Rohtak resembles other Indian cities which were founded in the Hindu Period and experienced the impact of Muslim, British, and Post-Partition developments. It conforms to the model of the colonial district headquarters town in its characteristics of population, growth, morphology, landuse, and functions. The deviations from the general model have been induced by the influence of site, situation, the prevailing cultural practices in southern Haryana, and the recent historical events including the settling of Punjabi displaced persons. However, these deviations form a part of the regional characteristics of towns in southern Haryana than major departures from the Indian city model.

Rohtak belongs to the genre of ancient settlements in Haryana which have continued to flourish at their initial sites and also have grown to their present status of important urban centres. The growth of Rohtak during various periods of history was initiated and sustained by the locational advantages, its site specially the proximity of Delhi. The location of the city on important ancient routes connecting Delhi to other parts of the country helped its growth as an economically important trading centre and a strategic frontier post during the Ancient and Medieval Periods. Presently also, the city is functioning as a dormitory.
Like other Indian cities the largest concentration of population in Rohtak is in the Walled City. However, the Walled City has not been able to contain all the population it has attracted through the centuries of its existence. This has forced an overspilling of the population to the adjoining areas. The overspilling has extended farthest along the Railway Road, one of the major access roads. As in many other Indian cities this encroachment by the population of the Walled City has promoted a major concentration of commercial and small scale industrial enterprises on the Railway Road. Presently, it forms part of the Central Business Area of Rohtak. This area is similar to the Walled City in character.

In the Post-Independence Period the primary factor in the rapid growth of population and expansion of the city has been the rehabilitation of the Hindu and Sikh refugees from West Pakistan. Its immediate effect was a rapid swelling of the city population. It also dramatically changed the religious composition, from mixed Hindu and Muslim, to an all Hindu community. One of the related developments was considerable change in the caste composition of the city population. The integration of the refugees in the functioning of Rohtak has given rise to new socio-economic classes. The occupational structure of the city population has changed.
The departing Muslim workers were largely artisans. The incoming displaced persons were dominantly engaged in commerce. They have contributed to the expansion of the commercial activity. Since many of the displaced persons belonged to the more affluent economic groups, their participation in the social and economic activities has been large and effective. High general literacy and increased participation by female workers in jobs outside their homes are also related to the Punjabi displaced persons.

The expansion of Rohtak after Partition was not the outcome of the natural growth of its population but of the resettling of a large number of Punjabi displaced persons. As a result, the expansion of the site in this period and the emergence of new residential areas do not conform to the general framework of ecological succession observed in other Indian cities. This is further substantiated by the contiguous location of high and low income-group mohallas in the Post-Independence Expansion Areas in Rohtak and in many other towns of the region.

General similarities are also found in the patterns of spatial growth and landuse in Rohtak and in other Indian cities. These similarities are related to: (i) the concentration of population in the Walled City and its subsequent spillover into the extra-mural areas during the British Period; (ii) the role of the Civil Lines and the Railway Station as nuclei for attracting the initial spillover of the population of the Walled
City and the development of extra-mural areas. Unlike other colonial district headquarters towns, in Rohtak the railway line does not function as a marker of cultural landscape and does not divide the city into two classic and sharply differentiated morphologic units, the Walled City and the European segment. On the other hand, the Civil Lines is clearly separated by the railway line from the Post-Independence Period morphological extensions including the Model Town. The linear wedge-shaped morphological development, with its base toward the Walled City located in the west stands in sharp contrast to the theoretically expected concentric, sector and multiple-nuclei growth models. Resembling the layout in many other Indian cities, the railway line loops around what was then the built-up area and has subsequently been enclosed by the growth of the city in the Post-Independence Period.

The highly mixed landuse in the older parts of Rohtak is similar to that found in most of the Indian cities. It differs markedly from the usual segregation of landuses in western cities and is related to a long period of unplanned evolution and the proximity of place of work and of residence. In Rohtak, as in other Indian cities, the Walled City is almost entirely residential but the limited space has to be apportioned for other uses also. The dominant among these is commercial. The large concentration of population, a high density of houses, and a complex mixture of landuses have accentuated the need for privacy in domestic living.
This is realised by the living units facing an internal courtyard and not the streets.

As in most Indian cities the Walled City in Rohtak lacks open public spaces except for small plots attached to mosques and temples. Even the streets are inadequate for the traffic and life they carry. In the Walled City the medley of pedestrian traffic, large population concentration, high density of houses, and the largest concentration of commercial activity within a small area, as in other Indian cities, have resulted in highly mixed landuse.

In contrast to the Walled City, the Civil Lines represents relative openness, green, order, and quiet. There is a clear separation of commercial, residential, and other landuses.

The setting of the Civil Lines in Rohtak, as in any other colonial district headquarters town in India, separated from the Walled City, was related to the desire of the colonial community to live according to their own cultural notions and their fear of the spread of zymotic diseases believed to be originating in the Walled City.

The Civil Lines in Rohtak which was the headquarters of a rural district represented, and its inhabitants performed the major colonial administrative and economic functions. The bungalow-compound complex, the basic structural unit of the
Civil Lines in Rohtak, and in other British district headquarters towns, represents a physical spatial structure embodying the entire life style and social behaviour characteristic of the members of the colonial society. The rectangular street pattern and spacious layout were attributes imported to fulfil the desire of creating and developing the colonial culture of the mother country. Even now, the Civil Lines with its undisturbed layout spreads over a large area and is characterised by low densities, horizontal, single-storey developments, and broad tree-lined roads. The structures continue to perform the administrative and economic functions of the district. Due to the characteristic layout the Post-Independence developments have not been able to create in these areas the pattern of mixed landuses found in the Walled City. Rather, the layout and the patterns of landuse in the Post-Independence Expansion Areas show a great resemblance to the Civil Lines and represent one of the striking aspects of westernisation of the Indian cities.

The Post-Independence administrative and economic developments have helped in a greater integration of the city with its umland. The major promoting factors have been an increased functional relationship with Delhi, expansion of the road transportation network, and strengthening of the region-building efforts around the traditional focus of southern Haryana. Presently, in addition to being the district headquarters, Rohtak
serves as one of the major agricultural markets of Haryana and the highest level medical and educational centre of the state. Consequently, it serves the entire Rohtak district and parts of the adjoining districts, the headquarters of which are located immediately below the city in the hierarchy of central places.

The attributes of the umland of Rohtak reveal broad similarities with the external functioning of high order central places in other parts of India and also exhibit attributes postulated in the Central Place Theory. The shape of the service areas is influenced by the isotropic surface of the region except for those elements which are directly influenced by the transportation network. The central places reveal a hierarchical pyramid. The apex of this pyramid is formed by Rohtak and the base is comprised of the lowest order rural central places. The hierarchy of central places also reveals a close association with the administrative, commercial, and public policy functions and historical factors involved in their evolution. The levels of hierarchy of the central places are closely related to the population size and the area and population served by each of these.

The administrative and economic developments in the Post-Independence Period have helped in the concentration of two new growth elements in the city, agricultural marketing and industrialisation. The former has exerted considerable influence in promoting the growth of the city and in its regional integration.
with the surrounding area. The impact of the latter has been limited more to the city and is revealed by a change in the occupational structure of workers in Rohtak, an expansion of the site, and a change in the density gradients occurring in the city. These changes have been marginal. Since a combination of the two, commercial concentration and industrialisation, eliminates the disadvantages of either or both, it is hoped that these developments of the Post-Independence Period will provide a sound basis for the future growth of the city.