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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Logistics Sector

"Logistics is that part of the supply chain process that plans, implements, and controls the efficient, effective flow and storage of goods, services, and related information from the point-of-origin to the point-of-consumption in order to meet customers' requirements" (Waters, 2014). Rodrigue (2012) provides an alternative definition to logistics as a range of activities spanning from transformation, value addition to distribution of goods in the consumer market. Therefore, logistics refers to the entire gamut of activities related to safe movement, storage, acquisition and value addition of resources. Logistics is the link that connects suppliers to producers, producers to retailers and retailers to customers. In today's globalized world, Logistics has emerged as an essential element of businesses, and developments in this sector have ushered in economic development and growth of the countries (Hayaloglu, 2015). Being an inherent part of supply chain management, logistics play a significant role as an enabler for international trade and businesses. In 2023, the size of the logistics market (globally) was estimated to be USD 8.96 trillion and the same is expected to reach USD 21.91 by 2033 at a CAGR of 9.35%. The rapid proliferation of global trade can be very well attributed to the advances in logistics infrastructure and processes. With the advent of E-commerce and freight forwarding, the significance of the logistics sector has increased manifold. Along with this growth, the era of digital technologies has catalyzed a transformation phase for the logistics sector. The industry must be able to harness the potential of Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, robotics, warehouse automation, data analysis, blockchain technologies, autonomous vehicles, and cloud computing (Kopishynska, 2020). One major challenge for the domain is to adapt to the new technologies and at the same time, balance the associated costs and service levels. Even in developed countries such as United States of America, global total logistics cost soared to 10.7% of GDP in 2020. Apart from other associated costs, logistics cost is an important determinant of product cost. In this regard, freight optimization, capacity utilization, proper mode selection and route planning can effectively bring down the overall logistics cost (Muha, 2019).

1.1.1 Introduction to Logistics Management

Logistics Management is the seamless coordination of all elements responsible for preparing, storing, and transporting products, resources, and information at the right time.

Optimization Model for Inland Water Logistics Infrastructure system of River Brahmaputra and Barak

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