



CHAPTER: 07 LIFELINES OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

Answer the following questions:

i) State any three merits of roadways.

Ans. Merits of roadways are;

- a) Construction cost of roads is much lower than that of railway lines.
- b) Roads can traverse comparatively more dissected and undulating topography
- c) Road transport is economical, it is also used as a feeder to other modes of transport such as they provide a link between railway stations, air and sea ports.

ii) Where and why is rail transport the most convenient means of transportation?

Ans. The distribution pattern of the Railway network in India has been largely influenced by physiographic, economic and administrative factors. The northern plains with their vast level land, high population density and rich agricultural resources provided the most favourable condition for their growth.

iii) What is the significance of the border roads?

Ans. Border road organization was established in 1960. The Border roads are vital road links along the frontiers of our country. These roads are of strategic importance. They have improved accessibility in areas of difficult terrain mainly in the northern and north eastern border areas. They have played a major role in the economic development of these areas.

iv) What is meant by trade? What is the difference between international trade and local trade?

Ans. Exchange of goods, commodities or services between people, states or countries is termed as trade. The products are exchanged between regions of surplus and regions of deficiency.

The exchange of commodities between two or more countries is termed as international trade. While local trade is carried on within cities, towns or villages. Exchange of the items take place in local markets where items of local needs are catered to.

Q3. Answer the following questions in about 120 words.

i) Why are the means of transportation and communication called the life line of a nation and its economy?

Ans. The means of transport provide an important link between the producers and consumers of goods. The transport routes or channels are, thus, the basic arteries of our economy. Therefore, efficient means of transport are pre-requisites of fast development. They help in develop of agriculture and industry by providing raw materials and distributing finished



product. A well-knit transport and communication system brings people of different regions within the country and the world closer to one another. A dense and efficient network of transport and communication is a prerequisite of local, national and global trade today. Thus, modern means of transport and communication serve as lifelines of our nation and its modern economy.

ii) Write a short note on the changing nature of the international trade in the last fifteen years.

Ans. Exchange of information and knowledge has surpassed exchange of goods and commodities. Through its advanced software knowledge and excellence in the field of information technology, India has emerged as a viable contender at the international level and is earning huge amounts of foreign exchange through the same. Tourism too has added to India's upgraded position in international trade. In 2010, there was a 11.8% increase in foreign tourist arrivals as against the number in 2009. Thus, international trade for India has undergone a cognizable change in the past fifteen years.

Q1. Multiple choice questions:

ii) Which two of the following extreme locations are connected by the east-west corridor?

Ans. (b) Silchar and porbandar

ii) Which mode of transportation reduces trans-shipment losses and delays?

Ans. (c) Pipeline

iii) Which one of the following states is not connected with the H.V.J. pipeline?

Ans. (b) Maharashtra

iv) Which one of the following ports in the deepest land-locked and well-protected port along the east coast?

Ans. (d) Vishakhapatnam

v) Which one the following is the most important modes of transportation in India?

Ans. (c) Roadways

vi) Which one of the following terms is used to describe trade between two or more countries?

Ans. (b) International trade

Important points to remember:

- India has one of the largest road networks in the world, aggregating to about 54.7 lakh km.



- In India roads are classified into following six classes; Golden Quadrilateral Super Highways, National Highways, State Highways, District Roads, Other roads and Border Roads.
- Railways are the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers in India.
- The Indian railways are the largest public sector undertaking in the country. The first train steamed off from Mumbai to Thane in 1853, covering a distance of 34 kms.
- Pipeline transport network is a new arrival on the transportation map of India, these are used to transport water, crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas.
- Waterways are the cheapest means of transport. They are most suitable for carrying heavy and bulky goods. India has inland navigation waterways of 14,500km in length.
- With a long coastline of 7,516 km, India is dotted with 12 major and 200 minor/intermediate ports. These major ports handle 95% of India's foreign trade.
- Digital India is an umbrella programme to prepare India for a knowledge based transformation. The focus of Digital India Programme is one being transformative to realize-IT (Indian Talent) + IT (Information Technology) = IT (India Tomorrow) and is on making technology central to enabling change.
- Tourism in India has grown substantially over the last three decades. More than 15 million people are directly engaged in the tourism industry. Tourism also promotes national integration, provides support to local handicrafts and cultural pursuits.
- Mass communication provides entertainment and creates awareness among people about various national programmes and policies. It includes radio, tv, newspapers, magazines, books and films.