




# Delhi



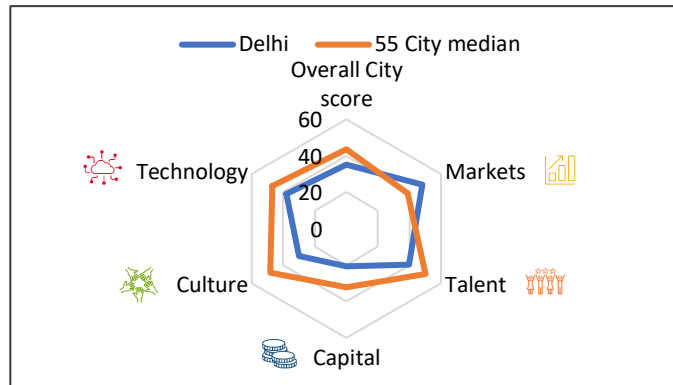
**DELL** Technologies

 IHS Markit now a part of **S&P Global**

# Delhi



Overall Score: 35.1 out of 100 | Overall Rank: 49 out of 55



## Basic Facts:

- Population: Over 30 million in population in the Delhi National Capital Region metro area
- Gross Metro Production (2021): \$370 billion
- Top industries by contribution to Gross State Product:
  - 1) Real estate, ownership of dwellings & professional services
  - 2) Financial Services
  - 3) Transport, Storage & Communication

## Notable Strengths:

With estimates of its population currently already at over 30 million, the Delhi metropolitan area is forecast to become the most populated metro area in the world by the end of the decade (surpassing the Greater Tokyo metropolitan region) (United Nations World Urbanization Reports – The 2018 Revision). The high population growth is coupled with India’s forecasted economic growth over the next five years. This positions Delhi well to use its size to significantly grow its economy and become a leading generator of global economic activity that can facilitate greater growth for women entrepreneurs and women-led businesses.

Besides its size, Delhi performs well relative to other global cities in terms of having a well-educated population. With over 64% of its population having tertiary education, Delhi is among the top six cities in the Index for attainment of higher education. Delhi’s achievement of a well-educated population also includes a relatively high fraction of women in Delhi who have attained tertiary education. As access to skilled workers across genders is an important asset for

<b>Overall Rank</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Operating Environment</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Markets</b>	<b>11</b>
Size	4
Cost	1
Access	21
Policy	33
<b>Talent</b>	<b>45</b>
Women's Skill & Experience	48
Access to Qualified Personnel	36
<b>Capital</b>	<b>51</b>
Number/Value	30
Gender Proportion	48
Women's Capital Base	40
<b>Enabling Environment</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Culture</b>	<b>53</b>
Access to Mentors & Role Models	46
Attitudes & Expectations	46
Policy	53
<b>Technology</b>	<b>49</b>
Connected	54
Cost	5
Policy	51
Equality	40

women-owned businesses to utilize, Delhi's highly educated talent pool adds to the city's potential for future growth.

As housing affordability and rising costs of living from inflation have become issues of central importance to many economies amidst the ongoing supply chains reverberations of the COVID-19 pandemic, Delhi's relatively low cost of living remains one of Delhi's notable strengths. According to Numbeo.com, Delhi has the lowest cost of living among cities in the Index. From the perspective of women entrepreneurs who may have both work and family costs to balance, a lower burden on personal finances can be an important factor in deciding whether or where to start a business.

**Areas for Improvement:**

Delhi's economic potential presents an exciting future for the region's economic landscape and reputation that is very much still to be fully developed. As some competing cities within India have established reputations for themselves, including Mumbai as the financial center of India and Bangalore as the "Silicon Valley of India," Delhi is actively seeking to become the "startup destination of the world" through its recent "Delhi Startup Policy" that intendeds to support and foster 15,000 startups by 2030.

If well-executed, these policies have the potential to provide ample opportunities for women entrepreneurs and women-led businesses to thrive in the city. Many of the program's features are intended to address several existing weaker areas in Delhi's startup environment.

To provide a means of entry for startups, the policy provides for partial reimbursement of both startups' office leases and employee salaries, as well as increased access to financing through collateral-free and interest-free loans. These measures are intended to free up capital for entrepreneurs in Delhi. As it does so, ensuring that existing pay gaps and equitable access to these programs will be key for bolstering women entrepreneurs' access to capital where currently the city ranks among the lowest among the 55 cities. Delhi's Startup Policy also intends to make it easier for entrepreneurs to navigate a business registration system that has been noted by World Bank data to consume a large amount of time and has among the highest number of procedures among global cities. This is especially important for women entrepreneurs who are often balancing work and family commitments and therefore time is at a premium for them.

Although the policy intends to promote entrepreneurship through active engagement among young nascent entrepreneurs, area for improvements remain in directing encouragement specifically at women in not just starting their own businesses but also in entering the workforce. Despite a relatively high tertiary education attainment rate among women in Delhi, the labor force participation rate among women, at 16.1%, is significantly lower than many global cities. Without greater representation in the workforce, whether those are cultural, policy, or other structural reasons, the barriers for women in Delhi seeking to start and scale a business will remain high. Increasing the labor force participation of women helps to foster women entrepreneurship through several channels including increasing their business skills, increasing their capital base and providing more female mentors and role models in career paths. Delhi has great potential and is well poised to take off with the highest momentum rank since 2017 in the WE Cities Index.