



Transport Sector: An engine of economic growth of India

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Abstract:

In the world, Indian economy is developing very speedy rate. It can be reflected from various areas i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary sectors has been shown us tremendous growth. So as Indian economy is reached at 5th rank across the world. For this achievement, Government of India has invested huge worth for building world-class infrastructure in India. Infrastructure is crucial to develop a physical system of business, region or nation; that are useful to evolved the process of public as well as private goods. The physical system may be in form of transport, communication, water, sewage, school, hospitals so on. Our target of Indian economy \$5 trillion by 2025. we shall have focused on supply side as well as Make in India programme then economy will be able to fulfill rising aspiration of People.

There are many things that attracted more infrastructure i.e. demographic structure, urbanization, growing working age population, contribution to employment, service sector-based economy and climate changes. On the basis of SDGs Government of India has to focused to improving the living standards through the infrastructure investment and it is must for redevelopment of slum neighborhood's, urban roads, water supply coverage and quality, wastewater treatment facilities, and urban mobility through public transport. Apart of these, NITI Aayog has designed the 'Ease of Living Index' comprising of 37 measurable indicators, which take into consideration the UN 2030 SDGs. The indicators in the Ease of Living Index are categorized into – basic needs, welfare and human betterment. In order to meet growth aspirations and provide improved standard of living, the infrastructure investments contribution is mandatory.

Infrastructure investment in India during fiscals 2008 to 2017 was estimated at Rs 60 lakh crore (\$1.1 trillion at average exchange rates of respective years). As per report of the Task force of National infrastructure pipeline (volume-I p.26), India's infrastructure investment for fiscals 2018 and 2019 are Rs 10.2 lakh crore and Rs 10 lakh crore respectively. During the above period, infrastructure investment was predominantly made by the public sector (i.e. Centre and state governments with a share of 70%), while the share of private sector was 30%. Power, roads and bridges, urban, digital infrastructure and railways sub-sectors together constituted 85% of the total infrastructure investment in India during fiscals 2013 to 2019. The Centre and states were the major funding sources for sectors such as power and roads and bridges, with moderate participation from the private sector. Digital sector investments were largely driven by the private sector, while investments in the irrigation sector were predominantly made by the state governments

Keywords: Need of Transport, Current status of Transport in India, Geographical Border Diversity and Geographical inter-region Diversity

Introduction:

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As per CRISIL rating agency report, India is likely to spend nearly Rs 143 lakh crore on infrastructure in seven fiscals through 2030, more than twice the amount of about Rs 67 lakh crore spent in the previous seven fiscals between 2017 and 2023. As per the India Infrastructure Report (IIR 2023), Infrastructure will also give a fillip to the inclusive socio-economic development in the state and help in the all-round development of the nation. Specifically, it will further aid in powering growth and help Bharat to become one of the top three largest economies in the world

This paper is highlighted the contribution of Infrastructure in transport sector in India. Transport sector is called lifeline of a nation. Transport sector has been maintained good connectivity between urban and rural area and it is very essential for economic growth. However, it is known as key factor of economic growth. The budget of transport sector is reached at high level for instance Rs. 517034 crores as per budget estimate 2023-24.

Objectives of the paper:

The paper titled "Transport Sector: An engine of economic growth of India", is based on the following objectives.

1. To understand the needs of transport sector in India

2. To take the review of existing status of transport in India.

Sources of information:

The paper titled "Transport Sector: An engine of economic growth of India", is based on the

Secondary information those available in public domain. it could be found from website, various published article, newspaper and books. The entire details were recorded under head of references.

Needs of Transport in India

Geographical Border Diversity: - India is situated north of the equator between 8°4' north to 37°6' north latitude and 68°7' to 97°25' east longitude. It is the seventh-largest country in the world, with a total area of 3,287,263 square kilometers India is divided into 28 States (further subdivided into districts) and 8 union territories including the National capital territory (i.e., Delhi) India measures 3,214 km from north to south and 2,933 km from east to west. It has a land frontier of 15,200 km (9,445 mi) and a coastline of 7,516.6 km.

On the south, India projects into and is bounded by the Indian Ocean in particular, by the Arabian Sea on the west, the Lakshadweep Sea to the southwest, the Bay of Bengal on the east, and the Indian Ocean proper to the south. The Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar separate India from Sri Lanka to its immediate southeast, and the Maldives are some 125 kilometers to the south of India's Lakshadweep Islands across the Eight Degree Channel. India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands, some 1,200 kilometers southeast of the mainland, share maritime borders with Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia. Kanyakumari at 8°4'41"N and 77°55'230"E is the southernmost tip of the Indian mainland, while the southernmost point in India is Indira Point on Great Nicobar Island. The northernmost point which is under Indian administration is Indira Col, Siachen Glacier.

The northern frontiers of India are defined largely by the Himalayan Mountain which near the borders China, Bhutan, and Nepal. Its western border with Pakistan lies in the Karakoram range, Punjab Plains, the Thar Desert and the Rann of Kutch salt marshes. In the far northeast, the Chin Hills and Kachin Hills, deeply forested mountainous regions, separate India from Burma. On the east, its border with Bangladesh is largely defined by the Khasi Hills and Mizo Hills, and the watershed region of the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

India is bordered on the north by China (the largest neighbor, 96 lakhs sq. km), Nepal and Bhutan, on the east by Myanmar and Bangladesh, on the south By Sri Lanka, on the west by Pakistan and on the north-west by Afghanistan. The smallest neighbors of India (298 sq. km), Maldives, lies to

the south-east of India; with these neighbors India has trade relations as well as cultural link

India's central location at the head of Indian Ocean gives it a great strategic importance and helps in maintaining trade and commerce. It helps India to keep a close contact with west Asia, Africa and Europe from western coast and southeast and east Asia from the eastern Asia. It is also an important transit point for sea routes connecting the two regions that is countries of Europe with countries of East Asia. India is centrally located between the East and the West Asia. India is strategically located at the center of the trans Indian Ocean routes which connect the European countries in the west. India could establish close contact with West Asia, Africa and Europe from the western coast. India also serves as an important transit point for sea routes connecting the two regions that is countries of Europe with countries of East Asia. India has the longest coastline in the Indian Ocean and it helps a lot for trade with Africa, south-east Asia, Australia and Europe. Due to this maritime location India receives benefits of south west monsoon seasons.

Geographical inter-region Diversity:- Geographically India can be divided into four regions. The first is the Himalayan region or the Northern Mountain wall that extends from Kashmir in the West to Assam in the East. This region includes Kashmir, Kangra, Tehri, Kumaun, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. The second region is the great and big Northern Plains which are provided with water by the rivers like Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra and their tributaries. Due to this the region is most fertile and productive. The third region comprised of the plateau of the Central India and the Deccan. The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats are stretched on the two sides of the Deccan which meets at the Nilgiris. The Coromandel Coast stands between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. The region between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats is known as the Konkan up to Goa beyond which it is known as Kanara or Karnataka while the Southern most part is known as the Malabar Coast or Kerala. The ancient names of Western Ghats was Sahyadri while that of Eastern Ghats, Mahindra. Undivided India is as large as Europe without Russia. India contains about one fifth of the total population of the whole world.

India is a diverse country may be in terms of resources, climates, land fertility, development of infrastructure and so on. Due to above mentioned geographical situation Transport playing a major role to develop nations. Even an efficient transport network is a prerequisite for rapid economic growth. Historically, the economic development of a country speeds up with an improvement in transportation facilities. Economic growth happens through transfer of ideas and technologies from urban areas to remote places. High-speed transport allows movement of

goods in less time and thus helps to save more time for productive work. A network of high-speed trains between metro cities and state capitals can drive the growth of national. Similarly, all weather roads between villages and nearby towns can act as catalyst for promoting the growth of vast hinterland.

Current status of transport in India

Transport and communications are essential for the development of any country. It helps in the economic growth of a country. There are different types of transportation facilities available in India like road, rail and air transport. In addition, India, the second most populous country in the world, has a large and comprehensive transport system within the urban and rural areas. From National to local transport in India available in every city, the offers some of the best connectivity to its citizens. It is also a factor in maintaining the diversity and the unity amongst the citizens of India by keeping them anchored even when they are miles away. At the outset, the following are the important mode of transport exists in India.

Bicycles and Bullock Karts

Cycles have also garnered massive attention with its increasing usage amidst the urban areas. Bicycles are a fast and fun mode of transport in India along with being environment-friendly. The ownership ratings of Cycles have increased from 30% to 75% with cyclotrons campaigns arranged amongst many cities; the usage of cycles have gradually increased Punjab and Tamil Nadu are the leading producers of bicycles. The main center of bicycle manufacturing in India is Ludhiana. Even though the cycle is a primary mode of transport & income source for a considerable number of Indians, the industry relies heavily on imports. India Bicycle Market Analysis Report 2022: Sales are Expected to Reach 14.43 million Units by FY 2027. Bullock Carts are a traditional mode of transport majorly used in villages (rural areas) to transfer goods. Other subsidiaries of Bullock carts are horse carriages, also known as 'Baggis' are similarly used. These human powered vehicles are one of the original and oldest modes of transport since the British Raj. In many villages of Sindh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh people still enjoy bullock cart rides and Bullock cart race is a popular sport. India has an estimated 14 million bullock carts out of which 13 million are traditional — they have wooden wheels

Authorickshaws and Local Taxies

Autos (Tuk-tuks or Rickshaws) are another part of the roadway's category. They are three-wheeler vehicles, without doors with majorly a capacity of three within. However, large autos in many cities and villages can also be spotted. These rickshaws are a significant transport vehicle for small route distances. As of 2022 India has about 2.4 million battery-powered, three-wheeled

rickshaws on its roads and it has created 3.1Dollar. Local Taxis are usually charged according to the meters attached to them or can be in a Lum-sum rate between the traveler and the driver before the journey begins. In Mumbai and Kolkata, one can find a taxi from taxi stands, but in cities like Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad, one can discover cabs through apps such as Uber and Ola. One of the oldest modes of transport, taxis are still a common source of travel and transportation in India. here were over 1.5 million registered taxis in India.

Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) and Intercity Bus

Another category of bus transport in India is that of the Bus Rapid Transit system, that offers luxury and comfort along with assured quality deliverance. These buses were introduced to entice the private automobile owners. This transport system is readily available in a few cities such as Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai.

Buses are an essential means of transportation within the city, commuting a large population every day. The public agencies often manage the local bus transport in almost all the towns through a State Road Transport Corporation. These bus transport systems play a pivotal role within the Intra City travels. For instance Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan etc..

Roadways

The roadways occupy almost a vast amount of service regarding the transport in India. This category is essential as it is affordable, feasible, and easily accessible to nearly all the people within the country. The total road length in India is around 5,603,293 km, according to the 2017 estimates. India has an easy connection of highways, primarily from one point in a city to another. Nowadays, small villages have also opened up private bus services for comfortable travelling of the villagers.

The Intercity bus service is quite profitable in India as it covers long routes and is usually comfortable and also available at a high price. The intercity bus also connects towns and cities, bringing people closer and helping them extend their business and relations beyond the boundaries of their towns. The availability of Intercity bus service is majorly found in the cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Nashik, Indore, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh covering almost all major cities in India and connecting people. The Intercity buses are either non-stop or take a halt at some significant stations between the starting point and the endpoint. Nowadays, there also sleeper buses available for better travel and convenience for the customers and these buses can also be booked through online websites and apps.

Intercity Cabs

Another subcategory to Roadways which is similar to intercity bus travel is intercity cabs. The

intercity cab services are quick, easy and comfortable. Cab services are available at your disposal with pick up from your house to drop off at your destination, book according to one's convenience; cab services are more luxurious than bus travel. Intercity cab services have become a local trend and gained popularity amongst the public with regards to the facilities and services provided by them at a high price. Also, people can now book their cabs or book their cars (rentals) and have a fun and safe journey with their friends and family! Intercity can service become a hit and struck a right chord with the audience, be it the higher class or middle-income groups.

Railways, Suburban Railways And Metro

Railways are yet another primary transport system within the country, connecting not only the major cities but also the end number of villages settled in almost every part of India. Railways have a much more extensive network locally and offer the citizens of the nation to travel and transfer goods and services from a city to a small town at a reasonable price. The Indian Railways under the Ministry of Railways balances the rail services spread across the country and covers more than 7,000 stations with a total route length of more than 65,000 km. The development of railways in India began in Madras in the year 1837 with only transport in India being a goal.

Mumbai's Suburban railway or popularly known as 'local' train network began in Mumbai in 1853 and is a part of the urban rail transit system. It is the lifeline of the city, commuting 6.3 million passengers daily with three major lines-Western, Central, and Harbour.

Metros are another subcategory of the urban rail transport in Indi and have been developed in 10 cities in India including Kolkata (Calcutta) Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Mumbai, Chennai, and Lucknow.

Airways (Flight)

Airways are a mode of transport in India that connects almost the whole country in a matter of time. Flights are the fastest mode of transportation and airways in India has been a successful project developed by the states. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the national regulatory body for the aviation industry and is maintained by the Ministry of Civil Aviation which also responsible for managing other organizations such as the Airports Authority of India, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and even the public sector undertakings. There are around 132 classified in India, and some of the noted airlines are IndiGo, Spicejet, Air India, GoAir, Air Deccan, and AirAsia India etc. are quite popular among the public. Along with these, Some Charter airlines, as well as Cargo airlines such as Blue Dart Aviation and Quikjet

Airlines (Headquarters in South), have also been developed in India.

Ports

India, being a peninsula, is very rich in coastal regions. India has 6100 km of primary coastline, making up roughly 7500 km of overall coastline. There are numerous natural, artificial, and tidal ports in these coastal regions, which are spread across India's nine coastal states. Of these, 13 major, 200 intermediate, and minor ports help with sea transportation and manage a significant amount of traffic and sea trades.

In India, ports are categorized into major ports and non-major ports (informally called minor ports). As of 2022, there are 13 major ports and 217 non-major ports across the country. One of India's most prominent natural ports is operated by the Mumbai Port Trust, formerly Bombay Port Trust. As per the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, around 95 percent of India's trading by volume and 70 percent by value is done through maritime transport. India's major ports handled highest ever cargo of 795 million tons.

The maritime boards of state governments administer control of minor ports owned by state governments. In 2018–19, minor ports of Gujarat alone handled total 542 MMT of cargo. Maharashtra Maritime Board sets record of handling 71 mn tons of cargo in 2022–23.

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