

Urban Incoherence: A Socio-Spatial Framework for Understanding Urban Fragmentation

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Abstract

Cities are shaped by layers of planning decisions, regulations, and governance systems that determine how urban environments grow and function. As these forces intersect with economic priorities and development pressures, cities often evolve in uneven ways, producing gaps in connectivity, access, and the lived experience of urban space. The cumulative impact of uneven development, shifting policy priorities, and market-driven interventions often reshape cities into environments that lack continuity and coherence. Over time, this can lead to urban fragmentation where neighbourhoods, networks, and public spaces become separated by physical or social barriers. As these divisions deepen, they develop into urban incoherence, a condition where adjacent parts of the city fail to function cohesively due to misaligned policies, governance gaps, and conflicting agendas. This incoherence not only disrupts spatial belonging but also fractures social relations, deepening everyday inequalities and limiting a city's capacity to function cohesively. This research frames urban incoherence as a governance and policy challenge. By combining conceptual synthesis, policy review, and comparative case study analysis, the study develops a diagnostic framework that examines how fragmented regulations and implementation gaps create and sustain divisions. The study also explores how cities can manage and mitigate the social, spatial, and environmental impacts that arise from policy failures. The aim is to provide policymakers, planners, and communities with a practical tool to trace the systemic origins of fragmentation and design interventions that promote cohesion. By revealing how governance shapes urban divides, the study supports the pursuit of more connected, inclusive, and resilient cities.

Keywords: urban incoherence; urban fragmentation; neoliberal policy; governance silos; spatial injustice; globalisation; urban continuity

1. Introduction

Cities have traditionally served as centres of social interaction, cultural exchange and collective life. They were not merely collections of buildings, but organic systems shaped by human interaction. In these traditional urban forms, settlement patterns followed topography, neighbourhoods grew around shared resources, and physical proximity fostered interdependence and belonging. Together, these social, cultural, and physical forms made the city coherent, a place where proximity produced connection, and where public life was both the indicator and the generator of urban health.

Today's cities are characterized by being a stage for various forms of inequality, which are an expression of the society they contain (Picó-Gutiérrez et al., 2025). Rapid urbanization and growing population have led cities to undergo profound transformation. This growth has not been uniform or equitable, creating spatial, social, economic and political divides. Today urban growth is largely driven by large-scale infrastructure projects, real estate markets, and top-down planning interventions that prioritise efficiency, speed, and global connectivity over local cohesion. The consequences of these processes are visible in the proliferation of satellite towns, central business districts, gated communities, and privatised enclaves that coexist alongside marginalised settlements and neglected public spaces.

Globalisation further deepens these divides, producing a new socio-spatial order in which “globalised” zones of capital, visibility, and connectivity coexist with “localised” spaces of neglect, marginalisation, and exclusion (Marcuse & van Kempen, 2000). As cities expand, laws and regulatory frameworks play a crucial role in determining how space is accessed, used, and distributed. Yet governance priorities frequently emphasise economic growth over social integration. Weak coordination among planning authorities, infrastructure agencies, and environmental bodies further compounds this problem.

The result is an urban condition of incoherence, where contemporary cities function less as an integrated social system and more as a patchwork of globally connected fragments and locally disconnected realities. This paper seeks to trace the roots of this condition, arguing that urban fragmentation is not an inevitable by-product of growth, but a governance-induced phenomenon.

2. Literature review

Urban fragmentation is recognised as a polysemic concept, one that carries multiple meanings across disciplines such as urban studies, geography, sociology, and planning. Despite the increasing severity of fragmentation, there is still a lack of a well-developed and unified theoretical framework to address it.

2.1 Saskia Sassen

Sassen argues that globalization has created a new spatial order based on networks of "global cities" (Sassen, 2001). These cities act as command centers for global economic flows, such as finance, information, and advanced producer services. While these cities concentrate wealth and influence, this process simultaneously marginalises other urban areas and peripheral regions.

2.2 Edward Soja

Building on the political nature of space, Edward Soja argues that space is not neutral. In his work on spatial justice, Soja demonstrates that urban space is actively produced, organised, and experienced in ways that reflect and reproduce social power structures (Soja, 2010). Soja's view shows that spatial injustice is not the result of individual failure; it's about how cities are planned and managed.

2.3 Henri Lefebvre

This understanding is deepened by Henri Lefebvre's critique of capitalist urbanisation. He argues that under capitalism, space is transformed from a social and cultural commons into a commodity valued primarily for its exchange value rather than its use value. In this framework, fragmentation is not accidental or incidental, but a result of deliberate planning choices shaped by capital and political priorities (Lefebvre, 1991).

2.4 David Harvey

David Harvey's *Right to the City* challenges the capitalist control of urban space and emphasizes the need for participatory, inclusive, and equitable planning. It provides a critical lens to examine how fragmented spaces reflect exclusion from decision-making and urban benefits. He argues that the right to the city is not simply the right to access urban resources; rather it's the right to shape urban life itself (Harvey, 2008).

3. Objectives

This research aims to investigate the relationship between governance structures and the phenomenon of urban incoherence.

- To understand historical patterns of urban cohesion.
- To identify principal drivers of fragmentation.
- To develop a diagnostic framework linking governance failure to urban fragmentation
- To analyse selected case studies across scales to reveal patterns of incoherence.
- To propose governance strategies for mitigating fragmentation and fostering urban cohesion.

4. Research methodology

This study adopts a qualitative, interpretive research methodology to examine urban incoherence as a socio-spatial and governance-driven condition. The research design integrates conceptual synthesis, policy analysis, and comparative case study methods to develop a diagnostic framework that explains how fragmented regulations and implementation gaps generate and sustain urban divisions.

4.1 Systematic Literature Review

A focused review of academic and policy sources builds the theoretical base of the study and clarifies key concepts related to fragmentation, governance, and urban incoherence.

4.2 Conceptual Framework Development

Insights from the literature are synthesized to define core ideas and identify gaps in existing theories, especially where governance is weakly linked to socio-spatial outcomes.

4.3 Policy and Regulatory Analysis

Planning laws and urban policies are reviewed to assess coordination across sectors and levels of government, highlighting governance silos and institutional misalignments that contribute to fragmentation.

4.4 Multi-Scalar Case Study Analysis

Comparative case studies at macro, meso, and micro scales examine how infrastructure projects, district planning, and local governance decisions reshape urban continuity and public life.

4.5 Synthesis and Framework Development

Findings from theory, policy, and case studies are integrated to develop a diagnostic governance framework that supports strategies to reduce fragmentation and strengthen urban cohesion.

5. Research Problem

Despite recognizing urban fragmentation as a critical challenge, there is inadequate understanding of how fragmented governance structures and conflicting policies actively produce socio-spatial incoherence. This gap limits the capacity of planners and policymakers to address the roots of urban division. This research addresses the need to examine urban incoherence as a governance-driven condition, where the lack of coordination between planning, policy, and implementation leads to socio-spatial divisions and weak urban cohesion.

Hypothesis: Fragmented governance structures and inconsistent policy frameworks significantly contribute to urban incoherence by creating misaligned planning priorities, weak institutional coordination, and socio-spatial inequality.

6. Analysis and Interpretation/Findings

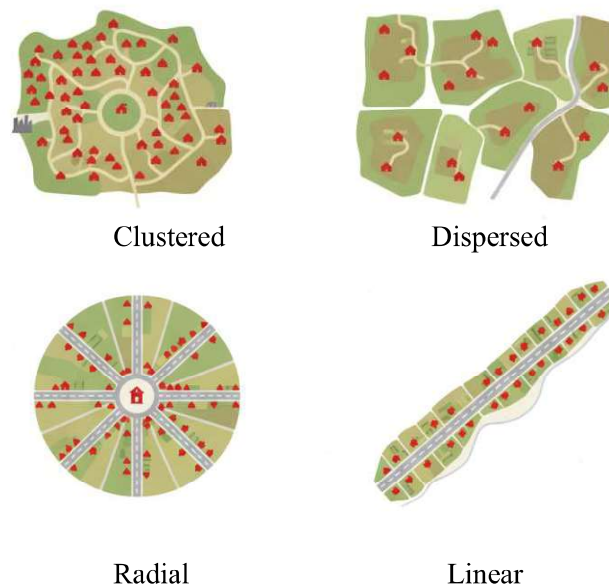
6.1 Urban Cohesion

Historical cities functioned as integrated social ecosystems where everyday life was deeply interwoven with spatial form. Traditional neighbourhoods show how tightly knit housing clusters, shared courtyards, and active street edges created environments of continuous social interaction. In these settings, homes, workplaces, and local markets were not isolated elements but interconnected parts of a cohesive urban fabric that encouraged collective life, mutual dependence, and a strong sense of belonging.

6.1.1 Historical Foundations of Cohesion

Human settlements first emerged as tight-knit clusters where survival and prosperity depended on proximity, mutual aid and shared infrastructure. Clustered settlements fostered strong urban cohesion by concentrating homes, workspaces, and community spaces within close proximity. This spatial intimacy encouraged daily social interaction, mutual dependence, and shared public life. Dispersed settlements, although dispersed in form, maintained cohesion through social and economic interdependence. Radial settlements grow around a central core such as a market, temple, or civic square creating a strong spatial and symbolic centre. Such settlements reinforce cohesion by ensuring that movement, trade, and social life converged at shared urban nodes. Linear settlements, often shaped by rivers, trade routes, or streets, achieved cohesion through continuity. Daily life unfolded along a common spine, allowing interaction, commerce, and mobility to occur within a shared spatial corridor that bound the community together. (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Foundational Settlement Typologies by Function

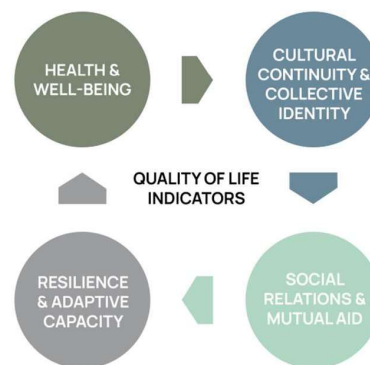


Source: Google

6.1.2 Quality-of-Life Indicators

Quality of life was measured not by individual wealth or land but by the seamless integration of health, culture, social ties and collective resilience. In these environments, well-being emerged organically from the rhythms of daily life and quality of life was not an abstract metric but a lived experience woven into spatial and social fabrics. Traditional compact settlements fostered strong health, social, and cultural wellbeing. Their design encouraged walking, safety, ventilation, and sunlight, supporting physical and mental health. Close-knit communities sustained cultural identity through shared rituals, spaces, and local architecture, while everyday social interactions-built trust, mutual aid, and a deep sense of belonging. This strong social bond made these communities highly resilient, allowing them to support one another in times of crisis and adapt collectively to change. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Quality of Life Indicators



Source: Author

6.2 Drivers of Fragmentation

6.2.1 Philosophical and Psychological Catalysts

The drivers of fragmentation are as much internal as they are external. The rise of individualism and the emphasis on personal privacy has weakened communal living, reducing the need for shared public spaces and social interactions. Fear and insecurity, fueled by perceptions of crime and social unrest, drive people toward physical separation, leading to gated communities and heightened security measures. At the same time, the erosion of shared identity and trust resulting from diverse urban populations and declining traditional community structures creates social distance even among physically close groups. Additionally, consumerism and lifestyle choices encourage exclusive, curated spaces such as private clubs, malls, and themed environments, prioritizing consumption over spontaneous social interaction.

6.2.2 Spatial Catalysts

Spatial fragmentation refers specifically to the physical disintegration of the urban fabric. This occurs through multiple forces such as large-scale infrastructure like highways, railways, flyovers, and metro corridors that cut through existing neighbourhoods, severing local connections, disrupting pedestrian movement and creating inaccessible urban voids. Zoning and land-use segregation, rooted in modernist planning, further intensifies fragmentation by separating residential,

commercial, and industrial areas, reducing everyday social interaction and producing single-use districts that remain inactive for large parts of the day. The rise of gated communities and private enclaves reinforces this division by restricting access, privatizing shared spaces, and isolating residents from the surrounding city. At a broader scale, urban sprawl and peripheral development create disconnected, low-density settlements that promote car dependency and weaken public transport systems. While the privatization of public space transforms inclusive civic realms into controlled environments with limited access and regulated behaviour.

6.2.3 Social Catalysts

Social fragmentation refers to the breakdown of social cohesion, trust, and collective identity within urban contexts. One of the main drivers is socio-economic inequality, where widening gaps between rich and poor driven by globalized economic forces, neoliberal policies, and uneven access to education and employment, translates into social segregation. Migration and demographic change further reshape urban social dynamics; while diversity enriches cities, without adequate integration support lead to the formation of isolated ethnic or cultural enclaves. Gentrification and displacement disrupt long-standing communities by eroding social networks and replacing them with transient populations weakening local identity and belonging. At the same time, the decline of traditional social institutions such as multi-generational families, religious groups, and neighbourhood associations diminishes the conventional structures that once fostered social cohesion. Meanwhile, digitalization and virtual socialization offer new ways to connect but also replace face-to-face interactions further distancing individuals from their immediate physical communities.

6.2.4 Political Catalysts

Globalization, rapid urbanization, and market-oriented governance have reshaped contemporary cities creating deliberate and accidental spatial ruptures that fragment urban continuity and deepen social inequalities. Global integration invests in privileged “command” nodes such as airports, financial districts, and logistics hubs, producing a two-tier urban structure where surrounding neighbourhoods remain under-served and excluded from economic and cultural life. At the same time, rapid urbanization and migration further strain urban systems, leading to the expansion of informal settlements. These areas become internally cohesive but disconnected from formal service networks. The shift toward neoliberal, market-oriented governance intensifies fragmentation by prioritizing profitability over public welfare. Through deregulation, privatization, and land commodification, shared urban resources are transformed into private assets, limiting public access and reinforcing socio-spatial exclusion. Speculative development and land-use conversion as developers replace porous, mixed-use neighbourhoods with dense, single-function projects, eroding informal economies, everyday social interactions, and local markets.

6.3 Urban Incoherence as a Systemic Governance Failure

Urban incoherence is not just a result of rapid urbanization or poor design; it stems from a failure in governance. In contemporary cities, fragmentation arises from disconnected policies, fragmented regulations, and uneven implementation. What we see as

disconnected neighbourhoods, infrastructure gaps, and uneven access to services is, in reality, the physical sign of governance operating in isolation.

Urban development is governed by multiple policy frameworks, master plans, zoning regulations, transport policies, housing missions, environmental laws, and heritage regulations, each advancing sector-specific objective. While these policies often promote ideals of inclusivity and sustainability, their lack of horizontal coordination results in contradictory outcomes. Transport authorities prioritize speed and regional connectivity, housing agencies focus on unit delivery, and environmental bodies enforce compliance selectively. The absence of integrated planning platforms allows infrastructure corridors to sever communities, affordable housing to be pushed to distant peripheries and redevelopment projects to proceed without social or ecological continuity.

These failures are reinforced by governance silos and institutional gaps. Parastatal agencies and special-purpose authorities execute mega-projects with limited accountability to municipal governments, while local bodies lack the fiscal and regulatory power to influence city-shaping decisions. Policies that promise transit-oriented development, inclusive housing, or resilient cities are frequently translated into market-driven projects that privilege profitability over public value.

Together, fragmented regulations, institutional silos, and weak coordination transform urban governance into a driver of incoherence, ensuring that contiguity survives but continuity collapses. Addressing this requires not just policy reform, but a fundamental restructuring of institutional relationships and planning processes to bridge the divides that fragment our cities.

6.4 Policy and Governance in Practice: Case Studies across Urban Scales

6.4.1 Macro Scale

At the macro scale, fragmentation is often the result of large-scale, top-down infrastructure projects that prioritize regional connectivity or national economic objectives over local continuity and ecological integrity. These interventions physically and symbolically carve cities and regions into disconnected fragments, creating barriers that define urban landscapes for generations.

6.4.1.1 Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)

At the macro scale, the Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) exemplifies a centralized, state-led governance model driven by national economic policy. Its implementation has severed rural–urban continuities, displaced villages, and fragmented ecological systems. The main policy failure is not its economic goal, but the lack of coordination with regional planning, weak rehabilitation measures, and the exclusion of local communities from decision-making, treating both people and the landscape as secondary to a grand developmental vision. (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)



Source: Government of India, 2007

6.4.1.2 Brooklyn–Queens Expressway (USA)

The Brooklyn–Queens Expressway (USA) embodies the mid-20th century automobile-centric planning ideology and urban renewal policies. This elevated highway was designed to prioritize regional commuter access, but in doing so, it acted as a massive concrete barrier, severing neighbourhoods, displacing communities, and creating lasting socio-economic and environmental divides. This shows that infrastructure built only for efficiency can cause long-term urban fragmentation if it ignores local cohesion and equity. (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Brooklyn–Queens Expressway (USA)



Source: Crain's New York, 2023

6.4.2 Meso Scale

The meso scale captures district-level interventions where planning, policy, and market forces converge to create enclosed, often exclusionary urban forms. These ranges from failed public housing experiments to privatized residential enclaves, each illustrating how governance models whether public or private can harden social and spatial borders.

6.4.2.1 Gurugram Gated Communities

Moving to the meso scale, the proliferation of gated communities in Gurugram operates under a private-led development model characterized by weak municipal oversight and deregulated planning. This governance vacuum has facilitated the creation of socio-spatial enclaves, the privatization of essential services, and the establishment of stark, impermeable edges between luxury walls and adjacent informal

settlements. The critical policy failure here is the absence of inclusive zoning, the failure to mandate the provision of public amenities, which has made social exclusion seem as a legitimate and marketable feature of urban life. (Figure 5)

Figure 5: Gurugram Gated Communities



Source: Vatika Collections

6.4.2.2 Pruitt–Igoe Housing, St. Louis

Pruitt–Igoe Housing, St. Louis demonstrates a modernist, publicly-funded governance model aimed at providing mass housing. However, its design featuring isolated superblocks, monofunctional zoning, and a lack of “defensible space” coupled with racial segregation and poor management, led to rapid social disintegration and physical decay. Its demolition became a symbol of how top-down, siloed planning can actively produce fragmentation rather than community. (Figure 6)

Figure 6: Pruitt–Igoe Housing, St. Louis



Source: Salingaros, 2015

6.4.3 Micro Scale

At the micro scale, fragmentation is experienced in the details of streets, buildings, and public interfaces. Governance here often manifests through regulations around security, heritage, or order, directly shaping the permeability of space and the rhythms of everyday life.

6.4.3.1 Charminar Pedestrianisation Project

On the micro scale, the Charminar Pedestrianisation Project in Hyderabad represents a governance model oriented toward heritage conservation and security-driven management. While aiming to order and protect a historic precinct, its implementation has led to the formalization and displacement of informal vending, a loss of street-level spontaneity, and the hardening of

once-permeable public thresholds. The policy failure stems from prioritizing the optics of tourism and top-down control rather than on protecting local livelihoods and the organic social vibrancy that constitutes the true heritage of the place. (Figure 7)

Figure 7: Charminar Pedestrianisation Project



Source: Google

6.4.3.2 Kowloon Walled City

Kowloon Walled City emerged from a unique governance vacuum, a jurisdictional ambiguity between British and Chinese authorities. This lack of formal governance led to extreme, organic densification and an inward-oriented, self-regulated urban fabric. While internally cohesive, it was profoundly disconnected from the surrounding city, illustrating how the absence of integrated governance can produce a fragmented urban fragment operating by its own rules. (Figure 8)

Figure 8: Kowloon Walled City



Source: Lloyd, 2024

6.4.4 Comparative Matrix

The following matrix synthesizes the analysis of case studies across macro, meso, and micro scales, highlighting key dimensions of governance failure and their corresponding socio-spatial impacts. It provides a structured comparison to identify patterns, divergences, and common lessons in how different governance models produce urban incoherence. (Table 1)

Table 1: Comparative Matrix

Dimension	Macro Scale	Meso Scale	Micro Scale
Governance Model	Centralized, state-led; top-down economic & infrastructural planning	Mixed (public-private); market-driven development with weak public oversight	Localized regulatory control; heritage/security management or governance vacuum
Primary Policy Goal	National/regional economic growth, connectivity	Real estate profit, urban renewal	Order, security, heritage conservation, informal regulation
Form of Fragmentation	Spatial severance, ecological rupture, rural-urban discontinuity	Socio-spatial segregation, enclave formation, privatization of services	Threshold hardening, loss of permeability, formalization of informality
Key Governance Failure	Lack of integration with regional/local planning; exclusion of communities; weak rehabilitation	Absence of inclusive zoning; failure to mandate public amenities; normalization of exclusion	Prioritization of control/tourism over livelihoods; rigid regulation stifling organic street life
Spatial Impact	Creation of large-scale barriers (highways, industrial zones); displacement; landscape fragmentation	Gated edges, privatized interiors, mono-functional superblocks	Bollards, barricades, vendor zones; restricted access and movement
Social Impact	Community displacement, loss of rural-urban linkages, inequality in access to development benefits	Deepened class divides, erosion of public life, dependency on private services	Displacement of informal economies, reduced street vibrancy, loss of social interaction
Degree of Reversibility	Low – requires massive political will, redesign, and reinvestment	Medium – possible through policy reform, mixed-use zoning, and public space mandates	High – can be addressed through tactical urbanism, adaptive design, and participatory management
Underlying Paradigm	Efficiency over equity; development as national priority	Exclusion over inclusion; urban space as commodity	Control over chaos; order over organic sociality

Typical Actors	National/state governments, international agencies, large contractors	Private developers, municipal bodies, residents' welfare associations	Municipal corporations, police, heritage boards, local vendors, residents
Equity Outcome	Highly unequal; benefits concentrated among corporations and urban elites; costs borne by rural/peripheral communities	Reinforces socio-economic hierarchies; creates parallel systems of access based on wealth	Often excludes marginalized livelihoods (street vendors, informal workers) in favor of tourists or formal commerce

Source: Author

Across all scales, the absence of participatory, multi-stakeholder, and context-sensitive governance emerges as the common thread driving urban incoherence. This comparative analysis underscores the need for cross-scalar, integrated, and just governance frameworks to counteract the entrenched patterns of fragmentation documented in diverse urban contexts.

6.5 Contemporary Phase of Urban Incoherence: Global and Indian Perspectives

6.5.1 Phases of Urban Fragmentation

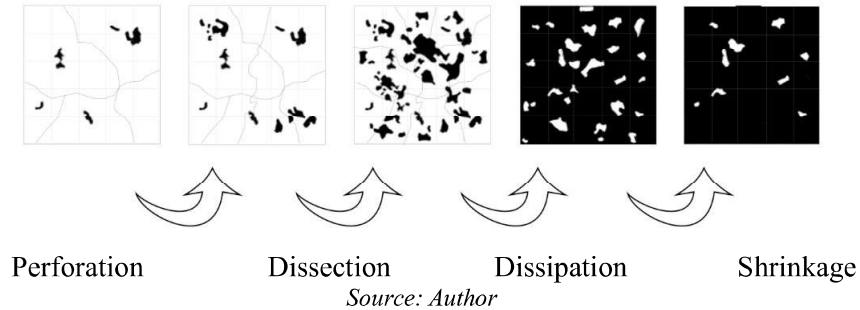
Urban fragmentation unfolds as a progressive process moving from initial rupture to eventual decay. It begins with Perforation, where the first punctures appear in a cohesive urban fabric through interventions such as major roads, mono-functional buildings, or gated enclaves that disrupt existing patterns of movement and social life.

This deepens into Dissection, the most visible phase, where these early perforations expand into large, impermeable infrastructures, highways, rail corridors, and mega-projects that carve the city into distinct, disconnected fragments. At this stage, urban continuity is fundamentally broken, producing islands of development separated by physical and functional barriers.

Over time, physical separation leads to Dissipation, in which fragments drift apart socially and economically. Socio-economic sorting, loss of shared identity, and the rise of digital lifestyles weaken everyday interaction in shared urban spaces, turning physical division into social distance.

In the final phase, Shrinkage, some isolated fragments lose their economic and social vitality, leading to population decline, abandonment, and infrastructural decay. While not all fragments reach this stage, it represents the tragic conclusion of the fragmentation where parts of the city cease to function as living urban environments. (Figure 9)

Figure 9: Phases of Urban Fragmentation



6.5.2 The Global and Indian Conditions

Globally, the dominant phase of urban fragmentation today is late Dissection. This phase is defined by the completion of large infrastructure networks, including highways, rail corridors, and expressways. These networks connect different regions but also serve as strong physical barriers. While the physical cutting of cities is largely complete, its consequences are now unfolding as Dissipation, where social, functional, and cultural cohesion begins to unravel. This transition is intensified by climate change, which is creating new divisions between “climate-safe” zones and vulnerable sacrifice areas; by political polarization which hardens social boundaries.

India, however, presents a far more intense condition of hyper-fragmentation, where all four phases - Perforation, Dissection, Dissipation, and early Shrinkage processes occur simultaneously at the same time, at a breathtaking speed. Instead of moving sequentially through the four phases, India experiences a simultaneous telescoping of all of them as Active Perforation through daily new punctures in cohesive urban areas; Aggressive Dissection, driven by mega infrastructure and redevelopment projects; Accelerating Dissipation, where physical divisions rapidly translate into social and economic divides; and Early Shrinkage, visible in the decline of the most vulnerable urban fragments. This overlapping of creation and decay makes India’s fragmentation complex, multi-layered crisis, where contiguity exists without continuity and urban cohesion becomes increasingly difficult to sustain.

7. Conclusion

This study has shown that urban fragmentation is not merely a spatial problem but a systemic outcome of governance failures. Across scales, cities are shaped by fragmented policies, institutional silos, and uneven implementation that transform urban space into disconnected corridors, enclaves, and controlled zones. The result is a condition of “contiguity without continuity”, where physical proximity exists without social or functional connection.

By reframing fragmentation as a governance-driven issue rather than a design flaw, this research moves the debate from surface-level spatial fixes to deeper questions of policy alignment, institutional reform, and democratic accountability. The case studies show that whether through mega-infrastructure, enclave urbanism, or micro-scale regulation, the decisive factor shaping urban form is not scale, but the logic of governance that privileges efficiency, security, and profitability over equity and collective life.

Yet this trajectory is not irreversible. The study affirms that integrated governance, participatory planning and coordination across different levels can help rebuild urban continuity. Addressing urban fragmentation requires a shift from isolated, project-based actions to long-term planning that conceives the city as an integrated civic system. Ultimately, the future of cities depends not only on how they are designed, but on how they are governed transforming fragmented growth into inclusive, resilient, and truly cohesive urban systems.

8. Recommendations

Addressing urban fragmentation requires a shift from isolated design solutions to reform in governance. Cities should adopt integrated planning frameworks that align land use, transport, housing, and environmental policy, supported by impact assessments for major projects. Local governments should have more financial and decision-making power to shape their neighbourhoods.

Urban policy should focus on inclusion over enclosure by discouraging mono-functional districts and gated developments while promoting mixed-use developments, affordable housing, and accessible public spaces. Implementation gaps must be addressed through transparent monitoring, community participation, and accountability to make sure policies lead to fair outcomes.

Finally, planning and design education must adopt a governance-sensitive approach. This will equip professionals to tackle fragmentation, helping cities grow from fragmented development toward united, inclusive, and resilient society.

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