International Relations · GS - II

Political stability in South Asia depends not only on electoral transitions but also on the protection of democratic pluralism and institutional accountability. Examine this statement in the context of recent political developments in Bangladesh and discuss its implications for India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Democratic transition, political pluralism, opposition, institutional legitimacy, political violence, constitutional governance, India-Bangladesh relations, border security, connectivity, regional stability, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

Bangladesh's political developments, including Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's call for unity against the possible resurgence of the Awami League, highlight the challenges of democratic consolidation following a political transition.

Importance of Democratic Pluralism

1. **Representative governance:** Inclusion of diverse political voices strengthens the legitimacy of democratic institutions.

2. **Institutional accountability:** An effective opposition scrutinises executive decisions and provides alternatives to government policies.
3. **Political stability:** Peaceful political competition reduces the risk of prolonged confrontation and extra-institutional mobilisation.
4. **Rule of law:** Allegations of arson, sabotage and political violence require impartial investigation and due process, irrespective of political affiliation.

Challenges for Bangladesh

- Political polarisation can weaken trust in democratic institutions.
- Restrictions on political participation may deepen perceptions of exclusion.
- Unrest in the garment sector can affect employment, exports and economic confidence.
- Weak institutional neutrality can complicate peaceful political competition.

Implications for India

- **Neighbourhood stability:** Political uncertainty can affect regional security and cooperation.
- **Economic interests:** Bangladesh is important for India's trade, connectivity and access to its northeastern region.
- **Border management:** Instability may create additional challenges relating to border security and cross-border movement.
- **Diplomatic engagement:** India must maintain constructive engagement with Bangladesh's elected government while supporting stability and people-to-people ties.

Conclusion

Bangladesh's long-term stability requires peaceful political competition, institutional neutrality and respect for the rule of law. For India, a stable, democratic and economically prosperous Bangladesh remains important for regional cooperation and neighbourhood stability.