**Bean overview,** A Spring IoC container manages one or more *beans*. These beans are created with the configuration metadata that you supply to the container, for example, in the form of XML <bean/> definitions. Within the container itself, these bean definitions are represented as BeanDefinition objects, which contain (among other information) the following metadata:

* *A package-qualified class name:* typically the actual implementation class of the bean being defined.
* Bean behavioral configuration elements, which state how the bean should behave in the container (scope, lifecycle callbacks, and so forth).
* References to other beans that are needed for the bean to do its work; these references are also called *collaborators* or *dependencies*.
* Other configuration settings to set in the newly created object, for example, the number of connections to use in a bean that manages a connection pool, or the size limit of the pool.

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| **Properties** | **Description** |
| class | This attribute is mandatory and specify the bean class to be used to create the bean. |
| name | This attribute specifies the bean identifier uniquely. In XML-based configuration metadata, you use the id and/or name attributes to specify the bean identifier(s). |
| scope | This attribute specifies the scope of the objects created from a particular bean definition and it will be discussed in bean scopes chapter. |
| constructor-arg | This is used to inject the dependencies and will be discussed in next chapters. |
| properties | This is used to inject the dependencies and will be discussed in next chapters. |
| autowiring mode | This is used to inject the dependencies and will be discussed in next chapters. |
| lazy-initialization mode | A lazy-initialized bean tells the IoC container to create a bean instance when it is first requested, rather than at startup. |
| initialization method | A callback to be called just after all necessary properties on the bean have been set by the container. It will be discussed in bean life cycle chapter. |
| destruction method | A callback to be used when the container containing the bean is destroyed. It will be discussed in bean life cycle chapter. |