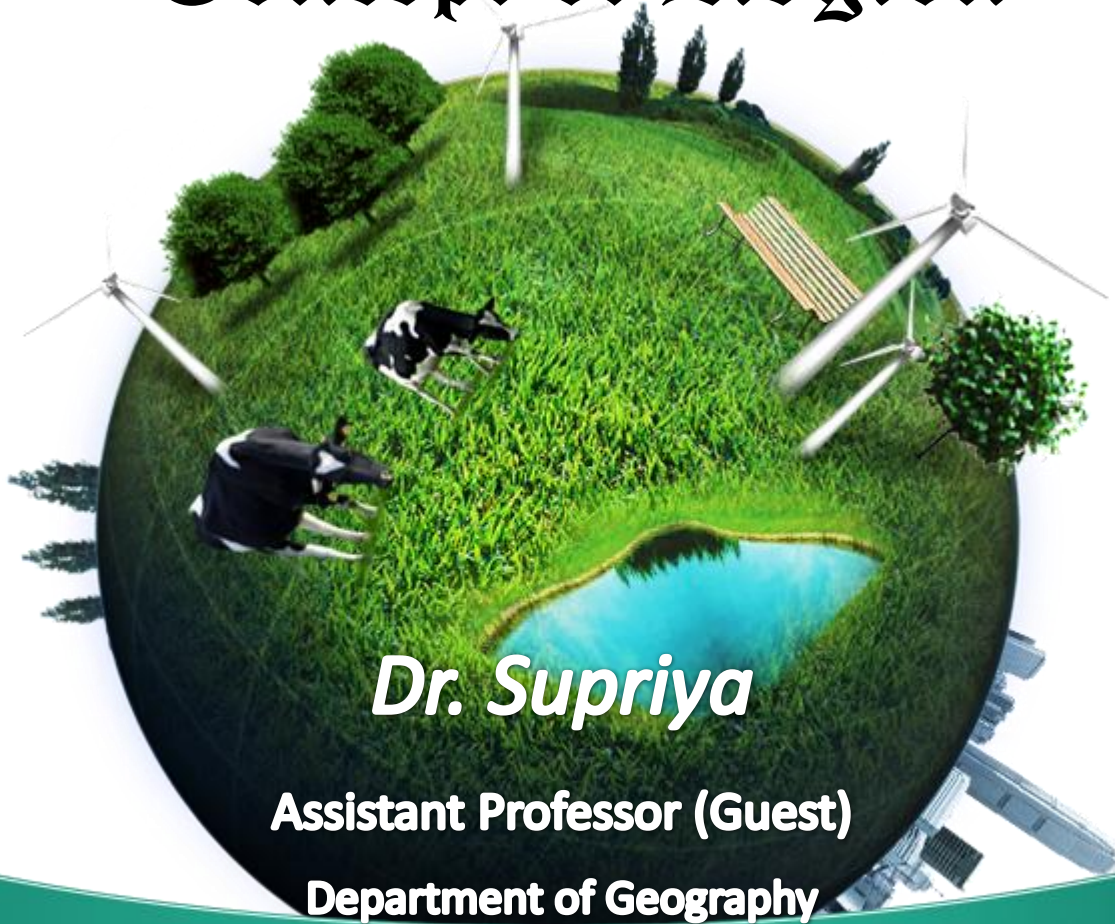




# Concept of Region



***Dr. Supriya***

**Assistant Professor (Guest)**

**Department of Geography**

**Patna University, Patna**

**Mob: 9006640841**

***Email: [supriyavatsa52256@gmail.com](mailto:supriyavatsa52256@gmail.com)***



- ❖ *Introduction;*
- ❖ *Definitions;*
- ❖ *Conceptual Background;*
- ❖ *Typology of Region*
  - ❖ *Homogenous Region*
  - ❖ *Heterogeneous Region/ Nodal /Functional Region*
  - ❖ *Adhoc / Perceptual/ Vernacular Region*
- ❖ *Characteristics of Region*
- ❖ *Conclusion*
- ❖ *References*
- ❖ *Model Questions*

## *Learning Objectives:*

- 1. Students will get familiar to conceptual development of Region a first law of geography;*
- 2. Students will get understanding of typology of regions for different planning perspective;*

## *Learning Outcome:*

- 1. Students will be able to explaining the idea of region in the world from their typological differences;*
- 1. They will be able to applying the regional concept in the planning purposes.*



# Introduction

- *In geography, regions are the areas that are broadly divided by its physical characteristics (physical geography), human impact characteristics (human geography), and the interaction of humanity and the environment (environmental geography).*
- *Geographic regions and sub-regions are mostly described by their imprecisely defined, and sometimes transitory boundaries, except in human geography, where jurisdiction areas such as national borders are defined in law.*
- *'Regions' or 'Landschaft' is similar concept which was came in existence in Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century from "German School".*
- *At first geographers where trying to classify world into natural region by the homogeneity and uniformity between physical attributes of the area or space.*
- *In 20<sup>th</sup> century regions were classified into different categories ( different functional regions or planning regions) with the help of different statistical methods showing functional hogeneity in multiple attributes*
- *At present, the Region and regionalisation get wide spectrum through the planning process in any country or a state or small unit of a natural, functional or vernacular region of the word; to achieve the goal of sustainable development*



# Definitions

*Some important definition given by geographers are below:*

- 1. The Region is an area of the earth Surface. \_ Taylor*
- 2. A region is an unit area of the earth surface differentiated by its specific characteristics. \_ F. J. Monkhouse*
- 3. The Region is a geographic Area or areas which given civilisation, standard of a people seems to require for the fulfillment of the aspiration through material resource. - C Aronovic*
- 4. Any Surface over the earth surface where physical conditions are homogenous is region. - Wolfgang & Joerg*
- 5. Regions are genuine entities, each of Which express both natural and cultural differentiation from its neighbours. - G. T. Ranner*
- 6. “ A region is a complex of land, water, air, plant, animal and man, regarded under their spatial relationship as together constituting a definite portion of the earth surface.”  
\_ A .J. Herbertson*



# Definitions.....

6. *“A region is a domain where many dissimilar things are artificially brought together have subsequently adopted themselves to a common existence.”*  
- Vidal-de-La-Blache
7. *“A region is an area of specific location which in some way very distinctive from other areas and which extends as far as the distinction extends.”*  
- Richard Hartshorne
8. *“A region is an area within which the combination of environment and demographic factors have erected a homogeneity of economic and social structure.”* - T.T. Woofer
9. *“An area throughout which a particular set of physical type of economic life.”*  
- R.E. Dicknision
10. *Region is an are delineated on the basis of homogeneity of land -character and occupance.*  
- R.S. Platt
11. *“Region is an ecological aggregation of persons and economic framework and cultural order. It is at once a faithful expression of the distribution of population, resource, occupation and the inter-related cultural unity.*  
- R.K. Mukherjee



# Conceptual Background

- *Before becoming the target of systematic concerns, regional studies sought, above all, to identify specificities, curiosities and descriptions of the most different parts of the globe (Claval, 1974).*
- *From the mid-eighteenth century several forms of description, classification and analysis techniques have been created without the intention to develop a more "scientific" point of view about the term region.*
- *These concerns have become more common in the early twentieth century, when the systematization of a "regional geography" began to take its first steps, both in Europe and in the United States (Witlessly, 1954);*
- *Main geographers who developed the first theoretical definitions on the regional phenomenon: Alfred Hettner, in Germany, Vidal-de-la-Blache, in France, and A. J. Herbertson, in Great Britain (Duarte, 1980).*
- *The first systematic definition of the notion of region was made by Herbertson, in an article dated 1905. With regard to its more methodological aspects, it can be said that the purpose is to create a "systematic geography", and seeks to find "geographical divisions orders on the globe" (Herbertson, 1905).*
- *The concern to define regionalization as a classification process, It makes explicit reference to the biology classification procedures (Organic theory of Regionalisation), thus demonstrating a deductive bias, based on the demarcation criteria, divides the world into major natural regions"*



- *Herbertson (1905) proposes four "classes of phenomena" for such regions, in the following order of importance: 1) configuration (mainly the elements of geology and geomorphology of earth); 2) climate (air masses, temperature and precipitation levels); 3) vegetation; and 4) population densities<sup>1</sup>.*
- *Setting natural regions would be, in this sense, "the necessary step for the final solution of the problems of geography" as these definitions would allow the establishment of sound and lasting cuts on the earth's surface even to understand the economic functions, which each portion of the space would fulfill, since it was believed that the productive activities had clear causal relationships with natural elements such as climate, geology, landform, vegetation and soil of each area. This true "physical regionalization" of the world at the time was followed by several similar attempts, mainly conducted by Russian geographers Gregg, 1974.*
- *Paul shows that in this period the region was a fact of physical geography, a fact of nature in virtually all that was written on the subject.*
- *Gomes (1995) also noted that "the concept of natural region is born from this idea that the environment has some ownership on the orientation of the society development." Most of these definitions had a deterministic or "environmentalist" Bias.*



# Characteristics of Region

- *The major Characteristics of the regions are;*
- 1. *Distinctiveness: Every region is a distinct geographical area;*
- 2. *Uniqueness:*
- 3. *Homogeneity: Homogeneity in one or more geographical elements within the boundary;*
- 4. *Heterogeneity: Heterogeneity in those elements towards its regional boundaries;*
- 5. *Dynamic/ Changing character: A region has dynamic character because its features where change during times ; whether it is physical or human elements, single or multiple feature elements or functional or planning regions; geographical features where dynamics;*
- 6. *Hierarchy: Every region have some kind of hierarchical arrangements.*
- 7. *Dynamic Scale: A region can be different in scale according to their shape and size.*
- 8. *Problematic: Every region have similar problems within its boundary;*
- 9. *Purposive: A region is delineated for specific purposes.*
- 10. *Resourceful: A region should be resourceful or have some specific resources so that they were utilised in the planning process.*





# Typology of Region

*REGION*

*1. Homogenous/  
Uniform/  
Formal Region*

*Single Feature  
Region*

*Multi Feature  
Region*

*Compage Region*

*2. Heterogeneous/  
Nodal/  
Functional Region*

*Metropolitan  
Region*

*Axial Region*

*3. Adhoc/  
Perceptual/  
Vernacular Region*

*The three main types of regions are formal, functional, and vernacular regions.*



# 1. Formal region

- *A formal region is a geographical region which is homogeneous and uniform within a specified criterion. This specified criterion could be physical, social, or political. Example - Himalayan Region, Sub-Tropical Region, etc.*
- *A formal region is also known as a uniform or homogeneous region*
- *It is an area in which everyone shares in common one or more distinctive characteristics. This common characteristic could be a cultural value such as language, an economic activity such as production of a certain crop, or an environmental property such as climate and weather patterns. Whatever the common characteristic is, it is present throughout the selected region.*
- *In certain formal regions, the characteristic may be predominant rather than universal, such as the wheat belt in North America, it is an area in which the predominant crop is wheat, but other crops are grown here as well.*
- *It is further divided in 'Single feature Region' (ex. Physiographic regions of India), "Multiple Feature region" (ex. Resource Region or Planning region), and 'Compage region' (ex. Agricultural region of the World).*
- *Whittlesy (1956) defined 'compage region' as a uniform region where all the features of the physical, biotic and social environment are functionally associated with the human occupation.*



## 2. Functional Region

- *A functional region which displays a certain functional coherence, an interdependence of parts when defined on the basis of certain criteria is known as a functional region.*
- *A functional region, also known as a nodal region, organized around a node or focal point. It is sometimes referred as **polarized** region and is composed of heterogeneous units such as cities, towns & villages which are functionally inter-related. Example - National Capital Region*
- *The characteristic chosen to define a functional region dominates at a central focus or node and diminishes in importance outward.*
- *The region is tied to the central point by transportation, communication systems or by economic or functional associations.*
- *The functional linkage keep in changing in nature and volume.*
- *An example of a functional region is the circulation area of a newspaper. That area is centered around the city in which the newspaper is published in. The farther away from the city of circulation, the less people that read the newspaper (this phenomenon is known as distance decay).*



# 3. Vernacular region

- A "vernacular region" is a distinctive area where the inhabitants collectively consider themselves interconnected by a shared history, mutual interests, and a common identity. Such regions are "intellectual inventions" and a form of shorthand to identify things, people, and places.
  - Vernacular regions reflect a "sense of place," but rarely coincide with established jurisdictional borders.
  - A vernacular region, also known as **Perceptual region** or **Adhoc Region**, is a place that people exists as part of their cultural identity.
  - These regions vary from person to person. They emerge from a person's informal sense of place. An example of a vernacular region would be the Cultural region or Transitional regions, depressed area etc.
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- ❑ A planning region can be defined as a geographical region where designing and implementation of development plan is possible for tackling of regional problems. It could be both formal & function and generally transitional in the nature: Example - Delhi Metropolitan Region.
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- Apart from above Classification there are other typology of regions adopted for different purposes; Some of them are
    - In Multi Level Planning Regions divided in- Macro, Meso & Micro Regions;
    - In analysis of stage of development they were divided into- Developed, Developing/ Intermediate & Backward/Depressed Region;



# Conclusion

- *For geographers and others, regionalising space on the face of the earth serves as a tool of spatial analysis. Whereas it would be impossible to effectively study the earth without any formal organizational structure, regions make it possible to organize information about the spatial realities of the earth into meaningful categories.*
- *Thus, regions may be based on climatic, political, economic, cultural, and a host of other defining characteristics. For example, Introductory geography often breaks the world into climatic, political, cultural, or economic regions for the purpose of study.*
- *Climate regions may include the tropics, the highlands, the humid subtropics, the marine-west coast, the long and short summer mid-latitude climates, and so on.*
- *Political regions may be arranged by nation states or spheres of political influence.*
- *Cultural regions might include places dominated by religions such as Islam, Christianity, and many others.*
- *Furthermore, there are many other possible ways in which the concept of region may be used as a management tool for examining the spatial realities of the world. Consider, for example, the importance of border regions, indigenous reservations, public lands, rural and urban regions, and medical regions.*



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# Model Questions

*Q1. What is Region? Discuss the major types of region and their characteristics.*

*Q2. Examine the development of Concept of Region with special reference to India.*

*Q3. Write short notes on the:*

- 1. Formal & functional Region*
- 2. Single Feature & Multiple Feature region*
- 3. Comapage Region*
- 4. Planning regions*
- 5. vernacular region*