

Q) Discuss the characteristic features of Industrial Regions of Japan?

Ans: Introduction → Japan has had the highest economic growth rate since 1960. This fact is potent enough in itself to describe the industrial vitality of Japan. In its vitality is one of the wonders of modern world.

Although, industries are developed all across the country, the major industrial belt is identified from Kantō plain east of Pacific Ocean to south west along inland seas near the coast of Japan. Also from Tokyo in north-east to Nagasaki in south-west Kyushu.

⇒ Different factors influencing development of industrial regions:-

1) Geographical Location → This makes contact with east & S. East Asian countries easy, thus providing ease in export & import.

2) Development of Hydroelectric power → Being an island, electricity can be cheaply produced on dams & supplied to industries.

3) Raw Materials → Abundance of silk, timber, iron ore, copper, manganese, make it's supply easy.

4) Market → It's location is proximity to Asia provides it a huge market.

5) Population → It provides ready source of skilled labour.

6) Govt. support → Provision of security to new industries, bank loans, technical education has contributed a lot to development.

7) Industrial unions → There is no competition between heavy & light industries. In fact, they complement each other & work on a union basis.

8) Advance technology → Technical bloom in Japan has made development process rapid.

9) Foreign Aid → Generous aids from U.S.A after world war II has been utilized in industrial development.

10) Climate → It is very suitable for manual work.

The influence of these factors jointly has resulted into the development of industrial belt which consist of 4 regions :-

- a) Tokyo - Yokohama
- b) Kobe - Osaka
- c) Nagoya - Region
- d) Northern Kyushu

| Industrial prod <sup>n</sup> of main regions |     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Tokyo Yokohama                               | 34% |
| Kobe - Osaka                                 | 33% |
| Nagoya - Region                              | 15% |
| Northern Kyushu                              | 15% |
| Hokkaido                                     | 5%  |

% in Japan's total industrial prod<sup>n</sup>.

a) **Tokyo - Yokohama Region** → This region lying mostly in Kanto plain shares 30% of total industrial production of Japan & contains 12% of total population. It is the largest industrial node of Japan includes adjoining cities of Kawasaki, Yokosuka & Chiba. Being prone to volcanic & seismic activities heavy industries aren't developed fully giving way to small industries.

**major industries** → silk industry → It contributes 60% of Japan's total silk production & thus in the most imp. industry here.

**other industries** → Iron & steel fabrication, cotton, synthetic fibre, Rubber, chemicals, optical equipment & electronic machinery.

**features** → 1) Excellent port facilities make export-import very easy & cheap.

2) Dense population provides ample labour supply.

3) Domestic market is very huge.

4) Center of printing & publishing industry.

**Raw Materials** → Coal → Hokkaido & nearby fields

Electric Power → hydro installations west.

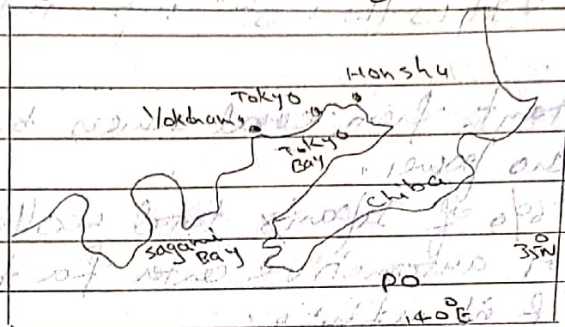
Tokyo Bay → Transportation

Labour → Kanto plain & nearby.

**major Area** →

① **Tokyo** → Being national capital, it has got business & manufacturing advantage.

- 4) Yokohama → Features:-
- 1) Major region for shipbuilding.
  - 2) Having an excellent harbor it has grown as Tokyo's shipping output for trans-Pacific market.



- 5) Kobe - Osaka Region → This node ranks 2nd in importance. This region shares 33% of total production <sup>in Japan in 1985</sup>. It is located in the north eastern end of the inland sea. Osaka, Kobe & Kyoto are the imp. cities in this industrial complex. There are smaller cities other than these.

Imp. features → 1) The key situation of Kobe Osaka at the head of inland sea gives both these parts a westward orientation in foreign trade & shipping.

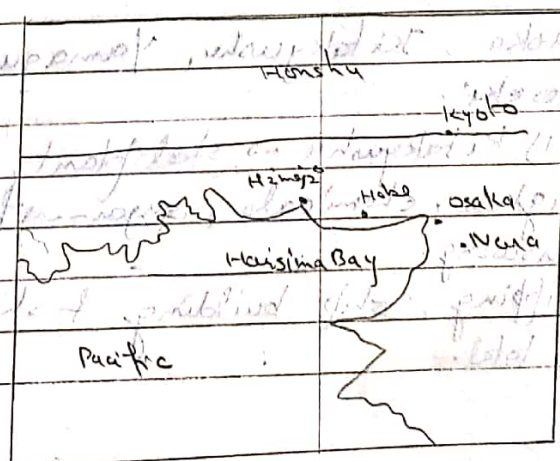
- 2) It has a large skilled population & central location.
- 3) It lacks cheap power & raw materials.

Imp. Industries → 1) Osaka city → cotton & synthetic textiles, machinery, iron & steel industry.

2) Kyoto Artistic crafts → silk weaving, pottery, lacquer, bronze, toys. It produces 30% of Japan's total craft industry.

3) Kobe → ship, matchstick, rubber & cement industry.

Sources of Raw materials → Coal from Kyushu & coal & iron ore are brought from abroad.



c) Nagoya Region → This densely populated area centered on alluvial lowland, is located on the main rail & road lines connecting Kyoto & Tokyo.

Features → 1) It is the most imp. industrial region of Nobi plain.

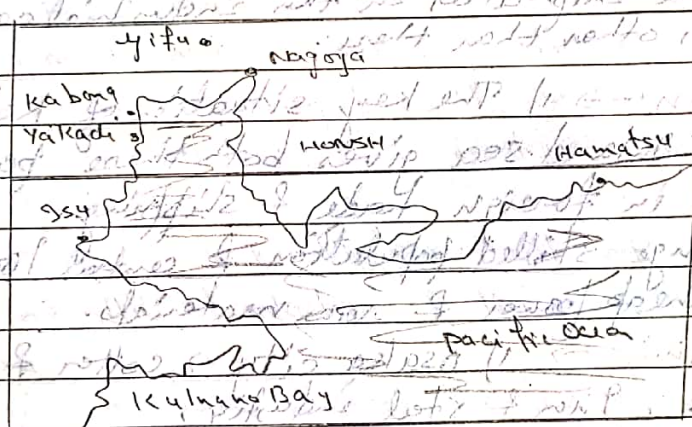
2) It is distant from coal sources but is better placed for hydro power.

3) It produces 5-6% of Japan's total woollen cloth production.

4) It is a major automotive center for transport equipment (car, airplanes) & oil refining.

5) other industries → silk industry, cotton industry, pottery, chemical products.

Other imp. centers → Tsu, Hamamatsu, Yifuetsu.



d) Northern Kyushu Region → This region is also known as Nagasaki Moji Region. Unlike the other three, this region is not dominated by any one city, but contains several middle sized industrial centres.

Imp. cities → Fukuoka, Kitakyushu, Yamaguchi, Hareshima, Shimanekei.

Imp. industries → 1) Kitakyushu → steel plant, heavy metallurgical industries, cement, glass, chemicals, sugar-refining, rice-milling & rice-brewing.

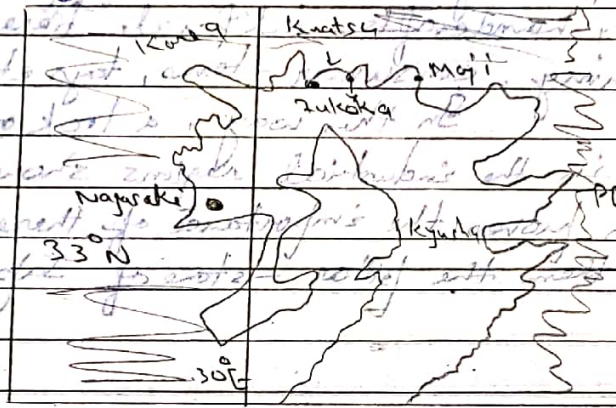
2) Nagasaki → shipping, ship-building & ship-repair centre. (8.5% of Japan's total).

iii) Fukuoka → Consumer items.

iv) Hiroshima → Heavy industries.

⇒ Export & Import → Ititakyushu, Shimomaki, Hiroshima.

⇒ Raw materials → Iron ore is imported from Manchuria & coal is produced from Chikuzi & Miyagi mines. This region is famous for producing 68% of iron & 70% of steel of Japan's total production.

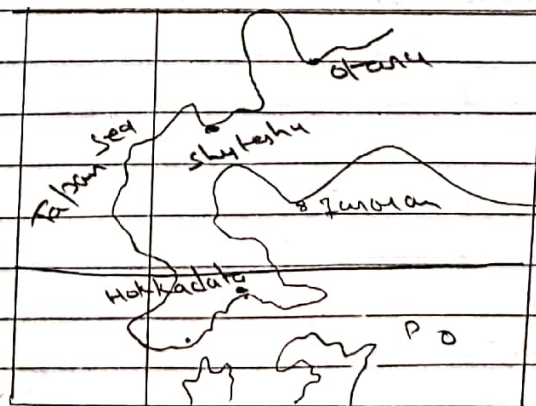


c) Southern Hokkaido Region → ~~central~~ This region is the only imp. industrial area, which is not part of great industrial belt of Japan. It is full of natural resources like manganese, mercury, gold, silver etc.

⇒ Imp. industries → Iron & steel industry, paper, chemicals, cement etc, fertilizer.

⇒ Imp. centres → Muroran, Otaru, Hokkaido etc.

⇒ Raw materials → Far from Japan's main market, it imports ores from Korea & get coal supply from nearby fields, Xylon - Iron ore.



**Conclusion** → Although, there is a network of small scale industries, all through the Japan, the most vital ones are situated in upper described regions. The production percentage may vary between these regions, but they all are vital for Japan's economy.

**Imp. industries here are** → Iron & steel, textiles → silk, cotton & woollen, manufacturing & electronic equipments, chemicals, shipping, aircraft, handicrafts, artificial, fibres, rubber, paper, cement, oil-refining, consumer items, toys etc.

In this way, a look on the diversified industries located in the industrial regions shows clearly their wide range. This proves the importance of these industrial regions & makes them the pillar-stone of Japan's industrial growth.