

D.N.R.COLLEGE(AUTONOMOUS), BHIMAVARAM

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

E- CONTENT

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LECTURER IN GEOGRAPHY

UNIT I: Nature, Scope, and Relationship of Economic Geography

Nature and Scope of Economic Geography:

- **Definition:** Economic geography is the study of the spatial aspects of economic activities, focusing on the location, distribution, and spatial organization of economic activities across the world.
- **Scope:**
 - Analysis of patterns and processes related to production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
 - Study of regional economic development, spatial inequalities, and the impacts of globalization.
 - Examination of economic systems, sectors, and policies affecting geographical areas.

Relationship with Economics and Other Social Sciences:

- **Economics:** Economic geography overlaps with economics in studying resource allocation, production, and consumption but focuses more on spatial aspects and regional variations.
- **Sociology:** Examines how economic activities influence and are influenced by social structures and cultural practices.
- **Political Science:** Studies the impact of political decisions, policies, and governance on economic activities and development.
- **Environmental Science:** Explores the interaction between economic activities and environmental sustainability.

Classification of Economic Activities:

- **Primary Activities:** Involves extraction of natural resources (e.g., agriculture, mining, fishing).
- **Secondary Activities:** Includes manufacturing and processing of raw materials (e.g., industry, construction).
- **Tertiary Activities:** Entails services provided to businesses and consumers (e.g., retail, banking, education).
- **Quaternary Activities:** Involves knowledge-based services (e.g., research, information technology).
- **Quinary Activities:** Includes high-level decision-making and policy-making (e.g., government, top executives).

UNIT II: Factors Affecting Location of Economic Activity

Factors Affecting Location of Economic Activities:

- **Natural Factors:** Availability of natural resources, climate, and topography.
- **Economic Factors:** Proximity to markets, availability of labor, access to capital, and infrastructure.
- **Social Factors:** Cultural preferences, population density, and social infrastructure.
- **Political Factors:** Government policies, political stability, and regulatory environment.
- **Technological Factors:** Level of technological development, innovation, and access to information.

Theories of Location:

- **Von Thünen's Theory of Agricultural Location:**

- Describes how agricultural activities are spatially organized around a central market.
- Assumes a single market with uniform transportation costs and fertility.
- Predicts concentric rings of different agricultural activities based on transportation costs and land rent.
- **Weber's Industrial Location Theory:**
 - Focuses on minimizing costs of transportation, labor, and agglomeration.
 - Suggests that industries locate where total costs are lowest.
 - Factors include raw material sources, market proximity, labor availability, and transportation networks.

UNIT III: Spatial Distribution of Crops and Resources

Spatial Distribution of Crops:

- **Food Crops:**
 - **Rice:** Predominantly grown in Asia (China, India, Indonesia), requires warm climate and abundant water.
 - **Wheat:** Major producers include China, India, Russia, USA, and Canada, grows in temperate regions with moderate rainfall.
- **Commercial Crops:**
 - **Cotton:** Leading producers are China, India, USA, and Pakistan, thrives in warm climates with adequate rainfall.
 - **Sugarcane:** Major producers include Brazil, India, China, and Thailand, requires tropical or subtropical climate.
- **Plantation Crops:**

- **Tea:** Grown in China, India, Sri Lanka, and Kenya, prefers high-altitude regions with abundant rainfall.
- **Rubber:** Major producers are Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, requires hot, humid climate.
- **Coffee:** Leading producers include Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, and Ethiopia, grows in tropical highlands.

Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Resources:

- **Ferrous Resources:**

- **Iron Ore:** Major producers include China, Australia, Brazil, and India.

- **Non-Ferrous Resources:**

- **Bauxite:** Leading producers are Australia, China, Brazil, and India.
- **Copper:** Major producers include Chile, Peru, China, and the USA.

Distribution and Production of Energy Resources:

- **Coal:** Largest reserves and producers include USA, Russia, China, and India.
- **Iron Ore:** Leading producers are China, Australia, Brazil, and India.
- **Petroleum:** Major producers include Saudi Arabia, USA, Russia, and Canada.
- **Natural Gas:** Leading producers are USA, Russia, Iran, and Qatar.

UNIT IV: Classification of Industries

Classification of Industries:

- **Based on Raw Materials:**

- **Agro-based:** Industries using agricultural products (e.g., textile, food processing).
- **Mineral-based:** Industries using mineral resources (e.g., steel, cement).

- **Based on Size:**

- **Large-scale:** Industries with large capital investment and production capacity (e.g., automobile, petrochemical).
- **Small-scale:** Industries with limited investment and production (e.g., handicrafts, local food processing).

- **Based on Ownership:**

- **Public Sector:** Owned and operated by the government (e.g., railways, steel plants).
- **Private Sector:** Owned by individuals or corporations (e.g., IT, pharmaceuticals).
- **Joint Sector:** Owned jointly by government and private entities (e.g., joint ventures in mining).
- **Cooperative Sector:** Owned and operated by a group of individuals (e.g., dairy cooperatives).

World Distribution and Production of Major Industries:

- **Iron and Steel Industry:**

- **Leading Producers:** China, Japan, India, USA, and Russia.
- **Key Locations:** Major industrial regions such as the Ruhr in Germany, Great Lakes in the USA, and Eastern China.

- **Textile Industry:**

- **Leading Producers:** China, India, USA, and Pakistan.
- **Key Locations:** Industrial clusters like Guangdong in China, Tamil Nadu in India, and North Carolina in the USA.

UNIT V: Transport, Communication, and Trade

Transport:

- **Land Transport:**
 - **Road Transport:** Provides flexibility and accessibility, suitable for short and medium distances.
 - **Rail Transport:** Efficient for long distances and bulk goods, crucial for industrial and commercial activities.
- **Air Transport:**
 - **Advantages:** Fast, connects remote areas, suitable for high-value, time-sensitive goods.
 - **Disadvantages:** Expensive, limited capacity for bulk goods.

Communication:

- **Traditional Means:** Postal services, telegraph.
- **Modern Means:** Internet, mobile networks, satellite communication.
- **Impact:** Facilitates global connectivity, information exchange, and economic activities.

Trade:

- **International Trade:**
 - **Recent Trends:** Increasing globalization, trade liberalization, rise of digital commerce.

- **Trade Blocs:** NAFTA, EU, ASEAN, influencing trade patterns and economic relationships.
- **Challenges:** Trade wars, protectionism, environmental concerns