

# Chapter 19

## Conquering distances

### Introduction

Early humans used to travel on foot but as time passed, they began to look for easier and faster means transport. They started to make use of animals like horses and donkeys.

### Two turning point in the history of early humans

- Invention of **wheel** and
- invention of **steam engine** by James Watt

### Need for transport

We need means of transportation

- To easily get to different places in a short span of time.
- To supply raw materials to the industry
- To transport finished goods to the market.

### Means of Transportation

#### *1. Roadways*

There are roads which connect major cities called **national highways**, **freeways** or **expressways**.

Roads which connect one country with another country are called **international Highways**.

## 2. Railways

- Most convenient means of carrying goods and people over long distances.
- In India Britishers introduced Railways. India's First train ran in 1853 **between Mumbai and Thane.**
- Superfast trains : Rajdhani express and Shatabdi Express
- Heritage trains : Deccan Queen and Palace on wheels.
- India has the **second** largest railway network in Asia and **fourth** largest in the world.
- The development of railways has played a big role in the growth of industries in different parts of the world.
- Railway lines which run across countries are known as **trans-continental railways** .Eg. Yiwu-Madrid railwayline from China to Spain.

## 3. Waterways

- Rafts and boats were the earliest means of water transport known to early humans.
- Later boats with steam engines were built known as ships. Ships could carry goods in bulk and moves faster than boats.

### Advantages of waterways :

- I. Waterways are the cheapest means of transport as less cost construction or maintenance of canals is needed.
- II. Waterways are useful during natural calamities.
- III. It can carry much larger quantities of heavy and bulky goods such as coal,timber etc.
  - Petroleum is carried in ships known as **Tankers** .
  - Vegetable, fruits, meat and dairy products are carried in **refrigerated ships.**

- Passengers are carried in **passenger ships**.

Most of the world's trade is through ocean and sea routes. The **North atlantic ocean is the busiest sea route in the world**.

The **Suez Canal** joins **Mediterranean sea and the Red sea**.

The **Panama Canal** joins **the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean**.

#### *4. Airways*

- Fastest and most expensive means of transport .
- First aeroplane was built by **Wright Brothers in 1903** known as Flyer.
- Advantages of airways :
  - i. It is the fastest means of transport.
  - ii. They can carry a large number of people and a large amount of cargo at a time.
  - iii. They are used to carry light, perishable and valuable goods.
  - iv. Air transport is used for rescue operation during natural calamities.
- India has both government as well as private airlines.

## Worksheet

- **Name the following:**

- 1) Three means of transport
- 2) Cheapest mode of transport
- 3) Fastest means of transport
- 4) Ship which carries oil/petroleum
- 5) Ship having refrigerated system
- 6) The busiest sea route in the world
- 7) The canal joining Mediterranean Sea and the Red sea
- 8) The canal joining Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean.
- 9) The person who invented steam engine

- **Short answer questions :**

- 1) How many categories can means of transport divided into?  
Write their names.
- 2) What is the need of transportation?
- 3) List some advantages of waterways.
- 4) List some advantages of airways over the other means of transport.