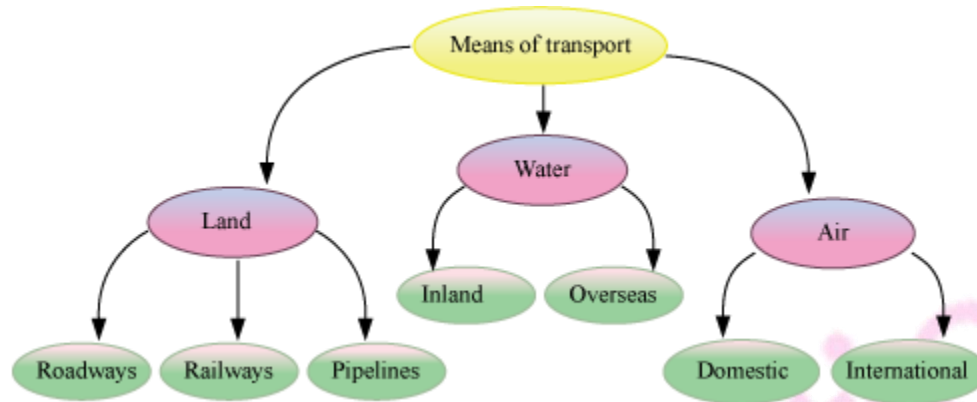


Chapter 7

Lifelines of National Economy

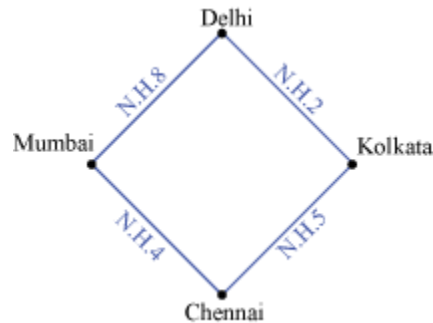


❖ Roadways

- India has about 2.3 million km. of road network.
- **Why roadways are preferred over railways?**
 - Easy to build even in rough terrain.
 - Economically cheaper than railways.
 - Provides door-to-door service, thereby reducing the loading-unloading cost.
 - Construction cost is lower than railways.
 - Used as feeder to railways and airways.
 - Easily maintainable.
- **Road Density**
 - Length of road per 100 sq. km. area is called road density.
 - Road Density in India: **75 km.**
Minimum density: Jammu and Kashmir (10 km)
Maximum density: Kerala (375 km)

❖ Classification of Roads

- **Super Highways**
 - Connect the mega cities of India.
 - Project implemented by NHAI (National Highways Authority of India).
 - Three components:
 - (1) **Golden Quadrilateral:** Linking Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.



(2) **North–South corridor:** Linking Srinagar (J & K) with Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu).

(3) **East-West Corridor:** Linking Silcher (Assam) with Porbandar (Gujarat).

- **National Highways**

- Connect all major cities of the country.
- Constructed and maintained by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

- **State Highways**

- Link the state capital with various district headquarters.
- Constructed and maintained by the State Public Works Department (SPWD).

- **District Roads**

- Connect the district headquarters with other places of the district.
- Maintained by the Zila Parishad.

- **Border Roads**

- Roads in the border areas of the country.
- Constructed and maintained by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) established in 1960.

❖ Railways

- Indian railways cover a route length of about 163000 km.
- It is used for transportation of freight and passengers.
- It is the largest public sector undertaking in India.
- First train ran from Mumbai to Thane (34 km) in 1853.
- 16 railways zones in the country.
- **Obstacles in laying railways tracks**
 - Rivers
 - High mountains
 - Uneven plateaus
 - Sandy plains
 - Swamps
 - Forests

- **Railway Tracks**

- **Broad gauge:** 1.676 m (Maximum route)
- **Metre gauge:** 1.000 m
- **Narrow gauge:** 0.762 m and 0.610 m

- ❖ **Pipelines**

- **Uses**

- Transport water.
- Transport crude oil.
- Transport Petroleum and natural gas from oil and gas fields to refineries.
- Transport gas to households.

- **Networks**

- Assam oil field to Kanpur in U.P.
- Salaya in Gujarat to Jalandhar in Punjab. Its branches connect Koyali Chakshu.
- Gas pipeline from Hazira (Gujarat) to Jagdishpur (U.P.) via Vijaipur (M.P.)

- ❖ **Waterways**

- Cheapest means of transportation.
- Most suitable for transporting bulky cargo.
- Fuel efficient and environment friendly.
- Total length of inland navigation in India: 14500 km.
- Total length navigable by motorised boats: 3700 km.
- **National Waterways of India**
 - **N. W. No. 1:** Ganga River (Allahabad to Haldia, 1620 km.)
 - **N.W. No. 2:** Brahmaputra River (Sadia to Dhubri, 891 km.)
 - **N. W. No. 3:** West Coast Canal (Kottampuram—Komman— Udyogamandal and Champakkara, 205 km.)
- Other inland waterways
 - East—West Canal
 - Damodar Valley Corporation Canal
 - Buckingham Canal
 - Sunderbans
- 95% of India's trade volume is transported by sea.
- Indian coastline: 7516 km.
- 12 major and 181 medium and minor ports.
- **Kandla (Gujarat)**
 - First port developed after independence.
 - It is a tidal port.
- **Mumbai (Maharashtra)**
 - Biggest port of India

- Natural port
- **Marmagao (Goa)**
 - Iron exporting port.
 - Accounts for 50% of India's iron ore export.
- **New Mangalore Port (Karnataka)**
 - Exports iron ore from Kudremukh mines.
- **Cochin (Kerala)**
 - Located at the entrance of a lagoon.
- **Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)**
 - Southernmost port of India.
 - Handles trade with Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- **Chennai (Tamil Nadu)**
 - Oldest artificial port.
- **Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)**
 - Deepest land-locked port.
- **Paradwip (Orissa)**
 - Iron ore exports.
- **Kolkata (West Bengal)**
 - Inland riverine port.
 - Tidal port.
- **Haldia (West Bengal)**
 - Subsidiary to Kolkata port.

❖ Airways

- Fastest and most comfortable means of transport.
- Most expensive.
- Air transport was nationalised in 1953.
- Indian Airlines and Air India are government carriers.
- Pawanhans helicopters provide services to ONGC.

❖ Communication

- **Indian Postal Network**
 - Largest in the world.
 - Six mail channels to facilitate quick delivery.
 - (1) Rajdhani Channel
 - (2) Metro Channel
 - (3) Green Channel
 - (4) Business Channel
 - (5) Bulk Channel
 - (6) Periodical Channel
- **Telecommunications**

- Covers entire India.
- 24 hour STD facility even in remote villages.
- **Mass Communication**
 - Radio: Akashwani (All India Radio)
 - Television: Doordarshan
 - Magazines
 - Books
 - Films: India is the largest producer of films
 - Newspapers: In about 100 languages

❖ **International Trade**

- Trade between two countries.
- Carried through sea, air or land routes.
- An index of economic prosperity of a country.
- **Balance of Trade:** Difference between the exports and imports of a country.
- **Items of Export from India**
 - Agriculture and allied products
 - Ores and minerals
 - Gems and jewellery
 - Engineering goods
- **Commodities Imported in India**
 - Petroleum products
 - Pearls and precious stones
 - Inorganic chemicals
 - Coal and coke
 - Machinery
 - Fertilisers
- India is a software giant and earns through the export of information technology services to other nations.

❖ **Tourism**

- India has a large tourism industry.
- About 2.5 million foreign tourists visit India every year.
- It provides employment to about 15 million people.
- Promotes national culture and local handicrafts.

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