

# AN OVERVIEW: INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA

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## Abstract

*A good Infrastructure is considered to be the backbone of any economy. It is a comprehensive term that includes many sectors. Generally infrastructure facilities include Transport, Insurance, Banking, Communication, Energy, Technology, etc. The availability of adequate infrastructure facilities, both economic and social, is vital for the acceleration of the economic development of a country. During the last decades the urban population has increased because of attraction of better employment opportunities in urban areas. Urban infrastructure includes transport, electricity, water supply and sanitation which are important basic needs for improvement of the quality of life. If proper infrastructural facilities are developed many entrepreneurs will come forward to develop the country. Economic growth is dependent on adequate cheap and efficient infrastructure. It is the responsibility of the government to provide basic needs of people such as safe drinking water, well connected roads, uninterrupted power supply and transport facilities. The new economic policy aimed at stepping up economic growth, improving market efficiency and competitiveness and integrating the Indian economy with global markets have already placed a heavy demand on all types of urban infrastructure services. The research paper examines the importance of infrastructure development and resources utilization for urban area.*

**Keywords:** Infrastructure, Economic development, Economic growth, Employment.

## INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure developments will drive the future growth of Indian economy. It contributes to economic development by increasing productivity and quality of human life. The economic growth and urban development go hand in hand, therefore, with the economic liberalisation and anticipated higher rate of growth of economy will also increase the rate of urbanisation in the coming decades. In India and most of the developing countries, the urban development is mostly uncontrolled. In such uncontrolled race, the right type of infrastructure provided. Developing the infrastructure is one of the key elements of growth. Basically infrastructure comprises of roads, buildings, irrigation, canals, power, transport, telecommunication and other related areas. Each area is a unique one that is said to be vital for the economic development. In spite of the phenomenal progress there has been a lot to do in the infrastructure sector. Growth of urban population in India during the past decade indicates higher growth for metro cities. However, development of basic infrastructure services like water supply, sanitation facilities, solid waste management and transportation could not keep pace with the growth of urban population.

## OBJECTIVES

- To understand the resources utilisation for infrastructure.
- To study the importance of transport in infrastructure.
- To examine the role of energy in infrastructure.
- To find out the need of telecommunication in infrastructure.
- To study the importance of water resource.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research paper, I briefly summarize some of the key concepts and frameworks of infrastructure in India. The data is collected through the secondary sources like case studies, articles, research papers, journals, newspapers, magazines and publication.

### Resources Utilisation for Urban Infrastructure

Urban and rural utility infrastructure required for efficient functioning of an urban and rural area. Particularly:

- Transport
- Energy

- Telecommunication
- Water

➤ **Transport:**

Transport is the one of the important factors influences nation building economy. It holds the country, connect people and provide access to resources and markets. Efficient and well developed system of transport is a prerequisite for the rapid development. Adequate and reliability of transport infrastructure and services are important factors, which contribute towards the ability of the country to compete in the field of international trade and attract foreign direct investment. Development of the various transport modes in an integrated manner that will lead to realisation of an efficient, sustainable, safe and regionally balanced transportation system. The efficiency of transport depends upon speed, cost and safety. Government plays a major role in developing our transport facilities and allocated more fund to develop roads, railways and airways.

▪ **Road Transport:** Roads are the life-line of any economy. India has one of the largest road network in the world. Roads are one of the basic infrastructure for socio economic development, particularly of backward areas. The areas which are not served by railways, roads are the only means of transport. It is dominant form of transport for people and goods in India. Over 80 percent of passengers and over 60 percent of goods move by roads.

▪ **Rail Transport:** Railways plays an important role in the Indian economy. The Indian railway system is the largest in the Asia and the second biggest the world. Various studies have indicated that rail based systems are most cost effective and environment friendly when high capacities are required.

▪ **Water Transport:** The bulk of export trade is now carried by sea routes, the existing port infrastructure is insufficient to handle trade flows effectively. The current capacity at major ports is over stretched. The performance of Indian ports compare favourably with that of efficient ports in the Asian region.

▪ **Air Transport:** The next important segment is air transport. It has a major role of to play must offer reliability, regularity and revenue. Reliability denotes safety, regularity means scheduling and revenue means cost effectiveness. The important development is that with liberalisation of economic policy major structural adjustments have also taken place in the aviation sector.

➤ **Energy:**

Economic growth of a country is the availability of energy. Electric power, which is one form of energy is an essential ingredient of economic development and it is required for commercial and non-commercial uses. Commercial uses of energy in industries, agriculture, transport etc. Non-commercial includes electric power required for domestic lighting, cooking, refrigerators, air conditioners etc. In view of the widening gap between demand and supply and the huge capital cost involved in the installation of new power plants, a movement has been launched to make consumers aware of the need to save energy. The government is promoting energy accounting and monitoring systems. Energy audits have been carried out in a number of industrial units to identify energy saving opportunities and eliminate wastage. It may be observed that the consumption of power by domestic consumers and for public lighting has increased. India cannot compete effectively in world market unless critical energy inputs are available in adequate quantities and at appropriate prices. India has a vast potential of renewable energy resources and a number of technologies have been developed to harness them. India cannot compete effectively in world markets unless critical energy inputs are available in adequate and at appropriate prices. India is short of most energy resources. The present energy scenario is not satisfactory. The energy supply position prevailing in the country is characterised by persistent shortages, unreliability and high prices. India's energy consumption has been increasing at one of the fastest rates in the world due to population growth and economic development.

➤ **Telecommunication:**

Telecommunication has emerged as a key driver of economic and social development and in an increasingly knowledge intensive global scenario India needs to play a leadership role. The Telecommunication sector has undergone a total transformation throughout the world over the last two decades. It has become especially important in recent year because of enormous growth of information technology and its significant impact on the rest of the economy. Technological advances have revolutionised the quality and range of services available. An advanced telecommunication system is equally important for service industries like retailing, banking, transportation, insurance, trading etc. India's vast size, the large number of spread out settlements and its large unserved urban population provides a huge potential for the expansion of telecommunication services. In our country Department of Telecommunication provides this service to the people. Telecom projects will be treated as infrastructure and will now receive fiscal incentives currently being extended to infrastructure projects like tax holiday and concessional project import duty. An assignability agreement between the department of telecommunications and the financial institutions has been reached and this would facilitate funding of cellular and basic telecom projects. To ensure easy access of basic telephone services to the people at affordable and reasonable prices, private companies have been invited to supplement the efforts of DoT in the area of basic

telecom services. It has been decided by the central government that the responsibility of developing infrastructure will be vested with DoT and there will be private entry only in services.

➤ **Water:**

The single most voluminous commodity required in city is water. In India 86 per cent of the urban population has access to potable water in various cities and towns. Per capita water consumption varies from as low as 40 liters per capita per day up to 300 liters per capita per day. Water is one of the most essential natural resources for life and availability of clean water is likely to become critical in many regions of the world in the next century. Water supply schemes require capital investments for development of source, transmission, treatment, storage and distribution of water. As per WHO statistics 80 percent of diseases in developing countries are related to unsafe water supply and inadequate sanitation, low life expectancy and poor quality of life. Domestic water use will increase as the population continues to grow and access to water is improved. Most urban areas are serviced by a municipal water distribution system. Over 80 per cent of the rural domestic water comes from ground water sources science it is more reliable in terms of water quality and quantity. Inadequacy in the availability of safe drinking water, unfavourable environmental conditions and lack of personal hygiene have been a major causes of diseases and disability among people. The rain fall in India shows great variations, unequal seasonal distribution. It is not even and has spatial and temporal variation causing droughts in some part of the country and floods in others. Rain water harvesting is essential and mass awareness programmes that the surplus runoff that flows into the sea, is conserved and recharged to augment ground water resources. Water conservation campaigns have been launched for various target groups like farmers, man, woman, children's, villagers and opinion makers. Domestic water use will increase as the population continues to grow, sustainable development and efficient management of water is an increasingly complex challenge in India.

## SUGGESTIONS

- To allow more private companies to participate in the development of infrastructure.
- The procedure for land acquisition for National Highways has been simplified.
- To provide land free of charge for highway development.
- To provide sufficient fund and incentives to energy sector by government.
- To provide quick clearance process to set up energy projects.
- To provide proper infrastructure facilities to telecommunication sector.
- To provide preferential market access for domestically manufactured telecom company.
- To prepare planning, policy formulation, coordination and guidance in the water resources.
- To provide special Central financial assistance for specific water resources.

## CONCLUSION

In spite of the phenomenal growth there has been a lot of to do in the infrastructure sector. At present government is extending many subsidies and can invest the amount to develop infrastructure facilities. The participation of private sectors in infrastructure development should be encouraged by providing fiscal and other incentives. The current infrastructure is inadequate in terms of both quality and quantity. The roads, ports, railways, telecommunications, power and other facilities have shown some growth but still are inadequate. Infrastructure projects call for not only massive investments and their efficient execution but also to maintain them efficiently. In view of the huge importance, potential and problems of infrastructure development, there is an urgent need on the part of the government to adopt an appropriate strategy for the sector. In spite of its prominent role in Indian economy, urban India faces serious problems due to population pressure, deterioration in the physical environment and quality of life. There is a huge and widening gap between demand supply of essential services and infrastructure.

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