Geography · GS - I

Examine the role of metro rail expansion in addressing urban congestion and promoting sustainable urbanisation in Indian cities. What challenges must be addressed to maximise its benefits?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urbanisation; mass rapid transit; traffic congestion; last-mile connectivity; public transport integration; environmental sustainability; project financing; inclusive mobility; urban planning

Model Answer

Introduction

Rapid urbanisation in India has increased pressure on road networks, public transport and urban infrastructure. Metro rail expansion, such as the proposed second phase of Pune Metro, can strengthen connectivity between residential areas, commercial centres and IT hubs.

Role in Sustainable Urbanisation

Metro systems provide high-capacity public transport and can reduce dependence on private vehicles when supported by convenient access and reliable services. They can improve commuting efficiency, reduce road congestion and potentially lower transport-related emissions. Integration with buses, walking and cycling infrastructure can further improve urban mobility.

Major Challenges

Metro projects require substantial capital investment, careful planning and timely implementation. Poor last-mile connectivity, inadequate feeder services, high construction costs and weak integration with existing transport systems can limit ridership. Construction-related disruption and unequal access may also affect the benefits experienced by different sections of the population.

Way Forward

Urban authorities should integrate metro networks with bus services, pedestrian pathways and cycling facilities. Affordable fares, accessible stations, coordinated land-use planning and effective project monitoring are essential. Transit-oriented development can encourage compact growth around transport corridors.

Conclusion

Metro expansion can support efficient and sustainable cities, but its success depends on integrated transport planning, accessibility and effective implementation.

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