

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 of 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

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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