International Relations · GS - II

Cross-border railway connectivity between India and Nepal can transform cultural links into wider economic and strategic partnerships. Examine its significance and the challenges involved in strengthening bilateral connectivity.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Neighbourhood First Policy, open border, regional integration, religious tourism, cross-border trade, people-to-people ties, infrastructure development, border management, operational coordination, diplomatic cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Nepal share deep historical, cultural and economic ties. Cross-border railway connectivity can strengthen these relations by improving mobility, tourism and regional economic integration.

Significance

Rail links connecting destinations such as Janakpur and Ayodhya can promote religious tourism and strengthen the Ramayana Circuit. Improved transport can facilitate local commerce, employment and access to markets. Such projects also reinforce India's Neighbourhood First Policy and strengthen people-to-people relations.

Challenges

Differences in railway standards, customs procedures, immigration arrangements and operational coordination can affect seamless connectivity. Land acquisition, financial sustainability and infrastructure maintenance require sustained cooperation. Security concerns and local environmental impacts must also be addressed.

Way Forward

Both countries should harmonise technical standards, simplify cross-border procedures, improve last-mile connectivity and involve local communities in tourism planning. Regular institutional coordination can ensure efficient operations.

Conclusion

Cross-border railways can convert shared cultural heritage into tangible developmental benefits. Their success depends on inclusive planning, institutional coordination and sustained bilateral cooperation.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP