

✓ Chandrasekhara divided India into following 13 macro planning regions of which was further sub-divided into 2 to 4 meso planning regions (Fig.

- I. South Peninsular Region
- II. Central Peninsular Region
- III. Western Peninsular Region
- IV. Central Deccan Region
- V. Eastern Peninsular Region
- VI. Gujarat Region
- VII. Western Rajasthan Region
- VIII. Aravalli Region

- IX. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Region
- X. Trans-Indo-Gangetic Plains & Hills Region
- XI. Ganga Yamuna Plains Region
- XII. Lower Ganga Plains Region
- XIII. North Eastern Region



Fig. 7

I. South Peninsular Region

It then consisted of 8 districts of Kerala and 13 districts of Tamil Nadu. At that time, it had only one important or major industrial/urban concentration of Coimbatore. The resources of the region included agriculture and coastal

fisheries of coastal plains; agricultural and mineral resources of Coimbatore Plateau; and forest and plantation resources of Western Ghats. The agricultural products of the region included rice, cotton, oilseeds, sugarcane, etc., plantation crops of the region included coffee, tea, rubber, cashewnuts, spices, while forests and teak wood also added to the list of the region's resources. The region was endowed with some mineral wealth also which included thorium ore or monazite of Kerala beach sand which were considered to be the richest monazite reserves of the world and if tapped could supply power to the whole world. Other minerals of the region included iron ore and coal apart from the region's rich potential for the development of hydro-power. Thus, the region was richly endowed with a rich variety of resources in the sectors of fisheries, agriculture, forestry, industries etc. The region could develop economic specialisation in the field of plantation culture as well as plantation based industry in addition to becoming a rich source of nuclear power based energy. Other industries that could be developed in the region included fishery based industry, light engineering industry, textiles, sugarcane, oil crushing industry plus ship building industry.

The force that binds the region together is provided by the physical, cultural and economic ties. The well developed network of transportation has provided the cementing link between various parts of the region. The efficiency of the circulatory system determines the intensity of functional unity within a regional unit and this region is fortunately equipped with an efficient system of transportation and communications and hence a high degree of functional unity.

The region was further sub-divided into 3 meso regions namely: (a) Kerala, (b) Madras-Coimbatore industrial region and (c) Tamil Nadu coastal region. Kerala meso region had the specialisation like fisheries, forestry, ship-building and light engineering; Madras-Coimbatore meso region had the specialisation of light engineering and agro-based industries like sugar and oil crushing, and Tamil Nadu coastal meso-region could specialise in fisheries, tourism, agriculture and agro-based industries.

II. Central Peninsular Region

It included parts of Karnataka, Goa and large parts of Andhra Pradesh. The most prominent urban/industrial concentrations of the region included Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The chief resources of the region included fisheries of coastal belt; agriculture of Andhra plains; plantations of Malnad and Coorg; and minerals including iron, coal, gold, manganese, bauxite etc. of Goa and Karnataka. In addition, the region also possessed rich hydro-power potential. Irrigated agriculture, food processing industries, forest based industries, light engineering industry, aeronautical industry and tobacco cultivation and tobacco

industry were the chief economic specialisations of this region at the time of its demarcation. Nowadays both Hyderabad and Bengaluru have emerged as Indian Silicon Valleys with unprecedented growth of information technology industry. The chief unifying force for the region lies in the region's historical and cultural ties reinforced by multipurpose projects on Tungbhadra and Godavari that have provided strong economic linkages between different parts of the region.

The region has been further sub-divided into 4 meso regions namely: (a) Karnataka coastal and interior region; (b) Rayalseema and Coastal Plains region; (c) Bellary-Hospet-Mining industrial region; and (d) Telangana and Coastal plains each possessing an economic specialisation of its own. For example, Karnataka coastal region specialised in food based industries, engineering industries and aeronautical industry; Rayalseema and coastal plains specialised in irrigated agriculture and mixed farming; the Bellary-Hospet belt specialised in iron and steel industry besides irrigated agriculture; and Telangana and coastal areas specialised in intensive cultivation and food processing and tobacco based industries.

III. Western Peninsular Region

It covers the Konkan and Trap agro-industrial area and the Marathwara area. The most prominent urban/industrial concentration was that of Mumbai which provided the focal point to the entire industrial activity in the region. The chief resources of the area included coastal fisheries, cotton cultivation, ferrous and non-ferrous minerals, rich hydro-power potential. The chief economic specialisations of the region included cotton processing and cotton textiles, light engineering industries, besides coastal fisheries, tourism and film industry. The most significant unifying force is provided by the functional linkages between the city of Mumbai and its hinterland to the extent that the entire region could be termed as the city-region.

The region was further sub-divided into two meso regions namely,

- (a) Konkan and Trap agro-industrial region with rich hydro-power potential, cotton growing belt and vast horticulture areas, and
- (b) Marathwara agro-industrial region with mainly cotton and millets cultivation and cotton processing industry and tourism as economic specialisation, respectively.

IV. Central Deccan Region

Largely it covers parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh with Nagpur being the most prominent urban/industrial concentration. The chief sources of the region included horticulture, cotton cultivation, rich potential for agro-based

industries besides the mineral reserves of iron ore and rich potential for hydro-power in the Narmada region. Thus, cotton processing industry, fertilizer industry, chemical industries, heavy machine building industry, ferrous based industry constituted the region's chief economic specialisations. The chief unifying force is provided by the region's physical unity.

The region was further sub-divided into two meso regions, namely: (a) Narmada valley region, with cotton and millets cultivation, cotton processing industrial concentration along Bombay-Bhilai belt, hydro-power based heavy machine building, fertilisers and chemical industry; and (b) Khandesh-Berar region with cotton processing industry and ferrous based metallurgical industry as their chief economic specialisation.

V. Eastern Peninsular Region

It covers Northeastern Deccan coastal plain, the Dandakaranya, the Mahanadi basin, Chota Nagpur, Son industrial and Brahmini industrial region. The chief urban/industrial concentration of the region included Rourkela, Jamshedpur, Asansol, Durgapur, Bhilai, Sambalpur, Visakhapatnam, Cuttack etc. The chief resource potential of the region included coastal fisheries, agriculture in Mahanadi Basin, minerals (coal, iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite) forests of Dandakaranya besides rich potential of hydro-power. Thus the region can boast of a variety of economic specialisations like agriculture, fisheries, forestry, forest-based industry, chemicals industry and iron and steel industry. The region has witnessed a lot of industrial development in the post-independence period. In fact, most of the urban/industrial concentrations of some prominence have emerged only after the Independence as a result of the country's policy of developing richly endowed but otherwise backward regions of the country. The chief unifying force in the region was provided by the complementarity of resources within its various sub-regions.

The region was further sub-divided into six meso regions, namely: (a) Northeastern Deccan coastal plain covering Mahanadi delta area with coastal fisheries, agriculture and agro-based processing industries; (b) Dandakaranya with forest based and iron and steel industries; (c) Mahanadi Basin - the rice bowl of India; (d) Son industrial region with mineral based industries; (e) Chota Nagpur industrial region with heavy engineering, Chemical industries; and (f) Brahmini industrial region with metal based industries as their economic specialisations respectively.

VI. Gujarat Region

It included both the Gujarat hills and plains and Kathiawar and Kutch region. It includes prominent urban/industrial centres of Ahmedabad, Vadodara

Surat, Porbandar etc. The chief resources of the area included petroleum, chemicals, salt, limestone, bauxite, petro-chemical industries, salt based chemicals and coastal fisheries. In the field of agriculture, cotton and oilseeds are the chief crops. The unifying force of the region lies in its cultural identity.

The region was further sub-divided into two meso regions, namely: (a) Gujarat hills and plains with cotton processing and petroleum-chemical industries; and (b) Kathiawar-Kutch region with cotton processing, chemicals industries as economic specialisations, respectively.

VII. Western Rajasthan Region

It covers arid and semi-arid areas to the west of Aravallis. Jodhpur, Bikaner, Ganganagar constitute its main urban concentrations. Lignite coal, gypsum, limestone, precious stones, livestock farming and irrigated agriculture especially along the Rajasthan canal are the region's chief resources. The economic specialisation of the region lies in cotton and sugarcane cultivation, animal husbandry and limited mining. The centripetal forces are to be found in the socio-cultural homogeneity and physiographic inhospitality.

The region was further sub-divided into 2 meso regions, namely: (a) desert region with cultivation of cotton and sugarcane in irrigated areas, animal husbandry and mining of gypsum and limestone; and (b) semi-desert region with limited cultivation and animal husbandry as economic specialisations respectively.

VIII. Aravalli Region

The Aravalli region had important urban/industrial concentrations of Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota etc. The resources of the area included non-ferrous metals, lead, zinc, copper, mica, limestone, marble, salt etc. besides livestock farming and irrigated agriculture in Chambal region and horticulture. The chief economic specialisation included non-ferrous metal based industry, irrigation based agriculture, mixed farming, tourism, etc. The chief unifying force binding the region together was that of historical, socio-cultural ties and economic backwardness.

The region was further sub-divided into two meso regions, namely: (a) Kota-Chambal region with irrigated agriculture and non-ferrous metal based industries; and (b) Jaipur-Udaipur mixed farming region with tourism and mixed farming as their economic specialisations respectively.

IX. Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Region

It covers entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar was the only

prominent urban concentration. The resources of the region were limited to horticulture, forest based industry, and tourism. The economic specialisation of the region also lies in its horticulture and forest based industry. The cultural identity of the Kashmiris and border psychology provided the unifying force to the region.

The region was further sub-divided into two meso regions, namely: (a) Jammu and Kashmir with sericulture, horticulture, forest-based industries, tourism; and (b) Ladakh with forest based industry and horticulture as economic specialisations, respectively.

X. Trans-Indo Gangetic Plains and Hills Region

It covers area of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, hill districts of Uttar Pradesh and western Uttar Pradesh. It is one of the most dynamic regions of post-Independence period with Delhi, Meerut, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Shimla etc. as important urban/industrial concentrations. The chief resource of the region lies in good quality agricultural land and horticulture. This apart, forestry, agro-based industries, rich hydro-power potential and tourism also constitute the resources of the area. The chief economic specialisation of the region therefore is in agriculture, agro-based industries, horticulture and tourism. The region's sensitive border location and post-independence dynamism have provided the chief unifying force to the region.

The region has been further sub-divided into two meso regions, namely: (a) Bhakra-Nangal agro-industrial region with irrigated agriculture, woollen textiles, light engineering industries, tourism and, (b) Delhi-Uttarakhand-Western Uttar Pradesh Plains and hill region with agriculture, horticulture, agro-based industries, light engineering and tourism as their economic specialisations, respectively.

XI. Ganga-Yamuna Plains Region

The region is confined to large parts of Uttar Pradesh and parts of Madhya Pradesh with Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh etc. as main urban/industrial concentrations. The main resources of the region lie in rich agricultural potential of the Ganga plain (wheat, rice, sugarcane), forests of Madhya Pradesh, and agro-based industries. The cultural influence of the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers and social stability all through ages since ancient times provide the most important unifying forces that bind the region together.

The region was further sub-divided into two meso regions, namely: (a) Kanpur region and (b) Baghelkhand region both having their economic

specialisation in agriculture, agro-based industry and light engineering industries.

XII. Lower Ganga Plains Region

This region covers large parts of north Bihar and West Bengal with Patna, Calcutta and Barauni as the chief urban/industrial concentrations. The resources of the region lie largely in agricultural sector (jute and tea) and petro-chemical industry. The main economic specialisations of the region, therefore, are petro-chemical and agro-based industries. The socio-cultural ties and port and hinterland linkages provide the chief unifying forces that bind the region together.

The region was further sub-divided into three meso regions, namely: (a) North Bihar region with agro-based and chemical industries; (b) Calcutta-Hooghly region with high-tech industries and (c) North Bengal plains with agro-based industries as their economic specialisations, respectively.

XIII. North Eastern Region

The region covers the entire Northeast east of West Bengal with Shillong, Guwahati, Digboi and Tinsukhia as main urban/industrial concentrations. The chief resources of the region lie in jute cultivation, tea plantations, forests, petro-chemical, coal, crude oil, and horticulture. Therefore, jute cultivation, coal mining, petroleum and natural gas, chemicals industry, forest-based industry, tea plantations account for the region's main economic specialisations. The psychology of being different from rest of the country (a cultural identity of its own), almost complete isolation from rest of the country and intra-regional economic interdependence constitute the most important unifying forces that bind the region together.

The region was further sub divided into three meso regions, namely: (a) lower Shillong region with jute cultivation, tea plantations, coal and chemical industries; (b) upper Brahmaputra and hills region with tea plantations, natural gas and petro-chemical industries; and (c) eastern hills and plains region with tea plantations, jute cultivation and forest-based industries as their economic specialisations.

To conclude, it may be said that the Indian academia has moved at a snail's pace in devising a regional schemata for the country that could serve the purpose of planning in the country. That explains to some extent complete neglect of spatial element in our national planning in actual practice. In this regard geographers and planning schools/institutes have greater responsibility to share, as they are most equipped to accomplish such a regionalisation. Various