

Planning Regions of India



Course: Planning and Rural Development (CC-05)

(M.A. Geography, Sem-11)

By

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Lecture-5

Concept:

A planning region is a segment of territory over which economic decisions are applied. The term 'planning' means taking decisions to implement them in order to attain economic development. Planning regions may be administrative or political regions such as state, district or block because such regions are better in management and collecting statistical data. Hence, the entire country is a planning region for national plans, state is the planning region for the state plan and districts or blocks are the planning regions for micro- regional plans. For proper implementation and realization of plan objectives, a planning region should have fairly homogenous physical, economic, topographical and socio- cultural structure. It should be large enough to contain resources (of different ranges) to provide it economic viability. It should also be internally cohesive and geographically a contiguous areal unit. Its resource endowment should be such that a satisfactory level of product combination or consumption and exchange is feasible. It should have some nodal point to regulate the flows.

Bases of Delineation:

- 1. In hierarchy, it is an optimal smaller region*
- 2. It is a unit of the collection of essential information and data*
- 3. Purpose of the regions and calculation of the variables of development.*
- 4. Mapping of the planning regions under national boundary*
- 5. Identification of planning regions at regional level on the basis of level of development and disparity of development.*

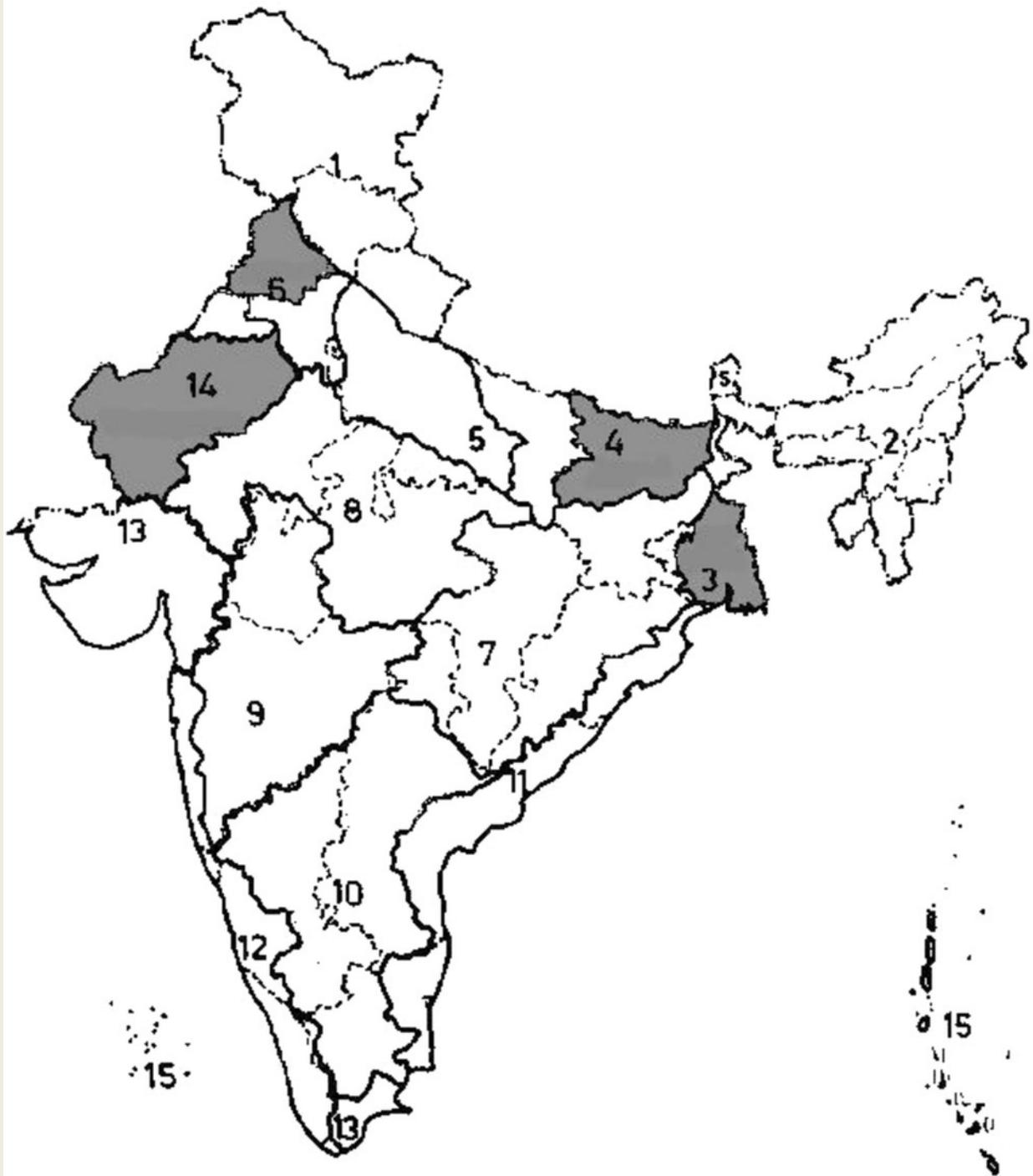
One cannot negate the importance of natural regions in the identification of the order of planning regions in India though it is said that it has limited relevancy in the economic and development planning. Natural regions represent the present status of the regions whereas planning regions require information of natural resources. Economic consideration got priority in the delineation of planning regions and then these regions have been developed.

Delineation of Planning Regions:

The following are the attempt made by scholars to divide India into planning regions;

1. V. Nath (1965) prepared a scheme of resource development regions and division of India based at the homogeneity in physical factors and agricultural land use and cropping patterns. Although the regions cut across the state boundaries, the division is kept within the state limit. Thus the entire country has been divided into 15 main and 48 sub-regions. Prior to his own scheme, V. Nath had examined the division of India into natural regions and sub- regions, Natural Regions plan of O.H.K. Spate and Resource. He prepared this for 1964 planning commission. Planning Regions prepared by Indian statistical organization. These major resource development regions are;

- 1. Western Himalaya – UP, Punjab, H.P & J&K*
- 2. Eastern Himalaya- Arunachal, W. Bengal, Assam (Hill & Plain Region*
- 3. Lower Ganga Plain – Districts of the plain of W. Bengal*



1. Western Himalayan Region
2. Eastern Himalayan Region
3. Lower Gangetic Plains Region
4. Middle Gangetic Plains Region
5. Upper Gangetic Plains Region
6. Trans-Gangetic Plains Region
7. Eastern Plateau & Hills Region
8. Central Plateau & Hills Region
9. Western Plateau & Hills Region
10. Southern Plateau & Hills Region
11. East Coast Plains & Hills Region
12. West Coast Plains & Ghats Region
13. Gujarat Plains & Hills Region
14. Western Dry Region
15. The Islands Region

4. *Middle Ganga Plain – North Bihar Plain, South Bihar Plain, Eastern Plain.*

5. *Upper Ganga Plain – Middle U.P. Plain, Northern, Southern and Western U.P.*

6. *Trans Ganga Plain – Delhi, Punjab plain, Eastern Rajasthan plain*

7. *Eastern plateaus & Hills- Chhotanagpur, W. Bengal, Orissa, M.P, E Rajasthan plateaus Hills plan of South Rajasthan*

8. *Central Plateau and hills – Bundelchand, M.P, E. Rajasthan*

9. *Western Plateau and hills- Maharashtra, M.P, Malwa Plateau*

10. *Southern Plateau and hills- Telangana (A.P.), Ranjalseem Chittor, mid Madras, plateau*

11. *Eastern coastal plains- Orissa, costal A.P., Costal Madras.*

Western coastal plains and Ghats- Kerala, Coastal Karnataka Mayeone plateau, Konkan , Goa , Nilgiri

13. *Gujarat plain l hills- Gujarat, Saurashtra plain, Gujarat hills,*

14. *Western Arid Region- Rajasthan*

15. *Island Region- Bay of Bengal, Islands of Arabian Sea.*

2. L.S Bhat and VLS Prakasha Rao (1964)

Bhat and Rao proposed a regional framework for resource development. Delineation was done with the help of qualitative maps of distribution of important natural resources. The major regions cut

across the state boundaries .The administrative convenience was however not ignored. The scheme includes 11 major and 51 minor regions.

(1) Western Coastal Region (2) Western Ghat (3) Central Plateau (4) Eastern Ghat (5) East Coastal Region (6) North Eastern Plateau (7) Ganga Plain(8) Assam Region (9) Gujarat (10) Rajasthan (11) Kashmir & Northern Hill Region .

3. P. Sen. Gupta and Dr. Galena Sadasyuk(1968)– *Gupta presented a framework of different order following the Soviet concept of economic region and production specialization. She started with the discovery of planning units of the lowest order and then grouped and regrouped them to achieve planning region at meso and macro levels. In her scheme of economic regions, Gupta gave much importance to natural regions and used nodality, production specialization and utilization of power resources as bases of delineation. She proposed 7 macro regions which are further divided into 42 meso regions.*

Macro regions include- (1) North Eastern Region (2) Eastern Region (3) Northern Central Region (4) Central Region (5) North Western Region (6) Western Region and (7) Southern Region

4. Town and Country Planning Organization

The town and country planning organization suggested a scheme of planning region delineated on the principle of economic viability, self sufficiency and ecological balance at the macro and meso levels. The emphasis of the shceme was to introduce regional factor in economic development. The approach was aimed to complement the macro planning at the national level, with a component of regional policies, aimed at reducing regional disparities in the development. The macro regionalization sought to link a set of areas, rich in one type

resources with areas having complementary resources or even resource poor areas , so that the benefits of economic activity in the former may flow into the later . The scheme proposed 13 macro regions which are further divided into 35 meso regions and 3 metropolitan areas.

The 13 macro regions proposed under the scheme include;

- (1) South Peninsular region (Kerala & Tamil Nadu)*
- (2) Central Peninsular region (Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh)*
- (3) Western Peninsular region (Western Maharashtra – Coastal)*
- (4) Central Deccan region (Eastern Maharashtra, Central & Southern M.P.)*
- (5) Eastern Peninsular region (Orissa, Jharkhand, NE A.P., Chhattisgarh)*
- (6) Gujarat (7) Western Rajasthan (8) Aravalli region (Eastern Rajasthan & Western M.P.) (9) J&K and Ladakh .(10) Trans Indo – Gangetic Plains & Hills (Punjab , Haryana , Himachal , Western U.P. , Uttaranchal) (11) Ganga- Yamuna Plains (Central & Eastern U.P. and Northern M.P.) 12) Lower Ganga Plain (Bihar and West Bengal Plains and (13) North Eastern region (Assam and North Eastern states including Sikkim.*

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