

# Transport

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## Land Transport

Transporting goods and people by road through different means is land transport. **ROAD TRANSPORT** is most important in Indian economy. It connects most part of the country side and places than railways. There are two types of roads. **Surfaced** roads and **Unsurfaced** roads.

**Surfaced Roads are made of cement, concrete or bitumen.** Most of the cities and highways have surfaced roads. These are all weather roads. All important cities have been connected by surfaced roads. These can be constructed where it is not possible to lay railwaylines. Leh and Manali roads are the world's highest roads.



Transport in India

Roads carry most of the traffic. These are very important for the Indian economy. The Government of India has taken up large projects to build roads. The Golden Quadrilateral is one such project which has been completed. There are many such projects.

**Unsurfaced roads are simple path broadened to meet the needs of carts. These are Kuchha roads with no proper surfaces.** These roads also serve the economic purpose in villages and sub-urban areas. Usually bullock pull carts with wooden wheels with iron rims. These are very heavy, do not carry much goods, very slow yet serving the purpose of carrying people and goods in most inefficient way. Bullock drawn carts are the oldest transportation vehicles. With little changes it is drawn by camels in Rajasthan. Kuchha roads become slush of mud in rainy season almost

difficult to be used by carts. These roads are being changed in surfaced roads gradually.



India – Roads

Buses and other smaller vehicles in roadways support the transportation of people and goods.

## **Rail Transport**

Indian railway network is the fourth largest in the world after Russia, the USA and Canada. It is ideal to carry passengers in comfort and the goods like coal, petrol, grains, cement, heavy machinery, etc.

Metro rail is helping people in Delhi and Kolkata for easy and faster transportation. There has been continuous effort by the Government of India to improve the rail transport. New tracks have been laid for carrying goods by goods trains and super fast trains to carry passengers.



Metro rail in Delhi

## **Water Transport**

India has a long coastline. It has 12 major ports under the Central Government. There are 186 minor ports being looked after by the State Governments. Since, sea travel is too slow; ships are used to carry heavy cargo. Ships are built to carry petroleum, fruits, various metal ores and goods containers. Small packages and valuable or urgent goods are sent by air.

Major Indian ports on the Western coast are Kandla, Mumbai, Marmugao, New Mangalore and Kochi. All the states on the Western coast have at least one major port. Major ports on the south-eastern coast are Tuticorin, Ennore, Chennai, Vishakapatnam, Paradeep, and the joint port Kolkata-Haldia. Water transport is cheaper and helps in the promotion of foreign trade.



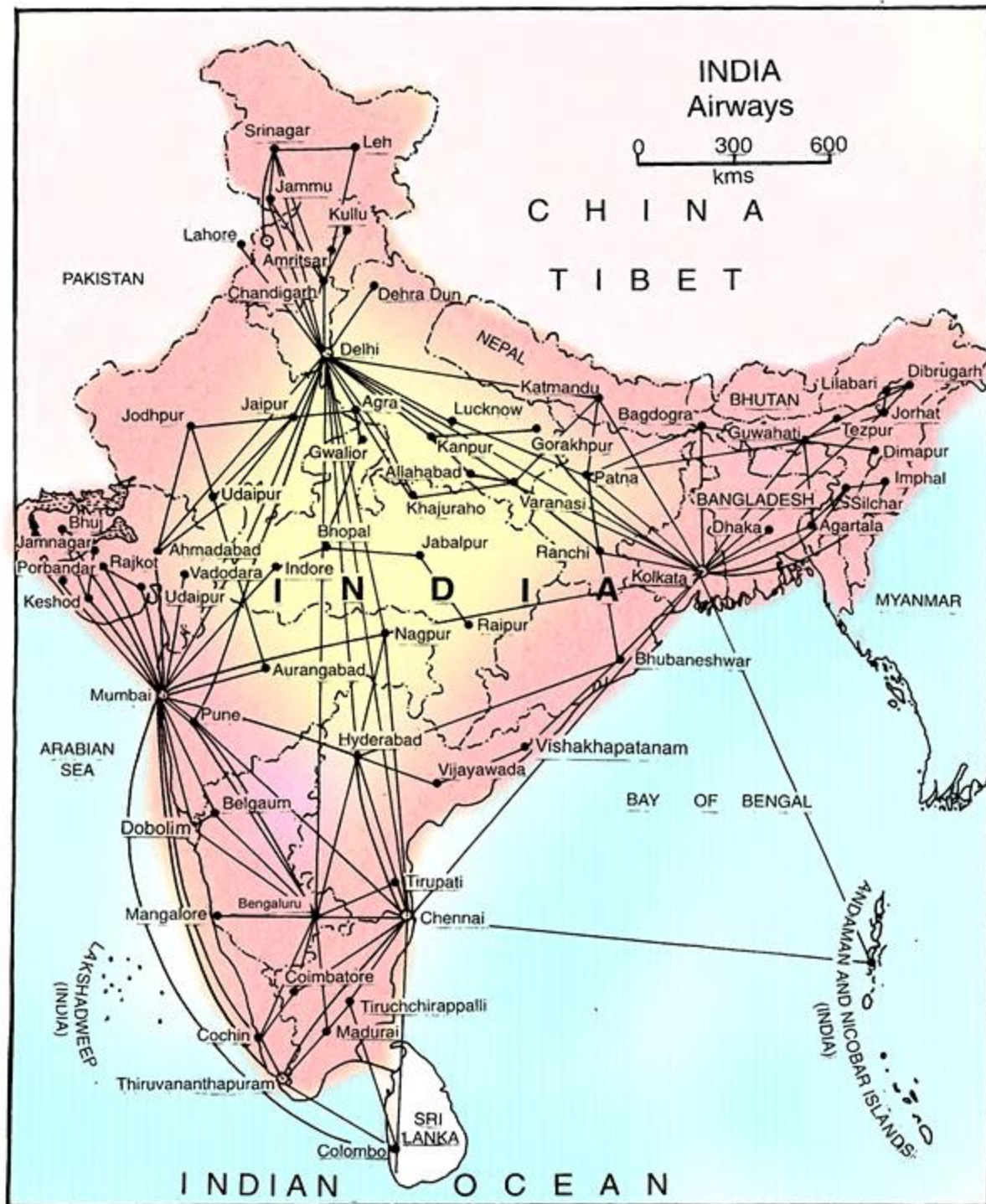
Port in Kolkata

### **Inland Waterways**

Rivers have been used as waterways since long. It is convenient, cheaper and provides interesting journey experience. Inland waterways still serve human traffic at quite a few places for various reasons. But it is widely used to carry cargo.



India – Railways



India - Airways

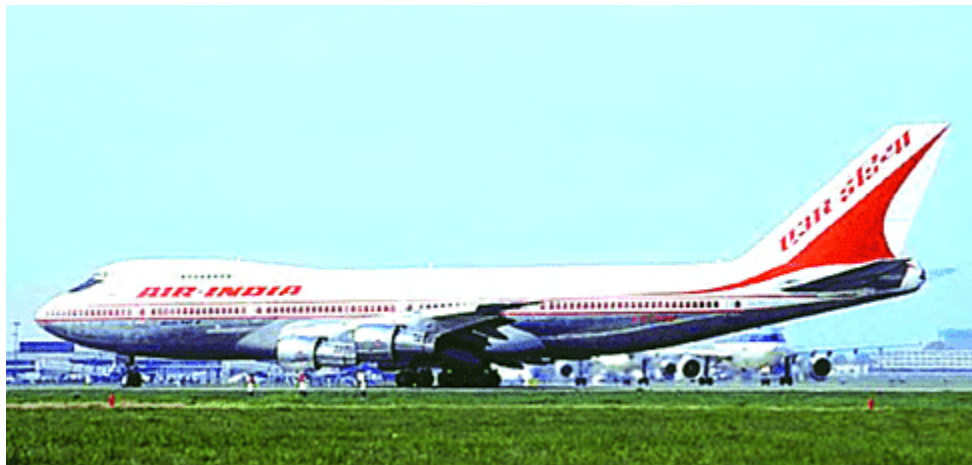
**Some important inland waterways are:**

- Ganga river between Allahabad and Haldia covering a distance of about 1620 km.This waterway is declared as National waterway no.1. Big steamers can ply between Allahabad and Patna.
- Other inland waterways are on rivers Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna and Mahanadi.
- Inland waterways are finding competition with railways and road transport. Moreover, there is hardly any capital for them and water in rivers is being diverted to larger uses by building dams across them, silting and untimely floods and drought conditions.
- There are hardly any development projects undertaken by the Government.

### **Air Transport**

Air transport is the costliest and the fastest transport. But it is limited to in its reach in India. It has to get support from other modes of transport. These days, the air transport is facing overcrowding and tough competition.

India is favourably placed on the International route. Indian Airlines is run in the public sector. Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Deccan Aviation, Spice Jet, Go Airways, Kingfisher Airlines are run privately. All major cities and many others connected by air. Though airlines themselves may be running at a loss but the air transport greatly boost the economy. Cargo carrying airships do a great job. Though costly in comparison to ships or by road transport but they save on time.



Air transport in India

Helicopters are very useful part of air transport. These can reach places where neither of the transport is possible. These are hardly used to carry regular passengers. But these are very useful for army, medical services where no other

transport is possible or time is to be saved, tourism and various surveys. Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. a public company serves ONGC for its off shore operations. It is also used by various State Governments.

### **Things To Remember**

- Transport carries the people and goods from one place to another Land, water and air are three means of transport There are two types of roads. Surfaced roads and Unsurfaced roads.
- Surfaced roads are all weather roads.
- Unsurfaced roads are fair weather roads.
- India has 12 major ports and 186 minor ports.