



Daily Mains Answer Writing (Day - 62)

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Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.

Raw material and power resources are key components of the establishment, development, and concentration of the Iron and steel industry and during the 19th and early 20th centuries, due to the high amount of weight loss during processing, early steel plants were mostly located where coal was available.

However, with evolution and advancement of Industrial output, I&S industries started to move away from sources of raw material because of the factors such as -

- **Energy independence:** Emergence of new technologies (like electric furnaces), and fuel-saving transportation, promoted the Iron and Steel industry to locate away from the raw material sources.
 - For example, Bhadravati steel plant in India.
- **Market:** Capital and market are also important factors in the localization of industries, including the iron and steel industry.
 - For example, Japan is deficient in both iron ore and coal and almost all raw materials are to be imported from overseas countries which makes Japanese steel plants mostly market-based. The great 'Tokyo-Yokohama' and 'Osaka – Kobe – Heemeji' iron steel regions are market-based.
- **Transportation** is another important factor of the location of iron and steel industry. For example, Vizag steel plant is mainly dependent on imported coal. It has distinct advantages in terms of the accessibility with raw materials, market and transportation.
 - For example, the Vizag Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, is the first port-based plant that started operating in 1992.
- The **scrappage steel industries** are growing as they does not require high cost infrastructure and can get advantage when it is located near big population center. For instance, to get scrapped iron and attain low cost market access.
- **Raw Material based industries** are now facing disadvantage because of the depleting reserves of raw material.

Hence, we can conclude that the geographical coincide of majority of these factors, in present day scenario determines the location of Iron and Steel Industries today.