



# Remote Sensing of Land

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## Monitoring and Measuring the Urban Forms Using Spatial Metrics of Howrah City, India

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### Abstract

Monitoring and measurement of urban growth pattern with the help of urban-rural gradient and spatial metrics are gaining significant importance in recent times. Rapid and unplanned urban growth has a great impact on natural resources, local ecology, forestry and infrastructure. Temporal satellite data, gradient analysis and landscape metrics of urban landscapes will help to evolve appropriate strategies for integrated planning and sustainable management of natural resources. This communication focuses on spatiotemporal patterns of land use dynamics of Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC), India and its surroundings with six buffer zones of 2kms. Analysis has been carried out on HMC using temporal remote sensing data. HMC has been used to identify the changes in the gradient of urban to peri-urban and rural regions. Further, the entire study area has been divided into eight zones radiated from city center based on directions. Different landscape metrics have been computed for each zone which helps to understand the spatiotemporal patterns and associated dynamics of the landscape at local levels.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The developmental process has much impact on the urbanization which has been little understood. World's urbanization has been increased from 30 to 50% between 1950 and 2010. During 2010, the urban population of the earth touched the mark of 350 million which intersect the 50% smudge. Developing countries in Asia and Africa do not show any insignia of lower down and sustained growth is evident (Duong, 2014; Herold et al., 2002). Developed countries concentrated with 78% of the urban population where the figure turns into 52% for the developing countries. Urban centers having more than 0.1 million population are facing tremendous pressure of population influx compare to previous decades (McDonnell et al., 2008; Nageswararao and Narendra, 2006). In Asia, 30% of

urban area possessed with 60% of urbanites with 42.2% urbanization rate in 2010.

Spatiotemporal influence of emerging large cities in connectivity, trade and utility services and amenities aspect pull rural population a movement towards urban areas in a haphazard manner or in a planned way (Hester et al., 2008; Long et al., 2007). This rapid growth and population concentration resulted in the horizontal expansion of urban space within its limit in great extent and the phenomenon of such growth is commonly reflected as urban sprawl (Li, 2009; Martin, 2003; Liu et al., 2014). Nature of spatial transformation within a particular timeframe echoes the nature of urban growth process (Bhatta et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2007).

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Therefore, it can be argued that urban growth and sprawling can be considered as spatiotemporal process of an area. Appraisal on the spatial and temporal context directed to conclude that so many scholars have observed this system as a complex process (Kim and Batty, 2011; Sudhira *et al.*, 2004; Cheng and Master, 2003; Weerakoon, 2017).

Advancement in remote sensing and GIS with the integration of land science provided a great podium to perform and scrutinize the changing nature of the landscape in spatial and temporal dimension (Estoque *et al.*, 2014; Gutman *et al.*, 2004; Turner *et al.*, 2007). Inspect about the driving factors associated with landscape change with descriptive statistics are noteworthy when size and speed of changing land use are concern (Hersperger *et al.*, 2010; Plexida *et al.*, 2014). With such consideration, assessment of spatial and temporal urban growth will be helpful (Long *et al.*, 2007; He *et al.*, 2013; Estoque *et al.*, 2014). In the study of landscape ecology, urban gradient has been often used to characterize the spatial and temporal extent of urban transformation (Luck and Wu, 2002; Estoque and Murayama, 2012; Estoque *et al.*, 2014). Several researchers pay their attention in landscape spatial metrics to characterize the landscape assembles and spatiotemporal design of urban setting (Estoque and Murayama, 2016; Aguilera *et al.*, 2011; Wu *et al.*, 2011). Based on fractal geometry and information theory, urban spatial metrics has been developed for the study of urban spatial structures and spatiotemporal pattern of urban land transformation in a very effective manner (Mandelbrot, 1989; Estoque and Murayama, 2015; Agrilera *et al.*, 2011; Wu, 2011; Plexida *et al.*, 2014).

Many researchers pointed out the phenomena of urban sprawling and haphazard growth in developing countries found tremendous during last few decades and the tendencies of dispersed expansion impede a serious problem for the modernization and wellbeing of the society (Rahaman, *et al.*, 2011; Ramachandra *et al.*, 2012). Presently, the measurement of urban sprawl is one of the burning topic of investigation. Remote sensing data and GIS techniques can apply for the study of urban sprawl in combine. (Dietzel *et al.*, 2005; Dewan and Yamaguchi, 2009; Herold *et al.*, 2002). Before the application of RS and GIS on sprawl quantification, the researchers must know the typology of urban expansions which is basically three types in nature (Li, 2001; Li and Reynolds, 1993; Hester *et al.*, 2008). Urban expansion happens either with the same population density, or reduced density or increased density. New developments through the infill process or redevelopment of the existing built-up area make a change of urban density (Weerakoon, 2017; Kamini *et al.*, 2006; Herold *et al.*, 2005) and recognized three types of urban growth pattern which have been termed as: infilling, edge expansion and outlying growth. Earlier three major forms of urban growth pattern have been addressed by Harvey and Clark (1965) as low-density continuous growth, ribbon development and leapfrog development. As there was no quantification

done by Harvey and Clark, it was really tough to separate low-density continuous growth from ribbon development or leapfrog development. Liu *et al.* (2010) have noted three growth types in urban growth monitoring, namely infilling, edge expansion and impulsive growth using Landscape Expansion Index (LEI). The LEI value ranges from 0-100. 1-50 LEI represents infill growth where 50-100 represents the edge expansion. Outlying growth or spontaneous growth can be found when LEI is zero. LEI ranges from 0 to 1, where '0' represents spontaneous growth, 0-0.5 signifies the edge expansion and above 0.5 representing the infill growth pattern. This approach has been found on Hanoi, Vietnam where Nong *et al.* (2014) measured the spatiotemporal urban growth patterns.

Recognition on the typologies of urban growth can be measured through LEI but the expressive picture may be the limitations until this result put forward along urban-rural gradient using buffer analysis. Landscape pattern in the urban regions usually changes through the process of haphazard urban growth. In this period, heterogeneity of the land has been found in decreasing nature with increasing landscape fragmentation with an increasing number of smaller patches. Such changes in an urban area can be identified using spatial metrics and categories the complex landscape structure into a simple and identifiable pattern (Ji *et al.*, 2006; Jenerette and Potere, 2010). In natural vegetation, landscape and spatial metrics have been used frequently (Gustafan, 1998; Hargis *et al.*, 1998; McGarigal *et al.*, 2002; O'Neill *et al.*, 1998). Application to the field of research outside the landscape ecology and across different kind of environments, this approach is suitable for urban areas which are more generally termed as 'spatial metrics'. Different indices (on the basis of patch and pixel) such as size, shape, edge, diversity can be assessed using the spatial matrix for an urban area (Gustafan, 1998; Martin, 2003). Several researchers have been categorized and developed a significant set of urban metrics to study the important aspects of urban landscape pattern (Cushman *et al.*, 2008; Ritters *et al.*, 1995). After an intense literature survey, eight spatial metrics have been selected to study the urban landscape fragmentation.

During the past two decades (i.e. 1996-2006 and 2006-2016), Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC), India has experienced an enormous growth of the urban population. During 1980s, HMC undergone various developmental stage and then Howrah municipality has been transformed as HMC. After 1984, the rapid growth of urban population took place due to its industrial competitiveness, network facility and nearness of Kolkata city. During 2001-2011, the concentration of census towns (basically small size urban centers) in Haora district accounted nearly 10% of State's census town which presents a clear picture of the spontaneous growth of urban area not only from farm to non-farm transformation but also due to migration from rural to an urban area. This argument has also been validated from 2011 census data where the rural population growth has shown a negative growth pattern. Present study analyses

the urban growth pattern and urban form of HMC, India. The primary objective of the study is to assess the varying speed of urban built-up growth during 1996-2016. After assessing the above mentioned objective, growth types in urban-rural gradient and spatiotemporal analysis of urban growth patterns has been quantified using spatial metrics for HMC and its surroundings during 1996-2016.

## 2 STUDY AREA

Howrah is a commercial and industrial city of West Bengal, India developed alongside its twin city Kolkata. HMC is the headquarters of Haora district and positioned on the western bank of River Hugli. Presently the city gains more importance as a principal administrative unit - State Secretariat 'NABANNA' is located within the city's jurisdiction. It is the third largest city of West Bengal after Kolkata and Asansol. Howrah is famous for busiest train terminal and this city also having Santraganchi and Shalimar train terminals.

This city connects with Kolkata with several bridges, e.g. Vidyasagar Bridge, Howrah Bridge, Bally Bridge within a short span of time. Though the district of Haora has a long history of urbanization, Howrah and Bally were the only two urban centers till the independence of India. But after 1947, the pace of urban expansion was reasonably faster and as a result, Haora district achieved 53 towns in 2001. During 2001-2011, the unprecedented growth of census towns (nearly 25% urban centers of the district total) makes the researchers more interested in study the urban pattern of the district.

The study focuses on HMC and its surrounding area (Figure 1). Howrah municipality was established in 1862 with an area of 50sq.km. Howrah municipality became HMC in 1984 with 50 wards distributed among 7 borough offices for the operation of daily work. HMC extends from  $88^{\circ}12'16''$  E. to  $88^{\circ}21'36''$  E. longitude and from  $22^{\circ}33'30''$  N. to  $22^{\circ}41'08''$  N. latitude with approximately 51.74 sq.km area with 10,77,075 population with a sex ratio of 919 in its civic boundary.

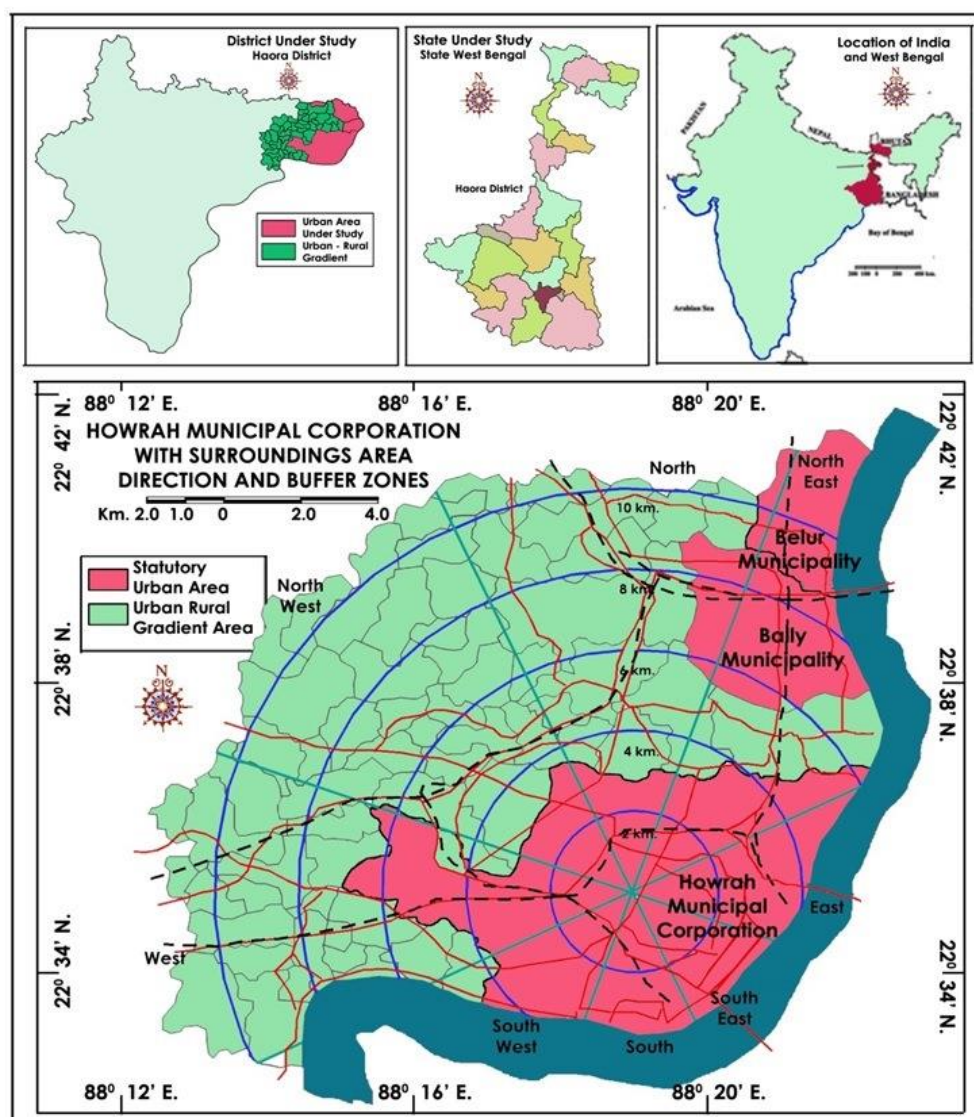


Figure 1. Study area

Table 1. Database

| Years      | Sensors                  | Path/Row  | Resolution | Band                                        | Source                        |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1996       | Landsat TM               | 138 / 044 | 30 m.      | 6 Bands: 1 – 5 and 7<br>6a, 6b Thermal Band | GLCF                          |
| 2006       | Landsat ETM              | 138 / 044 | 28.5 m.    | 6 Bands: 1 – 5 and 7<br>6a, 6b Thermal Band | GLCF                          |
| 2016       | Landsat ETM <sup>+</sup> | 138 / 044 | 28.5 m.    | 6 Bands; 1 – 5 and 7<br>6a, 6b Thermal Band | GLCF                          |
| Google map | ---                      | ---       | 1:1        | True Color Composite                        | Google Earth<br>(Open Source) |
| City map   | ---                      | ---       | ---        | ---                                         | Howrah Municipal Corporation  |

The working structure and composition are very high in this municipality because a huge migration from rural to urban took place constantly (Census of India, 2011). Within its 15 km buffer, HMC experience nearly 30 census towns among 72 numbers (nearly 10% of State's Census Town) concentrated in the district during 2001-2011. The reasons behind the selection of HMC as units of research in respect of urban growth are basically threefold in nature as:

1. The district has experienced a huge number of census towns during 2001-2011 (5% share to state).
2. As Howrah city is known as 'Sheffield of India' for its industrial dominance, this urban agglomeration has lopsided pattern of urban growth. As a result, the expansion of the city might follow the sporadic pattern of urban growth which influences sprawling pattern: infilling, edge expansion and spontaneous growth.
3. As through railway and road network accessibility, it is very near to Kolkata, which is state capital and most important industrial, commercial, administrative, education and health hub. Nearness of Kolkata makes an urban shadow to Howrah and its surroundings which make more prospective for urban growth.

### 3 MATERIALS

Quantifying the urban form of HMC and its surroundings has done using remotely sensed Landsat data of different time span from open source at GLCF. Table 1 and Table 2 showing the data used and metrics used in this study. Detailed methods used to understand the landscape fragmentation has been stated in sections 4.2 and 4.4. HMC map and its surrounding areas map have been digitized in Arc GIS 10.1 platform with the help of ground control points (GCP's) collected through

handheld pre-calibrated GPS device during 2016-17 survey. Accuracy Assessment of Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (EBBI) showing more than 90% for each image (Table 3). The methodology of the study has been given in Figure 2.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Built-up Growth Index

The Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (EBBI) is based on the indexing of remote sensing data which is a combined effect of Near Infra-Red, Short Wave Infra-Red and Thermal Infra-Red (0.83µm, 1.65 µm and 11.45 µm, respectively) of Landsat image. Herold *et al.* (2004) analyzed built-up reflectance posing higher values due to having longer sensor wavelengths. NIR and SWIR band show high spectral values of built-up (i.e. urban, concrete roof, roads, walkway, flyover etc.) and bands give an inverse reflectance ratio to vegetation and water bodies. For mapping the built-up areas, TIR channel is one of the effective channels (Weng, 2008) which confirm 10-12 degrees lower than the built-up environment. To achieve a higher degree of built-up effect, an improved mathematical operation has been followed (Rahman *et al.*, 2012). To find out the EBBI, the following formula has been used which is applicable for Landsat 5 and Landsat 8:

$$EBBI = \frac{Band\ 5 - Band\ 4}{10\sqrt{Band\ 5 + Band\ 4}} \quad (1)$$

As this analysis has focused only on urban change, landscape heterogeneity was simplified and three basic maps have been developed: i) built-up (urban footprint) that exist before 1995, ii) urban change during 1995-2005 and iii) urban change during 2005-2015 and here other land cover classes such as water bodies, green belt and open space have been ignored. The overall methodological pattern of the study is shown through a flow diagram (Figure 2).

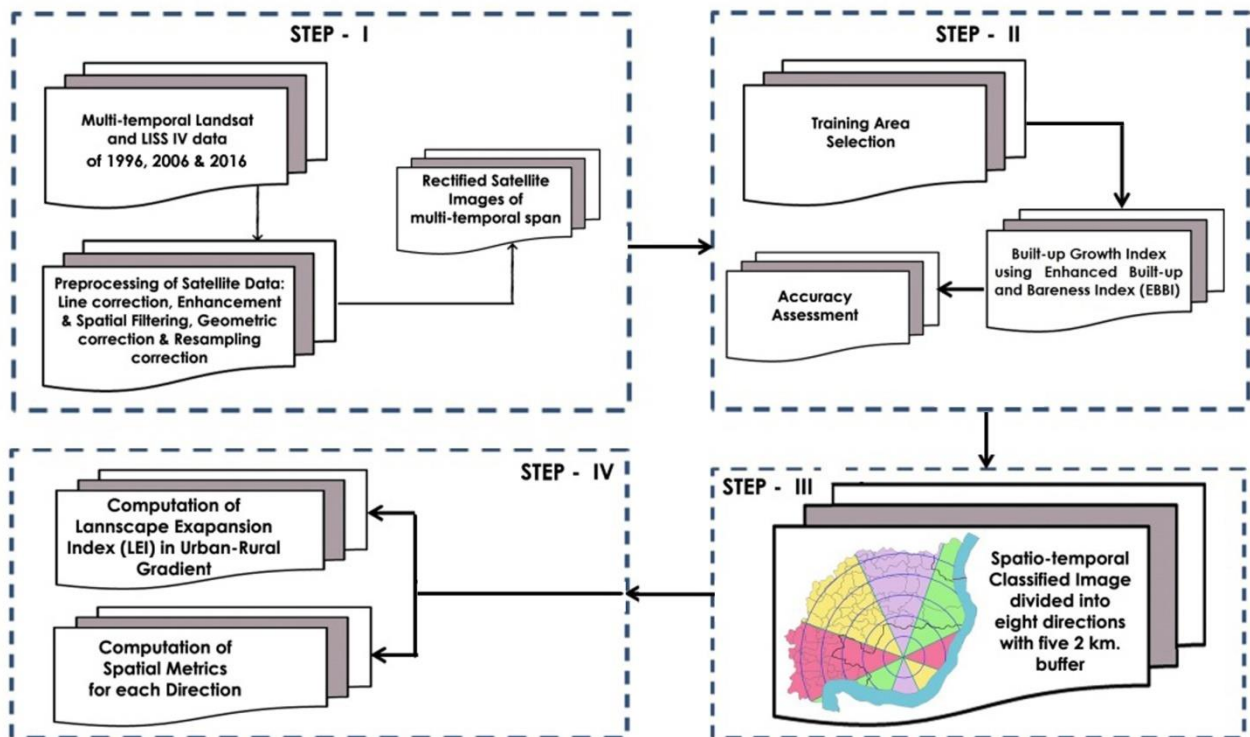


Figure 2. Methodology

#### 4.2 Typology of Urban Growth along Urban-Rural Gradient

The basic three pattern of urban growth has been quantifying using Landscape Expansion Index (LEI) (Figure 3). It is basically the ratio of earlier urban footprint to newly grown urban patches. When spatiotemporal urban growth pattern is a concern, LEI is an important methodology to analyses the landscape change. The LEI has been calculated using the formula (equation (2)) as derived by Liu et al. (2010):

$$LEI = LC / p \quad (2)$$

where,  $LEI$  = Landscape Expansion Index,  $LC$  = length of common boundary and  $p$  = perimeter of the newly developed built-up area.

Area-Weighted Mean Expansion Index (AWMEI) (equation (3)) has been calculated to understand the virtual control of different urban arrangements in the spatial or temporal frame.

$$AWMEI = \sum_{i=1}^n LEI_i \times \left( \frac{a_i}{A} \right) \quad (3)$$

where,  $LEI_i$  is the outcome of Landscape Expansion Index for the patch which have formed newly, i.e. 'I', ' $a_i$ ' is the new patch area and 'A' is the total area of grown patches formed newly.

When AWMEI is found with higher results it imply the compact pattern of urban form and lower the

results agrees to occurrence of leapfrogging or spontaneous growth (Liu et al., 2010; Dietzel et al., 2005). After having the result of LEI and AWMEI, buffer gradient analysis has been done (Table 2). Five buffer zones having 2km interval from the core of HMC in eight directions has been developed to study the urban-rural gradient. Within each buffer of each direction landscape expansion categories and spatial metrics has been analyzed in the next part to understand the changing characteristics along the urban-rural gradient.

#### 4.3 Quantifying Spatial/ Landscape Metrics

Landscape spatial metrics or indices are the representation of quantitative indices to portray the structures and pattern of urban growth (McGarigal and Marks, 1995). Here, some of the indices have been used which have explicit meanings in relation to behaviour of urban patches i.e. dispersal or amalgamation (Lei and Wu, 2004; Seto and Fragkias, 2005). In this study, changing urban pattern has been analyzed using a set of selected landscape metrics. The landscape metrics has been quantified with open source software using FRAGSTAT version 4.3 (Mcgarigal et al. 2002). Selected metrics (Table 2) have been considered using  $30 \times 30$  m cell neighbourhood rule in FRAGSTAT software for each level classification map and then the results have been evaluated.

Table 2. Metrics used for study of landscape fragmentation

| Indicators                                 | Symbols | Formulae                                                                                  | Ranges                | Description                                                                                                                                                 | Sources                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Class Area                                 | CA      | $\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} (\frac{1}{10000})$                                                   | >0, without limit     | Class area and total area will be the same value when the entire landscape consists with single compact urban unit                                          | McGarigal and Marks, 1995; Bhatta et al., 2010; Plexida et al., 2014 |
| Number of Patches                          | NP      | N                                                                                         | >0, without limit     | Number of patches is an indication of the landscape diversity of its richness and it measure urban expansion                                                | Chu et al., 2009; Bhatta et al., 2010; Plexida et al., 2014          |
| Patch Density                              | PD      | $(N/A) \times 10000 \times 100$                                                           | >0, without limit     | Number of small patches in the landscape increases without substantial growth in an urban area, and so PD will increase and showing heterogeneous situation | Marta et al., 2018; Bhatta et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2007          |
| Edge Density                               | ED      | $(E/A) \times 10000$                                                                      | >0, without limit     | The total length of the edge of a land cover class increases with an increasing nature of fragmentation                                                     | Huang et al., 2007; Marta et al., 2018; Plexida et al., 2014         |
| Largest Patch Index                        | LPI     | $\frac{j=1}{A} \times 100$                                                                | Ranges between 1 -100 | LPI approaches to '0' when the largest patch of the corresponding patch becomes increasingly smaller                                                        | Herold et al., 2002; Huang et al., 2007; Plexida et al., 2014        |
| Area Weighted Mean Patch Fractal Dimension | AWMPFD  | $\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} 2 \ln 0.25 \frac{P_i}{\ln S_i} S_i \times (S_i / \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} S_i)$ | Within 1 - 2          | AWMPED approaches '1' for shapes with very simple perimeter such as circles or squares                                                                      | Sandra et al., 2006; Huang et al., 2007; Plexida et al., 2014        |
| Contagion                                  | CONTAG  | $\sum_i (P_i/P) \frac{1}{N^2} = \sum_i (\frac{2\pi\sqrt{S_i}}{\pi} / P_i) \frac{1}{N^2}$  | Within 0-100%         | Landscape classes are describing by higher contagion index. When fragmented patches are large in number contagion become low                                | O'Neill, 1998; Huang et al., 2007; Plexida et al., 2014              |
| Shannon's Diversity Index                  | SHDI    | $\sum_{i=1}^m (P_i * \ln P_i)$                                                            | >0, without limit     | Quantitative measure of the variety and relative abundance of patches represented on the land                                                               | Rastogi and Jain, 2018; Huang et al., 2007; Plexida et al., 2014     |

#### 4.4 Selected Landscape Metrics for Urban Pattern Analysis

##### 4.4.1 Class Area (CA)

Class area is the spontaneous metrics castoff to analyze the arrangement of urban growth in the frame of spatial metrics. Sometimes it is recognized as total area covered by a land cover class in hectares (McGarigal and Marks, 1995). 'CA' value ranges always greater than '0' and extent up to without limit. Class area and the total area will be the same value during the complete landscape comprises in a single patch as a compact urban unit.

##### 4.4.2 Number of Patches (NP)

Number of patches determines the discontinuity of discrete growth in the urban setting. Number of patches

grows in a huge number during the rapid urban growth which is basically located around the nuclei. NP is a sign of the landscape diversity and its richness. The number of patches measures urban expansion when the landscape gets more fragmented and heterogeneous. 'NP' value ranges always greater than 1 and extends up to without limit. When the urban setting contains with single patch, NP becomes '1'.

##### 4.4.3 Patch Density (PD)

Landscape fragmentation can also be measure by using patch density (PD) which directly indicates the distribution and density of patches of a land cover class within a specified area. Patch density is also a good indicator for landscape fragmentation. When the number of minor patches intensifies without significant growth

in urban setting, PD values increases. This show a more varied and scrappy urban growth pattern. However, when the number of patches and total landscape area increases in proportionate manner, there will be no significant change in PD will be evident in urban setting. Value of patch density lies always greater than '0' and extent without limit.

#### 4.4.4 Edge Density (ED)

Edge density measures the edge length of urban patches which is another important indicator of urban expansion level. It is figure out by divide the length of the urban boundary and total urban-scape. When the edge extent of specific land cover class (urban area) increases, fragmentation nature within the urban landscape also increases (Figure 3). Here the smallest mapping unit is the pixel. An increment in NP can certainly lead to an increase in edge density (ED). Value of edge density (ED) lies always greater than '0' and extent without limit.

#### 4.4.5 Largest Patch Index (LPI)

Largest patch index (LPI) is a measure of ratio lying between '0' to '100' and expressed in percentage. LPI is the ratio between largest urban patch and the total area in urban setting (Herold et al., 2002). LPI approaches towards '0' when largest patch of the conforming patch type becomes increasingly smaller and LPI approaches found '100'. This index is a measure of discrete core to a dominant core.

#### 4.4.6 Area Weighted Mean Patch Fractal Dimension (AWMPFD)

Area Weighted Mean Patch Fractal Dimension (AWMPFD) is the average value of fractal extents of the urban patches with a larger path. Metric value of AWMPFD lies within 1 and 2. Additionally, AWMPFD matches the average patch fractal dimension (FRACT) lies in the landscape, weighted by patch area.

#### 4.4.7 Contagion (CONTAG)

Probability of neighborhood pixels of the same class can be measure by Contagion (CONTAG) as describes by O'Neill (1998). This index determines the aggregation or clumpiness of landscape. In other words, contagion is the measure of adjacency. In case of large patches within the landscape, high value with contagious patches has been evident. The lower value of contagion indicates the fragmented patches in an urban setting. The result of CONTAG lies within 0 and 100%.

#### 4.4.8 Shannon's Diversity Index (SHDI)

Variety of urban patches and its relative abundance in a landscape can be represented using Shannon's entropy which is a quantitative measure. SHDI value ranges not less than 0 to without any limit. In urban planning quantification analysis of the richness in patch diversity are the key facets for landscape study.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Varying Speed of Urban Built-Up Growth during 1996 - 2016

The classified EBBI map of Howrah and its 10km surroundings (from city core) of the years of 1996, 2006 and 2016 has been shown in Figure 4 (a-f) and comparative growth of built-up in Figure 5. The achieved overall classification accuracies were 92.13%, 93.87% and 95.31% and overall kappa statistics were 0.931, 0.907 and 0.942, respectively for the classification of 1996, 2006 and 2016 temporal span. Present study on Howrah and its surroundings has successfully achieved overall kappa statistics at about 92% and hence the analysis is accepted (Lea and Curtis, 2010). The classified Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index has been summarized in Table 3.

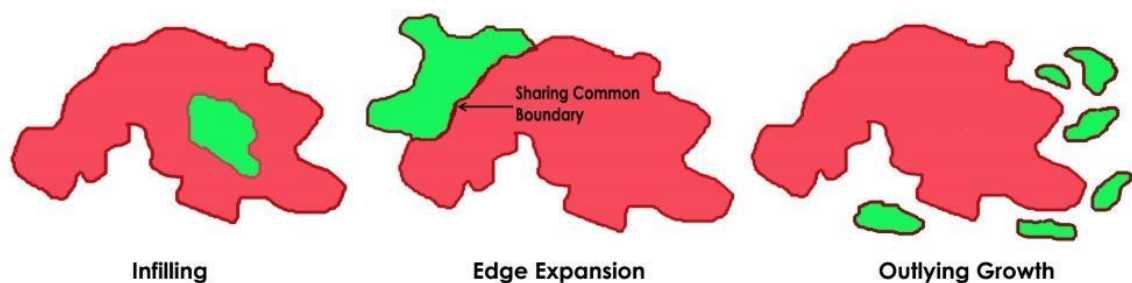


Figure 3. Land expansion types in an urban area

Table 3. Results of Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (BEEI) with Accuracy

| Sensor                   | Years | Classified Image                            | Overall accuracy | Kappa Statistics |
|--------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Landsat TM               | 1996  | Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (BEEI) | 92.13%           | 0.931            |
| Landsat ETM              | 2006  | Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (BEEI) | 93.87%           | 0.907            |
| Landsat ETM <sup>+</sup> | 2016  | Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (BEEI) | 95.31%           | 0.942            |

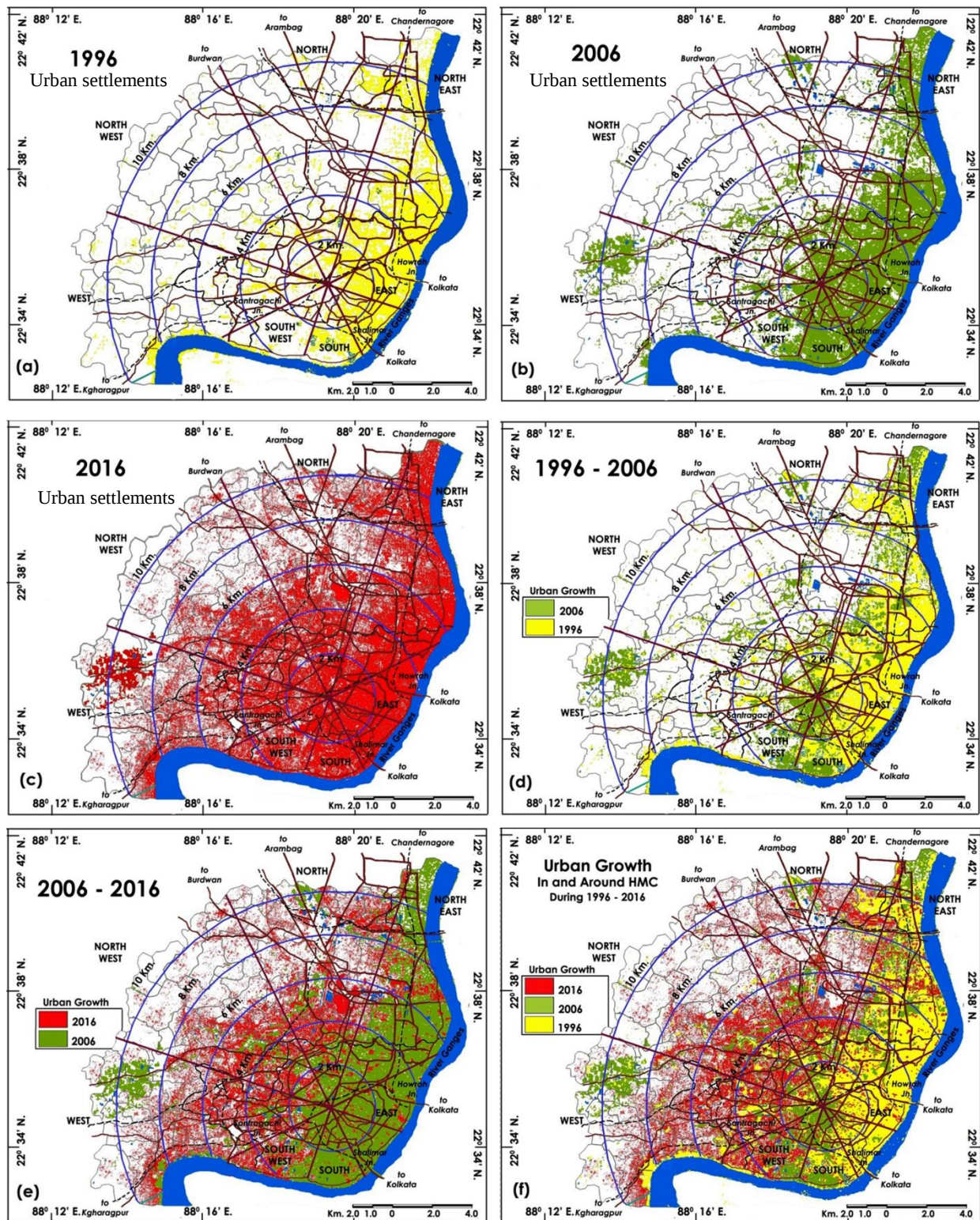


Figure 4 (a-f). Urban growth in and around of Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) during 1996-2016

The proposed method as defined by [Rahman et al. \(2011\)](#), Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index (BEEI) has been found most accurate to extract the built-up environment of the study area. The composition of marked statistics has been marked as a growth pattern for a span of 20 years. The increase of built-up area

during 2006-2016 has been found significantly to the other date (i.e. 1996-2006). The statistics for the year 1996 shows city area to spread over 4025 hectares which were increased to 5748 hectares in 2006 and 9189 hectares in 2016. The result demonstrates that HMC and surrounding areas gaining approximately 128.30% in the

past 20 years (i.e. 1996-2006) at a rate of 258 hectares per year. The increase of built-up area during 1996-2016 spread over the North, West and Northwest directions, mainly. This growth pattern shows the fragmented and linear expansion along the outer peripheral portion of the study area whereas infilling pattern has found as a dominant pattern in the city core. The results from EBBI have been further analyzed using of gradient approach and spatial metrics for the better understanding the form of built-up growth.

## 5.2 Growth Types in Urban-Rural Gradient during 1996-2016

LEI in the study ranges from 0 to 1 and the urban growth types acknowledged as follows:  $LEI > 0.5$  represents infill growth,  $LEI < 0.5$  represent edge expansion and  $LEI$  equals to zero is termed as spontaneous growth. Figure 4 a-f shows three classified images for HMC and its surrounding areas (1996, 2006 and 2016) and detected built-up class (i.e. gaining the built-up or transformation of non-built-up to built-up environment). In the year 1996, the HMA's built-up land was 4025 hectares which was increased into 5748 hectares in 2006 and 9189 hectares in 2016. This result shows that HMC and surrounding areas gaining approximately 128.30% in the past 20 years (i.e. 1996-2006) at a rate of 2.58 sq.km. per year. It is noteworthy that in 1996, urban built-up accounted for only 5.13% of the entire landscape, while in 2006 it was 7.33% and in 2016 turn into 11.72% of the total area. The landscape expansion index calculated different expansion types during 1996-2016 of HMC and its surroundings (Table 4). These types of urban growth has been termed as infilling, edge expansion and outlying growth. After categorizing the urban growth from Figure 4 a-f, it was further studied with LEI to determine the types of urban growth took place in HMC and its buffer area up to

10km (peri-urban-rural zone) calculated land extent in pixel and per cents are shown in Table 4.

Throughout the 20 years (1996-2016) of study, outlying growth has been considered as primary growth type. During 1996-2006, infill growth has shown an insignificant percentage of 7.45 while outlying growth accounted for 53.90% (Table 4). During 1996-2016, infill growth never has shown any momentous surge. However, edge expansion accounted for such significant growth but less as it was during 1996-2006. During these two periods, the outlying growth increased by nearly 5% (from 53.9% to 58.35%). Figure 6a exemplifies the percentages of different urban growth during these two study periods. As revealed in Figure 6a, the main urban growth type during the entire study periods was outlying growth though it has been accounted for 53.9% during 1996-2006 and increased to 58.35% during 2006-2016. Infill growth has been decreased from 7.45 to 5.25%. According to Figure 7a, outlying growth and edge expansion in and HMC along SE railway and the main arterial road took place in a rapid manner. As the stimulus of three diverse types of urban growth proportionate with distance from the core of Howrah city, it is necessary to compute the usefulness of these growth types from the city core to different distance and directions. In first, the urban change during 1996-2016 in the HMC and its 10km buffer determine a gradual change of 4025 hectares to 9189 hectares which corresponds to 5.13% to 11.72% of total area. Built-up growth rate (annually) for five buffer zones during the study period has also been calculated which shows the dissimilar growth trend during two study periods (Table 5) and tends to fluctuate reliant on the distance from HMC core.

Table 4. Types of urban growth

| Typologies      | 1996-2006 |       | 2006-2016 |       |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                 | Pixels    | %     | Pixels    | %     |
| Infilling       | 11,788    | 7.45  | 12,582    | 5.25  |
| Edge expansion  | 62,745    | 39.65 | 87,238    | 36.40 |
| Outlying growth | 85,292    | 53.90 | 139,847   | 58.35 |

Table 5. Urban growth rate in buffer zones

| Temporal span | Buffer zones |        |        |        |         |
|---------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|               | Up to 2km.   | 2-4km. | 4-6km. | 6-8km. | 8-10km. |
| 1996-2006     | 0.53         | 2.39   | 1.46   | 0.72   | 0.42    |
| 2006-2016     | 7.29         | 5.83   | 9.09   | 3.52   | 3.55    |

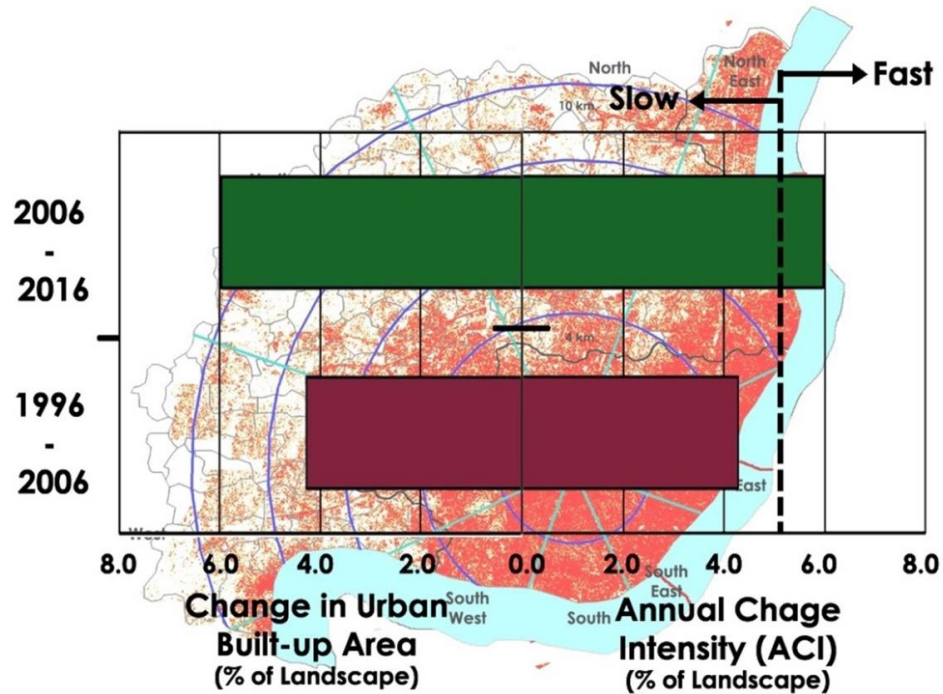


Figure 5. The land expansion types

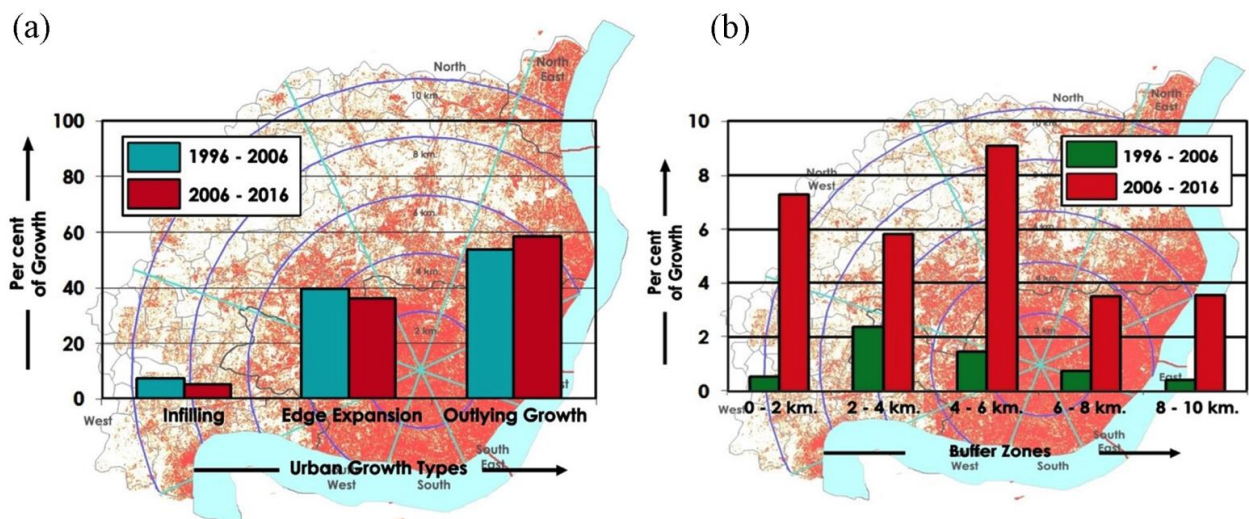


Figure 6. Types (a) and rate (b) of urban growth

According to the Table 6, the average annual growth rate within the 2km buffer did not show any noteworthy change during 1996-2006 which 0.53% but during 2006-2016 it was jumped up to 7.29%. During 1996-2006, the average annual growth rates were 2.39, 1.46, 0.72 and 0.42%, respectively for different buffer (Figure 6b). During 2006-2016 similar pattern of growth has been experienced by all buffer zones except 4-6km buffer. Within 4-6km buffer the average annual growth rate was 9.09%. During 2006-2016, average annual growth rate was much higher to the previous study period and this figure directly indicates the nature of

haphazard growth or booming of small size urban centers (CT's according to Census of India) in and around HMC (Table 5). In this state, three types of urban growth within the buffer zones and different direction has to study for better understanding of growth pattern.

From Figure 7a, nearly 50% of urban growth in 2km buffer zone has identified as infilling type during 1996-2006 which was decreased sharply up to 8km buffer zone. No infilling has been found in 8-10km buffer. Edge expansion growth shows a steady growth

along different buffer zones at an average of 36.87% to total growth. The outlying growth pattern was accounted for only 13.25% within 2km buffer but sharply increase along different buffer zone (Table 6). 6-8km and 8-10km buffer zone shows a spontaneous growth which implies a huge migration of rural population in the peri-urban portion of HMC. To study the pattern of such urban-rural gradient, directional analysis of growth pattern would be more helpful to throw light gradient driver variables, e.g. a) distance to major roads, b) distance from schools, c) distance to growth nodes, d) distance to urban civic amenities, etc.

To comprehend the changed behaviour of growth types in urban setting with respect to directions from the urban core, eight directions have been created to identify the growth types (Figure 7b). During the study period (i.e. 1996-2016), infilling growth has been observed

more than 20% in Southwest and West directions. East zone also accounts 18.5% of growth which was basically within the limit of HMC boundary as river Ganges make the eastern limit of HMC. Other five directions have not accounted for any significant growth in respect of infilling pattern. Edge expansion has not been found pointedly in North, Northeast, West and Northwest direction (Table 7). North, Northeast, Northwest directions lie within Bally municipality and HMC which attract such kind of growth pattern. Outlying growth also shows the same pattern of urban growth following the edge expansion type. From the directional analysis, it is very clear that the emergence of census towns (CT's) have to make a contribution for such kind of outlying growth in the above-mentioned direction. Maximum outlying growth in the urban built-up area has been found in North and West direction at 30.5% and 25.5%, respectively.

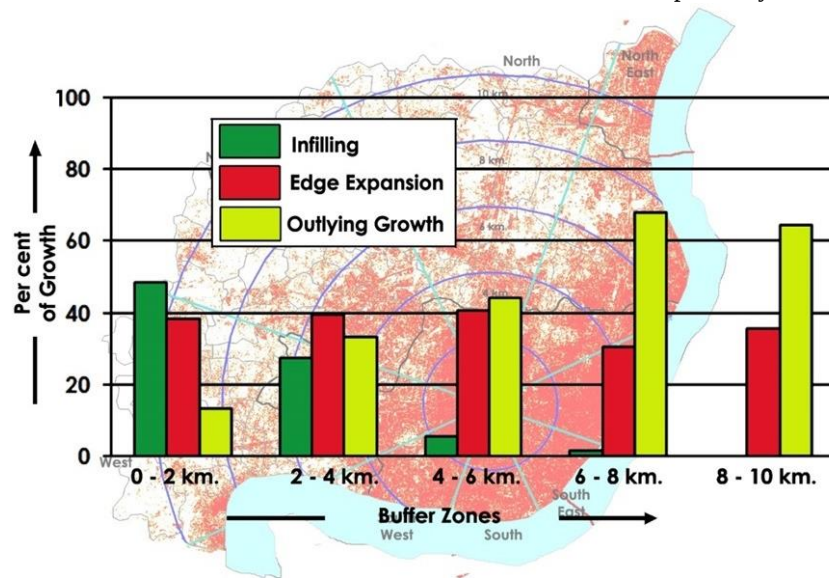


Figure 7(a). Buffer zone wise urban growth

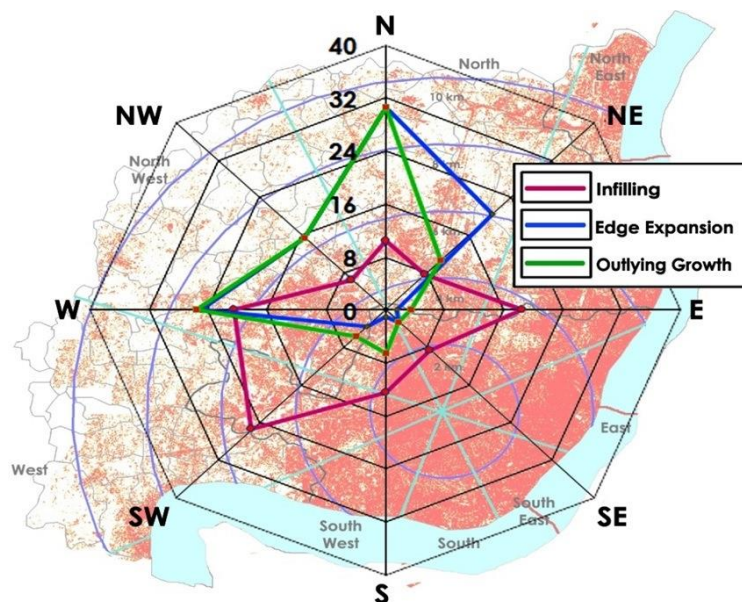


Figure 7(b). Direction wise urban growth

### 5.3 Spatiotemporal Growth Pattern using Spatial Metrics

Spatial metrics is a very powerful tool to describe urban built-up quantitatively and compare the results using multi-date thematic maps. Eight often used spatial metrics have been selected on the basis of literature reviewed for the synoptic analysis of built-up dynamics over the space of HMC and its surroundings during 1996-2016 (Table 8, 9 and 10).

#### 5.3.1 Class Area (CA)

Table 9 shows the result of class area (CA) has developed from 4025 hectares in 1996 to 5748 hectares in 2006 and to 9189 in 2016 (Figure 8a). In the second phase of the study period (i.e. 2006-2016) urban built-up has been estimated in highest rate which was nearly 60% (59.86 %) within 10 years. This specifies much speedy urban growth has been taking place during 2006-2016 in respect of 1996-2006. Growth of class area (CA) mostly found in the North, Northeast, west and Southwest directions during the last phase (Figure 9a). If the urban gradient is considered, within 2 and 8km buffer, class area (CA) has concentrated nearly 48%. Within 2-4 and 4-6km buffer most census towns (CTs)

has emerged during 2001-2011 census periods which make an important characteristic to such kind of spatial metric (Figure 10a).

#### 5.3.2 Number of Patches (NP)

The upsurge of number patches (NP) in HMC and its surrounding urban setting indicate rapid growth of urban built-up and the level of fragmentation in the built-up environment throughout the study period in different directions. The higher degree of NP shows the landscape fragmentation and lower values indicate the compact growth in the study region. Though during the study period mixed and split pattern urban growth process has taken place, and the substantial transformation has been perceived during 2006-2016 (Figure 8b). However bi-modal peak has been detected in North and Northwest directions (Figure 9b). In the case of NP analysis done through the urban gradient, the values increased very sharply as buffer distance increases. The significant inclination of the curve (Figure 10b) has been observed with 6-8km buffer which shows a clear indication of the growth of census towns (CTs) following outlying growth pattern. Patches at the city core of HMC tried to combine into a single clumped principal patch but the fragmentation is clear on the outer gradient.

Table 6. Urban growth types

| Typologies of urban growth (%) | Buffer zones |         |         |         |          |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|                                | Up to 2 km.  | 2-4 km. | 4-6 km. | 6-8 km. | 8-10 km. |
| Infilling                      | 48.50        | 27.25   | 5.25    | 1.30    | ---      |
| Edge expansion                 | 38.25        | 39.60   | 40.50   | 30.50   | 35.50    |
| Outlying growth                | 13.25        | 33.15   | 44.25   | 68.20   | 64.50    |

Table 7. Urban growth types in different directions

| Typologies of urban growth (%) | Directions |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                | N          | NE    | E     | SE   | S     | SW    | W     | NW    |
| Infilling                      | 10.50      | 7.50  | 18.50 | 8.50 | 12.50 | 25.50 | 20.50 | 6.50  |
| Edge expansion                 | 30.50      | 20.50 | 1.50  | 2.50 | 1.00  | 3.50  | 25.00 | 15.50 |
| Outlying growth                | 30.50      | 10.50 | 3.50  | 2.50 | 6.50  | 5.50  | 25.50 | 15.50 |

Table 8. Urban spatial metrics during 1996 - 2016

| Temporal span | Urban spatial metrics |     |     |      |      |        |        |      |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|------|--------|--------|------|
|               | CA                    | NP  | PD  | ED   | LPI  | AWMPFD | CONTAG | SHDI |
| 1996          | 4025                  | 215 | 46  | 27.5 | 10.6 | 1.16   | 72.38  | 1.5  |
| 2006          | 5748                  | 278 | 78  | 55.5 | 13.9 | 1.25   | 54.29  | 1.7  |
| 2016          | 9189                  | 435 | 134 | 89.7 | 17.2 | 1.39   | 46.25  | 2.1  |

Table 9: Class and landscape level spatial metrics along different directions during 1996-2016

| Directions | CA   |      |      | NP     |      |      | PD     |       |       | ED   |      |      |
|------------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
|            | 1996 | 2006 | 2016 | 1996   | 2006 | 2016 | 1996   | 2006  | 2016  | 1996 | 2006 | 2016 |
| N          | 1065 | 1467 | 2234 | 56     | 72   | 114  | 15     | 21    | 32    | 5.6  | 7.9  | 17.4 |
| NE         | 725  | 954  | 178  | 34     | 48   | 84   | 7      | 8     | 19    | 4.3  | 6.8  | 11.5 |
| E          | 22   | 339  | 785  | 9      | 15   | 19   | 2      | 4     | 7     | 1.1  | 2.8  | 6.4  |
| SE         | 138  | 324  | 525  | 17     | 18   | 22   | 3      | 4     | 9     | 1.7  | 2.4  | 3.9  |
| S          | 325  | 422  | 67   | 12     | 14   | 21   | 2      | 5     | 11    | 1.9  | 4.1  | 2.8  |
| SW         | 255  | 392  | 465  | 13     | 18   | 23   | 3      | 4     | 8     | 1.2  | 2.7  | 6.7  |
| W          | 53   | 965  | 1565 | 28     | 34   | 54   | 7      | 19    | 21    | 5.2  | 11.3 | 15.6 |
| NW         | 767  | 885  | 1165 | 46     | 59   | 98   | 7      | 13    | 27    | 6.5  | 17.5 | 25.4 |
| Directions | LPI  |      |      | AWMPFD |      |      | CONTAG |       |       | SHDI |      |      |
|            | 1996 | 2006 | 2016 | 1996   | 2006 | 2016 | 1996   | 2006  | 2016  | 1996 | 2006 | 2016 |
| N          | 10.6 | 13.9 | 14.7 | 1.16   | 1.23 | 1.39 | 72.38  | 50.55 | 41.65 | 1.5  | 1.8  | 2.2  |
| NE         | 7.3  | 4.2  | 3.9  | 0.72   | 0.98 | 1.15 | 68.98  | 56.87 | 50.98 | 0.6  | 0.8  | 1.3  |
| E          | 1.5  | 2.4  | 2.7  | 0.35   | 0.56 | 0.45 | 45.67  | 44.32 | 40.35 | 0.9  | 0.5  | 0.7  |
| SE         | 2.3  | 2.6  | 2.1  | 0.65   | 0.77 | 0.62 | 23.45  | 25.67 | 21.23 | 0.3  | 0.9  | 1.4  |
| S          | 4.3  | 3.8  | 2.8  | 0.54   | 1.12 | 1.09 | 21.67  | 18.76 | 11.23 | 0.4  | 0.7  | 0.9  |
| SW         | 2.9  | 3.2  | 4.4  | 0.23   | 0.43 | 0.56 | 23.67  | 28.85 | 38.29 | 0.7  | 0.8  | 1.5  |
| W          | 3.2  | 4.6  | 7.9  | 0.45   | 0.48 | 0.62 | 21.34  | 22.56 | 21.85 | 0.8  | 1.7  | 1.9  |
| NW         | 5.7  | 11.7 | 17.2 | 1.09   | 1.25 | 1.31 | 30.56  | 40.29 | 46.25 | 0.7  | 1.5  | 2.3  |

### 5.3.3 Patch Density (PD)

Fragmentation category has been studied by applying another indication, i.e. patch density (PD). Increasing nature in built-up land use class shows the higher PD which is corroborated with fragmentation in an urban landscape setting (Figure 8c). During the second phase of the study, it has been observed that as the patch density increase sharply in North, Northeast and Northwestern direction where class area makes a high positive growth. This phenomenon has been detected through the gradient of two graphs (Figure 9c). On the other hand, decreasing nature of patch densities in East, Southeast, Southwest and South indicate some patches located in close immediacy to the city core following consistent urban fabric. The consequence has also been obvious with the growing LPI and signifies the arrangement amongst the urban spatial metrics (Figure 10c).

### 5.3.4 Edge Density (ED)

Another indicator to study the expansion of urban built-up area is the reckoning of edge density (ED). It is an indicator of the edge of the urban patches. As the land fragmentation increases the edge density increases simultaneously in a proportionate manner. During the study period (1996-2016) edge density has increased up

to 89.7 in 2016 from 27.5 in 1996 which mark an imprint that the landscape fragmentation is increasing during the study period (Figure 8d). Most edge density has been found prominent within 4-6km buffer with 10.6 values (Table 9). If the urban-rural direction is concerned, Northwest (25.4), North (17.4) and West (15.4) making major attribution to the edge density showing the high spontaneous growth or outlying pattern of urban growth type (Figure 9d).

### 5.3.5 Largest Patch Index (LPI)

Largest Patch Index (LPI) has been figured out to epitomize the proportion of the landscape that comprises the prevalent patch in the study area. Intrinsically, the foremost or largest patch in the landscape backing to be the urban core has mature over the study period within 2km buffer. As the buffer distance has increased, the value of LPI shown a decreasing trend which proves the infilling and edge expansion nature of urban growth in 0-4km buffer from city core. This gradual expansion of the urban core towards North and Northeast might have change HMC into an agglomeration growth with Bally municipality located in the North in future (Figure 9e). Declining trends of LPI in the outer buffer (Figure 10e) in different directions express the expansion of urban built-up in scattering and fragmented manner.

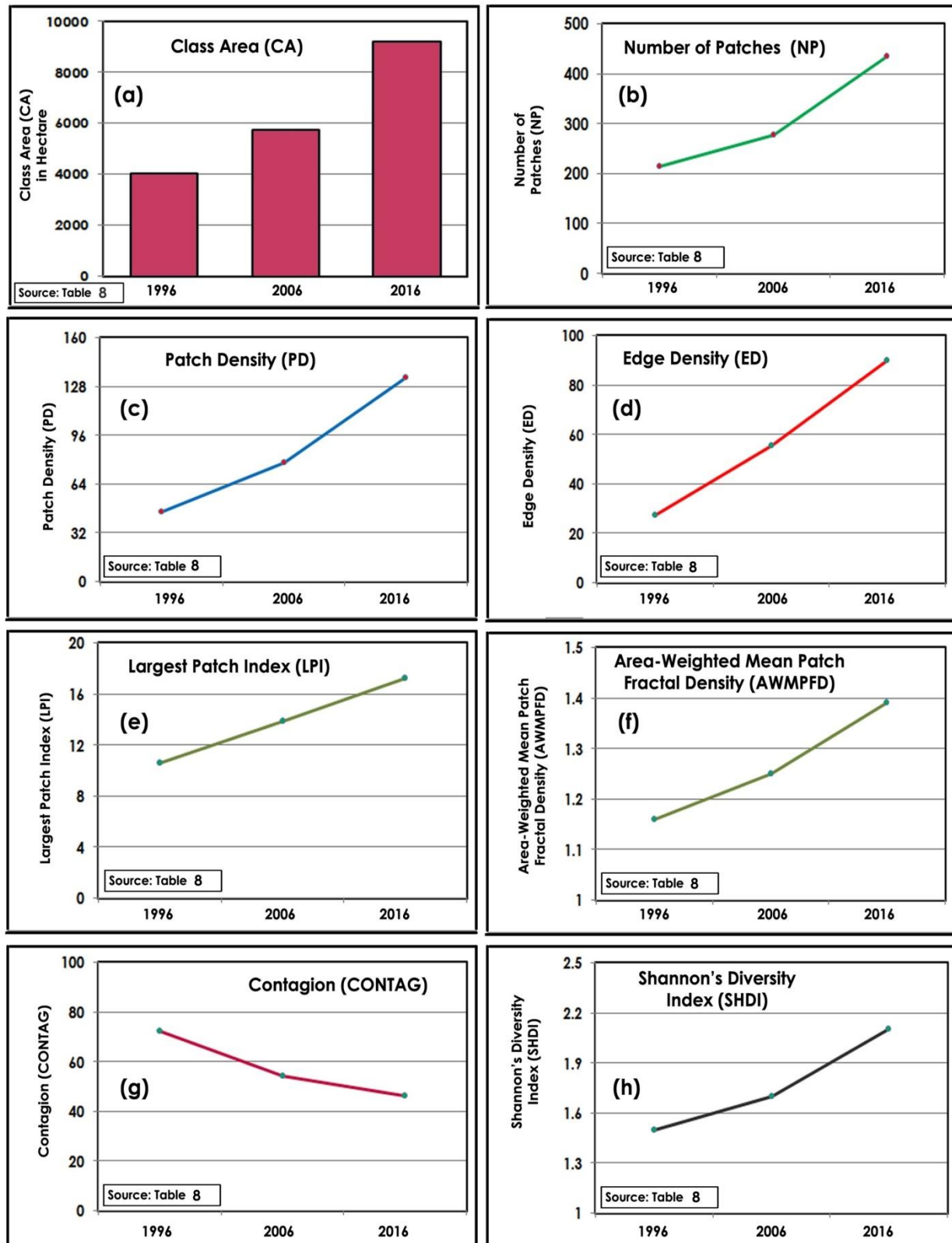


Figure 8 (a-h). Temporal pattern of urban growth estimated using spatial metrics

### 5.3.6 Area-Weighted Mean Patch Fractal Density (AWMPFD)

Urban patch shape complexity has been shown using Area-Weighted Mean Patch Fractal Density (AWMPFD) which actually shows how the patch

perimeter increases in patch area within the study period. In 1996, AWMPFD was 1.16 which designates a unit increase in patch area, up to 16% and by 39% perimeter increase in 2016. During 1996-2016, increasing nature of AWMPFD might be due to fragmented growth and emergence of new towns in and

around HMC (Figure 8f). In East, South and Southeast directions value of AWMPFD has decreased during 1996-2016 implies the stabilized growth and connect up of the built-up area around the city core mark a simple and steady urban form (Figure 9f). When looking at the highest value of AWMPFD (1.39 in North direction), it implies that during the study period, the geometry and morphology of urban patches receiving more complexity (Figure 10f).

### 5.3.7 Contagion (CONTAG)

CONTAG specifies the level of built-up fragmentation with the reducing value while an increase measures the degree of the clumpiness of built-up patches. From the Table 9 and Table 10, it has been observed that the value of CONTAG is decreasing in the buffer area (4-10km) but has become low towards city (Figure 10g) core which implies the clumpiness towards the urban core. In North, Northeast, South and Southeast the values of CONTAG has been found an increasing trends whereas in the outer buffer of West, Northwest and Southwest, CONTAG has been found in low (Figure 9g) values indicating fragmented growth pattern.

### 5.3.8 Shannon's Diversity Index (SHDI)

The diversity of landscape characterized by Shannon's Diversity Index (SHDI) implies varieties in landscape types, shape and number of patches with their inlay pattern. A ridge of SHDI is clearly found within 4-8km buffer zone (1.52 with maximum value) and fallen towards 10km buffer zone (Figure 10h). SHDI increased in different directions along with patch density nearly in a proportionate way which shows the complexity of composition and configuration of urban built-up landscape. The decreasing number of SHDI implies the built-up characteristics were more similar with the neighboring patches under the condition of urban growth and hence the landscape character became simple. All the results from Table 9 shows that the urban fragmentation mainly occurring in three directions among the eight directions within the study periods.

## 6 DISCUSSIONS

### 6.1 Varying Speed of Urban Built-Up Growth

The study shows the progressive growth of the urban built-up area in and around HMC during 1996-2016.

The annual growth rate of urban built-up and Annual Change Intensity (ACI) differ along different buffer regions in different directions. Urban built-up growth has shown a significant level during 2006-2016 in 4-8km buffer region where a number of small sizes urban centers have emerged. With the help of this study, spatiotemporal pattern of urban built-up has been identified which is essential for city planning and urban modeling purpose (Schneider et al., 2005; Kamini et al., 2006) where a wave-like growth pattern towards the outwards from the city of HMC has been confirmed. During the first phase of the study (1996-2006) this wave-like growth pattern was not confirmed but in the second phase, this wave pattern clearly found in North, Northwest and in West directions.

### 6.2 Growth Shifting along Urban-Rural Gradient

The urban growth types in the study area resulted in a combination of all three developments: infilling, edge expansion and outlying growth which has been classified according to LEI values (Cushman et al., 2008; Weng, 2008). From the results, it is clear that the relative dominance of three urban growth types has not been experienced in the study area. Outlying growth pattern has been accounted for the most contributing factor during both study period at a percentage of 53.90% (1996-2006) and 58.3% (2006-2016). On the other hand, infilling growth type has decreased from 7.45% in 1996-2006 to 5.25% in 2006-2016. In contrast to outlying growth decreasing trend, edge expansion has also been lower down from 39.65% to 36.40% during the study period. To understand the changed behaviour of urban growth mode buffer distance and direction wise growth types has also been examined which shows a clear picture of outlying dominances in all directions especially in Southwest and West directions and this rate has been found excessively with within 4-8km buffer (from 44.25% to 68.20%). These changes have been taking place mainly due to demand for high rise buildings and the increasing land value in and around HMC during 2010-15. In the buffer region, residents sold out their agricultural land for commercial and other urban uses as they provided huge money to move towards outer buffer or they develop slums in HMC contributing infilling growth. Therefore, built-up characteristics show urban patches growing constantly in the urban fringe areas in the close proximity to

Table 10. Urban spatial metrics along different buffer zones during 1996 - 2016

| Spatial metrics | Buffer zones |        |        |        |         |
|-----------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|                 | Up to 2km.   | 2-4km. | 4-6km. | 6-8km. | 8-10km. |
| CA              | 4050         | 1870   | 1560   | 1020   | 691     |
| NP              | 15           | 25     | 39     | 237    | 119     |
| PD              | 7.3          | 6.9    | 5.4    | 5.2    | 4.7     |
| ED              | 2.9          | 3.4    | 10.6   | 5.4    | 2.3     |
| LPI             | 15.2         | 13.6   | 8.6    | 7.2    | 6.7     |
| AWMPFD          | 1.39         | 1.25   | 1.17   | 1.09   | 1.05    |
| CONTAG          | 70.4         | 55.7   | 30.9   | 25.6   | 13.2    |
| SHDI            | 1.36         | 1.41   | 1.52   | 1.43   | 1.39    |

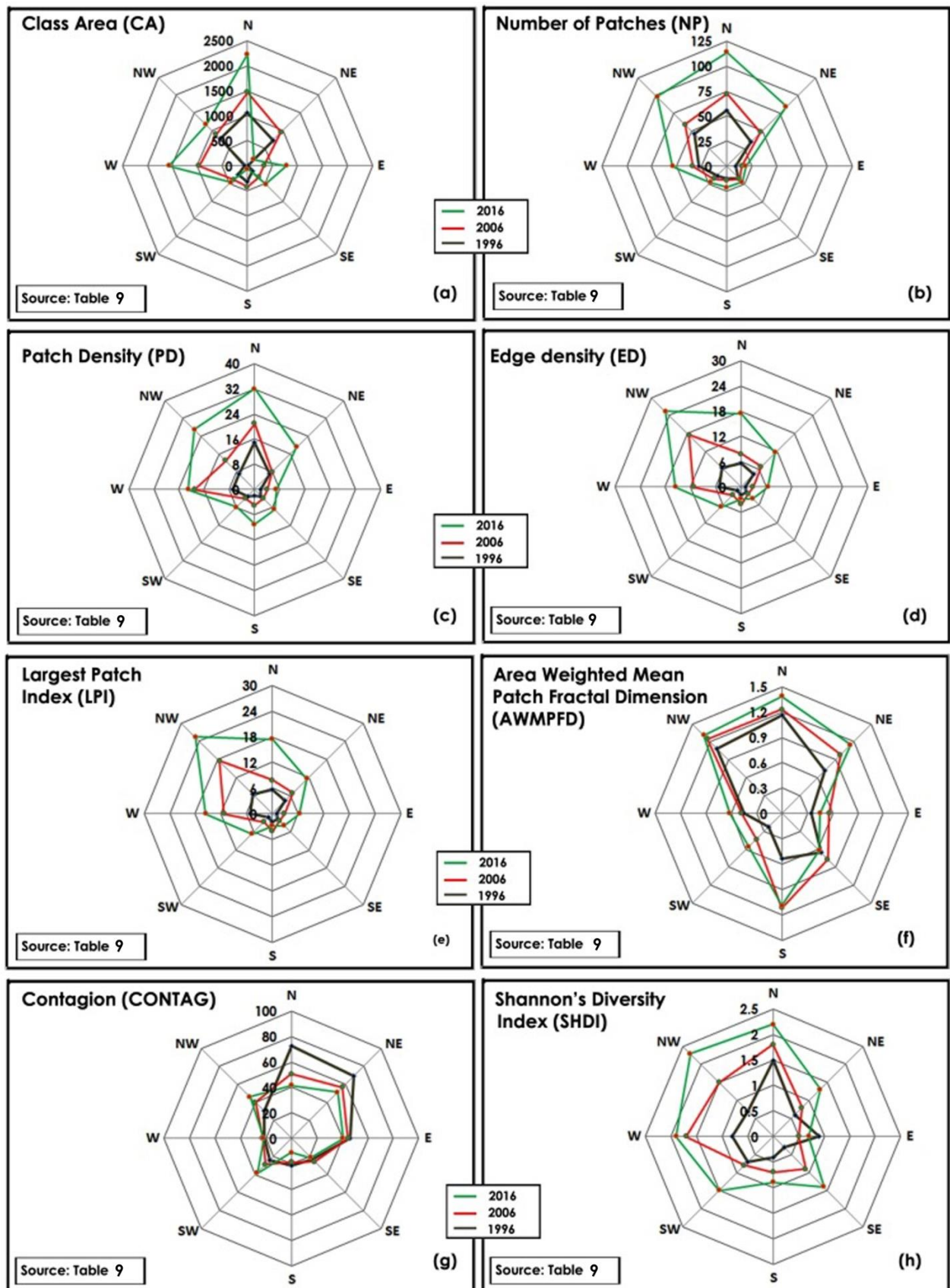


Figure 9 (a-h). Directional analysis of urban growth pattern using spatial metrics

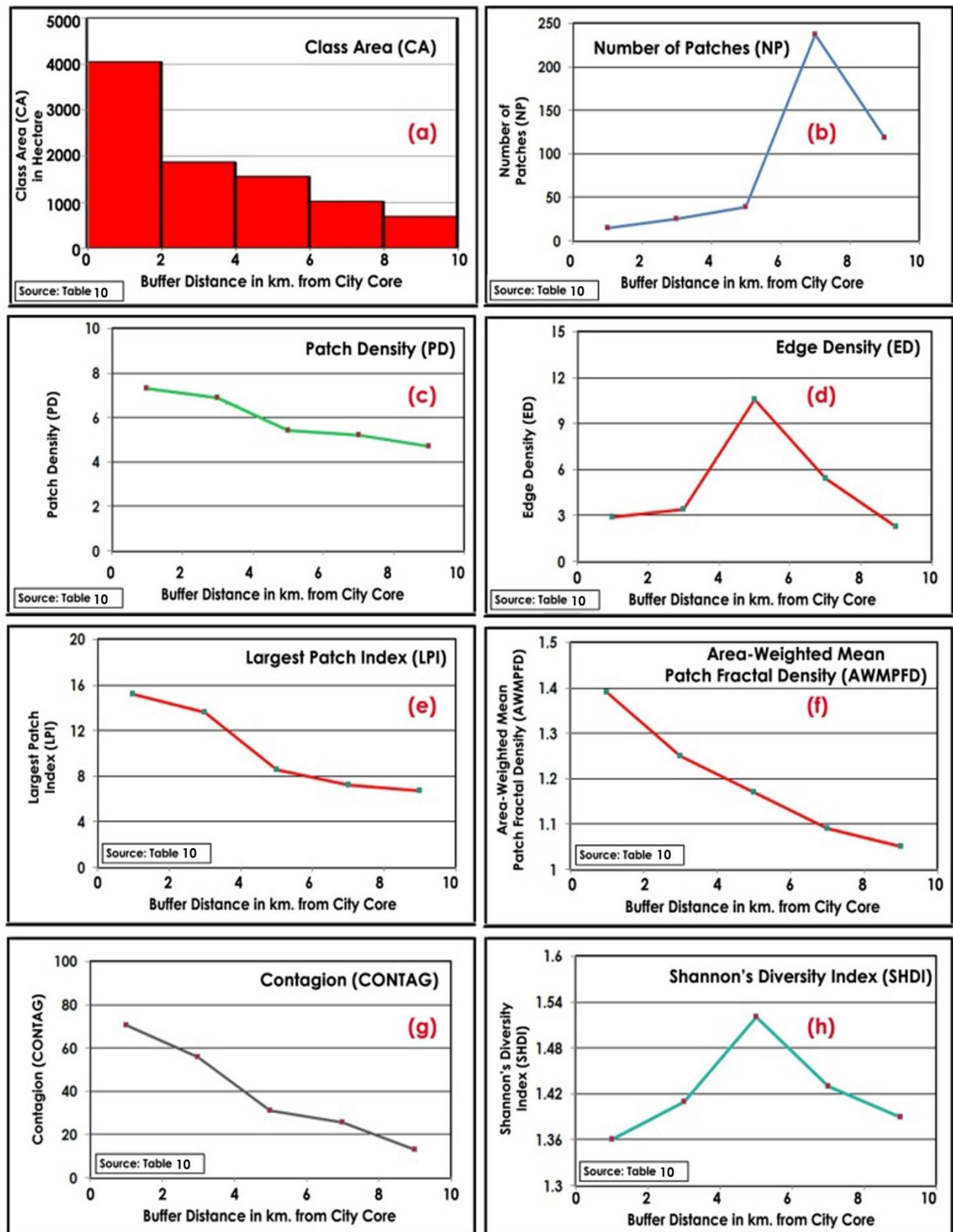


Figure 10 (a-h). Urban growth pattern through spatial metrics in different buffer zones

suburbs of the urban core developed as the transition region (Dewan and Yamaguchi, 2013; Bhatta et al., 2008). Such kind of growth has been taking place during 2006-2016 mainly with the increase of small size urban centers (CTs) indicating rural to urban migration which needs to be studied further in light of gradient driven

factors. Thus, over 20 years of study show repetition of coalescence and diffusion cycle with 4-6 and 6-8km buffer zones which is an important issue for urban design as it may sustenance the modeling and forecast the urban growth.

### 6.3 Changes in Landscape Pattern

The built-up environment has driven by mainly outlying (58%) and edge expansion (36%) type make an important contribution on urban space in and around HMC and selected landscape spatial metrics has effectively described the changes of built-up landscape during 1996-2016. The urban core (within 0-4km buffer) depicts the lower values in NP, PD, ED, LPI, SHDI which clearly indicate the pattern of coalescence in the urban core. On the other hand, the outer periphery shows higher and fluctuating values of explained metrics depicting the nature of fragmentation and spontaneous growth during the study period. The higher level of spontaneous growth in the outer buffer in North, Northwest and West proves the rural to urban migration, rural to urban land use transformation and the proximate nature of HMC from where accessibility to urban services is much more compatible. As HMC is one of the oldest towns in the history of West Bengal urbanization, urban core residential areas are chock-full with constantly and infrastructural facilities became encumbered, the impulsive or outlying growth has the dominancy over the outer periphery. The study findings also support the suggestion made by Jenerette and Potere (2010) that the urban growth reduction, the nature of spatial heterogeneity of land signatures which causing the homogeneous urban landscape structure in the city core.

## 7 CONCLUSION

Analyzing the spatiotemporal pattern of urban growth in light of urban gradient and spatial metrics using multi-temporal satellite data which can provide an exclusive source of information on how the urban growth types have changed over the time (Megahed et al., 2015; Ke et al., 2015). This study allows a significant understanding into the urban spatial arrangement and urban growth dynamics (Purevtseren et al., 2018). As the proposed approach applied for this study, show an important understanding of urban dynamics and also helps to formulate an alternative conceptual framework on urban spatial structure and changing patterns. Urban growth patterns of HMC and its surrounding (10km) buffer have been calculated using temporal remotely sensed data of three series (1996, 2006 and 2016).

This study confirmed the nature of processes and structure that have used for spatial metrics and gradient analysis. Urban growth analysis of HMC and its buffer has pinpointed two land transformation dynamics; one was land utilization pattern become more diverse (according to SHDI having 1.36) and secondly urban built-up growth causes land fragmentation in a rapid manner in the outer periphery. According to results, outlying growth has been noted as an important pattern of urban growth in the buffer region of HMC in West, Northwest and North directions. Edge expansion along the road (National Highway and State Highway) and railway (Southeastern and Eastern railway) has been noted expressively through the tendency of growth has fallen during the second phase. Land fragmentation has been observed beyond 4km buffer mainly in Northwest

and West directions where NP, PD, ED, AWMPFD results showing higher concentration and LPI, SHDI show lower attention. City core (within 4km buffer) has been characterized with infilling urban growth type and stated to clumping having less amount of CONTAG values. By utilizing three sets of remotely sensed data on HMC and its buffer area, this study demonstrates the discrete and aggregate patterns of change which are empirically distinct (Myagmartseren et al., 2017). The results from this research suggest the urban planner to take proper initiatives for the growth of different urban amenities to meet up the city dwellers requirements. In future research study might be done on several urban growth phases and try to find out the driven factors associated for such type of urban growth happening in the HMC and its surroundings which will play a crucial role in urban planning and designing HMC properly.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors state that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships regarding the work described in this article.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**AWMEI:** Area-Weighted Mean Expansion Index; **AWMPFD:** Area Weighted Mean Patch Fractal Dimension; **CA:** Class Area; **CONTAG:** Contagion; **EBBI:** Enhanced Built-up and Bareness Index; **ED:** Edge Density; **HMC:** Howrah Municipal Corporation; **LEI:** Landscape Expansion Index; **LPI:** Largest Patch Index; **MP:** Number of Patches; **PD:** Patch Density; **SHDI:** Shannon's Diversity Index; **TIR:** Thermal Infra-Red.

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