Indian Economy · GS - III

Examine the role of metro rail expansion in promoting sustainable urbanisation in India. What measures are required to ensure that metro projects deliver their intended benefits?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban mobility; metro network expansion; traffic congestion; public transport accessibility; carbon emissions; last-mile connectivity; multimodal integration; transit-oriented development; financial sustainability

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s expanding metro network reflects growing investment in urban mass transit. The reported increase from 248 km to 1,200 km over 12 years, highlighted during the launch of Pune Metro projects, illustrates the scale of infrastructure development described in the supplied article.

Significance

Metro rail offers high passenger-carrying capacity and can reduce dependence on private vehicles. It improves connectivity between residential areas, workplaces and commercial centres while potentially reducing travel time, fuel consumption and transport-related emissions.

Challenges

High construction and maintenance costs, inadequate feeder services, limited last-mile connectivity and poor integration with existing transport systems can constrain metro usage. Metro expansion may also have limited effects on congestion if private vehicle use continues to grow or land-use planning remains poorly coordinated.

Way Forward

Authorities should integrate metro services with buses, pedestrian infrastructure and cycling networks. Transit-oriented development can encourage compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods around stations. Affordable fares, accessible station design, reliable services and financially sustainable operations are equally important.

Conclusion

Metro rail is an important component of sustainable urban mobility, but its effectiveness depends on integrated transport planning, accessibility and efficient operations rather than network expansion alone.

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