



Research Unit
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A symbol of the country's rich past and thriving present, **Delhi** is a city where ancient and modern blend seamlessly together. It is a place that not only touches one's pulse but also warms the heart. Home to millions of dreams, the city takes on unprecedented responsibilities of realizing dreams, bringing people closer, and building a cosmopolitan culture.

AN OVERVIEW

Delhi finds prominent mention right from the times of the epic Mahabharata. Its control passed from one ruler/dynasty to another, beginning with the Mauryas, Pallavas, and Guptas of Central India, and then to the Turks and Afghans during the 13th to 15th centuries, and finally to the Mughals in the 16th century. In the latter half of the 18th century and early 19th century, British rule was established in Delhi.

In 1911, Delhi became the seat of power after the capital of British India was shifted from Kolkata. Later, Delhi became the capital of Independent India and was made a Union Territory in 1956. Lying in the northern part of the country, Delhi is surrounded by Haryana on all sides except the east, where it borders Uttar Pradesh. The 69th Constitutional amendment is a milestone in Delhi's history, as it got a Legislative Assembly with the enactment of the National Capital Territory Act, 1991.¹

With a history that dates back a millennium, Delhi showcases an ancient culture keeping pace with a rapidly modernizing country. The seat of many powerful empires in the past, its long history can be traced in its many carefully preserved monuments, ancient forts, and tombs. The past and the present meld seamlessly together here, making centuries-old monuments a part of the city's daily life.²

All this is combined with the best features of a modern city such as a vast metro rail system, bustling markets, and world-class facilities for its citizens. New malls and entertainment centers



¹ <https://delhi.gov.in/page/about-us#>

² <https://delhitourism.gov.in/delhitourism/aboutus/index.jsp>

jostle for space along with a growing number of brand-new hospitals, residential complexes, and sporting facilities. There are world-class stadia that can be accessed by one and all, throughout the year. Delhi has also emerged as a center of medical tourism with its superior health and wellness facilities.

All of this has been developed and sustained while maintaining Delhi's green cover, a unique feature that distinguishes this truly global metropolis from other cities in the world where the tree line is subdued by skyscrapers.

According to the [Government of Delhi's official website](#), Delhi is spread over an area of 1,483 sq km and has a population of 1.67 crore.



CONNECTIVITY

Delhi is well connected by roads, rail, and air with all parts of India. It has three airports-Indira Gandhi International Airport for international flights, Palam Airport for domestic air services, and Safdarjung Airway for training purposes. It has three important railway stations - Delhi Junction, New Delhi Railway Station, and Nizamuddin Railway Station. Delhi has three inter-state bus terminals at Kashmiri Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, and Anand Vihar.

The revamped Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport provides visitors with their first experience of a modern, world-class city that is keeping pace with the best in the world. The newly-built Terminal 3, from where international and many domestic carriers operate, has facilities that are on par with the world's most modern airports.

Now, Delhi Metro comprises 12 lines (including NOIDA-Greater NOIDA Aqua Line, and Rapid Metro Gurugram) with a total length of around 393 km and a daily ridership of nearly 71.03

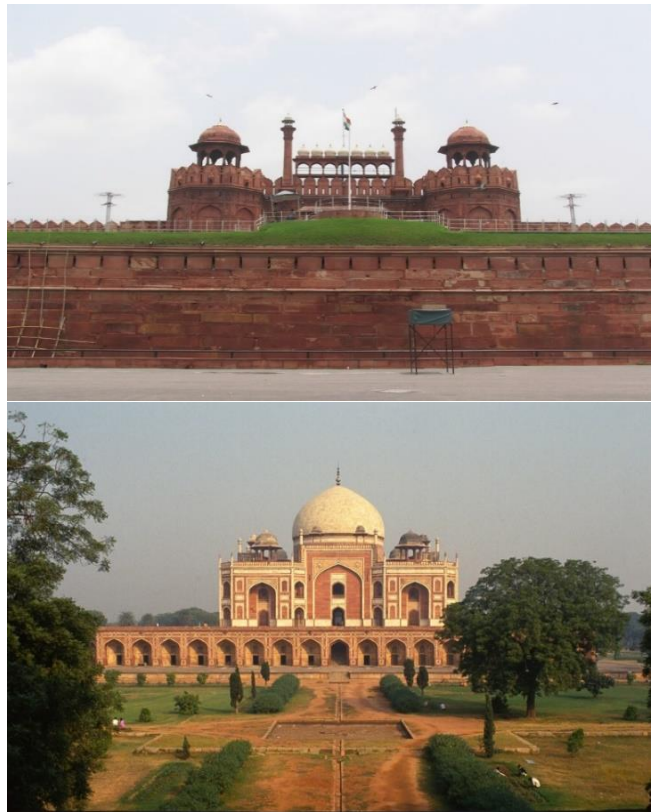
lakh passengers.³ The Airport Metro Express, in just 17 minutes, provides easy connectivity for visitors from the heart of the city to the IGI Airport. Whether one is travelling to Old Delhi, Connaught Place, or Dilli Haat, the metro provides an easy way of getting around the city. The numerous flyovers, wide roads, and bus and auto services also ensure that it is easy to explore the city.

FESTIVALS

Being a cosmopolitan city, all major festivals of India are celebrated here. Moreover, some tourism festivals have become regular annual events in Delhi. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation organizes the Roshnara Festival, Shalimar Festival, Qutab Festival, Winter Carnival, Garden Tourism Festival, Jahane-Khusrao Festival, and Mango Festival every year.

TOURIST PLACES

Delhi has been an attractive tourist destination for people for centuries, where one can have a fascinating glimpse into the past in Old Delhi, with its labyrinth of narrow lanes, old havelis, and colourful bazaars. It is home to three World Heritage monuments - Qutub Minar, Red Fort, and Humayun's Tomb that have survived over centuries, and provide a glimpse of architectural wonders created by emperors in the past.



³ <https://www.delhimetrorail.com/>

Central Delhi, with its tree-lined avenues, imposing structures, and buildings such as the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, and India Gate, reflect the timelessness of Delhi's past. A number of museums provide a glimpse into the country's fascinating history. But the modern Delhi has a lot more to offer.

New additions to the city, such as Akshardham Temple and the Lotus Temple are also among the city's iconic places and give an idea of its modern and multi-faceted culture.



Another attraction of Delhi is its gastronomic delight that lures travellers from near and far. No visit to Delhi is complete without an experience of its famed specialties such as its delicious curries, barbecued tikkas, and kebabs. It is also a shoppers' haven, whether one wants to pick up some rich, woven silks, handicrafts, or ethnic cushions for your home. For cuisine of different Indian states and an array of Indian arts and crafts, there are three Dilli Haats in Delhi at INA, Pitampura, and the brand new Dilli Haat at Janakpuri.

NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURES DEVELOPED IN THE CITY

New Parliament building: The new Parliament building reflects the aspirations of 140 crore Indians with a built-up area of about 65,000 sq. mt. Its triangular shape ensures optimum space utilization. The new building has spacious Legislative Chambers, a much bigger Lok Sabha floor, ample seating space for Rajya Sabha, a state-of-the-art Constitutional Hall, Ultra-modern office spaces, sophisticated Audio-Visual systems, a revamped Sansad Bhawan, a mega library, and an



energy-efficient system. The New Parliament Building is also Divyang friendly (accessible for people with disabilities) and an embodiment of the Indian culture⁴.

Kartavya Path - The Ceremonial Boulevard: Kartavya Path (previously known as Rajpath) is one of the most iconic places in Delhi, renowned for hosting the Annual Republic Day parade, showcasing India's military prowess and cultural diversity on the global stage. Post-independence, Kartavya Path, which extends along the 3 km stretch between the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the India Gate, was renamed; King's Way became Rajpath and is now known as Kartavya Path, which is a magnificent icon of New Delhi. Over the years, several modifications have been made to the Kartavya Path. An additional cross street (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg) was added in order to cater to the increasing city traffic by improving north-south connectivity. The Kartavya Path is also renowned for having a plush green cover, with complete access to citizens.⁵



National War Memorial: The National War Memorial is a 40-acre memorial devoted to war heroes from 1947 through the end of 2017. Its design was chosen in a worldwide competition. The complex is a memorial to Indian troops' sacrifices, with the names of 25,942 martyrs carved in stone in gold letters for posterity. The memorial complex is in harmony with the existing layout and symmetry of the majestic Kartavya Path and Central Vista. Solemnity of the ambience is maintained with an emphasis on landscaping and the simplicity of architecture. Apart from the main



⁴ <https://centralvista.gov.in/new-parliament-building.php>

⁵ <https://centralvista.gov.in/central-vista-by-today.php>

memorial, there is a dedicated area for busts of soldiers who have been conferred with 'Param Vir Chakra,' the nation's highest gallantry award. The design of the main memorial exemplifies that the supreme sacrifice made by a soldier in the line of duty not only makes him immortal but also depicts that the spirit of a soldier remains eternal.

International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex named ‘Bharat Mandapam’: Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of having a world-class infrastructure for hosting meetings, conferences, and exhibitions in the country has led to the conceptualization of the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan. The project revamps the old and outdated facilities at Pragati Maidan and is developed as a national project at a cost of about Rs. 2700 crores. With a campus area of approximately 123 acres, the IECC complex has been developed as India’s largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination. In terms of the covered space available for events, the IECC Complex finds its place among the top exhibition and convention complexes in the world. The newly developed IECC complex at Pragati Maidan comprises multiple state-of-the-art facilities including a Convention Centre, Exhibition halls amphitheater etc.⁶



The Convention Centre has been developed as the centerpiece of the Pragati Maidan complex. It is a grand architectural marvel, designed to host large-scale international exhibitions, trade fairs, conventions, conferences, and other prestigious events. It is equipped with multiple meeting rooms, lounges, auditoriums, an amphitheater, and a business center making it capable of hosting a wide range of events. Its majestic multi-purpose hall and plenary hall have a combined capacity of 7000 people, which is larger than the seating capacity of the famous Sydney Opera House in Australia. Its magnificent Amphitheater is equipped with a seating capacity of 3,000 individuals.

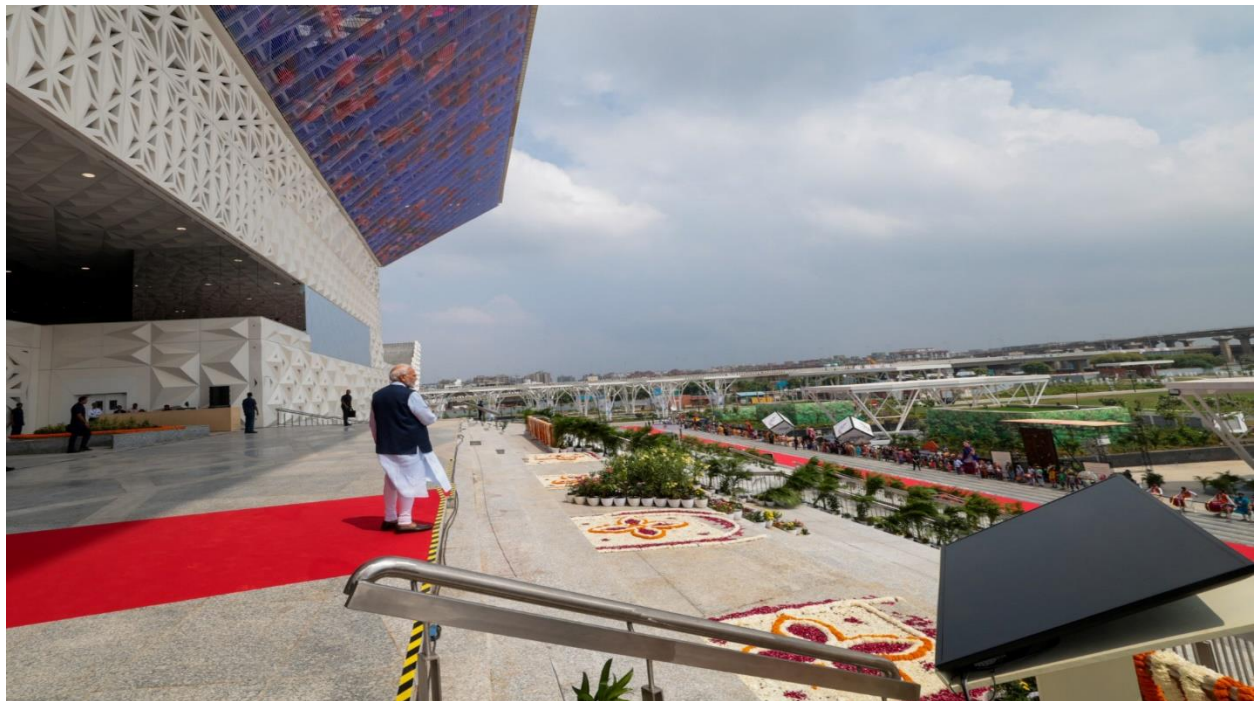
⁶ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1943050>

Yashobhoomi - India International Convention and Expo Centre: With a total project area of over 8.9 lakh square meters and a total built-up area of more than 1.8 lakh square meters, ‘Yashobhoomi’ finds its place among the world’s largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities.

‘Yashobhoomi’, which is developed at a cost of around Rs. 5400 crore, boasts of a magnificent Convention Centre, multiple Exhibition halls, and other facilities.

The Convention Center, built across more than 73 thousand square meters of area, comprises 15 convention rooms including the Main Auditorium, the Grand Ballroom, and 13 meeting rooms with a total capacity of holding 11,000 delegates. The Convention Center has the largest LED media facade in the country. The plenary hall in the Convention Center is equipped with a seating capacity of around 6,000 guests. The auditorium has one of the most innovative automated seating systems which allows the floor to be a flat floor or an auditorium-style tiered seating for different seating configurations. The wooden floors and the acoustic wall panels used in the auditorium ensure a world-class experience for the visitor. The Grand Ballroom, with a unique petal ceiling, can host around 2,500 guests. It also has an extended open area that can seat up to 500 people. The 13 meeting rooms that are spread across eight floors are envisaged to hold a variety of meetings of different scales.⁷

‘Yashobhoomi’ also offers one of the largest Exhibition halls in the world. These Exhibition halls, built across over 1.07 lakh square meters, will be utilized for hosting exhibitions, trade fairs, and business events, and are connected to a grand foyer space that is uniquely designed with a copper ceiling that filters light in the space through the various skylights. The foyer will house various support areas such as Media rooms, VVIP lounges, Cloak facilities, visitor information center, and ticketing among others.



⁷ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1957714>

PERFORMANCE OF CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES IN DELHI

- Rs. **36.21 Crore** released under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme for the welfare of farmers. As many as **16,448 farmers** benefitted from this scheme.
- As many as **53,956 houses** have been completed under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) in Delhi.
- Over **1.42 lakh** LPG connections have been provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) till September 30, 2023.
- A total of **411 Janaushadhi Kendras** are operational in the city under Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- There are **63 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras** (PMKSK) in Delhi set up by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- There are over **60.47 Lakh** total beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in Delhi.
- A total of **5,328 loans** have been given to applicants in Delhi under the Stand-Up India scheme. Out of these, 86% of loans have been given to women.
- There are at least **1.14 lakh** beneficiaries under PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) scheme in Delhi.
- A total of **13 Railway Stations** have been modernized in Delhi under Centre's Amrit Bharat Stations scheme.
- There are **12,270 start-ups** in Delhi registered under the Start-Up India scheme. Of these, 5,948 start-ups are led by women entrepreneurs.
- Over **5.07 lakh candidates** have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in Delhi.

Some central govt schemes' achievements in Delhi



53,956 houses completed under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)



Rs. 36.21 Crore released under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme



More than 1.42 lakh LPG connections provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)



12,270 start-ups registered under Start Up India scheme in the capital so far



Over 5.07 lakh candidates trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

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