CHAPTER X

MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS

Introduction

Apart from residential, business and industrial functions, a metropolis has a number of other functions to perform. In brief, the social, cultural and medical services have played a significant and constructive role in the morphology and functional setting of a metropolis. The administrative, educational, medical, recreational, cultural and religious areas are quite different from each other in terms of location, size, complexity and their respective functions, and as such their impact on the morphology of the mother city is of considerable importance.

Administrative Functions

All metropolitan cities in varying degrees apply administrative principles to achieve desired governmental objectives. The extent to which they do so depends largely on the forms of government employed by them. In the ancient period, the administrative areas were attached to the castles, palaces and other kingly abodes. The administrative buildings were confined to these premises. With the arrival of the British, the civil
lines were separately established mostly for administrative purposes. After independence, other government and semi-government agencies sprang up in other areas also. Many administrative offices have occupied private buildings and are mixed with other types of functional uses. The administrative units of Civil Lines have their distinct morphology of open surroundings and huge buildings. Sometimes business and residential uses emerge in this area. Age of construction, the prevailing architectural models and patterns and finally the demands and needs for planned space utilization have caused differential patterns in the morphology of the administrative areas.

Delhi: Delhi is the capital of India and has, for this reason, a large number of administrative and other governmental functions to perform for the country as a whole. So, the administrative role of this metropolis is the most important of all. The morphological frame of this unique administrative zone is famous for the grandeur and pomp of its gigantic stone-built structures in open surroundings on planned road patterns. The Parliament House and the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the centre dominate the entire panorama of huge structures. The various administrative offices, the residences of Government of India personnel, Members of the Parliament
and the Ministers are all situated in this zone. The pattern is hexagonal with wide tree-aligned roads associated and flanked by big compounds of centrally located buildings. The nucleus of the Union Government offices of Delhi is formed by the existing north and south blocks of the Central Secretariat. To this nucleus have recently been added Udyog Bhawan and Krishi Bhawan. In addition, there are a large number of huts and barracks around the Secretariat which house various offices of the Central Government. Indraprastha Estate has recently been developed as a centre for Government offices. The open nature of the buildings, wide roads, huge compounds, few hotels, restaurants and clubs and recreational centres characterise the look of these localities. Besides, the Civil Lines of Delhi are characterised by open spaces and interspersed with Victorian and Edwardian bungalows.

Other Metropolises: Other metropolises of the country have no such distinct and separate administrative zone like Delhi. However, most of them being the State capitals or the district headquarters have got considerable administrative importance. In Calcutta, the administrative offices of the governments are mainly situated in the C.B.D., namely the Writers' Buildings and the New Secretariat. Side by side are situated the police headquarters
Bombay is noted for its administrative functions being the capital of Maharashtra. A view of Sachi-valaya - the State Secretariat.
at Lalbazar, the G.P.O., the High Court, the Central Telegraph office, Reserve Bank of India and many other offices, relating to census, agriculture, irrigation, electricity and others.

In Bangalore, the State government offices include the buildings like State Government Secretariat and newly built Vidhan Sauda. Vidhan Sauda is well planned in Dravidian style, rectangular in shape, with open courtyards and house the Assembly Halls, Legislative Councils, Government Secretariat and the Huzur Treasury.

In Bombay, the administrative functions are confined to the southern tip of the island where Government offices, banks, big business houses and other financial institutions are accommodated. The share of administrative areas in Kanpur is very insignificant. The area in this River Front Sector houses a number of government administrative offices like district subdivision offices, Revenue offices, district census offices etc. Newly developed Swaroop Nagar and Pandu Nagar have provision of separate planned office area with open spaces, wide roads, parks and playgrounds.

The framework of administrative areas was laid down by legislation of the late 19th century, as to call for drastic revision of the latter. Changed
The Vidhan Soudha Building (Legislative Assembly) at Bangalore. Being the capital of Karnataka, Bangalore is noted for its administrative function.
conditions of urban equipment and accessibility call for adjustments in administrative areas to remove the striking discrepancies that now exist between them and the current social regions.

Educational Functions

In India, education has progressed a long way from the colonial days. Our educational system has given the individual an opportunity to develop his talents. Of all the basic needs of a community, the most pressing and immediate is the provision of educational facilities. The metropolises are the centres where various cultural elements play their important role in shaping the social life of the urban organism. Almost all of them have developed educational zones with distinct morphological structure and their distribution pattern has caused differentiation of its various parts as well. These have played an important role in determining the mode of city life.

Most of the educational institutions, except some of the Universities and big colleges, were previously located in the old parts of cities. However, towards the end of 1930's and especially after Independence, some educational zones in large open spaces often detached from the old centres, were evolved. Generally, the densely inhabited localities are clustered
A portion of the Osmania University at Hyderabad built in some of the palaces of Nizam. Notice the typical Muslim architecture.
with the higher secondary schools because of keen com-
petitions among them and lack of transport facilities
in the outskirts. Thus, most of the colleges lie mostly
in the inner and middle zones of the city proper. Degree
colleges, specialised technical and training centres,
and universities being the large institutions draw
students from different corners of the state and the
country. They also require extensive and cheap land
for hostels, college buildings, play-grounds and libr-
aries etc. in the locations easily approachable from
every part of the city and the umland. Universities
are generally grown up in the outskirts. Primary and
nursery schools are set up predominantly in residen-
tial areas, though sometimes they are situated in loca-
lities of mixed uses.

The increasing need for educational facili-
ties of different standards and types has led to the
intensification of educational zones. There are three
main classes of educational units: the Universities,
I.I.T's and other big institutions with their defined
campuses, colleges, secondary schools of composite
pattern, nursery and primary schools and small train-
ing centres may be included within the system.

Calcutta: In Calcutta, enough primary and secondary
schools, to meet the growing needs of a population have
not been set up. Acute shortage of space for the
The administrative sections of Hyderabad built during Nizam's time on the Musi river. The hutments in front are the sprawling market of Charminar.
construction of new buildings for schools is the main cause. Moreover, the present schools of all types are extremely overcrowded. The College Street area forms the main zone where the University of Calcutta, Medical College, Presidency College and other schools and colleges are located. This area is also famous for the bookshops of all types. The newly developed extensions of the different branches of the University are, however, found in different parts of the city, for example the two units of the University College of Science, Indian Statistical Institute, Indian Institute of Management, etc. The original University campus is very ancient and is famous for its tradition and culture.

**Delhi:** The educational facilities of Delhi is satisfactory. Of the total recognised schools, 218 have got students attending double shifts and function as two schools. By every standard, the existing schools are acutely congested. Most of the higher secondary schools are co-educational. Higher college and University education is assuming increasing importance in Delhi. The University of Delhi is located in the north of Delhi, in the Civil Lines area. Besides the University and constituent colleges, there are 15 colleges scattered all over urban Delhi. Moreover, there are a number of research institutions like All India Institute of Medical Science, Central Road Research Institute, etc.
Other Metropolises: Amongst the other metropolises facilities for primary and secondary education in Bombay are fairly well distributed. There are 1,546 primary and 363 secondary schools. Regarding higher and University education, within Greater Bombay, the distribution shows a highly imbalanced pattern with the suburban area coming out as relatively undeveloped.

In Bombay, there are 2470 primary and secondary schools with 22,500 divisions and 1.45 million students (1974). Primary schools are responsibilities of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, which has its own schools and which spends the aggregate budget of Rs. 10 crores a year. Most of the schools are not only overcrowded, but many suffer from severe limitations of class rooms, teaching materials, equipments, furniture and staff. Most of the higher education facilities are concentrated in the primate city and are almost non-existent in the region. Greater Bombay has about 61 colleges and 21 other institutions. Besides, there are 148 commercial schools, 23 technical high schools, 7 poly-technic institutions and 10 diploma institutions.

The main constituent of the Madras Metropolitan Area with regard to general education facilities shows that the bulk of educational effort at the High School stage is by private institutions. At the Primary and Middle Stage, Municipal and Corporation schools predominate.
These schools in most of the cases obtain grants from Government. School facilities in the shape of proper buildings, water and sanitary arrangement and playground are unsatisfactory. Only 3% of the Primary schools and 6% of the High schools come up to the norms fixed for playgrounds. The situation is similar as regards class room space. Almost all the schools have inadequate lavatory, water and teaching equipment facilities. The future programme should aim at construction of new schools, planned, well organised, well equipped and properly distributed system of facilities. In the matter of higher education, the city is well placed. Considering the future dimensions of higher education, establishment of two additional universities in the area - one for technical education and another for general collegiate education will be called for. In so far as adult education is concerned, the Government have a scheme under the Five Year Plans for adult education. The impact on productivity of the level of education is known to be very high. Hence, the elimination of adult illiteracy will have a direct effect on improving the economic condition of the Madras Metropolitan Area.

The educational zone of Bangalore roughly coincides with the administrative zone of the city. There appears to be a move of declaring this as the university
area with the Central College as its nucleus and shifting all the administrative offices to some other part. In all there are 42 high schools in Bangalore. Besides there are degree colleges, engineering and medical colleges and many other professional institutions and research centres.

Kanpur, being an industrial city, paid little attention towards the development of higher education. Recently, the city has established several technical and other institutions in its western part like Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T.), Government Agricultural College and G.S.V. Memorial Medical College. In this western part (The River front sector), all the graduate and post-graduate colleges are located. The basic primary and secondary schools are mainly located in all the residential areas of the city.

Medical Facilities

Health is the greatest asset of any metropolitan region. The health of the citizen is a matter of national concern. Both prosperity and security depend upon the maintenance of the public health at the highest possible level. Unfortunately, the medical services in the metropolises are far from adequate. All the metropolises have developed some sort of a medical zone. These zones
comprise of the hospital buildings, the residences of the doctors and other employees within a large compound. The older medical establishments are situated in the congested part of the metropolis, where the new ones develop in the open areas preferably in the new extensions with better plans. The old hospital zones are now quite congested and their healthy atmosphere is almost deteriorating rapidly; while the newly developed medical units with their large compounds, beautiful sets of buildings as well as different departments of respective medical services, added by parks, open spaces and wide roads present better and healthy atmosphere. There is an increasing tendency in the country to open medical colleges in big cities and it has enhanced the capacity and functioning potentiality of the medical zones. With growing urban functions, independent clinics and dispensaries of private doctors are coming up. The recent trend of enhancing medical services in the metropolises are opening a new chapter by establishing specialised services such as sanatoriums, eye hospitals, maternity centres, poly clinics, etc. in the open surroundings of the city. These areas are sufficient to attract the growth and expansion of the city by attracting business and residential establishments and other activities related to medical services. As such the requisite comforts of the patients are available in a short reach of this zone. Another category of medical
establishments consists of the private dispensaries, nursing homes etc. Such establishments are generally located in the residential buildings. In all the metropolises, the hospitals are most unevenly distributed. The newly built hospitals are, however, located in the outer zones away from the congested parts of the city. Provisions for adequate health and medical services is clearly an essential element in a comprehensive plan for well organised community facilities. Low social service budgets and the depressed economic condition of the bulk of the population impede the expansion of the present health services.

Calcutta is quite well-known for her renowned physicians and her vastly-extended medical facilities. There are 330 hospitals and dispensaries now functioning within the CMD. The city contains a very large concentration of doctors, nurses and an almost exclusive assembly of medical specialists and consultants. A number of medical colleges (for example Calcutta Medical College & Hospital, R.G. Kar Medical College, N.R.S. Medical College), Hospitals (for example Calcutta Hospital, Marwari Relief Society, S.S.K.M. Hospital), and Nursing Homes (Belle-View Clinic, Woodland Nursing Home) and family planning centres are located in the metropolis. Besides there are many charitable dispensaries and dispensaries of private practitioners. People from the sub-urban areas and also from other states often come to Calcutta to seek the advice
from the doctors of specialised branches. Still with regard to the vast area of the CMD, the medical facilities seem to be inadequate, especially in the non-urbanised rural sectors and in the remote suburban area. In the city too, congested out-patient departments are to be found in every hospital. The wards are overcrowded with extra beds.

Medical facilities are concentrated in the island city of Bombay metropolitan region. In the other urban parts and in the rural parts, the distribution of medical facilities are not only uneven but are grossly inadequate. There are 53 government and municipal hospitals in Greater Bombay. Moreover, there are 88 private aided and non-aided hospitals, 24 public and private general hospitals, 87 public dispensaries, 26 primary health centres and 31 family planning centres. In Bombay, there are 13 social education treatment centres under leprosy eradication programme.

Delhi is well-known for its general as well as specialised medical services. The All India Institute of Medical Science has a world-wide reputation. Delhi has five big general hospitals (for example, Irwin Hospital, Willingdon Hospital, Safdarjang Hospital). Besides there are special hospitals like a T.B. Hospital, an I.D. Hospital. In addition, there are several private hospitals,
clinics and nursing homes in different parts of the city mostly housed in residential buildings with the exception of a few. The entire western part of the city has no public hospital. Besides all these, there are health centres and family planning clinics serving the needs of the local people.

Like most urban services, medical facilities in Madras city have also deteriorated in recent years. Today, there are 16 hospitals with a total bed strength of 8,091. Wards are overcrowded, corridors are converted into wards and temporary structures are erected to meet the ever-increasing demand for hospital space. The future programme aims at construction of 23 new hospitals, and in addition bringing the existing hospitals to desirable standards. The position as regards to clinics, dispensaries and child welfare centres meant to serve the non-hospital needs of the communities is also deficient. The task of providing adequate medical facilities calls for an intense effort. A large part of future health facilities will have to be provided in the new urban centres because of population increase in these areas.

Bangalore is well-served regarding the availability of medical facilities. The city has 13 hospitals, 21 dispensaries, 26 maternity homes, 26 child welfare centres,
18 family planning units, 3 sanatoria, 32 E.S.I. dispensaries and 3 veterinary hospitals. There are special institutions like the Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, the Mental Health Institute etc.

Kanpur suffers more from ill health than any other city of the State. In all, there are more than 80 hospitals and dispensaries of all kinds, which seem awfully inadequate for the growing population of the city. The hospitals are not evenly distributed in the city. The main hospitals (G.S.V. medical College Hospital, L.L.R. Hospital) of the city are located in the outer zones away from the congested part of the city.

Recreational Facilities

Recreation is an individual responsibility, but providing recreational facilities on an organised basis are not within the means of an individual. The city must provide the parks, playgrounds etc. Failure to do so often results in increased costs for health, welfare and social services. In most of the cities of India, green space and open spaces are progressively disappearing as more and more people congregate in them. Recreation as a municipal function grew rather slowly. At the turn of the century, the city planners become conscious of the idea of the "city beautiful" and the green spaces are
now set aside to enable the citizen to gain monetary respite from the tensions of city life. Varied healthful recreation for all age groups can help in solving many of our social problems, without which an increase in social imbalance is likely.

The recreation centres, the entertainment and amusement activities of the urbanites take varied forms either as commercial or as public and mass entertainment bases. The commercialised entertainments include cinemas, clubs, restaurants, race course, golf clubs, auditoriums, theatres etc. Though they do not have any particular zone in the city, they are sometimes common and occur side by side in the congested residential parts of the city. The existence of tanks, playgrounds, public meeting places, stadiums and some religious institutions of enlarged social activities have helped in creating a zonal atmosphere in their locality. In the metropolises, the recreational areas of the unplanned and planned sectors are quite different from one another. In the unplanned areas, the recreation spots (parks, playgrounds, zoo etc.) are not very attractive because of poor maintenance, lack of space and lack of aesthetic sense in the public using them. In recent years, some renovation have provided proper fencing, sitting arrangements, lawns etc. to them. The playgrounds are inadequate to meet the existing need.
In the planned extensions of the metropolis, the parks, playgrounds, lakes and other recreational spots are properly developed. Usually, they are provided with lawns, flower bases, the approach road, the divided sectors, the common sitting places, a canteen, cafeteria, snack-bar, club, rest-house etc. The green buffer is being developed in every planned locality to fight pollution, to maintain the ecological balance and to bring natural splendour to otherwise ugly urban life. A massive tree-planting campaign is under way. Swimming pools and artificial lakes are being developed to provide more recreational space for the city dwellers. All these are common to New Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and in the newly planned areas of Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur.

The Calcutta Metropolitan District presently has very few public parks, playgrounds and other recreation spaces. By far the greater proportion of the recreation space is in the old central areas, the major part being provided by the Botanical Gardens and vast open space of the Calcutta Maidan and Eden Garden, the green lung through which the dense, congested city is able to breathe a little. Besides the Maidan and the lake area in the South Calcutta, there are very few parks. But a recent survey has shown that there is a surprising amount of land within many of the older and densely built up areas.
of the CMD that is lying vacant. As regards indoor recreational facilities, the city has 81 cinema halls and 10 theatre halls and a few numbers of auditorium, stadium, race-course and golf club. A comprehensive plan for urban recreation has been undertaken to provide outdoor as well as regional level recreational facilities, for example a new metropolitan park between Budge Budge and Eiren Roy Road, a park at Kalyani and a number of picnic spots.

Bombay is relatively better provided in respect of indoor recreational facilities. There are 92 cinema theatres with a seating capacity of 74,000. In addition, there are 6 swimming pools, 4 auditoriums, 4 halls, 2 museums, 3 art galleries and an aquarium. So far as outdoor recreation is concerned, Bombay has one of the finest race courses, 2 well laid out golf courses, the finest stadium in the country, and equally good grounds for hockey and football. Besides, there are regional level recreational facilities and places of tourist and historical interest, for example, Amberath, Elephants and Bird Sanctuary, Chanderi and other forts, Tungar Hill etc.

The largest developed and maintained public open space in Delhi is the Central Vista Park of about 300 acres. Another large open space is outside Kashmere Gate area of about 115 acres. Towards the eastern end of
Chandni Chowk, is the walled city's largest public open space of about 90 acres facing the historic Red Fort. Besides, there are Ram Lila Ground, Buddha Gardens etc. Like other metropolises, Delhi too has a number of cinema, theatre, auditorium, hotels and restaurants and a number of places of tourist and historic interests. Picnic spots are being developed around monuments for example in Zoo, Red Fort, Kutub Minar, Najafgarh Jhil and Okhla are hunting spots. Some regional parks have been developed in the Metropolitan Region of Delhi, for example in Ridge area, Mehrauli area and Tughlakabad Fort area.

The poverty of open spaces in Madras at local level is evident from the fact that there are barely 87 parks, and 37 playgrounds for the entire city and most of them are small and most inconveniently located. These are few and far between in the closely built up sectors of the city. There are only three metropolitan level open spaces in the city:— (1) the area behind the Corporation offices consisting of a stadium, zoological gardens and My Lady's garden, (2) the Guindy Park near Raj Bhavan, and (3) the beach extending for over 6 Kms. along the coast-line in the north-south direction. None of these open spaces has been utilised to the optimum extent. The regional recreational facilities in the metropolis include public stadia, picnic spots, metropolitan parks for
family excursions and organised outings, golf courses, race tracks, fair grounds etc. The local recreational facilities are provided by playgrounds, parks and composite recreation centres like cinema, theatres, hotels, bars etc. The spatial distribution of these facilities largely depend on the availability of suitable land, particularly in built up areas.

Bangalore is a city of parks and probably no city in India provides such natural and man-made settings as this. There are two big parks, namely, Lal Bagh and Cubbon Park and 36 small ones in the city. Besides, there are 3 swimming pools, 3 stadia, 56 cinema houses and 7 open air theatres.

There is a great dearth of recreational facilities in Kanpur. The only park providing facilities for active recreation is B.S. Park. Kamala Retreat is another beautiful spot for recreation. In all, there are 20 cinema houses, and they are the main recreation centres for the citizens. The playground at Green Park is used for all the national and international matches.

Religious and Cultural Functions

The religious belief of the common people and the need for worship are very important in the evolution of a metropolis since its very inception. The temple, mosque
and the church play their respective role. In general, they do not have any pronounced impact on the morphology of an Indian metropolis, despite their preponderance in some sectors of it.