Chapter 12: Lifelines of National Economy

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Exercise 12.1 — Multiple Choice Questions

Q1 Which two of the following extreme locations are connected by the east-west corridor? (a) Mumbai and Nagpur (b) Silchar and Porbandar (c) Mumbai and Kolkata (d) Nagpur and Siligudi

SOLUTION

The chapter states that the East-West Corridor of the Golden Quadrilateral project connects Silchar (Assam) and Porbander (Gujarat).

Answer: (b) Silchar and Porbandar

Q2 Which mode of transportation reduces trans-shipment losses and delays? (a) Railways (b) Roadways (c) Pipeline (d) Waterways

SOLUTION

The chapter notes that once a pipeline is laid its running costs are minimal and it "rules out trans-shipment losses or delays", because the material flows continuously from source to destination without being unloaded and reloaded.

Answer: (c) Pipeline

Q3 Which one of the following states is not connected with the H.V.J. pipeline? (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Gujarat (d) Uttar Pradesh

SOLUTION

The Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) gas pipeline links the Mumbai High and Bassein gas fields with fertilizer, power and industrial complexes in western and northern India, running through Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Maharashtra does not lie on this route.

Answer: (b) Maharashtra

Q4 Which one of the following ports is the deepest land-locked and well-protected port along the east coast? (a) Chennai (b) Paradwip (c) V.O. Chidambaranar (Tuticorin) (d) Vishakhapatnam

SOLUTION

The chapter states that "Vishakhapatnam is the deepest landlocked and well-protected port", originally conceived as an outlet for iron ore exports. It lies on the east coast.

Answer: (d) Vishakhapatnam

Q5 Which one of the following is the most important modes of transportation in India? (a) Pipeline (b) Railways (c) Roadways (d) Airways

SOLUTION

The chapter describes railways as "the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers in India" and the largest public sector undertaking in the country, binding the economic life of the nation.

Answer: (b) Railways

Q6 Which one of the following terms is used to describe trade between two or more countries? (a) Internal trade (b) International trade (c) External trade (d) Local trade

SOLUTION

The chapter defines that "Trade between two countries is called international trade", distinguishing it from local and state-level trade carried on within a country.

Answer: (b) International trade

Exercise 12.2 — Answer the following questions in about 30 words

Q1 State any three merits of roadways.

SOLUTION

Three merits of roadways as given in the chapter:

(a) The construction cost of roads is much lower than that of railway lines.

(b) Roads can traverse comparatively more dissected and undulating topography and negotiate higher gradients, so they can cross mountains such as the Himalayas.

(c) Road transport is economical for carrying a few persons and a relatively small amount of goods over short distances, and it provides door-to-door service, lowering loading and unloading costs.

Answer: Lower construction cost than railways; ability to cross dissected, undulating and mountainous terrain; and economical door-to-door service for small loads over short distances.

Q2 Where and why is rail transport the most convenient means of transportation?

SOLUTION

Rail transport is the most convenient means of transportation in the vast plain areas of the country, where the level terrain allows tracks to be laid and long-distance movement to be carried on easily.

It is convenient because railways are the principal mode of transport for both freight and passengers in India. They make it possible to conduct multifarious activities like business, sightseeing and pilgrimage along with the transportation of goods over longer distances, binding the economic life of the country and accelerating the development of industry and agriculture.

Answer: In the level plain areas, because railways can carry heavy freight and large numbers of passengers over long distances there, integrating the country's economy.

Q3 What is the significance of the border roads?

SOLUTION

Border roads are constructed and maintained by the Border Roads Organisation, a Government of India undertaking established in 1960 for the development of roads of strategic importance in the northern and north-eastern border areas.

These roads have improved accessibility in areas of difficult terrain and have helped in the economic development of these border regions.

Answer: They are strategic roads in the northern and north-eastern border areas that improve accessibility in difficult terrain and aid the economic development of these regions.

Q4 What is meant by trade? What is the difference between international and local trade?

SOLUTION

Trade is the exchange of goods among people, states and countries. The place where such exchanges take place is called the market.

International trade is trade carried on between two countries, taking place through sea, air or land routes. Local trade, in contrast, is carried on within cities, towns and villages of the same country (while state-level trade is carried between two or more states).

Answer: Trade is the exchange of goods among people, states and countries. International trade is between two countries, whereas local trade is carried within cities, towns and villages of one country.

Exercise 12.3 — Answer the following questions in about 120 words

Q1 Why are the means of transportation and communication called the lifelines of a nation and its economy?

SOLUTION

The means of transportation and communication are called the lifelines of a nation and its economy because production, the movement of goods and services, and their exchange all depend on them.

Transport carries raw materials from their sources to factories and delivers finished goods to markets. Railways, the principal mode of transport for freight and passengers, bind the economic life of the country and accelerate the development of industry and agriculture. Roadways provide door-to-door service and reach remote and hilly areas; pipelines carry crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas to distant refineries and plants; waterways offer the cheapest transport for heavy, bulky goods; and airways cover difficult terrain quickly.

Communication networks such as telephones, radio, television, newspapers and information technology spread news, ideas and information, tying together the personal, business and administrative life of the country.

Because trade and the whole economy would collapse without this constant movement of goods, people and information, transportation and communication are rightly called the lifelines of the nation and its economy.

Answer: Because the movement of goods, people, resources and information on which production, trade and the entire economy depend flows through transport and communication networks, without which the nation's economic life could not function.

Q2 Write a note on the changing nature of the international trade in the last fifteen years.

SOLUTION

The nature of India's international trade has changed considerably. The commodities India now exports include gems and jewellery, chemicals and related products, and agriculture and allied products, while its imports include petroleum crude and products, gems and jewellery, chemicals, base metals, electronic items, machinery, and agriculture and allied products.

A major change is the rise of information technology: India has emerged as a software giant at the international level and earns large foreign exchange through the export of information technology.

Tourism too has grown remarkably as a form of trade, aided by government schemes such as Swadesh Darshan 2.0, the Vibrant Village Programme, PRASHAD and Paryatan Mitra. Foreign tourists come for heritage, eco, adventure, cultural, medical and business tourism, promoting national integration and supporting local handicrafts.

Thus the character of international trade has shifted from conventional goods towards services like software and tourism, making India increasingly integrated with the global economy.

Answer: It has shifted from conventional commodities towards services: India has become a software giant earning large foreign exchange through IT exports, while tourism has grown into a major trade, backed by government schemes.