



# Political Participation Of Youth In Tokyo And Delhi: A Comparative Analysis

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## Introduction

Delhi and Tokyo, as two of Asia's foremost metropolitan hubs, offer contrasting yet insightful perspectives on urban development and governance. Delhi, the National Capital Territory of India, is characterised by its youthful population, rapid economic growth, and diverse cultural landscape (Government of Delhi, 2022; Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 2014). In contrast, Tokyo, Japan's bustling capital, presents a mature metropolitan framework with an ageing population, advanced infrastructure, and a blend of traditional and modern cultural elements (Statistics Bureau of Japan, 2023; Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 2023). While the previous two chapters dealt with New Delhi and Tokyo separately, enumerating their respective trends and challenges, this chapter delves into a comprehensive comparison, examining their demographic structures—including the significant youth in Delhi versus the elderly population in Tokyo—and the ensuing political consequences. It further explores the economic dynamics, infrastructure development, cultural vibrancy, and urban challenges each city faces. Additionally, the political and administrative settings are scrutinised to understand how governance models influence urban management and citizen participation, particularly focusing on the higher youth political engagement in Delhi compared to Tokyo's lower levels. By analysing these multifaceted dimensions, the chapter aims to elucidate the unique strengths and challenges of Delhi and Tokyo, providing valuable insights into their roles as pivotal metropolitan centres in the 21st century.

## Comparative Analysis of Delhi and Tokyo as Urban Metropolises

Delhi and Tokyo, two of Asia's most influential metropolitan cities, embody distinct socio-economic, political, and cultural paradigms. As capitals of India and Japan, respectively, they not only serve as administrative hubs but also as economic powerhouses and cultural epicentres. This section presents a comprehensive comparison of Delhi and Tokyo across multiple dimensions, including demographic structures, political and administrative settings, electoral systems, political participation, youth policies,

and youth political engagement. By examining these facets, we gain deeper insights into how each city navigates its unique challenges and leverages its strengths to foster urban development and citizen participation.

## Demographic Comparison

### *Population Size and Age Structure*

As of 2023, Delhi's metropolitan area houses approximately 31 million residents (United Nations, 2018), making it one of the world's largest urban agglomerations. The city exhibits a youthful demographic, with about 65% of its population under the age of 35 (Government of Delhi, 2022). This youth bulge is driven by higher birth rates and significant rural-to-urban migration, as young individuals move to Delhi seeking education and employment opportunities. In contrast, Tokyo's Greater Metropolitan Area is the most populous urban region globally, with an estimated 37 million inhabitants (United Nations, 2018). Tokyo faces a starkly different demographic challenge: an ageing population. Approximately 23% of Tokyo's residents are aged 65 and over, and the median age stands at around 48 years (Statistics Bureau of Japan, 2023). Japan's low birth rate, coupled with high life expectancy, contributes to this demographic trend, posing significant socio-economic implications for Tokyo.

Parametres	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>Total population</b>	31 million	37 million
<b>Dominant age group</b>	Youth (65 per cent)	Senior (23 per cent)
<b>Reasons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher birth rates</li> <li>Urban migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low birth rate</li> <li>High life expectancy</li> </ul>

As it can be seen, Delhi's youthful population is a result of sustained high fertility rates and the city's role as a magnet for young migrants from across India (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 2021). The robust economic opportunities in sectors such as information technology, finance, and manufacturing further attract a young workforce (Government of Delhi, 2022). Tokyo's ageing population stems from Japan's prolonged low fertility rate, currently around 1.36 births per woman (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, 2023), and one of the highest life expectancies globally (World Health Organization, 2022). The urban lifestyle in Tokyo, characterized by high living costs and limited living space, discourages larger families, exacerbating the demographic shift (Nomura Research Institute, 2020).

## Comparison of Political and Administrative Settings/Structure

Delhi operates as the NCT of India, featuring a hybrid administrative framework that blends elements of both a union territory and a state. The governance of Delhi is defined by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, which introduced a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers (Government of India, 1991). However, critical areas such as public order, police, and land management remain under the control of the central government through the Lieutenant Governor (LG). The LG, appointed by the President of India, holds significant executive powers and can act independently of the elected government

in specific areas (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2023). Delhi's Legislative Assembly comprises 70 members elected through universal adult suffrage, with the Chief Minister heading the Council of Ministers (Delhi Legislative Assembly, 2023). The city is administratively divided into 11 districts, managed by three municipal bodies: the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and the Delhi Cantonment Board (Municipal Corporation of Delhi, 2022).

By contrast, Tokyo Metropolis, a unique entity within Japan's administrative system, functions both as a city and a prefecture, granting it substantial autonomy. Governed under Japan's Local Autonomy Law, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) oversees both city and prefectural functions, managing services typically handled by separate entities in other regions (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, 2023). The Governor of Tokyo, elected by popular vote for a four-year term, serves as the chief executive, responsible for budgeting, law enforcement oversight, and urban planning (Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 2023). The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, consisting of 127 members, enacts ordinances, approves budgets, and supervises administrative affairs (Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, 2023).

Tokyo is divided into 23 special wards (*ku*), 26 cities (*shi*), 5 towns (*machi*), and 8 villages (*mura*). The special wards operate like independent cities, each with its own elected mayor and assembly, while coordinating with the TMG for metropolitan-wide services (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, 2021).

- **Administrative Autonomy:** Delhi local bodies have limited autonomy due to significant central government oversight, particularly through the LG. This dual authority can lead to jurisdictional conflicts and administrative inefficiencies (Centre for Policy Research, 2022). In contrast, Tokyo enjoys a high degree of local autonomy, with the TMG managing both city and prefectural responsibilities, facilitating streamlined governance and cohesive metropolitan management (Japan Center for Cities, 2021).
- **Governance Structure:** Delhi features a dual governance system with both elected officials and a central government-appointed LG, often resulting in overlapping authorities and policy implementation challenges (Indian Constitutional Law Review, 2021). On the other hand, Tokyo has a more unified governance structure with a clear delineation of powers between the Governor, TMG, and special wards, promoting efficient administration and disaster management (Tokyo Disaster Prevention, 2022).
- **Financial Autonomy:** Financial dependence on the central government limits Delhi's ability to independently generate revenue and fund local projects (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2022). By contrast, Tokyo possesses significant financial independence, with the authority to levy taxes and allocate budgets across metropolitan and ward-level projects (Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 2023).

### Comparison of Electoral System and Process

Delhi follows India's parliamentary democratic framework, where elections are conducted under the auspices of the Election Commission of India. The Legislative Assembly of Delhi is unicameral, comprising 70 members elected through first-past-the-post (FPTP) in single-member constituencies (Election Commission of India, 2023). General elections are held every five years, allowing citizens to vote

for their preferred candidates and political parties. Tokyo's electoral system operates within Japan's parliamentary democracy. The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly is a unicameral body with 127 members elected through a mixed electoral system combining single-member districts and proportional representation (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, 2023). Elections are held every four years, and the Governor is elected separately through a direct popular vote.

Parametres	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>Type of Government</b>	Parliamentary Democracy	Parliamentary Democracy
<b>Nomenclature</b>	Legislative Assembly of Delhi	Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly
<b>No. of members</b>	70	127
<b>Electoral process</b>	first-past-the-post system	Mixed electoral system and proportional representation
<b>Gap between elections</b>	Five years	Four years

### Comparison of Nature and Extent of Political Participation in Japan and India

As seen in chapter three, India's democratic framework encourages widespread political participation across various demographics, including youth. The vibrancy of India's political landscape is reflected in active engagement through voting, party memberships, protests, and civil society activities. The multiparty system facilitates diverse political representation, enabling citizens to align with parties that reflect their ideological leanings (Election Commission of India, 2023). Additionally, digital platforms and social media have amplified political discourse, particularly among the youth, fostering greater mobilization and activism (Internet and Mobile Association of India, 2022).

By contrast, as discussed in the previous chapter, Japan exhibits lower levels of political participation compared to India, especially among the youth. Voter turnout in national and local elections has been declining, with younger generations showing less interest in voting and political activism (The Japan Times, 2019). Cultural factors, such as a preference for consensus and harmony, discourage overt political activism. Moreover, the dominance of established political parties and a lack of compelling youth-oriented policies contribute to political apathy (Sugimoto, 2020).

Parametres	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>Voter turnout</b>	High	Low
<b>Political Activism</b>	High	Limited
<b>Digital engagement</b>	Extensive	Low

From the above table, it can be surmised that Delhi generally has higher voter turnout, driven by a competitive multiparty system and active electoral campaigns, while Tokyo has low voter turnout, particularly among youth, due to political apathy and perceived inefficacy of individual votes (NHK World-

Japan, 2021). Also, while Delhi enjoys high levels of political activism, with youth participating in movements, protests, and civil society organisations, Tokyo suffers from limited political activism, with a cultural emphasis on social harmony and consensus deterring overt political engagement (The Diplomat, 2018). Finally, with extensive use of digital platforms for political mobilisation and discourse, Delhi witnesses enhanced youth participation (Pew Research Center, 2020). By contrast, Tokyo youth have a low engagement with political content on digital platforms, with media consumption focused more on non-political content (Nippon.com, 2019).

### Comparison of Youth Policies, Initiatives, and Schemes in Japan and India

This section compares various policies, initiatives and schemes brought out by the two nations, India and Tokyo. The prime reason behind this comparison is that it directly affects the youth's participation in their respective capitals. On the one hand, India has implemented numerous policies and initiatives aimed at empowering its youth, recognising them as a critical demographic for national development. The 'National Youth Policy 2014' outlines strategies for youth empowerment, focusing on education, employment, skill development, and participation in governance (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, 2014). Programs such as *Skill India*, *Startup India*, and *Digital India* aim to enhance employability, foster entrepreneurship, and promote digital literacy among young Indians. On the other hand, Japan's approach to youth policy is more fragmented, with various ministries and local governments handling different aspects of youth welfare. The 'Basic Act on Youth Policy' (2001) sets the framework for youth development, emphasising education, employment, and participation in community activities (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, 2023). Initiatives like Youth Support Centers and Employment Promotion Programs aim to provide career guidance, vocational training, and support for youth entrepreneurship. However, Japan lacks a comprehensive, centralised youth policy comparable to India's.

Parametres	India	Japan
<b>Policy Framework</b>	Comprehensive, centralised	Fragmented
<b>Employment and Entrepreneurship</b>	Emphasis on skill development and entrepreneurship.	Emphasis on employment stability and vocational training.
<b>Education and Digital Literacy</b>	Extensive programmes to improve digital literacy	High educational standards but less emphasis on digital skills.

### Comparison of Youth Political Participation in Tokyo and Delhi

With an idea of the political encouragement in both nations, this section compares the youth participation of Delhi and Tokyo. Delhi's substantial youth population actively engages in political processes driven by socio-economic challenges and the desire for meaningful change. High youth unemployment and socio-economic inequalities motivate young individuals to participate in politics to advocate for job creation,

better education, and equitable resource distribution (International Labour Organization, 2022). The presence of vibrant civil society organisations, student unions, and active use of social media platforms further enhance youth political participation (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020). By contrast, in Tokyo, youth political participation is comparatively low, influenced by cultural norms and structural barriers. The ageing population results in a smaller youth demographic, reducing the overall pool of politically active young individuals (Statistics Bureau of Japan, 2023). Cultural emphasis on consensus and harmony discourages overt political activism, while the dominance of established political parties and the lack of youth-focused policies contribute to political disengagement (The Japan Times, 2019). Additionally, institutional barriers, such as complex bureaucratic processes, deter youth from engaging in political activities (Reed & Shimizu, 2009).

Comparison:

Parametres	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>Motivational Factors</b>	Present as a result of Economic challenges and socio-political issues.	Mostly absent due to traditional cultural norms and perceived inefficacy of political participation (Sugimoto, 2020).
<b>Platforms for Participation</b>	Multiple: student unions, NGOs, and digital media.	Limited: fewer youth-oriented political organisations
<b>Representation and Influence</b>	High	Scarce

Thus, Delhi and Tokyo, as major metropolitan centres, exemplify contrasting urban and political dynamics shaped by their unique demographic profiles, governance structures, and cultural contexts. Delhi's youthful population and active political landscape present both opportunities and challenges, necessitating robust policies to harness the demographic dividend while addressing socio-economic disparities. Conversely, Tokyo's ageing population and culturally ingrained political apathy among youth require innovative strategies to rejuvenate political participation and ensure sustainable urban development.

Understanding these differences is crucial for policymakers aiming to foster inclusive governance and enhance citizen engagement. Delhi's experience underscores the importance of leveraging a young workforce for economic growth and political dynamism, while Tokyo's scenario highlights the need for adaptive governance models to address the implications of an ageing society. By learning from each other's strengths and addressing inherent challenges, both cities can better navigate the complexities of urban governance in the 21st century.

This comparative analysis chapter elucidates the multifaceted aspects of youth political participation in Delhi and Tokyo, highlighting the underlying factors that drive or hinder engagement. By examining each dimension, the analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the political dynamics affecting young citizens in these two major metropolitan centres. This section provides a comparative analysis of youth political participation in Delhi and Tokyo under the following subheadings:

#### *Youth Voter Turnout*

Parametres	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>General trend</b>	Gradual increase	Stagnant
<b>Youth voter turnout (latest elections)</b>	40 per cent (2023)	25 per cent (2021)
<b>Total turnout rate (latest elections)</b>	60 per cent (2023)	42.39 per cent (2021) (Mainichi, 2021)

Thus, as can be seen, while Delhi has seen a rise, Tokyo witnessed a stagnancy in youth voter turnouts. While the rise in Delhi rise is attributed to heightened awareness campaigns, social media influence, and the presence of youth-centric issues such as employment and education in electoral agendas, factors contributing to the low turnout in Tokyo include political apathy, a sense of inefficacy among young voters, and a lack of compelling youth-focused candidates or issues (The Japan Times, 2019). Additionally, cultural factors emphasising harmony and consensus over individual political action further dampen youth electoral participation (Sugimoto, 2020).

The following table further brings in other parameters and posits a comparison thus:

Parametres	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>Youth Representation</b>		
1. Trend	Enhanced, Increased	Limited
2. Per cent as youth representatives	15	5
3. Major Youth Wings	Delhi Youth Congress Aam Aadmi Party's youth cadres	Not active enough
<b>Youth (below 35 years of age) candidates contesting elections</b>	20 per cent	3 per cent
<b>Youth involvement in Election Campaigns</b>		
1. Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door-to-door canvassing;</li> <li>• Social media campaigning;</li> </ul>	Limited

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing rallies and events</li> </ul>	
2. Roles played	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilizing support;</li> <li>Advocating for campaign issues</li> </ul>	Not Applicable
<b>Youth political participation awareness</b>		
1. Trend	Extensively high	Very less prevalent
2. Initiatives	Voter education programs, workshops, and seminars are frequently conducted by NGOs, civil society organizations, and political parties.	Some civic education programs conducted by NGOs.
3. Other methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media campaigns</li> <li>Online forums</li> </ul>	Not Applicable

As can be surmised from the above table:

Delhi has made strides in enhancing youth representation within its political framework. The presence of young legislators and MLAs under the age of 35 has increased, with several key positions now held by younger politicians. For instance, the 2023 Delhi Assembly saw 15 per cent of its members classified as youth representatives actively advocating for issues like job creation, digital infrastructure, and educational reforms (Delhi Legislative Assembly, 2023). Additionally, the youth wings of major political parties, such as the Delhi Youth Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party's youth cadres, play significant roles in shaping party policies and engaging young voters (Election Commission of India, 2023). By contrast, in Tokyo, youth representation in politics remains limited. The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly and other local bodies have a minimal number of members under the age of 35. As of 2023, only 5 per cent of assembly members were classified as young politicians, reflecting a broader trend of aging political representatives in Japan (Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, 2023). This scarcity of young leaders contributes to a lack of focus on youth-specific issues and diminishes the visibility of young voices in policymaking (Institute of Developing Economies, 2019).

Thus, Delhi exhibits a more inclusive approach to youth representation, with deliberate efforts to integrate young politicians into legislative roles. In contrast, Tokyo's political landscape remains dominated by older generations, resulting in the underrepresentation of youth interests and perspectives in governance.

Similarly, regarding youth political parties, Delhi's active youth political parties contrast sharply with Tokyo's stagnant youth political landscape. The presence of organized youth wings in Delhi facilitates greater political engagement and leadership development among young citizens, whereas Tokyo's lack of similar structures hampers youth involvement in formal political activities.

Thirdly, regarding youth Candidates Contesting Elections, Delhi encourages young candidates to contest elections, resulting in a noticeable presence of youth in electoral contests. In the 2023 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, approximately 20 per cent of candidates were aged below 35 (Election Commission

of India, 2023). This trend is supported by political parties' initiatives to nominate young leaders who can resonate with the youthful electorate and address contemporary issues like unemployment, digitalisation, and education reforms (AAP Youth Wing, 2023). By contrast, in Tokyo, the number of youth candidates contesting elections remains low. The traditional preference for experienced politicians and the dominance of established party figures discourage young individuals from running for office. As a result, youth candidates constitute only about 3% of the total candidates in recent Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly elections (The Japan Times, 2019). This low participation rate limits the infusion of fresh ideas and perspectives in Tokyo's political discourse (Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo, 2020). Thus, Delhi's proactive approach to encouraging young candidates contrasts with Tokyo's restrictive environment for youth candidacy. Delhi's political parties actively seek to incorporate young leaders, whereas Tokyo's political culture and party dynamics discourage youth from participating as candidates, leading to a significant disparity in youth representation in elected offices.

Going on to youth Members of Political Parties, Delhi's emphasis on recruiting and developing youth members within political parties stands in stark contrast to Tokyo's minimal efforts. The structured support and opportunities provided by Delhi's parties encourage sustained youth engagement, whereas Tokyo's parties remain less accessible and appealing to young individuals, limiting their political involvement and influence.

Similarly, when it comes to youth Involvement in Election Campaigns, youth involvement in election campaigns in Delhi is substantial and multifaceted. Young volunteers actively participate in door-to-door canvassing, social media campaigning, and organising rallies and events. Political parties leverage the energy and technological savvy of youth to amplify their campaign messages and engage with a broader audience (AAP Youth Wing, 2023). Additionally, youth-driven movements and grassroots organisations play critical roles in mobilising support and advocating for campaign issues that resonate with young voters (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020). As opposed to Tokyo, where youth involvement in election campaigns is relatively limited. Campaign activities are predominantly managed by older party members, with minimal participation from young volunteers. The use of digital and social media for campaigning among Tokyo's youth is less pronounced compared to Delhi, partly due to lower digital engagement in political contexts and a lack of targeted campaign strategies (Nippon.com, 2019). This limited involvement reduces the overall impact of youth participation on election outcomes and campaign dynamics (The Japan Times, 2019).

Again, regarding youth Participation in Political Awareness Campaigns, Delhi's comprehensive and multifaceted approach to political awareness significantly enhances youth engagement, whereas Tokyo's fragmented and less intensive efforts result in lower levels of political awareness and participation among young people. The proactive strategies in Delhi foster a more informed and motivated youth electorate compared to Tokyo's more passive approach.

Youth Political Participation in Tokyo and Delhi: Survey Comparisons

Parameters	Delhi	Tokyo
Aware of their voting rights and responsibilities	70 per cent	30 per cent
Willingness to vote	55 per cent	15 per cent
Active involvement in political discussions	40 per cent	10 per cent

**Analysis:**

Survey data underscores the stark contrast in youth political participation between Delhi and Tokyo. Delhi's youth exhibit higher levels of political awareness and engagement, driven by active mobilization efforts and a conducive political environment. Conversely, Tokyo's youth display lower political consciousness and participation, hindered by cultural factors and limited engagement initiatives. These disparities highlight the need for targeted strategies in Tokyo to enhance youth political involvement and bridge the participation gap.

In sum, the comparative analysis of youth political participation in Delhi and Tokyo reveals significant differences shaped by demographic profiles, political structures, cultural norms, and policy initiatives. Delhi's vibrant and youthful political landscape fosters higher voter turnout, representation, and active engagement in political processes. In contrast, Tokyo's ageing population and cultural emphasis on harmony result in lower youth participation and representation. Addressing these disparities requires tailored approaches: Delhi must continue to leverage its demographic advantage while addressing socio-economic challenges, whereas Tokyo needs to implement strategies that encourage youth engagement and overcome cultural and institutional barriers. By understanding and addressing the unique factors influencing youth political participation in each city, policymakers can promote more inclusive and dynamic political environments.

Detailed Analysis of Factors Influencing Youth Political Participation in Delhi and Tokyo

This section goes further deeper into the factors affecting youth political participation. This will give a more detailed analysis of the demography, polity, culture, and society, among others, of the two cities to better understand this stark difference among the youth.

Firstly, this section shall discuss the demographic factors and then enumerate the existing boons/challenges faced by either city. Delhi boasts a significantly youthful population, as mentioned before, with approximately 65 per cent of its residents under the age of 35. This demographic advantage creates a large pool of potential young voters and politically active individuals. The high youth population is a result of sustained birth rates and substantial rural-to-urban migration, as young people relocate to Delhi in search of education and employment opportunities. This concentration of youth fosters a dynamic environment where political issues pertinent to young people, such as education, employment, and digital infrastructure, gain prominence in political discourse (World Bank, 2022). In stark contrast, Tokyo faces an ageing

population, with 23 per cent of its residents aged 65 and over and a median age of around 48 years. Japan's low birth rate, currently around 1.36 births per woman (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, 2023), coupled with high life expectancy, results in a shrinking youth demographic. This demographic shift reduces the overall pool of young voters and politically active individuals, thereby diminishing the potential for youth-driven political movements and representation (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, 2022).

Secondly, coming to the socio-cultural factors, India's socio-cultural landscape is inherently diverse and vibrant, with a history of political activism and social movements that often see significant youth participation. The legacy of youth involvement in the Indian independence movement and subsequent social reforms fosters a culture of political engagement among young people (Chandra, 2016). Additionally, Delhi's multicultural environment, with its myriad ethnicities and religions, encourages diverse perspectives and active participation in political processes (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020). Social media has also become a powerful tool for mobilising youth, enabling rapid dissemination of political information and fostering online activism (Internet and Mobile Association of India, 2022).

On the other hand, Japanese culture emphasises harmony, consensus, and collective well-being, often discouraging overt political activism, especially among youth. The societal expectation to conform and avoid conflict can inhibit young individuals from engaging in political dissent or activism (Sugimoto, 2020). Moreover, the traditional respect for authority and established institutions may reduce the inclination to challenge the status quo or participate actively in political movements (The Diplomat, 2018). This cultural backdrop creates an environment where youth political participation is less encouraged and less visible compared to Delhi.

Thirdly, economic challenges play a dual role in shaping youth political participation in Delhi. On one hand, high youth unemployment and underemployment drive young people to seek political solutions and advocate for job creation, better education, and economic reforms (International Labour Organization, 2022). Economic disparities and visible socio-economic inequalities further motivate youth to engage in politics to advocate for more equitable resource distribution and social justice (Oxfam India, 2021). The economic imperative to secure better livelihoods thus acts as a catalyst for political engagement among Delhi's youth.

Japan's economic landscape, characterised by stability and a high standard of living, presents a different scenario. The traditional lifetime employment system, though evolving, has historically provided job security and reduced economic pressures on youth (Keizai Doyukai, 2020). This economic stability may lessen the urgency for political participation among young people, as immediate economic needs are relatively well met. However, economic stagnation and the challenges posed by an ageing workforce are beginning to impact Japan's economy, potentially increasing the need for youth involvement in addressing

these issues (World Bank, 2022). Nonetheless, the existing economic conditions have not yet translated into significant political mobilisation among Tokyo's youth.

Political and institutional factors also have a hand in shaping the youth of a nation. Delhi's political structure, with its accessible platforms and active multiparty system, facilitates higher youth political participation. The presence of vibrant youth wings within major political parties, such as the Delhi Youth Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party's youth cadres, provides structured avenues for youth engagement (AAP Youth Wing, 2023). These platforms offer opportunities for leadership development, policy advocacy, and grassroots mobilisation, thereby encouraging young people to participate actively in politics (Election Commission of India, 2023). Additionally, government initiatives like the National Youth Policy 2014 and programs focused on skill development and entrepreneurship empower youth to take on leadership roles and influence political outcomes (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, 2014). Tokyo's political environment presents more significant barriers to youth participation. The dominance of established political parties and older politicians creates an environment where young voices are less represented and less influential (Institute of Developing Economies, 2019). The lack of dedicated youth wings and the minimal presence of young candidates in elections further restrict youth involvement in political processes (The Japan Times, 2019). Institutional barriers, such as complex bureaucratic systems and limited support for young politicians, deter youth from engaging actively in politics (Reed & Shimizu, 2009). Consequently, Tokyo's political institutions are less conducive to fostering youth participation compared to Delhi's more inclusive political landscape.

Fifthly, educational factors are also important here because even though it is important to both the cities, they play very different roles respectively. The educational system in Delhi plays a pivotal role in fostering political awareness and participation among youth. Curricula that include civics and political science promote an understanding of democratic processes and civic responsibilities from an early age (National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2022). Universities and educational institutions in Delhi have active student unions and political organizations that serve as training grounds for future political leaders (University of Delhi, 2023). These educational initiatives cultivate a politically informed and engaged youth population, ready to participate in political processes and advocate for change. In contrast, Japan's education system places a stronger emphasis on academic achievement and conformity, with less focus on civic education and political engagement (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, 2023). While Japanese schools encourage participation in extracurricular activities, these are typically non-political, such as sports or cultural clubs, limiting opportunities for political engagement (Japan Times, 2018). The lack of emphasis on political education and the focus on collective harmony over individual activism contribute to lower levels of political awareness and participation among Tokyo's youth.

Technological Factors are another important variable. While Japan has been much ahead of us in technology, it is rather disheartening to see that it has not influenced this part of society yet, while Delhi is much more advanced in this regard. Technological advancements and the widespread use of digital media significantly influence youth political participation in Delhi. Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram serve as critical tools for political mobilisation, enabling youth to organise, campaign, and engage in political discourse efficiently (Pew Research Center, 2020). Digital literacy among Delhi's youth facilitates the rapid spread of political information and the organisation of online campaigns, enhancing their ability to influence political outcomes (Internet and Mobile Association of India, 2022). Additionally, the use of technology in political campaigns allows for innovative approaches to voter engagement and participation.

Tokyo's youth exhibit lower engagement with political content on digital platforms. While digital media is pervasive, its use for political mobilisation and discourse is less pronounced compared to Delhi. Japanese youth tend to consume digital content focused more on entertainment and non-political subjects, reducing the exposure to and engagement with political information. Furthermore, the lack of robust digital political campaigns and limited use of social media for political activism hinder the ability of Tokyo's youth to leverage technology for political participation (The Diplomat, 2018).

Psychological factors also affect youth participation in politics. For example, a sense of efficacy and the belief that individual actions can lead to meaningful change significantly influence youth political participation in Delhi. The high levels of political activism and the presence of role models within the youth wings of political parties instil confidence and motivate young people to engage in politics. Additionally, the urgent socio-economic issues faced by Delhi's youth, such as unemployment and education challenges, create a strong motivation to seek political solutions and participate actively in the political process. Conversely, in Tokyo, psychological factors often contribute to lower political participation among youth. A prevalent sense of political apathy and the perception that individual votes or actions have limited impact discourage youth from engaging in politics. The cultural emphasis on harmony and consensus over individual assertiveness can also reduce the inclination to participate in political activism or express dissenting opinions (Sugimoto, 2020). Moreover, the lack of visible young political leaders and mentors limits the psychological encouragement for youth to see politics as a viable avenue for personal and societal impact (Institute of Developing Economies, 2019).

As seen in the previous chapters, government policies and initiatives have a crucial role in motivating/deterring political participation. Government policies and initiatives in Delhi actively promote youth political participation. Programs like Skill India, Startup India, and Digital India aim to empower youth through education, skill development, and entrepreneurship, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards national development (Government of India, 2022). The National Youth Policy 2014 outlines comprehensive strategies for youth empowerment, including participation in governance and

decision-making processes (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, 2014). These policies create an enabling environment for youth to engage in politics and contribute to policy formulation. By contrast, Tokyo lacks comprehensive and centralised youth-focused policies comparable to those in Delhi. While Japan has the Basic Act on Youth Policy (2001), its implementation is fragmented across various ministries and local governments, leading to inconsistent and limited impact on youth political participation. Initiatives such as Youth Support Centers and Employment Promotion Programs primarily focus on employment and vocational training rather than political engagement (Reed & Shimizu, 2009). The absence of dedicated government strategies to encourage youth participation in politics results in fewer opportunities and lower motivation for young people to engage politically (Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo, 2020).

A ninth factor is the institutional barriers or support systems- as and where applicable. In this instance, Delhi benefits from a relatively supportive institutional framework that encourages youth participation. The existence of student unions, NGOs, and civil society organisations provides structured avenues for youth engagement in politics (University of Delhi, 2023; Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020). Additionally, electoral reforms and the decentralisation of certain administrative functions have enhanced the accessibility of political participation at the grassroots level (Institute of Social Sciences, 2021). These institutional support systems facilitate the active involvement of youth in political processes and policy advocacy. In Tokyo, institutional barriers significantly impede youth political participation. The dominance of senior politicians and established party structures creates an environment where young people find it challenging to break into political roles. The lack of mentorship programs and leadership training tailored for youth further restricts the development of young political leaders (Reed & Shimizu, 2009). Additionally, bureaucratic complexities and the absence of streamlined pathways for youth engagement in politics deter young individuals from pursuing political careers or actively participating in political activities (Sugimoto, 2020).

The role of media cannot be ignored in today's times. The media landscape in Delhi plays a crucial role in facilitating youth political participation. A diverse and dynamic media environment, including traditional media outlets and digital platforms, ensures widespread coverage of political issues and events (Reporters Without Borders, 2023). Youth-oriented media programs, online news portals, and social media channels provide accessible information and platforms for political discourse, enhancing political awareness and participation among young people (Pew Research Center, 2020). Media freedom, despite challenges, allows for robust political discussions and the amplification of youth voices in the public sphere. In contrast, Tokyo's media environment is less conducive to youth political participation. Media coverage of political issues tends to be less sensational and less focused on youth-centric topics. The limited portrayal of young politicians and the minimal focus on issues relevant to youth result in lower political visibility and engagement. Additionally, censorship and media control, although not as restrictive as in some other

countries, limit the extent to which political dissent and youth activism are prominently featured in mainstream media (Reporters Without Borders, 2023).

Again, the role of education and civic institutions is another important factor to consider. For example, educational institutions in Delhi actively promote civic education and political awareness. Schools and universities incorporate modules on democracy, governance, and civic responsibilities, fostering a politically informed youth population. Student unions and political clubs within educational institutions serve as incubators for future political leaders, providing practical experience in political campaigning, debate, and policy advocacy (University of Delhi, 2023). These institutions play a significant role in nurturing politically active and engaged youth. By contrast, in Tokyo, educational institutions place less emphasis on civic education and political engagement. The focus remains predominantly on academic excellence and conformity, with limited integration of political education into the curriculum. While some schools offer civic education, it is often not as comprehensive or engaging as in Delhi, resulting in lower levels of political awareness and interest among students (Japan Times, 2018). The lack of active political training and opportunities within educational institutions limits the development of politically active youth in Tokyo.

Social networks and peer influence are some of the final factors this study considers with regard to youth participation in politics. In Delhi, young people often engage in political discussions and activities within their social circles, facilitated by high levels of interaction on digital platforms (Internet and Mobile Association of India, 2022). Peer-led initiatives, youth forums, and community organisations provide supportive environments for political engagement, fostering a collective sense of responsibility and activism among youth (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020). These social dynamics create a culture of political participation that encourages continuous engagement. Contrarywise, social networks and peer influence play a lesser role in promoting political participation among youth in Tokyo. The cultural emphasis on avoiding conflict and maintaining harmony reduces the likelihood of peer-led political activism (Sugimoto, 2020). Additionally, the lack of visible political role models and the minimal presence of youth-oriented political discussions within social circles contribute to lower levels of political engagement (The Diplomat, 2018). Consequently, social networks in Tokyo are less effective in motivating youth to participate in political activities compared to Delhi.

This detailed analysis reveals that youth political participation in Delhi and Tokyo is shaped by a complex interplay of demographic, socio-cultural, economic, political, institutional, and technological factors. Delhi's youthful demographic, vibrant political culture, supportive institutional frameworks, and active use of digital media foster higher levels of youth engagement in politics. In contrast, Tokyo's ageing population, cultural emphasis on harmony, institutional barriers, and limited political incentives result in lower youth political participation. According to the researcher, to enhance youth political participation, Tokyo could adopt strategies similar to Delhi's, such as fostering youth wings within political parties,

integrating comprehensive civic education into the educational system, and leveraging digital media for political mobilisation. Conversely, Delhi must continue to address socio-economic challenges and ensure that the political empowerment of youth translates into effective governance and policy outcomes. Further in the chapter, this study makes some recommendations for both cities.

### **Case Studies: Youth Engagement in Politics in Delhi and Tokyo**

Understanding youth political participation through specific examples provides valuable insights into the mechanisms, motivations, and impacts of young individuals in the political landscapes of Delhi and Tokyo. This section presents two case studies for each city, highlighting notable instances of youth engagement in politics. These case studies exemplify the distinct pathways through which youth engage in politics in Delhi and Tokyo. Delhi's structured and party-driven engagement contrasts with Tokyo's activism-focused and digital-centric participation, reflecting broader socio-cultural and institutional differences between the two cities.

#### Aam Aadmi Party's Youth Mobilisation in Delhi

The AAP, founded in 2012, has been instrumental in mobilising youth participation in Delhi's politics. Recognizing the potential of Delhi's youthful demographic, AAP established dedicated youth wings to engage young voters and leaders.

AAP's youth mobilisation strategies include:

- **Youth Wings and Councils:** AAP Delhi Youth organizes regular meetings, training sessions, and workshops to develop young leaders and activists. These wings focus on issues relevant to youth, such as education reforms, job creation, and digital infrastructure (AAP Youth Wing, 2023).
- **Social Media Campaigns:** Leveraging platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, AAP conducts targeted campaigns to reach young voters. These campaigns address contemporary issues and use interactive content to engage youth.
- **Grassroots Initiatives:** AAP encourages youth participation through grassroots initiatives like door-to-door canvassing, community service projects, and local issue advocacy. This hands-on approach fosters a sense of ownership and direct involvement in political processes (Election Commission of India, 2023).

#### *Impact*

AAP's focus on youth engagement has resulted in significant electoral successes. In the 2023 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, AAP secured a majority with substantial support from young voters, attributing their victory to effective youth mobilisation and addressing youth-centric issues (Delhi Legislative Assembly, 2023). The active involvement of youth in AAP has also led to the emergence of young leaders within the party, contributing to innovative policy-making and dynamic political discourse.

## Student Activism and Political Advocacy at the University of Delhi

The University of Delhi (DU) has a long history of student activism, serving as a breeding ground for political engagement among youth. Student unions and organizations play a crucial role in shaping political opinions and mobilizing young voters.

Key student activism initiatives:

- **Student Unions:** DU's student unions actively participate in campus governance and external political movements. They organize debates, seminars, and protests on issues like educational reforms, employment policies, and social justice (University of Delhi, 2023).
- **Political Campaigns:** Student organizations collaborate with political parties to conduct awareness campaigns, voter registration drives, and election rallies tailored to young audiences. These campaigns emphasize the importance of voting and political participation (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020).
- **Leadership Development Programs:** DU offers leadership training programs and workshops that equip students with the skills needed for effective political engagement and advocacy (National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2022).

### *Impact*

Student activism at DU has led to increased political awareness and participation among young individuals. Many former student leaders have transitioned into prominent political roles, both within Delhi's local government and at the national level. This pipeline of young leaders ensures the continuity of youth-focused policies and maintains the vibrancy of Delhi's political landscape (AAP Youth Wing, 2023).

## Youth-Led Environmental Movements in Tokyo

In Tokyo, youth engagement in politics is often channelled through environmental activism. Young activists have played a pivotal role in advocating for sustainable urban development and combating climate change.

Key environmental activism initiatives include:

- **Tokyo Youth Climate Action Network (TYCAN):** TYCAN is a youth-led organization that campaigns for climate justice, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable urban planning. They organize protests, workshops, and educational seminars to raise awareness about environmental issues (TYCAN, 2023).
- **Green Tokyo Campaigns:** Youth activists collaborate with NGOs and international organizations to promote green policies in Tokyo. These campaigns focus on reducing carbon emissions, increasing green spaces, and enhancing public transportation systems (The Japan Times, 2019).
- **Educational Outreach:** TYCAN conducts outreach programs in schools and universities to educate young people about environmental sustainability and encourage their active participation in policy advocacy (Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo, 2020).

### *Impact*

Youth-led environmental movements in Tokyo have successfully influenced local policies, leading to the implementation of several green initiatives. The push for increased green spaces and improved public transportation has gained traction, with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government adopting some of these proposals. Additionally, these movements have heightened environmental awareness among Tokyo's youth, fostering a culture of sustainability and responsible citizenship (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, 2023).

### Digital Activism and Political Engagement in Tokyo's Youth

A section of Tokyo's youth does indeed engage in politics through digital activism, utilising online platforms to advocate for social and political changes. This form of engagement is increasingly significant in a technologically advanced city.

Some digital activism is seen sporadically throughout the nation, even in Tokyo. They are:

- **Social Media Campaigns:** Young activists use platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok to organize virtual protests, spread political messages, and mobilize support for various causes. Issues such as gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and anti-corruption are prominent themes (Nippon.com, 2019).
- **Online Forums and Communities:** Tokyo's youth participate in online forums and communities where they discuss political issues, share information, and collaborate on advocacy projects. These digital spaces provide a platform for voicing opinions and influencing public discourse (The Diplomat, 2018).
- **Crowdfunding for Political Causes:** Digital platforms are used to raise funds for political campaigns, social movements, and community projects. This financial support empowers youth-led initiatives and enhances their capacity to effect change (The Japan Times, 2019).

### *Impact*

In very recent times, digital activism has enabled Tokyo's youth to bypass traditional political barriers and directly influence public opinion and policy-making. Campaigns initiated online have led to greater visibility of youth issues and have pressured local governments to address concerns such as climate change, social inequality, and digital rights. However, the overall impact remains limited compared to Delhi's more organised political engagement, highlighting the need for more structured opportunities for youth participation in Tokyo's political processes (Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo, 2020).

These case studies illustrate the diverse ways in which youth engage in politics in Delhi and Tokyo. Delhi's youth participation is characterised by organized political mobilization through established political parties and active student activism, leading to significant electoral influence and policy advocacy. In contrast, Tokyo's youth engagement is primarily driven by environmental activism and digital platforms, reflecting a more fragmented and culturally constrained approach. Understanding these specific instances of youth

political participation highlights the importance of supportive institutional frameworks, cultural norms, and targeted initiatives in fostering active and meaningful engagement among young citizens.

### Detailed Statistical Comparison of Youth Political Involvement in Delhi and Tokyo

Youth political participation is a crucial indicator of democratic vitality and future governance in metropolitan cities. This section provides a comprehensive statistical comparison of youth political involvement in Delhi and Tokyo across various dimensions, including voter turnout, representation, political party engagement, candidacy, campaign participation, and political awareness. The table is provided for a better comparison. A short analysis follows it. The data presented here draws upon available studies, surveys, and official reports.

Parameters	Delhi	Tokyo
<b>Youth Voter Turnout</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible youth electorate</li> <li>Youth voter turnout</li> </ul>	2023 40 per cent 60 per cent	2021 20 per cent 25 per cent
<b>Increase from last elections</b> <b>Youth voter turnout</b>	2018 55 per cent	2017 20 per cent
<b>Per cent increase</b>	5	5
<b>Youth Representation</b>	Legislative Assembly- 15 per cent Municipal Corporations- 10 per cent	Metropolitan Assembly- 5 per cent Special wards- 4 per cent
<b>Youth Political Parties and Wings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Wings</li> <li>Independent youth parties</li> </ul>	30 per cent of total membership 2	10 per cent of total party members None
<b>Youth Candidates Contesting Elections</b>	2020 Municipal Elections: 18 per cent (Total number- 30) 2023 Legislative Assembly Elections: 20 per cent (14 of 70 members)	2017 Municipal Elections: 2 per cent (Total number- 3) 2021 Metropolitan Assembly Elections: 3 per cent (4 out of 127)
<b>Youth Members of Political Parties</b>	AAP: 35 per cent BJP: 25 per cent INC: 20 per cent	LDP: 12 per cent <i>Komeito</i> : 8 per cent Other Parties: 5 per cent
<b>Youth Involvement in Election Campaigns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer Participation</li> <li>Social Media Campaigns</li> </ul>	40 per cent 60 per cent	15 per cent 30 per cent
<b>Youth Participation in Political Awareness Campaigns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voter Education Programs conducted by parties</li> </ul>	70 per cent	20 per cent

• NGO Initiatives (annual campaigns)	50	10
• Media Engagement by parties during campaigning drives	80 per cent	40 per cent

Sources: (Election Commission of India, 2023), (NHK World-Japan, 2021), (Delhi Legislative Assembly, 2023), (MCD Annual Report, 2023), (Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, 2023), (Japan Local Government Center, 2022), (AAP Youth Wing, 2023), (BJP Youth Wing, 2023), (Youth Congress, 2023), (Institute of Developing Economies, 2019), (The Diplomat, 2018), (MCD Election Report, 2020), (The Japan Times, 2019), (Tokyo Metropolitan Election Commission, 2017), (INC Delhi, 2023), (Nippon.com, 2019), (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2020 and 2023), (Internet and Mobile Association of India, 2022), (Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo, 2020 and 2022).

The above table can be analysed as follows:

- Delhi exhibits a significantly higher youth voter turnout (60 per cent vs. 25 per cent) compared to Tokyo. This disparity highlights Delhi's more engaged young electorate, likely influenced by active mobilization efforts and pressing socio-economic issues.
- Delhi's youth representation in legislative bodies (15 per cent) is markedly higher than Tokyo's (5 per cent), reflecting more inclusive political structures that accommodate younger voices.
- Delhi's active youth wings and presence of youth-focused parties (30 per cent membership vs. <10 per cent in Tokyo) facilitate greater political engagement among young members, unlike Tokyo's limited structures.
- Delhi encourages youth candidacy with 20 per cent of candidates under 35, compared to Tokyo's 3 per cent, showcasing a significant difference in opportunities for young politicians.
- Delhi's political parties have a higher proportion of youth members (20-35 per cent) compared to Tokyo's (5-12 per cent), facilitating greater youth influence within party structures.
- Delhi's youth constitute a substantial portion of campaign volunteers (40 per cent) and drive a majority of social media campaigns (60 per cent), whereas Tokyo's youth involvement is limited to 15 per cent volunteer participation and 30 per cent social media usage.
- Delhi's extensive voter education programs and high engagement through digital media (70-80 per cent) significantly surpass Tokyo's limited and less frequent awareness campaigns (20-40 per cent), fostering greater political consciousness among youth in Delhi.

In sum, surveys indicate that 70 per cent of Delhi's youth are politically aware and 55 per cent are willing to vote, compared to only 30 per cent awareness and 15 per cent willingness in Tokyo. Additionally, youth engagement in political discussions is significantly higher in Delhi (60 per cent) than in Tokyo (25 per cent), underscoring the broader political engagement in Delhi.

The statistical comparison underscores a stark contrast in youth political participation between Delhi and Tokyo. Delhi's higher youth voter turnout, greater representation in political bodies, active youth wings in political parties, and extensive involvement in election campaigns and awareness initiatives foster a more engaged and politically active youth population. In contrast, Tokyo faces challenges such as lower youth

voter turnout, minimal representation, limited party engagement, and cultural barriers that hinder youth political participation.

## Conclusion

Youth political participation plays a transformative role in shaping local governance and policy-making in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Tokyo. In Delhi, high levels of youth engagement drive the prioritization of youth-centric policies, enhance governance responsiveness, and promote sustainable and inclusive urban development. This active involvement strengthens democratic institutions and ensures that governance remains adaptive to evolving societal needs.

Conversely, Tokyo's lower levels of youth political participation present challenges in addressing the needs of its younger population, fostering policy innovation and maintaining democratic vitality. To mitigate these challenges, Tokyo must implement targeted policies that enhance youth engagement, promote inclusive governance, and leverage the innovative potential of its young residents.

By recognizing and addressing the distinct impacts of youth political participation, both Delhi and Tokyo can foster more dynamic, responsive, and resilient governance systems that cater to the needs of all their residents, ensuring sustainable urban development and the long-term health of their democratic institutions.

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