

# The emergence of a successful wholesale commercial hub fostered by strong historic characters that transformed urban area and residents lives: a case example of Insaar Bazaar, Panipat

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**Abstract:** The historic character of an area is very important to bring about the radical transformation in livelihood, living status and standard of the residents. An intense historical background transformed Panipat, to make it the city of Weavers, which gradually expanded the growth of the hand-loom weaving industry, which emphasized primarily on high-speed production and consumption hub, of textiles, carpets and quality blankets in the world. This consequently transformed not only, the urban fabric of the Insaar bazaar from residential zone into wholesale commercial hub, but also expanded socio-economic conditions and regional approach of the local residents.

**Index Term:** City of Weavers, Strong Historic character, urban transformation

## I. INTRODUCTION

The historic character and rapidly changing city growth, transformed the Insaar bazaar of Panipat city into the wholesale commercial hub that emerged as an industrial hub of textiles, carpets and quality blankets in the world. The result of the urban and historic qualities contributed substantially in the urban transformation of residential zone into wholesale hub and changed the urban fabric. These expanded socio-economic conditions, made a direct and real impact or impression on the citizens and their lives.

## II. THE EMERGENCE OF THE CITY OF WEAVERS

Panipat is famous in India by the name of “City of Weavers”. It is also one of the biggest centres of “Shoddy yarn” in the world. The blankets prepared through hand-loom and power-loom was being sent to soldiers, which began since historic era. As there were three battles fought in the city, which were actually the significant turning point in the Indian history.

The first battle of Panipat was fought on 21 April 1526, between Ibrahim Lodhi, Sultan of Delhi, and the Timurid warlord Zaheeruddin Babur. The Second Battle of Panipat was fought on 05 November 1556, between the forces of Akbar and Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya. The Third Battle of Panipat was fought in 176, between the Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Abdali and the Marathas under the Sadashivrao Bhau Peshwa of Pune.

Panipat fulfilled the basic needs of soldiers since historic time, and emerged as a hand-loom weaving industry and became a city, famous of blankets, textiles and carpets now. So much so, the district is registered as the biggest centre for quality blankets and carpets in India.

The raw material supplied by the Samalkha subdivision of this district, which became famous for Foundry of Agriculture instruments. In this way, this district, which is continuously developing on the industrial base, has an unlimited employment capacity. Not only from Haryana but Businessmen, Engineers, unemployed worker artists, weavers and labors from other states of India, visited here in search of employment and settled permanently in the city of Weavers, Panipat. This is the big reason which is responsible to redefine its urban character.

## III. BACKGROUND OF INSAAR BAZAR OF PANIPAT

Panipat was a part of Karnal district earlier. It got separated from Karnal and declared as subdivision along with the Assandh tehsil, on 31 October 1989 and got re-formed as a district on 1 January 1992. The rapidly changing city growth emphasized high-speed production and consumption hub of textiles, carpets and quality blankets in the world. The historic qualities of the city made a considerable contribution to emerge city as a successful textile and commercial hub. The need of bazaar was fulfilled by Insaar bazaar which emerged as the wholesale commercial hub of the city. This is because, the existing topography and the history of that stretch connect to all major landmarks of the city within ten minutes of ride as shown in Fig-i. This became one of the major reasons of transition that took place made spontaneous transformation in the urban fabric.



Fig-i: Connectivity Map of insaar bazaar (shown in blue colour) to the neighbourhood

The combining effect of historical landmarks and contemporary urban character played an instrumental role to emerge Insaar bazaar as a market hub at regional level.

#### IV. History of major landmarks

##### 4.1 Salarganj Gate

The Gate located as an entrance landmark towards the market area. It is about 1 km west of Panipat bus stand. It is now owned by archaeological survey of India. (ASI). It constructed in 1733 AD and is 288 years old, shown in Fig-ii.



Fig-ii: Salarganj Gate, earlier known as "Bab-I-Faiz Gate.

The Architecture type is Indo-Muslim. It has rectangular plan passageway measures 20'. The gate was constructed with lakhauri bricks fixed in lime mortar.

##### 4.2 Devi Mandir

Devi Mandir located towards the west of Salarganj Gate. It owned by a charitable institution and it is 239 years Old. The temple is purely an Indian architecture, Hindu Temple, shown in Fig-iii.



*Fig-iii: Devi Mandir*

#### 4.3 Purana Quila

Purana Quila is located on Kila Road, which is 3 kms from Bus Stand. It owned by the Government. It is a fort built on Indo-Muslim Architecture, shown in Fig-iv



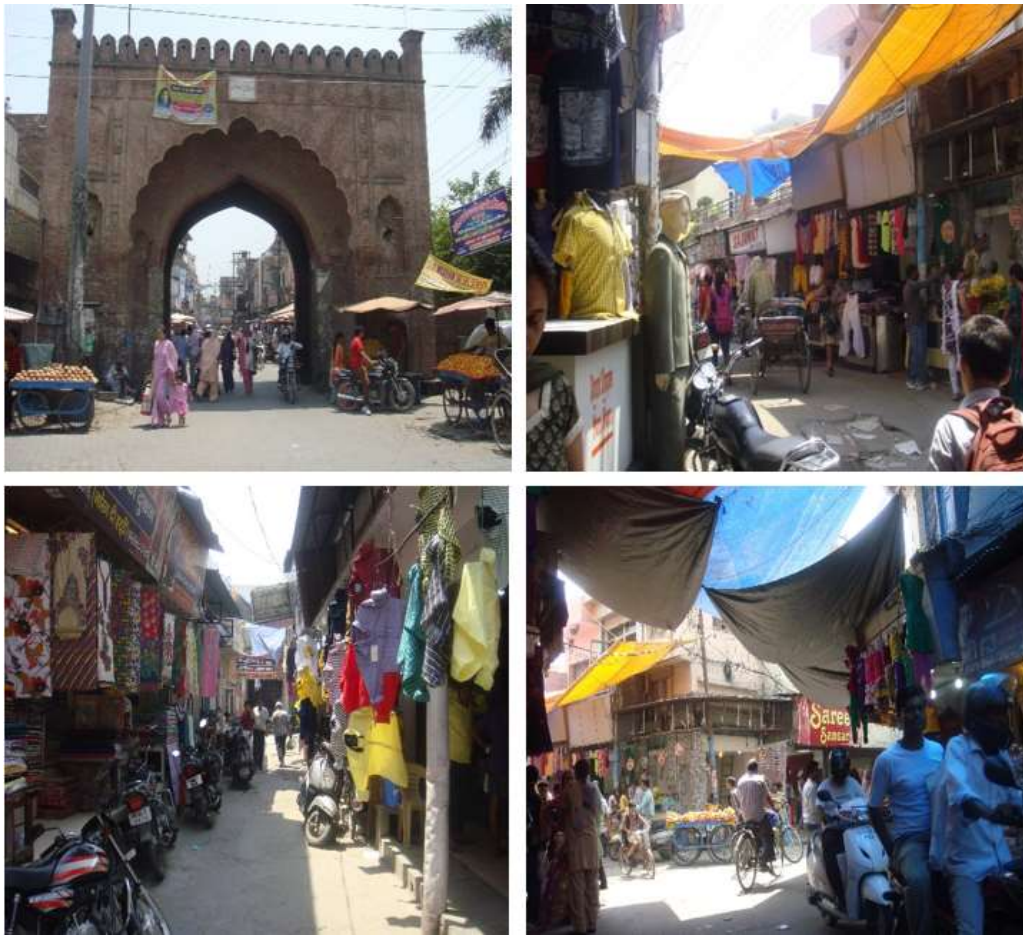
*Fig-iv: Purana Quila*

It is presently an open park with a library in it, which is made up of brick and stone. Mahatma Gandhi visited this place during the freedom struggle and mobilized Hindus and Muslims of this city in the struggle. It has been converted into a state library and a park. This place become famous as Gandhi Maidan, since then.

#### V. Contemporary urban Design character

Panipat witnessed three famous battles in the Medieval Period. But now, it is an industrial town whose urban character is propagating during the contemporary time. Public spaces act as the open voids areas like; Gully junctions, Streets, Parks, etc. Among which, Gully junctions are continuously in motion and is not static or without population. There is always someone commuting at the gully junctions, which make these places as important public spaces.

The green spaces exist in small patches. The streets of Insaar Bazaar, plays an important role to accommodate all vendors, parking, encroachments. This made them congested and full of events throughout the day. Streets are so narrow that heavy vehicles cannot be accommodated on it. These were unplanned and executed by the requirements with single and two-storied houses and shops around it. The improper parking takes 40% of street area; as a result, there is traffic jam and congestion in the evening. Traffic movement is very slow, even in less traffic. Transport is a very important aspect as it connects the complete city and helps to shape it. The area does have multiple transportation facility like motor vehicles to pedestrians and bicycles, as shown in Fig-v



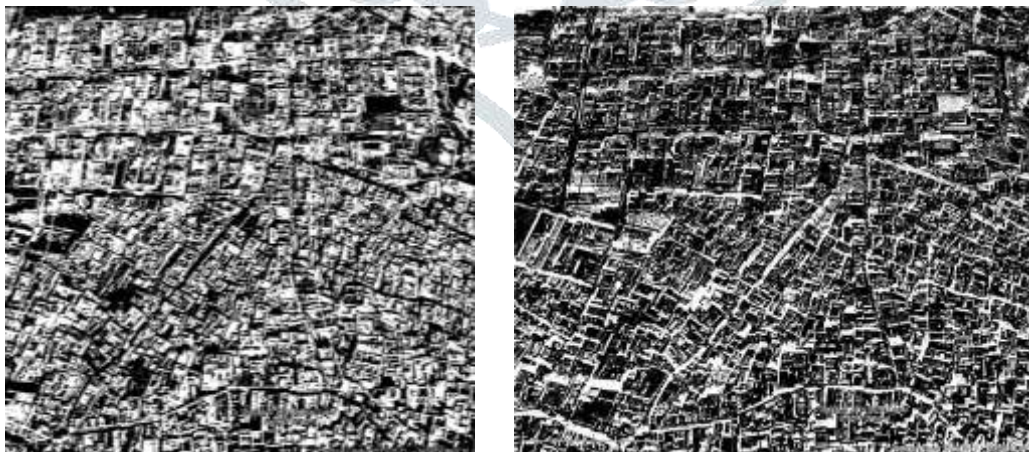
*Fig-v: multiple transportation facility*

The study of theoretical report gives a legible understanding of the urban design and its implication upon a city, which is based on various theories of Figure ground theory, Place theory and Linkage theories implied on a city. These affect on citizens' lives and urban Design character.

## 5.1 Theories affecting urban design and citizens lives

### 5.1.1 Figure ground theory

It refers to the relationship between building mass & open space, analyze texture & patterns of urban fabric & spatial order as shown in Fig-vi.



*Fig-vi: Alternate Noll's Diagram with Opposite Color Scheme*

### 5.1.2 Place theory

Place theory refers to the character of the place reflect on the lifestyle all the daily functions of a person. The reason becomes the immediate cause of the character of the city which is rich in hand looms and textiles. Whereas, in the Insaar bazaar, there are retail shops, housing, some important landmarks showing the history, combining the current status of the city, as shown in Fig-vii. The areas consist of narrow streets connecting historical landmarks and the streets are covered by shops and houses on both sides. The street pattern is not planned, but got designed according to the required aspects.

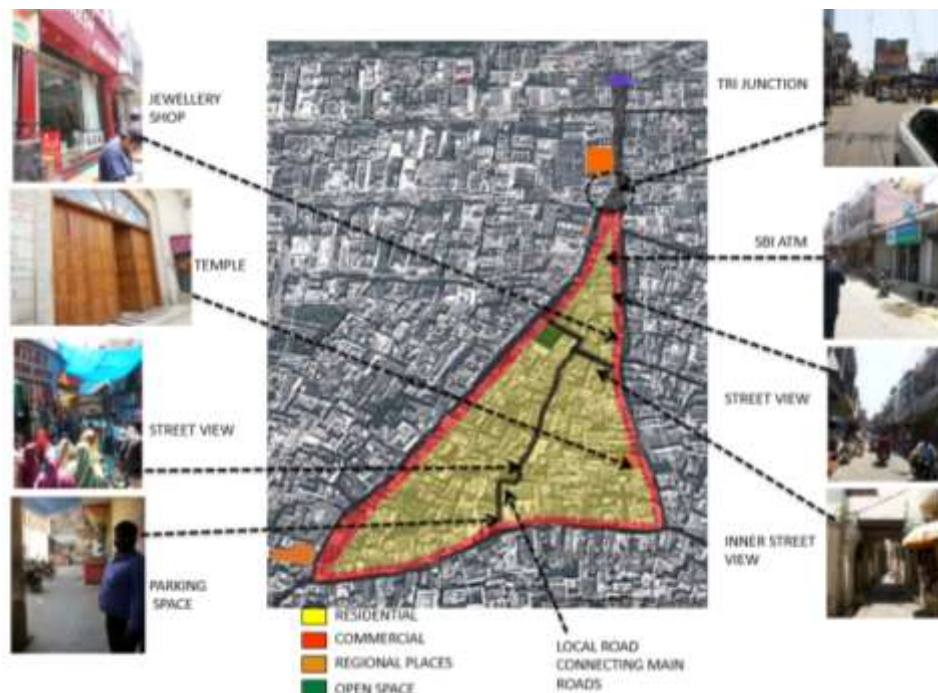


Fig-vii

### 5.1.3 Linkage theory

Linkage Theory is derived out by the road network or the circulation in the area of concern, such as the roads mark as black denoting the circulation in the Insaar Bazaar as shown in Fig-viii. In the area, street 1 is a live street the traffic movement is a two-way on that street, because the street 2 and street 3 are dead streets, as the major traffic movement is from Palika bazar within a specific time limit.



Fig-viii: Accessibility and linkages

The contemporary urban character of city leaves a strong urban impression on Insaar bazaar, as there are retail shops, housing, and some important landmarks showing the history. These are combining the current status of the city. The narrow streets are connecting historical landmarks and the streets are covered by shops and houses on both sides. The street pattern is not planned, but designed according to the required aspects.

This is the prime reason that the contemporary urban character of Insaar Bazaar and historical landmarks around played a significant role in the image-ability of city to emerge it as main market of local and interstate consumption, in the city of weavers.

### VI. Image-ability

Image-ability is defined as the ability of mind to recall a place by judging the character of the place. Image-ability in this case is the Salarganj gate, to which any person can see and tell that this place is Panipat. The local landmarks are the Gurudwara, temples, etc., shown in Fig-ix, which also act as pathfinders for strangers.

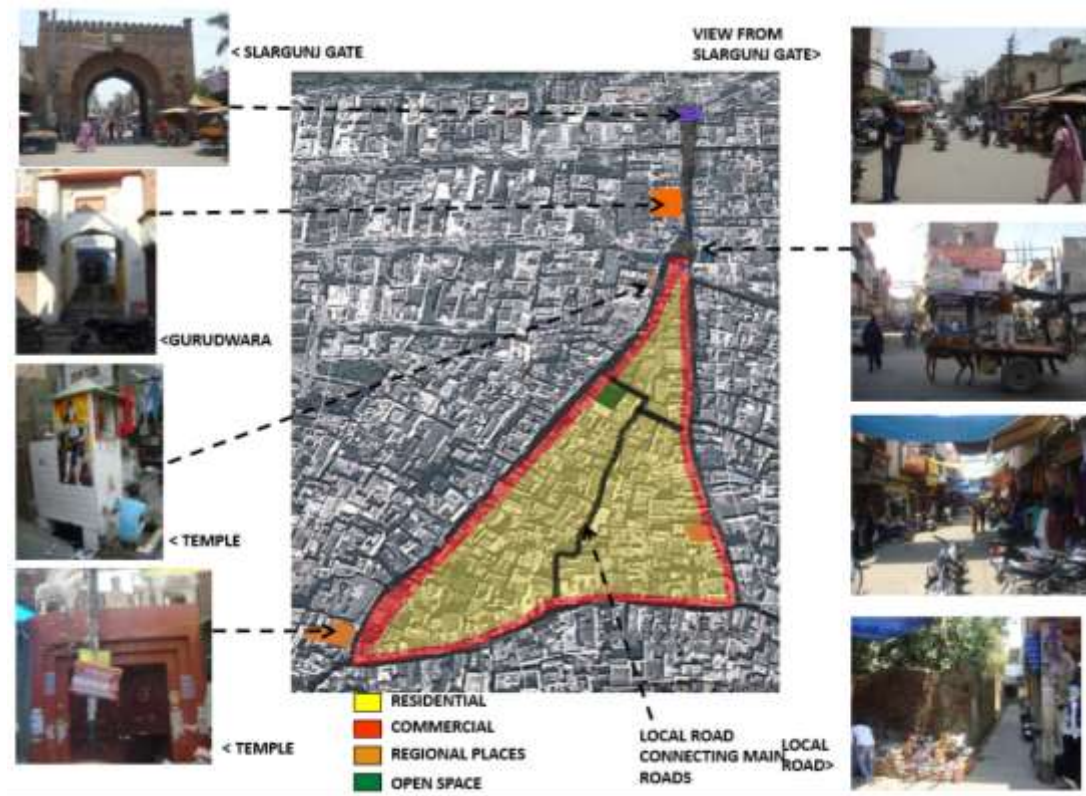


Fig-ix

## VII. Conclusion

The three battles fought in Panipat, were the significant turning point to create a textile and commercial hub. In addition to this historic quality, the urban character develops a high-speed production and consumption hub, whose requirements fulfilled by the Insaar bazaar due to its position of in the heart of the city. It is easily accessible from all other parts of the city. The major strength of bazaar is that it is an Archaeological site that makes it a major landmark and serves as an entrance gate of the old Panipat city.

The streets of Insaar Bazaar were unplanned and existed as the result of upcoming requirements right from the historic times and remained continuously in motion now. These are never static or without population, so become the important public spaces. The full of events throughout the day make them congested all the time. These improved economic conditions of local residents tremendously, but due to the least greenery and lack of green parks create unhealthy conditions for residents.

The bazaar is important for the city, so it is a very important need to get away from these vulnerable conditions by making streets free from vehicular movement. Loading / unloading of the wholesale goods can be done when the market is less busy, such as during the morning time. Street furniture can be placed instead of illegal “thelas”. The major traffic movement is from Palika Bazaar, therefore a parking zone can be made there to mitigate the dense traffic of bazaar. This directly affects the scale of the streets & building mass. No new construction can be made without the permission from A.S.I. During festival season all “railies” pass through the streets of Insaar bazaar, due to which the streets become too busy & congested. Being the commercial and religious space, controlling of the vehicular movement is the main concern. All along, the exposed wiring, big threat, may lead to sudden accidents especially during rallies.

Therefore, the controlling at the planning level can make a direct and real impact or impression on the citizens and their lives to create a comprehensive, safe, sustainable urban and human living environment.

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