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# GEOGRAPHY

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— R K JAIN —

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10

# CONTENTS

1. PRACTICAL GEOGRAPHY – STUDY OF TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS
  2. STUDY OF TOPOGRAPHICAL SHEET NO. G43S7
  3. STUDY OF TOPOGRAPHICAL SHEET NO. G43S10
  4. PRACTICAL GEOGRAPHY – MAP OF INDIA
  5. INDIA – LOCATION, EXTENT AND PHYSICAL FEATURES
  6. INDIA – THE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS
  7. INDIA – SOIL RESOURCES
  8. INDIA – NATURAL VEGETATION
  9. INDIA – WATER RESOURCES
  10. INDIA – MINERAL RESOURCES (IRON ORE, MANGANESE, COPPER AND BAUXITE)
  11. INDIA – ENERGY RESOURCES (CONVENTIONAL)
  12. INDIA – ENERGY RESOURCES (NON-CONVENTIONAL)
  13. INDIA – AGRICULTURE
  14. INDIA – AGRICULTURE (CROPS I – RICE, WHEAT AND MILLETS)
  15. INDIA – AGRICULTURE (CROPS II – PULSES, OILSEEDS AND SUGAR CANE)
  16. INDIA – AGRICULTURE (CROPS III – COTTON AND JUTE)
  17. INDIA – AGRICULTURE (CROPS IV – TEA AND COFFEE)
  18. INDIA – INDUSTRIES
  19. INDIA – AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES
  20. INDIA – MINERAL-BASED INDUSTRIES
  21. INDIA – MEANS OF TRANSPORT
  22. IMPACT OF WASTE ACCUMULATION
  23. NEED FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT AND METHODS OF SAFE DISPOSAL
  24. NEED AND METHODS FOR REDUCING, REUSING AND RECYCLING WASTE
- GEO-GLOSSARY 255

# ICSE GEOGRAPHY

**Class 10**

**Chapter 19: India- Agro-based  
Industries)**

The industries, which use the agricultural products as their basic raw materials, are called the **agro-based industries**. Such industries include sugar, textiles (cotton, jute, silk, wool), vegetable oil, food processing, etc

## SUGAR INDUSTRY

India is the homeland of sugar cane and the art of making sugar from sugar cane is known to us since ancient times. At present, it is the second largest agro-based industry in India after cotton textile industry.

India is the second largest producer of sugar cane in the world, only after Brazil. India is also the second largest producer of sugar in the world, only after Cuba. If **gur** and **khandsari** are also included, then India becomes the largest producer.

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In ancient times, only gur and khandsari were made. The modern sugar industry was set up during the colonial period by the Dutch businessmen in Bihar in 1840. But it was a failure. The first successful attempt to develop sugar industry was made by the British in 1903 in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

## LOCATION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

- ❖ Sugar cane is the main raw material for the sugar industry, which is a heavy, low value, weight losing and perishable commodity.
- ❖ Sugar cane cannot be stored for a long time after harvest, as it may lose sugar contents. Thus, sugar cane should be sent to the sugar mill immediately.



Transporting sugar cane to a sugar mill



- ❖ Sugar cane cannot be transported over long distances, as it may increase the cost of production and the juice in the sugar cane can also dry up on the way.
- ❖ Even today, most of the sugar cane is transported by bullock-carts and tractor-trolley, as most of the sugar mills are located near the sugar cane producing areas.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Most of the sugar mills in India are located near the sugar cane producing areas. About 90 per cent sugar mills in India are located in the following two belts.

1. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab
2. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Other important sugar producing states in India are Gujarat, Telangana, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.



India – Main centres of sugar industry

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUGAR INDUSTRY OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN INDIA

North India used to produce about 80 per cent of the total sugar but now its share is only 40 per cent. The sugar industry is gradually shifting from North India to South India. This is due to the following reasons:

- ❖ The typical tropical climate of South India helps in getting higher yield of sugar cane per hectare.
- ❖ The sucrose contents in the sugar cane of South India are also comparatively higher.
- ❖ The crushing season for sugar cane is much longer in South India than that in North India.
- ❖ The cooperative sugar mills in South India are better managed than the private sector mills of North India.
- ❖ Most of the sugar mills in South India have new and modern machinery than those in North India.

## PROBLEMS OF SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA

The sugar industry in India is facing many serious problems. We must find suitable solutions to save the sugar industry of India. Some of the problems are as under:

1. Low yield of sugar cane:
2. Short crushing season:
3. Fluctuating production trends:
4. Low rate of sugar recovery:
5. Competition with gur and khandsari:
6. High cost of production:



Inside view of a sugar mill

7. Small and uneconomic size of mills:
8. Old and obsolete machinery:
9. Regional imbalances in distribution:
10. Policy of dual pricing:
11. Low per capita consumption:

## TRADE

Under the dual price system for internal trade, every sugar mill has to sell about 40 per cent of its production to the government at a lower price. The government sells this sugar through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Rest of the sugar is sold in the open market at a much higher price. A small amount of sugar is also exported to USA, UK, Russia, Malaysia and Iran.

## THE TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

The term textile means woven fabric. It is a broad term which includes the cloth made from cotton, jute, silk, wool and synthetic fibres. Nowadays, a variety of raw materials are used for making cloth.

1. Materials of **plant origin**: cotton, jute, flax and hemp.
2. Materials of **animal origin**: wool and silk
3. Materials of **chemical origin**: rayon, nylon, polyester.

The change from hand-made textiles to machine-made textiles occurred first in England and then spread to other parts of the world.



## COTTON TEXTILES

India is one of the leading producers of cotton textiles in the world. India's cotton textile industry faced stiff competition from the modern British textile industries. As a result, British cotton goods that were cheap and of fine texture flooded the Indian markets.



Textile (Handloom)



Cotton textile mill (Spinning section)

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The first modern cotton textile mill in India was set up in 1818 at Ghusuri near Kolkata which was unsuccessful. The first successful modern cotton textile mill was set up in Mumbai in 1854 by a local Parsi family. This encouraged the Parsi, Bhatia and Gujarati entrepreneurs to invest in the cotton textile industry.

After 1858, the cotton textile mills were set up in areas near the cotton growing belt and the markets, first in Ahmadabad and then in Kanpur, Nagpur and Solapur.

## LOCATION OF COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Although the cotton textile mills are located in more than 80 towns and cities of India, but most of them are in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The location of a textile mill is mainly influenced by the

- ❖ availability of raw cotton,
- ❖ accessibility to market,
- ❖ capital facilities,
- ❖ port facilities, and
- ❖ cheap and skilled labour.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN INDIA

The cotton textile industry is widely distributed. Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu together account for about 60 per cent of the total cotton textile mills in India.

Other important states are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.



India – Main centres of cotton textile industry



## PROBLEMS OF COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN INDIA

The cotton textile industry in India faces many problems, primarily due to the growth of powerloom sector and the textile policy of the government. As a result, many mills have become uneconomic and have closed down. Some of the problems are as follows:

- ❖ India is short of cotton, particularly the long staple cotton. Most of it has to be imported. Fluctuating prices and uncertainties in the availability of raw cotton result in low production.
- ❖ Most of the textile mills in India have old and obsolete machinery, which is more than 25 years old. This leads to low output, poor quality of goods and high production cost.



Cotton textile mill (Weaving section) section)

- ❖ Power supply is inadequate. There are frequent power cuts and load shedding. This leads to loss of man-hours and less production.

## TRADE

India is the second largest exporter of cotton textiles in the world. Cotton yarn, cloth and readymade garments form the main items of export. Indian garments are known for their quality and design. Today, the export of readymade garments has surpassed the export of cotton yarn and fabric. Russia, UK, USA, Australia, France, Italy and African countries are some of the main buyers of Indian textile, cloth and garments.

## SILK TEXTILES

India is the second largest producer of silk, in the world after China. It has the unique distinction of producing all four varieties of silk, namely, **mulberry**, **tasar**, **eri** and **muga**.

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In ancient times, silk cloth was exported to many countries of the Middle East and Europe. The Mughal emperors encouraged the silk industry of Bengal and Kashmir.

After Independence, there has been a rapid growth in the production of silk textiles in India. The synthetic fibres and the artificial silk, being less expensive, have been responsible for reducing the popularity of silk textiles.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SILK TEXTILE MILLS IN INDIA

About 90 per cent of the total production of silk textiles comes from Karnataka, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.



India – Main centres of silk textiles

Other main producers are Bihar (tasar), Assam (muga), Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh.

The total production of raw silk is about 16,000 tonnes. There are about 100 silk textile mills in India, but it is popular as a handloom industry.

## PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS

In India, about 90 per cent of the total raw silk production is of mulberry variety. Most of the silk products are exported to the countries of Europe, Africa and Middle East. India imports raw silk from China for making expensive sarees and quality silk products.



Silk textile mill (Spinning section)

## PROBLEMS OF SILK INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Competition from artificial and synthetic materials is the main problem of the Indian silk industry.

- ❖ The artificial silk is cheaper and better in quality.
- ❖ The price fluctuation in the case of raw silk affects the silk textile industry adversely.
- ❖ There is no systematic testing and grading of silk.
- ❖ The import of cheaper raw silk from China is affecting sericulture in India.
- ❖ The government is not making sincere efforts for the modernisation of silk textile mills in India.



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