International Relations · GS - II

Business mobility and connectivity are important but often overlooked components of economic diplomacy. Examine how visa facilitation and direct air connectivity can contribute to the normalisation of India-China economic relations, while identifying the strategic constraints involved.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Business mobility, trade facilitation, investment flows, direct air connectivity, BRICS engagement, border tensions, strategic trust, supply-chain resilience, diplomatic dialogue

Model Answer

Introduction

India and China are major Asian economies with significant commercial interdependence. Visa facilitation and restoration of direct air connectivity can support business engagement and people-to-people exchanges, although broader bilateral relations remain influenced by strategic and security considerations.

Economic Significance of Improved Connectivity

1. **Trade facilitation:** Easier business visas enable entrepreneurs, exporters and corporate representatives to participate in negotiations, exhibitions and commercial meetings.

2. **Investment opportunities:** Improved mobility can facilitate joint ventures, technology partnerships and investment discussions across manufacturing and services.

3. **Supply-chain cooperation:** Regular business interactions can help companies assess sourcing opportunities, logistics arrangements and production partnerships.

4. **Aviation and tourism:** Direct flights reduce travel time and costs, supporting tourism, educational exchanges and business mobility.

5. **Multilateral engagement:** Platforms such as BRICS provide opportunities for dialogue on trade, development finance and broader economic cooperation.

Strategic Constraints

1. **Border-related tensions:** Unresolved boundary issues and security concerns continue to influence bilateral trust.

2. **Economic asymmetry:** Dependence on imports of certain critical goods from China raises concerns about supply-chain vulnerability.

3. **Security considerations:** Sensitive technologies, data protection and investment screening require appropriate safeguards.

4. **Implementation gaps:** Visa announcements and connectivity initiatives must translate into predictable procedures and reliable services.

Way Forward

1. Institutionalise regular diplomatic dialogue and business consultations.
2. Ensure transparent, efficient and reciprocal visa procedures.
3. Expand direct connectivity while maintaining appropriate security screening.
4. Diversify critical supply chains and strengthen domestic manufacturing.
5. Separate practical economic cooperation from unresolved strategic disagreements wherever feasible.

Conclusion

Visa facilitation and air connectivity can create channels for economic engagement and mutual understanding. However, durable improvement in India-China relations requires these measures to be accompanied by strategic trust, border stability and balanced economic cooperation.

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