3. Planning region: Characteristics, economic regionalization and identification of Indian Planning Regions (V. Nath, P. Sengupta & TCPO)

Planning region:

A planning region is a segment of territory (space) over which economic decisions apply. The term 'planning' in the present context 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 the block because such regions are better in management and collecting statistical data. For proper implementation and realization of plan objectives, a planning region should have fairly homogeneous economic, to zoographical and socio-cultural structure. It should be large enough to contain a range of resources provide it economic viability. It should also internally cohesive. Its resource endowment should be that a satisfactory level of product combination consumption and exchange is feasible. It should have some nodal points to regulate the flows.

According to Keeble-"Planning Region is an area that is large enough to enable substantial changes in the distribution of population and employment to take place within this boundaries, yet which is small enough for its planning problem to be viewed as a whole".

According to Klaassen- "A planning region must be large enough to take investment decisions of an economic size, must be able to supply its own industry with the necessary labour, should have a homogeneous economic structure, contain at least one growth point and have a common approach to and awareness of its problems".

As a whole- A planning region is self created living organism having a life line.

In actual delineation of regions for planning purposes, it becomes necessary to strike a balance between the considerations of homogeneity, nodality and administrative convenience.

 A planning Region should have following characteristics:

- It should be large enough to contain a range of resources, conditions and attributes so as to serve a desired degree of economic viability and at the same time not too large to make the comprehensive approach too general.
- Its resource position is such that a satisfactory level of product combination for consumption and for exchange would be feasible.
- Planning region is essentially operational in character therefore a high degree of flexibility and elasticity should be maintained in the process of regional delineation.
- The internal homogeneity of the resources should be logically linked up.
- The region should be internally cohesive (closely connected).

Perhaps the best definition of a planning region emphasizing the factors of homogeneity, nodality and administrative convenience in a right perspective is given by P.D. Malgavkar and B.M. Ghiara which are as follows....

Characteristics of a planning Region:

- The region should be geographically contiguous which can be divided into plain, hilly tract, coastal belt etc.
- The people of the region should have social and cultural cohesiveness.
- The region should be a separate unit for data collection and analysis.
- The region should have an economic existence which can be accessed from statistical records.
- It should be small enough to ensure local people's participation in its development.
- It should be under one administrative agency.
- It should not be too small; its geographical size should be big enough to exploit resources. It should be big enough to permit the major part of labour requirements in any employing centre to be met from within the region.
- It should have fairly homogeneous economic structure, i.e, the variation in local proportions of employment and output in agriculture, industry and services should be within a narrow range.
- It should have one or more growth points.
- All the parts of the region should be inter dependent.
- There should be common appreciation of local problems and common aspirations and approaches to their solution; it should permit and encourage competition but not rivalry or apathy between one area and the other.

Economic Regionalization:

Economic regionalization is an effective method of management and an important factor in correctly combining territorial planning with the sectoral principle of management, in ensuring the rational location of productive forces, and in regulating the specialization and integrated economic development of economic regions in order to bring about every possible increase in the efficiency of social production.

Economic regionalization is the process of specialization of an entire region which has many components and relationship, to be simplified and classified on the basis of most important economic criteria.

The demarcation on a national scale of economic regions that have formed in accordance with the territorial social division of labor. Under socialism, a scientifically grounded economic regionalization is a necessary instrument of national economic planning and is an important condition for improving the territorial organization of productive forces, to promote maximum development of resource and economic management.

Kaberi Murmu

Identification of Planning Region by V. Nath

In 1965 V. Nath prepared a scheme of Resource Development Regions and Division of India based on the homogeneity in:

Physical factors- topography, soils, geologic formations and climate,
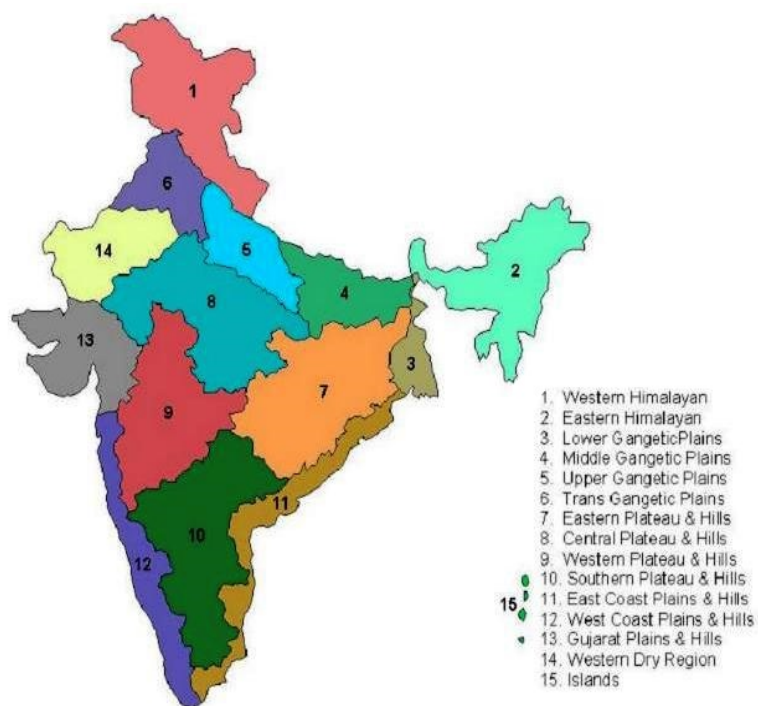and agricultural land use and cropping pattern.

Although the regions cut across the state boundaries, the division is kept within the state limit so that no administrative problems arise.

After collecting data on physical conditions, cropping pattern and development of irrigation, and mineral resources for each district, V. Nath divided the country into resource development regions. These were further sub-divided into sub-regions.

Thus the entire country has been divided into 15 main and 48 sub regions.

These major resource development regions include:

(1) Western Himalayan region
(2) Eastern Himalayan region
(3) Lower Ganga Plain region
(4) Middle Ganga Plain region
(5) Upper Ganga Plain region
(6) Trans- Ganga Plain region
(7) Eastern Plateaus and Hills region
(8) Central Plateaus and; Hills region
(9) Western Plateaus and Hills region
(10) Southern Plateaus and Hills region
(11) Eastern Coastal Plains and Hills region
(12) Western Coastal Plains and Ghats region
(13) Gujarat Plains and Hills region
(14) Western Arid Region region and
(15) Island Region.

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

Major resource development region	Sub-Region
(1)Western Himalayan region	i. Himalayan Uttar Pradesh Division(5 districts) ii. Himalayan Punjab Division(2 districts) iii. Himachal Pradesh Division(6 districts) iv. Jammu & Kashmir Division(9 districts)
(2)Eastern Himalayan region	i. Himalayan Sub-region (NEFA with 5 districts and 1 district of Himalayan West Bengal) ii. Assam and associated hill sub-region(Assam hill, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura) iii. Plains sub-region(Bramhaputra and Surma Valleys and West Bengal Doars)

(3)Lower Ganga Plain region	West Bengal plain(12 Districts)
(4) Middle Ganga Plain region	i. North Bihar plain(6 districts) ii. South Bihar plain(5 districts) iii. Eastern U.P plain(12 districts)
(5) Upper Ganga Plain region	i. Central U.P plain(12 districts) ii. North Western U.P plain(9 districts) iii. South Western U.P plain(9 districts)
(6) Trans- Ganga Plain region	i. Delhi , Punjab plain (16 districts) ii. Western Rajasthan plain (1 districts)
(7) Eastern Plateaus and Hills region	i. Chotanagpur Plateau (6 districts) ii. West Bengal Plateau (1 districts) iii. Orissa Inland (9 districts) iv. Madhya Pradesh (8 districts) v. Maharashtra (2 districts)
(8) Central Plateaus and; Hills region	i. Vindya Hills and Plateau(7 districts) ii. East Rajasthan Plain and Hills(11 districts) iii. South Rajasthan Plain and Hills(4 districts)
(9) Western Plateaus and Hills region	i. Maharashtra (20 districts) ii. Madhya Pradesh(11 districts) iii. Rajasthan and Malwa Plateau (1 districts)
(10) Southern Plateaus and Hills region,	i. Andhra Pradesh (3 districts) ii. Madras Inland (4 districts) iii. Mysore Plateau(6 districts) iv. Mysore – Karnataka Plateau (8 districts)
(11) Eastern Coastal Plains and Hills region	i. Orissa Coastal(4 districts) ii. Coastal Andhra (7 districts) iii. Madras East Coast (6 districts) iv. Pondicherry
(12) Western Coastal Plains and Ghats region	i. Madras West Coast (one districts) ii. Madras Nilgiri(one districts) iii. Kerala (9 districts) iv. Mysore Coastal(2 districts) v. Mysore Hills (3 districts) vi. Maharashtra Konkan (4 districts) vii. Goa (one districts)
(13) Gujarat Plains and Hills region	i. Gujrat Plain and Hills (9 districts) ii. Sourastra Plain(5 districts) iii. Gujrat Hills (one districts) iv. Gujrat Dry
(14) Western Arid Region region	Rajasthan Division (9 districts)

(15) Island Region.	Consist of all Islands
	     Island in the Bay of Bengal
	     Island in the Arabian Sea

Macro and Meso regions of India-P. Sen Gupta's classification

Following the Soviet concept of economic regions and production specialisation, P. Sen Gupta (1968) presented a framework of economic regions of different order. She started with the discovery of planning units of the lowest order and then grouped and regrouped them to achieve planning regions at meso and macro levels. In her scheme of economic regions, Sen Gupta gave much importance to natural regions and used modality, production specialization and utilization of power resources as bases of delineation.

Her 7 macro regions are further divided into 42 meso regions.

These 7 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

Macro Region	Meso Region
(1) North Eastern Region (Assam, Manipur, NEFA, Nagaland, and Tripura)	i. Upper Brahmaputra Valley ii. Lower Brahmaputra Valley iii. Mineralized Plateau iv. Eastern and Northern Hills
(2) Eastern Region (West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa)	i. Calcutta-Hooghly Region ii. Damodar Valley Area iii. Chotanagpur and Northern Orissa Plateau iv. Southern Hills and Plateaus of Orissa v. Lower Ganga Plain, Deltas and Coastal Plain vi. Darjeeling Hills and sub-mountain tracts (Duars)
(3) Northern Central Region (Uttar Pradesh)	i. N. Himalayan Area ii. Western Ganga Plain iii. Eastern Ganga Plain
(4) Central Region (Madhya Pradesh)	i. Eastern Madhya Pradesh ii. Western Madhya Pradesh iii. Bastar Area iv. Central Madhya Pradesh
(5) North-Western Region (Rajasthan , Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh)	i. Punjab Plain ii. The Union territory of Delhi iii. Western Rajasthan iv. Eastern Rajasthan v. Himalayan Hills including 'Dun' Area vi. Kashmir valley and its surrounding hills
(6) Western Region (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Dadra	i. Bombay City and its Conurbation Area, ii. Intervening area along the railway between

and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu)	Bombay and Nagpur. iii. Coastal part of West Bengal iv. Western Maharashtra mainly plateau area v. Eastern Maharashtra vi. Central Maharashtra vii. Gujarat Plain viii. Saurashtra ix. Kutch
(7) Southern Region (Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Yanam, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar and Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Island)	i. Coastal Plain of Andhra Pradesh ii. Telengana Area iii. Rayalseema Area iv. South Central Industrial Area v. South Eastern Coast vi. Anaimalai, Cardamom & Nilgiri hills vii. Western Coast viii. Malnad and Western Ghat Area ix. Maidan Area x. Coral Island

The Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO) Scheme

In 1968 the Town and Country Planning Organization suggested a scheme of planning region delineated based on the principle of economic amiability, self sufficiency & ecological balance at the macro and meso levels.

The emphasis of the scheme was to introduce regional factor in economic development. This approach would complement the macro planning at the national level, with a component of regional policies aimed of reducing regional disparities of development.

In the scheme submitted by the town and Planning Organisation, the country is divided into thirteen macro-regions which are in turn divided into 35 meso regions. The macro regionalization sought to link a set of areas, rich in one type of resources. This planning region cut across the state and district boundaries. However, Chandrasekhara feels that this "need not come into conflict with established boundaries of the state, as the state boundaries will continue to serve as administrative units for purposes of implementation of policies and programme drawn up within a regional framework".

The macro regions are...........

1. South Peninsular (Kerala and Tamilnadu)
2. Central Peninsular (Karnataka, Goa & Andhra Pradesh)
3. Western Peninsular(Western Maharashtra coastal and interior districts)
4. Central Decan (Eastern Maharashtra, Central & Southern Madhya Pradesh)
5. Eastern Peninsular (Orissa, Jharkhand, N.E Andhra Pradesh)
6. Gujarat Region (Entire Gujarat)
7. Western Rajasthan
8. Aravalli Region (eastern Rajasthan and western Madhya Pradesh)
9. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
10. Trans Indo Gangetic Plains and Hills (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal)
11. Ganga Yamuna Plains(central & eastern Uttar Pradesh & Northern Madhya Pradesh)
12. Lower Ganga Plains and (Bihar & West Bengal Plain)
13. Northern Eastern Region (Assam & N.E States including Sikkim & north Bengal)

Reference:

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