

1967, to 1968–69) were described as the '*Plan Holiday*'. These annual plans were implemented within the framework of the draft outline of the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969–74)

The Fourth Plan was aimed at accelerating the tempo of development and reducing fluctuation in agricultural production as well as the impact of uncertainties of foreign aid. The main objectives of this plan were: (i) growth with stability, and (ii) progressive achievement of self reliance. It laid especial emphasis improving the condition of the less privileged and weaker sections of society through the provisions of employment and education. The average annual growth rate during the Fourth Plan was 3.4 per cent against the target of 5.7 per cent.

Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974–79)

The Fifth Five-Year Plan was formulated against the backdrop of severe inflationary pressure. The plan proposed to achieve two main objectives: (i) removal of poverty, and (ii) attainment of self reliance through promotion of higher rate of growth, better distribution of income and very significant step-up in the domestic rate of saving. The plan targeted an annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent in national income while the actual achievement was only 5 per cent.

Sixth Five-Year Plan (1978–83)

There were two Sixth Five-Year Plans. The Janta Party Sixth Plan (1978–83) sought to reconcile the objectives of higher production with greater opportunity for employment. The focus of the plan was enlargement of employment opportunities in agriculture and allied activities, encouragement to household and small industries producing consumer goods for mass consumption, and to raise the incomes of the lowest classes through minimum needs programme.

The new Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980–85) was launched by the Congress (I) with the prime objective of direct attack on the problem of poverty by creating conditions for an expanding economy.

The strategy adopted for the plan was to strengthen infrastructure for both agriculture and industry. Stress was laid on dealing with inter-related problems through a system approach rather than in separate compartments, greater management, efficiency and intensive monitoring, and active involvement of people. The targeted annual growth was 5.2 per cent and the achieved growth rate was 5.4 per cent.

Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985–90)

The Seventh Five-Year Plan emphasised policies and programmes which aimed at a rapid growth in food-grain production, increase in employment opportunities and productivity. The foodgrain production during the Plan grew by 3.23 per cent. To reduce unemployment and the incidence of poverty, special programmes like *Jawahar Rozgar Yojna* were initiated in addition to the already existing programmes. During the Plan period, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average rate of 5.6 per cent exceeding the targeted growth rate by 0.6 per cent.

Annual Plans

The Eighth Five-Year Plan could not take off due to the fast changing political situation at the

3. The Principle of Space-time Continuum

This principle implies that spatial reality is four dimensional consisting of three dimensions of space and one dimension of time, and the two, i.e., space and time; are inseparable. This is considered as an integral part of space. A region is a living dynamic entity that operates simultaneously in the past, present, and future like the human body's DNA. The regional planner must, therefore, recognise the fact that regional space is a continuously growing organic whole. The regional planner has to be conscious of the fact that while he is planning in space, he is also planning in time.

4. The Principle of Comprehensive Development

Comprehensive development means that the regional planning seeks to achieve the comprehensive development of the entire regional space; the regional system in its entirety. It seeks the development of all sectors of economy along with advancement of all segments of society.

5. The Principle of Community Development

The principle of community development is the principle of equal opportunities to all for self development. The entire community is considered as an organic whole. It is only through equal opportunities to each individual (education, health and employment) that the whole society can be developed into community with the sense of belonging to each other. The regional planning, therefore, should be to create socially harmonious communities.

6. The Principle of Equilibrium between Social Desirability and Economic Viability

This principle implies that while planning for comprehensive development of all regions, the regional planner has to maintain a balance between what is socially desirable and what is economically viable. The regional plans should not only be good intentioned, but also be economically viable.

7. The Principle of Ecological Equilibrium

The regional planning should make the ecology and environment sustainable. It means that a regional planner has to develop the regional space at his disposal only within the framework of ecological equilibrium. In other words, all developments in a region should be carried out without disturbing the ecological balance.

To sum up, regional planning can be successful in its operation and practice only when it is guided by the seven basic principles of (i) vertical unity of phenomena, (ii) horizontal spatial unity, (iii) space time continuum, (iv) comprehensive development, (v) community development, (vi) equilibrium between social desirability and economic viability, and (vii) ecological equilibrium. A strict adherence to these basic principles is the only way for creating habitability.

INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT

The concept of integrated area development is difficult to define. It has different meanings and interpretations at different points of time. In fact, it is difficult to decide *what* type of integration should be sought and *what* ways should be adopted to accomplish it. In general, four aspects of integration can be differentiated.

- (ii) Identification of socio-cultural barriers and promoters of change and development.
- (iii) Assessment of potentialities, special problems, and felt-needs of the tribal areas.
- (iv) Assessment of the resources available for the tribal sub-plan from the normal plan funds, special Central assistance and institutional sources.
- (v) Formulation of sectoral programmes.
- (vi) Developing a suitable administrative set-up.

The structure of planning proposed in a tribal sub-plan is a three tier structure involving micro, meso, and macro levels of planning. The micro region will be coterminous with a development block, the meso region will be contiguous in the development block involving 3 to 5 lakh people having comparable levels of socio-economic development, and the macro region will be formed of bigger tribal belts for planning of tribal development. The functions at the micro, meso, and macro levels have been visualised as follows:

Micro Level: At the micro level, the functions included are:

(a) education up to higher secondary level, (b) elementary health services, (c) agricultural extension, (d) supply of agricultural inputs, (e) minor irrigation schemes, (f) elementary veterinary services, (g) multi-purpose co-operatives, (h) local panchayat, (i) household industry, and (j) village approach roads.

Meso Level: At the meso level, the functions included are:

(a) higher general education, (b) technical and vocational training, (c) manpower planning and employment services, (d) advanced health services with referral facilities, (e) agricultural research extension, (f) seed multiplication farms, (g) soil conservation and land management, (h) apex integrated credit marketing structure with adequate storage and buffer stock facilities, (i) development of road and communication infrastructure connecting market with state/district highways, (j) distribution of network of power, rural electrification, etc. (k) local resource based industries with adequate market linkages, (l) forest management, (m) horticulture development, (n) complementary development programme in hinterland and bigger industries, (o) medium irrigation projects, and (p) research statistics and evaluation.

Macro Level: At the macro level, the functions include:

(a) co-ordination of activities in tribal development projects, (b) agricultural research on regional basis, (c) direction of the various sectoral programmes in the project, (d) major irrigation projects, (e) river valley development, (f) industrial and mineral development of the region to ensure complementarity of the project level development programme, (g) marketing support projects, and (h) evaluation.

The idea behind the integrated area planning is to ensure a collective utilisation of the resources of a particular area keeping in view the problems and needs of development of that area. The spectrum of the problems of development that still await solution in tribal areas include the following:

1. land alienation,
2. indebtedness and exploitation,
3. bonded labour,
4. low educational standard,
5. low agricultural production and productivity,
6. inadequate supply of essential consumer goods,

welfare, (v) maintaining common grazing grounds, (vi) village roads, tanks, wells, (vii) sanitation, and execution of other socio-economic development programmes. The *Panchayats* have also been authorised to identify the beneficiaries in anti-poverty programmes.

After the Constitution Amendment of 1992, the new status accorded to the *Panchayats* by the Constitution has raised high hopes and expectations among the elected representatives and the rural folk at large. But owing to the political complexions of the governments in Indian states, the reluctance of the state-level political and administrative functionaries to part with power and authority, and some genuine financial and economic difficulties, the progress in the implementation has been somewhat slow. It has been found that the elected representatives of *Panchayat Raj* Institution are largely unaware of the political and economic dimensions of development issues and lack of planning and managerial skill. This is particularly true of elected women representatives, who are performing their duties under some severe constraints of different kind.

THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

Flowing through the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal, the Damodar river is 541 km (336 miles) long. The river is also known as *Deonadi* in its upper reaches. It rises in western Jharkhand in the hills of Chotanagpur and drains areas in the Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad and Santhal Parganas districts of Jharkhand, and Bankura and Burdwan districts of West Bengal. After its confluence with the Barakar river, it enters West Bengal. Flowing through Bankura and Burdwan, it finally merges into the Hugli River opposite Falta, approximately 50 km north of Kolkata. The river has a total catchment area of 25,820 sq km (Fig. 15.1).

The upper reaches of the Damodar presents a highly denuded and desolate topography characterised with gorges and barren rocks, while the lower part in West Bengal is a flat, fertile stretch of thick alluvial soil. It is known for lush green fields of paddy crop. The catchment area of Damodar receives about 125 cm average annual rainfall which occurs mainly in the months of July, August and September. In its upper reaches it runs rapidly, eroding land and collecting silt on large scale. In its lower reaches it runs too sluggishly, discharging silt all along its banks through flooding.

The river basin had great natural endowment in the form of fertile soils, huge water resources, forest wealth, great variety of good reserves of minerals. It is rich in coal, iron ore, bauxite, mica, fire-clay, limestone, lead, silver, antimony, quartz, chromite, kyanite, etc. (Fig. 15.2). Moreover, the upper part of the basin was the home of several aboriginal tribes including Oraons, Hos, Santhals, and Mundas.

The Damodar River, often called 'The Sorrow of Bengal', is notorious and is known for its erratic character. During the last one hundred years it recorded serious floods in 1901, 1905, 1907, 1913, 1916, 1923, 1935, and 1943. During these years the countryside was inundated, crops and cattle were washed away, and transportation and communications seriously disturbed. Between 1862 and 1872 floods in the Damodar River caused a malaria epidemic and almost one third of the population on the left bank of the river died of what came to be known as '*Burdwan Fever*'. The 1943 flood was even more devastating in which the countryside south of Burdwan was submerged and inundated in some areas to a depth of six or seven feet, villages were swept away, rice fields were devastated, rail traffic was seriously disrupted since railway bridges were washed away, the grand trunk road was breached, and for a time, even the cities of Burdwan and Calcutta were in danger.

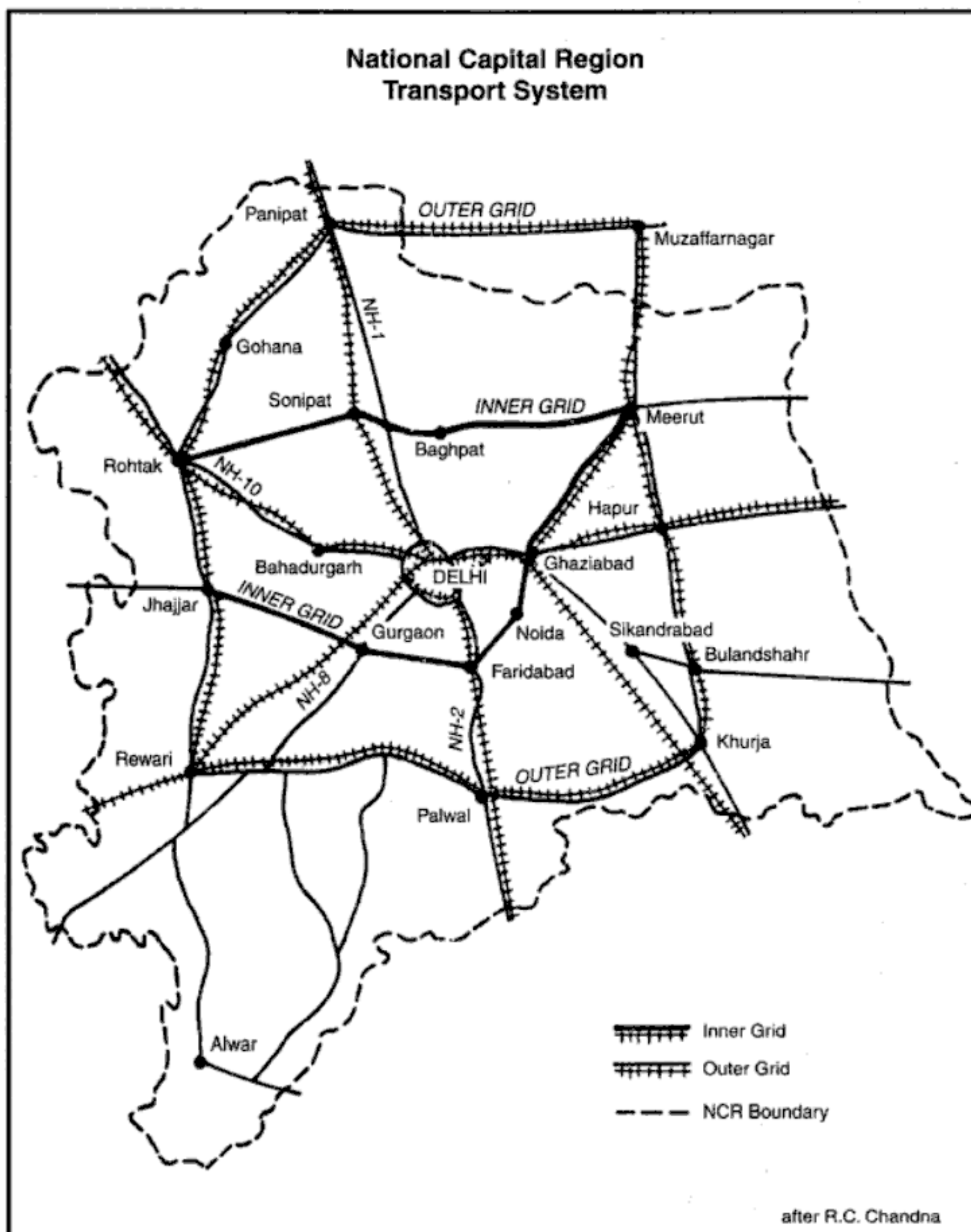


Fig. 15.5 NCR—The Transport System

- (x) To develop a number of sub-regional centres at focal points as sub-divisional headquarters, agricultural markets, service centres, and industrial centres.

The following steps can go a long way in making the city of Delhi clean and enjoyable, and overcoming many of its problems: