

## *Chapter 1*

# **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The town of Vrindaban is located in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh. The town is the focus of religious activity in the district. It is a major tourist centre in the district and Pilgrims from all over the world visit this town. Vrindaban literally means the forest of Tulsi. The history of Vrindavan dates back to 1500 A.D. when Lord chaitanya Mahaprabhu visited, though the legends date back to the times of Lord Krishna when this place was the favourite spot of Lord Krishna and Radha's past times.

As the name suggests Vrindavan was a forest. The building activity, started with the construction of the madan Mohan temple in 1580 A.D. and Govind dev temple in 1590 A.D. Residential areas developed with the temples as the focal point. There was no distinct pattern which was followed. Some of the Ghats like Suraj ghat, govind ghat, were constructed which formed a part of riverfront activity. Thus, largely it was a religious place.

### **1.2 Objective**

The objectives of this study are :

- (a) To assess the existing character of Vrindavan town in terms of its regional setting, demographic attributes, socio-economic base, landuse, housing situation, environment, social and physical infrastructure, tourism activities, organisation and management aspects. It also aims to identify the developmental issue in each of the above stated sectors.
- (b) To estimate the land requirement for further development of Vrindavan town for the plan period (i.e. 1999-2021) based on the sectoral projections and forecasts.
- (c) To evolve the development plan proposals, policies and strategies keeping in view the constraints and development potentials of the town and identify priority areas for future actions.

### **1.3. Methodology:**

The methodology adopted for this study can be explained and stated under the following stages:

#### **Stage 1: Introduction**

This includes the statement of the problem, the objectives and the scope of the plan preparation.

#### **Stage 2: Data Collection**

The preparation of the plan is mainly based on the collection of primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through surveys undertaken on various aspects like demography, land use, transportation, housing and infrastructure.

#### **Stage 3: Baseline data analysis and identification of issue**

This stage deals with the problem identification in the study area and consequently determining the objectives and scope of this study. Further it involves the process of data collection both at the primary and secondary levels which thus form the base line for study. The identification of issues at sectoral levels as a result of the data analysis. Thus, the potentials and constraints of the area were also defined.

#### **Stage 4: Planning forecasts for both the trend based and the accelerated growth based development scenarios**

Further, planning forecasts have been attempted taking an assumption of the two scenarios. The first scenario essentially trend based, arrives at a future picture for Vrindaban with no major developmental impetus being introduced in the region. However, that does not in anyway mean a stagnation of the town. The second scenario focusses on the induced city growth by laying more emphasis on any one sector of its economy.

#### **Stage 5: Physical Planning concept development for both trend based growth and accelerated growth**

This stage includes the development of concept plan for each sector under the categorisation of scenario one and two as has been stated above.

**Stage 6: Development proposals and policies**

In this stage, the proposals have been suggested to improve the areas which are lacking in basic infrastructure and adequate maintenance.

**Stage 7: Phasing and Plan implementation**

Finally, the last stage involves the identification of action plans and proposals for the priority areas in each sector of the town based on phasing and its organisational setup for plan implementation.

**1.3.Limitations And Scope**

- Vrindaban is small town and therefore, there is difficulty in the availability of detailed data.
- Very limited time for the preparation of the plan.