International Relations · GS - II

India-Nepal relations have significant potential in hydropower, cross-border connectivity and development cooperation. Examine the opportunities and challenges in strengthening this bilateral partnership.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Neighbourhood First Policy, open border, hydropower potential, cross-border electricity trade, connectivity infrastructure, flood reconstruction, economic assistance, water-sharing concerns, mutual trust and regional cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Nepal occupies an important position in India's neighbourhood policy due to geographical proximity, cultural ties and shared economic interests. Cooperation in hydropower, connectivity and disaster reconstruction can strengthen bilateral relations.

Opportunities

Nepal's hydropower potential offers opportunities for electricity trade, investment and regional energy security. Cross-border roads, railways and transmission lines can improve trade and connectivity. Indian economic assistance can also support Nepal's post-disaster reconstruction and infrastructure development.

Challenges

Differences over water-resource management, project implementation delays, political sensitivities and concerns regarding sovereignty can affect cooperation. Floods and other natural disasters further highlight the need for coordinated river-basin management and resilient infrastructure.

Way Forward

Both countries should strengthen institutional dialogue, ensure transparent and mutually beneficial project agreements, improve border infrastructure and promote timely implementation of development projects. Cooperation should respect Nepal's sovereignty while addressing shared regional interests.

Conclusion

A stable and mutually beneficial India-Nepal partnership can contribute to regional connectivity, energy security and sustainable development in South Asia.

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