

Chapter 2

The Study Area: Aligarh Urban Fringe

2.1 Location of Aligarh City

The district of Aligarh extends from 27° 29' to 28° 11' north latitude and 77° 29' to 78° 38' east longitude (Fig. 2.1). River Ganga and Yamuna make the east and west boundary, respectively, while in north, Bulandshahar district, and in south, Hatharas district are situated. Aligarh district has been divided into five tehsils, such as Koil, Autrauli, Sikandrara, Iglas and Khair. Aligarh city is located in koil tehsil of lodha block and the city lies almost in the centre of Aligarh district. Aligarh city is a class I city of the state of Uttar Pradesh, situated in its western part between Ganga and Yamuna rivers at 27° 53' north latitude and 78° 35' east longitudes. It is the head quarter of Aligarh district, spread over an area of about 44.82 km². Presently, Aligarh city has been divided into 70 wards. This city has gained importance because of its proximity to the national capital (New Delhi) and also known for the Aligarh Muslim University.

2.2 Historical Evolution of Aligarh City

In early history, the settlement was associated with the kingdom of *Surasena*. The settlement in this region began around 1500 B.C. An ancient town existed here which was known as *Koil* or *Kol*, named after an *Asura* king. Atkinson regards origin of Aligarh as a Buddhist settlement following 400 B.C. Around second century A.D., the area came under the possessions of *Mauryas*, *Sakas*, *Kushans* and *Naga* rulers. Archaeological remains of fifth to ninth century A.D. belonging to *Gupta* period and *Harsha* empire have also recorded from Aligarh. In tenth century A.D., one of the old settlements identified in Aligarh city as *Achal Tal* (tank) area located in south-east. Twelfth century A.D. marks the arrival of Muslims in this region. In 1194, *Qutubuddin Aibek* took the fortress of *Kol* and *Balbon* and constructed *minar* tower in 1253 just close to present *Jama Masjid* on the great mound. Four dynasties such as the

Slave's from 1194 to 1240, *Khilji's* from 1290 to 1320, *Tughlaq's* from 1320 to 1414 and *Lodha's* from 1451 to 1526 contributed to the control and construction of Aligarh. During the reign of *Ibrahim Lodhi* (1526 A.D.), a permanent fortress known as *Ramgarh* was constructed, which is still existing. *Umar Khan* built the fort of *Mohammadgarh* in 1526, which was later known as Aligarh. During the mediaeval period, *BalaiQila* area acted as the socio-economic and political hub. Throughout this period, there were walls and gates around the city, i.e. *Madar*, *Delhi*, *Turkman*, *Sasni* and *Aligarh Darwaza*. In the eighteenth century, *Sabit Khan* was appointed as the governor of *Kol* and he constructed the *Jama Masjid*. Marathas took over the Aligarh fort in 1785. Thereafter the Britishers rule the city, during their rule the city spread northwards and got economically progressed. After the British occupation in 1804, the present district of Aligarh was formed and the term *Kol* ruined. With the increase of population industries were developed. Initially cotton industry (1802) was established, besides this, other industries like crude glass, glass bangles and later lock industry were established and flourished.

The most remarkable during the evolution and development of the city was the establishment of *Mohammedan Anglo Oriental (MAO) College* in 1875 which is now known as Aligarh Muslim University. This was founded by *Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan* to educate Muslim people. Now, it is one of the central universities of India and is situated in civil line area.

Aligarh city because of its historical background and evolution consists of three different sociocultural areas.

- The ancient area, dominated by Hindu Population
- The mediaeval area, dominated by Muslim Population
- The modern area, dominated by mixed Population of both Hindus and Muslims

These areas instead of losing their identity with time have retained it. Incidences of communal riots have strengthened the segregation on communal lines.

2.3 Administrative Set up of Aligarh City

Aligarh city is the main urban and administrative centre of Aligarh district. Aligarh came into existence as a district in 1804. The district is further divided into five sub districts (tehsils), each with its own divisional headquarters. These five tehsils have been further sub divided into 12 blocks (Fig. 2.2). These blocks are again subdivided into total 1210 villages.

Aligarh city is located at the Lodha block of Koil tehsil. Municipal Corporation was formed for Aligarh city in 1975, while the formation of Aligarh Development Authority took place in 1981. The First Master Plan and Second Master Plan were drafted in 1981 and 2001, respectively, for the city. The city which initially had 19 wards (1971), but now it is divided in 70 wards (2008) and a mayor is elected to administer the city.

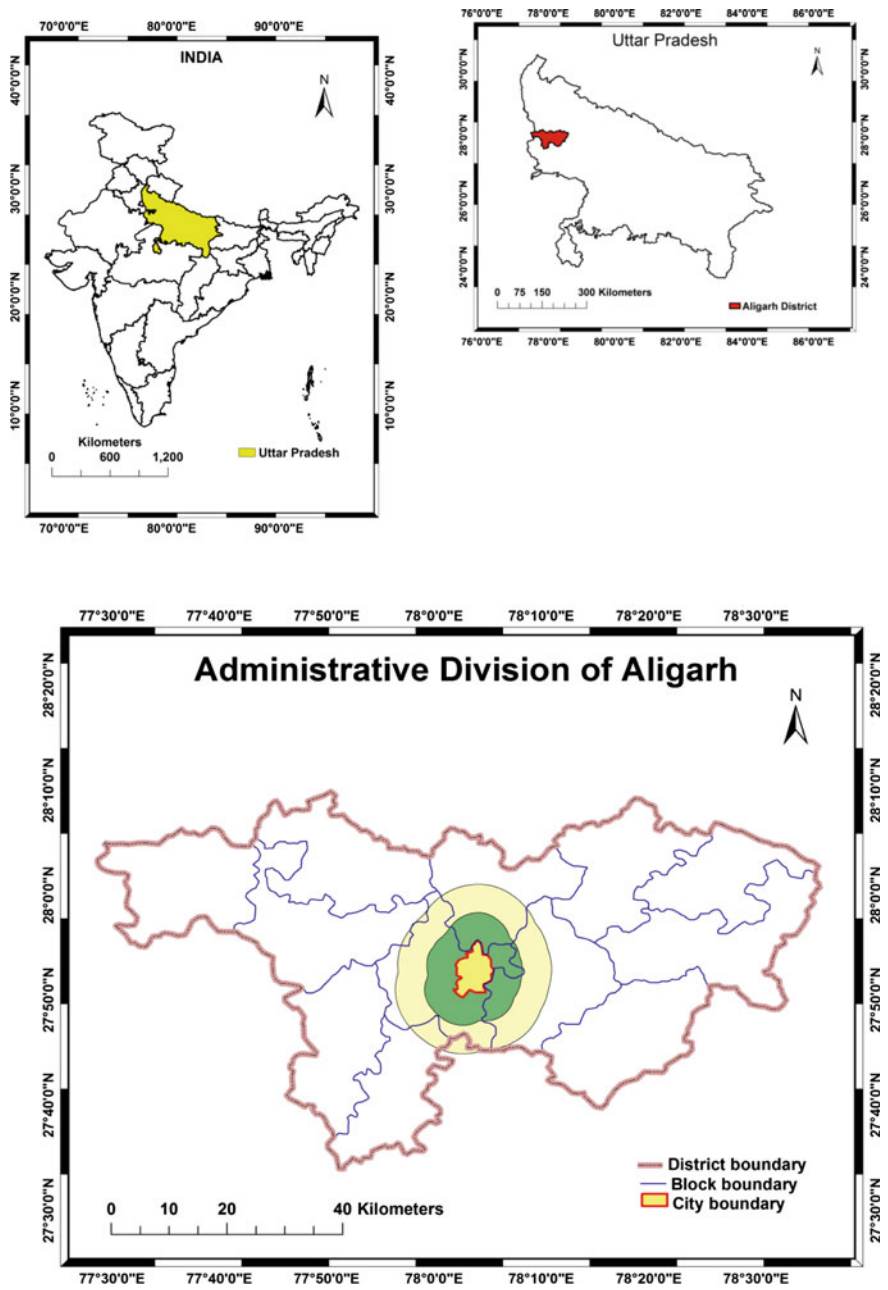


Fig. 2.1 Location Map of Aligarh City

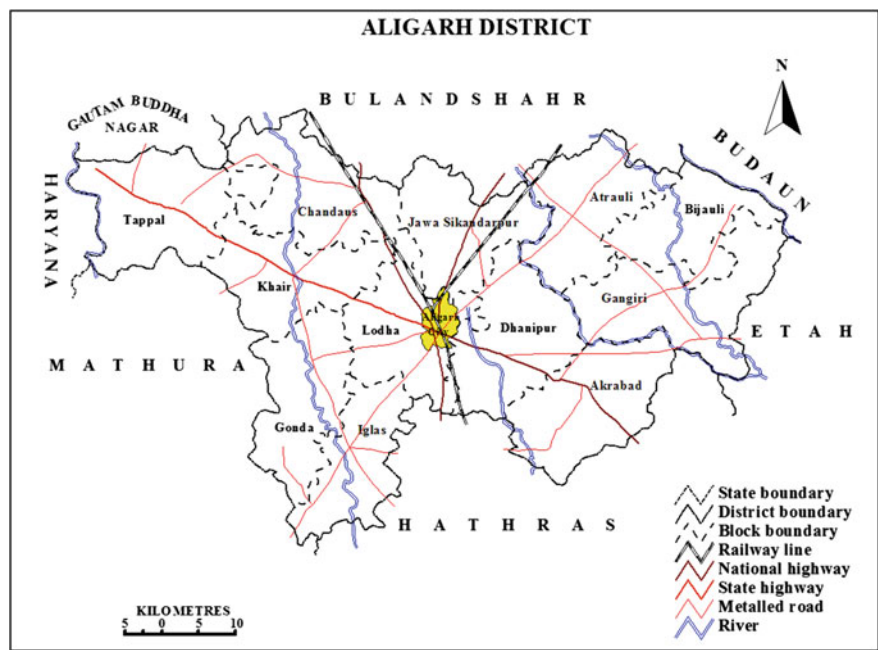


Fig. 2.2 Map of administrative division of Aligarh

2.4 Population Growth in Aligarh City

The total population of Aligarh city is 872,575 according to 2011 census. Although the decadal growth rate of city population is shown to be fluctuating (Fig. 2.3 and Table 2.1) but the share of the city population to district total population has been gradually increasing since 1971 (Fig. 2.4).The city experienced a high growth rate of 49.75 % in the years 1981–1991 (Fig. 2.3) due to immigration from nearby

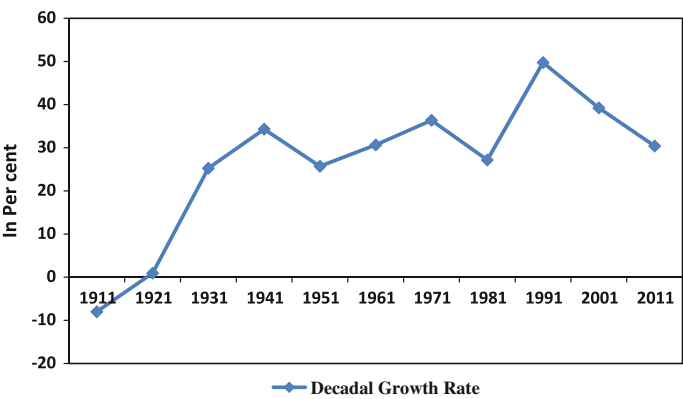


Fig. 2.3 Decadal growth rate of Aligarh city population. Source Population Census of India

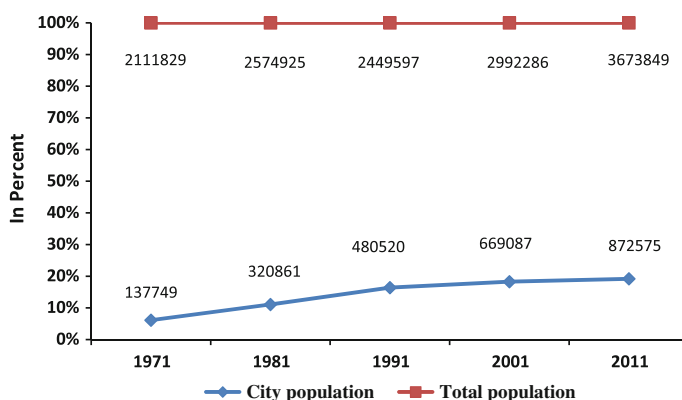


Fig. 2.4 Share of city population to the district population. *Source* Population Census of India

Table 2.1 Decadal growth of population of Aligarh City

Census year	Population	Difference of population between two decade	Difference in per cent
1901	72,084		
1911	66,344	-5740	-8
1921	66,963	619	0.93
1931	83,878	16,915	25.26
1941	112,655	2877	34.31
1951	141,618	28,963	25.71
1961	185,020	43,402	30.65
1971	252,314	67,294	36.36
1981	320,861	68,547	27.17
1991	480,520	159,659	49.76
2001	669,087	188,567	39.24
2011	872,575	203,488	30.41

Source Population census of India

villages. The years 1991–2001 also have a high growth rate of 39.24 % due to the expansion of Aligarh Nagar Nigam boundary limits in the year 1994 in which rural population is also included. With the increase of population, the city requires developments in housing, amenities and facilities and employment opportunities, etc. which as in other cities of India do not match with the city population. This leads to stress on existing facilities creating problems such as mushrooming of slums, environmental pollution, unemployment, congestion, water and electricity crisis, etc.

Table 2.2 Growth of marketing centre in the Aligarh City

Year	Total number of marketing centre	Decadal growth rate
1971	10	–
1981	21	110.00
1991	35	66.67
2001	48	37.14
2011	82	70.83

Source Deputy Regional Marketing Officer, Aligarh

2.5 Marketing Centres in Aligarh City

Aligarh city has a good number of markets to meet the requirements of the people. The CBD of Aligarh encompasses Railway road, *Phaphala*, *Barahdwari* and *Chauraha Abdul Karim*. There is an agglomeration of both wholesale and retail trade in this area. Certain areas of the city are famous for wholesale and retail goods. The important ones are *Mamu-bhanja* area for hardware items and electronics goods, *Phaphala* for pharmaceuticals items, *Bans ki Mandi* for timber and house building materials and *Dhanipur* for vegetables and cereals and it is one of the eight new agricultural markets in Aligarh district, out of which, three are located on the periphery of the city. Beside Dhanipur, Sarsol fruit market and Harduaganj grain and vegetable market are also located at the urban fringe areas of Aligarh city. There are about 90 marketing centres in Aligarh city (Table 2.2). Every locality in the city has a market centre and some of them have grown up in recent years to become new commercial hubs such as *Jamalpur*, *Dodhpur*, *Amir Nishan*, *Kelanagar*, *Kuwarni*, *Soot mill*, *Sasni gate*, etc.

2.6 Status of Infrastructure Facilities in Aligarh City

There are ten major roads which all converge at Gandhi park, almost at the centre of the city. These roads include national highway (N.H.-91) or G.T. Road which connects the city with *Delhi and Kanpur*, N.H.-93, which connects with *Anupshahar* (Fig 2.5). Apart from these roads, there are several state highways which radiate out of the city to connect other important towns of the state. Among them, the important are *Ramghat* road, *Khair* road, *Gonda* road, *Agra* road and *Mathura* road, etc. These roads have acted as the important agent helping in the development of the city. Recently big factories and other industrial establishment have sprung up along these roads providing the city a radial dimension. Besides these roads, there is well-developed internal road network connecting important

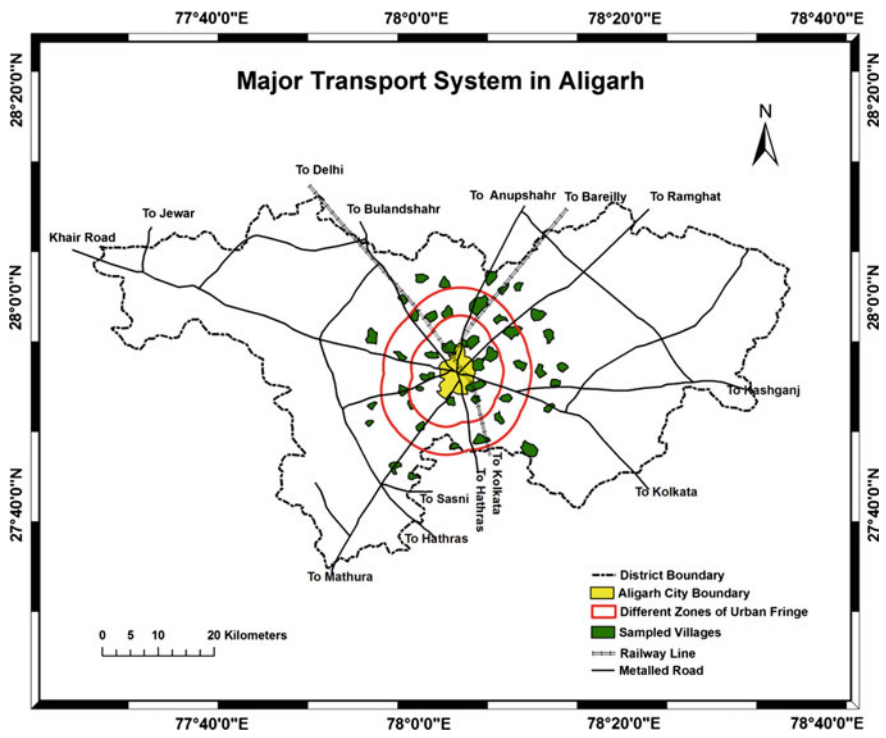


Fig. 2.5 Map of the major transport system in Aligarh

locations within the city. However, the roads of older city are narrow and congested while the newer part has wider roads.

There are two main bus terminals—*Masoodabad* bus terminal along G.T. Road and *Gandhi* park bus Terminal from where U.P. State Road Transport Corporation buses serve cities all over the state of Uttar Pradesh and many other cities in Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. There are five other private bus terminals in Aligarh city, which connect the city with nearby rural settlements (Table 2.3).

Aligarh is also connected with rail network, the Aligarh railway station is a railway junction. It is on the main railway route connecting national capital Delhi with states of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, North-Eastern states of Assam and most of the parts of U.P.

Table 2.3 Passengers movements by bus from different terminals in Aligarh City

S. no.	Name of the bus terminals	No. of buses	Average no. of passengers	Name of the route
1	Gandhi Park Terminal	176	8800	Lucknow, Agra, Moradabad, Mathura
2	Masoodabad Bus Terminal	75	3375	Delhi
3	Khair	40	1600	Zebar, Tappal, Khair
4	Gonda	24	760	Gonda
5	Chharra	25	1025	Chharra, Sankar
6	Gangiri	20	800	Gangiri
7	Jalai	35	1400	Jalali
8	Autaruli	33	1485	Autrauli, Ramghat, Bijauli
9	QasimpurRamghat	20	800	Sadhuasram
10	Anupshahar	90	3150	Aniupshahar, Nonora
11	Sambhal	22	550	Sambhal
12	Pahasu	12	370	Pahasu
13	Barauli	12	510	Barauli
14	Amrauli, Barauli, Pahasu	24	960	Amrauli, Barauli, Pahasu
15	Qasimpur	20	600	Qasimpur
Total		628	26185	

Source Aligarh Development Authority, 2001

2.7 Employment Prospects in Aligarh City

The city offers different types of occupational opportunities, which fit into different sectors and draw different incomes. The city has well-developed secondary activities where a large number of skilled and semi-skilled workers (37 % of total workers) are engaged. There are a total of 5506 industrial units in 2011 while, in 1981 there were only 104 industries in Aligarh city (Tables 2.4 and 2.5). Of these, there are 3500 small-scale industries, 2000 medium-scale and 6 large industries (Table 2.5). There are three kinds of major industries namely food processing, lock industry and household industry. Most of the industries are located in the residential areas within the city limits.

The most famous is lock industry besides it other industries like engineering industries, building fitting, electrical goods industries, chemical industries have also helped the city for its development (Table 2.5). A good number of small-scale units of brass work, edible oil, sugar, cotton textile, cotton ginning, dairy, glassware, readymade garments, handloom and weaving provide jobs to the city population. The city also has a large number of people engaged in tertiary sector (61 % of total workers), associated with Aligarh Muslim University, other educational institutions, banks, post offices, health, communication, trade and commerce, etc.

Table 2.4 Growth of industries in Aligarh City (1981–2011)

Year	Small-scale industries		Large-scale industries		Total number of industries	Decadal growth rate
	Number of units	Number of workers	Number of units	Number of workers		
1981	95	585	9	956	104	–
1991	439	2851	11	2165	450	332.69
2001	3316	9641	13	3985	3329	639.78
2011	5650	34,132	14	5165	5664	70.14

Source Industrial Directory, DIC, Aligarh, 2011

Table 2.5 Types of industries in Aligarh City

Name and type of industries	Number of large-scale industries	Number of medium scale industries	Number of small-scale industries	Total
Food processing	6	0	0	6
Lock industry	0	2000	0	2000
Household industry	0	0	3000	3000
Other	0	0	500	500
Total	6	2000	3500	5506

Source Aligarh Nagar Nigam, 2010

2.8 Nature-Based Activities and Its Economic Input

The study area receives scanty and erratic rainfall, where 80 % of total rainfall happens in the month of south-west monsoon from mid-June to September. Rest of the year it is mostly dry. On the other hand, soil is generally sandy loam having high rate of permeability. Thus, the agriculture is heavily depended on the irrigation especially through tube well and canal irrigation which are expensive. The urban shadow effect is greatly affecting the agriculture activity in the surrounding rural areas of Aligarh city. There is only 2 % workers associated with agriculture and its share to the total working force is gradually decreasing over the year while people's dependency is gradually increasing on tertiary economic activities in the city (Fig. 2.6). The land value is increasing and the high cost of farming inputs have made small and marginal farmers vulnerable in modern monetized urban economy. This has seen as one of the reasons for the trend of transformation from farming activities to non-farming activities in the study area. Another cause of livelihood transformation is the high growth of population which is resulting fragmented and smaller land holdings. All this is making agriculture, which was preferred livelihood option as lesser favoured occupation (Fig. 2.6 and Table 2.6).

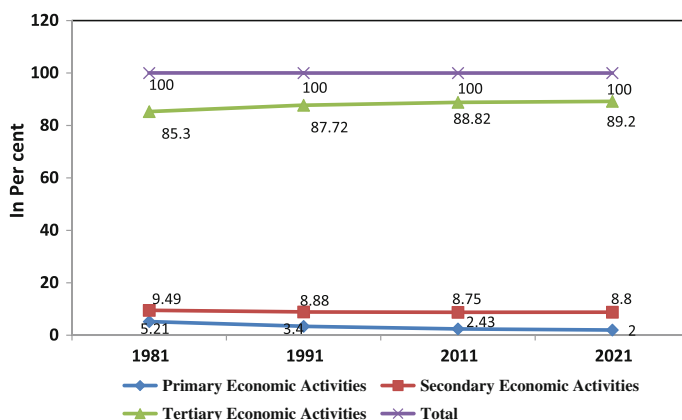


Fig. 2.6 Working population of Aligarh city engaged in different sectors of economic activities.
Note The data for the year 2021 is projected by Aligarh development authority (Aligarh Master Plan 2001–2021). *Source* Population census of India

Table 2.6 Working population engaged in different economic activities in Aligarh City

Economic activities	1981		1991		2011		2021 (projected)	
	Workers	%age	Workers	%age	Workers	%age	Workers	%age
Primary workers and agricultural labourers	3320	5.21	4234	3.40	5648	2.43	7104	2.00
Households workers	4253	6.68	6883	5.51	12,416	5.34	19,536	5.50
Other than households industries	17,615	27.65	40,449	32.38	78,976	33.98	121,778	34.20
Construction	1790	2.81	4206	3.37	7919	3.41	11,722	3.30
Trade and commerce	13200	20.72	29,304	23.46	55,412	23.85	83,472	23.50
Transportation and communication	7270	11.41	7400	5.92	11,510	4.95	19,536	5.50
Other activities	16,250	25.52	32,432	25.96	60,496	26.03	92,352	26.00
Total workers	63,698	100	124,908	100	232,377	100	355,200	100
Total population	257,065	24.78	490,202	25.48	872,575	26.63	118,4000	30.00

Source Aligarh master plan, 2001–2012

2.9 Development of Urban Fringe Around Aligarh City

Rural areas surrounding the Aligarh city lack the amenities and facilities like employment in secondary and tertiary sectors, education, transportation communication system, water supply, etc. which are available in the city. These availabilities are the pull factors to attract migrants from the surrounding villages. The influx of population through migration into the city caused the residential population to grow and the city expanded physically to accommodate it, first through the development of vacant land within the city itself, and later by the slow encroachment on land in areas lying outside the city limits. The net result has been the intrusion of urban land uses within the rural areas surrounding the rapidly growing Aligarh city.

There is a particular pattern of stages through which village community (surrounding Aligarh city) passes as the villages get transformed from a rural entity to an urban one. Due to the increase in population by natural growth and migration in Aligarh city, it expanded from city centre towards surrounding villages to accommodate these people. The village economy gets tied up with the growing city. There is phenomenal increase in linkages with daily movement from the village to the city in order to supply the different commodities such as perishables, like vegetables, milk, and flowers or low valued natural resources such as bricks, earth, fuel wood, etc. to the city. There are metal roads connecting the peripheral rural settlements with Aligarh city and even the city transport system also extends its services to these settlements. Daily visits to the city job, domestic requirements, recreation and medical facilities have become increasingly important. With time and improvements in the communication and transport facilities, the linkage with the city has improved significantly. The village in the fringe area is no longer inhabited by traditional village population only. It also becomes a living place for industrial workers, etc. who like to take advantage of comparatively low rents. Thus, the rural settlements around the Aligarh city have evolved into rural-urban fringe. The city spreads in Lodha, Akrabad, Sasni, Dhanipur, Jawan, Atrauli, Iglas, Gonda and Khair block. Many of these areas, till recent past were predominantly rural settlements but now absorbed the urban character also. Many villages have come into the direct influence of urban expansion and now lie in the urban limit. Kishanpur, Dodhpur, Begpur, Jamalpur, Bhamola and NaglaBaraula are all examples of urban absorption as these settlements witnessed in mute silence their transformation from rural to urban.

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