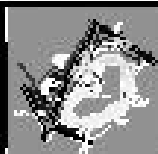
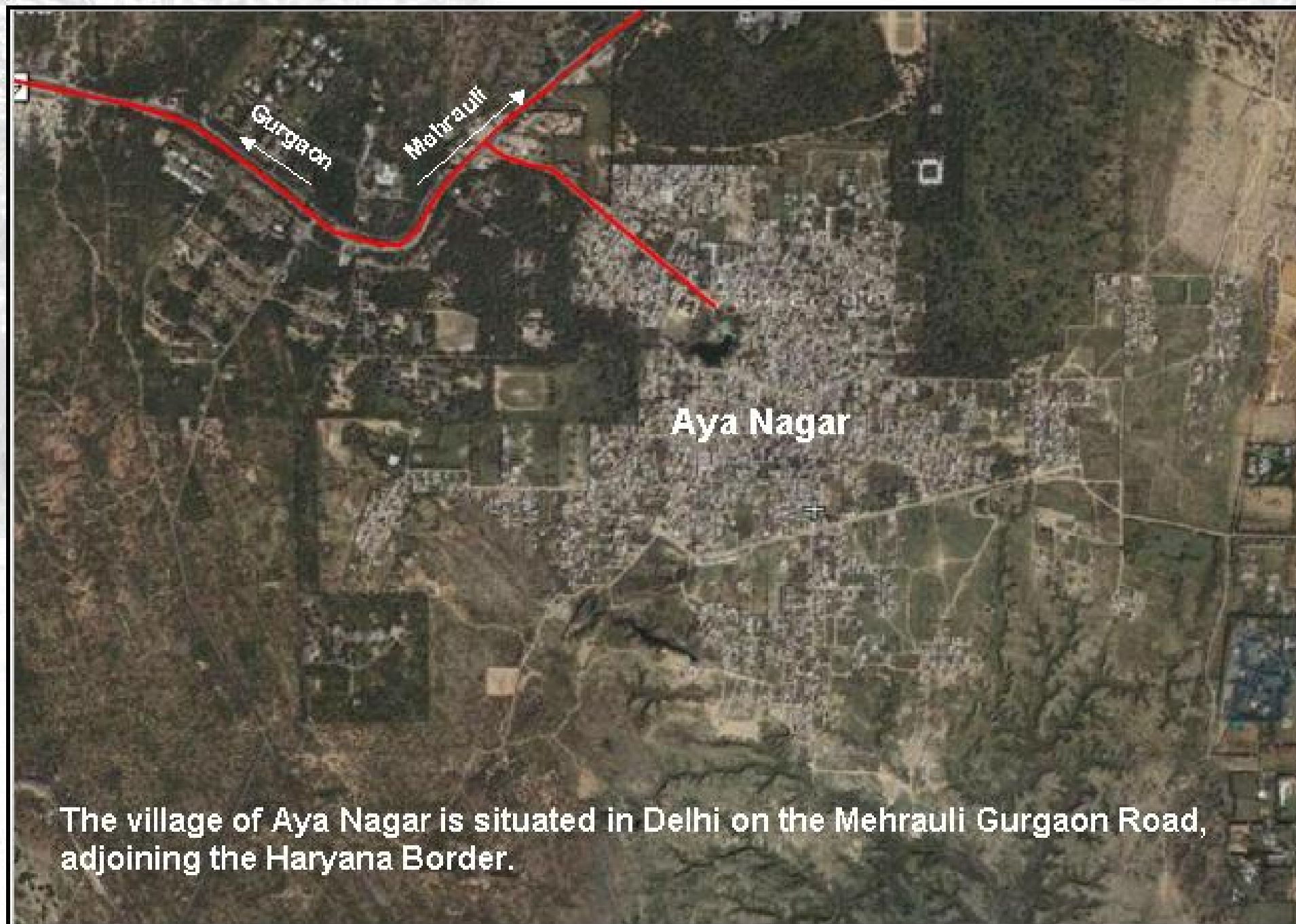




AYA NAGAR WHOLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME





Aya Nagar is settled on a spur of the Aravali Hills. The topography presents a number of special conditions -

slopes

valleys

water bodies created by bunds

ravines formed by an ancient river course, now dry.

GENTLE SLOPE

STEEP SLOPE

VALLEY

RAVINE

TOPOGRAPHY

Ayanagar

WHOLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT



The indigenous Gurjar community originally settled Aya Nagar village. The original village had grown as a collective of rural homesteads clustered on the side of a (pond) Johar where rainwater from the Aravali hills was harvested within an earthen bund. A longer bund was made in the 1920's to harvest rainwater for the agricultural land on the south of the village 'abadi'.



The area was primarily agricultural land with *havelis* and homes in the village built around courtyards for large joint families engaged in 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 settlers occupied agricultural land adjoining the village 'abadi' and in the next two decades the population of Aya Nagar doubled.





The new residential colony established on the once agricultural lands has a different environmental typology from the original village *abadi*. The new colony is built on patterns of contemporary urban development. Residences are laid out in rows of plots to receive vehicular traffic, but without the necessary provision of metalled roads, underground sewerage, organised surface drainage, and properly planned electric supply.





Thus the expanded Aya Nagar is an urbanising village with many of the problems which affect new urban settlements in Delhi as well as in the rest of the country. These problems are generated by a planning paradigm which imposes patterns of vehicular roads and piped services on unfamiliar topography.





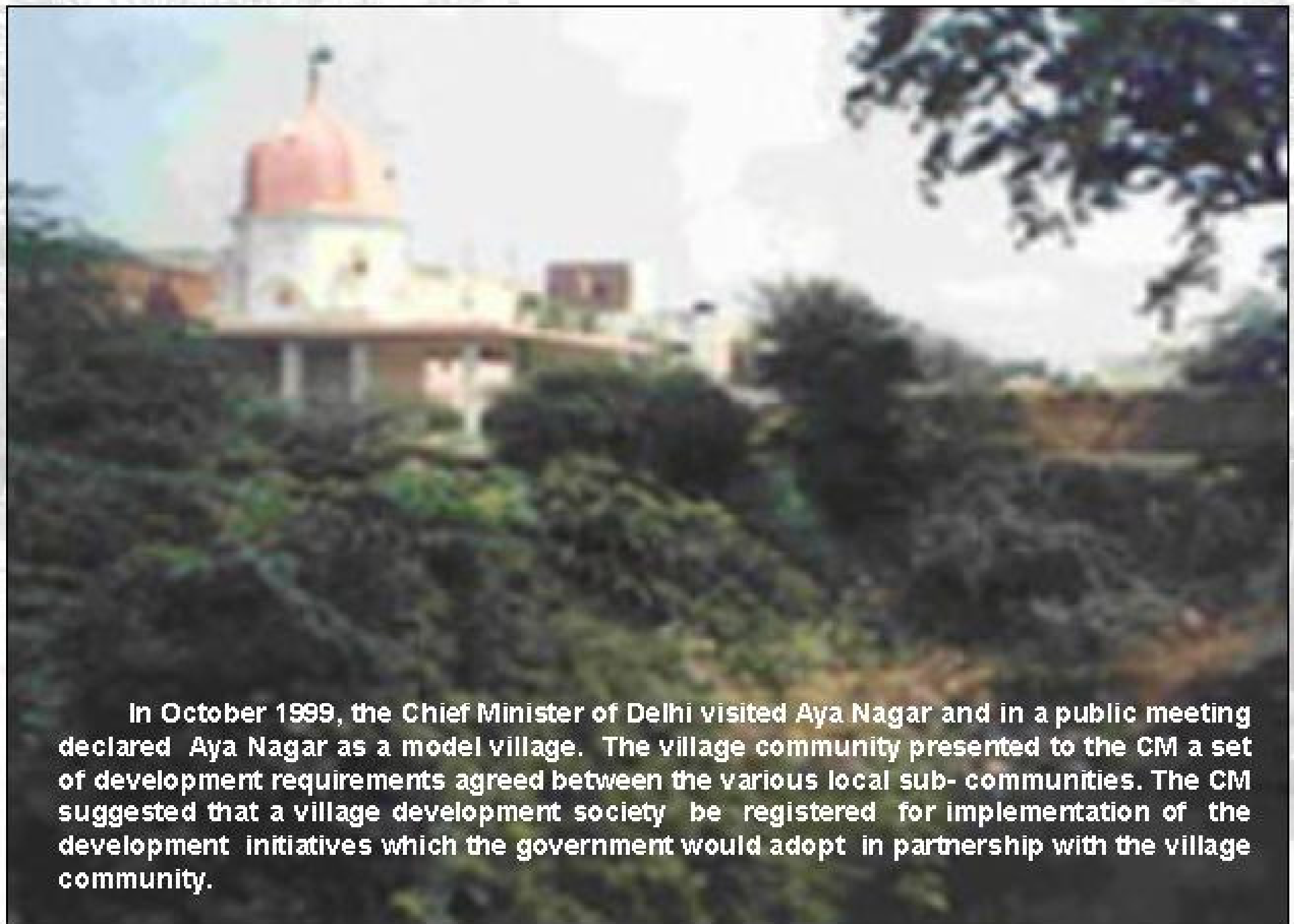
This “unauthorized” urban expansion has radically altered the habitational morphology of the settlement and created various issues ranging from basic health and sanitation to the fulfillment of growing urban aspirations.





The Aya Nagar Whole Village Development Programme proposes that the inhabitants *create, document* and partner with local authorities to implement a *Proto-typical Model for Urban Development*, to serve as a guide for similar settlements in the whole country.

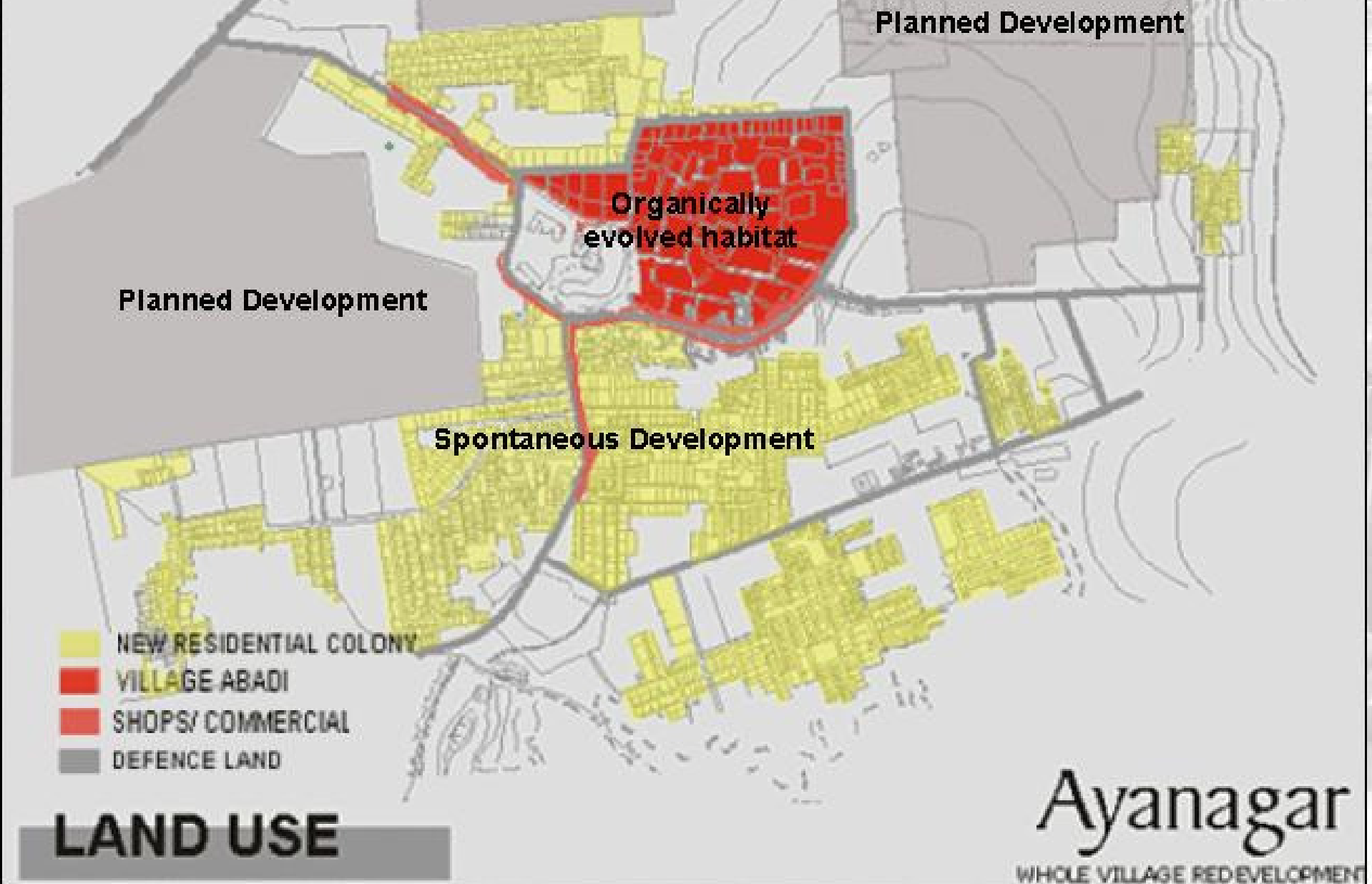




In October 1999, the Chief Minister of Delhi visited Aya Nagar and in a public meeting declared Aya Nagar as a model village. The village community presented to the CM a set of development requirements agreed between the various local sub- communities. The CM suggested that a village development society be registered for implementation of the development initiatives which the government would adopt in partnership with the village community.



Landuse pattern emerges as a combination of



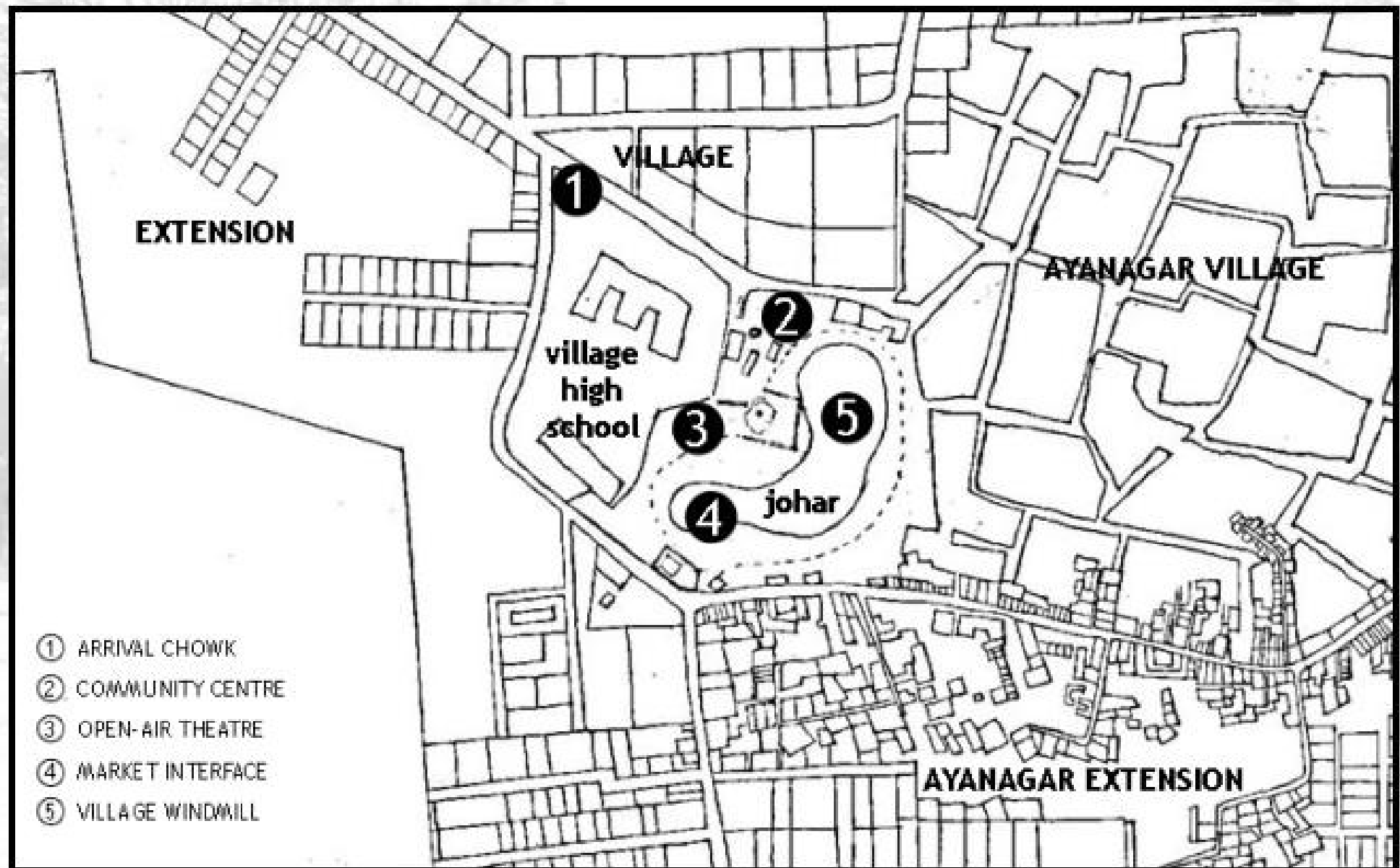


The Johar is the symbolic centre of the village society.

There are two Johar areas in the village, *Inner* and *Outer*, which are significant indicators of development

The Inner Johar originally made as a rain water harvesting structure, has now become derelict with garbage, sewerage and waste water flowing in open drains into the Johar.





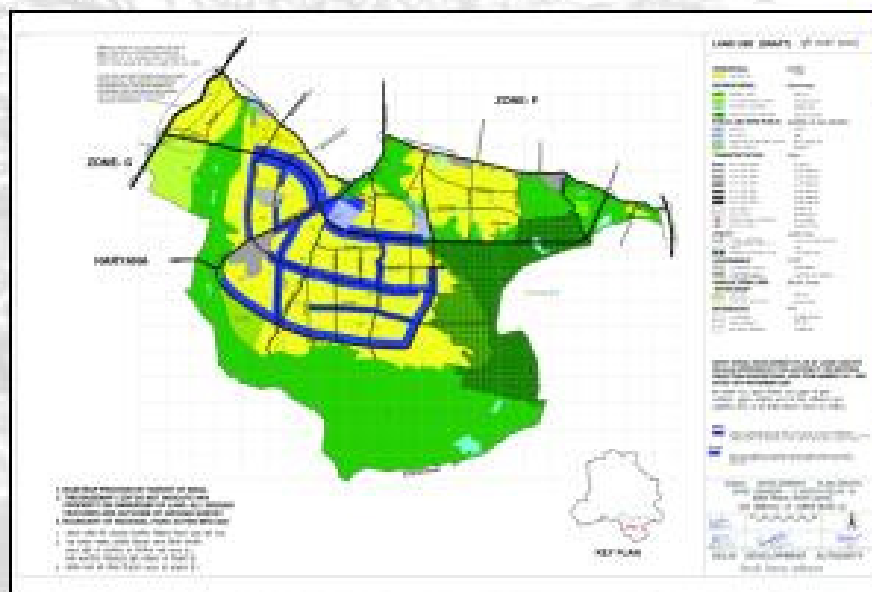
Development work shall begin by transforming the derelict village Johar into an 'eco-park' with landscaped areas around the water body and community facilities for the people.



Comprehensive Redevelopment 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.**





Delhi Development Authority proposal

Aya Nagar Metro Station

 Residential

 City Parks

 Government Land

 Facility Zone for commercial, recreational, transportation, public and semi-public use



The Draft Zonal Development Plan (Zone Division J) prepared by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) proposes urban infrastructure and facilities integrating Aya Nagar with the urban expansion of Delhi.

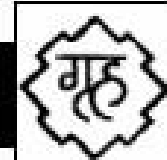




Citizen Action

AYA NAGAR WHOLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

16





**The diverse community of Aya Nagar is working towards a common purpose of,
*Social and Physical Development of their Habitation.***





November 2007 - A workshop was conducted in Aya Nagar with local and international organisations (University of the Arts, London and RSA in India) to initiate the rehabilitation of the village Johar.

March 2008 - Development Commissioner's visit to Aya Nagar

Dialogue between the community and NGO's such as *Janmadhyam*, *Chintan* and *FORCE*, initiated by the Aya Nagar Vikas Samiti is the basis of this project for implementation led by citizen action.



Highlights of Action

- Topographical survey of Aya Nagar and its environs has been commissioned by the Delhi government.
- The city park in Aya Nagar proposed by Delhi Development Authority has been approved for plantation work by the Forest Department.
- Discussion on the *The Whole Village Development Programme* with officials from the planning department of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has begun.
- Jan Madhaym, a rights based organisation working with the Aya Nagar community for the last 10 years is partnering GREHA for raising community awareness of the proposed development.
- GREHA has been doing research and development work in the area of environmental planning and architecture. Based in Aya Nagar since 2000, it has been working with the local community for social and physical transformation.
- Chintan, an environmental research and action group is preparing a solid waste management proposal for Aya Nagar.
- FORCE, an organization dedicated to the cause of water conservation is preparing to restore the two Johars (Inner and Outer) of Aya Nagar.

Prepared by M N Ashish Ganju, Rohit Krishan Gulati, Charu Ahluwalia, Pritika Mandal April 2008

