International Relations · GS - II

Analyse how national security considerations influence cross-border religious and cultural connectivity between neighbouring countries.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border pilgrimage, people-to-people ties, border security, bilateral diplomacy, confidence-building measures, regional cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

Cross-border religious and cultural links can promote mutual understanding between neighbouring countries. However, their continuation often depends on the prevailing security environment and bilateral relations.

Significance of Cross-Border Connectivity

1. **People-to-people relations:** Pilgrimage corridors enable communities to maintain historical, religious and cultural connections beyond political boundaries.
2. **Confidence-building:** Such arrangements can create limited spaces for cooperation even amid wider diplomatic disagreements.
3. **Cultural diplomacy:** Religious exchanges strengthen goodwill and preserve shared heritage.
4. **Regional stability:** Regular interaction can contribute to mutual understanding and reduce social barriers.

Security and Diplomatic Challenges

1. **Cross-border threats:** Terrorism, infiltration and intelligence concerns may necessitate restrictions on movement.
2. **Political tensions:** Bilateral conflicts can disrupt agreements and undermine institutional cooperation.
3. **Operational concerns:** Border infrastructure, surveillance, identity verification and emergency coordination require sustained attention.
4. **Humanitarian implications:** Prolonged restrictions can affect pilgrims and communities with historical religious connections.

Way Forward

1. Develop transparent security protocols, verification mechanisms and regular bilateral communication.
2. Separate humanitarian and religious exchanges from broader political disagreements wherever security conditions permit.
3. Establish periodic security reviews and institutional channels for resolving operational concerns.

Conclusion

National security and cultural connectivity need not be competing objectives. A calibrated approach combining credible security arrangements with diplomatic engagement can preserve humanitarian links while safeguarding sovereignty.

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