CHAPTER-3
URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS IN HARYANA: AN OVERVIEW

In this chapter an attempt has been made to: (i) present historical evolution of urban-rural relations in Haryana and (ii) examine the latest spatial patterns of urban-rural relations in Haryana with the help of four indicators representing the dimensions of commuting, commodity flow and service exchange. These two aspects of urban-rural relations (evolution and spatial patterns) have been covered under two sections.

SECTION-I
EVOLUTION OF URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS

Historical evolution of urban-rural relations has been described under ancient, medieval and modern periods. However, post-independence period has also been taken care of with emphasis on the period since formation of Haryana.

Ancient Period

Haryana came into existence as a political entity on 1 November 1966 out of the womb of Punjab. However, it has its roots in ancient history. Since pre-vedic times people have been settling here, as is evidenced by various excavations in the state. These excavations reveal that even in Harappan period, there were settlements basically in the western part of Haryana where even urban centres had evolved to serve that time rural settlements of their surroundings. Though these centres were functioning as market for the agricultural produce, yet some tracemarks have been found of the market places selling bangles and beads which show that other trades were also in operation at that time. In Haryana Rakhi Garhi and Banawali have been traced as urban centres of this civilization which existed since 2500 to 1800 BC. Urban-rural relations had been limited in that time period due to conventional modes of transport (wheel-cart).

With the coming of Aryans, the Vedic Age dawned. In Vedic period, there were no such urban centres because of Vedic civilization being basically a rural civilization. After that urban centres were prominent in Mauryan period (325 BC to 183 BC). Due to development of agriculture and trade, urban centres emerged which became the abode of elite class at that time. These urban centres depended on the supply of vegetables and foodgrains from the rural areas and rulers imposed various kinds of
taxes on the agricultural land for the maintenance of army and various administrative activities (Thapar, 1990). After Mauryas, this land was ruled by Guptas (320AD to 550AD). Rural population suffered even in this golden age of Indian history. Disintegration of this mighty empire attracted Bactarians, Greeks, Seythians, Parthians and Kushans as foreign invaders. In early years of 6th century A.D., Thanesar Kingdom was established by Pushpbhuti. Harshavardhan (606 to 647 A.D.) was the mightiest ruler of Thanesar. Huien Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, gave beautiful account of prosperity of his empire. After dissolution of Harsh’s empire Pratihara and Tomar Rajputs emerged in Haryana. Though most of the rulers in the ancient period were Hindus, their aim was not to suppress the rural populace of Haryana but it happened in the process of protecting their kingdoms from the foreign invaders (Sharma, 2005). At that time, rulers were engaged in fortifying their capital towns. In other words, that was a phase of urban-rural separation.

**Medieval Period**

In 1014 A.D., Mohammed Ghajani attacked Thanesar. Bisaldev conquered Delhi and Haryana in 1156 A.D. and captured Delhi and Hansi from Tomars. Thus, Chauhans established their rule over Haryana in 12th Century. With the defeat of the last Rajput ruler Prithviraj Chauhan at the hands of Mohammad Ghori in 1192 A.D. at Tarain (Tarawadi), Haryana entered a new chapter of history during which the rural populace (mostly Hindus) of Haryana had to face subjugation, intimidation, humiliation and hardships during the entire period of Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526AD). By levying heavy land revenue and humiliating taxes like Jeziya on Hindus, the Turkish Sultans deliberately impoverished and squeezed them so that they could never have the sources to muster courage for rebellion.

In the year 1398 A.D., Haryana tract had to witness loot, plunder and massacre at the hands of Timur who had come to plunder Delhi (then renowned the world over for its riches). In the early years of 15th century, Sultanate indicated the signs of disintegration, intrigues, conspiracies and fissiparous tendencies. The ruling authority lost its hold over much of the empire. With the advent of Lodhi rule under Sikander Lodhi, the old tale of repression and persecution was revised rather with much more cruelty and ruthlessness. Under the rule of Ibrahim Lodhi, his conspiring nobles and some native Hindu rulers especially Rana Sanga invited Babur, a Turk. This led to the
historic first battle of Panipat in the year 1526. The Lodhis were defeated and Babur laid down the foundation of the Mughal Empire which lasted for more than two centuries.

Haryana tract remained comparatively quiet during the times of Jahangir and Shah Jahan. Pleasure loving Jahangir did not disturb the village life and contended himself with the mere collection of land revenue. Shah Jahan, the great builder, could hardly find time to devote towards native repression. But Aurangzeb, the last great Mughal and orthodox Muslim, once again started repeating Sultanate history. The invasions of Nadir Shah Durrani (Persian) and Ahmed Shah Abdali (Afghan) further aggravated the deteriorating condition of Haryana. Towards the middle of the 18th century, Marathas under the leadership of Peshwas had established their supremacy over Haryana. Maratha rulers were also not less than Mughal rulers in exploiting rural populace. The intrusion of Afghan, Ahmed Shah Abdali into India, culminated in the third battle of Panipat on Jan. 14, 1761. Ahmad Shah defeated the Marathas and this marked the end of the Maratha ascendancy. The defeat of the Marathas led to the rapid decline of the Mughal Empire after Aurangzeb’s death ultimately leading to the advent of the British rule (Sharma, 2005). Thus, urban-rural relations were based on varying degree of suppression and exploitation throughout the medieval period.

Modern Period

The year 1803 is an important year in the history of Haryana. In this year, the present day Haryana and Delhi came under control of the East India Company of Britain. At that time, Delhi was being ruled by old and week Mughal ruler Shah Alam. But real power lay in the hands of Maratha leader Daulat Rao Sindhia, who acted as his regent. Though Haryanvis fought with Marathas against the British, yet lost the battle. On 30 September, 1803, the Maratha leader Daulat Rao Sindhia decided to make peace with the British by signing a treaty with the East India Company. Under this treaty, the areas of Haryana and Delhi came under the British control.

But, the people of Haryana being independent minded didn’t like outsiders meddling in their affairs (Sharma, 2005). Therefore, they rose in revolt against the rulers. But by 1809, the British had established full control over the territory of Haryana. Their rule was totally based on exploitation. They wanted the British interests
to be fulfilled. Their main aim was to supply the raw material for the industries of 
Britain and sell the products in the markets here. Traditional crafts were destroyed due 
to their policy of imperial preferences. Commercial crops like indigo and cotton were 
given preference in the production, which resulted in enhanced urban-rural relations 
though these were exploitative in nature. Moreover, shortage of foodgrains and 
droughts made the situation even more miserable of the rural population. Transport 
facilities were also to fulfill the interests of the British and not for developing urban-
rural relations for the betterment of the rural population. This eroded the basic rural 
structure of the area. Mahalwari system of land revenue was implemented in this area, 
under which a big chunk of the produce was levied as land revenue and the farmers 
were left with bare minimum to survive. They had to sell even part of their lands to pay 
that revenue. This was also hiked with the passage of time. Thus, urban-rural relations 
were merely based on exploitation to fulfill the Britishers interest in this phase of 
history.

Post-Independence Period

After a long period of suppression, India got freedom from the cruel rule of 
Britishers on 15th August, 1947. Haryana became the part of the East Punjab. Punjabi 
speaking migrants from the province’s Eastern region came to Haryana. They came not 
only from the most developed region of Punjab but also from the urban centres of that 
region. A good percentage of them were settled in rural Haryana also. These urban 
migrants took to small business for which village life offered ample scope. These 
families took to selling vegetables, fruits, clothes and utensils. The males of these 
families would go on bicycles to the nearby town to bring goods to be sold in their 
shops.

There were no fruit and vegetable shops before coming in contact with these 
Punjabi migrants. Even the use of soap for washing hands or clothes was not known to 
the rural folk. Combing hair or brushing teeth with paste, polishing shoes and such 
other daily needs of life were equally unknown to the villagers. With these migrants as 
models of new life, call it urban or modern, the villagers started adopting, though 
slowly, their way of life.
Thus, the Punjabi speaking migrants contributed to the modernization of Haryana affecting the core sectors of economy and education. The addition of educational institutions in Haryana like DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) and SD (Sanatan Dharma) and Khalsa schools and colleges by these Punjabi migrants was phenomenal. They shifted their colleges from Lahore to Ambala (Sanatan Dharma), Faridabad, Hisar, Panipat and other towns also. This movement in the growth of educational institutions had great impact on the life in rural Haryana as well. The towns being accessible from almost each village, all those in a position to afford education sent their wards to the schools and colleges in the towns. All this brought about a cultural revolution in Haryana resulting in enhancement of urban-rural relations (Dahiya, 2011).

However, Haryana tract was loser in the development as a part of the East Punjab. On 23rd April, 1966, acting on the recommendation of the Hukam Singh Committee, the Indian Government set up Shah Commission under the chairmanship of Justice J.C. Shah to divide and set up the boundaries of Punjab and Haryana. After receiving the report of the Shah Commission, the Indian Government passed Punjab Reorganization Bill (1966) on 18 September, 1966 and Haryana came into existence (Sharma, 2005).

**Since Formation of Haryana**

However, since 1966, the state government has been taking steps, initiating policies and programmes towards betterment of life in villages. At the dawn of freedom, there were dusty cart tracks, a few rail links and scarce bus services. There used to be torturing journey on horsebacks, camel back or slow moving bullock driven carts. Means of transport and communication, now employed and enjoyed by the people in far-off places, could not have even been imagined. Urban-rural relations were limited to the necessity of the rural populace and to sell the agricultural produce in the market. But now the network of highways and village link roads is spread like arteries and filled with buses, trucks, tractor trailers, motorbikes and cars (Thukral, 2011). In addition to these, tremendous increase in communication means like television and media penetration with a number of newspapers in rural areas have made the rural and urban areas closer to each other.
Green Revolution (1966) has completely changed the face of rural Haryana. Chaudhary Charan Singh Agricultural University at Hisar (one of Asia’s biggest agricultural sciences universities) has been the harbinger of Green Revolution in India. Backed by better technology, irrigation and credit network, it has transformed agriculture and farming practices beyond recognition. Now tractors, other modern agricultural equipments, fertilizers and hybrid seeds have replaced the old agricultural methods. It gave a push to the productivity and freed manpower. Growth of the fertilizer and tool industries as a result of Green Revolution created more jobs in factories and transport contributing to the urban-rural interaction. Repair of farm machinery like tractors, harvesters, tube wells has generated employment and income in the rural areas. Green Revolution brought huge monetary benefits to the farmers. They were provided with high subsidies. Minimum support price (MSP) was fixed for various crops so that farmers could easily sell their crop and get a good return. Now, the agriculturists are getting more and more credit facilities through the State Government, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks resulting in increased urban-rural relations (Sharma, 2011).

As a result of Green Revolution, Haryana has emerged as food basket for India in the production of different crops. In 1966-67, wheat production was mere 10.59 lakh tonnes while in 2009-10, the wheat production has crossed 105 lakh tonnes. Paddy production was just 2.23 lakh tonnes but now it is crossing 53 lakh tonnes. Cotton production has increased from 2.88 lakh bales to 56 bales. Similar is the story of oil seeds production. Farming has become highly mechanized commercial operation. It has made farmers prosperous, though not all, and their huge spending power is visible in bustling bazars of the state making urban-rural relations stronger.

After tremendous increase in foodgrains production, need was felt to diversify agriculture. Now, the main stress has been laid on the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, mushroom, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic crops. During 1966-67, the cultivation of mushroom was almost nil in the state. Now, Haryana has emerged as one of the leading states in India in mushroom cultivation. Haryana state is fast emerging as one of the leading states in the field of Horticulture. In the state, the area under various horticulture crops has increased from 0.42 per cent of the cropped area in 1966-67 to 5.10 per cent of the cropped area in 2006-07. The state is ideally suited for exploiting
Plate 3.1
Pre-Green Revolution Agricultural Techniques

Plate 3.2
Post-Green Revolution Agricultural Techniques
the potential of horticulture production due to its close proximity to the metropolitan city of Delhi.

Green Revolution also contributed to the White Revolution and resulted in making Haryana the largest producer of milk and milk products (Brar, 2011). Dairy-farming plays a significant role in the rural economy by providing gainful employment particularly to the small/marginal farmers, women and agricultural landless labourers. This provides milk which is in great demand in urban centres for consumption and various industries related to milk products. Milk production has increased from 10.89 lakh metric tonnes since 1966-67 to 53.67 lakh metric tonnes in 2006-07. It is quite appropriate to call Haryana as Denmark of India being the home track of ‘Haryana’ breed of cows and world famous ‘Murrah’ buffaloes.

Other newer initiatives like poultry-farming, fish-culture and bee-keeping are also being accepted by the farmers as subsidiary occupations along with agriculture. In the year 1966-67, there was only one Haryana Govt. Poultry Farm and 3 Poultry Extension Centres in the state and in 2006-07, their number increased to 4 and 22 respectively. Hatcheries of international fame are located in Haryana. Egg production increased from about 5000 lakh in year 1991 to 41140 lakh in 2007-08. As a result of various measures adopted by the Fishery Department, the fish production has increased from 625 tonnes in the year 1966-67 to 60,080 tonnes in 2006-07. In 11th plan, target for fish production is 90,000 tonnes. These initiatives help in strengthening urban-rural relations because of their backward (purchase of inputs) and forward (sale of produce) linkages.

State government initiated infrastructural development because of rising demand for development infrastructure like roads, banks, industry, health and schools in the state. As a result, length of national and state highways increased manifold and today cent percent villages are connected to metalled roads from just 1,476 villages in 1966-67. Same is the case with number of cars, motorcycles, tractors, buses, trucks and other vehicles contributing in urban-rural interaction process. Easy transportation and journey through roads paved way for commerce and trade in villages. The number of small scale units has increased today to 80,000 from 4,753 (in 1966) generating employment for 8.70 lakh persons. There are total of 1,354 large and medium scale
Plate 3.3

A View of a Modern High Tech. Dairy in Village Patti Afgan (Kaithal)

Plate 3.4

A View of a Poultry-Farm (Hatchery) in Village Munnerheri (Kaithal)
Plate 3.5

A View of Green House Cultivation in Village Kond (Karnal)

Plate 3.6

A View of Mushroom Cultivation in Village Siswal (Hisar)
Plate 3.7

Vegetable Cultivation (Ladyfinger) in Village Depal (Hisar)

Plate 3.8

Vegetable Cultivation (Ridge Gourd) in village Barsana (Kaithal)
industries all across the state providing employment to rural workers which increase the urban-rural interaction (Sharma, 2011).

At the time of state formation, the state had 4,449 primary and pre-primary schools and at present, the number has gone over 13,000. The number of middle schools was 735 in 1966-67, which has increased to 3,476 as recorded in 2009-10. Similarly, the number of high/secondary schools was just 597, now it is more than 6,500. The state has 20 universities from just one Kurukshetra University in 1966-67 and very soon, it will add two women universities; one already functioning in Sonipat district and another planned near Yamunanagar. From 40 government and government aided colleges, the number has gone up to 182 (Sharma, 2011). It boasts of a prime institute, Indian Institute of Management at Rohtak. A Defence University is also coming up to provide an edge in the fields of learning and culture. There are 569 technical institutions in Haryana. In other words, it can be said that it is all set to be hub of education. Commuting of staff and students to these institutes strengthen urban-rural relations. There are scores of boys and girls of many villages working in public and private sectors commuting to the urban centres.

The state is taking care of health problems through a large network of dispensaries, primary health centres, rural sub-centres and big hospitals further increasing the urban-rural interaction process. The total number of medical institutions in villages was 656 when the state came into existence and with government intervention, the number increased to 2,907 as recorded in the year 2008-09 (Sharma, 2011). Now, healthcare is provided through 52 hospitals, 94 community health centres, 441 primary health centres, 2,465 health sub-centres, 15 district TB hospitals and 51 dispensaries. Six district hospitals are now being upgraded into state-of-the-art Multi Specialty Hospitals at Gurgaon, Hisar, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Sonipat and Rohtak. Three medical colleges are coming up at Khanpur Kalan, Sonipat and Nalhar, Mewat and Kalpana Chawla Medical College at Karnal further enhancing urban-rural interaction (Sharma, 2010).

In addition to the infrastructural development various schemes of the government like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS, 2008) for unskilled manpower of villages, Old Age Pension Scheme for
elderly people and government schemes for girls giving a push to women education in rural areas are transforming rural Haryana and, of course, the lives of rural folks by increasing their interaction with the city (Sharma, 2011).

It can be concluded that without Green Revolution, Haryana could not have achieved the present level of development. Green Revolution created a prosperous class of farmers that means a large class of consumers necessary for industrial development. It also created surplus capital which led to the fulfillment of modern pleasures of easy life. All this is playing the role of a catalyst in strengthening the urban-rural relations. Green Revolution certainly changed the rural lifestyle in Haryana.

Change in Life Style after Green Revolution

The change in living style has been much more rapid over the last three or four decades. As the new rural generation seeks to emulate the city lifestyle, a new urbanized lifestyle is evolving. Villages are rapidly becoming/eager to become city clones (Jodhka, 2010). Even while living in a village, people have picked up urban ways. Thus, metrofication of the villages is taking place in terms of growing consumption culture. The living standard of people has improved drastically. Their simple houses made of bricks changed into palaces with all the modern amenities. Now, most of the villagers have access to washing machines, refrigerators, televisions, mixer grinders and even cars.

They have cable connections and most of them have mobile connections as well. The new language, one hears in the market places, in buses or trains or in colleges and universities, is mixture of Hindi, English, Punjabi and of course with a tapping of Haryanvi. The dress sense of the people also changed with time. With more money at their disposal, they have become more style and brand conscious in choice of clothes. Urban culture is influencing the taste buds of rural people as well. Milk products and bajrey ki roti are getting replaced with fruits, vegetables and other products.

Thus, every aspect of life got changed. All this is the result of increased urban-rural relations due to Green Revolution. Media penetration with a number of newspapers in rural areas has made the rural and urban centres closer to each other. Information technology has transformed the life in variety of ways. Modernization has
Plate 3.9

Use of Information Technology

Plate 3.10

Changing face of rural Haryana
affected agriculture in a big way as today a farmer is more informed about the prevailing rates in mandis and if he is not, then he can enquire the same over his mobile. In the last two decades during which there has been exponential increase in information technology, first television and now internet is penetrating the state's rural areas exposing them to exotic cultures, avant-grade ideas and progressive precepts and practices. It led to occupational changes in rural areas. Farmers’ sons and daughters as engineers, doctors and teachers or in civil service is the result of this increased urban-rural interaction. Thus, urban-rural relations have impact on their social life, the language they speak and food they eat or dress they wear (Thukral, 2011).

In sum, after formation of Haryana, rural areas became prosperous but more benefits were accrued to the urban centres in this phase also. Though rural areas contributed to a large extent in this development process, yet major beneficiaries remained the urban centres. Slowly, with increased literacy rates rural population became conscious of this biasness and different pressure groups like Haryana Kisan Union, BJP Kisan Morcha, INLD Kisan Cell, Progressive Farmers Association and Kheti Virasat (an NGO) came into scene to get the demand accepted for raising the minimum support price for their produce. Consequently, urban-rural relations now seem to be heading towards symbiosis.

SECTION-II

URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS: SPATIAL PATTERNS

Intensity of urban-rural interaction varies in different districts of the state depending on different levels of development in various fields. These may perform better on one front but may lag behind on the other affecting their relationship with the urban centres. A spatial pattern of urban-rural interaction in the state presented below with the help of four indicators will make this clear.

The spatial patterns of urban-rural relations have been arrived at with the help of four indicators representing the dimensions of commuting, commodity flow and service exchange. These four indicators are:

(i) Percentage of rural non-agricultural workers

(ii) Percentage of villages connected with metalled roads.
(iii) Agricultural productivity per worker
(iv) Density of towns per 10,000 sq. km.

Here, indicators (i) and (ii) will be the measurements for the parameter of urban-rural commuting; whereas indicators (iii) and (iv) will take care of parameters of commodity and service exchange respectively. All these four indicators in a composite form will take care of urban-rural interaction.

Index values were calculated for these individual indicators by assuming the maximum value as 100 and then calculating the other values proportionately (weighted score method). Illustration through an example below will make it more clear.

Highest percentage of non-agricultural workers- Panchkula (77.03 per cent)
Percentage of non-agricultural workers for district Hisar- 41.33
This value of 77.03 per cent is taken as 100 to calculate the index values of district Hisar and likewise other districts also.
77.03= 100
41.33= (100/77.03) x 41.33 = 53.65

However, the lowest percentage of non-agricultural workers is in the district of Fatehabad, which is 32.69. Its index value will be:
32.69= (100/77.03) x 32.69 = 42.44

Accordingly, the index values for all the districts and for all the indicators were calculated and then a composite index of urban-rural interaction was worked out by dividing the sum total of index values for all of four indicators by four (which is the number of indicators) for each district.

In the discussions to follow, an attempt has been made to discern the spatial pattern of urban-rural interaction at the district level for 2009-10. In all, there are 21 districts in the state. However, information on the indicators of urban-rural interaction related to newly formed district of Palwal is incomplete. Hence, it has not been included as an independent district in data analysis and mapping and its information has been shown with Faridabad district from which it has been bifurcated. Moreover, depending upon the index values, using the breaking point method, districts have been
grouped into four categories of urban-rural interaction. Accordingly, these category levels are: very high, high, moderate and low (Table 3.1).

### Table 3.1

**Haryana: Urban-rural interaction index by districts, 2009-10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Index values</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
<th>Coefficient of variability</th>
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<tr>
<td>Very High Level</td>
<td>Yamunanagar</td>
<td>94.21</td>
<td>83.65</td>
<td>7.34</td>
<td>8.77</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ambala</td>
<td>87.86</td>
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<td>Gurgaon</td>
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<td>Panipat</td>
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<td>Kurukshetra</td>
<td>77.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Level</td>
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<td>68.66</td>
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<td>Moderate Level</td>
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<td>59.04</td>
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<td>Sonipat</td>
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<td>Rohtak</td>
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<td>Low Level</td>
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<td>Jind</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mahendragarh</td>
<td>46.82</td>
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</table>

Source: Haryana Statistical Abstract, 2010-11

**SPATIAL PATTERNS IN URBAN-RURAL INTERACTION**

There are wide variations in the levels of urban-rural interaction in various districts of the state. The interaction index varies from a high of 94.21 in Yamunanagar district of the state to a low of 46.82 in Mahendragarh district giving a range difference of 47.39 (Map 3.1). In other words, the district at the top has two times more interaction than the district at the bottom. The coefficient of variability, which is 19.00 per cent, also indicates towards wide inter-district variations in the urban-rural relations in the state.

1. **Districts with Very High Level of Urban-Rural Interaction**

Five districts categorised as very high in the urban-rural interaction index are Yamunanagar, Ambala, Gurgaon, Panipat and Kurukshetra. Range difference in this
category level comes out to be 17.15 and the coefficient of variability is 8.77 per cent. These values indicate that intra-group variations are comparatively high in this category level of urban-rural interaction; which is also the highest of all the three categories.

In Yamunanagar, Ambala and Panipat districts, very high index of urban-rural interaction is attributed to the highly diversified rural economy, high urban-rural connectivity, agricultural productivity and town density (Maps 3.2; 3.3; 3.4 and 3.5). Being located in flood plains of river Yamuna and Chaggar, recently formed alluvial soils are found in these districts. These soils are very productive leading to high agricultural development. Moreover, more rainfall in the Eastern Haryana is also conducive to it. High agricultural development leads to high agricultural productivity per worker. More capital flow increases the urban-rural interaction by increasing the consumption level and aspirations of the people in various fields. Industrial development has also taken big strides in these districts. Employment of most of the workers in these industries from surrounding rural areas further strengthens the urban-rural relations. High urban-rural connectivity with metalled roads smoothen the process of urban-rural interaction. More concentration of towns in these districts also helps in increasing urban-rural interaction by providing service opportunities at convenient distances. In addition, more towns in any area also spread the effects of modernization in their surrounding rural areas leading towards high urban-rural interaction.

Gurgaon district is high on the index of urban-rural interaction due to highly diversified rural economy, high industrial development and urban-rural connectivity and the highest town density in the state. Being situated in proximity of Delhi, there is effect of cosmopolitan culture in the district which promotes use of consumable durable items not only in cities but also in villages. This has led to further strengthening of urban-rural relations.

Kurukshetra has highly diversified rural economy, high urban-rural connectivity and the second highest agricultural productivity per worker in the state. Its good alluvial soil of Chaggar flood plain and Chaggar-Yamuna plain leads to high production of rice and wheat crops. Increased flow of capital due to its developed
Haryana
Index of Urban-Rural Interaction
2009-10
(Data by Districts)

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2010-11

Highest Index Value: Yamunanagar (94.21)
Average for the State: 66.37
Lowest Index Value: Mahendragarh (46.82)
Index of Non-Agricultural Workers, 2001 (Data by Districts)

Index of Non-Agricultural Level

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Highest Index Value: Panchkula (100)
Average for the State: 64.23
Lowest Index Value: Faridabad (42.44)

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2010-11

Index of Metalled Roads 2009-10 (Data by Districts)

Index of Metalled Roads Level

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Highest Index Value: Faridabad (100)
Average for the State: 90.11-99.99
Lowest Index Value: Panchkula (92.00)

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2010-11

Index of Agricultural Productivity Per Worker 2009-10 (Data by Districts)

Index of Agricultural Productivity Level

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Highest Index Value: Ambala (100)
Average of the State: 56.47
Lowest Index Value: Mewat (21.98)

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2010-11

Index of Town Density, 2001 (Data by Districts)

Index of Town Density Level

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Highest Index Value: Gurgaon (100)
Average of the State: 44.88
Lowest Index Value: Faridabad (14.66)

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2010-11
agrarian economy helps in strengthening of urban-rural relations. Moreover, Kurukshetra has also started taking big strides in the field of industrial development further increasing the intensity of urban-rural relations.

II. Districts with High Level of Urban-Rural Interaction

Four districts namely Panchkula, Sirsa, Karnal and Faridabad are categorised in the high level of urban-rural interaction. Among these districts, the interaction index ranges from a high of 73.93 in Panchkula to a low of 68.66 in Faridabad district. This gives the range difference of 5.27. The value of coefficient of variability for this category level comes out to be 3.14, which shows comparatively low intra-category variations for this group.

In Panchkula, high levels of urban-rural interaction are attributed to highly diversified rural economy, high urban-rural connectivity and high town density. Because of its location in proximity of Chandigarh, cosmopolitan culture has developed in this district strengthening the urban-rural interaction.

In Sirsa, high urban-rural interaction is result of high urban-rural connectivity and high agricultural productivity per worker. Agricultural prosperity has led to high aspirations of the people resulting in increased urban-rural interaction in the district.

In Karnal, high level of urban-rural interaction is result of highly diversified rural economy, high urban-rural connectivity and high agricultural production. This district is agriculturally prosperous because of its fertile alluvial soils of flood plain of river Yamuna and Ghaggar-Yamuna plains, irrigation facilities and suitable agro-climatic conditions resulting in high productivity of rice and wheat crops. Industrial development has also taken place in the district leading to high urban-rural interaction. Faridabad is characterized by highly diversified rural economy, high industrial development and high urban-rural connectivity taking to the high level of urban-rural interaction. Moreover, proximity to Delhi has also contributed in strengthening of urban-rural relations in the district.
III. Districts with Moderate Level of Urban-Rural Interaction

Seven districts namely Kaithal, Hisar, Fatehabad, Mewat, Jhajjar, Sonipat and Rohtak fall in the category of moderate level of urban-rural interaction. Index values in this category vary from a high of 61.19 in Kaithal district of the state to a low of 57.48 in Rohtak district giving a range difference of only 3.71 and coefficient of variability of 2.18; which is the lowest of all the four categories. In other words, intra-group variations are the lowest in this category of districts.

In district Kaithal, high urban-rural connectivity and high agricultural productivity are marginalized by low level of diversification of rural economy and moderate level of town density putting it in the moderate category of urban-rural interaction.

In district Hisar, high level of agricultural productivity per worker and high urban-rural connectivity are normalized by moderate level of diversification of rural economy and town density; whereas in Fatehabad district, high level of urban-rural connectivity and agricultural productivity are conditioned by low level of diversification of rural economy and low level of town density pulling the urban-rural interaction index to the moderate level. In Mewat district, low level of agricultural productivity is the main culprit for its being in moderate level of urban-rural interaction. This is due to poor soils in the outcrops of Aravali hills found in this district.

In district Sonipat and Rohtak highly diversified rural economy, industrial development and high urban-rural connectivity are marginalized by moderate level of agricultural productivity and town density. In district Jhajjar, moderate level of diversification of rural economy, agricultural productivity and town density are responsible for its being in moderate level of urban-rural interaction. This district is being developed as an industrial hub, which will help in strengthening the urban-rural relations.

IV. Districts with Low Level of Urban-Rural Interaction

Four out of the total 20 districts are at a low level of urban-rural interaction (Table 3.1). These are Bhiwani, Rewari, Jind and Mahendragarh. Among these
interaction index ranges from a high of 54.94 in Bhiwani district to a low of 46.82 in Mahendragarh district of the state. This gives the range difference of 8.12. Value of coefficient of variability for this category is 7.27; which reveals comparatively a moderate level of intra-group variations.

Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and Rewari districts are agriculturally less developed because of sandy soils of plain with sand dunes/undulating sand plain in these districts (Singh, Jasbir, 1976, p. 39). There is less rainfall in this part of the state further aggravating the situation. Bhiwani has low level of agricultural diversification but moderate level of agricultural productivity because of its eastern part being the part of alluvial plain. Rewari has moderate level of diversification of rural economy due to industrial development in this district, but is placed at the lower margin of moderate category level of agricultural productivity because of less favourable agro-climatic conditions and sandy soils. Mahendragarh district has low level of diversification of rural economy and is placed at the lower margin of moderate agricultural productivity per worker. Except urban-rural connectivity, it is weak on every front of urban-rural interaction. In Jind district, low level of diversification of rural economy and less town density make it part of the low category level of urban-rural interaction; though it has high level of agricultural productivity because of being part of the alluvial plain.

In sum, districts in the eastern and northern parts of the state except Jind have high level of urban-rural interaction as compared to the districts in the south-western part of the state due to better soil and rainfall (agro-climatic) conditions. Jind has lagged behind due to less diversification of rural economy and town density and not because of agricultural productivity. South-western part of the state has low level of urban-rural interaction due to adverse physiography, soil and agro-climatic conditions. In other words, it can be said that suitable agro-climatic conditions have accrued more benefits of Green Revolution in the eastern and northern parts of the state; whereas districts in the south-western part of the state have lagged behind on this front due to adverse agro-climatic conditions which has resulted in different levels of urban-rural interaction i.e. level of agricultural development finds reflection in the level of urban-rural interaction.
Main Highlights

1) Ancient period was a phase of urban-rural separation because of fortification of the towns by various Hindu rulers. In medieval period, urban-rural relations were based on varying degree of suppression and exploitation by Muslim rulers. Modern period was marked by exploitation of the rural areas to fulfill the interests of Britishers.

2) In post-independence period, Punjabi speaking migrants contributed to the modernization of Haryana which resulted in enhancement of urban-rural relations. Since formation of Haryana, infrastructure creation in the field of road network, industry, health, education and communication happened at a rapid pace; which strengthened urban-rural relations in the state.

3) Green Revolution played a significant role in increasing agricultural production manifold and made farmers prosperous. Now, need was felt to diversify agricultural activities. Newer initiatives like horticulture, dairy-farming, poultry-farming, fish-culture and bee-keeping are being accepted by the farmers as subsidiary occupations along with agriculture to meet the ever increasing demand for their products in urban centres. The state is ideally suited for exploiting the potential of production from various initiatives due to its close proximity to the metropolitan city of Delhi. These initiatives help in strengthening urban-rural relations because of their backward and forward linkages.

4) After formation of Haryana, Infrastructure development took place at a rapid pace. Rural areas became prosperous as a consequence of Green Revolution but more benefits were accrued to the urban centres in this phase also. Slowly with increased literacy rates, rural population became conscious of this biasness and different pressure groups came into scene to get the demands accepted for raising the support price for their produce. As a result, urban-rural relations are now heading towards symbiosis.

5) Spatial patterns of urban-rural relations have been arrived at with the help of 4 indicators representing the dimensions of commuting, commodity exchange and
service exchange. Depending on the index values using the breaking point method, districts have been grouped into 4 categories of urban-rural interaction i.e. very high, high, moderate and low. In very high level category 5 districts are namely- Yamunanagar, Ambala, Gurgaon, Panipat and Kurukshetra. In high level category Panchkula, Sirsa, Karnal and Faridabad districts are included. Districts in the moderate category are Kaithal, Hisar, Fatehabad, Mewat, Jhajjar, Sonipat and Rohtak. Bhiwani, Rewari, Jind and Mahendragarh districts show low level of urban-rural interaction. For the state as a whole intra-category variations are wide with the range difference of 47.39 and coefficient of variability of 19.00.

6) The districts in the eastern and northern parts of the state except Jind have high level of urban-rural interaction as compared to districts in the south-western part of the state. Green Revolution has also bestowed maximum benefits here due to suitable agro-climatic conditions. This indicates that level of agricultural development finds reflection in level of urban-rural interaction.