

Unit-1

Regional Economics and Regional Economic Policy

(1) Explain the concept of Regional Economics.

Answer: Regional Economics is a branch of economics that focuses on the spatial aspects of economic activities. It studies how economic factors such as production, consumption, employment, investment, and income are distributed across different regions. The primary concern of regional economics is to understand why economic development is uneven across areas and to find ways to reduce regional disparities. It examines the factors that influence the location of industries, population distribution, resource allocation, and infrastructure development within specific geographic regions.

This field also analyses how transportation networks, local resources, government policies, and inter-regional trade contribute to regional growth or decline. Regional economists develop models to predict migration patterns, urbanization trends, and the spread of industries. They also study the effects of regional policies, such as subsidies, tax incentives, and development programs, on local economies. Regional economics plays an essential role in planning and decision-making for balanced economic development. It helps policymakers promote inclusive growth by focusing on backward or underdeveloped regions, reducing unemployment, and improving living standards. By addressing regional imbalances, regional economics contributes to the overall stability and efficiency of a nation's

economy.

(2) Explain the nature of Regional Economics .

Answer :Following are the nature of regional economics:

- **Spatial Analysis of Economic Activities**

Regional economics focuses on the spatial distribution of economic activities. It studies how resources, industries, population, and services are spread across different regions and how this distribution affects regional growth.

- **Focus on Regional Disparities**

One of the key aspects of regional economics is identifying and analyzing the causes of regional inequalities. It aims to understand why some regions develop faster than others and seeks ways to minimize these disparities.

- **Interdisciplinary Approach**

Regional economics combines concepts from economics, geography, sociology, urban planning, and environmental studies. It provides a comprehensive view by integrating various disciplines to solve regional development issues.

- **Emphasis on Location Theory**

Location plays a critical role in regional economics. The field heavily relies on location theory to explain why certain industries, businesses, or populations concentrate in specific areas.

- **Analysis of Migration Patterns**

Regional economics studies the movement of people and industries from one region to another. It examines the push and pull factors that lead to migration and its impact on both the source and destination regions.

- **Study of Infrastructure and Connectivity**



It emphasizes the importance of transportation, communication, and infrastructure in shaping regional development. Well-connected regions often grow faster due to better access to markets and resources.

- **Policy-Oriented Discipline**

Regional economics is closely linked to government policy. It helps in formulating regional development strategies, tax policies, subsidies, and infrastructure investments to promote balanced growth.

- **Concerned with Resource Utilization**

Efficient and sustainable use of local resources is a key focus. Regional economics examines how different regions can optimally use their natural and human resources for development.

- **Focus on Industrial Development**

The field studies the regional distribution of industries and promotes the setting up of industries in backward areas to generate employment and income.

- **Support for Regional Planning**

Regional economics plays a vital role in creating regional plans that guide urbanization, industrial growth, and rural development for achieving balanced economic progress across all areas.

(3) Explain the relevance of regional economics.

Answer: Following are the relevance of regional economics:

- **Balanced Regional Development**

Regional economics is highly relevant in promoting balanced growth across different areas. It helps policymakers identify backward regions and design strategies to reduce regional



disparities and ensure inclusive development.

- **Reduction of Unemployment and Poverty**

By encouraging industrialization and infrastructure development in less developed regions, regional economics helps in creating employment opportunities, reducing poverty, and improving the standard of living in these areas.

- **Efficient Resource Allocation**

Regional economics focuses on the optimal utilization of local resources. It ensures that natural, human, and financial resources are efficiently distributed to prevent overexploitation in some areas and underutilization in others.

- **Urban and Rural Planning**

Regional economics provides essential inputs for urban and rural planning. It supports the development of smart cities, the control of urban congestion, and the balanced growth of rural regions through proper resource management.

- **Improved Transportation and Connectivity**

The study of regional economics highlights the importance of transport and communication networks. Good connectivity promotes trade, migration, and investment, which are essential for regional growth.

- **Support for Decentralization**

Regional economics encourages the decentralization of industries and administrative powers. This reduces the concentration of economic activities in big cities and promotes growth in smaller towns and rural areas.

- **Helps in Formulating Regional Policies**

Regional economics guides the government in creating region-specific policies such as special economic zones (SEZs), tax incentives, and subsidies to boost local

economies.

- **Addresses Environmental Concerns**

It promotes sustainable development by balancing economic growth with environmental protection. Regional planning helps control pollution and manage resources efficiently.

- **Guides Investment Decisions**

Regional economics assists businesses and governments in choosing suitable locations for investment based on factors like market access, resource availability, and labour costs.

- **Promotes National Economic Stability**

Balanced regional growth strengthens the national economy by reducing regional tensions, improving social harmony, and ensuring uniform development across all areas.

(4) Explain the concept of Regional planning.

Answer: **Regional Planning** refers to the process of formulating and implementing strategies to promote the balanced and coordinated development of specific geographical areas within a country. It involves planning for the optimal utilization of resources, infrastructure development, industrial growth, and improvement of living standards across regions to reduce regional disparities. Regional planning focuses on the spatial arrangement of economic activities, population distribution, transportation networks, and social services to achieve harmonious growth. It helps in guiding the growth of urban, semi-urban, and rural areas by considering the unique needs, potential, and challenges of each region.

The primary goal of regional planning is to ensure equitable development by addressing issues such as unemployment,



poverty, over-urbanization, and underdevelopment in backward areas. It also emphasizes sustainable development by considering environmental conservation while planning for industries, housing, transportation, and agriculture.

Regional planning is typically supported by government policies and involves cooperation between central, state, and local authorities. It can take the form of metropolitan planning, rural area development, or planning for special economic zones.

In summary, regional planning is a crucial tool for achieving balanced economic growth, reducing social inequalities, and ensuring the efficient use of natural and human resources across different regions.

(5) Write a note on inter-regional income model.

Answer: The **Inter-Regional Income Model** is an analytical framework used in regional economics to study the flow of income between different regions within a country or an economy. It helps in understanding how economic activities and income generated in one region influence and are influenced by the activities and incomes of other regions. This model is particularly useful for analyzing **interdependencies** among regions. It shows how the production, consumption, investment, and trade in one region create demand and supply effects in neighboring or distant regions. For example, if Region A produces goods that are consumed in Region B, the income generated in Region A partially depends on the spending patterns of Region B. The model focuses on factors such as:



- Regional trade flows
- Inter-regional migration
- Transport and communication linkages
- Distribution of industries
- Regional policies and investment patterns

The **key objective** of the Inter-Regional Income Model is to trace the movement of goods, services, and income across regions and to evaluate the impact of economic growth in one region on the income levels of others. It can be helpful for policymakers in formulating strategies for **balanced regional development**, as it identifies regions that are either overly dependent or isolated in terms of income flows.

In summary, the Inter-Regional Income Model provides valuable insights into the structure of regional economies and highlights the importance of promoting economic linkages among regions to achieve national growth and stability.

(6) Explain the need for regional policy.

Answer: Following are the need for regional policy:

- **Reduction of Regional Disparities**

Regional policy is essential to minimize the economic and social gaps between developed and underdeveloped regions. Without targeted policies, some regions may remain poor and backward, increasing inequality.

- **Balanced Economic Growth**

Regional policy ensures that growth is spread evenly across the country rather than being concentrated in a few urban centers. It helps in developing lagging regions, thereby promoting national economic stability.



- **Optimal Resource Utilization**

Through regional policy, underutilized resources in backward areas can be identified and efficiently used. This promotes local industries and agriculture, contributing to overall productivity.

- **Employment Generation**

Regional policies often encourage industries to set up operations in less developed areas through incentives. This helps in creating jobs locally, reducing unemployment, and curbing migration to big cities.

- **Control of Over-Urbanization**

By promoting growth in smaller towns and rural areas, regional policy helps to prevent excessive pressure on metropolitan cities, which often face problems like congestion, pollution, and housing shortages.

- **Improvement in Infrastructure**

Regional policy supports the development of essential infrastructure like roads, power, education, and healthcare in less developed areas, improving the overall quality of life.

- **Social and Political Stability**

Balanced regional development reduces feelings of neglect and alienation among people in backward areas, thereby enhancing social harmony and political stability.

- **Promotion of Industrial Decentralization**

Regional policy encourages the decentralization of industries by offering tax benefits and subsidies to those who invest in backward regions.

- **Environmental Protection**

Regional planning, supported by policy, can help manage urban sprawl and protect ecologically sensitive areas by



promoting sustainable growth.

- **Strengthening Regional Linkages**

Regional policies aim to improve connectivity between regions, facilitating the flow of goods, services, and people, which boosts inter-regional cooperation and development.

(7) Explain the instruments of Regional Policy.

Answer: **Regional policy instruments** are the tools and strategies used by governments to promote balanced development and reduce regional inequalities. These instruments help to direct investments, encourage industrial growth, and improve infrastructure in underdeveloped regions. The key instruments of regional policy include:

- **Financial Incentives**

Governments offer financial incentives such as tax holidays, subsidies, low-interest loans, and grants to attract industries to backward regions. These incentives reduce the cost of setting up businesses and promote investment in less developed areas.

- **Infrastructure Development**

Developing infrastructure like roads, railways, power supply, water facilities, and communication networks is a crucial instrument. Improved infrastructure increases the attractiveness of backward regions for industries and enhances the quality of life for residents.

- **Establishment of Growth Centres**

Growth centres are selected cities or towns that are developed as industrial or commercial hubs. These centres stimulate the economic activities of surrounding regions, helping in the spread of development.



- **Promotion of Small-Scale Industries (SSI)**

Regional policies encourage the development of small and medium enterprises in backward regions. Support is provided through easy credit, training, marketing assistance, and technical know-how.

- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

SEZs are designated areas with relaxed regulations and tax benefits to attract domestic and foreign investments. These zones promote regional development by creating jobs and boosting exports.

- **Decentralization of Industries**

Regional policy encourages the shifting of industries from overcrowded urban areas to smaller towns and rural regions. This helps to ease urban congestion and promotes rural development.

- **Development of Social Infrastructure**

Investments in education, healthcare, housing, and sanitation in backward regions improve living standards and support long-term development.

- **Resource-Based Planning**

Regional policies focus on utilizing the natural and human resources available in specific regions to develop location-based industries.

- **Employment Generation Programs**

Government-initiated employment schemes in backward areas directly address regional unemployment and increase local incomes.

- **Regional Investment Boards and Authorities**

Special boards or agencies are set up to manage, monitor, and promote investment and development activities in



specific regions to ensure effective implementation of policies.

These instruments collectively work towards reducing regional imbalances and achieving balanced national growth.

(8) Write a note on conflicts between national and regional objectives.

Answer: In the process of economic planning and development, conflicts often arise between **national objectives** and **regional objectives**. While national objectives focus on the overall growth, stability, and development of the country, regional objectives aim to address the specific needs, demands, and development priorities of individual regions. Balancing these two sets of goals can be challenging.

One of the primary sources of conflict is the **allocation of resources**. National policies often prioritize projects that contribute to maximum national output or efficiency, which may lead to investments being concentrated in already developed regions. On the other hand, regional objectives demand more resources for backward and underdeveloped areas to promote balanced growth and reduce inequalities. This creates a conflict between achieving national efficiency and regional equity.

Another area of conflict is **industrial location decisions**.

National interests may encourage industries to be located where costs are lowest and productivity is highest, which often benefits developed urban centres. However, regional policies might push for industries to be set up in remote or

backward areas to create jobs and improve local economies. This may sometimes lead to inefficient use of resources from a national perspective.

Environmental concerns can also create friction. A national policy may promote large infrastructure projects like dams, highways, or mining that are critical for national development. However, regional communities may oppose such projects due to potential environmental degradation, displacement, or cultural disruption.

Political conflicts also emerge when regional leaders prioritize their local demands, which may not align with national priorities. Sometimes, strong regional movements seek greater autonomy, special status, or separate economic packages, which can disrupt national unity and policy coherence.

Further, **migration patterns** influenced by national growth strategies can cause regional tensions. Concentration of economic activities in urban areas attracts large numbers of migrants from rural and backward regions, creating social, cultural, and economic pressures in both source and destination regions.

To resolve these conflicts, governments must carefully balance national and regional interests through **cooperative federalism**, effective decentralization, and inclusive planning. Policies should aim to promote national growth while also ensuring that backward regions receive sufficient support to catch up with developed areas.

In summary, conflicts between national and regional objectives are common in development planning. Effective coordination, balanced resource allocation, and sensitivity to

local needs are essential to harmonize these competing interests and achieve sustainable, inclusive growth.

2 Marks Section.

1. What is Regional Economics?

Answer:

Regional Economics is the study of the spatial distribution of economic activities, focusing on why and how economic growth and development vary across different geographical areas.

2. State one key objective of Regional Economics.

Answer:

A key objective of Regional Economics is to reduce regional disparities and promote balanced economic development across regions.

3. What is Regional Planning?

Answer:

Regional Planning is the process of developing strategies to promote balanced growth by addressing the economic, social, and infrastructural needs of specific regions.

4. Why is Regional Planning important?

Answer:

Regional Planning is important to ensure equitable resource distribution, balanced urban and rural growth, and to reduce regional inequalities.

5. What is the Inter-Regional Income Model?

Answer:

The Inter-Regional Income Model studies the income flows and economic interdependencies between different regions within a country.

6. How does the Inter-Regional Income Model help policymakers?

Answer:

It helps policymakers understand regional income linkages and design strategies to promote balanced growth and reduce regional imbalances.

7. Why is a Regional Policy needed?

Answer:

A Regional Policy is needed to address regional inequalities, promote balanced growth, and ensure equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

8. What is the role of financial incentives in Regional Policy?

Answer:

Financial incentives such as subsidies and tax benefits attract industries to underdeveloped areas, promoting regional development.

9. What is a Growth Centre in Regional Policy?

Answer:

A Growth Centre is a planned urban area developed to stimulate economic activity and promote growth in surrounding backward regions.

10. What is meant by decentralization of industries?

Answer:

Decentralization of industries refers to the relocation of industries from congested urban areas to less developed regions to ensure balanced growth.

11. What are Special Economic Zones (SEZs)?

Answer:

SEZs are designated areas with relaxed regulations and tax benefits to encourage investment and promote regional industrial development.

12. What is resource-based planning in regional development?

Answer:

Resource-based planning focuses on utilizing local natural and human resources to develop industries specific to that region.

13. What causes conflict between national and regional objectives?

Answer:

Conflicts arise when national policies prioritize efficiency and output, while regional demands focus on equity and local development.

14. How can migration cause regional conflict?

Answer:

Migration to urban areas can create social and economic pressures, causing conflicts between migrant and local populations and leading to regional imbalances.

15. How can conflicts between national and



regional objectives be resolved?

Answer:

Conflicts can be resolved through cooperative federalism, decentralization, and inclusive planning that balances both national and regional interests.

Unit 2

Structure and Infrastructure of North East Economy

(1) Write a detailed note of History of North Easter Region.

Answer: History of North East Region

The North East Region of India, comprising eight states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim—has a rich and diverse historical background. This region is known for its unique blend of ethnicities, languages, and cultures, which have evolved over centuries through migration, trade, and interactions with neighbouring regions and countries. Historically, the region was largely inhabited by numerous indigenous tribes, each with their own distinct traditions, customs, and governance systems. Many of these tribes trace their origins to Tibeto-Burman and Mongoloid ancestry. The early history of the region was marked by the rise of powerful kingdoms like the Ahom Kingdom in Assam, which ruled for nearly 600 years and successfully resisted several Mughal invasions.

The Ahoms, who migrated from present-day Myanmar in the 13th century, played a significant role in shaping the history and culture of Assam. The region also witnessed the



establishment of other kingdoms such as the Koch, Kachari, and Tripuri kingdoms, each contributing to the socio-political structure of the North East.

During the colonial period, the British East India Company gradually extended its control over the region, especially after the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826, which marked the end of the First Anglo-Burmese War. Assam was annexed, and the British began to administer the area, introducing tea plantations, railways, and new administrative systems. However, the hill areas remained relatively isolated under separate governance as “Excluded” or “Partially Excluded” areas.

The region also witnessed various resistance movements against British rule. The famous Anglo-Kuki war (1917-1919) and the heroic efforts of tribal leaders to safeguard their independence reflected the spirit of the local people.

Post-independence, the North East underwent significant political reorganization. Several new states were carved out to accommodate ethnic aspirations and demands for self-governance. Despite occasional political unrest, insurgency, and demands for autonomy, the region has steadily integrated into the national mainstream.

Today, the North East stands as a symbol of cultural diversity and strategic importance, sharing international borders with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. The region's history continues to shape its identity and its role in India's socio-economic and geopolitical landscape.

(2) Write a note of Geography of North Eastern Region.



Answer: **Geography of North Eastern Region**

The North Eastern Region (NER) of India is a distinct and strategically significant area comprising eight states:

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim. Geographically, the region is situated in the easternmost part of India and is connected to the rest of the country by the narrow Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as the "Chicken's Neck," which is approximately 22 kilometers wide.

The North East is characterized by its diverse topography, which includes hills, mountains, plateaus, plains, and river valleys. The Himalayan ranges dominate the northern part of the region, especially in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, while the other states feature rugged hills and dense forests. The Brahmaputra and Barak river systems are the major river basins that sustain the fertile plains of Assam and parts of Tripura and Manipur.

The Brahmaputra Valley in Assam is one of the most significant geographical features of the region. This vast floodplain is known for its rich alluvial soil, making it suitable for extensive agriculture, especially rice cultivation and tea plantations. The valley is prone to annual flooding due to the heavy monsoon rains and the braided channels of the Brahmaputra River.

The region is also home to several important mountain ranges such as the Patkai, Naga, Khasi, Jaintia, Lushai, and Mizo Hills, which shape the landscape and climate patterns. These hills are covered with dense forests, rich in biodiversity, and are part of one of the world's most



important ecological hotspots.

The climate of the North Eastern Region varies from subtropical in the plains to temperate and alpine in the higher altitudes. The region receives heavy rainfall, especially during the monsoon season, with places like Cherrapunji and Mawsynram in Meghalaya ranking among the wettest locations on Earth.

The North East shares international borders with five countries—China, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal—making it strategically vital for India's security and foreign relations. The geographical diversity, rich natural resources, and unique location make the North Eastern Region not only environmentally significant but also crucial for the socio-economic development of the country.

(3) Explain the basic features of North Eastern Economy.

Answer: **Basic Features of North Eastern Economy**

The economy of the North Eastern Region (NER) of India is unique and distinct from the rest of the country due to its geographical isolation, diverse culture, and limited industrial development. The following are the key features of the North Eastern Economy:

- **Agriculture-Based Economy:**

Agriculture is the primary occupation in the North East, employing a significant portion of the population. Rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, and jute are the major crops, and shifting cultivation (jhum cultivation) is widely practiced in the hill areas.



- **Limited Industrialization:**

The region has minimal industrial development. Small-scale industries like handicrafts, handlooms, and food processing dominate. Large industries are scarce due to geographical constraints and inadequate infrastructure.

- **Rich in Natural Resources:**

The North East is endowed with rich natural resources, including oil, natural gas, coal, limestone, and forests. However, these resources remain underutilized due to poor connectivity and limited investment.

- **Low Per Capita Income:**

Most of the North Eastern states have lower per capita income compared to the national average, indicating underdevelopment and poor income distribution.

- **Inadequate Infrastructure:**

The region suffers from poor transportation, limited road and rail connectivity, and weak power supply, which hamper economic growth and market access.

- **Heavy Dependence on Central Assistance:**

The economies of the North Eastern states are highly dependent on financial assistance from the central government for developmental projects and administration.

- **Backward Financial Sector:**

The banking and financial services sector is underdeveloped, with limited access to credit facilities, especially in rural and remote areas.

- **Border Trade Potential:**

The region has significant potential for international trade due to its proximity to countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China, but border trade remains underdeveloped.



- **High Unemployment and Underemployment:**

Despite high literacy rates in many states, there is widespread unemployment and underemployment due to lack of industries and limited job opportunities.

- **Tourism Potential:**

The region offers vast potential for eco-tourism, cultural tourism, and adventure tourism, but this sector is yet to be fully explored and developed.

(4) Explain the relative and economic performance of the North Eastern Region.

Answer: **Relative and Economic Performance of the North Eastern Region**

The North Eastern Region (NER) of India, comprising eight states, holds a unique place in the country's economic landscape due to its strategic location, rich natural resources, and diverse cultures. However, the region has historically lagged behind other parts of India in terms of economic growth, infrastructure development, and industrialization.

In relative terms, the North Eastern Region's economic performance is significantly lower compared to the national average. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of most North Eastern states is relatively small, and their per capita income falls below the national benchmark. While states like Assam and Sikkim have made moderate progress in recent years, the overall economic contribution of the region to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remains limited. Agriculture continues to dominate the economy, employing



over 60% of the population. However, the sector is largely subsistence-based and faces challenges such as low productivity, inadequate irrigation, and the traditional practice of shifting cultivation (jhum), which affects soil fertility. Despite fertile river valleys like the Brahmaputra and Barak, modern agricultural techniques are not widely adopted, resulting in lower output compared to potential.

Industrial growth in the North East is minimal. The region has vast reserves of oil, natural gas, limestone, coal, and forest resources, but poor connectivity and limited private investment have restricted the growth of large-scale industries. Handloom, handicrafts, and small-scale processing units form the backbone of the local industry, but they are unable to generate significant income or employment at scale.

Infrastructure is one of the weakest areas affecting the economic performance of the North East. Road, rail, and air connectivity are still developing, although recent efforts under the Act East Policy and North East-specific infrastructure schemes have shown some improvements. Power shortages and inadequate market access continue to be major hurdles.

The financial sector is underdeveloped, with limited access to formal credit and banking services in rural and remote areas. The region heavily relies on central government funds for both administrative and developmental activities.

Unemployment, especially among educated youth, remains high due to limited job opportunities outside agriculture and government services.

On the positive side, sectors like tourism, horticulture, and

border trade offer potential for future growth. The North Eastern Region's rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and proximity to Southeast Asian markets provide significant opportunities if connectivity and investment can be improved. Overall, while the North East has shown gradual progress, it still faces structural challenges that need targeted policies, increased investment, and greater integration with national and international markets to realize its full economic potential.

(5) Explain the major constraints to the development of North Eastern Region.

Answer: **Major Constraints to the Development of North Eastern Region**

The North Eastern Region (NER) of India faces several constraints that have hindered its socio-economic development over the years. The major constraints are as follows:

- **Geographical Isolation:**

The region is geographically isolated from the mainland, connected by the narrow Siliguri Corridor. This limits the flow of goods, people, and investment, increasing transportation costs and reducing market access.

- **Inadequate Infrastructure:**

Poor road, rail, and air connectivity, along with weak communication networks and power shortages, severely restrict industrial growth and economic integration.

- **Political Instability and Insurgency:**

Several North Eastern states have faced ethnic conflicts,



insurgency, and demands for autonomy, which have created an unstable environment and discouraged private and public investment.

- **Limited Industrial Base:**

The region lacks significant industrial development due to low levels of investment, poor infrastructure, and limited access to raw materials beyond natural resources like oil, coal, and forest products.

- **Backward Agricultural Practices:**

Agriculture is mostly traditional and subsistence-based, with low productivity. Shifting cultivation (jhum) is still widely practiced in the hill areas, leading to deforestation and soil degradation.

- **Underdeveloped Financial Sector:**

Access to banking and credit facilities is limited, especially in remote and rural areas, restricting entrepreneurial activities and small business growth.

- **High Unemployment:**

Despite having a literate population, the region suffers from high unemployment and underemployment due to limited job opportunities outside government services and agriculture.

- **Heavy Dependence on Central Assistance:**

Most states in the North East heavily rely on financial aid from the central government, which indicates weak internal revenue generation and fiscal dependence.

- **Limited Private Investment:**

Poor infrastructure, security concerns, and the small size of local markets discourage private companies from setting up businesses in the region.

- **Environmental Challenges:**



The region is prone to natural disasters like floods, landslides, and earthquakes, which frequently disrupt economic activities and damage infrastructure. Addressing these constraints requires a focused development strategy, improved connectivity, political stability, and investment-friendly policies to unlock the economic potential of the North Eastern Region.

(6) Explain the natural resource base of North-East Economy namely mineral, water, land and food .

Answer: **Natural Resource Base of North-East Economy: Minerals, Water, Land, and Food**

The North Eastern Region (NER) of India is endowed with abundant natural resources, which form the backbone of its economy. These resources, if properly utilized, can significantly contribute to the region's economic growth and sustainable development. The key natural resources of the North East include minerals, water, land, and food resources.

1. Mineral Resources

The North Eastern Region is rich in various mineral resources, though their potential remains underutilized. Assam is well-known for its reserves of crude oil and natural gas, particularly in areas like Digboi, Duliajan, and Naharkatia, which have supported the region's oil industry for decades. The region also has significant coal deposits, especially in Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. Meghalaya is known for its limestone and uranium deposits, which can support cement industries and energy production. Other minerals like quartz, feldspar, clay, and sillimanite are also found across