International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the significance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening India–Bhutan relations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–Bhutan friendship; Buddhist heritage; cultural diplomacy; development partnership; Himalayan security; regional cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Bhutan share close historical, cultural and strategic ties. Cultural exchanges complement political and economic cooperation by strengthening mutual trust and people-to-people connections.

Importance of Cultural Diplomacy

Shared Heritage: Buddhist traditions and historical links provide a foundation for cultural understanding between the two societies.

People-to-People Relations: Religious exchanges, educational cooperation, tourism and cultural events help strengthen public goodwill and mutual respect.

Strategic Partnership: Strong social ties reinforce cooperation in development, hydropower, connectivity and regional stability.

Regional Significance: A stable and cooperative relationship with Bhutan supports India's broader interests in the Himalayan region and contributes to constructive regional engagement.

Challenges and Way Forward

Cultural initiatives should respect Bhutan's sovereignty, religious traditions and domestic priorities. India should continue supporting mutually agreed development projects, educational exchanges, sustainable tourism and heritage conservation.

Conclusion

Cultural diplomacy cannot replace practical cooperation, but it can deepen trust and strengthen long-term partnerships. India's relationship with Bhutan illustrates how shared heritage and mutual respect can support wider diplomatic and strategic objectives.

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