SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS
The thesis has taken upon the task of making a geographic study of the slums in Faridabad. This involved: (i) an inquiry into the evolutionary process of slum proliferation; (ii) an understanding of distortions in the prevailing economic, social and political system which lead to slum formation and diffusion; (iii) an analysis of locational attributes of the Faridabad slums in their time-space context; (iv) an analysis and discussion of their socio-economic conditions, service levels and rural-urban relations; and (v) an elaboration of the slum strategies in terms of their relative degree of success.

The research exercise was essentially an empirical study of the Faridabad slums. Only very limited data could be obtained from sources like Census of India, Town and Country Planning Organization and Faridabad Municipal Corporation. Hence most of the requisite data were collected through personal fieldwork. A questionnaire based household survey of six slums, selected through purposive sampling, was also conducted to gather detailed information. Some hypotheses were framed for testing. These included:

(i) Industrial dynamism is the main factor behind slum proliferation.
(ii) The problem of slums is acquiring larger magnitude with the passage of time.
(iii) Slums are located on the marginal land available on the periphery of the city.
(iv) Slums are inhabited by immigrants and are dominated by low caste and low income groups.
(v) Slums occupy government land.
(vi) Efforts of the government at solving the slum problem have not been a success.
A perusal of literature shows that slums are historically a by-product of the industrial revolution. These appeared first in the developed part of the world and later diffused to the developing countries. Massive rural-urban migration of the poor is at the root of slum formation.

Though the word 'slum' had come into lexicon in the beginning of the last century yet its common usage gained currency during the present century. The perception of slums is, however, not identical in the developed and developing countries. Their nomenclature in the former case is generally linked to the resident social group; in the latter, it is normally based on the nature of construction material. Focus is more on their social aspects in the former but on the economic aspects in the latter. The lack of desired residential quality is highlighted in the former whereas absence of even the basic services is underlined in the latter. Despite these differences, slums are universally marked by substandard living conditions. Poverty is the common denominator in both situations.

Urban slums are now worldwide, irrespective of the development level, ethnic background or politico-economic complexion of different countries. These are typical equally of the capitalist, socialist and third world countries. Capitalist mode of production cannot be singled out as solely responsible for their emergence.

Incidence of slum proliferation is certainly of the highest order in developing countries. This is associated largely with transference of their rural poverty to urban places through the process of migration. Urban municipal bodies have failed administratively, technically and financially to stem the process of slum formation. These cannot ensure, among other things, adequate housing to all.
In India, the percentage of slum population differs by population size, functional nature and regional location of various urban places. Percentage of slum population in the million cities is more than three times of that in places with a population of less than one hundred thousand, which is turn have larger slum population than other smaller towns. Industrial cities have larger proportion of slum population than others of different functional character, and north Indian cities record higher percentage of slum population than their southern counterpart. It is no surprise that with the process of industrialisation having picked up since seventies nearly 30.0 percent of Faridabad’s population lives in slums.

Slums characterise settlements which are demographically, economically and environmentally vulnerable. These have been in existence for a long time. The Government of India did recognise their existence in the First Plan (1951-56). The policy to clear or relocate the slums did not succeed. However, the need for their official recognition and identification was felt only when the ‘Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums’ programme was implemented in Faridabad in 1980. The identification was done on the basis of the criteria laid down in the Slum Area Act of 1956. The Act itself followed the guidelines provided by the United Nations.

The industrial seeds in Faridabad city were sown when on the partition of the country the Government decided to rehabilitate the refugees from the North-West Frontier Provinces and Dera Ghazi-Khan on a site towards the west of Delhi-Mathura highway. On this site an industrial estate -- the New Industrial Township was established which initiated rapid industrial development in this region. Faridabad attracted tremendous industrial capital
due to government efforts and due to its proximity to the National Capital.

The city recorded a phenomenal growth in population mainly after Independence and in area when the three urban entities -- Old Faridabad, Ballabgarh and New Industrial Township were coalesced to form an urban agglomeration in 1981, better known as Faridabad Complex Administration. The territorial jurisdiction of the city was extended seven times’ its size of 25.75 sq.kms in 1971. The initial influx was of the displaced persons from Pakistan and later of the industrial labour largely from other states of India.

The industrial and demographic dynamism of the city was accompanied by the undesirable process of slum formation. There are 67 slums although the Census had identified only 26, accommodating more than one-fourth of its population.

Thus emergence of the Faridabad slums is associated with post-Independence industrial proliferation and demographic dynamism of the city. Some major events which caused formation of slums include the influx of displaced persons from Pakistan at the time of partition in 1947, establishment of industrial estate with infrastructure for industries by Government of Haryana to take advantage of its nearness to Delhi, formation of Faridabad Complex with a tremendously increased area, the vacant lands of which remained unattended for a long time, establishment of industries in proximity to the major transport lines passing through the city.

The Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums Programme launched by the Government of India had identified 62 localities housing persons constituting percent of the total population.
The slums around the old towns of Ballabgarh and Old Faridabad had initially emerged in their peripheries. On the other hand, in NIT zone they established themselves on the 'central green' that is, the area earmarked for park sites. When the physical expansion of Faridabad Complex took place in 1981, all of them got incorporated within the city boundary.

The task of identifying such localities was not smooth and could not remain objective. Local leaders and politicians saw this as an opportunity for establishing their vote bank. Personal fieldwork revealed certain instances where some undeserving localities were declared as slums while the deserving cases were excluded. The Census of India however recognized only 29 slums in 1981 and 26 slums in 1991. Naturally, the huge cost involved inhibits the government from identifying slums.

Classifications of slums based on their chronology, location, dwellings, community and administration were deemed as most pertinent for Faridabad. The classification based on administrative status was found as most critical. Hence it was adopted for an in-depth analysis of data pertaining to all other parameters of the slums.

Chronologically, slums were grouped as having evolved before the formation of the state, 1966-1980 and 1981-1997. These break points in time were associated with some important events having a bearing on slum evolution. These included influx of displaced persons from Pakistan at the time of partition in 1947, formation of the state in 1966 and of Faridabad Complex Administrative in 1981. Locationally, slums were classified with reference to the land feature with which their origin was associated. These included the location along a transportation line, along an industrial establishment, along a
drainage system and on sites earmarked for parks, in the city's master plan.

Segregation was also observed by religion and source region of the slum dwellers. The displaced persons from Pakistani are concentrated in Pakistani slums, as the name suggests; migrants from Bihar in NIT slums, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in Old Faridabad and Uttar Pradesh in Ballabgarh slums. A majority of the migrants are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar followed by Rajasthan. Most of the slums are Hindu or Muslim in their religious complexion. Scheduled (low) castes live separately in slums.

The slum dwellers are largely migrants drawn from rural areas with a family occupational background of tertiary activities, which is contrary to the general impression that most of the migrants are landless engaged in agricultural labour in rural areas. The two decades following 1970 saw rapid migration to the city.

The household size is much larger than that for the city. Two kinds of tendencies can be attributed to this - existence of joint families and several single migrant households maintaining a common kitchen.

A majority of the slum work force is engaged, either directly or indirectly in the industrial sector living close to their work place with highest participation in this economic sector being in the NIT zone followed by Ballabgarh and Old Faridabad. The incidence of child labour is high. Majority are single earning member households. These are those employed in wage-labour. The proportion of self-employed household is small. The income level for the majority is low.

The slums in Faridabad city are characteristic of congestion, kutcha to semi-pucca illegally owned dwellings. The single-migrants generally hailing
from the same region were found to be living together maintaining a common kitchen. Majority of households were living in single room structures. The slums in NIT zone were better placed as far as the nature of structures was concerned.

The most common source of water supply is community handpumps. Old Faridabad has majority of these. In Ballabgarh these are supplemented by domestic taps while in NIT community taps can also be found in fair proportion. There is near absence of personal toilets. Very few households in notified slum clusters and in them only a few pucca dwellings possess toilets facility. The dwellers make use of either community toilets or defecate in the open, which is a health hazard. The public toilets disposal and garbage treatment are in a sorry state of affairs. The drainage is open, uncovered and unplanned. The kutchta drains lead to over-spilling and also seepage of contaminated water to the lower strata of soil contaminating the underground water. The surrounding areas become cesspool of contaminated water, rains or no rains, leading to breeding of mosquitoes. Not all houses are electrified. Illegal tapping of electricity is common. A large proportion of slum dwellers are catered to by public distribution system. The educational needs are served by the private sector. Government schools are there in NIT zone. The schools are up to middle level. Health services are also rendered by the private sector.

Thus, as expected service base of the slums is highly inadequate. Situation in respect of some essential services is all the more disgusting. In community services, such as public distribution system, education and religion, the situation is relatively good. The overall service index reveals that slums in the NIT zone are better serviced followed by Old Faridabad and Ballabgarh.
After some extension of services to the city is early eighties under the Environment Improvement of Urban Slums Programme, little additional work has been done for the welfare of the slums. The deteriorating condition of the slums has not been able to check their proliferation.

The Faridabad slums are not happily placed vis-a-vis possession of home comforts. Cooking is mainly done using conventional fuel. Majority of the households possess radio sets or tape-recorders. Pedestal fans and coolers are preferred over television sets and refrigerators. Commuting to work place is either by public transport, bicycle or on foot. Auto-vehicle is possessed by a few.

The social linkages in the sample slums manifested in migration, frequency of visiting pattern and remittances is revealed that language, religion, kinship relations and contact with the native place of the slum-dwellers are the forces which lead to the further growth and development of a slum cluster.

A majority of the migrants hail from rural areas of Hindi-speaking belt - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan. Each slum has a majority of population from any region who maintain a constant contact. The presence of a kin induces further migration to a slum although the migration is for employment purposes. A majority of the households have regular, yearly or twice a year, contact with their native place. Those who do not keep contact have made the city their permanent home.
Strategies toward the solution of slum problems have evolved over time. These were guided essentially by the factors of (i) perception, negative or sympathetic, about the slums, (ii) magnitude of the problem, (iii) experience in respect of any previous measure, (iv) political dimension of the situation, and (v) available financial resources to meet the challenge.

Initially when the first slum locality came up, it was simply condemned as a weed fit for uprooting. When rapid slum formation accompanied the process of industrialisation, these localities were seen with disdain. A sympathetic attitude towards slums took shape when their contribution to urban economy and service base was duly appreciated.

Strategies towards slums differ between the developed and developing countries. In the former case, slums are dilapidated structures in the heart of cities. Redevelopment is the only treatment for these, especially when resources are not much of a constraint. In the latter case, however, slums proliferate in the form of make-shift shelters on the city’s periphery. These lack in planning and basic services. Necessary funds are just not available for their relocation or redevelopment. Hence in situ improvement is the only remedy.

The Indian experience in meeting the challenge of slums passed through different phases. Till the Fourth Plan (1969-74), the main emphasis was on slum clearance and relocation. This proved counter-productive as slum dwellers returned to their original base after some time. Thereafter, realistic approaches in the form of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums and Urban Basic Services Programme were adopted. The strategy was to improve the existing slums and simultaneously increase the supply of dwelling units for the poor.
The story of Faridabad slums is typical of any other Indian city. Policies and programmes framed and implemented at the national level were adopted here too. Any effort at evolving local strategies is lacking.

Politicians’ role comes in limelight in our analysis of slum strategies. They may interfere in identification of slums, selection of pilot slums for any programme, and proposal for relocation of any slum. The question is as to how to orient politicians towards their necessary but an objective role in this sphere.

Little was done for the welfare of the slums after the implementation of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums Programme. Perhaps administrators believe that starving slums of services may lead to a check on their proliferation. Events have proved them wrong.

In Faridabad slums the role of NGOs has been negligible. Some efforts by NGOs such as Shramik Vidyapeeth, Sewa Bharti, Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Chatrath Charitable Trust, Red Cross Society and Christ Children Fund have been in the form of primary or kinder garden level of infrastructure education. Some camps in the form of family welfare and child welfare have also been organised by these NGOs. The financial constraints do not allow them to have a stronger role in improving or solving the problems of slums.

Our analysis of data largely validates the first hypothesis that slum proliferation in Faridabad is a product of its industrial dynamism. Slums were associated largely with the industrial expansion of the city. Industrial labour is predominant in majority of slums.

Slum proliferation began with industrial development and has acquired greater magnitude as the pace of industrialisation became faster. A majority of the slums appeared after 1970. Data for the sample slums also show that nearly
four-fifths of their residents moved in after 1980. This lends support to our second hypothesis. New slums continue taking shape. The number of unidentified slums are more than the identified ones.

Slums appeared on the fringe of the built up area of Old Faridabad and Ballabgarh when they existed as separate towns. In NIT zone the slums appeared near the industrial area on the sites earmarked for parks. Once the Faridabad Complex was formed all these slums fell in the Municipal Corporation land. Thus, not all slums came up on the periphery, as hypothesised.

More than 90 percent of the households in the slums are migrants with a majority of hailing from outside. The population of scheduled (low) castes amongst them is large. The income level of the slum dwellers is also low. The hypothesis on the socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers is validated.

Nearly all the slums are on public land falling under different government agencies.

The hypothesis that government measures for improvement of slums did not meet with much success is supported by the present study. Whenever slum dwellers were relocated, even through provision of built tenements or serviced plots, they came back to their original site either because of its proximity to their work place or a desire to make easy money through a sale of the allotted plot or dwelling. Despite huge investments in service through the Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums Programme, hardly one-third of the slum population has benefitted. Services were often provided in a piecemeal rather in a package. It seems that planners have not been adequately trained in management of slums.