

## CHAPTER - 27

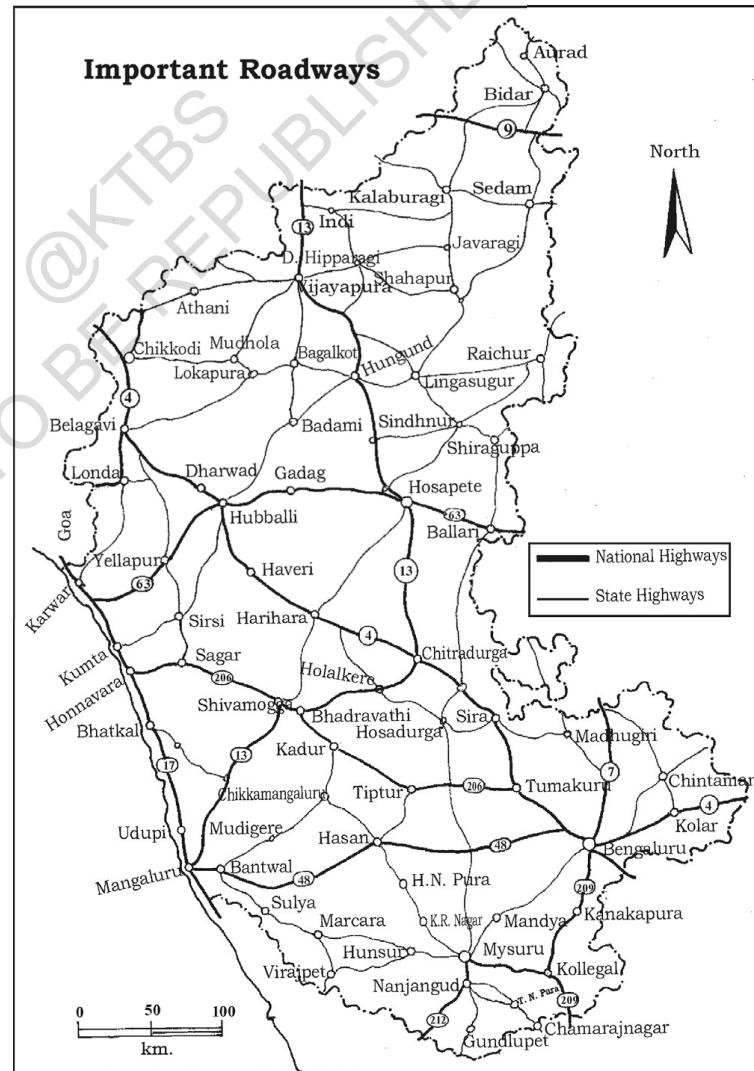
# TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN KARNATAKA



### We learn about the following in this chapter,

- The importance of the medium of transport in Karnataka.
- Road transport – types and the important highways.
- The importance of railways and the important rail routes.
- The water transport and air transport.

Transport refers to the system of carrying persons and goods from one place to another. It is the life line in the progress of agriculture, industry and commerce. Karnataka is a land with varied natural resources. Minerals, commercial crops, forest products and sources of energy are available here. In order to achieve economic development through proper use of these resources, an efficient transport system is essential. Karnataka is primarily an agricultural state. Different means of transport facilities are necessary to transport food grains and other agricultural produce, to the market, minerals from mines, manufactured goods from the factories, people from one place to another and for various other purposes. Karnataka has well-developed road, rail, water and air transport facilities.



## ROAD TRANSPORT

**Importance :** A large number of people live in rural areas in Karnataka. So, road transport occupies a very important role in linking the villages and towns. Roads can be constructed easily, at low cost. People and goods can be transported to every corner of the state. Development of roads determines the progress of the state's agriculture, industry, mining and commerce.

**Development of road transport :** Road transport has been in use from ancient times in Karnataka. Kings and emperors constructed roads for the use of their soldiers and for administrative purposes. There were travel shelters (where a place to rest, and water to drink were available), resting shelters, orchards and choultries. Roads to connect the coastal regions to the inland areas had been constructed.

However, roads were not much developed in the pre-independence days in Karnataka. There were roads linking Bengaluru and the district centers in the old Mysuru province, but they were not well-organized. After independence when the Vishala Mysuru State was formed in 1961, totally 43,182 kms of roads were laid. At present, the total length of the roads is 2,31,062 kms. Of which, 35.70% are metalled (asphalted) roads whereas 64.30% are unmetalled roads. There has been an improvement in the quality of roads constructed too.

**Try this :**

*Make a Lists of the National highways that pass through your district and list the names of the taluks through which they pass.*

**Kinds of roads :** Roads in Karnataka have been classified into four kinds. They are: 1. National highways, 2. State highways, 3. District roads and 4. Village roads.

**1. National highways :** Roads which link important cities, capitals of states and ports are called National highways. These are well-planned wide roads and are two- lane, four- lane and six- lane roads. They are under the authority of the Central Government, and are managed by the 'National Highways Authority of India' (NHAI). At present, there are 14 national highways in Karnataka. Their total length is 4491 kms. They have not been located equally among all the districts of the state. Uttara Kannada, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Shivamogga, Bengaluru

Rural, Tumakuru, Dakshina Kannada and Ballari districts have more National highways. Raichur and Kodagu districts have no National highways.

National highway NH-4 and NH-7 come under the National Highway Authority's 'Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project' as well as 'Corridor Project'. They have six lanes. The other main National highways passing through the state are NH-206, NH-209, NH-212, NH-13, NH-17, NH-48.

**NH-13 is the longest national highway of Karnataka**

From Mangalore it enters Mudabidri, passes through Koppa, Shivamogga, Chitradurga, Hosapete, Ilkal, Vijayapura and reaches Solapur.

**2. State Highways :** Roads which link the capital city of Bengaluru with district headquarters, major towns and other highways are called State Highways. The construction and maintenance of these roads rests with the State Government. Karnataka has 20,905 kms of state highways. Belagavi has the longest state highway whereas Bengaluru has the least.

**3. District Roads :** Roads which link district headquarters with taluk headquarters, major towns, villages, railways and major highways are called District roads. The construction, maintenance and supervision of these roads is under the Zilla Parishat. Karnataka state has 47,836 kms of district highways. Tumakuru district has maximum district highways, and Raichur has the least.

**4. Village roads :** Roads which link taluk headquarters with village and district highways are called Village roads. The construction and maintenance of these roads is under the taluk panchayat and village panchayat. The quality of these roads is not good, and in some parts, it is very difficult to travel on these roads. Karnataka has 1,47,212 kms of village roads.

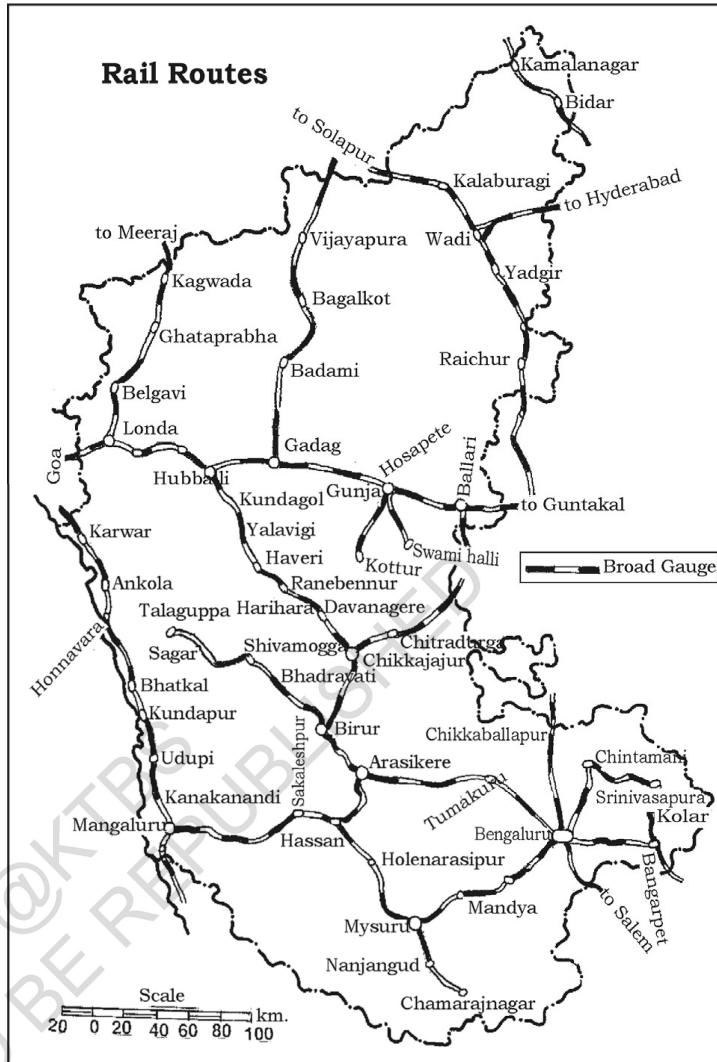
In addition to the types of roads mentioned above, there are multi-purpose roads and roads under local administration. For instance, Roads of Public Works Department, Forest Department, Irrigation Department and Town Municipality and City Corporation.

## RAILWAYS

In Karnataka, railway is the second most important mode of transport next to roadways. It helps in economical travel to distant places and transportation of goods.

The first railway line in the state was opened for traffic in 1864. This was laid between Bengaluru and Madras by the Madras Railway Company. By the year 1956, the state had totally 2595 kms of railway track belonging to the Southern Railway Zone. Now, the South-Western Railways Zone has come into existence with its administrative center at Hubballi. Today, Karnataka has 3244 kms of railway track.

In Karnataka state, there is no uniform distribution of railway tracks in all the districts. Bengaluru, Ballari, Belagavi, Hassan, Uttara Kannada, Chitradurga, Udupi, Ramnagar and Dakshina Kannada districts have an average of 150 to 200 km long railway track. Kodagu district has no any railway tracks.



### Activity :

Discuss your experience in road and railway journey. Come to conclusion which journey is better. How ?

**Konkan Railways :** This is the most important railway route of West Coast. It links Mangaluru and Mumbai, and has reduced the time for travelling from 41 hrs to 18 hrs. Its length is 273 kms with 13 main and 310 other bridges. Of these, Sharavathi river bridge

(2.2kms) the longest bridge and Kali river bridge (1.2 kms) are the important bridges. Since this railway passes through many tunnels and across bridges, one can enjoy the natural beauty and scenery.

**Metro Rail :** Bengaluru has grown tremendously as a metropolitan city. Transportation has become a major problem. To overcome this problem, Namma Metro Rail Transport Plan is being implemented. On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the first Metro rail between Byappanahalli and M.G.Road was started. Lakhs of people utilise this facility. It takes much less time to travel from one place to another. Other Metro rail tracks are at different stages of completion.

## AIR TRANSPORT

Air transport is the fastest mode of transport. It helps to carry people, mail and lightweight goods to distant places in the shortest time. Air transport is of great help during natural calamities, wars and other emergencies. However, it is the costliest mode of transport and not available to everyone.

The first air travel facility was began between Bengaluru and Hyderabad by 'Deccan Airways' in the year 1946. Indian Airways was nationalized in the year 1953. After Indian Airlines was established, Bengaluru was linked with various places all over the country. In the year 1996 state airport of Bengaluru was declared as a International Airport. Belagavi, Hubballi, Mysuru and Mangaluru have domestic airports. New airports are being established in Hassan and Kalaburagi.

The international airport which was in HAL was shifted to Devenahalli, about 34 kms away, on 24, May 2008. The HAL airport is now being utilized for the training of pilots. The Devenahalli International Airport is the country's first green airport. This airport is well equipped to provide various facilities and is the most modern airport.

## WATER TRANSPORT

Karnataka has inland as well as sea waterways. Their availability is limited and so, not very significant in transport. Earlier, the inland waterways were confined to small rowing boats, dingies and rafts.

At present, motor boats have come into existence. They are used in Udupi, Uttara Kannada and Dhakshina Kannada districts. These districts have Kali, Sharavathi and Nethravathi rivers which help in inland water transport. Boats are used in some places to cross the Krishna river. With the development of road and railway transport, the use of water transport is limited.

**Ports :** The coastal places where ships are sheltered are called Ports. Ships are used for fishing, trade, passenger travel and transport of goods. In Karnataka, there are about 23 small and large ports. The Port Development Authority came into being in the year 1957, and there was an expansion in water transport. The New Mangaluru Port was declared the 9<sup>th</sup> major port of the country on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1974. It is called the 'Gateway of Karnataka'. Through this port, iron ore, coffee, spices, cashew, sandalwood, tiles, chromide, granite stone and canned fruit and fish are exported. Petroleum is being imported. In addition to the Mangaluru port, ten smaller ports have been developed. These are Old Mangaluru Port, Malpe, Hangarakatte, Kundapura, Padubidri, Bhatkal, Honnavara, Tadri, Belekeri and Karwar. Of these, Karwar is the most beautiful port. It being an all-weather port, iron ore, manganese, granite and agricultural produces are exported through this port.

## **EXERCISES**

### **I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.**

1. Villages and towns are linked by \_\_\_\_\_ transport.
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ national highways passing through Karnataka.
3. The city railway system of Bengaluru is called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The port that is called the 'Gateway of Karnataka' is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Coastal Railway of Karnataka is called \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Discuss in groups and answer the following questions.**

1. Explain the importance of road transport.
2. Name the different types of roads in Karnataka.
3. List the important rail routes of Karnataka.
4. What are the advantages of air transport?
5. Name the ports of Karnataka.

**III. Match the following.**

**A**

1. Golden Quadrilateral
2. Broad gauge
3. H.A.L.
4. Belekeri
5. Namma Metro

**B**

- a. Port
- b. Bengaluru
- c. NH-4
- d. Airport
- e. Railways
- f. Waterways

**IV. Activity.**

1. Mark and name the highways passing through Karnataka on a map.

**V. Projects.**

1. Write a paragraph on your experience of railway journey.
2. Write a note on your local transport system.

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