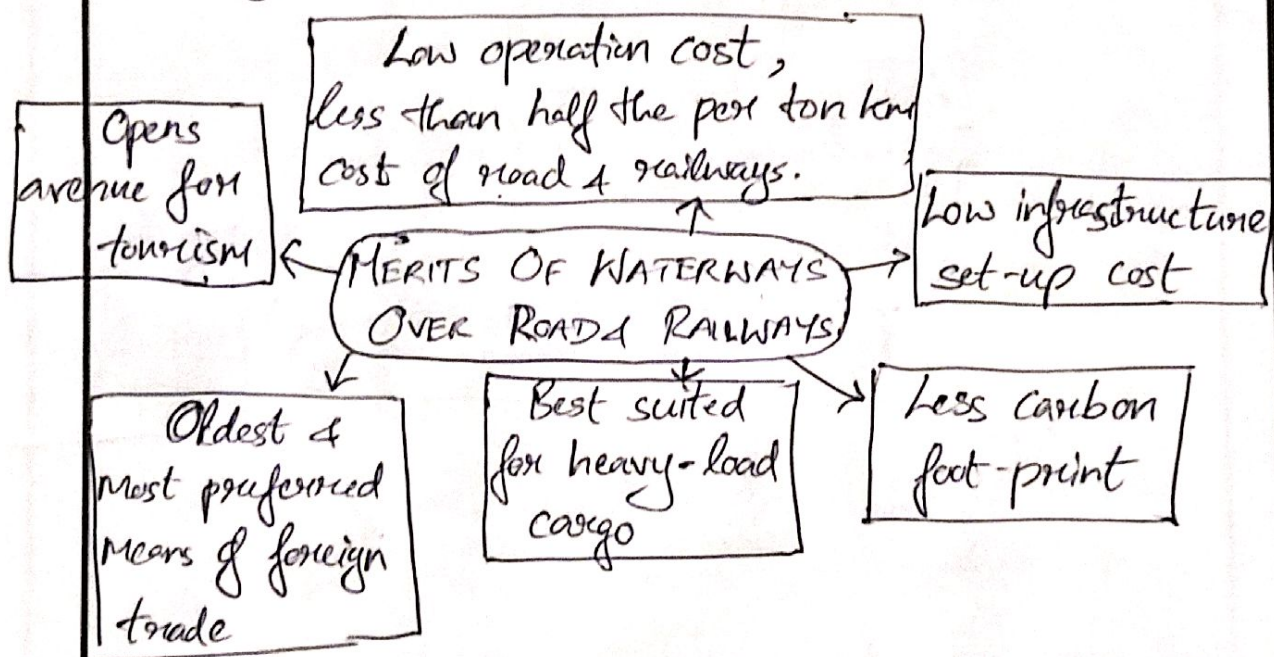


3) Discuss the merit of water-based transportation against the road & railways. What are the steps the GoI has taken to promote Indian waterways. & What more needs to be done?

India has a 7,500 km vast coastline & another 14,500 km of navigable inland waterway. By virtue of being a natural asset, it has the following merits over the road & railways —



However, inland waterways are efficient only when water levels are high & thus requires dredging. It negatively affects biodiversity. Also, it is slowest means of transport & not suitable for perishable goods. Frequent oil-spills severely affects marine life.

Yet for larger economic gains, the government has taken many steps to promote Indian waterways.

- Sagarimala - Initiative : It is a port-led development programme, also including coastal community development.



- Jal Marg Vikas Project : Infrastructure development programme in NWH-1 from Varanasi to Haldia.
- Identification of 106 new waterways in the recent National Waterways Act 2016. (inland)
- Automation of ports for reducing transaction time & cost. Eg: It is successful in Nhava Sheva port.
- Encourages bio-remediation techniques to reduce oil-spills also promotes ~~waterway~~ waterways responsibly.

India can bring in / tighten Cabotage law to reduce fiscal pressure due to imports. Japan follows the same for its imports, by allowing only domestic ships to transport goods within ports. Ro-Ro services, Sea-plane services can be expanded to boost tourism.