

Importance of Transport System

In our daily life, we use various vehicles to go from one place to another. We also move from one place to another. How people use transport facilities, roads, waterways, railways and airports and why people make choices to use transport services are discussed in this chapter. Besides these, why and how people depend on transport for their source of earning and how markets use transport are also discussed. You will learn more about 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 given words. Some words could be placed in more than one place, and give reasons for choosing to put the word in a column.

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 Andhra Pradesh

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 government. Roads are of different types. Some roads are called

National Highways built across different states in the country. For instance, a road network called National Highway No.7 (or 44) runs through Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. While Andhra Pradesh state government maintains roads connecting small towns and districts, Panchayats are responsible for village roads

many of which are made of gravel. Corporations and Municipalities are responsible for urban roads. In addition, roads laid along international boundaries are called border roads. Roadways play an important role in integrating people in remote areas with 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. In Andhra Pradesh, there are nearly 650 Railway stations and Railway routes of about 5000 km. Railways collect the goods from and to sea ports. Seaports themselves are crucial as most of our foreign trade happens through them.

Airways: There are six airports in Andhra Pradesh – one international and five domestic airports. International Airport is in Hyderabad (Shamshabad) and the remaining airports are Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi (Renigunta), Rajamundry, Vijayawada (Gannavaram) and Puttaparthi. International Airport is for travel from Andhra Pradesh to foreign countries. Domestic airports connect those who travel within India.

Waterways: Almost all goods traded by Indian traders are transported to other countries through ports. Port cities or towns are thus major trading centres. Andhra Pradesh has 15 ports out of which Visakhapatnam is the largest port. Rivers such as the Godavari, the Krishna and the Penna and their canals are used as waterways.

- ◆ On a map locate the airports, and port cities of Andhra Pradesh.

Use of Roads for production and sale of goods

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

In earlier chapters and classes, there were descriptions about farmers, fisher-folk, and industries which depend upon transport for various reasons. Farmers would want to take their produce to Rythu bazaar, fisher-folk will want to make the catch reach the buyer before it gets spoiled. Paper industry uses lorries to bring their raw material. Industries that produce goods depend on transport systems to reach out to consumers. Let us take the example of cotton. Cotton produced by farmers moves from fields to the factories. There are different processes through which cloth is produced and so it may have to move from one place to another, where cloth is finally produced. Markets are thus very dependent on transport facilities.

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

Farmers residing in Punniapalli sell their paddy mostly in the nearby town Nayudupet 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 Nayudupet to Martur in Prakasam district 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 a village. They cultivated paddy in their fields and harvested. Their harvests are 25 bags, 50 bags and 75 bags respectively. They wish to sell their paddy in the Vyavasaya Market Yard in a nearby town which is 25 kilometres away. What mode of transport would you suggest and why?



Fig 12.1 Railway workers

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

Type of bus	Fare	Time taken
Pallevelugu / Gramani		
Express		
Delux		



Fig 12.2 Transporting Animals

Employment in Transport Activities

You might have noticed that in every bus two people are working – driver and conductor. For maintenance of transport vehicles, hundreds and thousands of people are required. For example, the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation employs 1,20,000 persons to run its 20,000 buses so that these buses go all over Andhra Pradesh carrying more than 1.25 crore people every day. These employees maintain accounts, repair buses, or work in bus depots. Some employees issue bus passes and tickets in bus stations / stands or work as checking inspectors.

Nearly one crore vehicles are running on Andhra Pradesh roads and 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.

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

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 Pakistan. For centuries, ships were important for travelling to far away countries or taking goods to far off countries. While today there are fewer people travelling by the ships, 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 public transport like buses, and people then depend on their own vehicles or hired vehicles like auto-rickshaws or taxis.

If the cost of travel is high, people may



Fig 12.3 Urban Transport in Hyderabad



Fig 12.4 Old and new modes of transport

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 the place where they get higher incomes. When the transport cost is high, they may not show interest in moving to that place.

The cost of travel, especially for the people who earn low incomes, is high as they have to put away a larger share of their wages for it. Cycling and walking also may not be easy to travel long distances. In big cities, it also becomes important to have enough place for people to walk or ride a cycle. 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.

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

Congestion and Pollution

Most cities in our country are now experiencing congestion, and traffic blocks. If there is no good public transport system more people start buying private vehicles, which can further increase the traffic blocks in urban areas because the roads may not be broad enough to accommodate all these vehicles. Let us try to understand this with 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 use of more petrol and diesel which increase air pollution. To reduce pollution we should consume less of these petroleum products. Public transport can help in this aspect as they carry more people with minimum cost.

Travelling safety

Road travel now-a-days has become more risky. The road accidents and 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 merely on roads, but also in other means of transport. In places where the roads and rail-lines cross each other there are often gates to stop the



Fig 12.5 A train that climbs the mountain in Ooty.

vehicles while the trains are passing. These are called railway gates. However if there are no such gates in places where roads and rail-lines cross each other, it is important for people and vehicles to stop and look in both directions before crossing them.

Road Safety Week

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 Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation conduct

awareness campaigns among drivers and give them training to drive safely. They also go to schools and organise essay writing, debate and other competitions among students and encourage them to travel safely and follow traffic rules. Every person using 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 occurring due to transport.



Fig 12.6 Visakhapatnam port

- ◆ Contact the nearest traffic police or driving school in your locality or a person who has a driving licence. Discuss how drivers are trained. Identify the details of things displayed in the driving school premises.
- ◆ Discuss basic rules and regulations in using roads and how to travel safely on roads. In your classroom display rules regarding traffic.

Key words :

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 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. APSRTC |
| 6. National Highway | 12. Congestion |

Improve your learning

1. How is the transport system essential for producing agricultural goods? Illustrate with an example.
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 waterways are important for a country?
5. How does the transport system become a means for livelihood?
6. What would happen if there is a rise in transport cost for goods made in factories? Illustrate with an example.

Project work:

Interact with a driver working in transport and obtain information on the dangers and other aspects of his job.