

# A Unique Inter-state Regional Planning: - Regional Plan-2021 for N.C.R.

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## **ABSTRACT :-**

Urbanization and Economic growth are two main key factors for a development in any country and both are continuously increasing a day by a day. Particularly in India NCR is a big example of the rapid growth of economic growth and urbanization. As per Census 2011, 31.2 % of the total population lives in urban areas. NCR is even more urbanized with 62.5% of its total population living in urban areas. However, excluding NCT, Delhi. NCR is less urbanized (27%). The number of million-plus cities in India has increased quit fourfold over the last three decades from 12 in 1981 to 53 in 2011. Million-plus cities together have a population of 160.7 million and account for 43% of total urban population of the country. Out of 53 million-plus cities, four cities namely:- Delhi, Meerut, Ghaziabad and Faridabad are in the NCR and Gurugram UA is on the verge of becoming a million-plus city. National Capital Territory of Delhi [NCT-Delhi] has been experiencing rapid population growth and there has been no respite from unprecedented migration from small and medium towns and rural areas of the vast hinterland, on an average about 3 lakhs persons are added every year to total population of NCT, Delhi. It attracts number of migrants, largely in the past four decades the population growth of NCT, Delhi has been exceeding 50% per decade. Recent projections have indicated that population of NCT, Delhi is stated to reach 18 million in 2001 and is likely to cross 23 million by 2021 recognized the need for planning Delhi in the regional context. In this paper we would try to examine the policy development proposals of Regional Plan-2021 for N.C.R.

**KEY WORDS:-** Urbanization, NCR, NCT-Delhi, migration, economic growth, CNCR, Million plus cities, RP-2021, Policy zone, NCRPB.

## **Introduction :-**

The proportion of urban population to total population in developing countries as a whole was only 35% in 2001, which was less than half of that of developed countries as a whole (78%). However, as per UN estimates, the tempo of the urbanization process will rapidly accelerate in the next two decades reaching a little over 45% by the year 2011 in the developing region. These nations are seriously concerned about urban congestion, poor housing, lack of basic services, health and education also as unemployment, underemployment then forth. Urban problems became one among the foremost crucial challenges to policy makers not only to tackle but also pave the way for all-round development of cities and towns.

Besides India, the example of National Capital Region plan concept can be found in various countries, some of the concept/examples of decentralized development in each continent are, UK: New towns and Garden city concept, CHINA: Planning initiatives for Beijing, USA: Boomburbs-bold new Metropolis or Updated satellite cities, TURKEY: Istambul Metropolitan area.

## Regional Plan -2021:-

Regional Plan [RP] -2021 of the National Capital Region as per section -10, sub section (2) of the Act – 1985, was notified on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2005. Subsequent to the notification of RP -2021 on 17/09/2005, additional districts namely Bhiwani (including Charkha, Dadri) and Mahendragarh districts of the state Haryana and Bharatnagar district of Rajasthan, were included to NCR vide Government of India gazette notification dated 01/10/2013. Further the districts of Jind and Karnal of Haryana and Muzaffarnagar district of U.P. were included in NCR vide GOI gazette notification dated 24/11/2015. The district of Shamli of U.P. was included in the NCR vide GOI Gazette notification dated 16/04/2018, the total additional area of NCR is 20939 sq. kms.

## Aims and Objective of RP-2021:-

The objective of the Regional Plan -2001 notified in January 1989 were to realize a balanced and harmonious development of the region, resulting in dispersal of economic activities future in migrants to Delhi. In order to achieve these objectives the Regional Plan proposed three policy zones, namely:- NCT, Delhi, DMA and the Rest of NCR. The broad policy parameters for these zones and therefore the extent to which these have been met during the last two decades are as under.

- 1, NCT, Delhi to have restricted growth and decentralization of activities concentrated therein. As per Census 2011 the population of NCT, Delhi has grown to 167 lakh as against the projected population of 179 lakh for 2011 which recorded 93% of the proposed population of Regional Plan -2021.
- 2, The DMA,(now CNCR) includes the controlled/ development areas of the contiguous towns of Ghaziabad-Loni and Noida in U.P., Faridabad–Ballabhgarh complex, Gurugram, Bahadurgarh and Kundli in Haryana. The population projection for the CNCR towns was reached 51 lakh in 2011.
- 3, The Rest of NCR envisaged for induced development specially of the twelve metro and regional centres were projected to have a population of 48.6 lakh by 2011 but the actual population of these centres is 44.11 lakh which is 91% of the population proposed in the Regional Plan – 2021.

## \*\*\* Constituent Area under National Regional Plan:-

The NCR as notified covers the whole of NCT, Delhi and certain districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan covering an area of about 55,083 sq. kms. [NCR constituent area as on march-2017].

- a, Haryana sub region with an area of 25,327 sq. km. accounting for 46% of the area of NCR comprising following thirteen districts. 1, Faridabad 2, Gurgaon 3, Mewat 4, Rohtak 5, Sonapat 6, Rewari 7, Jhajjar 8, Panipat 9, Palwal 10, Bhiwani 11, Mahendragarh 12, Jind 13, Karnal
- b, National Capital Territory of Delhi with an area of 1483 sq. km. accounting for 4.4% of the area of NCR.
- c, Rajasthan sub region with an area of 13,447 sq. km. accounting 24% of the area of NCR comprising two districts, 1, Alwar and 2, Bharatpur
- d, Uttar Pradesh sub region with an area of 14,826 sq. km. accounting 27% of the area of NCR comprising eight districts, 1, Meerut 2, Ghaziabad 3, Gautam budh nagar 4, Bulandshahr 5, Baghpat 6, Hapur 7, Shamli 8, Muzaffarnagar.

## Policies and Development Proposals in Regional Plan–2021:-

The broad objective of the Regional Plan -2021 “for promoting growth and balanced development of the Region” is to be achieved by :-

→ **RP-2021 for NCR has identified seven Metro centres (namely:-** Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Gurgaon - Manesar, Ghaziabad - Loni, NOIDA, Sonapat – Kundli, Greater NOIDA and Meerut) and eleven Regional Centres (namely :- Bahadurgarh, Panipat, Rohtak, Palwal, Rewari – Dharuhera – Bawal, Hapur – Pilkhua, Bulandshahr – Khurja, Baghpat – Baraut, Alwar, Greater Bhiwadi, Shahjahanpur – Neemrana – Behror).

→ **With the overall strategy to harness the growth impulse of Delhi and to integrate the urban and rural functions in the region,** the RP-2021 has proposed six – tier hierarchy of settlements as under and also put forward their broad roles :-

- 1, Metro Centre
- 2, Regional Centre
- 3, Sub – Regional Centre
- 4, Service Centre
- 5, Central Village
- 6, Basic Village

→ **Regional Land use – 4 major land use zones and 3 sub-zones proposed.**

- 1, Controlled/Development/Regulated Zone  
[a] Urbanizable Area.]  
[b] Agricultural (Rural) Zone within controlled/development/regulated areas.  
[c] Green Buffers.
- 2, Highway Corridor Zone.
- 3, Natural Conservation Zone.
- 4, Agriculture (Rural) Zone outside controlled/development/regulated areas.

→ **To foster economic development in a planned manner, the following major policies have been proposed.**

- 1, Hi-tech industries to be encouraged in Delhi.
- 2, Wholesale markets in Delhi to meet local needs only.
- 3, New office spaces to be avoided in new community/district/sub-city centres.
- 4, Industrial Estates/Special economic zones to be developed outside Delhi in NCR.
- 5, Uniform taxation in NCR for free flow of goods & encourage development.

→ **With an objective to facilitate smooth traffic circulation in NCR, the following policies and strategies have been proposed.**

- 1, To decongest NCT-Delhi roads, rail and rail terminals by diverting the by passable traffic from Delhi.
- 2, To provide linkages amongst Metro/Regional Urban settlements in the outlying areas of NCR.
- 3, To connect Metro/Regional Centres with the capital by an efficient and effective transport network for facilitating faster movement of traffic among such centres and NCT-Delhi.
- 4, To link the Sub-Regional Centres with effective and efficient transport network for facilitating the faster movement of traffic among such centres and higher order settlements.

→ **It has been recognized and reaffirmed that the solution of the increasing transportation problem lies in development of settlements outside NCT-Delhi and providing efficient connectivity. Accordingly, it has been proposed to:-**

- 1, Un restricted movement of buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws within NCR.
- 2, Focus on certain inter-state issues.
- 3, Better integrated connectivity and accessibility in the region through development of Peripheral Expressways and Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).

**→Power, water, irrigation and sewerage system:-**

- 1, Non-conventional energy resources to be promoted.
- 2, Integrated Regional Drainage Plan to be prepared and implemented to avoid flooding in urban areas.
- 3, Integrated Water Resource Management approach to be adopted for optimum water resource utilization and demand management.

**→Adopting a joint approach with active co operation,** for promoting housing for EWS and promoting work-cum-shelter concept for providing housing.

**→Encouragement of private participation in social infrastructure provision.**

- 1, Provision for good quality education, medical facilities outside Delhi in NCR.
- 2, Private and government institutions to be encouraged to line up their branches in NCR towns.

**→Development strategies, management structure and resource mobilization:-**

- 1, Plan of action for implementation of policies and proposals prepared along with its phasing and dovetailing the costs with five year plans.
- 2, Public Private Partnership proposed to be promoted.
- 3, The Regional Plan -2021 has proposed the NCR through four policy zones, namely:- 1, NCT, Delhi 2, Central National Capital Region (CNCR) 3, Highway corridor zone and 4, Rest of NCR.
- 4, To facilitate accelerated rural development of service centres and central villages.

**Development proposal for Counter Magnet Area:-**

The NCR Planning board to select any area outside the NCR having reference to its location, population and potential for growth as a 'Counter Magnet Area' in consultation with the state government concerned with a view to achieving the objectives of the regional plan.

At the present the NCR planning board has identified the subsequent nine counter magnet areas to NCR. Hissar and Ambala in Haryana, Bareilly and Kanpur in U.P., Kota and Jaipur in Rajasthan, Patiala in Punjab, Gwalior in M.P., Dehradun in Uttarakhand.



So as to form the counter magnet area for following aspects.

- 1, Up gradation of physical and social infrastructure.
- 2, Strengthening of Regional linkage.
- 3, Strengthening of economic base.

**Study of policy zones of NCR:-**

The Regional Plan -2021 has proposed the event of NCR through four policy zones, namely:- 1, NCT, Delhi 2, Central National Capital Region (CNCR) 3, Highway corridor zone and 4, Rest of NCR.



1, NCT, Delhi:- NCT, Delhi area is 1483 sq. km. with reference to NCT, Delhi, the demographic evolution is deeply marked by the country's turbulent history, in 1911, the capital was shifted to Delhi from Kolkata. Thereafter, the population of the city had increased from 4,13,851 in 1911 to 17,44,072 in 1951. The post independence scenario witnessed massive forced migration from Pakistan. Hence, the decade 1941-51 recorded the foremost rapid increase within the history of the national capital with an increase of 8 lakh population and a growth rate of 90%.

2, Central National Capital Region (CNCR) :- Delhi Metropolitan Area (DMA) renamed as Central National Capital Region (CNCR), renaming done keeping in view the implication of 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment. The DMA towns/cities (now CNCR) namely Ghaziabad, NOIDA[U.P], Faridabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh-kundli have their own characteristics in terms of the expansion and development and are close proximity and accessibility to NCT, Delhi.

3, Highway corridor zones [HCZ]:- It is a new zone proposed for RP-2021 to promote planned development along highways as these routes are under heavy pressure of development. The target of this zone is to acknowledge the economic need of growth along highways and promote planned development along such roads. Accordingly, it is recommended that all National and State highways, located in the NCR beyond the urbanizable area of the Master Plan/ Development Plan of various settlements be designated as Highway Corridor Zone where depending upon economic pressure and local situations, economic and residential activities may be permitted in a planned manner. It implies that the portion of the highways falling within urbanizable limits of a settlement shall not come under this zone and will be treated as part of its development area.

4, Rest of NCR:- The basic policy of this Rest of the NCR Zones is recommended to be accelerated development of both urban and rural areas. This development could be natural or induced in existing settlements or new towns.

### **Issues and Challenges:-**

1, The complexity of the region thanks to its vastness and spatial expanse over three states and NCT, Delhi may be a challenge for integrated development and also urbanization level succeed in 73% by 2021, so providing physical and social infrastructure is major challenge.

2, Entire NCR region falls in seismic zone IV. Seven earthquakes of Richter magnitude 5.5 to 6.8 are known to possess occurred in NCR and its surrounding areas since 1720 A.D

3, NCR is endowed with ecologically sensitive areas which face constant threat of encroachment by urban/construction activities, and also NCR is a water scarce region ground water sources are depleting fast in most areas.

### **National Capital Region Planning Board:-**

The economic potential of the region are often leveraged through a number of economic drivers- commercial, industrial and services-in the region, also because the availability of qualified, educated, skilled and mobile populations. However, the NCRPB while promoting regional economic development has got to uphold the federal identity of the constituent states. NCRPB needs to focus on achievable targets, to make sure its policies are effective and driven by consensus and commitment of all its stakeholders.

### **Conclusions:-**

In order to make NCR Plan implementation more effective, the participating states need to adopt a proactive approach in dealing with the development/ planning issues which are mutually

beneficial to them. The NCR Planning Board has established the directions for future developments; however, the respective State Governments are expected to sort out developmental problems, whether they are related to transportation, water supply, power supply or co-ordination amongst them so that the objectives of NCR Plan are achieved to a greater extent.

A key component of the RP -2021 needs to be its linked with the JnNURM, AMRUT, Smart city mission, HRIDAY and Swachh Bharat mission that could play a crucial role in achieving the balanced urban growth in NCR. In brief all those Central Government schemes offers a key instrumentality that can enable the NCRPB to leverage its position in attaining its main objective of sustainable development of NCR in a regional context.

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