Geography · GS - III

Examine the role of metro rail expansion in achieving sustainable urbanisation and the vision of Viksit Bharat. What measures are necessary to maximise the benefits of urban transport infrastructure?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - III	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban infrastructure; sustainable mobility; metro rail expansion; traffic congestion; economic productivity; public transport integration; last-mile connectivity; transit-oriented development; environmental sustainability

Model Answer

Introduction

The vision of Viksit Bharat requires efficient infrastructure, productive cities and environmentally sustainable development. The proposed Pune Metro projects, as described in the supplied article, aim to improve connectivity and reduce traffic congestion.

Role of Metro Expansion

Metro rail provides high-capacity public transport and can reduce dependence on private vehicles. Better connectivity improves access to employment, education and commercial centres. A shift towards public transport may also reduce fuel consumption and transport-related emissions, depending on ridership and the energy mix.

Challenges

High capital costs, inadequate feeder services, poor station accessibility and limited integration with other transport modes can restrict benefits. Metro expansion may not substantially reduce congestion if private vehicle use continues to increase or urban planning remains poorly coordinated.

Way Forward

Authorities should integrate metro services with buses, walking and cycling infrastructure. Transit-oriented development can promote compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods around stations. Affordable fares, accessible stations, reliable operations and financial sustainability are also essential.

Conclusion

Metro rail can support Viksit Bharat by improving mobility and urban productivity. Its long-term benefits depend on integrated planning, accessibility and sustainable operations rather than infrastructure expansion alone.

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