Defence & Security · GS - III

Discuss the major challenges in securing urban mass-transit systems in India. Suggest measures to strengthen passenger safety without compromising the efficiency of public transport.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Critical infrastructure, passenger screening, intelligence sharing, CCTV surveillance, crowd management, emergency response, cybersecurity, privacy, inter-agency coordination.

Model Answer

Introduction

Metro rail and other mass-transit systems are essential urban infrastructure. Their high passenger volumes and open-access design create complex security challenges.

Major Challenges

1. **High passenger density:** Large crowds make surveillance and emergency evacuation difficult.
2. **Screening limitations:** Security checks must identify threats without causing excessive delays.
3. **Coordination gaps:** Effective responses require cooperation among transport operators, police and security agencies.
4. **Emerging threats:** Cyberattacks, unattended objects and coordinated disruptions require continuous preparedness.

Measures to Strengthen Security

- Upgrade screening equipment and risk-based inspection procedures.
- Integrate CCTV surveillance, access monitoring and emergency communication systems.
- Conduct regular security audits and evacuation drills.
- Strengthen intelligence-sharing and coordination among relevant agencies.
- Train staff to identify suspicious activity and respond calmly.
- Protect passenger data and ensure security measures remain lawful and proportionate.

Conclusion

Mass-transit security requires a preventive, technology-enabled and coordinated approach. The objective should be to deter threats while preserving the accessibility, efficiency and public confidence essential to urban transport.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP