

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. The history of Delhi starts from Harappan Civilisation as amply proved from recent excavations in adjoining region of Haryana. The history of Delhi is also linked to Mahabharata era of Pandavas and Kauravas when it was called Indraprastha, the first name of Delhi.
2. The origin of its name is narrated to a King called Raja Dhillu who ruled the area for 14 years at the beginning of the Christian Era. The famous Iron Pillar, now in the vicinity of Qutub, is described in some of the documents as transported from elsewhere by Tomars King Anangpal. This Pillar was named as Lal Kot and Delhi of that time was also named as Lal Kot. The Tomars continued to rule Delhi till the middle of 12th Century when they were thrown out by Chauhans. The greatest rulers of the Chauhan Dynasty was Prithvi Raj. Mohammad Gauri invaded Delhi and Prithvi Raj Chauhan was defeated and killed in the battle with Mohammad Gauri.
3. Mohammad Gauri returned to his home and handed over the reign of Delhi to a slave, Qutb-ud-din, to act as Viceroy. Qutb-ud-din started the construction of Qutab Minar in 1200 AD but could not complete it. His son-in-law, Iltumish, could complete it during 1211-1236 AD. Sultana Razia, the daughter of Iltumish, ruled Delhi during 1236-1240 AD. Balban, the next ruler of Slave Dynasty (1265-1287 AD), shifted Delhi, the capital of his Kingdom, from Mehrauli to Kilokheri.
4. Jalal-ud-din Khilji took over the reign of Delhi by 1290 AD by making an end of Slave Dynasty. Ghiyas-ud-din (1320-1325 AD) conquered Delhi. He shifted his capital to the Rocky Hills near Badarpur opposite the site of Suraj Kund. Mohammad-bin-Tuglaq conspired and killed Ghiyas-ud-din and ruled Delhi during 1325-1351 AD. He shifted capital from Delhi to Daulatabad and again shifted back his capital to Tuglakabd. Firuz Tughlaq succeeded Mohammad-bin-Tuglaq (1351-1388 AD). He established a new capital city Firuzabad, now called Firuz Shah Kotla. The last King of Tuglaq Dynasty, Mahmud Tughlaq, ruled Delhi upto 1413 AD. Thereafter, Daulat Khan was nominated to the throne of Delhi but he declined. Thereafter, Khizr Khan, the Governor of then Punjab, took over. The Sayyid Dynasty rule came to an end by 1450 AD. Bahlol Lodhi, the Governor of Punjab, took over the reign of Delhi by staging a coup and laid the

foundation of Lodhi Dynasty. Ibrahim Lodhi was the last ruler of Lodhi Dynasty during 1517-1526 AD.

5. Zahir-ud-din Muhammad Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodhi in the first battle of Panipat in 1526 AD and took over the reign of Delhi on 24th April, 1526.
6. The Mughal Dynasty ruled Delhi for the maximum longest period except the period of 1540-1555 AD when Sher Shah Suri took over the reign of Delhi from Humayun. Akbar shifted the capital of his Kingdom from Delhi to Agra. Shahjahan shifted back the capital to Delhi with the construction of Shahjahanabad, Lal Quila and Jama Masjid. Aurangzeb ascended the throne and ruled Delhi for the maximum period of 50 years between 1658-1707 AD. After Aurangzeb, the Mughal Dynasty could not provide any strong and capable ruler to Delhi. Britishers came to the help of Shah Alam in 1803. Lord Lake led the British Army and defeated the Marathas in a battle fought near Humayun Tomb. Shah Alam became the pensioner of the British. He was succeeded by Akbar Shah. Bahadur Shah II, better known as “Zafar”, succeeded Akbar Shah in 1857. Britishers took over the reign of Delhi and last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar was deported to Rangoon as a punishment for taking lead role in first freedom movement for India in 1857.

GEOGRAPHY

7. Delhi is located in northern India between the latitudes of 28°-24'-17” and 28°-53'-00” North and longitudes of 76°-50'-24” and 77°-20'-37” East. Delhi shares bordering with the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Delhi has an area of 1,483 sq. kms. Its maximum length is 51.90 kms and greatest width is 48.48 kms.
8. The Yamuna river and terminal part of the Aravali hill range are the two main geographical features of the city. The Aravali hill range are covered with forest and are called the Ridges; they are the city’s lungs and help maintain its environment. The Yamuna river is Delhi’s source of drinking water and a sacred river for most of the inhabitants.
9. The average annual rainfall in Delhi is 714 mm, three-fourths of which falls in July, August and September. Heavy rainfall in the catchment area of the Yamuna can result in a dangerous flood situation for the city. During the summer months of April, May and June, temperatures can rise to 40-45 degrees Celsius; winters are typically cold with

minimum temperatures during December and January falling to 4 to 5 degree Celsius. February and March, October and November are climatically the best months.

10. The forest cover has increased from 0.76% of total area in 1980-81 to 1.75% in 1994-95 and 5.93% in 2000-01. Delhi's mineral resources are primarily sand and stone which are useful for construction activities. However, the stone quarries in the Ridge area have been shut down since 1984 on account of environmental considerations.

PEOPLE

11. Delhi was a small town in 1901 with a population 0.4 million. Delhi's population started increasing after it became the capital of British India in 1911. During the Partition of the country, a large number of people migrated from Pakistan and settled in Delhi. Migration into the city continued even after Partition. The 2001 Census recorded 138.51 lakh population of Delhi with 3.85% annual growth rate and 47.02% decennial growth rate during 1991-2001.
12. As the country's capital, with vibrant trade and commerce and excellent employment opportunities, Delhi has attracted people from all over the country and its population today reflects the characteristics of almost every region. Delhi truly reflects the wealth and diversity of India wherein diverse religions, languages, customs and cultures co-exist in splendid plural harmony. Religious, cultural and social functions of different socio-cultural groups have transformed Delhi into a city of festivals.
13. With the rapid pace of urbanization the rural area of Delhi is shrinking. The number of rural villages has decreased from 314 in 1921 to 165 in 2001 census. The percentage of rural population of Delhi has also declined from 47.24% in 1901 to 6.99% in 2001.

PLACES

14. The history of Delhi indicates that a large number of beautiful places in the form of Forts, monuments, Palaces, Gardens, event places, bazaars, were created, constructed, developed by its Rulers during the different periods of its history. At present, the remains of a large number of such historical places and monuments are the sites of attraction for visitors and tourists in Delhi. In addition to these historical places, a large number of Gardens, buildings, playgrounds, institutional buildings, markets and event places have been constructed by the Britishers till 1947 and thereafter by the Govt. of India and Govt.

of Delhi. Some of the important places are Purana Quila, Qutub Minar, Tughlakabad Fort, Firozshah Kotla, Red Fort, Humayun Tomb, Safdarjung Tomb, Nizamuddin, Jama Masjid, Metcalf House, Old Secretariat, Coronation Pillar, Rashtripati Bhawan, Sansad Bhawan, Central Secretariat, India Gate, Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, Buddha Jayanti Park, Connaught Place (Rajiv Gandhi Chawk), Lotus Temple, Laxmi Narayan Mandir, IIT Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Raj Ghat, Shanti Van, Delhi Hatt, Garden of Five Sensus, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

15. The British began their rule in Delhi in 1805 with the operation of General Regulations made by the British under the charge of the Resident and Chief Commissioner of Delhi. The system continued with periodic modifications till 1857. In 1858, the British made Delhi a provincial town of the Frontier Province and later transferred it to the newly formed Punjab province under a Lieutenant Governor. Delhi continued to be administered directly by the Government of India through a Chief Commissioner till 1950.
16. With the shifting of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi, a separate Committee known as Imperial Delhi Committee was formed on 25 March 1913 to oversee construction and management of the civic affairs of the new capital. In 1916, it was notified as the Raisina Municipal Committee under the Punjab Municipal Act 1911 primarily for meeting the sanitary needs of the workers engaged in the construction of the capital. On 16th March 1927, it was re-designated as the New Delhi Municipal Committee. In 1932, it was upgraded to the status of a first class municipality entrusted with the responsibility of providing civic services. New Delhi Municipal Committee has been reorganized under the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994.
17. A committee, chaired by Dr. B. Pattabhi Sita Ramayya, was set up on 31st July, 1947 to study and report on constitutional changes in the administrative structure of the Chief Commissioner's Provinces which included Delhi. Based on the committee's report, the Constituent Assembly agreed to incorporate Articles 239 and 240 in the constitution to allow Part-C states functioning through a Chief Commissioner or Lieutenant Governor. Delhi became a Part-C state in 1951 with a Council of Ministers and a Legislature.

18. The States Reorganisation Commission, set-up in December 1953, recommended that Delhi, as the national capital, must remain under the effective control of the national government. It also suggested the formation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Accordingly, the Council of Ministers and Legislative Assembly of Delhi ceased to exist from November 1, 1956. Delhi, as a Union Territory was administered thereafter by the President of India through a Chief Commissioner appointed under Article 239 till the Delhi Administration Act 1966 came into force.
19. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi Act was enacted by Parliament in 1957 and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was formed with elected members in 1958. The Delhi Development Authority was created under the Delhi Development Act, 1957. The first Master Plan, 1961-1981 was published by DDA in 1962.
20. The Delhi Administration Act 1966 (No.19 of 1966) was enacted by Parliament to provide for limited representative government for Delhi with the creation of a Metropolitan Council comprising 56 elected and 5 nominated members. An Executive Council was also constituted by the President, and four Executive Councillors, including the Chief Executive Councillor, were appointed by the President.
21. Delhi's administrative set-up has seen another change through the 69th Constitutional Amendment by way of insertion of Article 239 AA and the passage of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991. This Act, which came into force in January 1992, provides for a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor. The President appoints the Chief Minister and six other Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Act provides for a 70-member Legislative Assembly with powers to make laws on matters contained in the State and Concurrent lists applicable to the Union Territory, except for those relating to public order, police and land. The first Legislative Assembly under this Act was constituted after elections in 1993. The second Legislative Assembly was constituted in November, 1998. Third Assembly was constituted in December, 2003.
22. With the new administrative set-up in Delhi, a number of other changes have followed, such as the transfer of the Delhi Transport Corporation from the Central Government to the Delhi government. Similarly, the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking was reorganised as the Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) now unbundled into six companies. The Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has been reorganised into the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). In place of the single district that existed in Delhi, 9 districts with 27 sub-divisions have been created since January 1997 (Map 1.1).

Map 1.1