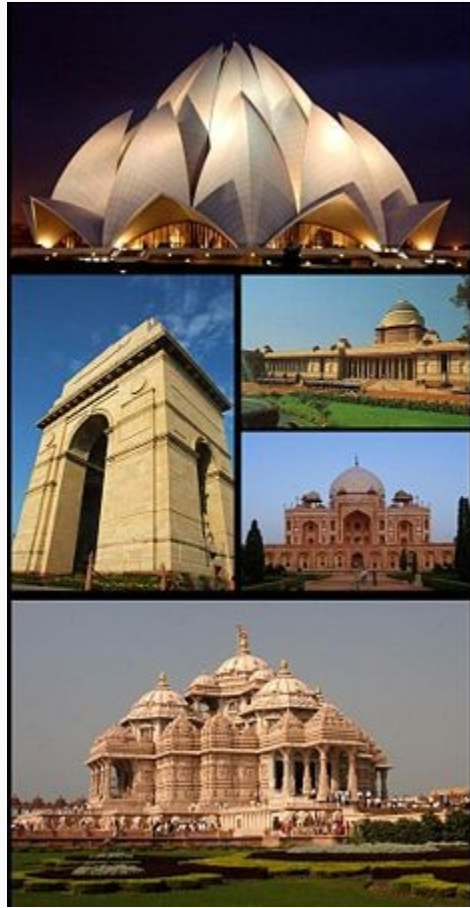


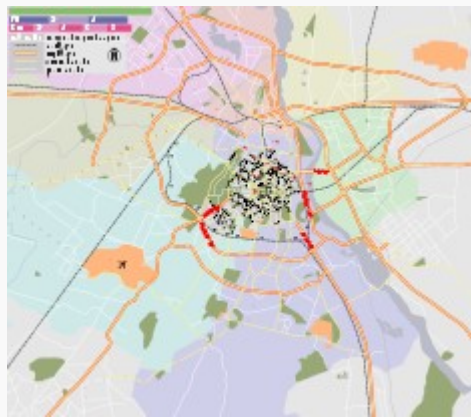


Delhi

Delhi
Delhi • [India](#)



From top left: [Bahá'í Lotus Temple](#), [India Gate](#), [Rashtrapati Bhavan](#), [Humayun's Tomb](#), and [Akshardham Temple](#)



Delhi

Coordinates:  [28°37'N 77°14'E](#) / [28.61, 77.23](#)

Time zone

[IST \(UTC+5:30\)](#)

Area

[1,484 km²](#) (573 sq mi)

• **Elevation**

• [239 m \(784 ft\)](#)^[1]

<u>District(s)</u>	Districts of Delhi[show] New Delhi Central Delhi North Delhi North East Delhi East Delhi South Delhi South West Delhi West Delhi North West Delhi
<u>Population</u> • Density • Metro	11,954,217 (2nd) (2007[update]) • 11,463 /km ² (29,689 /sq mi) • 22.2 million[2] (2007)
<u>Language(s)</u>	Hindi , Punjabi , Urdu
<u>Chief Minister</u>	Sheila Dikshit
<u>Lt. Governor</u>	
<u>Mayor</u>	Arti Mehra
<u>Legislature</u> (seats)	Unicameral (70)
<u>Codes</u> • Pincode • Telephone • UN/LOCODE • Vehicle	• 110 xxx • +9111 • INDEL • DL-xx
Website: delhigovt.nic.in	

, [Punjabi](#): [دہلی](#) / [دلی](#) : **Coordinates:** [28°37′N 77°14′E](#) / [28.61, 77.23](#) **Delhi** ([Hindi](#): [दिल्ली](#), [Urdu](#): [دہلی](#)) (sometimes referred to as *Dilli*) is the [second-largest](#) city of [India](#), and with its more than 18 million people,[\[3\]](#) the [eighth largest metropolis in the world by population](#). It is a federally administered [union territory](#) officially known as the National Capital Region (NCR).

Located on the banks of river [Yamuna](#) in [northern India](#), Delhi has been [continuously inhabited](#) since at least the 6th century BC, according to archaeological evidence.[\[4\]](#) After the rise of the [Delhi Sultanate](#), Delhi emerged as a major political, cultural and commercial city along the [trade routes](#) between northwest India and the [Indo-Gangetic plains](#).[\[5\]\[6\]](#) It is the site of many ancient and medieval monuments, archaeological sites and remains. In 1639, Mughal emperor [Shahjahan](#) built a new [walled city](#) in Delhi which served as the capital of the [Mughal Empire](#) from 1649 to 1857.[\[7\]\[8\]](#)

After the [British East India Company](#) gained control of much of India during the 18th and 19th centuries, [Calcutta](#) became the capital both under [Company rule](#) and under the [British Raj](#), until [George V](#) announced in 1911 that it was to move back to Delhi. A new capital city, [New Delhi](#), was built to the south of the old city during the 1920s.[\[9\]](#) When India gained [independence from British rule](#) in 1947, New Delhi was declared its capital and [seat of government](#). As such, New Delhi houses important offices of the federal government, including the [Parliament of India](#).

Owing to the migration of people from across the country, Delhi has grown to be a [cosmopolitan](#) city. Its rapid development and [urbanisation](#), coupled with the relatively high average income of its population, has transformed the city.[\[10\]](#) Today Delhi is a major cultural, political, and commercial center of India.

Etymology

The etymology of "Delhi" is uncertain but many possibilities exist. The most common view is that its [eponym](#) is *Dhillu* or *Dilu*, a [king](#) of the [Mauryan dynasty](#), who built the city in 50 BC and named it after himself. The [Hindi/Prakrit](#) word *dhili* ("loose") was used by the [Tuar Rajputs](#) to refer to the city because the [Iron Pillar](#) built by Raja Dhava had a weak foundation and was replaced. The coins in circulation in the region under the Rajputs were called *dehliwal*. Some other historians believe that the name is derived from *Dilli*, a corruption of *dehleez* or *dehali*—Hindi for 'threshold'—and symbolic of city as a gateway to the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Another theory suggests that the city's original name was Dhillika.

History



At 72.5 m (238 ft), the [Qutub Minar](#) is the world's tallest free standing [minaret](#).^[17]



Built in 1560, the [Humayun's Tomb](#) is the first example of [Mughal tomb complexes](#)

Human habitation was probably present in and around Delhi during the second millennium [BC](#) and before, as evidenced by archeological relics. The city is believed to be the site of [Indraprastha](#), legendary capital of the [Pandavas](#) in the Indian epic [Mahabharata](#). Settlements grew from the time of the [Mauryan Empire](#) (c. 300 BC). Remains of seven major cities have been discovered in Delhi. The [Tomara](#) dynasty founded the city of Lal Kot in 736 [AD](#). The [Chauhan Rajputs](#) of [Ajmer](#) conquered Lal Kot in 1180 AD and renamed it [Qila Rai Pithora](#). The Chauhan king [Prithviraj III](#) was defeated in 1192 by the [Afghan Muhammad Ghori](#). In 1206, [Qutb-ud-din Aybak](#), the first ruler of the [Slave Dynasty](#) established the [Delhi Sultanate](#). Qutb-ud-din started the construction the [Qutub Minar](#) and *Quwwat-al-Islam* (might of Islam), the earliest extant mosque in India.^{[12][20]} After the fall of the Slave dynasty, a succession of Turkic and Central Asian dynasties, the [Khilji dynasty](#), the [Tughluq dynasty](#), the [Sayyid dynasty](#) and the [Lodhi dynasty](#) held power in the late medieval period, and built a sequence of forts and townships that are part of the [seven cities of Delhi](#).^[21] In 1398, [Timur Lenk](#) invaded India on the pretext that the Muslim sultans of Delhi were too much tolerant to their [Hindu](#) subjects. Timur entered

Delhi and the city was sacked, destroyed, and left in ruins. Delhi was a major center of [Sufism](#) during the Sultanate period. In 1526, [Zahiruddin Babur](#) defeated the last Lodhi sultan in the [First Battle of Panipat](#) and founded the [Mughal Empire](#) that ruled from Delhi, [Agra](#) and [Lahore](#).

The Mughal Empire ruled northern India for more than three centuries, with a five-year hiatus during [Sher Shah Suri](#)'s reign in the mid-16th century. Mughal emperor [Akbar](#) shifted the capital from Agra to Delhi. [Shah Jahan](#) built the seventh city of Delhi that bears his name ([Shahjahanabad](#)), and is more commonly known as the Old City or Old Delhi. The old city served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1638. [Nader Shah](#) defeated the Mughal army at the huge [Battle of Karnal](#) in February, 1739. After this victory, Nader captured and sacked Delhi, carrying away many treasures, including the [Peacock Throne](#). In 1761, Delhi was raided by [Ahmed Shah Abdali](#) after the [Third battle of Panipat](#). At the [Battle of Delhi](#) on 11 September 1803, [General Lake](#)'s British forces defeated the [Marathas](#).



Built in 1639 by [Shah Jahan](#), the [Red Fort](#) is the site from which the [Prime Minister of India](#) addresses the nation on [Independence Day](#)

Delhi came under direct [British](#) control after the [Indian Rebellion of 1857](#).^[12] Shortly after the Rebellion, [Calcutta](#) was declared the capital of [British India](#) and Delhi was made a district province of the [Punjab](#). In 1911, Delhi was declared the capital of British India and a new political and administrative capital was designed by a team of British architects led by [Edwin Lutyens](#) to house the government buildings. New Delhi, also known as Lutyens' Delhi, was officially declared as the seat of the Government of India and the capital of the republic after [independence](#) on 15 August 1947. During the [partition of India](#) thousands of [Hindu](#) and [Sikh](#) refugees from [West Punjab](#) and [Sindh](#) fled to Delhi while many Muslim residents of the city migrated to [Pakistan](#). In 1984, three thousand Sikhs were killed in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Migration to Delhi from the rest of India continues, contributing more to the rise of Delhi's population than the birth rate, which is declining.

The [Constitution \(Sixty-ninth Amendment\) Act, 1991](#) declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Act gave Delhi its own [legislative assembly](#), though with limited powers. In December 2001, the [Parliament of India](#) building in New Delhi was [attacked](#) by armed Kashmiri militants resulting in the death of six security personnel. India suspected Pakistan's hand in the attacks resulting in a major [diplomatic crisis](#) between the two countries. Delhi again witnessed terrorist attacks in [October 2005](#) and [September 2008](#) resulting in the deaths of 62 and 30 civilians respectively.

Geography and climate

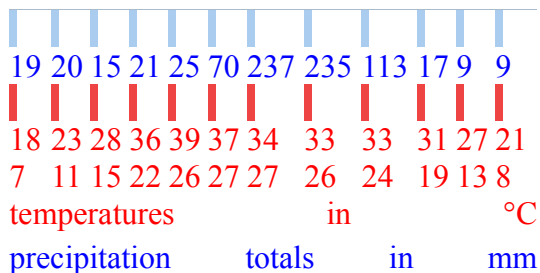


[Lightning](#) strikes near [India Gate](#), New Delhi. Delhi receives much of its rainfall during the [monsoon](#) season which lasts from July to August

The National Capital Territory of Delhi is spread over 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. Delhi has a maximum length of 51.9 km (32 mi) and the maximum width of 48.48 km (30 mi). There are three local bodies (statutory towns) namely, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (area is 1,397.3 km² or 540 sq mi), New Delhi Municipal Committee (42.7 km² or 16 sq mi) and Delhi Cantonment Board (43 km² or 17 sq mi). [\[32\]](#)

[Climate chart for New Delhi](#)

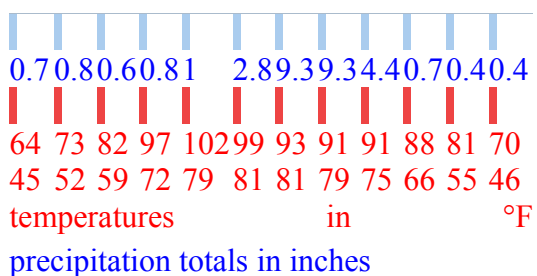
J F M A M J J A S O N D



source: [Weather Underground](#)

[Imperial conversion](#)[\[show\]](#)

J F M A M J J A S O N D



Delhi is located at [28°37'N 77°14'E](#) / [28.61, 77.23](#), and lies in [northern India](#). It borders the Indian states of [Uttar Pradesh](#) on East and [Haryana](#) on West, North and South. Delhi lies almost entirely in the [Gangetic plains](#). Two prominent features of the geography of Delhi are the [Yamuna](#) flood plain and the [Delhi ridge](#). The low-lying Yamuna flood plains provide fertile [alluvial soil](#) suitable for agriculture. However, these plains are prone to recurrent [floods](#). Reaching up to a height of 318 [m](#) (1,043 [ft](#)), the

ridge forms the most dominating feature in this region. It originates from the [Aravalli Range](#) in the south and encircles the west, northeast and northwest parts of the city. Yamuna, a sacred river in [Hinduism](#), is the only major river flowing through Delhi. Most of the city, including New Delhi, lies west of the river. East of the river is the urban area of [Shahdara](#). Delhi falls under [seismic zone-IV](#), making it vulnerable to major [earthquakes](#).

Delhi has a continental climate with high variation between summer and winter temperatures. Summers are long, from early April to mid-October, with the [monsoon](#) season in between. Winter starts in late October and peaks in January and is notorious for its heavy fog. Extreme temperatures range from $-0.6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($30.9\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) to $47\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($117\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$).^[36] The annual mean temperature is $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($77\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$); monthly mean temperatures range from $13\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $32\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($56\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $90\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$). The average annual rainfall is approximately 714 [mm](#) (28.1 [inches](#)), most of which is during the [monsoons](#) in July and August.^[12] The average date of the advent of monsoon winds in Delhi is 29 June.

[edit] Civic administration

See also: [Divisions of Delhi](#), [Districts of Delhi](#), and [List of towns in National Capital Territory of Delhi](#)



Map showing the nine districts of Delhi

As of July 2007, the National Capital Territory of Delhi comprises nine districts, 27 [tehsils](#), 59 census towns, 165 villages and three statutory towns – the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD); the New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC); and the Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB).^[39]

The Delhi metropolitan area lies within the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT). The NCT has three local municipal corporations: [Municipal Corporation of Delhi](#) (MCD), [New Delhi Municipal Council](#) (NDMC) and [Delhi Cantonment Board](#). MCD is one of the largest municipal corporations in the world providing civic amenities to an estimated 13.78 million people.^[40] The capital of India, New Delhi, falls under the administration of NDMC. The chairperson of the NDMC is appointed by the Government of India in consultation with the [Chief Minister of Delhi](#).

Delhi has four major satellite cities which lie outside the National Capital Territory of Delhi. These are [Gurgaon](#) and [Faridabad](#) (in Haryana), and [NOIDA](#) and [Ghaziabad](#) (in Uttar Pradesh). Delhi is divided into nine districts. Each district (division) is headed by a Deputy Commissioner and has three subdivisions. A Subdivision Magistrate heads each subdivision. All Deputy Commissioners report to the Divisional Commissioner. The District Administration of Delhi is the enforcing department for all kinds of State and Central Government policies and exercises supervisory powers over numerous other functionaries of the Government.

The [Delhi High Court](#) has jurisdiction over Delhi. Delhi also has [lower courts](#); the [Small Causes Court](#) for civil cases, and the [Sessions Court](#) for criminal cases. The [Delhi Police](#), headed by the [Police](#)

Commissioner, is one of the largest metropolitan police forces in the world. Delhi is administratively divided into nine police-zones, which are further subdivided into 95 local police stations.

Government and politics



The North Block, built in 1931 during the British Raj, houses key government offices

Earlier known as a special union territory Delhi, is a State and the National Capital Territory of Delhi has its own Legislative Assembly, Lieutenant Governor, Council of Ministers and Chief Minister. The legislative assembly seats are filled by direct election from territorial constituencies in the NCT. However, the Union Government of India and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi jointly administer New Delhi which is in the State [not included in the union territory region. While services like transport and others are taken care of by the Delhi Govt., services such as the police are directly under the control of the Central Government. The legislative assembly was re-established in 1993 for the first time since 1956, with direct federal rule in the span. In addition, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) handles civic administration for the city as part of the Panchayati Raj act. New Delhi, an urban area in Delhi, is the seat of both the State Government of Delhi and the Government of India. The Parliament of India, the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) and the Supreme Court of India are located in New Delhi. There are 70 assembly constituencies and seven Lok Sabha (Indian parliament's lower house) constituencies in Delhi.

Delhi was a traditional stronghold of the Indian National Congress, also known as the Congress Party. In the 1990s the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the leadership of Madan Lal Khurana came into power. However in 1998, Congress regained power under Sheila Dixit, who is the incumbent Chief Minister. The Congress retained power in the Legislative Assembly in the 2003 election as well by a large margin. However, in 2007, the BJP scored a crushing victory over the ruling Congress in the MCD election. Both parties have advocated full-fledged statehood for Delhi, but the process to establish this has been slow. The next election is slated to take place soon and this has heated up the politics of the city.

Economy



Gurgaon, a satellite city of Delhi is one of India's largest outsourcing and information technology hubs. With an estimated net State Domestic Product (FY 2007) of Rs. 1,182 billion (US\$24.5 billion) in

nominal terms and Rs. 3,364 billion (US\$69.8 billion) in [PPP terms](#),^{[46][47]} Delhi is the second largest commercial center in South Asia after [Mumbai](#). In 2007, Delhi had a [per capita income](#) of Rs. 66,728 (US\$1,450) at current prices, the third highest in India after [Chandigarh](#) and [Goa](#). The [tertiary sector](#) contributes 70.95% of Delhi's gross SDP followed by [secondary](#) and [primary](#) sectors with 25.2% and 3.85% contribution respectively. Delhi's workforce constitutes 32.82% of the population showing an increase of 52.52% between 1991 and 2001. Delhi's unemployment rate decreased from 12.57% in 1999–2000 to 4.63% in 2003. In December 2004, 636,000 people were registered with various employment exchange programmes in Delhi.



Barakhamba Road in [Connaught Place](#), an important economic and cultural center. Delhi registered an economic growth rate of 16% in 2006–07

In 2001 the total workforce in all government (union and state) and quasi government sector was 620,000. In comparison, organised private sector employed 219,000. Delhi's service sector has expanded due in part to the large skilled English-speaking workforce that has attracted many multinational companies. Key service industries include information technology, telecommunications, hotels, banking, media and tourism. Delhi's manufacturing industry has also grown considerably as many [consumer goods industries](#) have established manufacturing units and headquarters in and around Delhi. Delhi's large consumer market, coupled with the easy availability of skilled labour, has attracted foreign investment in Delhi. In 2001, the manufacturing sector employed 1,440,000 workers while the number of industrial units was 129,000. Construction, power, telecommunications, health and community services, and real estate form integral parts of Delhi's economy. Delhi has India's largest and one of the fastest growing retail industries. As a result, land prices are booming and Delhi is currently ranked the 7th most expensive office hotspot in the world, with prices at \$145.16 per square foot. As in the rest of India, the fast growth of retail is expected to affect the traditional unorganized retail trading system.

Utility services



The headquarters of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC). On the foreground is [Jantar Mantar](#)

The water supply in Delhi is managed by the [Delhi Jal Board](#) (DJB). As of 2006, it supplied 650 MGD (million gallons per day) of water, while the water demand for 2005–06 was estimated to be 963 MGD. The rest of the demand is met by private and public [tube wells](#) and [hand pumps](#). At 240 MGD, the Bhakra storage is the largest water source for DJB, followed by river Yamuna and [Ganges](#). With falling [groundwater](#) level and rising population density, Delhi faces severely acute water shortage. Delhi daily produces 8000 [tonnes](#) of solid wastes which is dumped at three [landfill](#) sites by MCD. The daily domestic waste water production is 470 MGD and industrial waste water is 70 MGD. A large portion of the sewerage flows untreated into the river Yamuna.[\[56\]](#)

The city's per capita electricity consumption is about 1,265 [kWh](#) but actual demand is much more.[\[57\]](#) In 1997, [Delhi Vidyut Board](#) (DVB) replaced Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking which was managed by the MCD. The DVB itself cannot generate adequate power to meet the city's demand and borrows power from India's Northern Region Grid. As a result, Delhi faces a power shortage resulting in frequent [blackouts and brownouts](#), especially during the summer season when energy demand is at its peak. Several industrial units in Delhi rely on their own electrical generators to meet their electric demand and for back up during Delhi's frequent and disruptive power cuts. A few years ago, the power sector in Delhi was handed over to private companies. The distribution of electricity is carried out by companies run by [Tata Power](#) and [Reliance Energy](#). The [Delhi Fire Service](#) runs 43 fire stations that attend about 15,000 fire and rescue calls per year.

State-owned [Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited](#) (MTNL) and private enterprises like [Vodafone](#) [Essar](#), [Airtel](#), [Idea cellular](#), [Reliance Infocomm](#) and [Tata Indicom](#) provide [telephone and cell phone service](#) to the city. In May 2008, Airtel alone had approximately 4 million cellular subscribers in Delhi. Cellular coverage is extensive, and both [GSM](#) and [CDMA](#) (from Reliance and Tata Indicom) services are available. Affordable [broadband internet](#) penetration is increasing in the city.

Demographics



[\[5\]](#) The [Akshardham Temple](#) in Delhi is the largest [Hindu temple](#) complex in the world.[\[81\]](#)

Many ethnic groups and cultures are represented in Delhi, making it a cosmopolitan city. A seat of political power and a centre of commerce, the city attracts workers—both [blue collar](#) and [white collar](#)—from all parts of India, further enhancing its diverse character. A diplomatic hub, home to the embassies of 160 countries, Delhi has a large [expatriate](#) population as well.

[\[show\]](#) Population Growth of Delhi

Census	Pop.	%±
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%

source: [delhiplanning.nic.in](#)

† Huge population rise in 1951 due to large scale migration after [Partition of India](#) in 1947.

According to the 2001 [Census of India](#), the population of Delhi that year was 13,782,976. The corresponding population density was 9,294 persons per km², with a sex ratio of 821 women per 1000 men, and a [literacy rate](#) of 81.82%. By 2003, the National Capital Territory of Delhi had a population of 14.1 million people, making it the largest metropolitan area in India surpassing [Mumbai](#).^{[83][84]} This included 295,000 people living in New Delhi and another 125,000 in Delhi Cantonment. By 2004, the estimated population had increased to 15,279,000. That year, the [birth rate](#), [death rate](#) and [infant mortality rate](#) (per 1000 population) were 20.03, 5.59 and 13.08, respectively. Currently the city's municipal population is expected to be 17 million, making it the world's most populous city (but not the most populous metropolitan region, that being [Tokyo](#)) According a 1999–2000 estimate, the total number of people living below the [poverty line](#) in Delhi was 1,149,000 (which was 8.23% of the total population). In 2001, the population of Delhi increased by 285,000 as a result of migration and by an additional 215,000 as a result of natural population growth– this made Delhi one of the fastest growing cities in the world. By 2015, Delhi is expected to be the second largest [agglomeration](#) in the world after [Tokyo](#).

[Hinduism](#) is the religion of 82% of Delhi's population. There are also large communities of [Muslims](#) (11.7%), [Sikhs](#) (4.0%), [Jains](#) (1.1%) and [Christians](#) (0.9%) in the city. Other minorities include [Parsis](#), [Anglo-Indians](#), [Buddhists](#) and [Jews](#).



[Jama Masjid](#), the largest [mosque](#) in [Asia-Pacific](#)

[Hindi](#) is the principal spoken and written language of the city. Other languages commonly spoken in the city are [English](#), [Punjabi](#) and [Urdu](#). Of these, English is an associate official language, and Punjabi and Urdu second official languages. Linguistic groups from all over India are well represented in the city; among them are [Maithili](#), [Bhojpuri](#), [Tamil](#), [Kannada](#), [Telugu](#), [Bengali](#), [Assamese](#) and [Marathi](#). [Punjabis](#), [Jats](#) and [Gujjars](#) are examples of the various ethnic communities in the city.

The oldest community in Delhi which is a unique community in itself is that of the [Dilliwalas](#), which traces its history in Delhi back a few centuries.

In 2005, Delhi accounted for the highest percentage (16.2%) of the crimes reported in the 35 cities in India with populations of [one million or more](#).^[91] The city also has the highest rate of crime against women (27.6 compared to national average rate of 14.1 per 100,000) and against children (6.5 compared to national average of 1.4 per 100,000) in the country.^[92]

Culture



Traditional pottery on display in [Dilli Haat](#)



Rice and [Kadhai](#) Chicken from Delhi

Delhi's [culture](#) has been influenced by its lengthy history and historic association as the capital of India. This is exemplified by the many monuments of significance found in the city; the [Archaeological Survey of India](#) recognises 175 monuments in Delhi as national heritage sites. The Old City is the site where the Mughals and the Turkic rulers constructed several architectural marvels like the [Jama Masjid](#) (India's largest mosque) and [Red Fort](#). Three [World Heritage Sites](#)—the Red Fort, [Qutab Minar](#) and [Humayun's Tomb](#)—are located in Delhi. 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](#) and the [Bahá'í Lotus 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 the British [colonial architecture](#). Important structures include the Rashtrapati Bhavan, [the Secretariat](#), [Rajpath](#), the Parliament of India and [Vijay Chowk](#). [Safdarjung's Tomb](#) is an example of the [Mughal gardens](#) style

Delhi's association and geographic proximity to the capital, [New Delhi](#), has amplified the importance of national events and holidays. National events such as [Republic Day](#), [Independence Day](#) and [Gandhi Jayanti](#) (Gandhi's birthday) are celebrated with great enthusiasm in Delhi. On India's Independence Day (15 August) the Prime Minister of India addresses the nation from the Red Fort. Most Delhiites celebrate the day by flying kites, which are considered a symbol of freedom. The [Republic Day Parade](#) is a large cultural and military parade showcasing India's cultural diversity and military might.

Religious festivals include [Diwali](#) (the festival of lights), [Mahavir Jayanti](#), [Guru Nanak's Birthday](#), [Durga Puja](#), [Holi](#), [Lohri](#), [Maha Shivaratri](#), [Eid](#) and [Buddha Jayanti](#). 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 the chosen backdrop of the event. 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, is held in Delhi biennially. The [World Book Fair](#), held annually at the [Pragati Maidan](#), is the second largest exhibition of books in the world with as many as 23 nations participating in the event. Delhi is often regarded as the "Book Capital" of India because of high readership.



The [Auto Expo](#), Asia's largest [auto show](#),^[100] is held annually at Pragati Maidan and showcases the technological prowess of the [Indian automobile industry](#)

[Punjabi](#) and [Mughlai](#) delicacies like [kababs](#) and [biryanis](#) are popular in several parts of Delhi. Due to Delhi's large cosmopolitan population, [cuisines](#) from every part of India, including [Rajasthani](#), [Maharashtrian](#), [Bengali](#), [Hyderabadi](#) cuisines, and [South Indian food items](#) like [idli](#), [sambar](#) and [dosa](#) are widely available. Local delicacies include [Chaat](#) and [Dahi-Papri](#). There are several food outlets in Delhi serving international cuisine including [Italian](#) and [Chinese](#).

Historically, Delhi has always remained an important trading centre in northern India. Old Delhi still contains legacies of its rich Mughal past that can be found among the old city's tangle of snaking lanes and teeming bazaars. The dingy markets of the Old City has an eclectic product range from oil-swamped mango, lime and eggplant pickles, candy-colored herbal potions to silver jewelry, bridal attire, uncut material and linen, spices, sweets. Some of old regal *havelis* (palatial residences) are still there in the Old City. [Chandni Chowk](#), a three century old shopping area, is one of the most popular shopping areas in Delhi for jewellery and *Zari saris*. Notable among Delhi's arts and crafts are the *Zardozi* (an embroidery done with gold thread) and *Meenakari* (the art of enameling). [Dilli Haat](#), [Hauz Khas](#), [Pragati Maidan](#) offer a variety of Indian handicrafts and handlooms. However, the city is said to have lost its own identity and socio-cultural legacies as it went to absorb multitude of humanity from across the country and has morphed into an amorphous pool of cultural styles.^{[107][10]}

Education



Consistently ranked as India's top medical college, [All India Institute of Medical Sciences](#) is a global leader in medical research and treatment

[Schools](#) and [higher educational institutions](#) in Delhi are administered either by the Directorate of Education, the NCT government, or private organizations. In 2004–05, there were 2,515 primary, 635 middle, 504 secondary and 1,208 senior secondary schools in Delhi. That year, the higher education institutions in the city included 165 colleges, among them five medical colleges and eight engineering colleges,^[110] six universities—[DU](#), [JNU](#), [JMI](#), [GGSIPU](#), [IGNOU](#) and [Jamia Hamdard](#)—and nine [deemed universities](#).^[110] [GGSIPU](#) is the only [state university](#); [IGNOU](#) is for open/distance learning; the rest are all [central universities](#).



[Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi](#) is ranked by [Asiaweek](#) as the fourth best institute in Asia in the

field of science and technology

Private schools in Delhi—which employ either English or Hindi as the language of instruction—are affiliated to one of two administering bodies: the [Indian Certificate of Secondary Education](#) (ICSE) and the [Central Board for Secondary Education](#) (CBSE). In 2004–05, approximately 15.29 lakh (1.529 million) students were enrolled in primary schools, 8.22 lakh (0.822 million) in middle schools and 6.69 lakh (0.669 million) in secondary schools across Delhi.^[110] Female students represented 49% of the total enrollment. The same year, the Delhi government spent between 1.58% and 1.95% of its gross state domestic product on education.

After completing the ten-year secondary phase of their education under the [10+2+3 plan](#), students typically spend the next two years either in [junior colleges](#) or in schools with *senior secondary* facilities, during which their studies become more focused. They select a *stream* of study—[liberal arts](#), commerce, science, or, less commonly, vocational. Upon completion, those who choose to continue, either study for a three-year undergraduate degree at a college, or a professional degree in law, engineering, or medicine. Notable higher education or research institutes in Delhi include [All India Institute of Medical Sciences](#), [Indian Institute of Technology Delhi](#), [Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology](#), [Delhi College of Engineering](#), [Faculty of Management Studies](#), [Indian Law Institute](#), [Delhi School of Economics](#), and [Indian Institute of Foreign Trade](#). According to a 2008 survey, about 16% of all Delhi residents possessed at least a college graduate degree.