

Chapter 7: Lifelines of National Economy – CBSE Notes

◆ 1. Importance of Transport and Communication

✓ **CBSE Focus:** *Why are they called lifelines of the economy?*

- Goods/services must move from **supply areas to demand areas**.
- **Traders, transporters, and communication systems** help connect producers and consumers.
- Support **economic, cultural, and political integration**.

● **Definition:**

Transport – Movement of goods and people.

Communication – Exchange of information.

◆ 2. Modes of Transport in India

a. Roadways

✓ **Frequently Asked:** *Merits of road transport over railways.*

- India has the **2nd largest road network** (~62.16 lakh km).
- Easier to build, especially in **mountainous and remote areas**.
- Provides **door-to-door** service.
- **Feeder** to other transport modes.

Types of Roads:

Type	Description
Golden Quadrilateral Super Highways	6-lane roads linking Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata . Includes North-South (Srinagar–Kanyakumari) & East-West (Silchar–Porbandar) Corridors.
National Highways (NH)	Link distant cities/states; maintained by NHAI .
State Highways	Connect state capitals to districts.
District Roads	Connect district HQs to other places in the district.
Rural Roads	Built under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana .
Border Roads	Built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) – in hilly/border areas.

● Example:

Sher Shah Suri Marg → Part of NH-1 (Delhi to Amritsar).

b. Railways

✓ **CBSE Common Question:** *Why is the Northern Plain densely covered by railways?*

- India has the **largest rail network in Asia**.
- First train: Mumbai to Thane (1853, 34 km).
- **Zones:** 16 railway zones across the country.

Influencing Factors:

- **Physiography** (plains better than mountains).
- **Population & economic activity**.
- **Construction difficulty** in deserts, swamps, forests, NE India.

✖ **Problems:**

- Overcrowding, chain pulling, theft, delays.
- Need for modernization and punctuality.

c. Pipelines

✓ **Repeated MCQ Topic:** *HVJ Pipeline, pipeline advantages*

- Used for transporting **crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas**.
- Cheaper, safer, efficient.
- India: ~18,500 km of pipelines.

Major Pipelines:

1. **Assam to Kanpur** (via Guwahati, Barauni, Allahabad).
2. **Salaya (Gujarat) to Jalandhar (Punjab)** – via Delhi, Sonipat.
3. **HVJ Pipeline** (Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur) – links Mumbai High to fertilizer plants in North India.

d. Waterways

✓ **CBSE Asked:** *List National Waterways*

- Cheapest, eco-friendly mode for heavy/bulky goods.
- India: 14,500 km navigable; 5,685 km mechanised.

National Waterways:

NW No.	Route	Length (km)
NW-1	Ganga (Allahabad to Haldia)	1620
NW-2	Brahmaputra (Sadiya to Dhubri)	891
NW-3	West Coast Canal (Kerala)	205
NW-4	Godavari & Krishna Rivers	1078
NW-5	Mahanadi & Brahmani delta canals	588

e. Ports

✓ **Repeated 3-marker:** *Major ports of India*


- India has **12 major** and **200+ minor** ports.
- 95% of India's trade volume by sea.

Major Ports:

Port	State	Specialization
Kandla	Gujarat	1st after independence; exports grains, oil
Mumbai	Maharashtra	Largest natural port
Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva)	Maharashtra	Relieves Mumbai congestion
Marmagao	Goa	Iron ore export
New Mangalore	Karnataka	Iron ore from Kudremukh
Kochchi (Cochin)	Kerala	Lagoon port
Tuticorin	TN	Natural harbour
Chennai	TN	Artificial port
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Deepest, landlocked
Paradip	Odisha	Iron ore export
Kolkata	WB	Inland, riverine; needs dredging
Haldia	WB	Relieves Kolkata

f. Airways

- **Fastest and most comfortable** mode.
- Useful in **difficult terrains** like NE states, Himalayas, deserts.
- Limited use due to **cost**.

 **Pawanhans Helicopters Ltd:** Services in off-shore operations and remote areas (J&K, HP, NE states).

3. Communication

✓ **CBSE Focus:** *Types and importance of communication*

a. **Personal Communication:**

- **Postal services** (largest network).
- STD, landlines, mobile phones.

b. **Mass Communication:**

- Radio (All India Radio), TV (Doordarshan), newspapers, films.
- Newspapers: ~100 languages. Largest in **Hindi**.

📱 **Digital India Initiative:**

- ICT-enabled transformation.
- Bridging digital divide between rural–urban.

🌐 **4. International Trade**

✓ **Very Common in Exams:** *What is trade? Types and importance.*

- **Trade:** Exchange of goods/services.
- **Local:** Within city/town.
- **National:** Between states.
- **International:** Between countries.

📊 **Types of Trade:**

- **Export:** Selling goods to other countries.
- **Import:** Buying goods from other countries.
- **Balance of Trade:** Export – Import
 - **Favourable:** Export > Import
 - **Unfavourable:** Import > Export

India's Exports:

- Gems, jewellery, chemicals, IT services, agri-products.

India's Imports:

- Petroleum, gold, machinery, electronics, chemicals.

🧳 **5. Tourism as a Trade**

✓ **Often Asked:** *Why is tourism important for India?*

- 15 million+ people directly employed.
- Promotes **national integration**, crafts, culture.
- Types: **Heritage, medical, cultural, adventure, eco-tourism.**

📌 **India – leading software & tourism exporter** in global economy.

✓ CBSE Focus: Repeated Topics to Prepare

Topic	Type of Question
Modes of Transport (Road, Rail, Water)	3–5 markers
Golden Quadrilateral, HVJ Pipeline	Short answer/MCQ
Major ports & their functions	Very common
Importance of communication	3-marker
Meaning & types of trade	MCQ, Short
Tourism's role in economy	Long answer