Geography · GS - I

Urban metro expansion can improve mobility, but its success depends on integration with broader urban planning. Examine the role of mass rapid transit systems in promoting sustainable and inclusive urban development in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Sustainable urban mobility, mass rapid transit, congestion reduction, air pollution, transit-oriented development, last-mile connectivity, multimodal integration, affordability, urban governance, financial sustainability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Rapid urbanisation has increased pressure on India's transport infrastructure. Metro rail systems offer high-capacity public transport and can contribute to more sustainable urban mobility.

Contribution to Urban Development

- **Reduced congestion:** Metro services can shift commuters away from private vehicles and ease road congestion.
- **Environmental benefits:** Greater public transport use can reduce fuel consumption and vehicular emissions.

- **Economic productivity:** Reliable connectivity improves access to employment, education and commercial centres.
- **Urban transformation:** Transit-oriented development encourages compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods around transport corridors.
- **Social inclusion:** Affordable and accessible transport improves mobility for women, elderly persons and economically weaker sections.

Key Challenges

High construction and operational costs, inadequate last-mile connectivity, uneven accessibility and fragmented urban governance can limit benefits. Metro expansion without integrated land-use planning may also generate low ridership.

Way Forward

Cities should strengthen feeder buses, pedestrian infrastructure, cycling networks, integrated ticketing and affordable fare structures. Greater coordination between metro agencies and urban local bodies is essential.

Conclusion

Metro expansion must form part of an integrated urban mobility strategy rather than operate as an isolated infrastructure project.

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