Delhi Overall Score: 27.9/100 | Overall Rank 49/50

Basic Facts

- 26.5 million population in Delhi National Capital Territory
- $430 billion Gross Metro Product (2016)
- Top industries by employment are: government, accommodation and financial services

Notable Strengths

- Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), which includes Delhi’s satellite townships of Gurgaon and Noida, is one the fastest-growing regions in the already fast-growing Indian economy that has benefitted from abundant labor and strong exports
- Industrial liberalization and a moderate cut in external trade barriers have created more competitive Indian firms
- As one of the world’s megacities, Delhi’s demography is one of the city’s primary advantages, and Delhi NCR is emerging as a strong challenger to Bangalore, the region’s startup capital
- A thriving software sector allows the city to create and maintain a robust internet infrastructure. Delhi ranked No. 1 in the Internet and Mobile Association of India’s Internet Ready Index in 2017, and it ranks No. 2 in Technology Cost in the WE Cities Index
- State and central government policy is geared toward developing entrepreneurs
  - In 2016, the Delhi state government set up a specialized Entrepreneurship Council to advise on start-up policies
  - More broadly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s nationwide ‘Start Up India’ initiative has placed entrepreneurship front and center of government policy
  - The Finance Act 2016 offers startups formed before March 2019 a three-year income tax exemption over a five-year period, helping rank Delhi No. 14 for Markets
- Notable for female professionals and entrepreneurs are India’s generous maternity benefits for working mothers, enacted in April 2017 by the Maternity Benefit Amendment Act
  - The Maternity Benefit Amendment Act guarantees childcare benefits and increased paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 28 weeks, a figure higher than the OECD average of 17.7 weeks, helping rank Delhi in the top half for Women’s Capital Base
  - Entrepreneurs in Delhi also have growing opportunities to access financing through government-supported schemes. There are a rising number of lending schemes designed specifically for women, such as the Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs and the Annapurna Scheme
- The majority of initiatives are being operated by the central government, private lenders and non-government organizations, helping rank Delhi No. 15 for Gender Proportion of Funding

Areas for Improvement

- The new police commissioner’s initiatives to educate women and girls about their protections and rights, providing lighting in dark areas and the new Himmat mobile app are great endeavors to improve safety for women
- Delhi ranks No. 46 on the Culture Pillar, ranking No. 48 on Attitudes & Expectations within this pillar, where the city ranks in the bottom 10
- Delhi can also improve this category by encouraging more events for women entrepreneurs in the city
- More broadly, societal attitudes toward women in the workplace remain an entrenched obstacle for women entrepreneurs in Delhi
- This hinders the ability for women in Delhi to get the work experience and skills needed to scale a business
- Delhi ranks last for Women’s Skill & Experience

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