

Delhi is the national capital with a population of nearly 17 million. It has the highest per capita income in the country. During 2012-13, the growth in per capita income was around 7 per cent as compared to the national figure of 3 per cent. The sustained growth in per capita income has been associated with a reduction in poverty to single-digit figures (9.9 per cent) in 2011-12, from approximately 13 per cent in 2004-05 (Delhi Human Development Report 2013). Presently, one of the most important hubs of trade, commerce and hospitality and being the political centre, the city draws a large number of people from all over the country, which has put immense pressure on the infrastructure and basic services.

Delhi is regarded as an unequal city with multiple disparities in terms of income, access to basic services, employment and lack of inclusive urban planning. These were particularly reflected in 2010, when Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games. An impressive feat though it was, it was accompanied by significant and exclusive urban renewal processes, which included evicting thousands of poor settlements.

Recently, Delhi has acquired a reputation for being a very unsafe city, particularly for women. Not only does it display high crime rates as per the National Crimes Record Bureau and media reports, it has also been under scrutiny in terms of lack of gender sensitive urban planning.