Geography · GS - I

Urban infrastructure projects are not merely instruments of physical development but also contribute to the identity and economic attractiveness of cities. Examine this statement in the context of planned urban development in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Planned urbanisation, urban infrastructure, city identity, place-making, connectivity, investment attractiveness, Urban Local Bodies, development authorities, participatory planning, sustainable development.

Model Answer

Introduction

Rapid urbanisation in India requires infrastructure that improves connectivity, quality of life and economic opportunities. Well-planned urban development can also strengthen a city's identity and cultural character.

Role of Urban Infrastructure

- **Connectivity:** Roads, transport terminals and entry corridors improve accessibility and regional integration.
- **City identity:** Architectural landmarks, gateways and public spaces create distinctive urban images and strengthen civic pride.
- **Economic attractiveness:** Improved infrastructure can encourage tourism, investment and commercial activities.

- **Quality of life:** Integrated development of roads, drainage, sanitation and green spaces improves urban living conditions.

Challenges

Unplanned expansion, fragmented institutional responsibilities, inadequate municipal finances and environmental degradation often weaken urban development outcomes.

Way Forward

Urban projects should follow comprehensive master plans, environmental assessments and inclusive public consultation. Development authorities and Urban Local Bodies must coordinate planning, implementation and maintenance.

Conclusion

Urban infrastructure must combine functionality, sustainability and cultural identity. Such an integrated approach can make Indian cities more liveable, resilient and economically competitive.

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