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Transport & Communication - Up to the middle of the 19th century, the means of transport in India were backward. They were confined to bullock-cart, camel, and packhorse. The British rulers soon realized that a cheap and easy system of transport was a necessity if British manufactures were to flow into India on a large scale and her raw materials secured for British industries. The British rulers introduced steamships on the rivers and set about improving the roads. Work on the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Delhi began in 1839 and completed in the 1850's. Development of Railway. The first railway engine designed by George Stephenson was put on the rail in England in 1814. Railways developed rapidly during the 1830s and 1840s. establish that modes of transport and communication help in connecting people and facilitate the socio-economic growth of a region; classify roads on different parameters and appreciate the role and importance of road transport in our daily life and national development; examine the factors affecting the distribution and density of railway network in India and recognise the technical advancement that has taken place in this sphere The modes of transport on which the countries depend for connecting people, growth and development are as under: Modes of Transport. The government has launched a major road development project linking north, south, east and west India. This will reduce time and fuel. Then it will also help to maintain fast flow of traffic between mega cities of India. The University of North Bengal ; also known as NBU is a public research university in Raja Rammohanpur, Siliguri in Darjeeling district in the Indian state of West Bengal. A second campus is in Danguajhar, Jalpaiguri in Jalpaiguri district, also in West Bengal. The university was established in 1962 to fill growing manpower needs in the six North Bengal districts and the neighbouring state of Sikkim. North Bengal University offers degrees in undergraduate, post-graduate, M. Phil and doctorate programs. Transport and communications improved in the 17th century. In 1600 the royal posts were exclusively used to carry the king's correspondence. However in 1635, to raise money, Charles I allowed members of the public to pay his messengers to carry letters. Transport was greatly improved during the 18th century. Groups of rich men formed turnpike trusts. Acts of Parliament gave them the right to improve and maintain certain roads. Travelers had to pay tolls to use them. The first turnpikes were created as early as 1663 but they became far more common in the 18th century. The first hovercraft passenger service began in 1962. Meanwhile a completely new form of transport began. In 1919 planes began carrying passengers between London and Paris. Transportation and communication are central to the development of any society and its economy, and early modern Europe was no exception. The letter was central to the development of humanism, and most were written with the expectation that they would be read and discussed by a much wider audience than the intended recipient. The spread of humanism north of the Alps in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and its inclusion in the education of the upper classes, meant that effective letter-writing skills became a necessity for well-bred ladies and gentlemen. The growth of Dutch commercial centers, and especially of the predominant city of Amsterdam, required the reduction of transportation costs and a predictable, dependable supply of goods.