

## **Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials**

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**Unit: II**

**Module Name: Major International Air Routes**

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### **Notes**

#### **Introduction**

- An airway or air route is defined as a corridor that connects one specified location to another.
- Airways are defined with segments within a specific altitude block, corridor width, and between fixed geographic coordinates for satellite navigation system, or between ground-based radio transmitter navigational aids.

#### **Importance of Air Transport**

- Air transport is an important enabler to achieve economic growth and development.
- Air transport facilitates integration into the global economy and provides vital connectivity on a national, regional, and international scale.
- It helps generate trade, promote tourism, and create employment opportunities.

#### **Inter-continental Air Routes**

- In the Northern Hemisphere, there is a distinct east-west belt of inter-continental air routes.

- Dense network exists in Eastern USA, Western Europe and South East Asia.
- USA alone accounts for 60 per cent of airways in the world.
- New York, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Rome, Moscow, Karachi, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangkok, Singapore, Tokyo, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago are nodal points where routes converge or radiate to all continents.
- Africa, Asiatic part of Russia and South America lack services. There are limited air services between 10-35 latitudes in the Southern hemisphere due to sparser population, limited landmass and economic development.

### Busiest Air Routes in the World

#### Between Hong Kong and Taipei, Taiwan

- The cross-Strait flight is the world's busiest with nearly 8 million seats being offered over the course of the year.
- Five airlines service the route normally including China Airlines, EVA Air, Hong Kong Airlines, Cathay Pacific, and Cathay Dragon for a total of 7,965,538 seats.
- Wide-body aircraft including the Airbus A330 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner are prominently featured, allowing for the higher seat count.

#### Between Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Singapore

- Air route between the two capital cities sees 5,560,894 seats offered by nine airlines.
- The route is not only popular with Asian airlines but foreign airlines use the small sector as a tag flight.

#### Between Jakarta, Indonesia, and Singapore

- Eight airlines routinely flew between Jakarta and Singapore.
- Batik Air, Ethiopian Airlines, Garuda Indonesia, Indonesia AirAsia, Jetstar Asia Airways, Lion Air, Scoot, and Singapore Airlines offered 5,480,000 seats in total during the year.
- Singapore is the closest economic hub to Jakarta, with the route acting as a vital air bridge to the economic powerhouse.

### Between Bangkok, Thailand, and Hong Kong

- The route is not only popular among regional airlines but also Middle Eastern and African airlines flying fifth freedom tag flights on the route.
- In total, 4,826,872 seats were offered on the route during the course of the year, making it the second busiest route serving Hong Kong.

### Between Hong Kong and Shanghai, China

- Though the two cities are connected by a high-speed rail able to make the near-800 mile journey in around eight hours, air travel is still the dominant means of travel between Shanghai and Hong Kong.
- Airlines offered 4,463,658 seats in 2019 on the route that averages two hours and 15 minutes in each direction.

### Between Hong Kong and Seoul, South Korea

- One of the most crowded international routes in terms of the number of airlines serving it.
- Air lines- Korean Air, Jin Air, Jeju Air, Hong Kong Airlines, HK Express, Cathay Pacific, Cathay Dragon, Eastar Jet, Air Seoul, and Asiana Airlines.
- Offered 3,942,875 seats during the year 2019. That can be attributed to the near-four-hour duration of the journey across mainland China and the Yellow Sea reducing the number of frequencies combined with the smaller narrow-body aircraft used by the Korean carriers.

### Between Hong Kong and Manilla, Philippines

- Six airlines saw service on the Hong Kong-Manila route in 2019, the busiest route to touch the archipelagic nation of the Philippines.
- Around 3,852,991 seats were offered by the airlines connecting the two capital cities.

### Between New York and London, United Kingdom

- Four airlines including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Delta Air Lines, and American Airlines flew the route daily in 2019 just between New York's JFK Airport and London Heathrow Airport, the busiest international airports in each city.
- It offered 3,833,701 seats throughout the year, all on wide-body aircraft.

- The transatlantic route was also the most profitable for some, earning British Airways over \$1 billion in revenue in 2018 and 2019.

#### Between Bangkok, Thailand, and Singapore

- Only five airlines served the route between Bangkok and the Singaporean city-state including Cathay Pacific, Druk Air, Jetstar Asia Airways, Singapore Airlines, and Thai Airways in 2019.
- The sector is also the second-busiest to touch Thailand.

#### Between Jakarta, Indonesia, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Nine airlines connected the two capital cities separated by Java Sea and Strait of Malacca in 2019.
- AirAsia, Batik Air, Citilink, Garuda Indonesia, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Indonesia AirAsia, Lion Air, and Malindo Air all served offering 3,798,559 seats throughout the year.
- The route is also the second busiest to touch both Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur.

#### Advantages of Air Transport

##### High Speed

- It is the fastest mode of transport and therefore suitable for carriage of goods over a long distance. It requires less time.

##### Quick Service

- Air transport provides comfortable, efficient and quick transport services. It is regarded as the best mode of transport for transporting perishable goods.

##### No Physical Barrier

- Air transport is free from physical barriers because it follows the shortest and direct routes where seas, mountains and forests do not obstruct.

##### National defense

- It plays a significant role in the national defense of the country because modern wars are conducted with the help of aeroplanes.

#### Conclusion

- The air transport industry is not only a vital engine of global socio-economic growth but is also of vital importance for economic development.
- Its importance arises not only from its ability to facilitate the movement of people but also its ability to expedite the movement of goods.
- The air transport industry needs not only to be financially sound to be effective as an economic catalyst for growth but also to be environmentally responsible.
- The development of more fuel efficient aircraft and engines must also be encouraged.