranks as one of the top institutes in South Asia.^[246]^[247]

Delhi Technological University (formerly Delhi College of Engineering), Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (formerly Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Netaji Subhas University of Technology (formerly Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology), Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and National Law University, Delhi are the only state universities.^[248]^[249] University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia are the central universities, and Indira Gandhi National Open University is for distance education.^[250] As of 2008, about 16% of all Delhi residents possessed at least a college graduate degree.^[251]

Media

As the capital of India, Delhi is the focus of political reportage, including regular television broadcasts of Parliament sessions. Many national media agencies, including the state-owned Press Trust of India, Media Trust of India and Doordarshan, is based in the city. Television programming includes two free terrestrial television channels offered by Doordarshan, and several Hindi, English, and regional-language cable channels offered by multi system operators. Satellite television has yet to gain a large quantity of subscribers in the city.^[252]

Print journalism remains a popular news medium in Delhi. The city's Hindi newspapers include Navbharat Times, Hindustan Dainik, Punjab Kesari, Pavitra Bharat, Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Prayukti, Amar Ujala and Dainik Desbandhu. Amongst the English language newspapers, The Hindustan Times, with a daily circulation of over a million copies, is the single largest daily.^[253] Other major English newspapers include The Times of India, The Hindu, Indian Express, Business Standard, The Pioneer, The Statesman, and The Asian Age. Regional language newspapers include the Malayalam daily Malayala Manorama and the Tamil dailies Dinamalar and Dinakaran.

Radio is a less popular mass medium in Delhi, although FM radio has gained popularity^[254] since the inauguration of several new stations in 2006.^[255] A number of state-owned and private radio stations broadcast from Delhi.^{[256][257]}



Pitampura TV Tower broadcasts programming to Delhi

Sports

Delhi has hosted many major international sporting events, including the inaugural 1951 Asian Games, 1982 Asian Games, 1989 Asian Athletic Championships, 2010 Hockey World Cup, 2010 Commonwealth Games and 2011 Cricket World Cup.

1951 Asian Games

Delhi hosted the first Asian Games in 1951 from 4 to 11 March. A total of 489 athletes representing 11 Asian National Olympic Committees participated in 57 events from eight sports and discipline. The Games was the successor of the Far Eastern Games and the revival of the Western Asiatic Games. On 13 February 1949, the Asian Games Federation was formally established in Delhi, with Delhi unanimously announced as the first host city of the Asian Games. National Stadium was the venue for all events.^[258] Over 40,000 spectators watched the opening ceremony of the Games in National Stadium.^[259]



Indian athletes marching into the National Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 1951 Asian Games.

1982 Asian Games

Delhi hosted the ninth Asian Games for the second time in 1982 from 19 November to 4 December. This was the second time the city has hosted the Asian Games and was also the first Asian Games to be held under the aegis of the Olympic Council of Asia. A total of 3,411 athletes from 33 National Olympic Committees participated in these games, competing in 196 events in 21 sports and 23 disciplines. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which was built purposely for the event, hosted its opening ceremony.^[260]

2010 Commonwealth Games

Delhi hosted the nineteenth Commonwealth Games in 2010, which ran from 3 to 14 October and was the largest sporting event held in India.^{[261][262]} The opening ceremony of the 2010 Commonwealth Games was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main stadium of the event, in New Delhi at 7:00 pm Indian Standard Time on 3 October 2010.^[263] The ceremony featured over 8,000 performers and lasted for two and a half hours.^[264] It is estimated that ₹3.5 billion (US\$49 million) were spent to produce the ceremony.^[265] Events took place at 12 competition venues. 20 training



The 2010 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

venues were used in the Games, including seven venues within Delhi University.^[266] The rugby stadium in Delhi University North Campus hosted rugby games for Commonwealth Games.^[266]

Other sports

Cricket and football are the most popular sports in Delhi.^[267] There are several cricket grounds, or *maidans*, located across the city. The Arun Jaitley Stadium (known commonly as the *Kotla*) is one of the oldest cricket grounds in India and is a venue for international cricket matches. It is the home ground of the Delhi cricket team, which represents the city in the Ranji Trophy, the premier Indian domestic first-class cricket championship.^[268] The Delhi cricket team has produced several world-class international cricketers such as Virender Sehwag, Virat Kohli,^[269] Gautam Gambhir, Madan Lal, Chetan Chauhan, Shikhar Dhawan, Ishant Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar and Bishan Singh Bedi to name a few. The Railways and Services cricket teams in the Ranji Trophy also play their home matches in Delhi, in the Karnail Singh Stadium and the Harbax Singh Stadium, respectively. The city is also home to the Indian Premier League team Delhi Capitals, who play their home matches at the Kotla.



Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Ambedkar Stadium, a football stadium in Delhi which holds 21,000 people, was the venue for the Indian football team's World Cup qualifier against UAE on 28 July 2012.^[270] Delhi hosted the Nehru Cup in 2007^[271] and 2009, in both of which India defeated Syria 1–0.^[272] In the Elite Football League of India, Delhi's first professional American football franchise, the Delhi Defenders played its first season in Pune.^[273] Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, a suburb of Delhi, formerly hosted the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix.^[274] The Indira Gandhi Arena is also in Delhi.

Delhi is a member of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21.

Current Regional and Professional Sports Teams from Delhi

Team/Club	Tournament/League	Sport	Venue	Established
<u>Delhi cricket team</u>	<u>Ranji Trophy</u> <u>Vijay Hazare Trophy</u> <u>Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy</u>	<u>Cricket</u>	<u>Arun Jaitley Stadium</u>	1934
<u>Delhi football team</u>	<u>Santosh Trophy</u>	<u>Football</u>	<u>Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium</u>	1941
<u>Delhi Capitals</u>	<u>Indian Premier League</u>	<u>Cricket</u>	<u>Arun Jaitley Stadium</u>	2008
<u>Delhi Waveriders</u>	<u>Hockey India League</u>	<u>Field hockey</u>	<u>Shivaji Stadium</u>	2012
<u>Dabang Delhi</u>	<u>Pro Kabaddi League</u>	<u>Kabaddi</u>	<u>Thyagaraj Sports Complex</u>	2014
<u>Delhi Dreams</u>	<u>Champions Tennis League</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>R.K. Khanna Tennis Complex</u>	2014
<u>Indian Aces</u>	<u>International Premier Tennis League</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium</u>	2014
<u>Delhi Hurricanes RFC</u>	<u>All India & South Asia Rugby Tournament</u>	<u>Rugby union</u>	<u>B-7 Vasant Kunj 110070 Delhi</u>	2004
<u>Delhi Defenders</u>	<u>Elite Football League of India</u>	<u>American football</u>	–	2012
<u>Delhi Wizards</u>	<u>World Series Hockey</u>	<u>Field hockey</u>	<u>Dhyan Chand National Stadium</u>	2011
<u>Delhi Capitals</u>	<u>UBA Pro Basketball League</u>	<u>Basketball</u>	–	2015

Former Regional and Professional Sports Teams from Delhi

Team/Club	Tournament/League	Sport	Venue	Established	Ceased
<u>Delhi Giants</u>	<u>Indian Cricket League</u>	<u>Cricket</u>	<u>N/A</u>	2007	2009
<u>Delhi Dynamos FC</u>	<u>Indian Super League</u>	<u>Football</u>	<u>Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium</u>	2014	2019

Notable people

- **Most Notably:**

- [Chetan Bhagat](#)
- [Ajay Devgan](#)
- [Shahid Kapoor](#)
- [Shakti Kapoor](#)
- [Shah Rukh Khan](#)
- [Saif Ali Khan](#)
- [Akshay Kumar](#)
- [Arjun Rampal](#)
- [Esha Gupta](#)
- [Madhubala](#)
- [Taapsee Pannu](#)
- [Kriti Sanon](#)
- [KK](#)
- [Tulsi Kumar](#)
- [Arun Jaitley](#)
- [Gautam Gambhir](#)
- [Rahul Gandhi](#)
- [Priyanka Gandhi](#)
- [Arvind Kejriwal](#)
- [Parvez Musharraf](#)
- [Tania Sachdev](#)
- [Virat Kohli](#)
- [Ashish Nehra](#)

International relations

- **Sister cities**^[275]

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▪  Beijing, China | ▪  Fukuoka, Japan |
| ▪  Chicago, United States | ▪  London, England, UK |

- **Partnerships**^[275]

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▪  Melbourne, Australia | ▪  Seoul, South Korea |
| ▪  Moscow, Russia | ▪  Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia |
| | ▪  Yerevan, Armenia |

See also

- [Delhi metropolitan area](#)
- [List of twin towns and sister cities in India](#)

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Further reading


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External links

Government

- Official website (<http://delhi.gov.in/>) 
- Official Tourism Site of Delhi, India (<http://www.delhitourism.gov.in/delhitourism/index.jsp>)

General information

- Delhi (<https://curlie.org/Regional/Asia/India/Delhi/>) at Curlie
-  Geographic data related to Delhi (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/1942586>) at OpenStreetMap

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