

Introduction

Urban centers have a vital role in India's socio-economic transformation and change. These account for 30% of the total population, notwithstanding, most cities and towns are severely stressed in terms of infrastructure and service availability, and their growth and development is constrained by indifferent implementation of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA), 1992. The Government of India launched the JNNURM. The aim of the Mission is to encourage reforms driven, fast track, planned development of identified cities with focus on efficiency in urban infrastructure and service delivery mechanisms, community participation, and accountability of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) towards citizens. Under JnNURM, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh launched Comprehensive Capacity Building Program for the state.

To enhance sustainable development in the state, the assignment seeks to provide support to various local bodies of Himachal Pradesh in preparing City Development Plans¹ (CDP). The CDPs shall provide comprehensive long term strategy (Vision 2035) along with City Investment Plan (CIP) based on which the local body will access funds under Government of India (GoI) and Government of Himachal Pradesh.

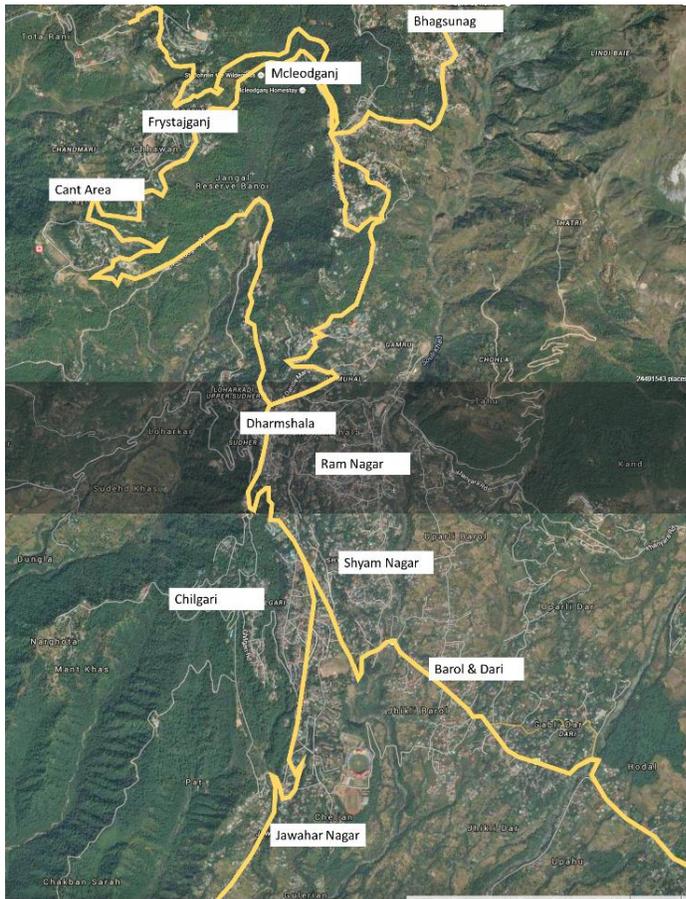
City Development Plan - Dharamshala

City Development Plan for Dharamshala town is both a perspective and vision for the future development. CDP is essentially a participatory process and is based on invaluable inputs received from the various stakeholders and the officers associated with the development of the city. This CDP, therefore, truly reflects the vision of the citizens including the poor and the slum dwellers and the members of Dharamshala Municipal council along with other officials who are determined to make Dharamshala a futuristic city in the next few years.

The CDP formulation process involves studying the current stage of city's growth and development, setting out the direction for change, finding the gaps in service delivery along with identifying the thrust areas and suggesting the strategies and interventions for bringing in the required change. An analysis of the data collected from secondary sources and through stake holder consultations, interactive sessions/ interviews was done to make a realistic assessment of where the city is and the direction in which it has been moving, with respect to demography, economic activities, land use, poverty, urban infrastructure, environment, institutional and financial aspects to see the implications for service delivery and urban management.

¹ A City Development Plan is a comprehensive document outlining the vision and development Strategy for future development of the city, prepared in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders to identify the thrust areas to be addressed on priority basis in order to achieve the objectives and the vision. It thus provides the overall framework within which projects are identified and put forward in a City Investment Plan.

City Overview-Dharamshala



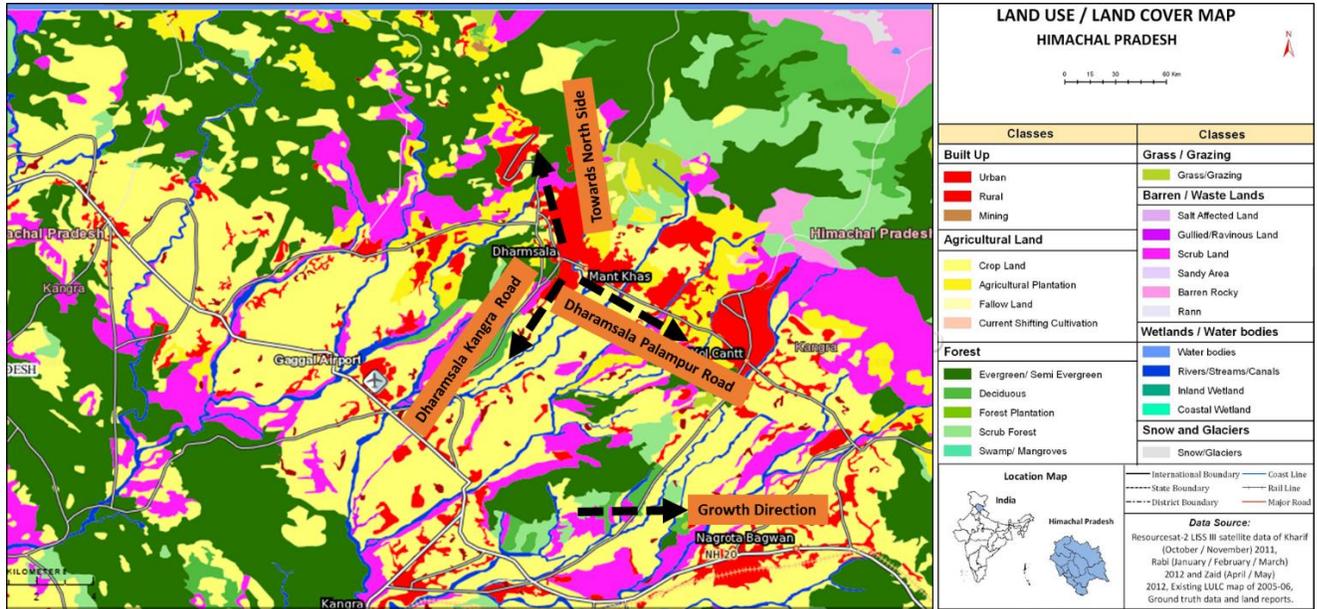
Dharamshala is administrative headquarter of Kangra district and is located 18 km North-East of Kangra. The town is located on the foothills of Dhauladhar Range. It was founded by the Britishers and used as a cantonment for troops in the year of 1849. Dharamshala is abode of his Holiness of Dalai Lama ever since he left Tibet in 1959. Dharamshala Municipality was one of the oldest Municipality in Himachal Pradesh and established in the year of 1867.

Geographically the town is positioned 23°13' North latitude and 76°19' East longitude. The slope of the town vary from different levels. The upper part of the town is situated on altitude of 2100 meter and the lower part of the town is situated on the elevation of 1250 meter.

The total area of Municipal Council is 10.63 s.q.km. Administratively the town is divided into 11 wards. As per 2011 census, total

population of Dharamshala is 22586. The table below shows that population of Dharamshala town has increased from 10255 in 1961 to 22586 in 2011.

As per the Town and Country Department Dharamshala, the Planning area of Dharamshala is comprises; Kajlot, Reserved forest banoi, Loharkhad, Chalain, Guleruan, Upper Barol, Lower Barol, Mant khas, and Dharamshala Municipal Council Area. The estimated population of planning or periurban area was 30 Thousand as per census 2011. Below Land Cover Map showing the urban growth pattern of urban area of Dharamshala town. Presently town is growing towards the Dharamshala Palampur Road and Dharamshala Kangra Road due to presence of good infrastructure facilities and availability of land. Apart from this rapid urban growth is also experienced towards the north side of the town in Meclodganj, Bhagsunag and Dharmkot Area.



Source: Land Cover Map by Bhuvan, 2011.

Major Challenges:

The sectoral key issues that emerged out of public consultations, field visits, analysis of data from secondary sources and discussions with Dharamshala Municipal Council and para-statal are:

Urban Growth: The major issues that face Dharamshala are: (a) hilly terrain surrounding, forest areas and ecologically fragile areas restrict the physical expansion within the municipal boundary; (b) due to limited space for construction within Municipal Council Dharamshala, (c) high incidence of unauthorized construction (d) many buildings in the old city areas are in dilapidated condition; (f) unsafe construction practices render the buildings vulnerable to natural disasters.

Water Supply: Average availability of water at consumer end is 225 lpcd, which is satisfactory. However, unequal distribution of water, low pressures, old dilapidated pipelines, uncontrolled zoning and unsatisfactory operation and maintenance requires thorough reorganization and up-gradation of this sector to meet future demand.

Sewerage:

Presently the Dharamshala town has sewerage system approximately 70 percent households are covered with sewerage network. As per the discussion with the officials of Irrigation and Public Health Department the main issues of sewerage are collection efficiency and adequacy in treatment capacity due to insufficient conveyance system which leads to polluting water in natural streams thereby deteriorating the quality of water.

Drainage: The drainage system network in the municipal area has limited coverage, with roadside drain network available for selected and major roads. The drainage channels have become vulnerable to deposition of wastes of all kinds, mainly waste water and solid waste. This has resulted in higher silt load, reduction in carrying capacity and difficulties in maintenance.

Municipal Solid Waste: Municipal Solid Waste Management: MCD estimated total daily MSW generation ranges between 5 to 16 MT during peak and non-peak tourist seasons. The city has not met its mandatory obligations under the Solid Waste Management Rules, and is burdened with an inefficient collection system, environmentally unsound disposal practices and uncontrolled dumping at a site down a gorge like formation. It thus requires immediate and sustained effort to upgrade to an acceptable level.

Road and Transportation: Due to high percentage of tourists with respect to the resident population, growing number of vehicles and lack of space lead to an unacceptable congestion in Dharamshala. Traffic management, road hierarchy and provision of parking are greatest needs. Pedestrianisation of tourist areas and alternative intermediate transport are of utmost importance. The town needs immediate investment in these areas.

Tourism: known destination in the northern tourist circuit of India. Tourists are attracted by the beauty of Dhauladhar Range, lush green forest areas and its rich cultural heritage. Its rich natural heritage needs to be conserved and showcased to promote tourism through diverse means such as interpretation centres, experiential museums, walks, publications, etc. Dharamshala has the potential to tap high end tourism by development of eco-tourism and adventure tourism

Institutions and Governance: Municipal Council Dharamshala has very few functions in the municipal domain. Unlike ULBs elsewhere in India, Municipal Council has very limited role to play in the city's planning, development and infrastructure provision. In fact, solid waste management is the main function of municipal Council Dharamshala. Conventional municipal functions such as water supply, sewerage, roads, etc. are in the hands of either PHE and PWD. Keeping in view the needs for coordinated development and institutional strengthening, well-thought-out institutional planning is of crucial importance.

City Vision

One of the key components of the City Development Plan is long term strategic Vision for development of the city. This Vision defines the objective of the city in terms of its long-term aspirations. Supporting this Vision is a set of development objectives. These objectives put forward specific targets that the city wishes to achieve in the given period.

During the individual discussions with stakeholders discussed and debated the significance of Dharamshala town is as follows:

Administrative– Administrative Head quarter of Kangra District

Capital – Winter Capital of Himachal Pradesh

Locational Advantage – Sited on the foothills of Dhauladhar Range

Tourism – Major International and National Tourist Destination of India

Pilgrim center- Home of “*His Holiness Dalai Lama*” (Known as Mini Tibet)

Educational Center- Central University, Regional Center of Himachal Pradesh University, BED College

Connectivity – Strong Connectivity by road (SH-21) and by Air (Gagal Airport)

Sport Center- International cricket stadium (World’s highest stadium)

Therefore City Vision of Dharamshala town will be articulated on the basis of existing situational analysis and key stakeholder consultations.

City Vision

“The vision is to develop Dharamshala in an ecologically sound and beautiful way so that, it is well managed with efficient public services, a healthy economy and a natural & built environment that retains its unique character with a function of the smart city”