

Congratulations..

SPD congratulates **Ms. Garima Munjal** and **Ms. Ellora Ghosh** for the successful completion of their internship with Cities Forum UK and Dronah Foundation respectively. Both their researches have been published.

We wish them heartfelt congratulations!



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Commentaries #1

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE 2041 MASTER PLAN FOR DELHI

August 2021 Publication

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Coinciding with the 75th year of India's independence, Delhi, the capital city of India, has published the Draft Delhi 2041 Master Plan (MPD 2041) for public consultation. The MPD 2041 sets the direction of growth for the city in the next twenty years and is especially relevant to take an informed view on the future of the second largest urban agglomeration in the world after Tokyo. The MPD 2041 document mentions the base year population of 20.6 million, which is forecasted to multiply 1.5 times to 30 million by 2041.

It appears that the MPD 2041 is built on a trend-based population growth forecast model rather than setting the plan based on a strategy-driven growth forecast. It is interesting to remark that some references suggest that Delhi Urban Agglomeration's population is currently around 30 million. A holistic view of the urban agglomeration could have presented a better view while drafting the growth agenda for such a large city (Region).

Looking at the document's structure, it seems the MPD 2041 tries to align with the national-level sustainable urban development policies. With a vision to foster a sustainable, liveable, and vibrant Delhi, MPD 2041 seems to identify the issues at the core but still needs details on implementation strategies for the visions and priorities set out in the document.

Standing on the three pillars of economic viability, environmental protection, and social equity, the plan considers the city's cultural, social, and economic differences, including the unauthorised colonies, high

land prices, power consumption, water scarcity, and mobility hindrances. The goals for 2041 are to become environmentally sustainable, future-ready, and a dynamic place for economic, creative, and cultural development.

The utopian vision

The vision document incorporates all the essential characteristics of a resilient city. It is public centric and based on inclusivity, equity, and sustainability, emphasising ease of mobility. The document has holistically covered the existing, upcoming, and anticipated drivers of urban regeneration and development. How far the authorities could implement these strategies would be interesting to note.

The MPD 2041 also focuses on delineating "The Green Development Area", a combination of a Green Belt (a planning strategy inspired by London) to create a regional environmental buffer and Low-density residential areas in urban villages. The primary objective in this zone is to foster city-level hubs for green living and recreation. The efforts taken as part of the 'green development' such as supporting urban farming, reducing pollution, and rejuvenating natural assets also promote the city's goals for environmental sustainability. Since the Green Belt is likely to create a regional environmental buffer, the plan highly encourages the production of food and other natural produce to meet the horticultural needs of the city. The belt may also act as a regional level pollution sink. As



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by Ar. Ellora Ghosh

HIGHLIGHTS

