



Need for Unified Metro Law

Why in News?

Recently, the [Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs](#) flagged the need for single and comprehensive legislation for all the Metro rail networks in the country and opposed the existing three central acts.

- All metro rail projects are covered under the legal framework of the **Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978; the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002; and the Railways Act, 1989.**

What are the Issues Highlighted by the Panel?

- Low ridership in all Metros apart from Delhi and Mumbai.
- Leading to a delay in the projects attaining breaking even point.
- Even after six to seven years of continuous operations the issues still exist like:
 - **faulty Detailed Project Report (DPRs),**
 - **lack of proper planning to provide first and last mile connectivity,**
 - **provision of parking at metro rail stations,**
 - **need for increasing catchment area, etc**

What are the Recommendations of the Panel?

- There is a need for the use of the **less capital-intensive MetroNeo and MetroLite networks** in small cities with low ridership instead of the conventional Metro systems.
 - **MetroNeo** is a mass rapid transit system providing **low-cost, energy-efficient and eco-friendly urban transport solutions for tier 2 and tier 3 cities.**
 - **Metrolite** system will have a **dedicated path separating the road traffic with it.**
 - For segregation with road traffic, fencing can be provided on either side of the network.
- Further, the Kochi Water Metro project should be included under the Ministry of Heavy Industries' [FAME II scheme](#) as it would be a pollution-free mode of transport using battery-operated boats.

[Source: TH](#)