5.   **Thematic Mapping: Concept & Types**

Q: **What is thematic map**? / (Concept of thematic map)

What are the types of thematic map?   5 + 5 = 10 marks

<u>Ans</u>: Thematic map focuses on a specific theme. A thematic map shows the spatial distribution of one or more specific data for selected geographic areas. The map may be qualitative or quantitative in nature.

<u>Example of qualitative map</u>: Farm types, Vegetation types, soil types etc.

<u>Example of quantitative map</u>: Percentage of population, Amount of rainfall, amount of crop production etc.

A thematic map is also called a special purpose, single topic or statistical map. Thematic map focuses on the specific distribution or theme. It generally includes some locational information.

All thematic maps are composed of <u>two important elements</u>:-

i)   A base map
ii)   Statistical data

Thematic map can be used for:

i)   Spatial data analysis
ii)   Confirming hypothesis
iii)   Synthesizing the data/ showing relationship or pattern
iv)   Data presentation

Types of thematic map: There are seven types of thematic maps, they are:-

i)   Choropleth map

ii) Dot distribution map

iii) Graduated symbol map

iv) Heat map

v)   Cartogram

vi) Bivariate choropleth map &

vii) Value by Alpha map

i.   Choropleth map:
   - Most frequently used map in Geospatial data
   - Here colour is used to represent statistics of an attribute

ii. Dot Distribution map:
   - Also known as dot density amp
   - It uses different types of dots to represent features
   - It can visualize the spatial pattern

iii. Graduated symbol map:
   - It is an alternative to choropleth map
   - It uses points
   - The data is likely to store in polygons

iv. Heat map:
   - A heat map shows hot spots or concentration of points.
   - This method is used when geographical boundaries are not much importance

v.   Cartogram:
   - In cartograms, the size of an area is rescaled to be proportional to the feature it represents.

- Sometimes cartograms distort area sizes

- Contagious cartogram is mostly used. Here topology is maintained but shape distorted.

vi.   Bivariate choropleth map:

- It uses two variables on the map

- This method compares two dissimilar distributions on the same map.

vii.   Value by Alpha map:

- It is also a kind of bivariate choropleth map.

- Two variables is used to affect each other

- The second variable acts as an equalizer.

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