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Title: Special Economic Zones' Impacts on Physical Landscape and Socio Economic Development in their Environs: A Comparative Analysis of Faridabad and Gurgaon Districts, Haryana

ABSTRACT

The increasing rate of urbanisation and growing industrialization has made the study area a hub of developmental activities which has given a threat to undesired changes in the landscape system. In view of this the present work has been done to prepare the landscape ecotope level map and human impact map of the study area. It has been found that Faridabad district have three and Gurgaon twenty eight notified special economic zones. The area covered under notified SEZs in Faridabad district is about 35.435 hectares whereas about 1284.822 hectares is found in Gurgaon district. Built-up area occupied 144.044 sq km of total geographical area of Faridabad district in 1999 which increased to 180.833 sq km in 2010. Non- built up area occupied 598.856 sq. km of total geographical area of Faridabad district in 1999 which decreased to 562.067 sq. km in 2010. Total built up area occupied 15.938 per cent of total geographical area of Gurgaon district in 2000 which increased to 21.562 per cent in 2010 while non- built up area occupied 84.063 per cent of total geographical area of Gurgaon district in 2000 which decreased to 78.511 per cent in 2010. Land transformation has been observed in Special Economic Zones from agricultural land, open space, and wasteland while total land use transformation during 1999 to 2010 was 40.496 sq. km or 5.447 per cent of total geographical area of Faridabad district. In Gurgaon district SEZs occupied 12.849 sq. km. area from agricultural land, hills,

Industrial, waste lands and open space during 2000 to 2010. The degree of Meta-hemeroby which shows highest human intervention can be observed at the centre to north in linear shape of the Faridabad district and hemeroby index is 46.5 per cent that defines the landscape affected by human intervention. Hemeroby index for Gurgaon district obtained is 44.558 that defines the landscape is 44.5 per cent affected by human intervention which comes under Moderate Impact class and it can be said that Gurgaon district has moderate impact on landscape due to special economic zones, industrialization, urbanization and other developmental activities. The total export from special economic zones increased from Rs. 280.885 crore to Rs. 12468.84 crore during the period 2008-09 to 2012-13. The study brings out that special economic zones impact on landscape and socio-economic development of people's life are most critical. After selling land to special economic zones, the cash has been given to landowners while on the other side there is no compensation for agricultural labour. Consequently, the present study concluded with the fact that special economic zones should be developed on waste land or single crop land to reduce pressure on agriculture land. There should be an employment for at least one person for every project affected people of landless agricultural labourers in SEZs with reservation for women, agricultural labourers and below poverty line population.