

MODULE – 1

Basics of Tourism



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TRANSPORT FOR TOURISM

Transport is one of the essential components of tourism activities. The relationship between transport and tourism development is very important because it contributes significantly in the development of tourism. It overcomes the physical social and economic development of human beings. It overcomes the physical constraints of distance and meets the human needs for movement over the space. It provides a link between the origin and destination of tourism. The movement of human beings at national and international level is taking place because of various means of transport. Millions of tourists are being transported safely, quickly and comfortably to their destinations at a reasonable cost. In fact, transport and its associated infrastructure have facilitated human mobility on large scale.

In this lesson, we will study about transportation system and the inter relationship between transport and tourism, role of transport in tourism promotion and means of transportation in India.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the meaning of transport and its various means;
- identify the linkages between transport and tourism;
- discuss the characteristics of tourist transportation;
- identify means of transportation engaged in tourism in India;
- discuss tourist transport operation and
- describe the role of transport in promoting tourism.

5.1 CONCEPT OF TRANSPORT

The term transport is derived from the Latin word *trans* meaning across a port. Thus, the movement of people or goods from one place to another by a means of transport is called transportation. Each tourist has to move from place to place and needs transportation for his or her movement. Transport helps people to move from tourist generating area to tourist destination area. In between, there is a transit route. There are different modes of transport like road transport, rail transport, water transport and air transport. In earlier times road transport was more popular than railways or waterways. For travellers, the states have taken keen interest and extended some important facilities on these land routes. To measure the distance from their destination point, *kosminars* were constructed (Fig. 5.1). Some of them still survive. Trees were planted on both sides and wells were dug to provide drinking water to travellers and protect them against heat and thirst. In addition *sarais* (accommodations) were constructed along the route.



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Fig. 5.1: Kos Minar

Those days travellers generally travelled on foot. When emperor Jahangir (1605-1627 AD) noticed some walls measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 gaz long along the roads in Gujarat, he realised how handy they were to the porter who was tired and wanted to rest. He could easily place the luggage on the wall and left it again with ease

**Notes**

and without any assistance from any one and proceeded to his destination. Jahangir liked the system so much that he ordered such walls to be constructed in all towns at government expense.

5.2 LINKAGES BETWEEN TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Tourism plays a key role in the socio-economic and cultural progress through creation of jobs, enterprise and infrastructure and revenue earnings. Tourism certainly requires an integrated development of basic infrastructural components, and transport is one of them. Transport occupies a key position in tourism sector and it is an important driver for socio-economic progress. It plays an important role as it would be impossible for tourists to visit many tourist sites without it. It provides an essential link between points of origin to its destination areas. It facilitates the movements of holiday makers, business travellers, people visiting friends and relatives and those undertaking educational and health tourism. Over the years, tourism has recorded significant growth in development and is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Due to new innovations in transport system, the growth and patterns of tourism are changing. We need today a safe, convenient and affordable mode of transport for travelling. In 2015, the United Nations World Tourist Organization (UNWTO) recorded a 4.4% growth and it reaching 1,184 million travellers. This huge number of tourist travelled because of transportation be it surface, air or water transport. In India, Planning Commission has identified tourism as the second largest sector in the country in providing employment opportunities. Most of the semi-skilled workers are engaged in supportive activities of tourism industry.

5.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF TOURIST TRANSPORTATION

A good system of transport plays an important role in sustaining economic growth and development of a country. Because of the fast moving life, people have less time and they want to visit more and more places in a shorter period. With the invention of a new efficient transport mode like aircraft, fast trains like the Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duranto as well as good road like Expressway from Delhi to Agra, the tourism sector is being transformed into a new vista. Each and every mode of transport has its own characteristics with regard to travel and tourism. You will now read about the characteristic of these modes of transportations.

(A) Characteristics of Road Transportation

- Road transport provides basic accessibility in connecting various places and people. It also has a number of advantages like good flexibility, reliability,

speed, cheaper cost etc. It is accessible to a large number of people and is more efficient than other means of transport.

- It can take the tourist upto the final destination point.
- National and State Highways both are very important in the development of a fine network of roadways. Both flyovers and good conditions of road have helped to increase the travel and tourism activities across the world.
- Different types of road vehicles are used like car, taxi, coaches, buses and jeeps which can connect rail, air and water transportation to each other.

(B) Characteristics of Rail Transportation

Railway is the most suitable and cheap means of transport for long distance travelling. As compared to road transport, it is very cheap and comfortable for longer distances. A huge number of people can travel together from one part of country to another for the purpose of business, education, sight seeing, pilgrimage, visit to friends and relatives. There are various categories of coaches including General, Sleeper, A C Classes, A C Chair Car etc. The railway provides basic infrastructure for movement of tourists to nearly all parts of the country. In modern times, an interesting development is the advent of high-speed trains with various facilities like refreshment, berth, food, internet, and washroom etc. It has created a significant increase in travel and tourism sector.

(C) Characteristics of Water Transportation

- Travel by ship was the main means to travel overseas until the middle of 20th century? The earliest type of boat was the raft, made of grasses, logs and other light material. Now the quality of boats and ships has improved a lot and most of the discoveries of the world were made through water transport. This is evident as tourism through cruises is increasing day by day and has an excellent potential.
- Lakes, rivers, canals, Backwaters Sea are very important modes of water-based tourism all over the world.

(D) Characteristics of Air Transportation

- At the global level, air travel is the second most popular mode of transport after road. It is the fastest means of transport. One can reach the destination in hours covering the distance of thousands of kilometers. Air transportation has connected all nations of the world. It has transformed the whole world into a Global Village. This mode of transport is free from surface hindrances such as inaccessible mountains, dense forest, marshy land, flooded areas, hot and cold desert.

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- High speed that saves time and providing luxurious journey are important characteristics of air transport. It is a convenient, comfortable and luxurious source of transport.

5.4 MEANS OF TRANSPORT IN INDIA

India is a vast country with amazing geographical diversity together with plurality in language, religion, culture and ethnicity from the mountains of the Himalaya in the north to the sea coasts in the south and from the Thar deserts in the west to the humid forests in the northeast. This diversity is accessible by a good and improved transport system. The means of transport in India comprises various modes such as road transport, railways, water transport and air transport. Each of these has its own significance in relation to travel and tourism. The choice of transport mode is influenced by the geography of the area, distance, time, comfort, safety, comparative fares, ranges of services offered etc. Railways and roads are the dominant mode of transport carrying more than 95 per cent of total traffic in the country although other modes such as coastal shipping and inland water transport also play an equally important role. Transport engaged in travel and tourism can be divided into following four categories:

- (i) Road Transport
- (ii) Rail Transport
- (iii) Air Transport
- (iv) Water Transport

(i) Road Transport

Road transport is a very important mode of transport for shorter distance. It connects the people and places of the country. It links a markets, cultural centers, religious places, historical sites, villages and towns with national mainstream.

(a) Highways

Highways and District roads are primarily used to connect major tourist centers in the country. Various modes of road like cars, taxis, coaches, buses, autorickshaws etc are used. National Highways (NHs) are principal roads connecting different state capitals to the main cities of country. NHs with a length of 70,934 km comprises only 2.0 percent of the road network but carry 40 per cent of the road-based traffic. There are 23 NHs in India varying in length. In recent times, many expressways and flyovers have come up in India making the road transport fast and efficient. The travel time and traffic jams have been

considerably reduced, which helps in promoting movement of people in general and tourism activities in particular. The first expressway built is between Mumbai and Pune. The Yamuna Expressway connects Delhi with the world-renowned site Taj Mahal in Agra. Flyovers built in urban areas reduce the pressure on intersections facilitating smooth run of traffic. Delhi is known as City of Flyovers, and has helped reduced pollution and travel time within Delhi.



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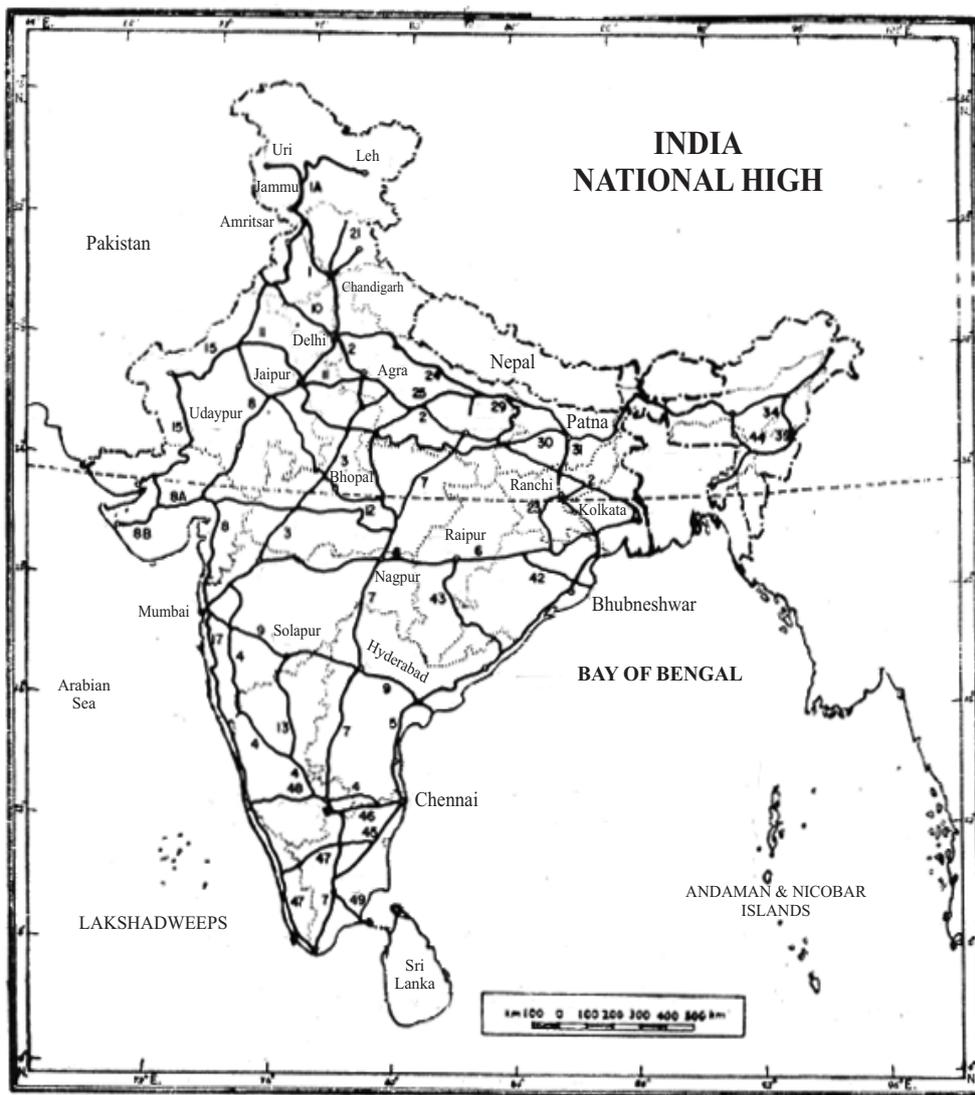


Fig. 5.2: Major Highways in India

(b) Super Highways

In India, Golden Quadrilateral connects four major cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. North-South and East-West corridors (7300 km) connect



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the length and breadth of the country. North-South corridor connects Srinagar in the north to Kanyakumari in the south and East-West corridor connects Silicher in the east to Porbandar in the west. There is a Golden Triangle which connects three cities Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Because of the triangular shape, it is called the Golden Triangle. This route is more popular among the foreign and domestic tourists. Majority of the tourists travel from Delhi to Taj Mahal (Agra) and then Jaipur and its surrounding deserts. This circuit is about 1000 km long by road. There is also another Golden Triangle connecting Puri, Konark and Bhubaneshwar cities in east India.

(c) Roads

State Highways connect state capitals with district headquarters, important towns and cities within a state. Major District roads take the traffic from main roads. It contributes significantly to the growth and development of tourism in the country. Availability of district and village roads is promoting rural tourism. The inter-state bus system is well developed and the quality of buses varies. Different categories of bus, taxi, auto-rickshaw etc. are available ranging from ordinary, semi-deluxe, deluxe, Volvo; fully air conditioned etc. Golden Quadrilateral connects four cities Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Golden Triangle connects, three cities Delhi, Agra and Jaipur in the north India.

Table 5.1: Status of Roads in India (2011)

| Type of Road | Length |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ● Expressways | 950 km |
| ● National Highways | 66,590 km |
| ● State Highways | 131,899 km |
| ● Major District Roads | 467,763 km |
| ● Rural and Other Roads | 2,650,000 km |
| ● Single Lane/ Intermediate | 32% |
| ● Double Lane | 56% |
| ● Four or more Lanes | 12% |
| ● Total Length | 3,300,350 km |

Source: National Highway Authority of India

(ii) Rail Transport: Indian railways provides the principal mode of transportation for public and tourists. It brings together people of different areas for business, sightseeing, religious, education etc. Indian Railways have been a great unifying

force during the last 160 years and plays a very vital role in the social and economic development of the country. India has the second largest Railways network in Asia and the fourth largest in the world after USA, Russia and China. India tops world's leading countries with regard to passengers carried per kilometer. During 2008-09, the number of passengers carried was 6,920 million, which was merely 1,284 million in 1950-51 indicating the increase of about 5.5 times over a period of little less than 60 years the majority of domestic tourists are primarily dependent on Railways for long travel. Ministry of Railways is making positive efforts for improving the demands of passengers like increasing faster trains, safe and comfortable journey.

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(a) Tourism Promoting Trains

Indian Railways are running few special trains to promote tourism in India such as Toy Train, Palace on Wheels, Fairy Queen, Heritage on Wheels, Bharat Darshan train, Train of Darjeeling, Nilgiri Mountain Rail of south India and Kalka-Shimla Rail make their place in the World Heritage list of UNESCO. Few special trains have been started to promote tourism in India. They are:

- Toy train,
- Palace on Wheels,
- Fairy Queen,
- Heritage on Wheels,

Palace on Wheels is a royal train which provides all-inclusive package tour of seven days covering important tourist sites of Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra. Its coaches have luxury services. This is popular among domestic and international tourists who want to enjoy sight seeing of the region, travelling in sheer luxury and enjoying a delicious cuisine simultaneously.

Fairy Queen Train has the oldest steam locomotive engine. It departs from Delhi and stops at Alwar where guests are taken to the Sariska tiger reserve forest for an over night stay.

Heritage on Wheels is a luxury train connecting small cities of Rajasthan, which includes Bikaner, Gajner, Nawalgarh, Mandawa, Ramgarh and Shekhawati. This is a luxury train consisting of 14 saloons, each one designed keeping in the mind the heritage and culture of Rajasthan.

Bharat Darshan is a special tourist train, which covers all the important tourist places in the country. The affordable cost of tour package covers accommodation arrangement for each coach, tourist buses for visiting sight seeing spots, hall

accommodation at places of night stay: Guides for information are some of the added facilities.



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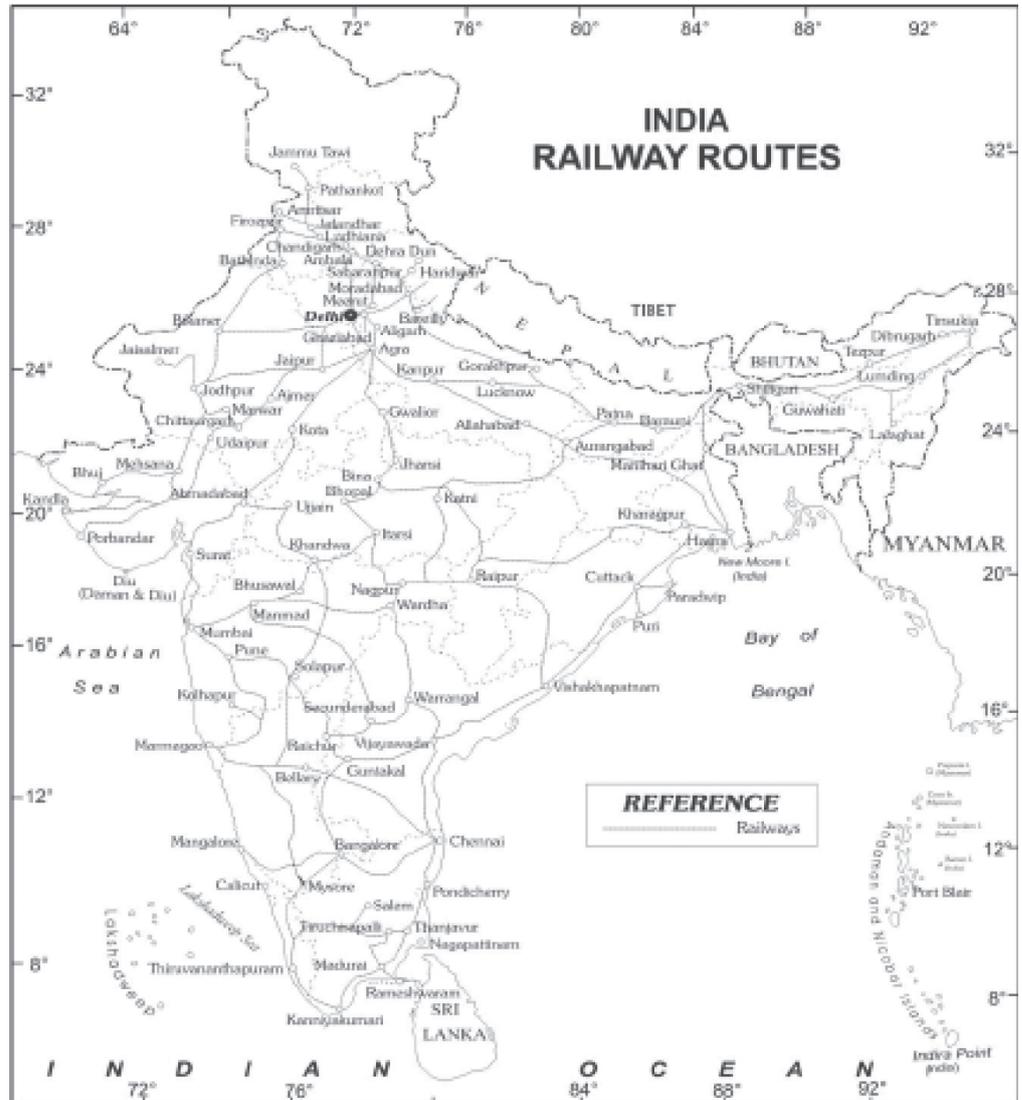


Fig. 5.3: Railways in India

(b) Metro Rail and Trams

To some extent, Delhi Metro Rail has shown significant impact in solving the transportation problems in the city. It is completely air-conditioned, safe and clean. It provides connectivity to major tourist sites and provides comfortable journey to the tourists.

Tram has been running in Kolkata city since British times. Along with the daily and local commuters, the tram is providing comfortable and cheap journey to

the tourists also. The Kolkata tramway has many vintage features. It uses a trolley pole and foot gong, which is rare among international tram systems.

(iii) Air Transport

Air transport is used to carry tourists and luggages over long distances and it has a very important role to play in the tourism development. At global level, demand of air transport is increasing, as it has made it easy to visit any place in the world within 24 hours. Airports provide the entire basic infrastructure, which is needed for passenger comfort. Government of India is now spending huge amount of money to upgrade and modernise the airports of Delhi and Mumbai. About 97 per cent of international tourist arrive in India by air transport. Delhi and Mumbai are main entry points for more than 70 per cent of international tourists.

Now, tourist charter flights can land at all 16 designated international airports, namely Ahmedabad, Agra, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Varanasi and Port Blair. Many public and private air travel agencies offer concessional tickets, special packages to attract more of lower budget tourists.

(iv) Water Transport

Since the Indus valley civilization, rivers have been used for transportation of goods and human beings. There are three major dimensions of tourism categories of water transport:

- (i) Coastal Shipping
- (ii) Inland Waterways
- (iii) Sea transport

India is bordered by Bay of Bengal in east, Arabian Sea in west and Indian Ocean in the south and it has a very vast coastline of about 7500 km including Lakshdweep and Andman Island and Nicobar Island. The country has an extensive Network of inland waterways and seaports. The inland waterways include rivers, canals, backwaters and creeks. There are 12 major ports and 185 non-majorports. On the west coast they are Kandla, Porbandar Mumbai, Jawahar Lal Nehru (Maharashtra), Marmagao, Mangalore and Kochi. On the east coast they are Tutikorin, Nagapattinam, Chennai, Vishakhapatanam, Paradip and Haldia and Kolkata. All the coastal states have at least one major port. Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal have two major ports each while Tamil Nadu has three major ports.

Waterways provide only one per cent of total transport in India though the navigable inland waterways account for 14, 500 km comprising different river system. A total of 3700 km is fit for using mechanised boats and steamers. There

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are three major important National waterways in India. They are Allahabad – Haldia stretch (1620 km), Sadiya – Dhubri stretch (891 km) and Kottapuram–Kollam stretch (205 km). These waterways also attract tourists both national and international. Thus they are also promoting Indian travel and tourism industry.



Fig. 5.4: Air and Sea Routes in India

Water transport is also used for tourism promotion as West Bengal Tourism Department introduced special tourist programmes to carry tourists to Sunderbans. Goa Tourism Department organises sea cruises for half or full day booking for tourists. Tourists enjoy a lot cruising on the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Hoogly

ivers. River rafting is already in operation between Rishikesh and Haridwar. Lakes and backwaters like Dal lake in Kashmir, Nainilake in Nainital, Nakki Lake in Mount Abu, Chilka Lake in Orissa etc. are attracting a great number of national and international tourists. Tourists visiting Lakshdweep Island or Andman and Nikobar Island are taken by the boats and ships where different kinds of recreation activities are arranged for them.

5.5 TRANSPORT TO PROMOTE TOURIST

Transport acts as an integral part of tourism connecting the tourist generating and destination areas. The capacity of a transport system determines the pace of tourist flow. Besides an increase in the capacity of transport system, the provision of comfort, reasonably high speeds with safety, discounts in the ticket and light refreshments are incentives. It enhances the tourism activities in such areas. Sometimes good or bad experiences in transport services leave an imprint on the mind of tourists for whole of their life. Hence, it is clear that tourist transport system is very essential for growth and development of tourism.

Certain measures are also needed to boost tourism.

- i. Clear information on location, distance, and fare for tourist sites should be given along with a timetable and information about connecting buses, rail and air modes of travel.
- ii. Updated arrival and departure information should be available on information boards, internet and telephone.
- iii. Aged and physically challenged tourists should be treated well.
- iv. A system of standard signs and symbols should be developed and installed on road, railway stations and air terminals.
- v. Infrastructure in tourist transportation should be created and improved.
- vi. Eco friendly transportations should be developed.
- vii. All terminals and stations should be neat, clean and tidy.
- viii. Strict action should be taken against the persons who mislead and cheat tourists.
- ix. Tourist Police should be there to help especially for female tourist.



ACTIVITY 5.1

Go to any tourist place and meet some tourists. Ask about the problems faced by them. Get suggestions for improvement in tourist transportation system.



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INTEXT QUESTIONS 5.1

1. What are different major modes of transport?
2. Write in brief, about the special trains promoting tourism in India.
3. Differentiate between Air and Water transport used by tourists.
4. Give any four suggestions for better transportation system.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- Development of transport is essential for the growth and development of tourism. It provides the accessibility to the tourists to reach there. The area with least accessibility hinders tourism.
- Transport is needed not only for tourism but is also the backbone for the economic development. Providing good connectivity to different tourist sites attracts tourists.
- Tourists are of different status in terms of economic background. Therefore, various options should be available for each to reach the tourists destinations.
- The transport facility available in any particular area depends upon the provisions created. Hence, depending upon the area and requirements – transport systems are of four types:
 1. Road Transport
 2. Rail Transport
 3. Air Transport
 4. Water Transport.
- All these transport facilities are different and provide different characteristics.
- Air transport is the fastest means which can carry people very quickly from over long distances but it is very costly in comparison to other three means.
- Rail transport is convenient if the long distance is to be covered alongwith huge luggage. It is cheap and carries big number of people together.
- Road transport provides door to door services as well as it connects with other means of transport rail, air and water.
- Water transport thrills the people/tourists, cruises are arranged for such tourists. It is the cheapest mode but taken the longest duration and consumes less energy. Very heavy items are transported very easily by paying lesser amount. Now-a-days cruise trips are becoming very popular.

**TERMINAL EXERCISE**

1. Analyse the role of transportation in tourism promotion.
2. Discuss in detail the different means of tourist transportation.
3. Analyse the role of Indian Railways in tourism development in India.
4. In the era of globalization, how is Air transport contributing to the tourism industry?

**ANSWER TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****5.1**

1. Transport is movement of people and goods from one place to another. It plays a very important role in tourism. It provides basic accessibility in connecting various places and people. There are four major modes of transport: 1. Road Transport, 2. Rail transport, 3. Air Transport and 4. Water Transport. Road transport has a number of advantages like flexibility, reliability, speed and is cheaper, and efficient than other means of transport. Surface roads provide a way to reach railway stations, airports, seaports. Road can take the tourist upto the last destination points. Different types of road vehicles like car, taxi, coaches, buses and jeeps are used.
2. In India, there are many special trains, which are promoting tourism in country. Some of them are: Toy Train, Palace on Wheels, Maharaja Express, Deccan Odessey, Mahapari Nirvan.
3. Aircrafts transport people and tourists through air. Air transport is used to carry tourist and their luggage over long distances. It is easy to reach any place in the world within 24 hours. Water transport is possible through river, lake, canal, sea etc. It is very cheap but consumes more time as compared to air transport.
4. (a) There should be clear cut information on location, distance, fares of tourist sites.
(b) Information should be given about timetable, arrival and departure of transport.
(c) Tourist transport infrastructure should be created and developed.
(d) A system of standard signs and symbols should be developed and installed on road, railways stations and air terminals.

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