

Regional Planning: Some Concepts

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Regional Planning**

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The Concept of Region

‘Region’: Wide usage

- Considerable and connected part of a space or surface; specifically, a tract of land, a country; a district; a territory, An administrative sub-division of a city
- To a common man: **an area** which suit some kind of entrepreneurship or administration
- To a scientist/a Geographer: ‘a Region is an area which is **homogeneous** in respect of some particular set of associated conditions, whether of land or of the people, such as industry, farming, the distribution of population, commerce, or the general sphere of influence of a city’ (Dickinson, 1947:1)

Region Defined

Regions are the areas within which **homogeneity** prevails **in terms of single or multiple criterion** (such as Physiography, Soil, Climate, Language, Religion etc.); or they may have **functional coherence** in terms of some inter-related and interacting categories of phenomena (such as **linkages, nodality** etc.); or they may be characterized according to **economic attributes** i.e. **agricultural productivity, cropping intensity, crop combination**.

The geographical personality of a region is marked by its location, boundary and limits; the scale of the unit of study may range from a few villages to a number of countries.

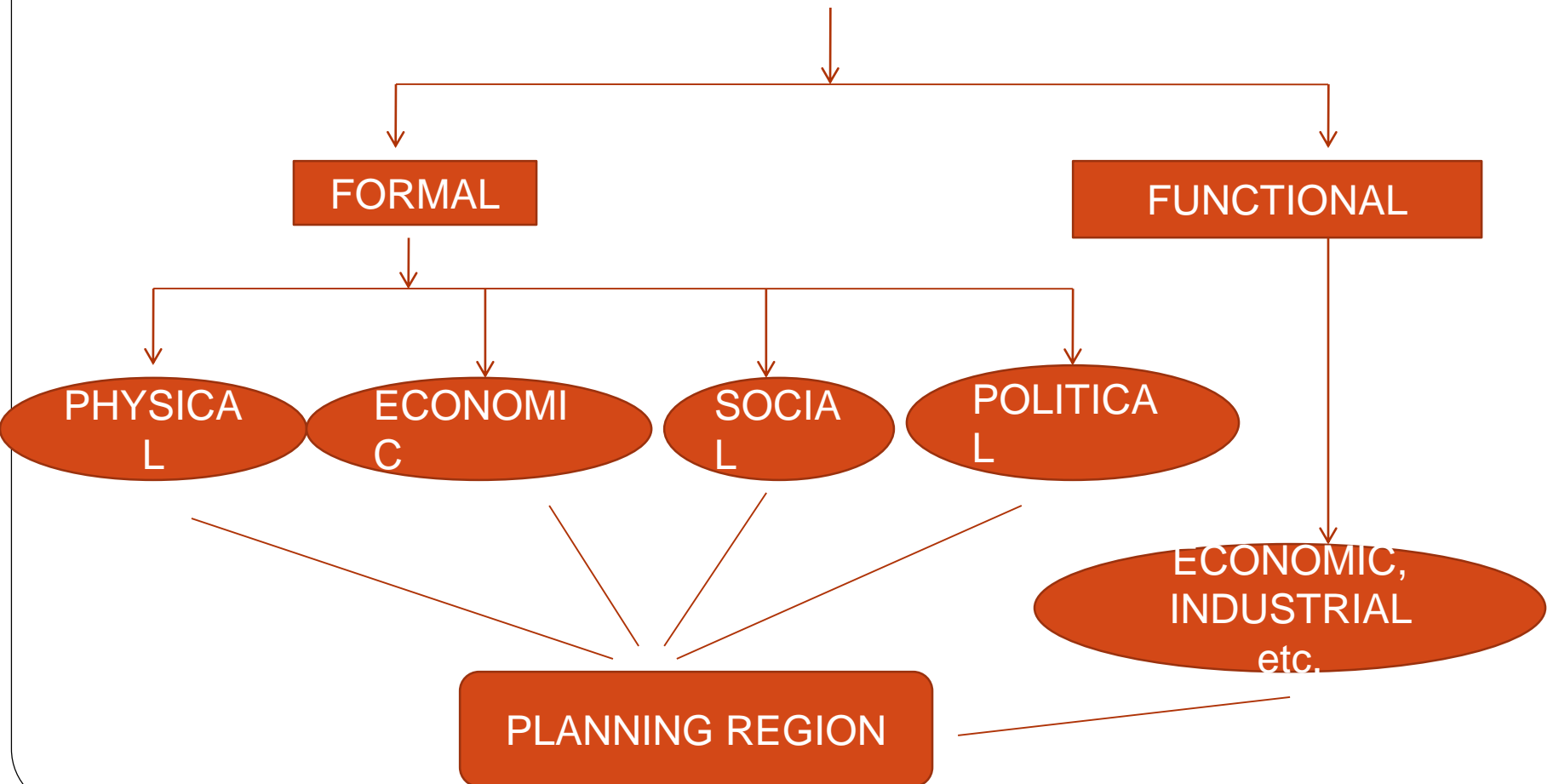
Conceptual understanding:

- The concept of Region is very much linked with 'Space'.
- Natural phenomenon or Mental construct (**Glasson**, 1975)
- **Objective view:** Region as an end in itself, a real entity, an organism, that can be sensed or mapped
- **Subjective view:** Region as a means to attain an end or an idea (or mental constructions), a model

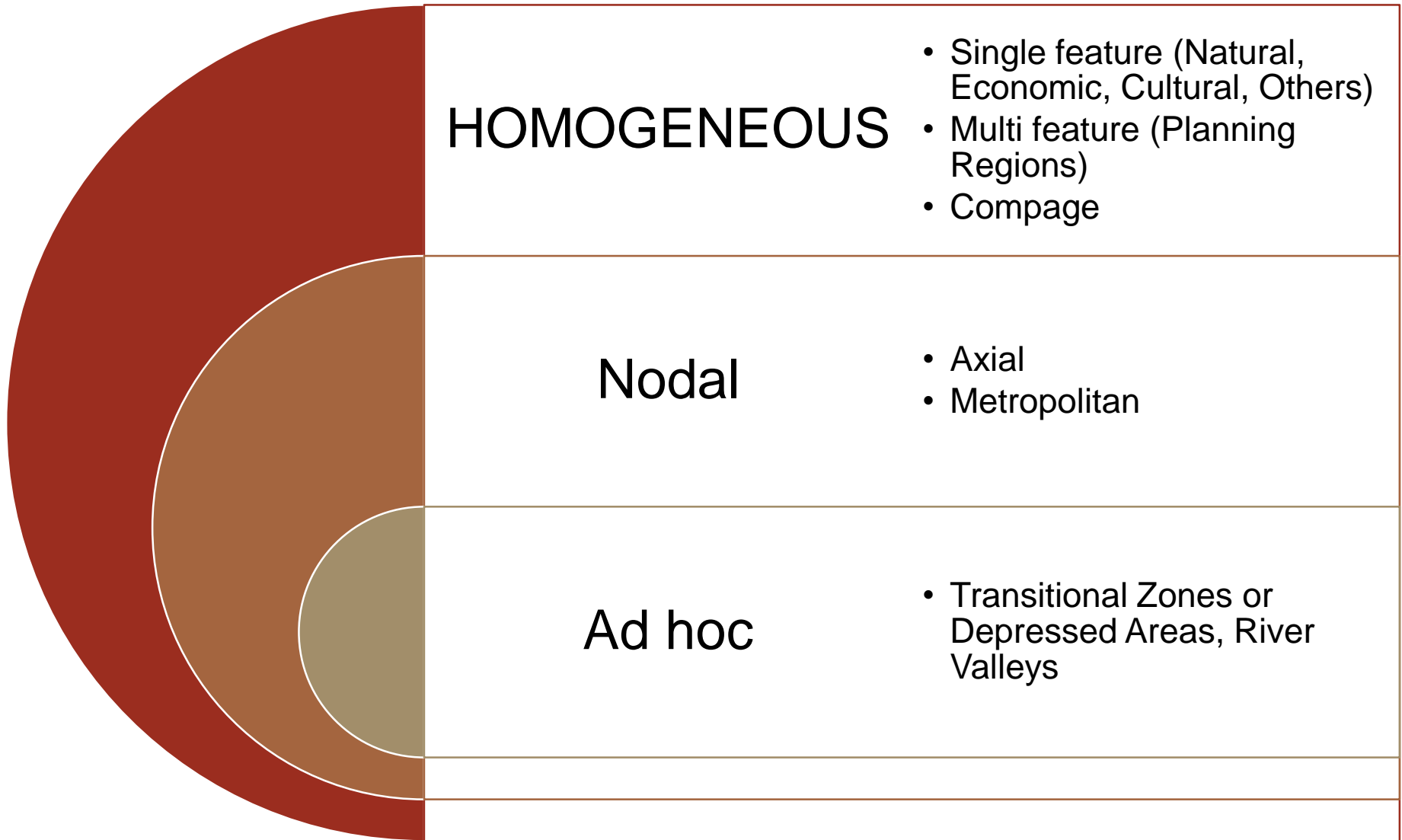
Types of Region

- On the basis of **Homogeneity**

REGION



On the basis of Hierarchy



Planning Regions

- Designing & implementing development plans to solve regional problems
- Administrative importance
- To equalize the discrepancies
- To fetch welfare for the entire society
- **Klassen (1965):** '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'

Planning Regions in India

R.P. Misra (2002)

- **Metropolitan or City Regions**
- **River Valley Regions**
- **Axial Development Regions**
- **Transitional or Depressed Regions**

Compage envisaged by Derwent Whittlesey in a Report on Regional Geography of USA. Studying a region from different aspects yet integrated as a whole.


Hierarchy of Planning Region

According to Misra, Sundaram and Prakasa Rao (1974): **3 major area levels of operation**

- **Macro-** conceived for regional development
- **Meso-** sub divisions of the macro regions
- **Micro** - conventional Planning Regions

The Concept of Regional Planning

What is Planning?

- 'The process of **thinking** through and **implementing** set of appropriate actions to achieve some goals' (**Johnston et al.**, 1981)
- **Friedmann**: Planning is primarily a way of thinking about social and economic problems.
- Planning in our country  **socio-economic development of the nation**

Sequential process of Planning (Glasson, 1975):

- Identification of the problem
- Formulation objectives relating to the problem
- Identification of the possible constraints
- Projection of the future
- Generalization and evaluation alternative courses of action
- Implementation
- Continuous evaluation of the implementation programme

What is Regional Planning?

- **Planning meant for a region**
- It is intermediate between National Planning and Local Planning
- Regional planning is the instrument through which ***optimum utilization of space and optimal distribution pattern of human activities*** (Chand & Puri, 1983: 48) is brought about.

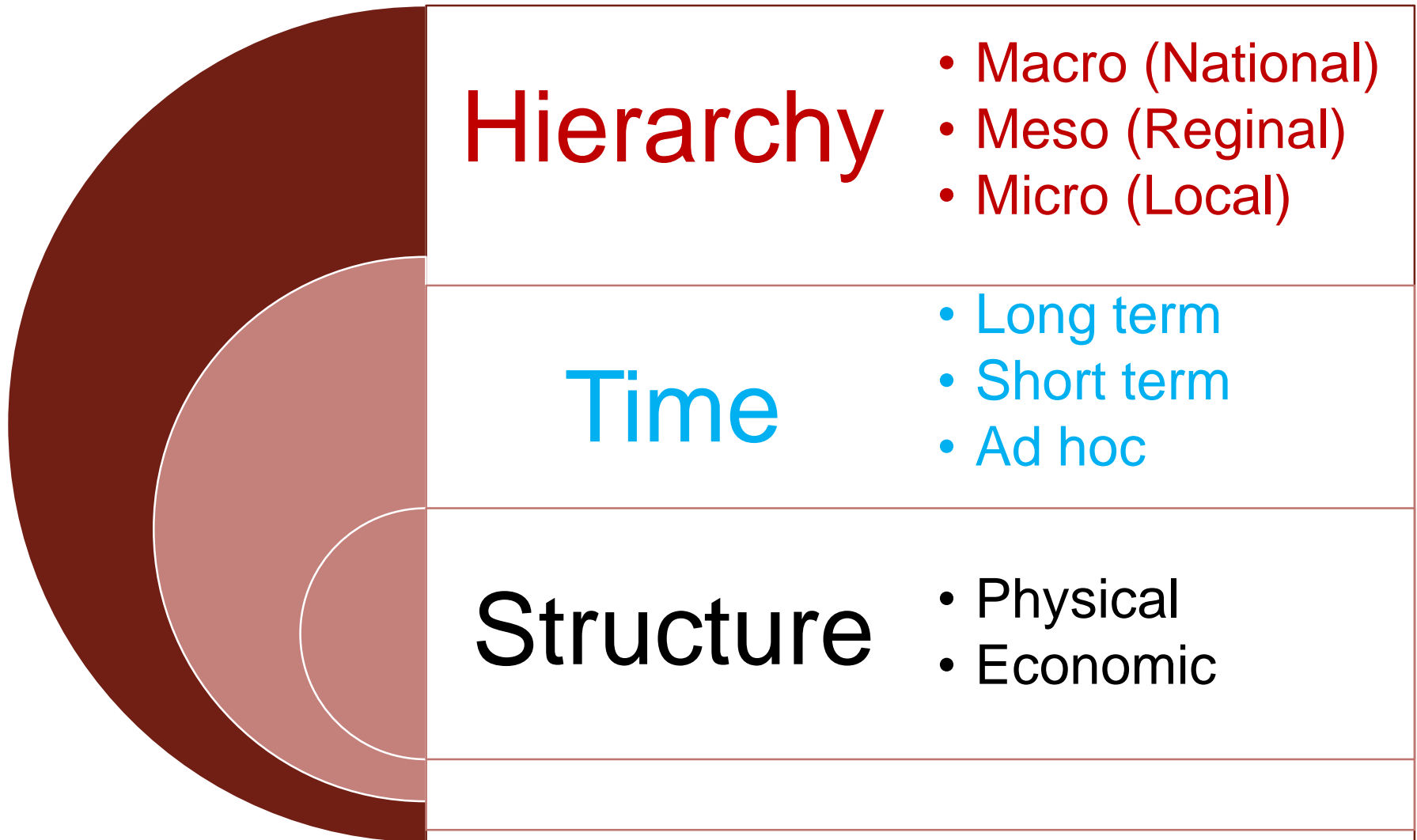
The goals of Regional Planning:

- Building of resource base & economic opportunity
- Bring about diversity strength and economic balance
- Ensure environmental improvement
- Ensure general welfare.
- Distribution of investment decisions made by the sectoral units.

Goals..

- Analyze the impact of the decisions
- Indicate how the sectoral investment decisions could be integrated at the regional level and what advantage could be achieved by the integration

Types of Regional Planning:



Types..

- Allocative Planning/Regulatory Planning & Innovative Planning/ Development Planning
- Single objective or Multiple goals/objectives
- Indicative & Imperative/Command Planning
- Spatial = Adaptive & Developmental
- Non-spatial Planning = Sectoral planning
- Normative Planning
- Systems Planning
- Social Planning
- Environmental planning

Thank you...