

Political and Planning History of Delhi	
Date	Event
Colonial India	
1819	Delhi Territory divided city into Northern and Southern divisions. Land acquisition and building of residential plots on East India Company's lands
1824	Town Duties Committee for development of colonial quarters of Cantonment, Khyber Pass, Ridge and Civil Lines areas
1862	Delhi Municipal Commission (DMC) established under Act no. 26 of 1850
1863	Delhi Municipal Committee formed
1866	Railway lines, railway station and road links constructed
1883	First municipal committee set up
1911	Capital of colonial India shifts to Delhi
1912	Town Planning Committee constituted by colonial government with J.A. Brodie and E.L. Lutyens as members for choosing site of new capital
1914	Patrick Geddes visits Delhi and submits report on the walled city (now Old Delhi) ¹
1916	Establishment of Raisina Municipal Committee to provide municipal services to construction workers, became New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC)
1931	Capital became functional; division of roles between CPWD, NDMC, DMC ²
1936	A.P. Hume publishes <i>Report on the Relief of Congestion in Delhi</i> (commissioned by Govt. of India) to establish an industrial colony on outskirts of Delhi ³
March 2, 1937	Delhi Improvement Trust (DIT) established with A.P. Hume as Chairman to de-congest Delhi ⁴ , continued till 1951
Post-colonial India	
1947	Flux of refugees in Delhi post-Independence
1948	New neighbourhoods set up in urban fringe, later called 'greater Delhi'
1949	Central Coordination Committee for development of greater Delhi set up under CPWD
1951	DIT Enquiry Committee set up Delhi Municipal Organisation denounced Trust's plan and works; recommended single planning authority for Delhi

¹ For a commentary on Geddes's visit, see <https://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article2906.html>

² Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for construction and maintenance of government buildings, staff quarters, and roads in new capital, New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC) for provision of basic urban services, and Delhi Municipal Commission for rest of areas

³ Hume's report identified decongestion as critical to modern urban planning in Delhi and thus suggested separation of residential, commercial and industrial areas

⁴ For a comment on DIT and A.P. Hume by an independent urban planner, see [http://www.rgplan.org/delhi/DELHI%20IMPROVEMENT%20TRUST%20\(D.I.T\)%201936.pdf](http://www.rgplan.org/delhi/DELHI%20IMPROVEMENT%20TRUST%20(D.I.T)%201936.pdf)

March 7, 1952	Delhi Legislative Assembly constituted under Government of Parts C States Act 1951
March 27, 1952	First Delhi Legislative Assembly elections. Indian National Congress (INC) wins. Mr. Brahm Prakash Yadav becomes 1 st CM of Delhi
1953	States Reorganization Commission (SRC) constituted by central government to recommend reorganization of state boundaries ⁵
1955-1956	Mr. Gurmukh Nihal Singh of INC governs as 2 nd CM of Delhi
January 1956	Jaundice epidemic in New Delhi led to call for investigation into Delhi's urban condition ⁶ which eventually led to demand for a Master Plan for the city, Union Health Minister writes to Ford Foundation, asking for guidance of US city planners for Delhi
February 17, 1956	Jaundice enquiry committee report concluded that contamination of city's drinking water supply by sewer drains was responsible for jaundice, called for a Master Plan
Late 1950s	Albert Mayer leads Ford Foundation's design for 1 st Master Plan. Experts from outside India joined team in 1959. Local collaborator was Town Planning Organization comprising of US-trained Indian planners and architects who had prepared an Interim General Plan in 1956. Tensions between Ford Foundation team and TPO
August 31, 1956	<i>The States Reorganisation Act</i> enacted which constituted 14 states and 7 Union Territories mostly on linguistic bases; Delhi became a UT from a part C state. This Act abolished the Legislative Assembly in Delhi (here: http://lawmin.nic.in/ld/P-ACT/1956/A1956-37.pdf)
November 1, 1956	Legislative Assembly ceases to exist
1957	<i>The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act</i> . Formation of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) after merging DMC and additional committees (here: http://lawmin.nic.in/ld/P-ACT/1957/A1957-66.pdf)
December 27, 1957	<i>The Delhi Development Act</i> constitutes the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). DDA was given power to 'acquire, hold, and dispose of land...to do anything for purpose of development', including preparation of Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans. (here: http://rgplan.org/delhi/Delhi_Development_Act_1957.pdf)
September 1, 1962	Ford Foundation's plan document was published and adopted as 1 st Delhi Master Plan-1962

⁵ After independence, states in India were classified in four different categories: Part A states (former British provinces with elected governor and state legislature), Part B states (former princely states with former princes as representatives), Part C states (former princely states or provinces with a Chief Commissioner; Delhi was a Part C state), and Part D states (governor appointed by Indian president)

⁶ For a critical analysis of evolution of Delhi's 1st Master Plan, see Sundaram (2009), Chapter 1.

	http://rgplan.org/delhi/MASTER-PLAN-FOR-DELHI_1962.pdf ⁷
1966	<i>The Delhi Administration Act</i> . Metropolitan Council (MC) set up to have 56 elected members, 5 nominated by central government, headed by Lt. Governor of Delhi. No legislative powers but only advisory role (here: http://www.helpline.law.com/docs/the-delhi-administration-act-1966)
1967	First election of Metropolitan Council (MC): 56 election, 5 nominated by central. Set-up functioned till 1990
1980	MC dissolved
1983	MC revived
February 9, 1985	<i>The National Capital Region (NCR) Planning Board Act</i> enacted. Constitution of NCR Planning Board for planning of NCR comprising of Union Minister for Works & Housing, CMs of adjoining states, and Delhi administrators ⁸ (here: http://lawmin.nic.in/ld/P-ACT/1985/The%20National%20Capital%20Region%20Planning%20Board%20Act,%201985.pdf)
1990	Adoption of 2 nd Delhi Master Plan-2001. Regional plan with zoning, development of satellite towns, and multi-modal transport system. Proposed Delhi Metropolitan Area (DMA) comprising of UT of Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR). Issue of industrial units in residential and commercial areas led to classification of industries as conforming/non-conforming ⁹ (here: http://www.rgplan.org/delhi/MASTER-PLAN-FOR-DELHI_2.pdf)
December 12, 1991	<i>The Constitution (Sixty-Ninth Amendment) Act</i> . Special status to Delhi: A UT with (reinstated) Legislative Assembly (LA), legislative power over items in State and Concurrent lists of the constitution ¹⁰ . Chief Minister (CM), a Council of Ministers advisors to Lt. Governor

⁷ Under Albert Mayer's influence, the plan was regional, seeking to manage urban sprawl of Delhi with a green belt and development of satellite towns. Most importantly, zoning on basis of land-use was introduced as key to planning Delhi

⁸ The NCR Public Board is responsible for development of Regional and Functional Plans, and directs participates states and UTs to prepare their Sub-Regional and Project Plans and finances selected development projects in NCR through centre or state funds. It also scrutinizes Sub-Regional Plans before publication

⁹ Under this plan, industries were divided as Hazardous & Noxious (Ha, not permitted in Delhi and relocated), Heavy & Large (Hb, no new unit permitted, existing units to shift to NCR region for its development), Extensive (no new permitted, relocated to industrial use zone), Light & Service and Household (relocation to industrial use zone depending on no. of workers). Industrial units that didn't not confirm were to be relocated to appropriate zones or face closure.

¹⁰ Schedule VII of the Constitution of India is about the distribution of legislative power between central and state governments. It is divided into three lists: Union List (exclusive legislation by Parliament), State List (mostly legislated by State Assemblies but residual power to centre), Concurrent List (legislated by both central and state governments, with residual power to centre).

January 2, 1992	<i>The National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi Act 1991</i> promulgated. UT of Delhi formally known as NCT of Delhi. Legislative powers described, delimitation of constituencies (here: goo.gl/nrzQoQ).
April 20, 1993	<i>The Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act 1992</i> promulgated, w.e.f June 1, 1993. Urban local bodies brought under the Indian constitution and states mandated to adopt municipalities; list of functions for municipalities provided
June 11, 1993	1 st LA elections after 69 th and 74 th Amendments, Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) wins, with CM Mr. Madan Lal Khurana
November 25, 1998	2 nd LA elections. INC wins with CM Ms. Sheila Dikshit
December 1, 2003	3 rd LA elections. INC wins with CM Ms. Sheila Dikshit
October 29, 2008	4 th LA elections. Third INC government by CM Ms. Sheila Dikshit
2005	3 rd Delhi Master Plan-2021 adopted, goal to transform Delhi into ‘global metropolis, world-class city’ ¹¹ https://dda.org.in/ddanew/pdf/Planning/reprint%20mpd2021.pdf
December 3, 2005	The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, a \$20bn project for economic development of urban conglomerates.
2006	First JNNURM plan for Delhi
2012	Trifurcation of MCD into North Delhi, South Delhi, and East Delhi Municipal Corporations
December 4, 2013	5 th LA elections. Hung assembly with BJP lead and Aam Admi Party (AAP) led by Mr. Arvind Kejriwal close. BJP refuses to form government, AAP forms minority government with CM Mr. Arvind Kejriwal with INC support
February 14, 2014	Mr. Arvind Kejriwal resigns as CM citing failure of introduction of Delhi’s Jan Lokpal Bill (Citizen’s Ombudsman Bill)
February 14, 2014 to February 10, 2015	Delhi is under President’s Rule
November 4, 2014	Lt. Governor Mr. Najeeb Jung calls for dissolution of Delhi assembly and fresh elections.
January 31, 2015	AAP releases 70-point manifesto covering demand from full statehood to subsidies in power and electricity
February 7, 2015	6 th LA elections, AAP secures 67 out of 70 seats, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal as CM

¹¹ The 2021 Plan sought for urban renewal through public-private partnerships, participatory planning, slum rehabilitation, housing for economically weaker sections, conservation of Ridge, rejuvenation of Yamuna river, regularization of unauthorized colonies, identification of mixed-use streets, development of informal sector, modernization of all industries including non-conforming ones, metro transport authority, etc. Environment seemed a major concern for industry, transport, and location of schools and emphasis given on alternative energy development.

