

# A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF EXPANDING GURUGRAM CITY

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**Abstract:** It was the 74th amendment to the Constitution of India in 1992 that brought constitutional validity to municipal or local governments. Among all urban local governments, municipal corporations enjoy a greater degree of fiscal autonomy and functions. One such Municipal Corporation is Gurugram in Haryana. Gurugram is facing the changing urban scenario that has accrued from the historical past especially; in the last decade vast changes in its area are being experienced. The municipal boundary of the city has been revised from time to time. This paper has made an attempt to know about expansion of the city and responsible factors which are important for understanding the growth dynamics of the city.

## Introduction

Municipal or local governance refers to the third tier of governance in India, at the level of the municipality or urban local body. In order to provide for a common framework for urban local bodies and help to strengthen the functioning of the bodies as effective democratic units of self-government, Parliament enacted the Constitution (74<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 1992 relating to municipalities in 1992. Until amendments were made in respective state municipal legislations as well, the state governments were free to extend or control the functional sphere through executive decisions without an amendment to the legislative provisions (<http://www.nagrika.org/nagrikalarticles/74amendment>).

As per the 2011 Census, the key urbanised areas were classified in statutory and census towns. All areas under statutory urban administrative units like Municipal Corporation, Municipality, Cantonment Board, Notified Town Area Committee, Town Panchayat, Nagar Palika, etc., are known as statutory towns. In census towns, all administrative units need to fulfil the following three criteria simultaneously: i) A minimum population of 5,000 persons; ii) 75 percent and above of the male main working population being engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, and iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km (Census of India, 2011).

The municipal corporations and municipalities are fully representative bodies, while the notified area committees and town area committees are either fully or partially nominated bodies. As per the Constitution of India, after the 74th Amendment Act of 1992 was enacted, a new part IX-A relating to the municipalities has been incorporated and constitution of three categories of urban local bodies, i.e., Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition from a rural area to urban area, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas and Municipal Corporation for large urban areas. Among all urban local governments, municipal corporations enjoy a greater degree of fiscal autonomy and functions, although the specific fiscal and functional powers vary across the states. These local governments have larger populations, a more diversified economic base, and deal with the state governments directly (74th Amendment Act of 1992).

One such Municipal Corporation is Gurugram in Haryana. Gurugram is facing the changing urban scenario that has accrued from the historical past especially; in the last two decades vast changes are being experienced by this city due to rapid urbanization and growing service sector. Proximity to national capital, Delhi and the new economic policy of the government have directly affected the city growth. The character of urbanization depends on the type of economic production going on in the city. The rapid growth of metropolitan cities has also brought about the spatial spread of urban areas. Cities have expanded into the adjoining rural areas in a haphazard manner (Ramachandran, 1989).

## Objectives

- To know about the expansion of municipal boundary of Gurugram City.
- To find out of the responsible factors for this expansion

## Data Source and Methodology

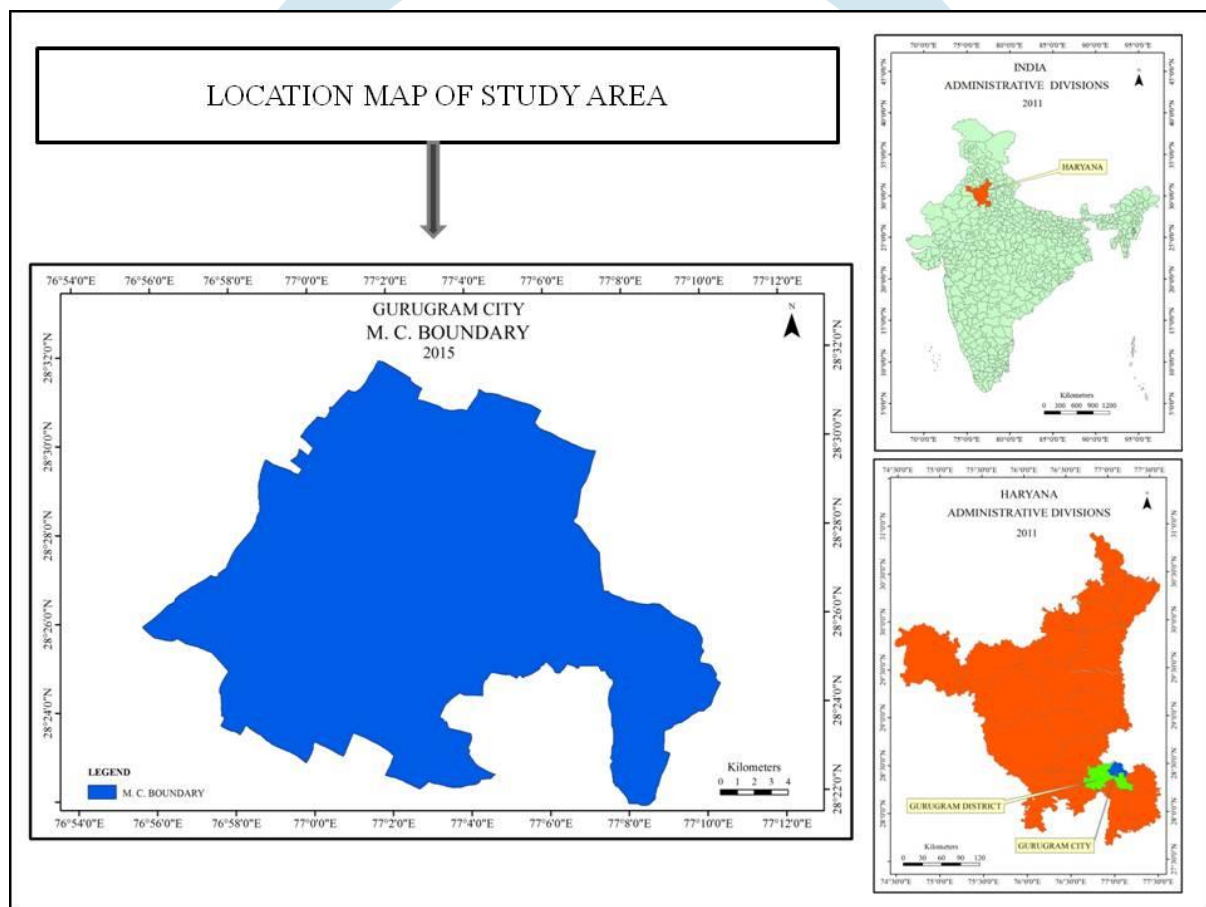
Secondary source of data has been used for present study. This data has been taken from Municipal Corporation Office Gurugram. All municipal boundaries from 1952 to 2015 have been scanned. These have been geo-referenced with the Google Earth Image. Shapefiles of municipal boundary from 1952 to 2015 have been created in Arc GIS software. Municipal boundary of

the city has not been revised after 2015. Arc GIS software has been used to prepare the maps. Microsoft Office has been used for the diagrams and presentation.

### Study Area

The name Gurugram made from the two words Guru and Gram in which the word Guru (from Guru Dronacharya) and Gram (means village). Pandavas and Kauravas gifted this village to their Guru Dronacharya. That is why it is known as Guru Ka Gaon, village of the Guru, later Gurgaon and now it is again known as Gurugram w.e.f. 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 (Government of Haryana). The city has close proximity to national capital New Delhi. Its latitudinal extension is 28°21'40"N to 28°31'49"N and longitudinal extension is 76°55'40"E to 77°10'22"E. It is administrative head quarters of the division, district & tehsil of same name. There are 35 wards in the city. The area of the city is 231 sq. km in 2015. The total population of the city is 876969 according to the census of India 2011. It is well connected by rail & road transport.

Map.1



### Results and Discussio

Gurugram has experienced growth spurt spatially. With this sharp spurt in its growth, it stands today grown and developed from a small town to being the Millennium City of the country. This journey can be divided into different phases of the town's growth. Firstly, how the town was during the ancient times and what has it become today? Secondly, the dynamics of the growth of the city – understanding the changing growth graph of the town and lastly, what has caused the growth of the city?

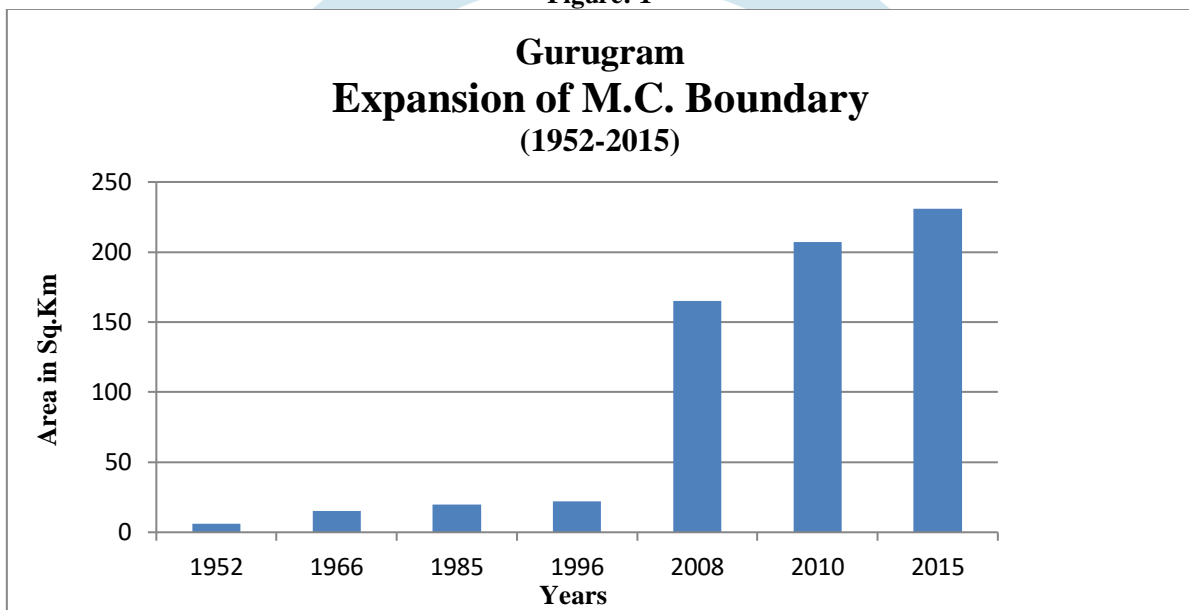
#### Expansion of M.C. Boundary of the City

The municipal boundary of the city has been revised in 1952, 1966, 1985, 1996, 2010 and 2015. After 2015, municipal boundary of Gurugram city has not been revised.

**Table: 1 Area under M.C. Boundary of Gurugram**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Area (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
1952	6
1966	15
1985	20
1996	22
2008	165
2010	207
2015	231

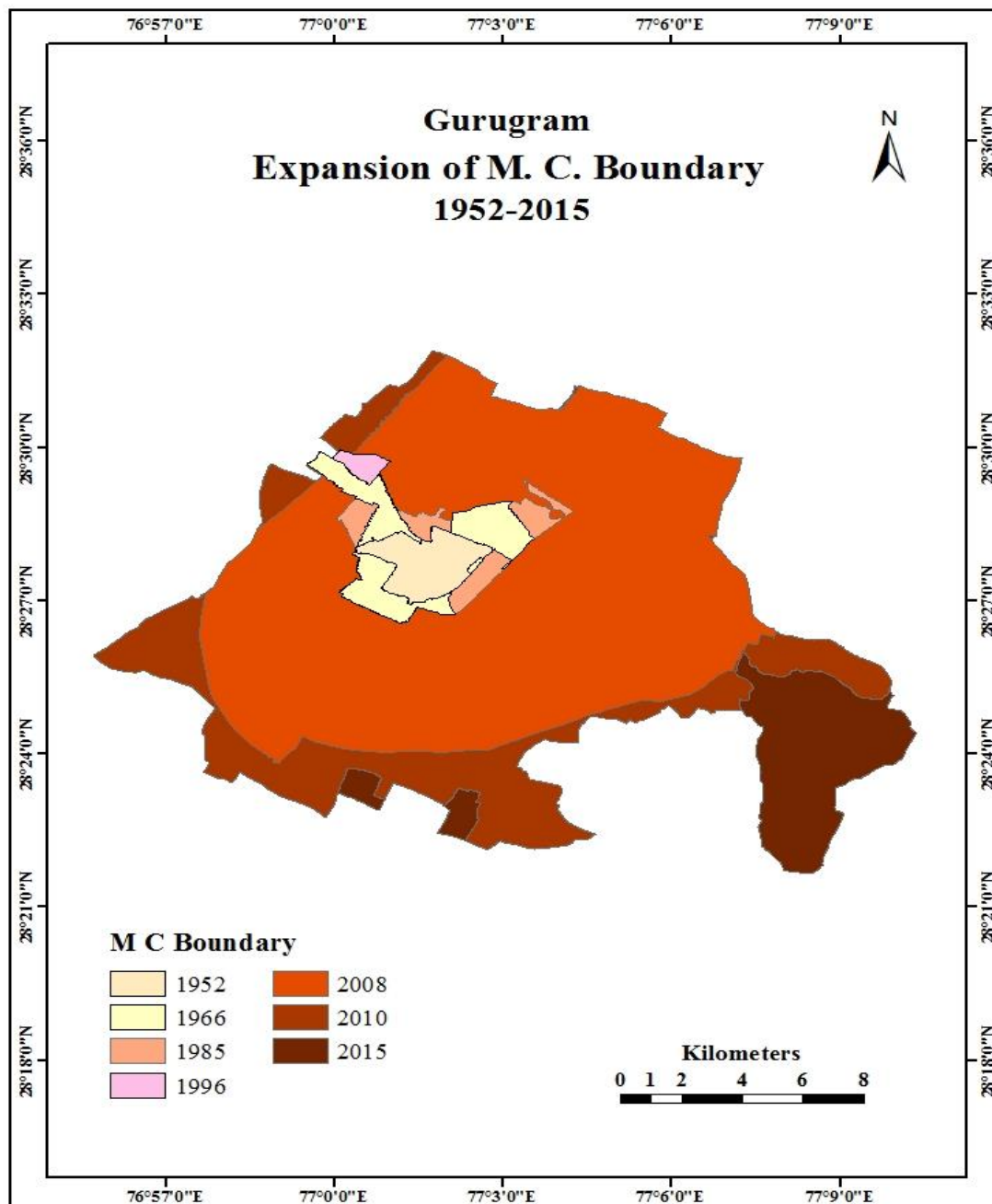
Source: Municipal Corporation, Gurugram

**Figure: 1**

Source: Table 1

Figure 1 shows a continuous growth and expansion in the area of Gurugram city from 1952 to 2015. An increase of about 225 sq. km has taken place in municipal boundary from 1952 to 2015. There has been a sharp spurt in the area of the city in 2008. It has grown as a service centre in North India. It is home of huge number of shopping malls and multinational corporations (MNCs). Large MNCs like American Airlines, Airtel, The Coca-Cola Company, Ericsson, Indigo Airlines, IBM, Microsoft, Tata Consultancy Services etc have come up in the city. It has developed modern transport facility like Rapid Metro in addition to rail and road transport. Many state and private housing project have been developed. The private developers such as DLF and the changes in government policies have together contributed to the growth of Gurugram. The proximity to Delhi, the capital city of the country has acted as advantageous for the town as it provides easy access to the domestic and International Airport and the administrative hub of the country. This connectivity has facilitated in forming a base for business as well corporate job hub in the city. The set of factors offering advantages has marked for Gurugram a turning point in its growth journey.

Map. 2



Source: Prepared by the authors

## Conclusion

Municipal bodies have a long history in India. In order to provide for a common framework for urban local bodies, Parliament enacted 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 1992 relating to municipalities. After the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment was enacted there are only three categories of urban local bodies; Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition from a rural area to urban area, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas and Municipal Corporation for large urban areas. Among all urban local governments, municipal corporations enjoy a high degree of functions, larger populations, a more diversified economic base and deal with the state governments directly. On the other hand, municipalities or Nagar panchayats have less autonomy, smaller jurisdictions and have to deal with the state governments through the Directorate of Municipalities or through the collector of a district. In this paper an attempt has been made to understand the nature of expansion and the associated development in the city. Many factors have led to the areal growth and spatial changes in the Gurugram city. The small town has grown and expanded over to the surrounding villages that were not a part of Gurugram but today have become an integral part of the city. Its area has increased by 225 sq. km since 1952.

Gurugram with its dynamics has grown and become a class I city in 2001 and a millionplus city in 2011. It has also turned into a globalized city that today constitutes its new urban personality.

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