

Class X - Social Science

Lifelines of National Economy

CBSE NOTES

Lifelines of National Economy - Practice Worksheet

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Practice Questions

1. Explain the significance of transport as a lifeline of the national economy.

Hint: Think about how transport connects different parts of the country and facilitates trade.

Solution: Transport plays a crucial role in the development of a country's economy by facilitating the movement of goods and services from production centers to markets. It connects remote areas with urban centers, promoting trade and commerce. Efficient transport systems reduce the cost of transportation, making goods cheaper and more accessible. They also contribute to the socio-economic development by providing employment opportunities. For example, the Golden Quadrilateral Super Highways project has significantly reduced travel time between major cities, boosting trade. Transport systems like railways and airways also integrate the country by connecting different regions. They are essential for the movement of raw materials to industries and finished products to consumers. Without a robust transport network, economic activities would be severely hampered, affecting the country's growth. Thus, transport acts as the lifeline of the national economy by ensuring smooth and efficient movement of goods, services, and people.

2. Describe the classification of roads in India and their importance.

Hint: Consider the different types of roads and their specific roles in connectivity and development.

Solution: Roads in India are classified into six categories based on their capacity and function. The Golden Quadrilateral Super Highways connect major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, reducing travel time and distance. National Highways link extreme parts of the country and are maintained by the Central Government. State Highways connect state capitals with district headquarters, facilitating intra-state travel. District Roads link district headquarters with other places within the district, promoting local trade. Rural roads, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, connect villages with towns, improving rural accessibility. Border Roads, maintained by the Border Roads Organisation, enhance connectivity in strategic areas like the northern and northeastern borders. These roads are vital for economic development, defense, and national integration. They provide door-to-door service, making them more flexible than railways. Roads can traverse difficult terrains like mountains and deserts, unlike other transport modes. Thus, a well-developed road network is essential for the country's socio-economic progress.

3. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of railways as a mode of transport in India.

Hint: Compare railways with other transport modes and consider their impact on the economy and environment.

Solution: Railways are the principal mode of transport for freight and passengers in India, offering several advantages. They are cost-effective for long-distance travel and bulk cargo transportation. Railways integrate the country by connecting remote areas with urban centers, promoting national unity. They are environmentally friendly compared to road transport, reducing carbon emissions. Railways also provide employment opportunities and support industries by transporting raw materials and finished goods. However, railways face challenges like high construction and maintenance costs. They are less flexible than roads, as they cannot provide door-to-door service. Terrain constraints, such as mountains and rivers, make railway construction difficult in some regions. Additionally, railways suffer from issues like theft, ticketless travel, and delays due to unforeseen circumstances. Despite these disadvantages, railways remain a vital part of India's transport network, contributing significantly to the economy.

4. Explain the role of pipelines in the transportation of goods in India.

Hint: Focus on the types of goods transported via pipelines and their benefits over other modes.

Solution: Pipelines are a modern and efficient mode of transporting liquids and gases like crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas. They are crucial for transporting these commodities from production sites to refineries and consumption centers. Pipelines reduce trans-shipment losses and delays, ensuring a continuous supply. They are cost-effective in the long run, despite high initial construction costs. For example, the Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline transports natural gas to various industrial complexes. Pipelines can traverse difficult terrains and are not affected by weather conditions, making them reliable. They also minimize environmental pollution compared to other transport modes. However, pipelines are limited to transporting only specific types of goods and require significant investment. Despite these limitations, pipelines play a vital role in India's energy sector by ensuring efficient and safe transportation of fuels.

5. Describe the importance of waterways in India.

Hint: Consider the cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of waterways.

Solution: Waterways are the cheapest and most environmentally friendly mode of transport, suitable for carrying heavy and bulky goods. India has a vast network of inland waterways, including rivers, canals, and backwaters. The National Waterways, like the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly system, facilitate trade and transportation. Waterways reduce transportation costs and fuel consumption, making them economical. They are ideal for transporting goods like coal, iron ore, and food grains. Waterways also promote tourism and provide livelihoods for communities dependent on fishing and boating. However, waterways face challenges like seasonal variability,

siltation, and inadequate infrastructure. Despite these issues, waterways are vital for India's trade and commerce, especially for international trade through major ports. The government is investing in developing waterways to enhance their efficiency and capacity.

6. Discuss the significance of major sea ports in India.

Hint: Think about the role of sea ports in facilitating international trade and economic growth.

Solution: Major sea ports are crucial for India's international trade, handling about 95% of the country's trade volume. Ports like Mumbai, Chennai, and Vishakhapatnam facilitate the import and export of goods, boosting the economy. Mumbai port, with its natural harbor, is the largest and handles diverse cargo. Jawaharlal Nehru port decongests Mumbai port and serves as a hub for container traffic. Marmagao port is the premier iron ore exporting port, contributing significantly to India's exports. Kochi port, located on the Arabian Sea, supports trade with the Middle East and Europe. Sea ports also generate employment and promote industrial development in their hinterlands. They are vital for the country's energy security, handling imports of crude oil and petroleum products. Thus, major sea ports are the gateways of India's international trade, playing a pivotal role in the economy.

7. Explain the advantages of air transport and its significance in India.

Hint: Consider the speed and accessibility of air transport and its role in connecting remote areas.

Solution: Air transport is the fastest and most comfortable mode of transport, suitable for long-distance travel. It connects remote and inaccessible areas like the northeastern states and mountainous regions. Air transport is essential for emergency services, disaster management, and medical evacuations. It promotes tourism and business travel, contributing to the economy. The UDAN scheme aims to make air travel affordable for common citizens, enhancing regional connectivity. Air transport also supports the movement of high-value and perishable goods like pharmaceuticals and fresh produce. However, air transport is expensive and has limited capacity compared to other modes. Despite these limitations, air transport is vital for India's integration with the global economy and for ensuring rapid movement of people and goods.

8. Describe the role of communication in the economic development of India.

Hint: Think about how communication tools facilitate information exchange and support various sectors.

Solution: Communication is essential for the economic development of India by facilitating the flow of information and ideas. The Indian postal network, the largest in the world, handles personal and business communications. Telecom networks, including mobile and internet services, connect urban and rural areas, promoting digital inclusion. Mass communication tools like television, radio, and newspapers disseminate information, creating awareness about government schemes and policies. The Digital India program aims to transform India into a knowledge-based economy by leveraging technology. Communication supports trade and commerce by enabling quick and efficient transactions. It also fosters education and healthcare through telemedicine and e-learning. Thus, a robust communication network is vital for India's socio-economic progress and global integration.

9. Discuss the changing nature of international trade in India in the last fifteen years.

Hint: Consider the impact of globalization and technology on India's trade patterns.

Solution: International trade in India has undergone significant changes in the last fifteen years, driven by globalization and technological advancements. India has diversified its export basket, including IT services, pharmaceuticals, and automotive components. The country has strengthened trade relations with major economies like the USA, EU, and China. The rise of e-commerce has transformed trade, enabling small businesses to reach global markets. India's import pattern has also shifted, with increased imports of electronic goods and crude oil. The government has introduced policies like Make in India to boost manufacturing and exports. Despite these advancements, India faces challenges like trade deficits and protectionist policies by other countries. However, international trade remains a key driver of India's economic growth, contributing to employment and GDP.

10. Explain the importance of tourism as a trade in India.

Hint: Think about the economic and cultural benefits of tourism and its impact on local communities.

Solution: Tourism is a significant contributor to India's economy, generating employment and foreign exchange. It promotes cultural exchange and national integration by attracting domestic and international tourists. Heritage tourism, eco-tourism, and medical tourism are popular segments, showcasing India's diverse culture and natural beauty. Tourism supports local handicrafts and traditional arts, preserving cultural heritage. It also fosters infrastructure development in tourist destinations, benefiting local communities. The government has launched initiatives like Incredible India to promote tourism globally. However, challenges like inadequate infrastructure and safety concerns need addressing. Despite these issues, tourism has immense potential to drive economic growth and sustainable development in India.

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