International Relations · GS - II

Examine how extradition-related decisions involving political leaders can affect bilateral relations between neighbouring countries.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Extradition treaties, rule of law, sovereignty, human rights, domestic political sensitivities, diplomatic relations, regional stability

Model Answer

Introduction

Extradition is an important instrument of international criminal cooperation through which states facilitate the surrender of individuals facing criminal proceedings. However, cases involving prominent political leaders can create complex legal and diplomatic challenges.

Implications for Bilateral Relations

1. **Treaty Obligations:** Extradition requests test the commitment of neighbouring countries to bilateral treaties and international cooperation against crime.

2. **Sovereignty and Jurisdiction:** The requested state must balance the requesting country's legal claims with its own domestic laws and judicial procedures.

3. **Political Sensitivities:** Decisions involving former heads of government may influence domestic political debates and perceptions of foreign interference.

4. **Human Rights Considerations:** Concerns regarding fair trials, political persecution and the possibility of disproportionate punishment may complicate extradition proceedings.

5. **Regional Stability:** Disagreements over extradition can strain diplomatic engagement, affect mutual trust and complicate cooperation on trade, security and border management.

Way Forward

1. **Rule-based Decision-making:** Process requests through established extradition treaties and domestic legal procedures rather than political expediency.

2. **Judicial Independence:** Ensure impartial examination of evidence, applicable exceptions and procedural safeguards.

3. **Diplomatic Engagement:** Maintain communication through diplomatic channels to prevent individual cases from disrupting broader bilateral cooperation.

4. **Human Rights Safeguards:** Seek credible assurances where necessary and assess the risk of unfair treatment in accordance with applicable law.

Conclusion

Extradition involving political leaders requires a careful balance between international obligations, domestic legal safeguards and diplomatic interests. A transparent, rules-based approach can protect the rule of law while preserving constructive relations between neighbouring states.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP