

Importance of Transport System



In our daily lives, we use various modes of transport to go from one place to another. How people use transport facilities, roads, waterways, railways and airports and why people make different choices to use transport services are discussed in this chapter. Besides these, we will also read about why and how people depend on transport for their source of earning and how markets use transport. You will learn more about the other means of transport such as railways, waterways and airports in higher classes.

You already know a lot about transport systems.

- ◆ Fill the table below with the given words. Some words could be placed more than once. Give reasons for your choice.

Pilgrims, Car, Fish, Cattle, Grain, Bullock-cart, Petroleum, Workers, Ship, Helicopter, Tanker, Lorry, Cycle, Tourists, Iron-ore, Goods Train, Mangoes.

Mode of Transport	Vehicles used	Some products/groups of people – that could be using
Roads		
Railways		
Waterways		
Airways		

Transport System in Telangana

If we look for a big picture about the transport system in the state, we would note the following :

Roads: In India, most roads are built and maintained by the government. There are different types of roads. Some roads are National Highways which are built across different states in the country. For instance,

a road network called National Highway No. 44 runs through Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. While the state government maintains the roads connecting small towns and districts, Panchayats are responsible for the village roads. These roads are made of gravel. Corporations and Municipalities are responsible for urban roads. Roads laid

along the international boundaries are called border roads. Roadways play an important role in connecting the people in remote areas with the main cities.

Railways: One fifth of travellers in India use trains. Railways are mainly used to transport goods like coal, iron ore, fertilizers, cement, food grains etc. Telangana has a well developed railway network connecting all the districts. Railways transport goods to and from sea ports.

Airways: There is one International Airport in Telangana. The International Airport is situated in Hyderabad (Shamshabad). The International Airport is meant for travel from Telangana or neighbouring states to foreign countries. This airport also connects Hyderabad with other cities & states within India.

Waterways: Almost all the goods traded by Indian traders are transported to other countries through its ports. Port cities or towns are thus major trading centres. The state of Telangana does not have any coast lines or ports. Andhra Pradesh has 15 ports out of which Visakhapatnam is the largest. Rivers such as Godavari, Krishna and Penna in Andhra Pradesh and their canals are used as waterways. Seaports are also crucial as most of our foreign trade is done through them.

- ◆ Locate the major airports and port cities on the map of India.



Fig 10.1: In 1932 road transport was introduced under the Nizam with 27 vehicles. You can also see the logo of the then transport company

Use of Roads for production and sale of goods

Most people in Telangana depend on roads for travel. Transport facilities available to villages in Telangana vary. In 2001, nearly three fourth of the villages had transport facilities.

In earlier chapters, there were descriptions about farmers, fisher folk, and industries which depend upon transport for various reasons. Farmers take their produce to Rythu Bazar. Fisher folk need to take the catch to the buyers before it gets spoiled. Paper industry uses lorries to get raw material. Industries that produce goods depend on the transport system to reach their consumers. Let us take the example of cotton. Cotton produced by farmers moves from fields to factories. Since there are different processes through which cloth is produced, it has to move from one place to another until the finished product is made. Markets are thus dependent on transport facilities.

- ◆ Read the following paragraph and solve the problem given below:

Farmers residing in Satyampally sell their paddy mostly in the nearby town, Nayapet, which is about 7 km away from the village. Bullock cart operators can transport about 10 paddy bags at a time and charge Rs. 50 per bag. Tractor owners charge Rs. 20 per bag. Each tractor can carry about 30-40 bags. Lorries charge Rs.10 per bag and can carry about 150 -170 bags in a trip. In the case of long distances, trucks charge more. For example, to transport paddy from a wholesale trader in Nayapet to the district head quarter, which is about 100 - 120 kms away, truck operators charge Rs. 50 per bag. They charge Rs. 800-1000 per tonne to transport goods for 500 kilometres.

There are three farmers in the village. They cultivated paddy and produced 25 bags, 50 bags and 75 bags respectively. They wish to sell their paddy in the Agriculture Yard in a nearby town, which is 25 kilometres away. What mode of transport would you suggest and why?

- ◆ Find out the fares for travelling in the following types of buses and time taken to travel between any two locations you are familiar with.



Fig 10.2 Transporting Animals

Employment in Transport Activities

There are two people who operate a bus- a driver and a conductor. For the overall maintenance of transport facilities in a state, hundreds and thousands of people are required. For example, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation is a government owned transport service which employs about 64,000 people to run about 10,000 buses. These employees maintain accounts, repair buses, or work in the bus depots. Some employees issue bus passes and tickets in bus stands or work as checking inspectors.

Majority of the vehicles running on Telangana roads, that is about, three fourth of them, are two wheelers. The functioning of transport system also requires many support activities – petrol/diesel pump stations, repairing shops, shops selling transport vehicles and spare parts.

Type of bus	Fare	Time taken
Pallevelugu / Gramani		
Express		
Deluxe		

- ◆ Do you think the difference in these fares is justified? Give reasons.
- ◆ Along with the difference in fares, there are also differences in facilities and journey time. However, in your opinion, how would most people prefer to travel? If you were responsible for increasing the facilities in them, which type of bus would you give preference to?

Transport Services and Choices

People could use a particular mode of transport depending on the facilities available and affordability. Sometimes, options to use different types of transport are possible. For example, it is possible to travel by bus, train or flight to Bangalore. For centuries, ships were an important mode of travel to far away countries to take people as well as goods. But today, there are fewer people travelling by ships, whereas goods are mostly transported by them.

It is possible that some of you come to school by buses. People who are employed in factories, offices, households, shops etc. also depend on transport. Every city may not have easy access to public transport such as buses, so the people depend on their own vehicles or hired vehicles like auto-rickshaws or taxis.



Fig 10.4 Railway workers



Fig 10.3 Old and new modes of transport

If the cost of travel is high, people may not be able to move from one place to another. For example, if the wages in one place are higher than in another place, people earning low incomes may wish to move to get higher incomes. But if the transport cost is high, they may not show interest in moving to that place.

The cost of travel, especially for people who earn lower income, is too much, as they have to put away a larger share of their earnings for it. Cycling and walking may not be possible to travel long distances. In big cities, it also becomes important to have enough place for people to walk or ride a bicycle. Even when there are pavements, you may find them occupied by shopkeepers. Sometimes the height of the road and pavement could be so different that persons who use wheelchairs cannot use them and take the risk of riding them along the motorised vehicles.

- ◆ Umar and Ibrahim study in the same class. They live in different places but the distance from their house to school is three kilometers. Ibrahim comes to school in city bus whereas Umar travels by school bus. What could be reasons for these students to travel by different bus services?

Congestion and Pollution

Most cities in our country are now experiencing congestion and traffic blocks. If the public transport system is not efficient, people buy private vehicles, which can further increase the traffic blockages in urban areas because the roads may not be broad enough to accommodate all these vehicles. Let us try to understand this with the help of an example. The number of people living in six big cities in India increased by two times during 1981 to 2001 whereas the number of motor vehicles went up by eight times during the same period.

Motorcycles and cars are used in a big way. This has led to the increased use of petrol and diesel, which has increased air pollution. To reduce pollution, we should consume less of these petroleum products. Public transport is more efficient in this aspect as it carries more people with minimum cost.

Travelling safety

Road travel now-a-days has become more risky. The road accidents, deaths, and injuries affect low income families as many of those killed or injured tend to be cyclists, pedestrians or pavement dwellers. Accidents can occur not on roads alone. There is risk involved in other means of transport too. In places where roads and railways cross (level crossing), there are often gates to stop the vehicles while the



Fig 10.5 A train that climbs the mountains in Ooty

trains are passing. These are called railway gates. However, if there are no such gates at level crossings, it is important for people and vehicles to stop and look in both the directions before crossing the railway line.

Road Safety Week

In the first week of every year, the Road Transport departments all over the country celebrate Road Safety Week. On this occasion, they give guidelines to the people to follow traffic rules. The government-run companies such as the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation conduct

awareness campaigns among drivers and give them training to drive safely. They also go to schools, to organise essay writing, debate and other competitions for students and encourage them to travel safely following traffic rules. Every person using the transport system – roads, railways or airways and those working in them are required to follow specific safety rules. This will reduce the deaths, injuries and other casualties that occur due to transport.



Fig 10.6 Visakhapatnam port

- ◆ Contact the nearest traffic police office or driving school in your locality or a person who has a driving licence. Find out about how drivers are trained. Identify the details of symbols & signs displayed in the driving school premises.
- ◆ Discuss the basic rules and regulations in using roads and how to travel safely on roads. In your classroom, display a list of traffic rules & symbols.

Keywords :

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Safety travelling | 7. State Highway |
| 2. Roadways | 8. Village/Rural roads |
| 3. Airways | 9. Urban roads |
| 4. Waterways | 10. Border roads |
| 5. Railways | 11. TSRTC |
| 6. National Highway | 12. Congestion |

Improve your learning

1. How is the transport system essential for producing agricultural goods? Illustrate with examples.
2. How is the use of buses different from trains?
3. Why is it important to provide transport facilities to villages?
4. Why do you think are waterways important for a country?
5. How does the transport system become a means of livelihood?
6. What will happen if there is a rise in transport cost for goods made in factories? Illustrate with an example.
7. Write a few slogans on 'Prevention of road/rail accidents'.
8. Congestion and traffic blocks occur due to the use of vehicles in a big way. What measures do you suggest to prevent this?
9. Draw outline map of Telangana State and locate Hyderabad.



Discussion: Organise a demonstration/discussion with the Police Inspector/Constable to the students on the topic “Road accidents-preventive measures”.

Project:

Interact with a driver and obtain information about the dangers and other aspects of his job.