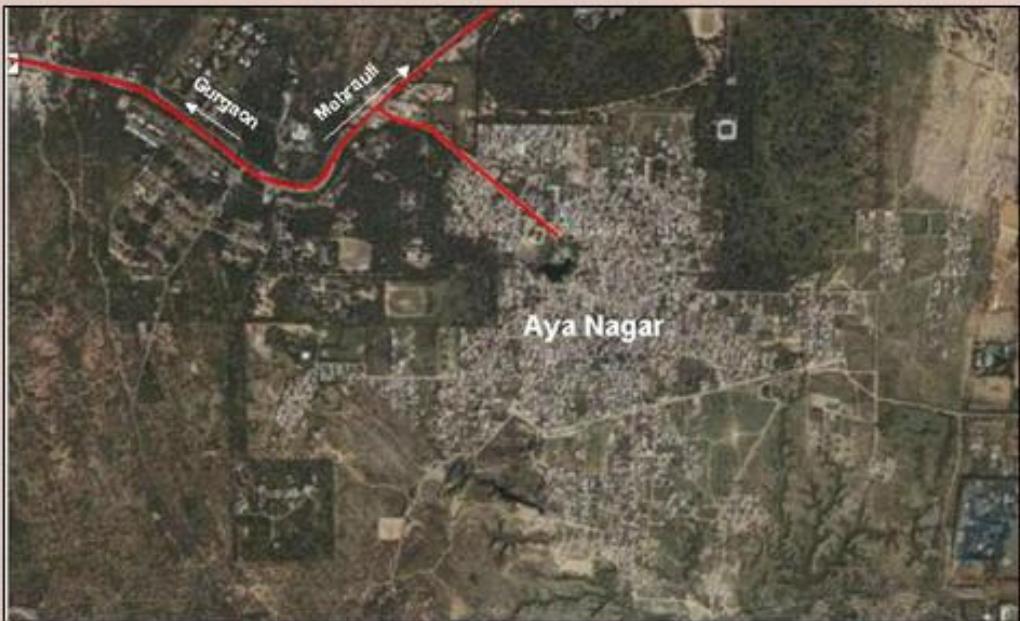




## Aya Nagar Development Project

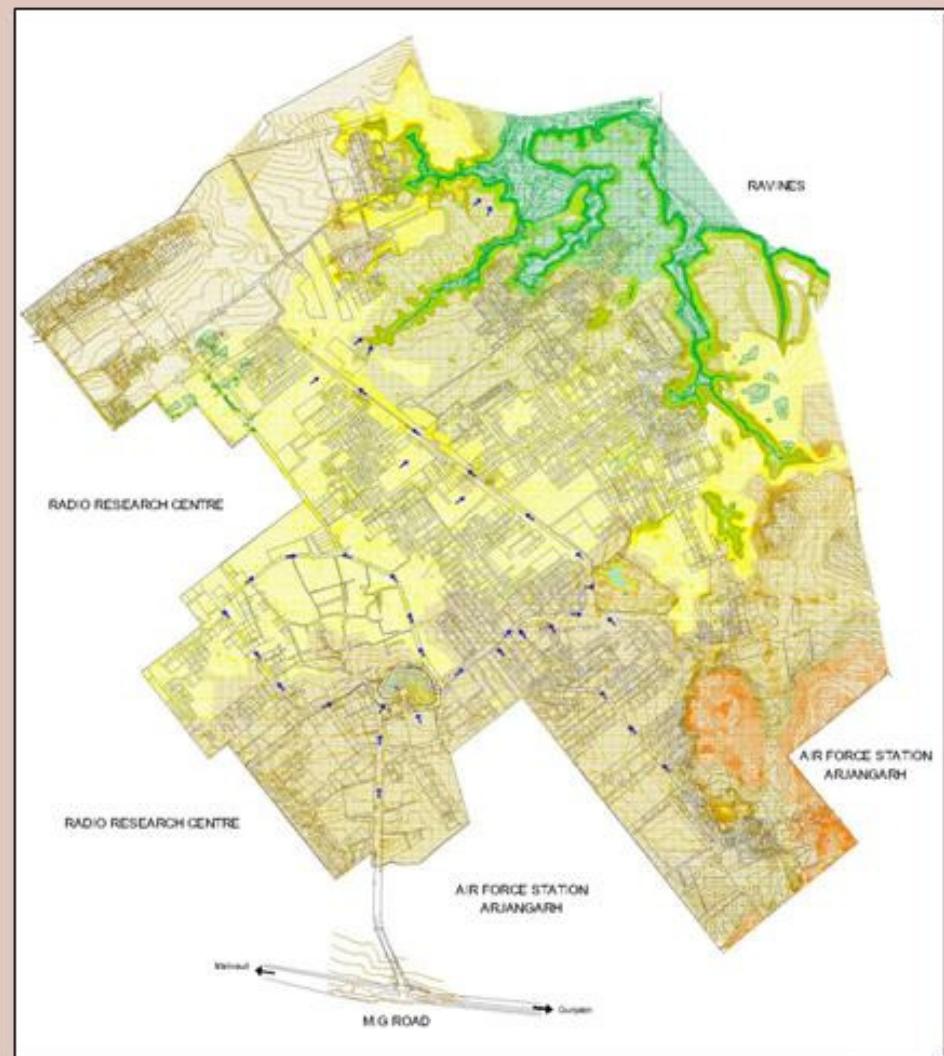




The village of Aya Nagar is situated in Delhi on the Mehrauli Gurgaon Road adjoining the Haryana Border.

Aya Nagar is bound by government campuses, the Aravelli hills and ravines formed by an ancient river course, now dry.

The topography presents a number of special conditions like slopes, valleys and water bodies created by bunds.





The indigenous Gurjar community originally settled Aya Nagar village. The area was primarily agricultural land and the main occupation of the people was cattle rearing and agriculture.

In 1970-72, government intervention brought electricity and water supply facilities, and a bus terminus connecting the village to the city of Delhi. In the 1980's the village started to grow with the influx of low-income migrants into Delhi from different parts of the country.

The new residential colony established on the once agricultural lands has a different environmental typology from the original village 'abadi'. These colonies are built on patterns of contemporary urban development giving rise to a variety of problems generated by a planning paradigm which imposes systems of vehicular roads and piped services on unfamiliar topography.





The *Johar* is the symbolic centre of the village.

There are two *Johars* in Aya Nagar, Inner and Outer. The outer *Johar* is now dry and encroached by slum dwellers, the inner *Johar*, originally made for rain water harvesting has now become derelict with garbage, sewerage and waste water flowing in open drains into the *Johar*.

The inner *Johar*, however, still has a special character and is central to the social-religious life of the village people.

Restoring the *Johar* would be instrumental in starting any development initiative in Aya Nagar.

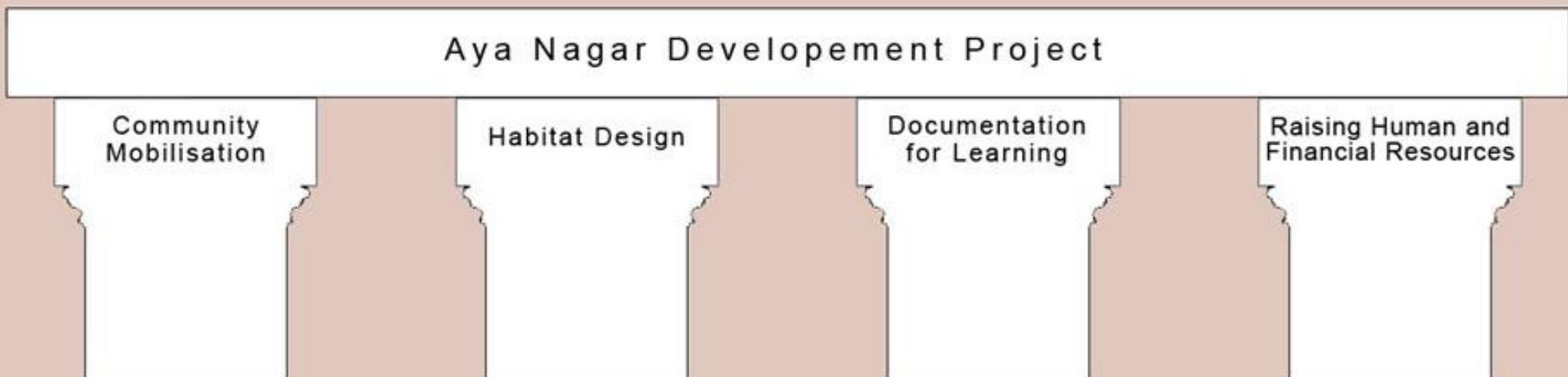


The Chief Minister of Delhi visited Aya Nagar, and in a public meeting declared Aya Nagar as a model village which had the potential to exhibit development initiatives based on strong public-private partnerships that could become examples for similar settlements throughout the country.

To make this vision a reality GREHA, an NGO working in the field of environmental design and planning, received a research grant from the Delhi Kalyan Samiti, an agency of the Finance Department of the Delhi Government, to develop a proposal for the overall development of Aya Nagar to make it a real model.

**The Aya Nagar Development Project proposes that the inhabitants along with technical experts, *create, document and partner with local authorities* for implementing a proto-typical model for urban development to serve as a guide for similar settlements in the country.**

Aya Nagar represents a vast demographic spectrum. Any development effort should address a wide variety of needs and concerns. The Aya Nagar Development Project focuses these issues around four pillars.

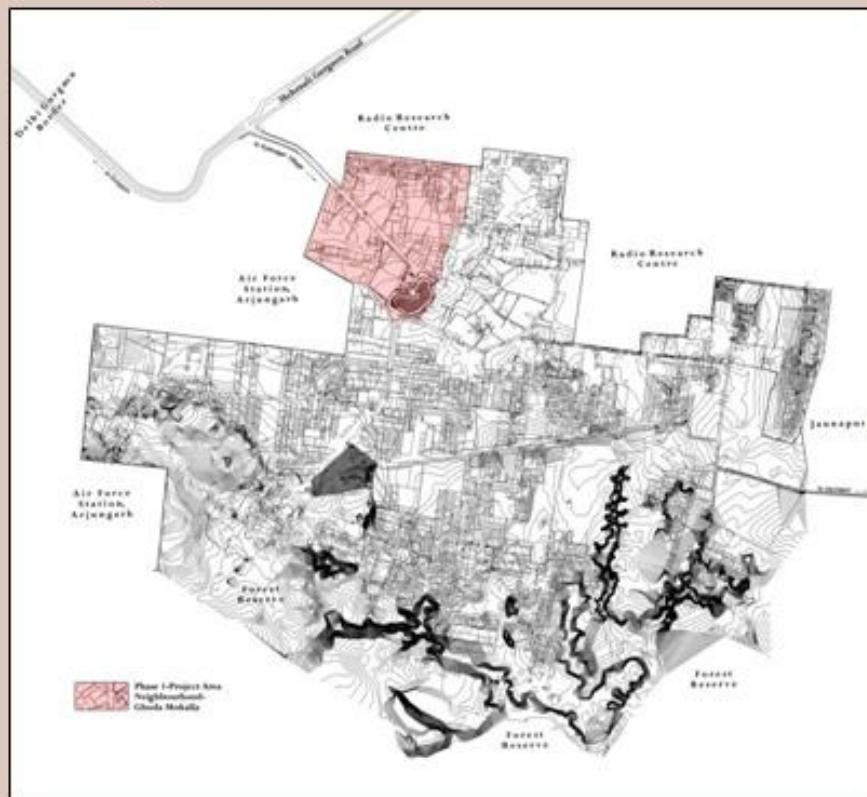


## Community Mobilisation

A citizen group called the Aya Nagar Vikas Samiti has instituted revived to undertake development work and be the voice of the people of Aya Nagar.

The President of the Samiti is a government official and the local MLA is its patron.

Outreach events and community participation programmes are conducted to make the process of development democratic and inclusive.



## Habitat Design

Priority areas for intervention have been identified with the support of the local people.

A technical report called the *Aya Nagar Development Project, Action Plan*, detailing two sub – projects, the drainage scheme for one neighbourhood, and the road decongestion along the Johar, has been submitted to the concerned Government Departments for implementation.

Research on the other components is in progress.



## ***Documentation for Learning***

The design, implementation and documentation of the project will need to integrate “out of the box” thinking with established formulae and practices.

Along with written documents, drawings and technical reports, a video film is being made. This will provide the most direct learning tool for similar projects.



## ***Raising of Human and Financial Resources***

A project of this scale requires a variety of human resources, such as, experts with sound technical skills, an effective working team, support of other organisations and government authorities.

Along with organisation networks and capacity building, financial support is essential to accelerate this development initiative.



## Comprehensive Development of Aya Nagar Village and its Proto-Urban Extension includes

- Development of the Village *Johar* as an Eco-park.
- Provision of a New Village Centre and Community Facilities;
  - New bus terminus, a sports complex, information centre.....
  - Healthcare facilities
  - Veterinary centre with stables and grazing grounds.
- Improvement and up-gradation of physical infrastructure of the village;
  - Augmentation of water supply with rain water harvesting,
  - Sewerage and surface drainage,
  - Organised electricity distribution,
  - Collection/ recycling of garbage/solid waste.
- Forest area on the southern edge of the village to be developed as a nature reserve.
- Establishment of Cultural and Educational Institutions, which shall harness and channelise the creative energies of the younger generation, and become platforms for initiatives to promote holistic growth.



## *Current Status of the Aya Nagar Development Project*

- ❖ A detailed topographical survey of Aya Nagar and its immediate surroundings was commissioned by the Revenue Department, GNCTD to provide as a base map for planning the infrastructure and facilities for habitation
- ❖ The Aya Nagar Development Project - Action Plan document detailing the '*drainage scheme for one neighbourhood*' and the '*traffic decongestion scheme*', has been submitted to all concerned government departments for review and implementation. The latter scheme is at final approval stage with the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, GNCTD. Work on site is expected to begin soon.
- ❖ The Rural Development Department has agreed in principle with the proposed '*drainage scheme for one neighbourhood*' for implementation in Aya Nagar.
- ❖ An appropriate solid waste management programme is under preparation with the assistance of experienced organisations such as CHINTAN and Vatavaran.
- ❖ The Aya Nagar Vikas Samiti has been instrumental in restricting illegal mining activity on government land in Aya Nagar.
- ❖ Awareness about the project has increased public response on various initiatives within Aya Nagar.
- ❖ GREHA is writing a 'Governance and Policy Paper' to suggest a new framework for development in provisionally regularised colonies.





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