**ASSIGNMENT**

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| **Course Code** | **:** | **MMPO-005** |
| **Course Title** | **:** | **Logistics and Supply Chain Management** |
| **Assignment Code** | **:** | **MMPO-005/TMA/ JULY/2026** |
| **Coverage** | **:** | **All Blocks** |

**Note: Attempt all the questions and submit this assignment to the Coordinator of your study centre. Last date of submission for July 2026 Semester is 31st October 2026 and for January 2027 Semester is 30th April 2027.**

1. "These are many possible structures for SC, but the simplest view has materials converging on an organising through tiers of suppliers and products diverging through tiers of customers". Elaborate!

2. When Christopher says that "supply chains compete, not companies" what exactly does he mean? Evaluate this statement from the cost point of view.

3. Explain the procedure of transport and carrier selection. Why is it carried out and what are it's major characteristics?

4. What impact will m-commerce (mobile commerce) and d-commerce (digital commerce) have on traditional e-commerce (electronic commerce)?

5. What activities can be performed by e-Agents? How can e-agents help to enhance collaboration among channel partners?

## 1. “These are many possible structures for SC, but the simplest view has materials converging on an organising through tiers of suppliers and products diverging through tiers of customers”. Elaborate!

### Answer

A supply chain is the network of organisations and activities through which materials, information and value move from original sources to the final user. The statement gives a simple way of seeing this network from the viewpoint of one focal organisation. On the upstream side, many streams of materials come together through different levels of suppliers. At the focal organisation these inputs are converted, assembled or combined. On the downstream side, the finished products then move outward through different levels of customers until they reach the final consumer. Thus, the basic shape is one of convergence before the focal organisation and divergence after it.

### Convergence through tiers of suppliers

Most organisations do not buy every input directly from the original source. They normally deal with a limited number of direct suppliers, while those suppliers depend on their own suppliers. A first-tier supplier supplies directly to the focal organisation. A second-tier supplier supplies to the first-tier supplier, and a third-tier supplier may provide basic raw materials or services further upstream. As we move away from the focal organisation, the number of firms can become very large. Materials from these separate sources gradually converge toward the focal organisation.

Consider an automobile manufacturer. It may receive seats, tyres, batteries, glass and electronic modules from first-tier suppliers. The seat supplier may obtain fabric, foam, metal frames and motors from several second-tier suppliers. Those firms, in turn, may depend on chemical, steel, textile and electronic-material producers. The car company may have direct contact with only some of these firms, but the performance of the remote tiers still affects its cost, quality and continuity of production. A delay in a small electronic component can stop the assembly of the complete vehicle.

The same pattern exists in simpler products. A food processor may combine agricultural produce, packaging, labels, additives, fuel and transport services. Although the final product looks like one item, its inputs have followed several different paths before meeting at the processing unit. This is why procurement