International Relations · GS - II

Examine the implications of political instability in Bangladesh for India's border management and regional security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Political instability, India-Bangladesh border, migration, smuggling, border security, bilateral cooperation, regional stability

Model Answer

Political instability in Bangladesh has implications beyond its domestic political environment because of its geographical proximity and extensive border with India. Developments there can directly affect India's internal and regional security.

Major security implications

1. **Border management:** Unrest may increase pressure on border forces to prevent unauthorised crossings and maintain surveillance.
2. **Migration concerns:** Prolonged instability may create population movements, requiring humanitarian preparedness and effective border management.
3. **Transnational crime:** Disruptions in governance can create opportunities for smuggling, trafficking and other cross-border criminal activities.
4. **Regional security:** Political uncertainty may affect cooperation on counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing and maritime security in the Bay of Bengal.
5. **Economic connectivity:** Instability can disrupt trade, transport links and regional infrastructure projects.

India's response

India needs sustained diplomatic engagement with Bangladesh's institutions, stronger border surveillance and intelligence coordination. Humanitarian concerns should be addressed through established legal and bilateral mechanisms. Cooperation should also continue on trade, connectivity and transnational crime.

Political developments in Bangladesh must be approached with sensitivity to its sovereignty and domestic political processes.

A stable, peaceful and cooperative Bangladesh remains important for India's neighbourhood policy, border security and wider regional connectivity.