

Delineation of Planning Regions in India

In India different scholars delineated Planning regions in different ways. The following are some examples.

The Scheme proposed by V. Nath

- (i) A framework to understand the variety of physical conditions and resource development potentials in different parts of the country to those concerned with planning at the Centre and in the states, so that these differences are given due consideration in the planning of programmes, and adjustments in programme of content and pattern are made to meet these, wherever necessary.
- (ii) Furnishing to those concerned with planning at the state level, a scheme of division of their states into internally homogeneous units, each of which can be used as a unit for planning of most of the programmes included in state plans, V. Nath prepared a scheme of Resource Development Regions and divisions of India for the Planning Commission in 1964. His scheme is based on considerations of homogeneity in :

1. Physical factors-
 - Topography
 - Soils
 - Geologic formations
 - and climate

2. agricultural land use and the cropping pattern

though the regions cut across the state boundaries, Nath kept each resource division within the boundaries of a particular state (or Union territory) so that no administrative problems arise. On administrative considerations again, "...districts have not been divided and the entire area of a district forms part of one or the other resource development division".

The Scheme proposed by P. Sengupta.

1. Basis
2. Homogeneity,
3. Nodality,
4. Production specialization,
5. Energy resources utilization
6. State boundary

P. Sengupta divided India into seven major planning regions by grouping states approximately coinciding with the drainage basins.

Since it is only within a framework of a system of meso regions that resource-development of macro regions can take place, Sengupta proceeds to a delimitation of meso regions paying particular attention to the "core of economic growth-multipurpose projects, cities, industrial centres, etc., which radiate their production-impulses to their surrounding areas."

The Scheme proposed by C. S.Chandrasekhara

Objectives:

- (i) To avoid regional disparity and imbalances
- (ii) To ensure growth impulses to develop whole area

Bases:

Chandrasekhara advocated the delineation of planning regions according to minimum resource potentials of different regions. Such a concept will lead to the areas rich in one type of resources being linked up with areas having complementary resources or even resource poor areas so that the benefits of activity in the former may flow into the latter.” Planning regions delineated in this manner are to have within them three primary requirements for generating economic activities:

- (i) Land
- (ii) Raw materials for industrial development
- (iii) Power.

These three principal factors will enable each planning region to achieve a degree of self-sufficiency in food, an employment potential in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to meet the needs of the region’s population and power base which will serve the developmental needs of both agriculture and industry. Thus the region will have the basic elements to achieve a degree of economic viability.

In the scheme submitted by the Town and Country Planning Organisation, the country is divided into 13 macro regions which are in turn divided into 35 meso regions.

This scheme of planning regions cuts across State and district boundaries. However, Chandrasekhara feels that this “need not come into conflict with establish boundaries of the state, as the state boundaries will continues to serve as administrative units for purposes of implementation of policies and programmes drawn up within a regional framework.
