

# SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

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# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

- An efficient transport system is essential for promoting economic development.
- Transport system in Bangladesh comprises a number of distinct modes and services, notably railways, roads, road transport, ports, inland water transport, coastal shipping, airports and airlines etc.
- However, roads and inland water transport are the dominant means of transport carrying more than 90% of total traffic generated in the country and will continue to dominate the transport landscape in the foreseeable future.
- Public sector is mainly responsible for development and maintenance of transport infrastructure in Bangladesh.
- Presently in Bangladesh there are about
  - ❑ 55,000 kms of paved roads
  - ❑ 2,877 route-kilometers of railways
  - ❑ 3,800 kms of perennial waterways which increases to about 6,000 km during the monsoon
  - ❑ 2 seaports
  - ❑ 2 international airports (i.e. Dhaka and Chittagong) and 8 domestic airports.

## INTRODUCTION

- ▣ Public sector is mainly responsible for development and maintenance of transport infrastructure in Bangladesh.
- ▣ The public sector is involved in transport operations in road, inland water transport (IWT) and ocean shipping alongside the private sector.
- ▣ In the road transport and IWT sub-sectors, the private sector is dominant.
- ▣ In ocean shipping, however, public sector still predominates, although the private sector has considerably increased its role in recent years.
- ▣ Recently private sector has also become important operator in air transport, both domestic and international.
- ▣ Involvement of the private sector in railway operation, however, is very limited.

## Present Status of Transport System and Services

- ❑ Bangladesh witnessed rapid growth of transport sector since independence. The overall annual growth rate was nearly 8.2 percent for freight transport and 8.4 percent for passenger transport
- ❑ The relative roles of transport modes are evolving with road transport expanding at the expense of railways and inland water transport because of its inherent technical and cost advantages.

## Railways

Railway (BR) provides, environment-friendly less and less expensive transport services. It has got a total 77.10 route kilometres (broad gauge 659.33 km, dual gauge 1,182.94 km and metre gauge-1,842.94 km).

Railways played a significant role as a dominant mode of transport because of its less hazardous and less expensive services. In recent years the railway has been losing its share to other modes, especially the road because of its capability to provide door to door service. Policy shift in favour of road has also been the cause of the decline of railway's share of passenger and freight

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