List of Chief Ministers of Delhi

Name	Took Office	Left Office	Political Party	
1	Chaudhary Brahm Prakash	1952	1955	Indian National Congress
2	G N Singh	1955	1956	Indian National Congress
†	—	1956	1993	State ceased to exist, became a centrally administered union territory
3	Madan Lal Khurana	1993	1996	Bharatiya Janata Party
4	Sahib Singh Verma	1996	1998	Bharatiya Janata Party
5	Sushma Swaraj	1998	1998	Bharatiya Janata Party
6	Sheila Dikshit	1998	2003	Indian National Congress
7	Sheila Dikshit	2003	2008	Indian National Congress
8	Sheila Dikshit	2008	Incumbent	Indian National Congress

Introduction about Delhi

Delhi also known as the **National Capital Territory of Delhi**) is a metropolitan region in India that includes the national capital city, New Delhi. It is India's second-most-populous city after Mumbai, and the largest city in terms of area. With a population of 22 million in 2011, the city is the fourth-largest city in the world. The NCT and its urban region have been given the special status of National Capital Region (NCR) under the Constitution of India's 69th amendment act of 1991. The NCR includes the neighbouring cities of Baghpat, Gurgaon, Sonepat, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida and other nearby towns, and has nearly 22.2 million residents.

Although technically a federally administered 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 is the capital of the NCT of Delhi.

Delhi has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BC. Through most of its history, Delhi has served as a capital of various kingdoms and empires. It has been captured, ransacked and rebuilt several times, particularly during the medieval period, and the modern Delhi is a cluster of a number of cities spread across the metropolitan region. This is why Delhi is sometimes called as **City of cities**.

Delhi was the site of ancient Indraprastha, the mythical capital of the Pandavas during the Mahabharata. Delhi re-emerged as a major political, cultural and commercial city along the trade routes between northwest India and the Gangetic plain during the Delhi sultanates.

In AD 1639, the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built a new walled city in Delhi, which served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1649 until the Rebellion of 1857. The British captured Delhi in 1857 and the city replaced Kolkata as the seat of British government in India in 1911. A new capital city, New Delhi, was built to the south of the old city during the 1920s. When the British left India in 1947, New Delhi became its national capital and seat of government.

History

The area around Delhi was probably inhabited before the second millennium BC, and there is evidence of continuous inhabitation since at least the 6th century BC. The city is believed to be the site of Indraprastha, the legendary capital of the Pandavas in the Indian epic Mahabharata. The earliest architectural relics date back to the Maurya period (c. 300 BC); in 1966, an inscription of the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka (273–236 BC) was discovered near Srinivaspuri. Remains of eight major cities have been discovered in Delhi. The first five cities were in the southern part of present-day Delhi. Anang Pal of the Tomara dynasty founded the city of Lal Kot in AD 736. The Chauhans conquered Lal Kot in 1180 and renamed it Qila Rai Pithora.

The iron pillar of Delhi, is said to have been fashioned at the time of Chandragupta Vikramaditya (375–413) of the Gupta Empire.

The Chauhan king Prithvi was defeated in 1192 by the Afghan invader Muhammad Ghori who made a concerted effort to conquer northern India. By 1200, Hindu resistance had begun to crumble. Dominance of Muslim dynasties in India was to last for the next five centuries. On the death of Muhammad in 1206, the Turkic slave-general, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, broke away from the Ghurid Dynasty and became the first Sultan of Delhi. He began construction of the Qutb Minar and Quwwat-al-Islam (might of Islam) mosque, the earliest extant mosque in India. Qutb-ud-din faced widespread Hindu rebellions and it was his successor, Iltutmish (1211–36), who consolidated the Muslim conquest of northern India.

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

For the next three hundred years, Delhi was ruled by a succession of Turkic and an Afghan, Lodhi dynasty. They built a number of forts and townships that are part of the seven cities of Delhi. Delhi was a major centre of Sufism during this period. The Mamluk Sultanate (Delhi) was overthrown in 1290 by the Khilji dynasty (1290–1320). Under the second Khilji ruler, Ala-ud-din Khilji, 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, but 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 Lenk](#) in 1398. Near Delhi, Timur massacred 100,000 captives. Delhi's decline continued under the [Sayyid dynasty](#) (1414–1451), until the sultanate was reduced to Delhi and its hinterland. Under the Afghan [Lodhi 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 in 1526 the sultanate was destroyed by [Babur](#), founder of the [Mughal dynasty](#).

In 1526, Babur, a descendant of [Genghis Khan](#) and Timur, from the Fergana Valley in modern-day Uzbekistan, invaded India, defeated the last Lodhi sultan in the [First Battle of Panipat](#) and founded the [Mughal Empire](#) that ruled from Delhi and [Agra](#). The Mughal dynasty ruled Delhi for more than three centuries, with a sixteen-year hiatus during the reign of [Sher Shah Suri](#), from 1540 to 1556. In 1553, the Hindu king, [Hemu Vikramaditya](#) acceded to the throne of Delhi by defeating 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. [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*.

A [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), [Red fort](#) is the location from which the [Prime Minister of India](#) addresses the nation on [Independence Day](#)

After 1720, the Mughal Empire's influence declined rapidly as the Hindu [Maratha Empire](#) rose to prominence. In 1737, Maratha forces sacked Delhi following their victory against the Mughals in the [First Battle of Delhi](#). In 1739, the Mughal Empire lost the [Battle of Karnal](#), following which the victorious forces of [Nader Shah](#), the Turkic ruler of the [Afsharid dynasty](#), invaded and looted Delhi, carrying away many treasures, including the [Peacock Throne](#). A treaty signed in 1752 made Marathas the protectors of the Mughal throne in Delhi.

A [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), Built in 1560, [Humayun's Tomb](#) is the first example of [Mughal tomb complexes](#).

In 1757, the Afghan ruler, [Ahmad Shah Durrani](#), sacked Delhi. He returned to Afghanistan leaving a Mughal puppet ruler in nominal control. The Marathas briefly occupied Delhi before their defeat in 1761 at the [third battle of Panipat](#) and the city was captured again by Ahmad Shah. 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 puppet ruler in 1772. In 1803, during the [Second Anglo-Maratha War](#), the forces of [British East India Company](#) defeated the Maratha forces in the [Battle of Delhi](#). 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](#). In 1911, it was announced that the capital of British held territories in India was to be transferred from [Calcutta](#) to Delhi. 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*, was officially declared as the capital of the [Union of India](#) after the country gained [independence](#) on 15 August 1947. 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.

The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Act gave Delhi its own legislative assembly along Civil lines, though with limited powers. In December 2001, the Parliament of India building in New Delhi was [attacked](#) by armed militants, killing six security personnel. India suspected Pakistan-based militant groups were behind the attack, which caused a major [diplomatic crisis](#) between the two countries. There were further terrorist attacks in Delhi in [October 2005](#) and [September 2008](#), resulting in the deaths of 62 and 30 civilians respectively.

Geography

Delhi is located at [28.61°N 77.23°E](#), and lies in [Northern India](#). It borders the Indian states of [Haryana](#) on the north, west and south and [Uttar Pradesh](#) (UP) to the east. During the [British Raj](#), Delhi was part of the province of Punjab and is still historically and culturally connected to the [Punjab](#) region. 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, north-east and north-west parts of the city. It reaches a height of 318 m (1,043 ft) and is a dominant feature of the region.

The National Capital Territory of Delhi covers an area of 1,484 km^2 (573 sq mi), of which 783 km^2 (302 sq mi) is designated rural, and 700 km^2 (270 sq mi) urban. Delhi has a length of 51.9 km (32 mi) and a width of 48.48 km (30 mi). Delhi has the third highest quantity of trees among Indian cities. Delhi was one of the ten most polluted cities in the world during the 1990s, with 70% of the polluting emissions produced by vehicles. In 1996 the [Centre for Science and Environment](#) 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 [Compressed Natural Gas](#) 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".

Delhi is included in India's [seismic zone-IV](#), indicating its vulnerability to major earthquakes, but earthquakes have not been common in recent history.

Government and politics

The National Capital Territory of Delhi has its own [Legislative Assembly](#), [Lieutenant Governor](#), 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 in1956, after which direct federal control was implemented until it was re-established in 1993. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) 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 municipal district of New Delhi. There are 70 assembly constituencies and seven [Lok Sabha](#) (Indian parliament's lower house) constituencies in Delhi.

The Indian National Congress formed all the governments in Delhi until the 1990s, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by [Madan Lal Khurana](#), came to power. Since 1998 however, the Congress has retained power in Delhi, with the current Chief Minister [Sheila Dikshit](#) in her 3rd term. The city's transport services are run by the Delhi government and the police are directly controlled by the Central Government.

Economy

Delhi is the largest commercial centre in northern India; it has an estimated net [State Domestic Product](#) (FY 2010) of ₹1578.17 billion (US$25 billion) in nominal terms and ~₹6300 billion (US$100 billion) in [PPP](#) terms. As of 2010, the per capita income of Delhi was ₹135820 (US$2,200), the third highest in India after Chandigarh and Goa. Delhi's Gross domestic product GDP (at 2004–05 prices), on average, grew by 10.7% between 2007 and 2012, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the region.

As per the Economic survey of Delhi (2005–2006), the [tertiary sector](#) contributes 70.95% of Delhi's gross SDP followed by [secondary](#) and [primary](#) sectors, with 25.20% and 3.85% contributions respectively.[77] Delhi's workforce constitutes 32.82% of the population, and increased by 52.52% between 1991 and 2001. Delhi's unemployment rate decreased from 12.57% in 1999–2000 to 4.63% in 2003.[78] In December 2004, 636,000 people were registered with various employment exchange programs in Delhi.

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. Key service industries are information technology, telecommunications, hotels, banking, media and tourism. 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. 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 attracted foreign investment. In 2001, the manufacturing sector employed 1,440,000 workers and the city had 129,000 industrial units.

Sports

Delhi has hosted many major international sporting events, including the first and the ninth Asian Games, the 2010 Hockey World Cup, the 2010 Commonwealth Games and the 2011 Cricket World Cup. Delhi lost bidding for the 2014 Asian Games, and considered making a bid for the 2020 Summer Olympics. However, sports minister Manohar Singh Gill later stated that funding infrastructure would come before a 2020 bid.

The 2010 Commonwealth Games, which ran from 3 to 14 October 2010, was one of the largest sports event held in India. 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. The ceremony featured over 8,000 performers and lasted for two and a half hours. It is estimated that ₹3.5 billion (US$56 million) were spent to produce the ceremony. Events took place at 12 competition venues. 20 training venues were used in the Games, including seven venues within Delhi University. The rugby stadium in Delhi University North Campus hosted rugby games for Commonwealth Games The mess left behind after the Commonwealth Games prompted Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to replace Sports and Youth Affairs minister Manohar Singh Gill with Ajay Maken in the 19 January 2011 Cabinet reshuffle.

Cricket and football are the most popular sports in Delhi. There are several cricket grounds, or *maidans*, located across the city. The Feroz Shah Kotla Ground (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. The Delhi cricket team has produced several world-class international cricketers such as Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli, Madan Lal, Chetan Chauhan 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 Daredevils, who play their home matches at the Kotla, and was the home to the Delhi Giants team (previously Delhi Jets) of the now defunct Indian Cricket League.

Ambedkar Stadium, a football stadium in Delhi which holds 20,000 people, was the venue for the Indian football team's World Cup qualifier against UAE on 28 July 2012. Delhi hosted the Nehru Cup in 2007 and 2009, in both of which India defeated Syria 1–0. In the Elite Football League of India, Delhi's first professional American football franchise, the Delhi Defenders played its first season in Pune. Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, a suburb of Delhi, hosts the annual Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix. The Indira Gandhi Arena is also in Delhi.