International Relations · GS - II

Analyse the importance of political trust and institutionalised dialogue in sustaining India–Nepal relations. What measures can help address emerging differences while preserving the traditional partnership?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Neighbourhood First Policy, Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950, diplomatic engagement, strategic trust, sovereignty concerns, border management, economic interdependence, institutional mechanisms

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Nepal share deep historical, cultural, economic and geographical ties. Regular high-level engagements, including the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Balendra Shah, provide opportunities to strengthen bilateral trust and address emerging concerns.

Importance of Political Trust and Dialogue

1. **Diplomatic stability:** Regular consultations between political leaders and foreign ministers help prevent misunderstandings and maintain continuity in bilateral relations.

2. **Economic interdependence:** Trade, energy cooperation, hydropower and investment contribute to shared economic development.

3. **Security cooperation:** Dialogue facilitates coordination on border management, cross-border crime and regional security challenges.

4. **People-to-people relations:** Cultural, educational and sports exchanges strengthen traditional societal connections.

5. **Strategic cooperation:** Mutual trust enables both countries to address regional developments while respecting each other's sovereign interests.

Emerging Concerns

1. Differences over border-related issues and perceptions of sovereignty.
2. Uneven economic dependence and concerns regarding trade and transit.
3. Delays in implementing bilateral infrastructure and energy projects.
4. Domestic political changes influencing foreign policy priorities.

Way Forward

India should promote regular institutional consultations, timely implementation of bilateral agreements, transparent border dialogue and mutually beneficial economic partnerships. Cooperation must remain sensitive to Nepal's sovereignty and development priorities.

Conclusion

India–Nepal relations require continuous diplomatic engagement rather than episodic political outreach. Mutual respect, institutional dialogue and shared development can preserve this traditional partnership.

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