

# Urban Change and City Building Process in Global South

**Abdul Shaban**

Professor  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar  
Mumbai

Sociologist Robert Park said (1967)

The city and the urban environment represent man's most consistent and, on the whole, his most successful attempt to remake the world he lives in more after his heart's desire. But if the city is the world which man created, **it is the world in which he is henceforth condemn to live**. Thus, indirectly, and without any clear sense of the nature of his task, **in making the city man has remade himself"**

# Introduction



- Global south entering urban age
- Faster growth of urban pop than north

# The Urban Age

- More than 50% of the world population since 2008 (3.3 billion people), more than half the world's peoples, now lived in cities.
- By 2030, 5 billion people will be city dwellers, and more than 81% will be in developing countries.
- From 2000 to 2030, in one generation the urban populations of Asia and Africa will double (from 1.7 to 3.4 billion).
- Now it is said “Success in a world being organised into an urban system requires the ability to
  - design,
  - govern, and
  - manage cities toward strategic end”.
- In many parts of the world, City system has evolved parallel to nation-system.

# Urbanization in India

- Only about **31.16%** (2011) of Indian population urban, but in terms of size it is quite large.
  - In sheer number, urban population of India (**>377 million**) exceeds population of several countries
- Urban population decadal growth (2001-2011) **31.8%**;
  - Decadal rural growth rate : 12.2%; all India 17.6%.

## Municipal and Non-Municipal Towns (Census Towns)

Year	Total	Census towns	Statutory towns
1991	4689	1693	2996
2001	5161	1362	3799
2011	7935	4041	3894
Percentage of the towns			
1991	100.0	36.1	63.9
2001	100.0	26.6	73.4
2011	100.0	50.9	49.1

•Number town increase: During 1991-2001 total 472; 2001-2011 total 2774

During 2001 – 2011 the population of the country increased by 181.4 million

- Increase in Rural areas: 90.4 million
- Increase in Urban areas: 91.0 million

## Number of towns and percentage of Urban population by size class

Census years	No of Towns by size class						Percentage of urban population by size class					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1901	24	43	130	391	744	479	26.0	11.2	15.6	20.8	20.1	6.1
1911	23	40	135	364	707	485	27.4	10.5	16.4	19.7	19.3	6.5
1921	29	45	145	370	734	571	29.7	10.3	15.9	18.2	18.6	7.0
1931	35	56	183	434	800	509	31.2	11.6	16.8	18.0	17.1	5.2
1941	49	74	242	498	920	407	38.2	11.4	16.3	15.7	15.0	3.1
1951	76	91	327	608	1124	569	44.6	9.9	15.7	13.6	12.9	3.1
1961	102	129	437	719	711	172	51.4	11.2	16.9	12.7	6.8	0.7
1971	148	173	558	827	623	147	57.2	10.9	16.0	10.9	4.4	0.4
1981	218	270	743	1059	758	253	60.3	11.6	14.3	9.5	3.5	0.5
1991	300	345	947	1167	740	197	65.2	10.9	13.1	7.7	2.6	0.3
2001	393	401	1151	1344	888	191	68.6	9.67	12.2	6.8	2.3	0.2

Class I : Greater than 1,00,000 population    Class II : 50,000--1,00,000 population

Class III : 20,000---50,000 population    Class IV : 10,000--- 20,000 population

Class V : 5,000---10,000 population    Class VI : less than 5000 population

2011: total 468 class I towns (394 in 2001) with 70% of urban pop; 53 million plus towns/UA with 42.6% urban pop;

# Predictors of crisis



- Forecasters of crisis and manipulation
- Impressive presentation of impending urban age by
  - McKinseys, KPMG, Accenture
    - and other global consultancies



The logic for predictions are



1. Rapid urbanisation
2. Uncontrolled migration
3. Severe fuel shortages
4. Break down of law and order

# Global South in Crisis!



- We are told that **Mumbai, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Rio, Saopalo etc will face severe crisis in near future**
- For them solution is simple,
  - **See urbanisation as an opportunity** not as a challenge
  - We must build cities to reverse the doomsday prediction, and **we must build these fast.**



# New Generation Crisis

- It is said that **southern cities are entering new generation crisis**, while **western cities have faced different forms of crisis in different times**
- Industrial Pollution in 19<sup>th</sup> century
- War in early decades on 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Urban protest in 1960s
- Oil shortages in 1970s
- White flight and inner decline 1980s
- Terrorism since 9/11
- And economic austerity since financial crash last year's of first decade of 21 century



So the cities have been on some radical change and planning solution



Such as

- City beautiful
- Garden city
- Sustainable city
- Intelligent city
- Eco city



more recently 'Smart city' which attempt to reconceptualise

**Relationship between Cities and country side, culture and society at large**



These cities promote the utopian ideas that urban planning can provide solution to sociology economic crisis.



Now to solve the crises

- New cities are conceptualised and build on unprecedented scale
- Legitimacy framed through discourse of crises
- Production, consumption and trade through imaginaries of speed



# Fast Cities

We can call these cities as Fast cities.

- In business language, **fast cities refer to economically successful cities**, characterised by
  - Innovation
  - Entrepreneurship, and
  - growth

- However, **fast cities can be imagined with analogy of fast food**, in which everything comes with

- Speed
- Menu to process of cooking
- Standardised material used in cooking
- Fast serving

However the effect of these have not been very good on health.

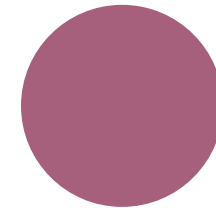
The consultancy companies are **new Mcdonald, KFCs**, and

- **provide recipes to postcolonial states of global south with massive fee.**

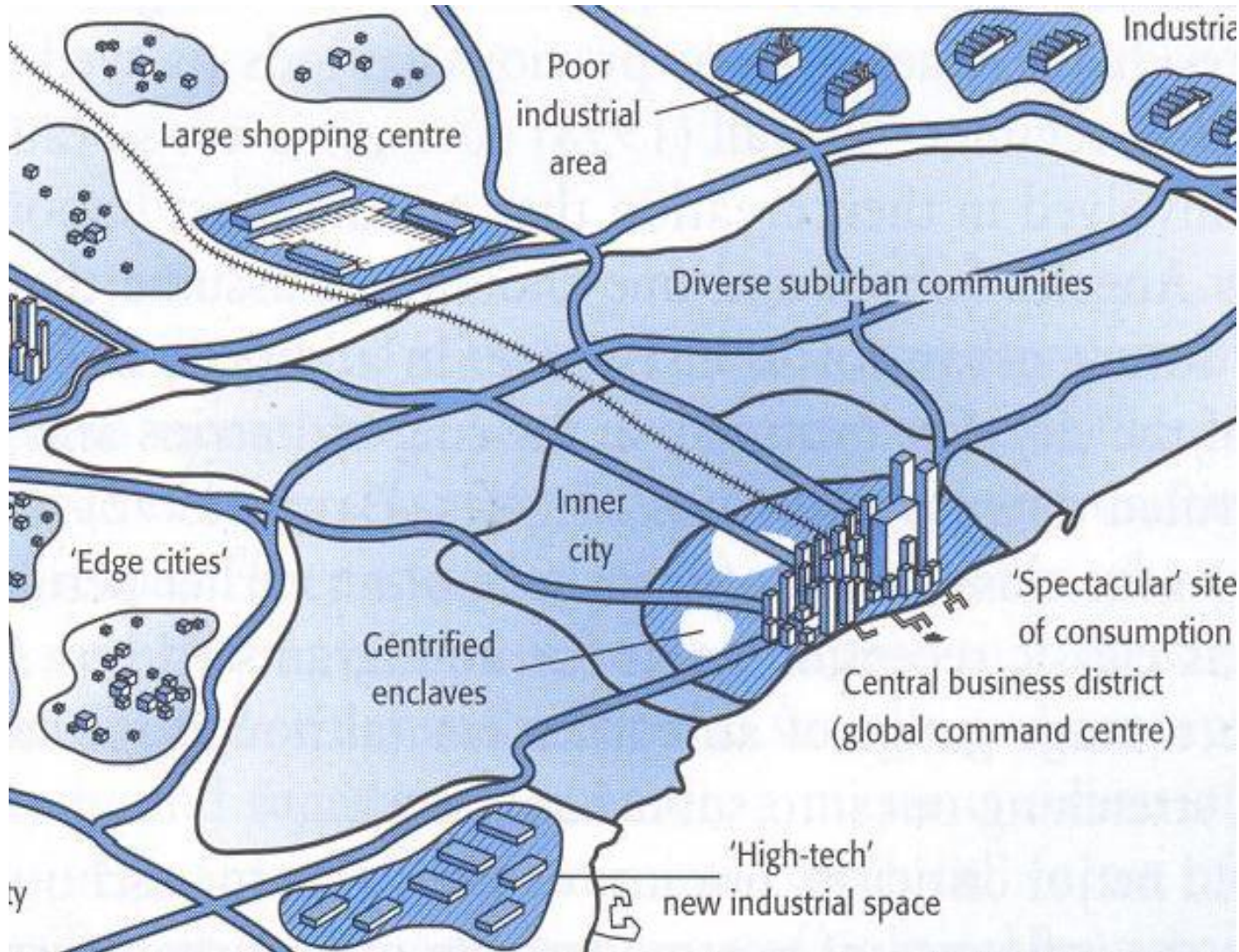


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# Fast Cities and Fast Food

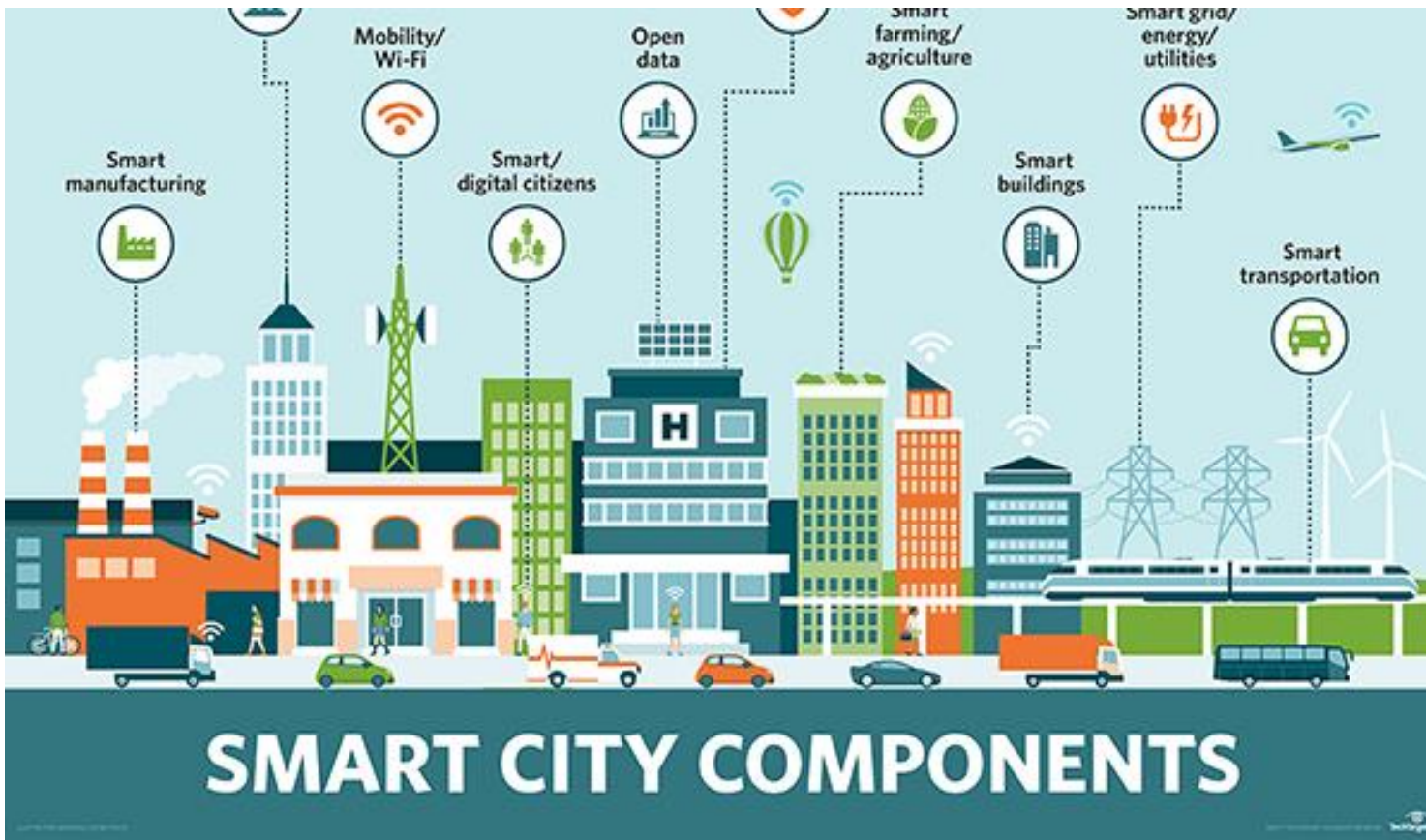


# Edge Cities / New Towns



- Fast cities are getting tuned into global rhythms of financial transactions rather than
  - local rhythms of everyday life on street
- Not to suggest that these cities totally deviate from regional scale
- They are new mutations leading to
  - Private gated communities built from scratch as
    - Edge cities
    - New towns
    - Privatopolis
    - Enterprise cities
- And feature as **concentrated and extended urbanization**
- **Representing fast cloning of political, economic and material contexts**





# Break from Earlier Cities

New cities also break from earlier post-colonial cities

From new town, corporate town, satellite city and industrial town

To

- Eco-cities, IT cities, Knowledge cities, smart cities
- Led by national and global corporate and
- build for globally oriented middle class on
- land of local peasants



# Speed

- Speed is not new in urban planning in post-colonial context,
- Chandigarh was built in 10 years, while Brasilia in span of 41 months.

But were funded by state

However in recent years, state has prioritized **urbanization as business model** – with rapid pace and grand scale

But now it is **Shenzhen Speed**

The Shenzhen city of 1 lakh population dominated by fishermen in 1972 was transformed for population of **11 million today with Manhattan like buildings.**

**During 1980 to 1992, the city was totally transformed**

# Smart cities of India

**GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tech-city) City of Gujarat in 886 acre between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar is modelled on Schengen**

India is building more than **100 new smart cities** –

**This shows:**

**Rapid urbanization is now an ideology –**

**A utopian dream to spur economic growth via  
reimagined urban future**

**Violent imposition of city building as legitimate solution to  
the crisis**



GIFT City Model and Work in Progress



# The fast cities from global south are

- Lavasa (eco-city, private ownership)
- Dholera (automobile, electronic, pharma and biotech)
- GIFT (finance, diamond trade)
- Rajarhat
- Sangdo (South Korea)
- Dongtan (China)
- Kabul New City –
- Dompok (Indonesia)
- Clark Green City (Philippines)
- Iskandar (Malaysia)
- Eko Atlantic (Nigeria) - sustainable city
- Hope city (Ghana)
- Lusaka (Zambia)
- Casablanca (Morocco)
- Masdar (UAE)
- Qatar Education city
- King Abdullah Economic City
- Buzios (Brazil)

# How to Craft Your Business Story (And Energize Your Audience)



Key features of fast cities

## 1. Representations and discursive production

- Visual and discursive storytelling that seeks to legitimize their constructions and attract the target audience
- Storytelling oriented to globally oriented middle class, who desire
  - symbol and marker of class, and
  - social mobility that is associated with production of these cities

Key features of fast cities

## 2. Expert knowledge and global power

- Global consultants
- Global marketing by global agencies

Meet McKinsey



accenture  
with performance. Delivered.

KPMG



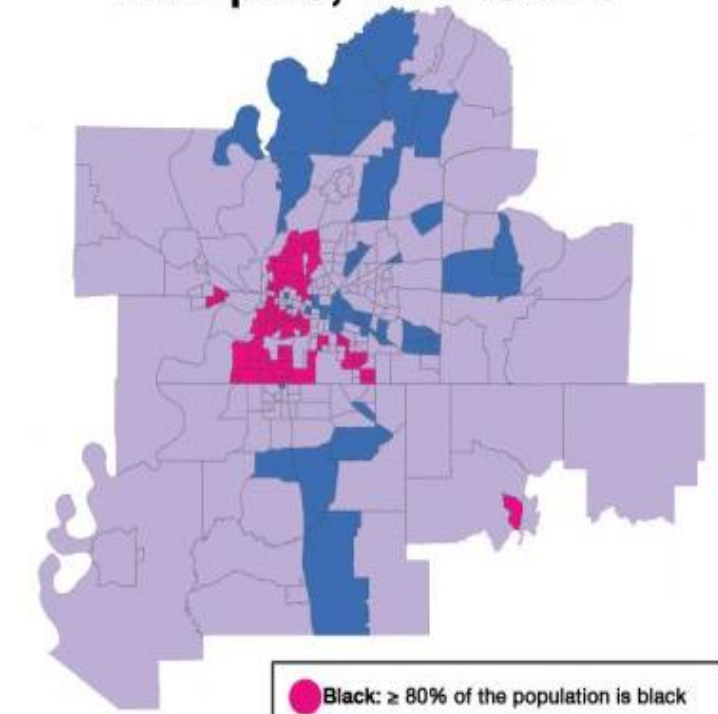
Cybersecurity in  
smart cities



# Key features of fast cities

## 3. Ownership

- Mostly private ownership / consortium of private developers
- The *ownership legal terminology may vary* – as SEEPZ, SEZ or SPVs
- Significant concession in tax



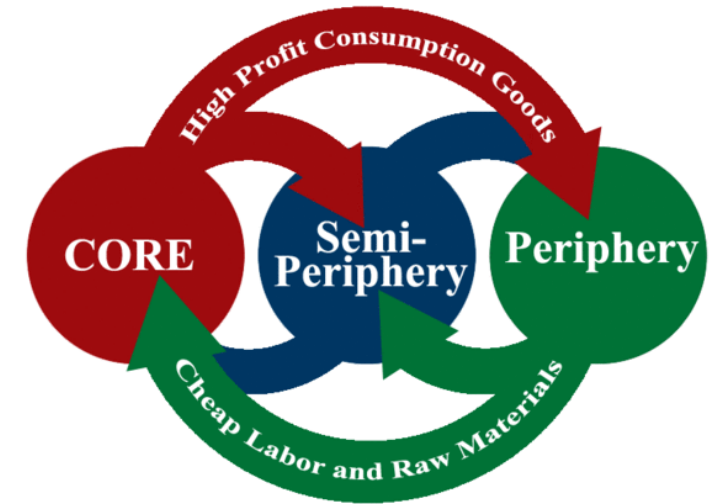




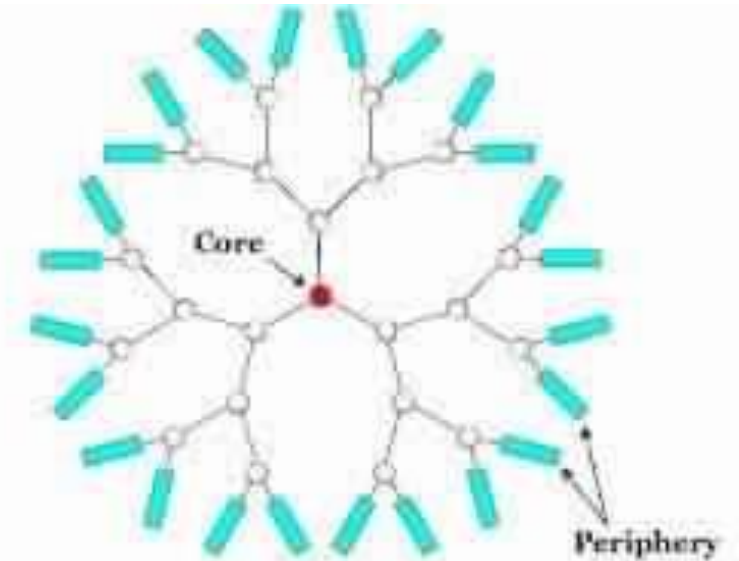
# Key features of fast cities

## 5. Geographical advantage

- **Capitalize on uneven geographies of development** – must pretend to develop under-developed regions
- Gated residential development
- Compression of space and time –
  - high speed mobility corridor and airport to access global capital with ease



Wallerstein's World System Theory Model





# Key features of fast cities



## 6. Land Transformations

- Need vast swath of underdeveloped land for their development
- Land remains most contested resources that these cities need
- Land often made available by eminent domain through special legal instrument



# New Urban Utopia

- Modernist urban planning to solve all problem of cities
- Failure abound
- In post-colonial context **'modern city'** was used as a trope to **make a break from traditional and the social injustice of the colonial past**
  - E.g. **building of Chandigarh and Brasilia** – large scale public funded projects –
    - created **design where equality rather than differences shaped social relations**
  - These cities today are **blue print utopias** –
    - now produce new social inequalities rather than the erasure of social differences

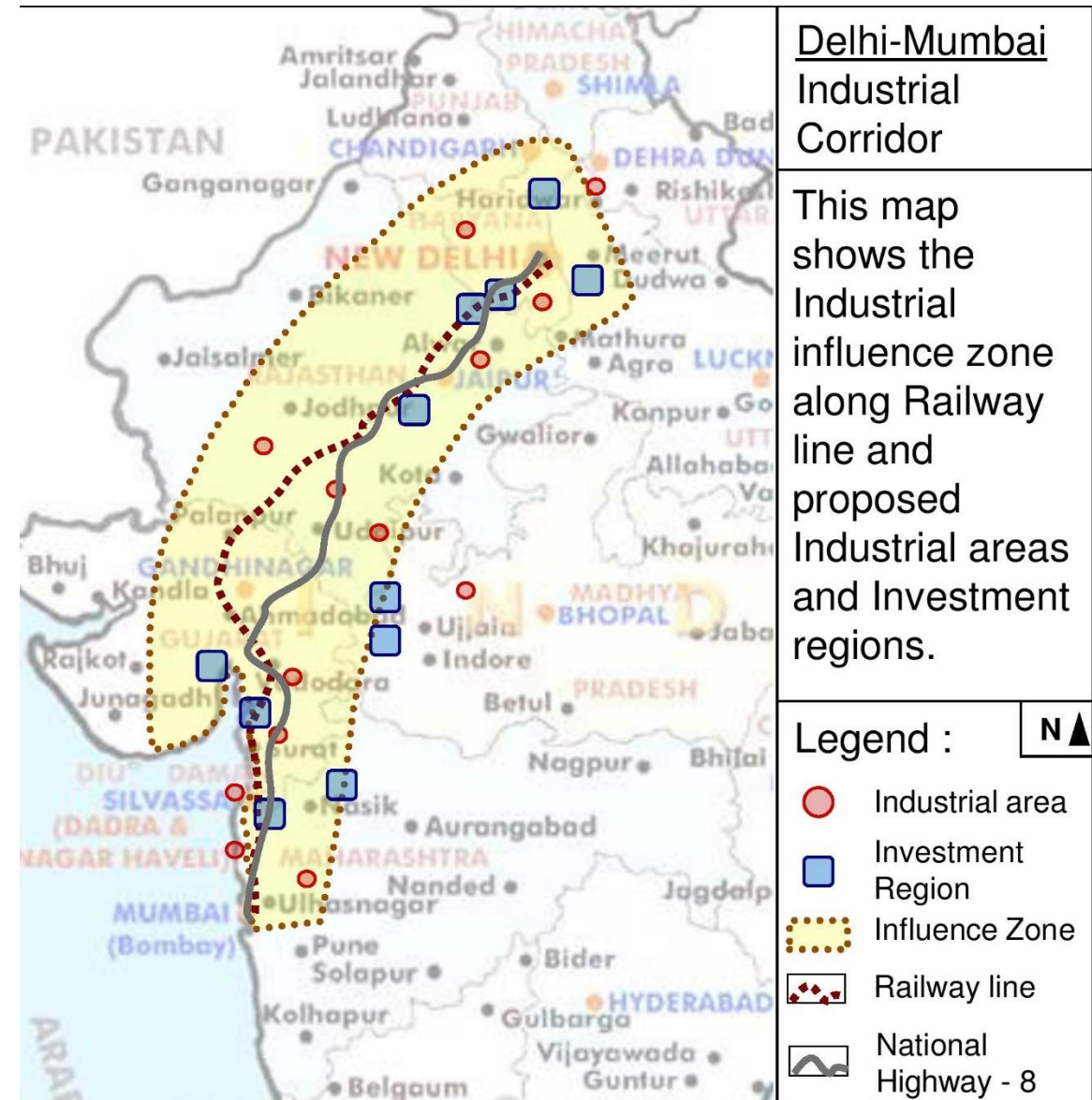
# Why we call fast cities as new urban utopias

- **Several features makes then new urban utopian imaginations – connected to earlier but also distinct utopias.**
- New urban utopia because:
  1. **Dual terrain of language and image:**
    - rhetoric of speed, crisis, urgency and
    - growth translated through glossy brochure, videos, animations, picture, charts and graphs
- PPP: **urban fantasize around prosperity, sustainability**

# Urban Utopia to be delivered through

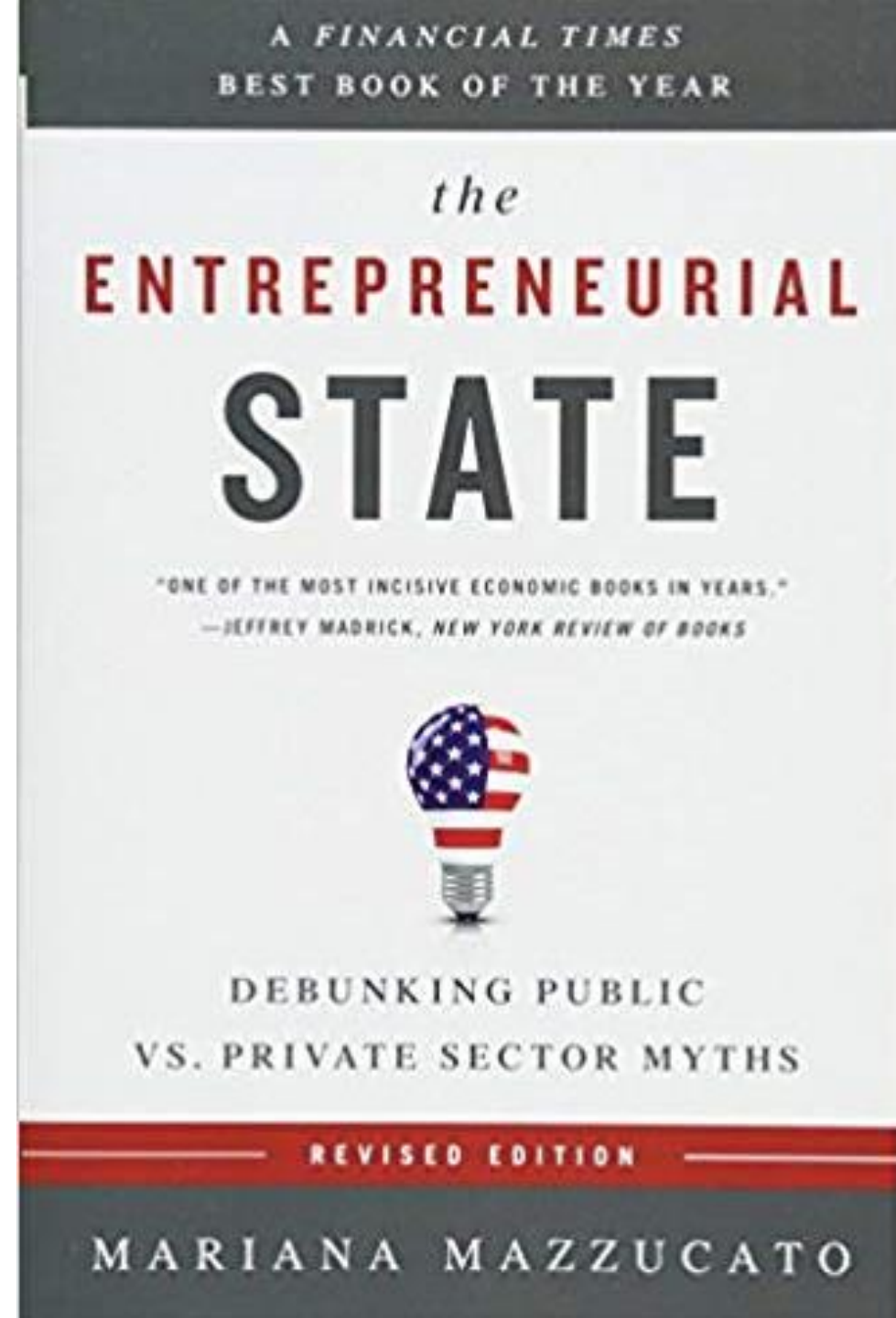
## 1. Mega-Urbanization and master planning

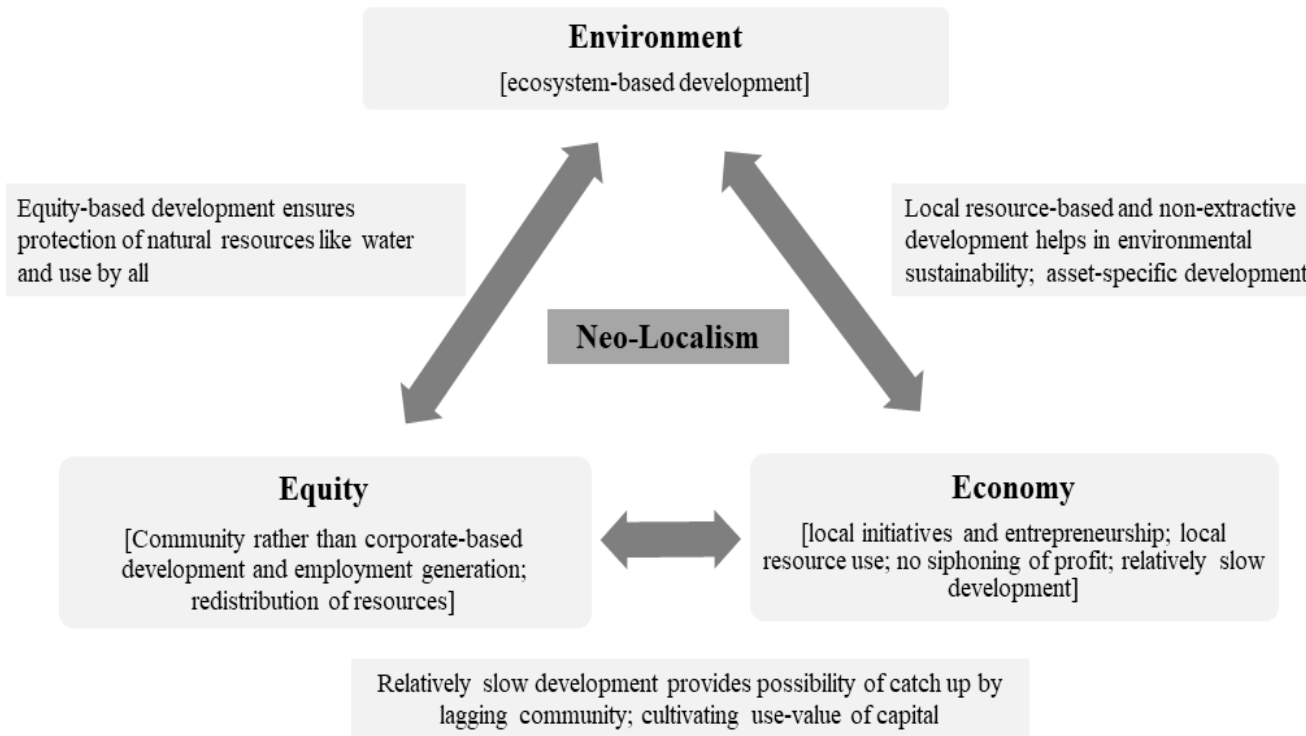
- Scale and sheer number of master planning underway
- 11 industrial corridor for megacities across the country
  - Delhi-Mumbai corridor longest:
  - project will be implemented by the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, an autonomous body composed of government and the private sector
- **City-double** or along major mobility locations



# Urban Utopia to be delivered through

- **2 Entrepreneurial state**
  - Removing red-carpet, red-tape, startup
  - Open door, single window policy,
  - Market instrument used to achieve hidden political agenda,
  - Entrepreneurial city to entrepreneurial society





Some alternatives to speed

- Speed and growth is prioritized over
- democracy and participation
  - Popular control of government and private control of means of production
- Distribution
- Environment
- Localism

# Fast cities are also leading to

## Fast policy

- Exotic policies

## Fast thinking

- Two system way of thinking: System 1 (thinking fast); System 2 (thinking slow)
- System 1: gut reaction – first impression- jumps to quick conclusion- it has little knowledge of logic and statistics –WYSIATI (what u see is all there) and give in to prejudice and bias- may make wrong judgement
- System 2: Critical thinking way of making decisions – reflection – analysis and problem solving

## Two track development

- Accumulation circuit:
  - Accommodation of surplus global capital and neo-entrepreneurship
- Survival circuit – surplus population – criminalization of livelihood



# Manifesto for slow cities

- **Slow city, like slow food movement in 1986, established in 1999 by 4 Italian mayors**
- **Now 141 certified cittaslow in 23 countries**
- Promotes:
  - Territorial distinctiveness
  - Local resources
  - Unique historical context
  - Best meets the sustainable development aim: economy, society and environment



# Suggestion for slow and moderated cities

## 1. Grow slow

- **Exotic urbanism**
- **Depletion of resources and quality of environment**
- **fast growth and distribution**
- **unhinging cities to regions – bypassed development**
- **Arab cities and post-oil scenario**





## 2. Slow policy to stop

- **Top-down approach**
- **Expert centric**
- **Fast adaptation** – one model fits all
- **Import of policies**
- **Goldrush** for the consultants from North

Suggestion for slow and moderated cities

Suggestion for slow and moderated cities

### 3. Deliberative states

- Now power shifting and relocating in the hand of powerful
- Shareholders democracy / club good
- Deliberative state – will create deliberative democracy – where people could bring their issues
- Policies can be made upwards



# Suggestion for slow and moderated cities



**NO TIME**  
for **Social**

4. Land as commons or Long-term benefits/Sharing to Farmers

- **To stop land wars**

5. Eurythmic urbanism

- Body under capitalism
- Social time
- **Presence needed not present**

# Characteristics of fast and slow cities

Fast	Slow
Corporate centred	Community centred
homogenized	Idiosyncratic /asset specific
Single imperative – economic gain	Multiple imperatives: development, belonging, economic change
Exotic	Original
Mediatized	People centric
Signifying present	Signifying presence

Summing Up

THANK YOU