# Problems with Multiple Boundaries in a City

## What is the issue?

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Cities in India are characterised by multiple boundaries i.e., they are governed by multiple organisations and authorities which have their own jurisdictions.

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## What's the problem with maze of boundaries?

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- The governing authorities in a city include **urban local bodies (ULBs)** which does service delivery and planning for socio-economic development and are further divided into **different wards.**
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- Large cities also have **urban development authorities** which in turn divide cities into various planning zones.
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- Line departments, sewage disposal, safety and security organization are also done based on various zones.
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- **None of these zones is coterminus,** and thus it generates whats called a 'maze of boundaries'.
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- This non-coterminus boundaries **deter effective planning and good governance** and could actually deter Smart Cities Mission too (which calls for appropriate local spatial development plans).
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- Thus, the existing maze of boundaries needs to be revamped for more coherent and integrated planning and governance.
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## How it is exemplified in the case of Delhi?

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- Until 2012, Delhi was governed by three municipal corporations. But, after 2012, **the NCT is governed by five bodies.**
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- Also, the Master Plan for Delhi, 2021 identifies 15 planning zones.
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- And the Delhi Police looks after the safety and security of 13 districts.
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- The Delhi Traffic Police has divided the NCT into 11 districts, which are subdivided into 53 traffic circles.
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- This multiple boundaries of jurisdictions and their spatial non-alignment further reinstates the problem of a ‘maze of boundaries’.
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## What can we learn from Singapore Model?

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- A **minimum organisational set-up was suggested** to bring these multiple agencies on a common platform to determine a metropolitan-wide strategy for planning and implementation.
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- In this context, Singapore, with its planning boundaries and smart urban development provides a good example.
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- It comprise of 55 planning areas organised into **five planning regions,** namely, the central, west, north, north-east and east regions.
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- The 2014 master plan retains the five planning regions and 55 areas which are further divided into smaller subzones.
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- Also, since the implementation of these boundaries, **all the other departments have also adopted them for their administrative purposes.**
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- Ex. The Singapore Police Force constituted the jurisdiction of its neighbourhood police centres based on these planning regions.
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- Even for the administrative and electoral divisions, the earlier nine districts were replaced with five districts corresponding to the urban planning regions of the URA.
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- Thus, the unified boundaries of the various forces in planning and

coordinated efforts have contributed to the planned and smart urban development of Singapore.
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**Source: The Hindu**

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