Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Housing alone cannot ensure sustainable urban development.” Discuss the importance of integrated infrastructure and coordinated urban governance in improving the quality of life in India's cities.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Affordable housing, water supply, sanitation, public transport, urban local bodies, inter-agency coordination, inclusive planning, municipal finance, sustainable cities.

Model Answer

Introduction

Rapid urbanisation has increased the demand for affordable housing in Indian cities. However, housing becomes meaningful only when supported by reliable basic services, connectivity and public safety.

Importance of Integrated Urban Infrastructure

Reliable water supply and sanitation protect public health and improve living conditions. Efficient public transport connects residents to employment, education and healthcare while reducing congestion and pollution. Adequate drainage, waste management and street lighting further strengthen urban resilience and safety.

Challenges in Urban Governance

Urban development often suffers from fragmented responsibilities among development authorities, municipal bodies and service departments. Inadequate municipal finances, weak coordination and infrastructure gaps can create poorly connected residential settlements and increase commuting costs.

Way Forward

Urban planning should integrate housing with transport, water, sanitation and social infrastructure from the initial planning stage. Metropolitan coordination mechanisms, stronger municipal capacity, transparent budgeting and citizen participation can improve service delivery. Digital monitoring and performance-based accountability can help agencies respond to local needs.

Conclusion

India's urban policy must move beyond constructing houses towards creating liveable, inclusive and sustainable communities. Integrated planning and coordinated governance are essential to achieve this objective.