

Interaction between Political Ideologies and Emerging Urban Patterns of Indian Planned Cities- A Case Study of Jaipur

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Abstract: Significant studies reveal that measurable changes have been observed in the urban growth pattern in India and are associated with various complex urban issues. Studies also indicate that Indian cities, especially the metropolitan cities, since 1991 are in the process of restructuring form and are characterized by striking duality between Socialist and Neo-liberalist ideologies and their effects. The paper focuses on the spatial organisation of Indian planned cities. The paper investigates the impact of Post-Independence political ideologies like Socialism and liberalism on the growth pattern of planned city of Jaipur. It puts forth that implementation of capitalistic economic reform has resulted in the conversion of agricultural land use to industrial and commercial avenues. The paper concludes that development of physical infrastructure especially transport system, has triggered land use changes and high density urban expansion along these transport corridors adverse to planned spatial organisation of the city. The paper suggests that urban expansion planning of Jaipur requires be unified, co-ordinated along the originally planned spatial organisation of the city.

Keywords: Jaipur, Indian planned cities, Political Ideologies, Socialism, Liberalism

1. INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF THIS PAPER

Scholars have put forth that the liberalist economic reforms adopted, in 1990s is the basic factor in India's rapid acceleration of economic growth, opening new job opportunities in several globally linked sectors located in and around the cities, boosting rural-urban migration.[1]. Linking the country with the global economy has led a rise in investment and especially capital from outside the country. Many of these investments have been either within or around the existing urban centers giving an impetus to the pace of urbanization. On the other side, studies assert that the process of urban development in India is associated with the emphasized regional and interpersonal inequality, with little reduction in poverty and slowed down agricultural growth.

Several research have explored the influence of Socialist and Neo-liberal policies on urban growth patterns of Indian metropolitan cities like Bangalore [2, 3], Delhi [4], Pune [5],

Hyderabad [3], Ahmedabad [6]. But there are hardly any studies that focus on spatial arrangement and urban growth patterns of Indian planned cities. There are no studies that analyze the influencing factors like Political ideologies on urban growth of Indian planned cities.

The paper studies the spatial arrangement of Indian planned cities, and analyzes the urban growth patterns of Indian planned city Jaipur, that have emerged in the post LPG (liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) period.

The study provides an extra layer of insight on the analysis of growth of Indian cities, especially Indian planned cities, which can be useful for policy makers and planners to anticipate and future forecast future changes.

2. URBANIZATION IN INDIA

Urbanization is a world wide phenomenon, changing city forms and skylines. The rate of urbanization in developing country like India is high, triggered by migration, increase in urban population, industrial development, transport corridors, software and services industry.

2.1 Indian Political Ideologies

Political Ideologies are a system of ideas and ideals, principles, doctrines, beliefs, myths or symbols, especially ones those form the basis of economic or political theory and policy [7]. These ideas and manner of thinking are characteristic of a group, social class, social movement, and institution or individual. Each ideology contains certain ideas on what it considers to be the best form of government (e.g. democracy, autocracy), and the best economic system (e.g. capitalism, socialism) [8]. In the Indian decentralized Government these policies and strategies are authorized to state and local governments.

2.1.2 Socialism in India (1970-1980)

Socialism is essentially a humanitarian ideal, advocating collective ownership, collective welfare, ordering by means of

production and distribution. Socialism prioritized notion of equality; therefore distribution, use of social funds, public participation, inclusion concepts, etc[9].

Democratic socialism in India aims at creating an ideal “welfare state” on socialist pattern, classless society, with no class conflict, regional and religious rivalry. It aims at following a middle course between one extreme of individualism cum capitalism and the other extreme of communism cum totalitarianism.

2.1.3 Policies and strategies

Policies tried to reconcile the implications of both democracy and socialism and included strengthening the role of the state.

- Provision for housing for all and provide compensation and empowerment of slum dwellers
- Broaden tax base, raise marginal tax rates to provide basic services and facilities to urban areas.
- Employment programmes- pro labour, formation of labour unions, Provision for loans, grants, subsidies for agriculture sector and to encourage small scale industries, business, co-operatives.

2.2 Shift in Policy and Ideology

A much more explicit change in policy occurred after 1991. The private sector was freed of controls that had been evolved over many years for rational allocation of scarce resources. The economy was opened gradually to foreign trade and foreign capital [10]. The results in terms of economic growth have been impressive. The average growth rate achieved in the Tenth Plan 2002 to 2007 was 7.6 percent per year. The Eleventh Five Year Plan of India (2007–12) was aligned to the idea that urbanization is the “key indicator” of economic and social development and that the cities will be the “engines of economic growth” with a goal of 9%–10% growth in GDP.[11]

2.3 Liberalism

Liberalism is an economic ideology that tends to make a self-regulating market, the paradigm of all social reality. Political liberalism is one way of applying the principles deduced from these economic doctrines to political life [12]. The economic reforms of 1990’s included significant industrial and trade liberalization, financial de-regulation and policies favorable to privatization and foreign direct investments. This has brought about globalization triggering software development services, outsourcing industry, modern information communication and entertainment technologies.

2.3.1 Policies and strategies

The neoliberal policies prioritize accumulation, and therefore use tax breaks, regulatory rollbacks and the repression of

organized labour to attract and retain foreign direct investment [13]. Policies initiated to make Indian cities more competitive in global circuit triggered dynamism in urban context, bringing large-scale Public Private investments in construction industry and infrastructure development sector. These included construction of public amenities like roads, flyovers, bridges, public spaces, metros etc. New policies that influenced urbanization are:

- Privatization of public services, Share of Foreign direct investment in land and housing market shift in priorities.
- Modification of byelaws, FSI, planning norms. Land use conversion. Housing market privatization.


2.4 Current Scenario of Indian Metropolitan cities

Over time, India has shifted from a reluctant pro-capitalist state with a socialist Ideology to an enthusiastic pro-capitalist state with a neo-liberal ideology. This shift has significant implications for the development of cities in India.

Indian cities are characterized by striking duality between as shown in table 1.[14]:-

- Socialist Ideology based on the notions of groups, equality, distribution etc. These can be observed in the grants, subsidies, loans and redevelopment projects.
- Market driven Neo-liberalist ideology based on the notion of individualism, freedom, etc. These can be observed in the successful PPP model, foreign investments and market trends.

Table 1: Change in growth pattern in Indian cities

Socialism
Developed Housing schemes for Economically Weaker Sections (Fig 1.0 a), slums, similar matchbox like apartment buildings (Fig 4.0 b) into uniform cityscape

Fig 1.0 a, b Housing schemes for EWS and Residential apartments
Neo-liberalism
Developed new land uses patterns like entertainment, markets (Fig 1.0.c), infrastructure, and facilities of communication. Changed the shape & cityscape like expansion of urban

areas, decentralization trends (fig 1.0.d) blurring of urban and rural borders.



Fig 1.0 c, d Shopping malls and Neighbour satellite towns

Consequently, Indian metropolitan cities are in the midst of restructuring form and space.

3. INDIAN PLANNED CITIES

The figure 2 shows the location of planned cities in India. [15]. The current study out line the spatial arrangement of planned state capitals cities Chandigarh, Gandhinagar and Bhubaneshwar designed post Independence. Table 2.

Also in recent times, India is witnessing mushrooming of many new planned cities like Lavasa, Sahara city, SEZs, and neighborhood cities. The present government is also planning to development many new cities either in suburbs of existing cities, or theme based like heritage cities or new self sufficient sustainable cities.

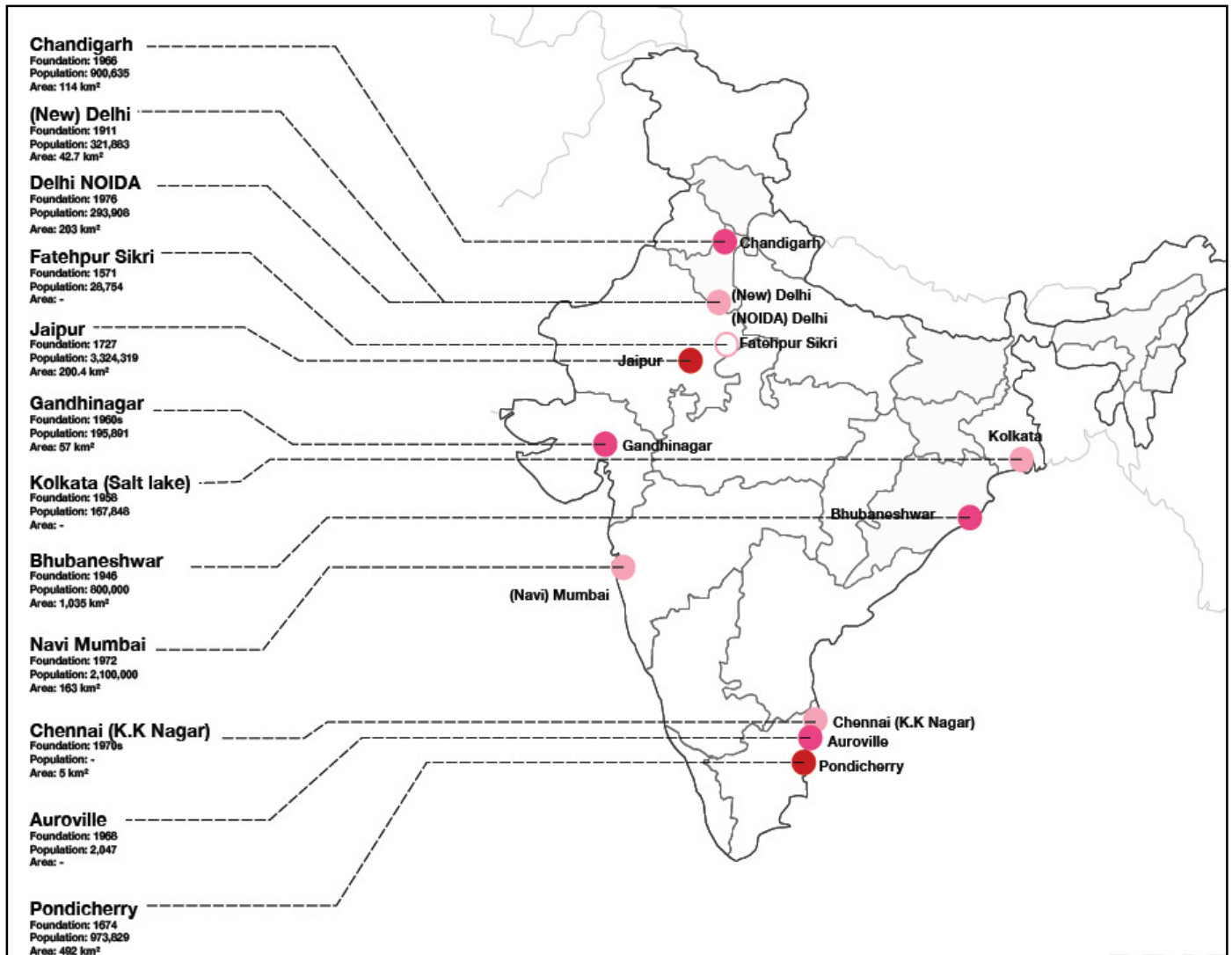
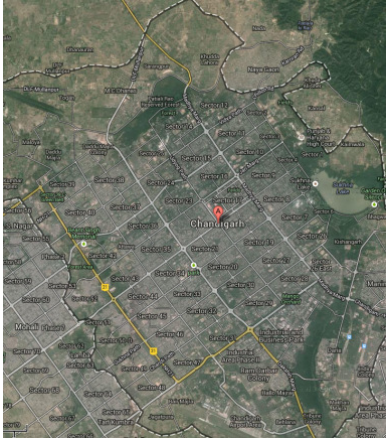
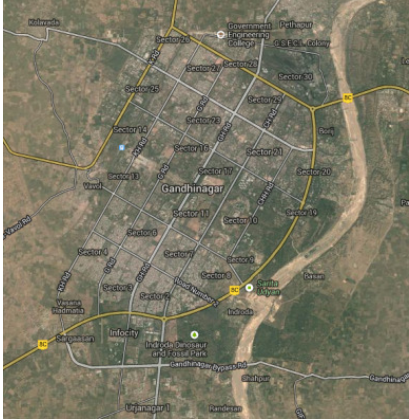



Fig 2 : Map of India showing location of planned cities.

Table 2: Spatial arrangement of Indian planned cities

City details:	Spatial arrangement		Political ideologies
<p>Chandigarh Founded in:1966, Population: 900635, Area: 114 Sq. Km.</p> <p>Architect:Le Corbusier</p>	 <p>Fig 3: Plan of Chandigarh city</p>		<p>Le Corbusier Designed the city as an Ideal city into sectors (each 1200mx800m) with classified circulation pattern of streets and green network.</p> <p>The first Prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, dreamed a secular state, based on social and economic justice. By favouring a program of Modernist Architecture for the Chandigarh city design, he incorporated International Modernism in public Architecture in a bid to look to the future rather, to demonstrate both its independence from European culture and its ability to perform functions of a modern state</p>
<p>Gandhinagar- Founded in:1960's, Population: 195890, Area: 57 Sq. Km.</p> <p>Architects: H.K Mewada and PrakashApte</p>	 <p>Fig 4: Plan of Gandhinagar city</p>		<p>Planned as new capital of Gujarat in 1960, it is a structured city with ordered grid pattern.</p> <p>Following the Gandhian ideology and Chandigarh model, but in mandala or grid form as in planned historical Indian cities.</p>
<p>Bhubaneswar Founded in:1946 Population: 80,000 Area:1035Sq.Km.</p> <p>Architect: Konigsberger</p>	 <p>Fig 5: Plan of Bhubaneswarcity</p>		<p>Sectorial development with each residential sector as self sufficient with necessary amenities and green spaces.</p> <p>Socialist Ideology-Designed forTata company workers, the founders wanted to provide all comforts, conveniences of an idealcity.</p>

4. CASE STUDY: PLANNED CITY JAIPUR

Jaipur city is the first planned city in India, considered as a model city of town planning and also called as “the pink city”. It is located at an altitude of 431 m (above MSL) and at 26.92°N latitude & 75.82°E longitude (fig 6). The geographical area of the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) Jaipur region covers approximately 1464 square km [16].

4.1.1 Spatial and urban growth pattern of Jaipur

The spatial and urban growth pattern of Jaipur can be divided into four phases as shown in fig 8. [17].

Phase I: 1727-1850 AD: The city was founded and planned by Maharaja Sawai Singh based on

- i) Hindu system of Town planning following the principles prescribed in the Shilpa-shastra.
- ii) The site is divided into nine grids or mandalas, by grid lines (main streets). Due to steep hills, the mandala could not be completed in Northwest direction. Therefore an extra mandala has been extended in the south –east direction. (fig: 7)
- iii) Planned according to the Prastara type of layout, giving prominence to the cardinal directions.
- iv) Jaipur’s road network follows a definite hierarchy. The major east-west and north-south road, form the sector boundaries and are called Rajmarg (33mts. wide) as they lead to the city gates. Next is a network of 16.5m wide roads which run north south in each sector linking the internal areas of the sectors to the major activity spine. An orthogonal grid of 8.25mx4.00m roads in the prastara-chessboard pattern further divide sectors into Mohallas (fig:)

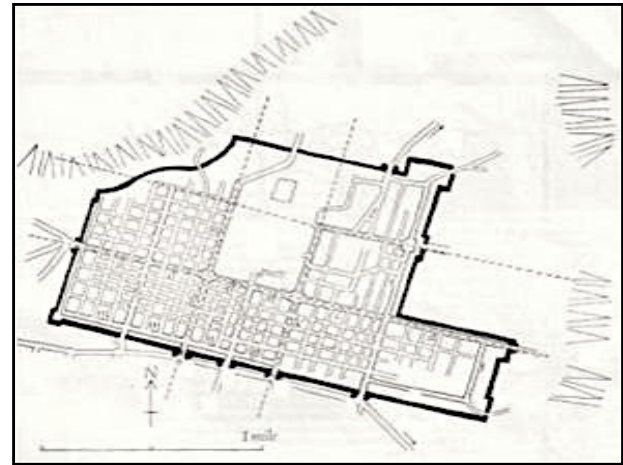


Fig 7: Plan of planned city

Phase II: 1850-1930 A.D.: The city grew outside the walled city confines, triggered by establishment of railway line in 1868 A.D. outside the walled city.

Phase III: 1930-1970 A.D.: Government followed a socialist ideology and developed five development schemes to provide residential plots, public institutes, other amenities and the Rajasthan university opening opportunities towards the south direction.

Phase IV: Post 1970’s: Major changes were between two land uses i.e. agriculture crop area converted to built area. The city has grown towards south, south-west, and west directions along major roads, national highways. (Fig 8), triggering land use and land cover changes and unplanned expansion. The prime causes behind such expansion have been availability of land at a considerably cheaper rate in those areas, good transport communicational network, availability of better infrastructural and institutional amenities, migration from rural to urban areas. The city of Jaipur is witnessing three major kinds of urban sprawl patterns, (i) Linear, (ii) Leaf frog, (iii) Radial, and occurrences of polycentric sprawl. [16] (Shown in figure 9, 10 and 11).

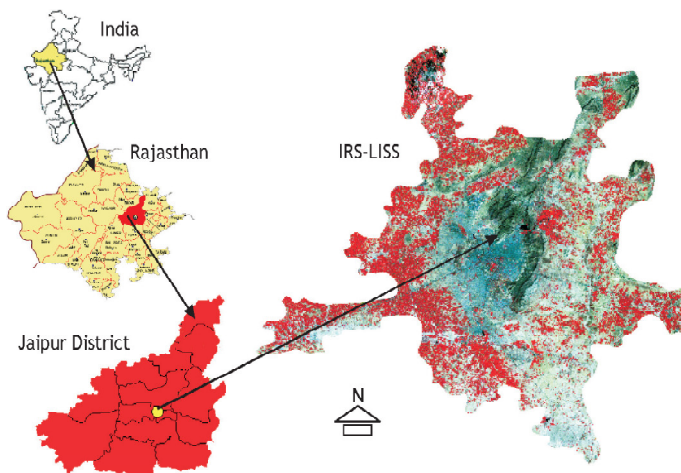


Fig 6: Location of Jaipur city

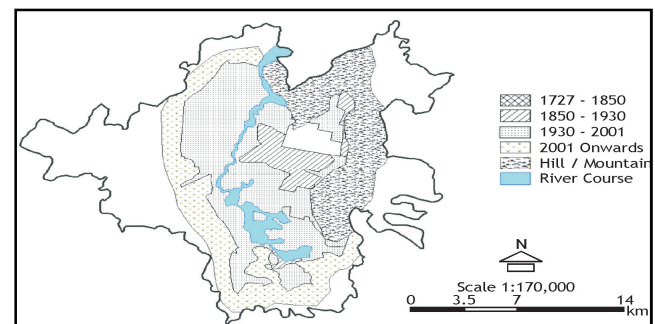


Fig 8: Urban sprawl Jaipur city

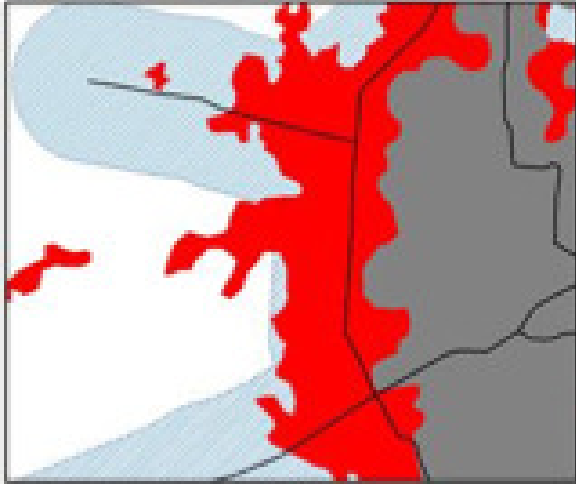


Fig 9: Linear urban sprawl pattern

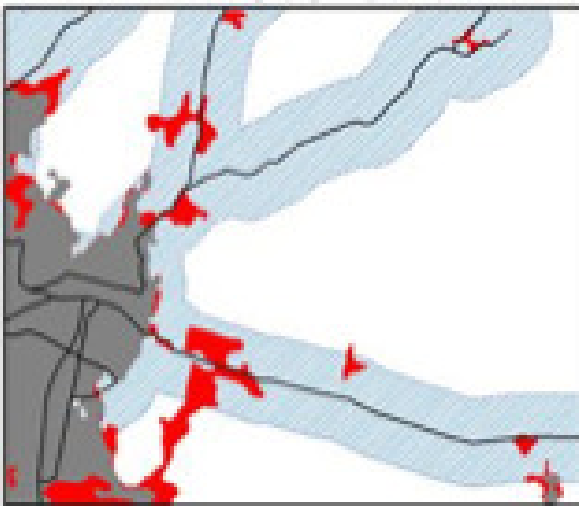


Fig 10: Leaf frog urban sprawl pattern

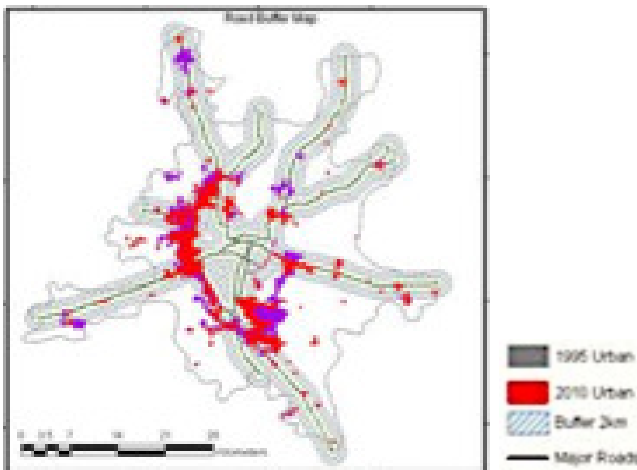


Fig 11: Sprawl in buffer zone

The new settlement agglomerations in Jaipur (between 2000-2010) that have developed within a buffer area of two kilometers from the main transport lines (Fig 11), the main reason being settling on consideration of good transport network. The areas adjoining the main urban area exhibit the characteristics of Radial Sprawl Pattern (Different pattern maps), followed by a similar occurrence in the northern part of the study area. While some scattered new growths are found in patches at different parts of eastern and southern parts of the city area.

5. CONCLUSION

The current research study identifies that, post-liberalization urban growth of Jaipur city has been very high and has expanded towards south and western directions in uncontrolled manner along transport corridors, converting agricultural land to industrial, public use and residential built up areas.

While the city has been a model-planned city in mandala or grid pattern, the urban expansion pattern is unplanned and haphazard exhibiting different sprawl patterns.

The paper suggests that urban expansion planning of Jaipur requires be unified, co-ordinated along the originally planned spatial organisation of the city.

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