Chapter I

Geography of the Region
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Concept of region

The term "region" has been either viewed as merely a concept and mental construct or a reality that exists in space. According to Dov Nir, these two views can be compatible in "so far as the regional studies are in fact studies of places, spatial relationships and values attached to place and relationship." \(^1\) The classical view of region gave emphasis on the homogeneity of physical condition of any portion of the earth's surface. Later the term has been associated with a definite portion of earth's surface. And therefore, at present, it is considered as a geographic and aerial unit with certain limits and bounds. Various types of regions have been noticed by the geographers. Where only the physical characteristics of the land are taken into account, the physical geographic regions are highlighted. Where cultural factors are considered as bases for delineation, the socio-cultural regions are reconstructed. Where various criteria come together, we get a "compage".\(^2\) The concept of a compage further leads us to the concept of regionalization which is actually "the temporal, spatial or time-space differentiation of regions, either within or between locales";\(^3\) the locales being the physical regions involved as part of the setting of interaction and having definite boundaries. The interaction between locales points again to the aerial linkage which is necessary for regionalization.
Indian Peninsula: a regional division

Indian subcontinent has three major structural elements or macro-regions or first order regions which is nothing but a physiographic division at the highest level of generalization. These are the Himalayan mountains, the peninsular India and the middling depressions now filled with sediments deposited by the north Indian rivers. All the three macro-regions are divided into meso-regions and all the meso-regions can be classified into micro-regions. "As the regions based on surface relief features and the drainage basins of rivers have acted as break-points between one region and the other", each region is compelled to develop some specialities which are unique to it and the formation of cultural complex can become of a particular nature. So, first of all, it is necessary to describe the features of peninsular India of which Andhra Pradesh is a part.

The Peninsular Plateau consists the largest physiographic division and the oldest part of the country. It is characterized by:-

i) hard granites as resistant blocks, metamorphosed under great pressure to form gneisses

ii) less intensively altered sedimentary rocks as plateaus

iii) relatively younger, but very ancient sedimentary rocks in dips or basins forming plateaus and scraplands, intersected by waterfalls, particularly in the northern Deccan

iv) much younger sediments lying in the long depressions, specially in the east of the peninsula fringed by coastal plains and deltas

The northern boundary of peninsular plateau has been formed by the Vindhya, Satpura, Mahadeo and Maikal mountain-ranges. It is bordered on by
the Nilgiri hills, the meeting point of the Eastern and Western Ghats, in the south. These two hill-ranges also surrounded the plateau on the east and west respectively.

The coastal region of the Peninsula can broadly be divided into eastern and western coast with the former stretching through Orissa, Andhra and Tamil Nadu and the latter having portions of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. In the western coastal area:-

i) the portion of Gujarat is drought prone where rainfall is less than 75 cm.; only the southern coastal strip being an exception. The process of settlement has led to large-scale deforestation with only the eastern margins having some forest-cover.

ii) the part of Maharashtra Konkan is a lowland. Here ridges and spurs project out from the Western Ghats. Valley bottoms witness intensive rice cultivation while millets and pulses are the main crops in the clearings of the wooded hills.

iii) the coast of Goa is occupied by a tiny delta made by the Mandovi river originated from the Western Ghats.

iv) the Karnataka section is more hilly than plain. Its northern portion is an extension of the Western Ghats and southern part consists of dissected hills, open valleys and coastal lowlands.

v) the coastline of Kerala is emergent, contrary to the rest of the western coast of India, which mostly experienced submergence resulting in several coastal villages as “islands”.

The eastern coast has also some variations in physiography which are described as follows:-
i) Orissa coast broadly coincides with the Mahanadi delta. Marshes and dunes on the coastal fringe, wide alluvium in the middle and lateritic shelves on the upland margins form its physiography.

ii) The coast of Andhra is mainly formed by the two deltas of the Godavari and the Krishna. In the north, topography tends to be hilly near the sea and in the south is located the Nellore peneplain carved out by the Pennar. (Map 2)

iii) The Tamil Nadu coast is a wide plainland with the Kaveri delta in the middle. To its north, there is alluvium deposited by the palar and Ponnaiyar rivers, and in its south, there remains the plain watered by the Vaigai and other rivers.

All the geographers have not marked the sub-regions similarly. While some of them divided the peninsula into some second-order regions like Telengana plateau, Eastern Ghats, Deltaic tract of Orissa, Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani rivers, Andhra coastal plains and Deltaic tract of Krishna and Godavari rivers, Coromandel coast from Krishna delta to the southern tip of the peninsula; there are others who have classified the Peninsula into Central Highlands and Plateaus and the Deccan plateau, the later subdivided into Maharashtra plateau, Karnataka plateau and Tamil Nadu plateau. If only the physiographic features were kept in mind, there is no cause of dividing the Deccan plateau according to the names of the States. But, as the object of geography of today is stretching of social relations over space which has led to the incorporation of sociology, anthropology and cultural studies, the regions are being identified as ‘experienced, valued and conceived’ by individuals and groups. If looked from this point of view, we can
understand the cause of such dissimilarities which lies in different aspects of geography.

**Andhra as a region**

The particular social and geographic characters can co-exist in a particular area. In Indian context, agrarian life has an association with the river-valleys, the inter-fluvial tracts are tended to be occupied by the pastoralists and the hilly or forested area primarily become the habitation of isolated group of people. In primitive stage, nature thus influence human activities. But gradually, man shaped places into the landscape; that is to say he influenced his environments. However, the degree or nature of exerting this influence can vary greatly from one community to other. We can see that in Andhra Pradesh, the communities like Koya, Reddi, Yan Kadar or Hill Pantaram are at the stage of hunting and food-gathering; the Kurimba Gonds, Rhonds or Saora Mudavans practice shifting cultivation while Badgas, Kotas, Irulas and Parjas are habituated to settled agriculture.\(^9\) In the case of Andhra, Irina Efremova has noticed the difference of socio-cultural landscape between the districts of Eastern Ghats and the districts comprising plain coastal Andhra. She concludes that “Socio-cultural boundaries often coinside with natural frontiers especially between varying relief-zones.”\(^{10}\) That does not mean, however, that Andhra was divided into small pockets. We should also keep in mind that the orientation of rivers can determine the factors like the movements of people or the direction of trade and commerce; and the fact that the Deccan Plateau is more easily accessible from the eastern coastal plains than from the western, where the steep cliffs of the Ghats rise abruptly from the plains to a great height.\(^{11}\) M.Krishna Kumari has given his opinion in this regard when she states “Andhra was though a unit of
different physiographical features with geographical, geological and ecological variances, they did not prevent the Andhra region from forming itself into a natural division. The lands and forest; and the plains and hills were all connected by age-old routes which converge on the two rivers— the Krishna and the Godavari. It remained a cultural and economic unit throughout the history.” 12 So Andhra can be regarded as a region in so far as the interconnections of its different parts is concerned. Presently, it is considered as a cultural and linguistic sub-division of South India.

Geography of Andhra

The State of Andhra Pradesh is the biggest among the south Indian States both in area (2,75,909 sq. km.) and population and it has 974 km. long coast-line.13 It is bounded by five States (Figure 1). It has some portion of Eastern plateau and Eastern Ghats along with the East coast (Figure 2). In this region, the Eastern Ghats offers a low and discontinued feature which does not prevent the wind coming into the interior of the state. A topographical chart can be prepared like this:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>area of the State</th>
<th>altitudes</th>
<th>landform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>below 150 metres</td>
<td>coastal strip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150-300 metres</td>
<td>plateau and peneplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>300-600 metres</td>
<td>plateau and peneplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>600-900 metres and above</td>
<td>hilly area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The State incorporates three sub-regions like Telangana, Rayalseema and Coastal Andhra. Telangana lies west of the Ghats on the Deccan plateau. Rayalseema is situated in the south-east of the State on the Deccan plateau.
and is nestled in the basin of the Pennar river. It is separated from Telangana by the low Erramala hills and from coastal Andhra by the Eastern Ghats. They have different physical aspects. Telangana is mainly a tableland which has a faulting in the north along the lower Godavari channel. This part of the country consists of dry land and dry deciduous forest-cover. In the south-west, there lie the Krishna and Tungabhadra valleys and to the north-west, there exists the watershed between the Bhima and the Godavari. But the maximum part of the sub-region comprises pedi-plains, criss-crossed by valleys and scattered with hill-groups and small hills with rocks at the top known as ‘tors’ which have thorny scrubs in their surroundings. In northern Telangana, tanks in little valleys are used for irrigation. But the condition of southern Telangana is worse than that of the north. The region resembles the savanna characters with spaced acacias. However, palm, toddy and wild Indian date grow in damper troughs. The basic features of the districts of Telangana are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name of the district</th>
<th>forest</th>
<th>soil</th>
<th>other information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adilabad</td>
<td>moist deciduous</td>
<td>black cotton soil&amp; red sandy loam</td>
<td>annual rainfall above 100 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karimnagar</td>
<td>dry and moist deciduous</td>
<td>red sandy loam</td>
<td>annual rainfall above 100 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nizamabad</td>
<td>dry deciduous</td>
<td>black cotton soil&amp; red sandy loam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medak</td>
<td>dry deciduous</td>
<td>red sandy loam</td>
<td>availability of clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Vegetation Type</td>
<td>Soil Type</td>
<td>Additional Characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warangal</td>
<td>moist deciduous</td>
<td>red sandy loam</td>
<td>annual rainfall above 100 cm, granite quarries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khammam</td>
<td>moist deciduous</td>
<td>red sandy loam</td>
<td>annual rainfall above 100 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>tropical thorn forests, scrub jungles</td>
<td>red sandy loam, lateritic cap</td>
<td>availability of lime-stone and quartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalgonda</td>
<td>thorny tropical plant, scrub jungles</td>
<td>red sandy loam</td>
<td>availability of clay and limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahabubnagar</td>
<td>Dry deciduous on Nallamalai; tropical thorn and scrub jungles</td>
<td>red sandy loam and black cotton soil</td>
<td>availability of clay, limestone, talc and diamond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not all the districts of Telangana bear equal characteristics as shown from the above chart. Moreover, physiography sometimes forms natural boundary between two districts. We notice that the river Godavari forms the southern boundary of Adilabad separating it from Nizamabad and Karimnagar. The Penganga forms part of the northern boundary of Adilabad while the Wardha and the Pranhita form its northern and eastern boundaries. The Satnala range traverse the district from the north-west to the south-east. The river Godavari and its tributaries (Penganga, Wardha, Pranhita, Kadam and Peddavagu) drain the region. Streams like Satnala, Swarnavagu, and Suddavagu also water the tract. On the other hand, the district of Mahbubnagar consists of a plainland with low-lying scattered hills and the the plateau region with hill-ranges (with average elevation of 800 metres) extending east-west along the river Krishna on the southern boundary of the
district. The range is interspersed by some inaccessible deep valleys. The
district is drained by the river Krishna and its tributaries (Tungabhadra,
Dindi, Pedavagu and Chinavagu). This area of Andhra witness frequent
drought because of scanty rainfall and over-exploitation of groundwater
resources.

The Rayalseema upland is divided by the Pennar into two second-order
regions:

i) Rayalseema peneplain comprising Kurnool and and western part of
    Anantapur

ii) Rayalseema plateau consisting of Chittoor district

Rayalseema peneplain North (Adoni region) is more irrigated and has a
higher population density as compared to Rayalseema peneplain South
(Raydurg-Guntakal region). The Rayalseema plateau is an extension of the
Karnataka plateau. Between the Palkonda Range and higher Mysore levels
are a series of basins around the middle courses of Pennar and its
tributaries. Its south-east part is occupied by the Nagari hills and basins and
Swarnamukhi valley. The whole tract is crossed by trap-dykes. The Nagari
valley has patches of sandy soil with thin acasia cover. The plain is
encircled by a lateritic piedment slope. Below this there is another more
fertile piedment strip with paddy-fields. Big tanks with toddy palms on their
border is a common feature here. The Cuddappah Ranges and basins form a
great crescent with Nandyal valley fed by Kunderu river. The eastern portion
of the central Kunderu basin is formed by the parallel Nannamalais and
Velikondas (outside hills) and separated by longitudinal valleys. They favour
the construction of large tanks by bunding a transverse tributary gorge and
maintenance of mango-groves. The existence of tanks in Rayalseema is attested by inscriptions too.\textsuperscript{17} The features of the districts of Rayalseema is described in the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the district</th>
<th>forest</th>
<th>soil</th>
<th>minerals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kurnool</td>
<td>dry deciduous; thorn forests</td>
<td>red soil and black-cotton soil</td>
<td>baryte, clay, lower Kurji limestone, Narji limestone, slate, quartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anantapur</td>
<td>tropical thorn forest and scrub jungles</td>
<td>red soil with iron</td>
<td>baryte, limestone, quartz, tale, diamond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuddappah</td>
<td>dry deciduous, tropical thorn forest</td>
<td>red soil and black-cotton soil</td>
<td>asbestos, baryte, iron-ore, clays, lower Kurji limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chittoor</td>
<td>dry deciduous, tropical thorn forest</td>
<td>red soil with iron</td>
<td>Iron-ore deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The northern and central portions of Anantapur are a high undulating plateau with large granite-rocks or low hill-ranges rising occasionally above its surface. The southern part of the district is more hilly. The rivers like Penna, Chitravati, Vedavathi, Papagni, Swarnamukhi and Thadakaleru flow within the district. On the other hand the district Chittoor is traversed by the rivers Ponnai and Swarnamukhi which originate in Eastern Ghats. Other rivers include Kusasthali, Beema, Bahuda, Pincha, Kalyani, Araniyar and Pedderu. The western part of Chittor is situated at higher altitude compared
to the eastern parts. Cuddappah with the chief river Penna, again, is divided into two parts by the Eastern Ghats. The tract which constitutes the north, east and south-east of the district, is a low-lying plain, while the other, which comprises the southern and south-western portion, forms a high tableland.

In the Eastern littoral, the Andhra coastal plain is a transitional zone. In the northern part normal monsoonal distribution of rainfall is the general feature, but as one goes southwards, the October-December proportion increases, with a decrease in total amount (except on the sea-ward margins of the deltas and in the rainy days). The smooth coastline has inundation only in the extreme south (Pulikat lake) and between Godavari and Krishna deltas. The coast can be classified into three regions:-

i) Rocky coast to the north of the Godavari delta
ii) Sandy coast to the south of the Krishna delta upto Pulikat lake
iii) Wooded coast, i.e., the deltas of Godavari and Krishna and inter-delta\(^{18}\)

The coastal plains are wider in the deltaic regions and narrow down in between the deltas. The region has a straight shoreline with well-defined beaches of sand and shingles. All along the coast there are several sandbars athwart the river-mouths as shown by the Godavari. In the Krishna-Godavari delta region, sand-dunes caused by the action of wind at low water-tide rise to 16 m. The dunes carry a thin vegetation of Palmyra palms and thorny scrub. Adjoining the line of sand-dunes all along the coast are found lagoons formed recently in association with coastal uplift. On the border of the Andhra and Tamil-Nadu coastal plains, is the Pulikat, a backwater lake. It is cut off from the Bay by a long split of sand and mud and comprises
several small islands within it. And the backwaters of the sea have given rise to few swamps in the Krishna-Godavari delta. The coast rises gently westwards to the foot of the Eastern Ghats with wide variations in width. The districts of the coastal Andhra have more or less equal features as shown in the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the district</th>
<th>forest</th>
<th>soil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Srikakulam</td>
<td>tropical moist deciduous forest with high rainfall</td>
<td>black soil of the valley-floors grading upwards to red soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vizianagaram</td>
<td></td>
<td>red soil (sandy loams and sandy clay) constituting 96% of the total area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>tropical moist deciduous forest</td>
<td>black soil of the valley-floors grading upwards to red soil, coastal and riverrine alluvium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Godavari</td>
<td>tropical moist deciduous forest with high rainfall</td>
<td>Laterites, regur (black-cotton soil) adjoining the coastal tract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Godavari</td>
<td>tropical forest and climate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krishna</td>
<td>littoral forests</td>
<td>coastal alluvium, riverrine alluvium, red soil (small area) and black soil (adjoining coastal alluvium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guntur</td>
<td>littoral forests</td>
<td>coastal alluvium, riverrine alluvium, red soil (small area) and black soil (adjoining coastal alluvium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prakasham</td>
<td>tropical climate</td>
<td>tropical black clays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nellore</td>
<td></td>
<td>laterite-capped band of sand-stone and recent deposits of alluvium and sand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The district of Srikakulam is skirted to a distance by Kandivalasagedda, Vamsadhara and Bahuda at certain stretches of their courses. Four natural divisions can be seen in the district such as a plain terrain with intense agriculture, the plain terrain with dense forests, rocky and hilly terrain with forests and parts of Mahendragiri. The area is watered by the rivers like Nagavalli, Vamsadhara, Mahendratanaya, Champavati, Bahuda, Kumbhikotagedda, Suvarnamukhi, Vegavati and Gomukhi. The district of Vizianagaram consists of hilly and plain land. The hilly area covers the Pachipenta and Gunalakxmipuram mandals fully and Salur, Makkova Ramabhadrapuram, Parvathipuram and Korcarada mandals partly. In Parvathipuram division, the hills are lower than elsewhere and consists of steep and rugged lines devoid of plateaus. The principal rivers flowing in the district are Nagavalli, Suvarnamukhi, Vegavathi, Champavathi, Gosthani and Kandivalasa. The East Godavari district has been watered by the Errakalava, Tommileru and Godavari. The district has hilly terrain to the west and plains to the east. It receives rainfall from May to November; both south-west and north-east monsoon contribute to the rainfall. The rich delta region known as Konaseema and famous for its coconut orchards, paddy-fields and numerous canals is situated in this district. The West Godavari district is in the delta region of the Krishna and Godavari river. The natural sweet water lake named Kolleru is located in the district and serves as a natural flood-balancing reservoir for the two rivers. In this area the river Godavari splits into some distributary branches before emptying into the Bay.
of Bengal. The summer is very hot and humid here with practically non-existent winters.

The Krishna district has within its boundary parts of the Kolleru lake. The Kondapalli range runs between Nandigama and Vijayawada with a length of about 24 kms. The hills like Jammalavoidurgam, Mogalrajapuram and Indrakiladri are also situated in the district. The chief rivers are the Muneru, Tammileru and Budameru and above all, Krishna. The river Krishna originated from the Western Ghats and on reaching the chain of Eastern Ghats, flows through the south of the Krishna district direct to the sea. Here it forms a wide alluvial delta. The districts contains some small hill-streams like Jayanthi, Ippalavagu, Upputeru, Telluru, Ballaleru and Nadimeyeru. The river Gundlakamma flows through the district of Prakasham. Nellore forms a gently undulating plain rising from the sea-board gradually in the westward direction till the Veligonda hill range is reached. The principal rivers are the Pennar, Kandleru, Swarnamukhi, Musi, Paleru and Manneru. Minor streams are little more than more than mountain-torrents and their beds lie so low beneath the adjoining lands that their water is seldom available for irrigation. Wells are sunk in the beds of the streams and the water is raised by the usual bullock picottahs for cultivation purpose.

Even in a district, different talukas offer different geographical features. Let us take up the case of Guntur. While both the Bapatla and Tenali taluka is covered with black-cotton soil and receives sufficient rainfall, the Bapatla taluka becomes extremely desolate in dry weather. Tenali taluka, composed of river alluvium and lying below flood-level need to be protected by embankments. Almost whole of this district is irrigated by channels from the Krishna river. On the other hand, Narasannapeta taluka produces mostly dry
crops, though irrigation under rain-fed tank is also visible with the excellent
grazing ground. Bapatla's physical features, again, is varied greatly in
different parts. The north-western part is black soil, flooded in wet weather,
but terribly dried up during summer. A large portion consists of deltaic
alluvium and with irrigated rice field. Parallel to the coast and some miles
inland runs a long sand-ridge, which shuts in the drainage flowing towards
the sea and causes an enormous swamp communicating with the sea at
Chinna Ganjam. The geography of Palnad tahuka is, again, different. It is
mainly an elevated tract, intersected by mountain-torrents and surrounded by
low outliers from the Eastern Ghats. Bounded on the north and west by the
Krishna river and fringed on the south and east by hills and jungles, it is
somewhat inaccessible spot, and its history and natural condition differs
considerably from those of the rest of the Guntur district.  

Geological changes: the East coast

Irfan Habib has mentioned the fact that while in the northern alluvial plains,
the channels in which the rivers flow continuously changed, in central India
and the peninsula such drastic or abrupt change did not occur owing to the
presence of hilly terrain and less volume of water carried by the peninsular
rivers. The only exception was the Kaveri river which built up network of
channels in an oversized delta. Habib has commented “...it would be worth
studying how this river has been dividing up its water among these
branches at different periods of time.” But another change is very much
apparent in the east coast, and also in Andhra which is the factor of
sedimentation.
Andhra covers 8% of total forest area of India and about 65,000 sq. kms. of it is covered with fores. However, the evergreen areas which once existed at Rampa hills in East Godavari, Araku valley, Galikonda in Vishakhapatnam or Upper Ahobilam in Kurnool, have been partly devastated owing to human activities. The Godavari point, a split enclosing Kakinada Bay, has been prolonged northward by longshore drifting by about 12 km. in 100 years. The growth of split is mainly due to increased fluvial settlement discharge owing to deforestation. The Krishna delta is also growing by the addition of splits and bars. However, deforestation is not the only factor leading to sedimentation. The physical feature of the east coast is also favourable for it. In this regard, the east coast and the west coast of India present two different geographical phenomena, though the long shore ocean currents moving from south to north over 8 to 9 months in a year is common to both of the coasts. In the west coast, almost all the Pleistocene faults are sinistral faults in nature and so, the long shore currents only smoothen out the faulted noses. The west coast is marked with estuaries and backwaters. But, in the east coast, both of the sinistral and dextral faults is visible. As the long shore currents are passing the zones of dextral faults in the east coast, the fault-noses are only smoothened out. The point of Calimere in Tamil Nadu is the example of this process. But while the long shore currents pass the zones of sinistral fault noses in east coast, they deposit sediments at the noses of such faults. When such embryo of sediments are formed at the noses of sinistral faults, during further sedimentation due to prolonged long shore currents it is grown as spits. The Masulipatnam spit and the spit of Tuticorin coast are the examples of this kind of geological phenomenon. Had there been any dextral faults in the west coast, spits would have developed here also. Moreover, seaward of the
spit, in the active river-mouth, there are a series of shore-parallel shoals or bars, which are submerged at high tide. The progradation of coastline along with the spits and shoals lead to deposition of sediments.

**Historical Geography**

Historical geography has been explained by Robin A. Butlin as "... the study of the geographies of past times, through the imaginative reconstruction of phenomena and processes central to our geographical understanding of the dynamism of human activities within a broadly conceived spatial context, such as change in the valuation and uses of human and natural resources, in the form and functions of human settlements and built-environments, in the advances in the amount and form of geographical knowledge, and in the exercising of power and control over territories and peoples." Satyesh C. Chakraborty has commented "By identifying the features of conflict between contending users of resources, we configure the elements of geopolitics or political geography. By looking at these in sequence of time, we construct the transforming features of historical geography." Now, the two divisions we come up with in the texts and epigraphy in respect of Andhra are the Vēngi-ḍesa and Kaliṅga. It defined the land between Manneru river in the south and Mahendra hills in the north and in the west up to the confluence of the rivers Musi and Krishna. There was a division named Vēngi-вис'arya too. It was variously known as Vēngi nāṇḍu visaya, Vēngi-rāstra, Vēngi-maṇḍala etc. The visaya, as an administrative unit with the capital Vēngi, formed the central part of the kingdom. Even the people of this kingdom liked to name their villages after the name of Vēngi. We find several villages named as Vangiparru in Andhra. Apart from Vēngi, there were several rāstras, visayas and nādas in Vēngi-ḍesa; Attili visaya (the tract
between the river Godavari and Kolleru lake), Guddavadi viṣaya (tract between Yeleru and Krishna river), Gudrahara viṣaya (the boundary of which was the river Krishna in the south, Kolleru lake in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the east and Wira river in the west) being a few among these. Interestingly, the boundary of the last corresponds to the present Krishna district. This shows how geographical features can define a particular division which can be carried over a long period of time. The second familiar division Kaliṅga denotes the territory on the peneplains of the east coast between the rivers Mahanadi and Godavari. The early Gaṅga kings had their capital at Kaliṅganagara, modern Mīkhalingam. The administrative divisions like Varahavarttani, Koluvarttani, Kṛṣṭukavarttani and Rūpavarttani viṣaya figure in the epigraphs of the Eastern Gaṅgas. “The name varāhakolu means boar and the region around the course of river Varaha was full of forests teeming with wild boars (varāha) (kṛṣṭuka) and beasts (ṛupa). Hence this environment lent the names of the divisions along the river Varaha which rises in the Golugonda hills to the north of Narsipatnam and flows into the Bay of Bengal at Vatada.” It is also interesting to trace the existence of forest (vanarājika) in a number of land grant charters of the Gaṅgas given in this region.

In the early-medieval period, Andhra gradually emerged as a region from the geographical point of view. The ruling powers contributed a lot to this emergence. In the next chapter we will see how the ‘contending users of resources’ moulded the political history of the 6th to 10th century Andhra and how the relations between multiple powers in the region opened up new avenues of friendship and rivalry.


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13 Syed Amanur Rahman, Balraj Verma (ed.), *The Beautiful India Andhra Pradesh*, New Delhi, 2005, pp. 3-4


15 *Ibid*, pp. 717-718

16 *Ibid*, p. 721
17 P.V.Parabrahma Sastry (ed), Choppadandi inscription (no. 8), *Inscriptions Of Andhra Pradesh Karimnagar District*, Hyderabad, 1974, pp. 21-23


20 *Wikipedia, www.google.com*


22 W.Franciz, *Gezetteer of South India*, Delhi, 1989, pp. 328-331

23 Irfan Habib, *Man and Environment: The Ecological History of India (A People’s History of India)*, vol. 36, New Delhi, 2011, p. 80

24 T.Pullaiah, S.Sandhyarani, *Trees of Andhra Pradesh*, New Delhi, 1999, p. 21


26 Indra Bir Singh, Averineni Seeta Rama Swamy, *Delta Sedimentation: East Coast of India*, Dehradun, 2006, p. 224


28 Satyesh C. Chakraborty, *An Introduction To Geographical Roots Of Archaeology (12th Annual Seminar, CASTEI, Foundation Day Oration)*, Kolkata, 2007, p. 4


32 Ibid., p. 167

33 Ibid., p.169-170
Figure 1. Districts of Andhra Pradesh (www.mapofindia.com)
Figure 2. Physical Geography of Andhra Pradesh (www.google.com)