

**A GEOGRAPHICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
PROFILE OF DELHI**

CHAPTER – 2

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Delhi is the capital of India and its third largest city. The city consists of two parts. Old Delhi was capital of Muslim India between the 17th and 19th centuries. The other Delhi is New Delhi the imperial City created as a capital of India by the British.

The urbanised area of Delhi has also been continuously expanding in a scrolling manner. According to the All India Soil and Land Use Survey, in 1969 the area of Delhi metropolis was 182 sq. km. Delhi's area has substantially increased to 648 sq. km. in 1989. In the year 2001 the urbanised area has spread over 900 sq. km.

AREA AND LOCATION

Delhi is located in North latitude $28^{\circ}53'17''$ to $28^{\circ}53'00''$ and East longitude of $76^{\circ}50'24''$ to $77^{\circ}20'3''$. The extreme greatest length is nearly 52 kms. and greatest width is 48.48 kms. The present area of National Capital Territory (NCT) is 1483 sq.km. of which urban area is 685.34 sq.km. and rural area is 797.66 sq. km. There are 209 villages in Delhi and 9 districts.

CLIMATE

During winter months of December and January the day temperatures are around 18°C and could go down to 4°C at night. The summer months of May and June are hot and temperatures can rise as high as 46°C . July, August and September are hot and humid.

RAINFALL

Monsoons arrive in the first week of July and the rainy season stretches till mid August. From July to September the approximate rain fall 295 mm, 155 mm, 272 mm respectively. This varies from year to year which some rainy months getting more or less than average rain fall.

NATURAL ECOSYSTEM

The natural vegetation of the region around Delhi can best be described as thorny scrub which can still be seen on the outskirts of the city. If one sees the city as a triangle, the western side is a natural divide, an extension of the ancient Aravali hills which run through Rajasthan. The outcrops in Delhi are called the Ridge. The undulating terrain runs through the Cantonment area in west Delhi, and the section in the north includes the Delhi University. From the highest point in the south at Bhatti, 318 metres above sea level, the fall is 100 metres to the river Yamuna which forms a natural boundary of the city on the east. The base of the triangle is rocky, broken country where small water bodies fill with monsoon run-off and where agricultural land around small villages is cultivated for vegetables and flowers.

The Ridge today is an important lung of metropolitan Delhi. Its evolution from thorny scrub began in the 19th century with the British, who started planting drought resistant indigenous trees. In 1878, the Ridge was declared a Reserved Forest. Lutyens, the architect of New Delhi, used the undulating land to great advantage while siting the Viceroy's House, now Rashtrapati Bhawan, the home of the President of India, on Raisina Hill.

At the southern base of the triangle, the urban sprawl has made inroads with agricultural land being converted into luxurious estates. In planning colonial Delhi, Lutyens and Baker laid out a geometric pattern of roads radiating from roundabouts while keeping the Mughal and pre-Mughal monuments as axis points. They thus achieved an architectural synthesis of history and, at the same time, extended the garden concept integral to the building of the Mughal period to the avenues of New Delhi.

The credit for planting indigenous forest species, a brilliant and practical idea, is shared with Luytens by William Robertson Mustoe, a gardener from London's Kew Gardens, who came to India in 1919. Together they created a garden city while not tampering with the old parks. The Ridge area in north Delhi, with Flagstaff Tower at the highest point, was a rambling wilderness until the idea of 'beautification' came up.

In the 52 years since independence, Delhi's population has grown by leaps and bounds. The garden city has expanded to become an unwieldy megametropolis posing a severe strain on civic amenities and the environment.

The seat of government brought its own changes as the government apparatus grew in size. A certain architectural homogeneity was retained in most of the new government buildings by the use of columns, domes, deep corridors and by continuing the use of the familiar pink sandstone from Rajasthan.

As expansion continued and bylaws changed and property values soared, gardens were sacrificed to greed. Soon the city spilled over across the Yamuna in the east, creating a concrete jungle, and south of the border into Haryana which developed self-contained, suburban style housing complexes.

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The institutional framework for urban management in Delhi has a multiplicity of agencies both central and state. They also look after various function relating to urban environment and infrastructure and its management.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

The MCD has been set up under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, covering the entire area of NCT, except the area controlled by the NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board.

Thus the Corporation had the responsibility, not only of providing the municipal services, but even some of the governmental functions like transportation, water, power supply and sewerage services, education, medical and health services, were also entrusted to the MCD. Recently in pursuance of the recommendations of the Balakrishnan Committee independent undertakings have been set up for water supply and sewerage, and power.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA)

The DDA , a body corporate, has been set up under the Delhi Development Act, 1957. The controlling jurisdiction of the DDA is with the Ministry of Urban Development. However the situation is always changing and in the context of the present problems of Delhi and the setting up GNCTD as well as the increasing role for private sector in development, some fresh thinking is necessary.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)

The CPCB has been set up under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and also has all the functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The DPCC has been set up by the CPCB on 15th March, 1991. The DPCC, in effect is the primary agency in the NCT, to carry out regulatory work relating to prevention and control of water and air pollution.

Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC)

The DUAC has been set up in 1974 by the DUAC Act 1973, to advise the Central Government and provide advice and guidance to the local bodies for maintaining the aesthetic quality of urban and environmental design in Delhi. The Balakrishnan Committee had considered the question of the abolition of the DUAC, but advised its continuation and other co-ordination between the Commission and other agencies for preserving for heritage of Delhi and the aesthetic aspect of buildings.

National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)

All discussions on the problems of Delhi invariably being with a reference to the growing pressure of population, and in particular the increasing migration from the neighbouring states. They also express the need for planning of Delhi in its regional context. Attempts for preparation of such a plan, culminated in the setting up of the NCRPB in 1985 with the consent of the states of U.P., Haryana, and Rajasthan. In fact it is a unique legislation in which these three states have voluntarily agreed to surrender some of constitutional rights in favour of the Board, for planning and development of the National Capital Region (NCR), including Delhi, to avoid haphazard development.

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)

The NDMC covers the area, which is the seat of the Central Government, the diplomatic area, the residential areas for Central Ministers and officials, Connaught Place and some other prestigious residential and commercial areas and entrusted with the responsibility of providing civic services, along with the construction of buildings.

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD)

Agencies Under the GNCTD are:

Delhi Jal Board (DJB)

The DJB has been set up by the Delhi Jal Board Act to provide for the establishment of a Board to discharge the functions of water supply, sewerage disposal and drainage within the NCT and for matters connected therewith.

Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)

Delhi Transport Corporation was set up under the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950. However, its control remained with the Central Government. With the reorganization of the political set-up in Delhi, the control and the assets have been transferred to the GNCTD.

Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB)

The Balkrishnan Committee recommended that the DESU should be replaced by a full-fledged utility and the MCD should be divested of its control. In pursuance of these recommendations, separate Electricity Board has been set-up and the powers of the state under the Electricity Supply Act, are now with the GNCTD.

District Set up in NCT

The Balkrishnan Committee has laid considerable stress on devising a full fledged district set up for Delhi, on the lines of revenue districts set up in other states. Nine revenue districts have since been set-up, each with a separate Deputy Commissioner.

Department of Tourism Government of Delhi and Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC)

The following subjects are assigned to the Tourism Department, under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

1. Promotion of domestic and international Tourism
2. Development of Tourism related infrastructure
3. Co-ordination with agencies involved in Tourism Industry.
4. Classification of Hotels and
5. Licensing of tour operator, travel Agents etc.
6. To be Administrative Department for
 - a. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd.
 - b. Delhi Institute of Hotel management & Catering Technology.

Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation, an undertaking of the Government of Delhi, was incorporated in 1975 to promote tourism in Delhi. Delhi Tourism offers a wide-ranging spectrum of services to tourists and the citizens of Delhi. Based on reasonability and reliability these services include:

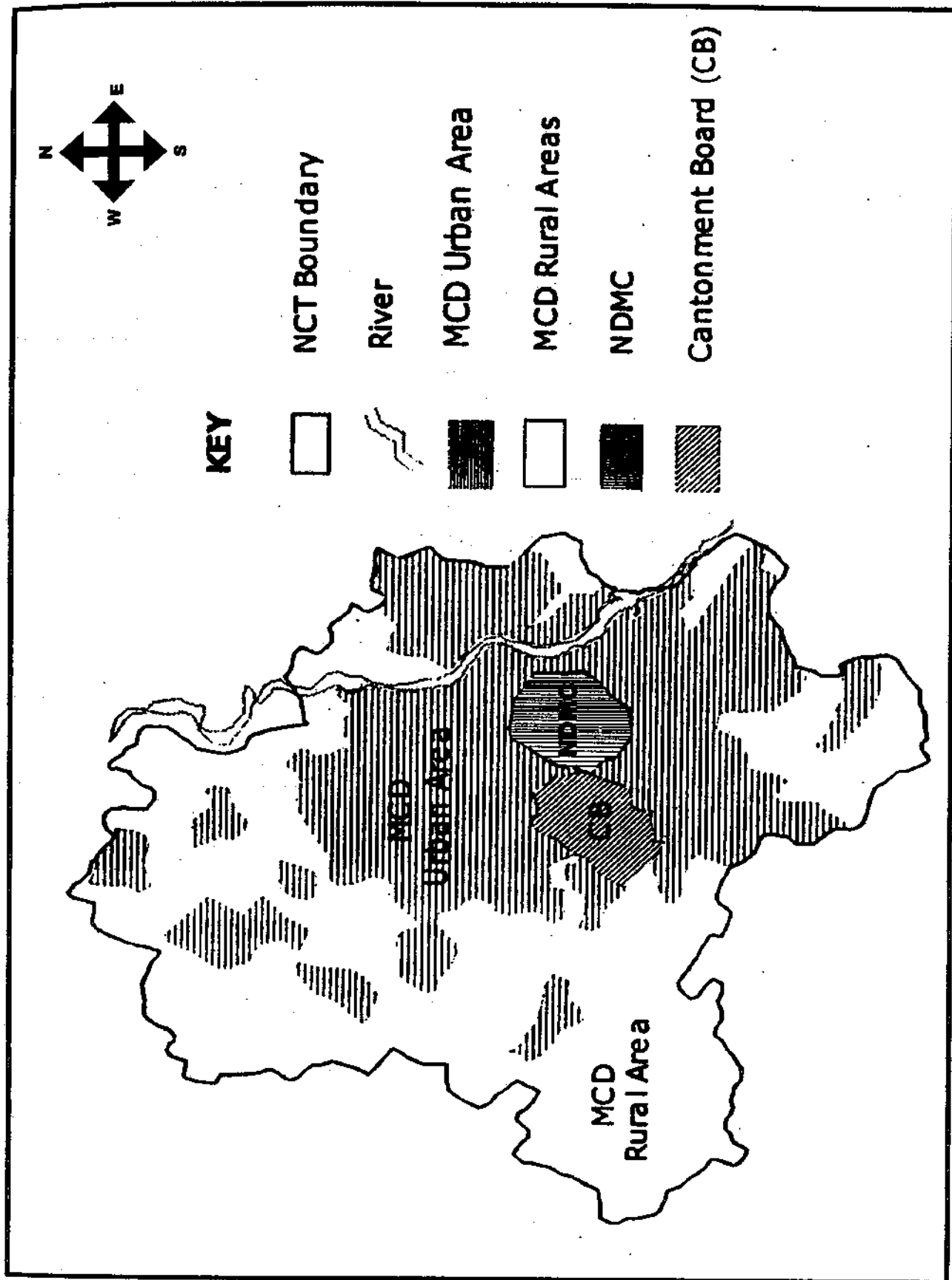
- Tourist assistance and information counters strategically located all over Delhi and in key metropolitan cities such as Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Secunderabad.

- Guided city sight seeing tours and an evening tour of Delhi.
- Innovative package tours to places of historic, cultural and scenic interest and to places of pilgrimage.
- Value based travel services through the IATA approved travel bureau.
- Adventure activities: parasailing, trekking, rock climbing, water sports etc.
- Transport: a fleet of cars and luxury coaches (air-conditioned and non air-conditioned) for smooth transportation.
- Festivals: these are held throughout the year.
- Dilli Haat: a place for handicrafts, ethnic food and entertainment.
- Coffee homes: wholesome meals at reasonable prices.
- Son et lumiere: a sound and light show at Purana Qila .
- Musical fountain: at Ajmal Khan Park.
- Illumination of monuments
- The Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism and management: a centre of excellence for tourism education
- Country liquor and IMFL retail outlets
- Flyover: to improve connectivity

DTTDC is primarily responsible for development of tourist facilities in Delhi. All tourism infrastructure projects in Delhi are planned in co-ordination with Department of Tourism, Government of Delhi, for subsequent implementation.

The Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation efforts also include the projection of correct images of befitting of this great historic and metropolitan capital city to tourists both domestic and foreign. The position of Delhi as the national capital also imposes certain compelling obligations for maintaining a reasonable level of service.

STUDY AREA - NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (NCTD)



EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

