Geography · GS - I

Assess the role of large-scale road infrastructure in promoting regional economic integration while addressing the risks of unplanned urbanisation and environmental degradation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Regional connectivity, logistics efficiency, economic corridors, urban sprawl, land acquisition, ecological fragmentation, sustainable infrastructure

Model Answer

Infrastructure as a driver of regional integration

Large-scale road projects, including ring roads and economic corridors, can transform regional connectivity by linking urban centres, industrial clusters, markets and rural hinterlands. The proposed ring road around Kolkata illustrates the potential of transport infrastructure to reshape metropolitan mobility and economic activity.

Economic opportunities

1. **Lower logistics costs:** Improved highway connectivity can reduce travel time, fuel consumption and freight delays, strengthening supply-chain efficiency.

2. **Regional development:** Better access to markets can encourage investment in peripheral districts, industrial estates and logistics hubs.

3. **Employment generation:** Construction and associated activities create employment, while improved connectivity can support tourism, trade and services.

4. **Urban mobility:** Ring roads can divert through-traffic away from congested city centres and improve inter-city movement.

Risks requiring attention

1. **Unplanned urban expansion:** Improved accessibility may encourage ribbon development, speculative real estate activity and conversion of agricultural land.

2. **Ecological fragmentation:** Road construction can divide habitats, obstruct wildlife movement and increase pollution.

3. **Social displacement:** Land acquisition may affect farmers, informal settlements and communities dependent on local resources.

4. **Induced traffic:** Increased road capacity can encourage additional private vehicle use, limiting long-term congestion reduction.

Planning for sustainable outcomes

Integrated regional transport planning, environmental impact assessment, wildlife crossings where necessary, transparent land acquisition and adequate rehabilitation are essential. Roads should be connected with public transport, freight terminals and multimodal logistics systems.

Conclusion: Road infrastructure can strengthen regional competitiveness, but economic gains depend on inclusive land-use planning and ecological safeguards. Connectivity must be treated as an instrument of balanced development rather than merely expansion of road capacity.