

Delhi or national capital territory of Delhi (NCTD) is the kernel of national governance - bureaucracy, political gambit and centre of business in India. The city is a living testimony of concoction between rich heritage and contemporary cosmopolitan urban life. Located at the banks of the River Yamuna, it is the second largest metropolis in India. Delhi has been one of the fastest growing cities in the country. India is a federation with a parliamentary system and has three tiers in governance hierarchy; namely the national government, state government and local (municipal) government. New Delhi, a city within NCTD is the capital of India; planned by renowned town planners Edward Lutyens and Herbert Baker in the year 1912.



Figure 1: India map and location of Delhi

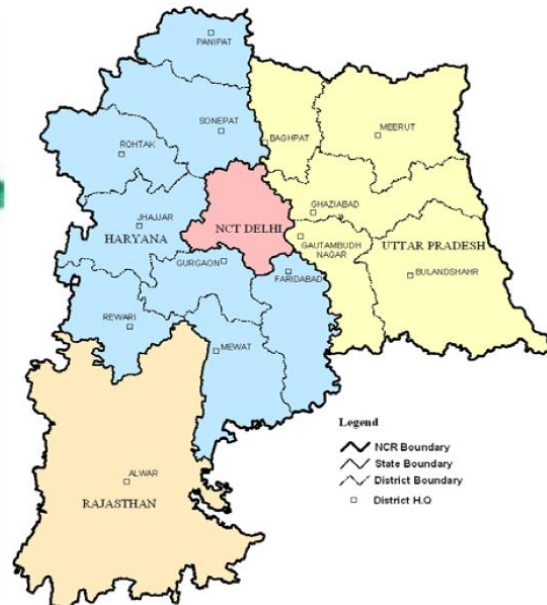


Figure 2: Regional setting of NCTD

► **Administrative arrangement and planning fabric**

In recognition to the unique geo-political situation, the national government enacted the national capital region (NCR) planning board act, 1985. The NCR planning board is entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating regional and sub-regional plans. NCTD comprises of 9 districts, 27 tehsils, 59 census towns, 300 villages and 3 municipal corporations. National government and the government of NCTD jointly administer New Delhi. The present NCR comprises of a total area of 33,578 sq.km and spread in four states. Regional plan 2021 has been drawn up with reference to four policy zones; NCTD, central NCR, highway corridor zone, and rest of NCR. NCR planning board has constituted a broad vision for each zone with respect to the broad vision of its regional plan philosophy. Delhi development authority (DDA) established under the provisions of the Delhi development act 1957, is the parastatal agency responsible to promote and secure development of Delhi. The municipal corporation of Delhi, elected by the people is responsible to perform all municipal civic services.

► **Urban identity and some critical issues**

Delhi covers an area around of 1483 sq kms as per the estimations in the master plan. In order to control the development, the areas have been designated in the 27 use zones. These use zones have been classified broadly in ten categories of land uses namely residential, commercial, industry, recreational, regional park / ridge, transportation, utility, government, public and semi public facilities, agriculture and water body. 44% of the geographical area of Delhi is built-up area. Delhi has a much larger green cover than any of the other metropolitan

city in the country. The annual average population growth in Delhi has always been on the higher side due to both natural growth and migration. The housing policy in Delhi is based on the ‘National Housing and Habitat Policy 2007’, which has the ultimate goal to ensure ‘shelter for all’. According to the projected population of 23 million by 2021, the estimated additional housing stock required will be around 2.4 million dwelling units (DUs). 50-55% of the housing requirement would be for the urban poor and economically weaker sections.

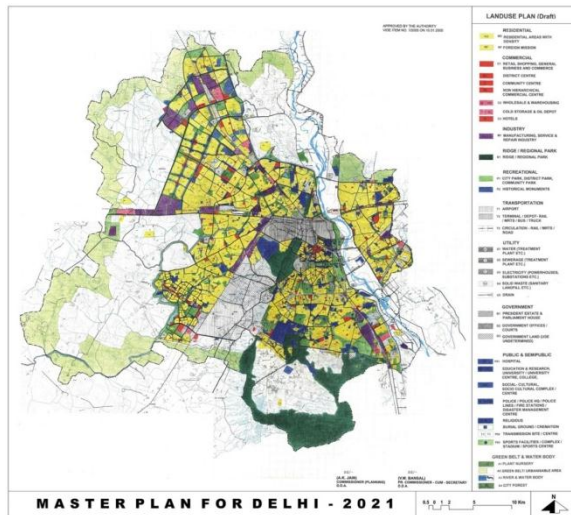


Figure 3: Proposed draft Landuse map NCTD.

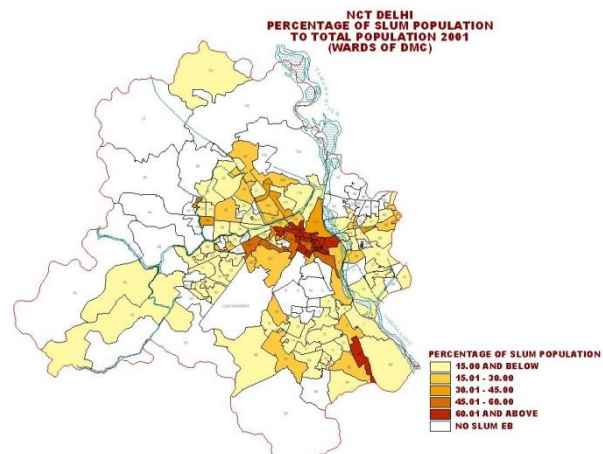


Figure 4: Slum population in Delhi (Census 2001).

Delhi’s economy is driven by the services sector, which accounts for 78% of its ‘Gross state domestic product (GSDP) and provides employment to 58% of the labour force. Delhi has a much higher per capita income compare to the national average. In Delhi, slums and urban poverty are a pressing issue. The percentage of people below poverty line is 10.02% (2001). The gross average monthly income of these poor household ranges from Rs. 1500-2500 (USD 30 to 50). Slums in Delhi are classified as notified slums in old walled city area, JJ clusters or squatter settlements and resettlement colonies. The approach of the government towards slum has been three pronged; clearance/relocation, in-situ up gradation and environmental improvement schemes. Delhi consists of a well-developed transport network, based on ring and radial pattern. The majority share of travel needs of Delhi commuters are met by road based transport including buses, BRTS, suburban rail system systems and metro rail corridors. Delhi is a major junction on the rail map of India, linked with all the metropolitan cities.

► *Urban evolution and growth story*

During the last two plans (8th & 9th), infrastructure areas like energy, transport, urban development and water supply received a major government attention, indicating the government’s focus on urban infrastructure. The basic policies in Delhi are to achieve environmentally sustainable development and relieve the capital city from additional growth pressure. The strategies are to create new avenues of employment, restriction on new government offices in NCTD, shifting of public sector offices to the NCR, restrict industrial growth only to high tech industries, conserve natural features, strengthen major regional transport corridor and communication network to enhance economic development. The growth of Delhi over the years has been on a ring and radial pattern, with reliance on road based public transport. In cognizance with the growth pattern, areas of urban regeneration are planned around the influence zone of major transport corridors, low density areas, identified pockets of high density, villages and unplanned areas.

