

Goodbye Delhi?

UNLIKE MANY OTHER CITIES, DELHI HAS RETAINED MUCH OF ITS CHARM AND BEAUTY. STILL, CAN ITS CITIZENS BE PERSUADED TO LEAVE THE CITY FOR GREENER OPPORTUNITIES? **ANKITA SHREERAM** EXPLORES

Once you've become used to the wide open roads and the beautiful *bazaars* of Delhi, the thought of living elsewhere is quite unconceivable. Yet in today's ambitious times, it seems as though young professionals will go wherever their careers take them.

Different cities in India have become hubs for different industries, making it essential to move if you don't happen to live in a city where the indus-

try of your choice has a good presence.

"Delhi/NCR is specifically more consumer-centric, whereas the south (Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad) covers most of the sectors like manufacturing, technology, pharma and hence in that sense, Delhi offers fewer advantages as far as job opportunities are concerned," says Sachin Vohra, director - recruitment services, IKYA Human Capital Solutions. However, there is more to Delhi than specialisation in a few sectors. "Delhi is highly diverse in terms of food, language, seasons and has a place for all pockets. So, no one feels out of place. It is warm and welcoming. It may not be there yet from a safety perspective but it certainly is at par with or even better than other metros in infrastructure, coupled with lower fuel prices. Commercially, Delhi is the top ranker. Having said that, at times, a good opportunity knocks at your door

only from the other cities and there you have to compare Delhi versus the new city not from a standpoint of what's missing in Delhi but what does the new city have to offer," opines Rohit Hastar - director, people management and HR - Indian Sub Continent, UTi Worldwide.

At the end of the day, it all comes down to what you stand to lose and gain and which one matters more. "If a new job offer involves career enhancement in terms of work profile and financial gain, then moving cities should not be a big issue. Big Indian cities are fast becoming cosmopolitans and have a significant migrant population due to this trend," suggests Deepak Abbot, AVP, Paytm. Look around you - how many of your colleagues are natives of the city you work in? Chances are, more than fifty per cent of them are migrants from other cities. However, a city isn't

just the place where you live and work. It impacts your life in numerous ways. "The city you live in plays a huge role in lifestyle for sure. Delhi for example, will make you more enterprising, will increase your appetite for taking calculated risks, broaden your horizon as you meet professionals and visitors from across the globe regularly as well as enhance your quality of life significantly with access to world-class public infrastructure and amenities," says Neeraj Sharma, group technical manager, Koenig Solutions Ltd.

Take time deciding whether you want to take up that job offer or not but once you've made the choice, make the best of it. As Ashok Bajpai, MD, G4S India says, "Every large city can be as lively or as uninteresting as you choose to make it."

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