

Millennium City Crying for Gurgaon Development Authority (GDA)

Dr. Sunita Dhaka

Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration,
Govt. Girls College, Sector-14, Gurugram

Gurgaon, whose name has been changed to, Gurugram, has acquired the sarcastic nomenclature, Gurujam on account of the two day traffic nightmare in which thousands of motorists had been caught in gridlock on the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway following down pour in The Millennium City (the Tribune, July 30-August 3, 2016). M.G. Devasachayam, former Managing Director, Haryana State Infrastructure Development Corporation and former Chief Administrator, Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) has ascribed it to mindless construction. According to him “the unbridled grid of developers has reigned supreme with utter disregard to all time tested norms of urban planning” (The Tribune, August 3, p.9). Somesh Goel, a Gurgaon based IPS Officer of Himachal Pradesh Cadre has aptly described this unprecedented traffic jam as Gurgaontuanmess. According to him “the core issues of poor city planning, choked drains and faulty engineering are being obfuscated in this context” (The Tribune, August 1, 2016, p.9). Different types of reasons are being assigned to this unfortunate situation in which this dismal situation pride of Haryana, Gurgaon has been plunged. On the one hand, the emergence of it is being attributed to combination of the charges of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Gurgaon (MCG) in the hands of one person. On the other hand, it is being ascribed to the decline of the authority of the office of DC. As a matter of fact, it is rather graceful and magnanimous on the part of this honest officer, who is presently holding the charge of this office to own the responsibility for this chaos. According to him, “Gurgaon is an extremely tough place to handle”. But someone has to get into this and try to resolve things. It has also been argued that the mess has been created because functions, functionaries and funds to MCG have not been devolved as per the spirit of the 74th Constitutional Amendment, 1992. The complex situation which led to the nightmare has, in fact, to be ascribed to the absence of coordination between district administration, political administration, MCG and, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Zila Panchayat, Block Samitis and the Gram Panchayats. As a matter of fact, the root cause of the malady is being generally ignored. And this is the absence of an apex authority which could coordinate the functions of the above

institutions. Hence, it is proposed that GDA be created to overcome the above problems on the pattern of Greater London Council.

It has been argued by some that the formation of the above body would amount to the violation of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments which seek to make the PRIs and ULBs institutions of self government for making & implementing plans of social justice and economic development on those of the subjects out of the 11th & 12th schedules that are devolved on them by the state legislature. It is also been argued that the creations of the proposed authority would also amount to the by passing of the institution of District Planning Committee (DPC) which has been accorded, as per Article 243ZD, the task of consolidating and implementing the annual plans of the PRIs and ULBs.

Therefore, it becomes very essential to remove gross misunderstanding in the above context that exists on a substantial scale. The proposed authority in no way aims at usurping the powers of the PRIs and ULBs and the DPC. It also does not intend to grab the powers of the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), the Department

of Town & Country Planning and Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC). It as well does not aim at diluting the authority of DC or the Commissioner of Police (CP). Its sole aim is to function as an apex body for coordinating the functioning of the above mentioned authorities. It is going to be a broad based institution having representation of all the stakeholders in planning, development and administration. The main objective of the proposed arrangement is to ensure coordination and a healthy interface among them and also to ensure that the files do not remain pending at the state headquarters. As a matter of fact, it seeks to bring the state government at the door of various stakeholders of this Millennium City.

Last but not the least, it is pertinent to mention that such an arrangement already exists at Noida & Ghaziabad (U.P.), Jaipur in Rajasthan, Hyderabad in Telangana, Bangalore in Karnataka and several other places in India in the shape of Development Authorities. The GDA will be an improvement on them. It will certainly go a long way in

overcoming the massive mess in which the Gurgaon has been passed into. Otherwise, history will be repeated from time to time and the pride of Haryana, Gurgaon will become a slur on the face of the state. Let us act before it is too late. And it has to be a raised against time.

References

1. Anand Subhash (2010) "solid waste management" Mittal Publications, Delhi.
2. Khan, R.R., (1994) "Environmental Management of Municipal Solid Wastes", Indian Journal of Environmental Protection. Vol. 14 (1).
3. Chanana, M (2018). Empirical Study: Relationship between Self efficacy and Academic Performance. International Journal of Health & Medical Sciences, 1(1), 28-24.
<https://doi.org/10.31295/ijhms.v1n1.36>
4. Gentil, E., Christensen, T.H. & Aoustin, E.C. (2009). Greenhouse gas accounting waste management. Water Management & Research, 27(8), 696- 706.