

Metro-rail systems are touted as a one-size-fits-all solution to traffic congestion & environmental problems of Indian cities. Do you agree? Justify.

Mass Rapid Transit Systems (MRTS) are proven to solve the road congestion & related air pollution problems in Urban areas. Metro rail systems are one of the fastest & less polluting MRTS for daily commuters.

But metro rail systems cannot be panacea for all Indian cities because -

⇒ The operations require dedicated infrastructure to be built. It may lead to new challenges in land acquisition & remodelling of existing urban infrastructure.

⇒ Longer gestation period of the project because the fares cannot be raised beyond a limit as the commuters are urban middle class, discourages private investment. In that case, the finance burden lies on state governments.

⇒ ~~the~~ Inability to provide end-to-end connectivity prevents metro rail systems to completely replace local buses, local trains, etc.

~~The new Metro Rail Policy 2010 has mandated the state governments to take up alternatives analysis before floating a plan for metro rail projects.~~

⇒ Technology barrier prevents the urban poor from accessing the hi-end metro stations.

However, if the governments plan to implement metro rail projects after taking up alternate analysis as per new Metro Rail Policy 2017, it provides export opportunities as envisaged in Foreign Trade Policy 2015.

The need of the hour ~~is~~ is to look for multi-modal transport solution for compact & dense urban development. ~~is~~