International Relations · GS - II

Examine how India's engagement with the Tibetan community influences its cultural diplomacy and relations with China.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Tibetan Buddhism, cultural heritage, refugee policy, strategic autonomy, India-China relations, diplomatic sensitivities

Model Answer

India's engagement with the Tibetan community reflects the intersection of cultural heritage, humanitarian considerations and geopolitical interests. Since 1959, India has hosted the Dalai Lama and a significant Tibetan refugee population.

Cultural and humanitarian dimensions

1. **Preservation of heritage:** Tibetan monasteries, educational institutions and cultural centres in India help preserve Buddhist philosophy, language, art and traditional learning.
2. **Religious significance:** India is closely associated with Buddhism's historical development, making it an important centre for Tibetan Buddhist traditions.
3. **Humanitarian commitment:** Educational, settlement and institutional support have helped Tibetan refugees maintain their cultural identity.

Geopolitical implications

1. **India-China relations:** The Tibetan issue remains sensitive because China considers Tibet an integral part of its territory and views certain activities involving the Dalai Lama through a political lens.

2. **Strategic considerations:** India's engagement with Tibetan institutions intersects with its broader concerns regarding Himalayan security and border relations.
3. **Diplomatic balancing:** Cultural support must be managed alongside India's interest in maintaining stable relations and dialogue with China.

Policy approach

India needs a consistent framework that protects religious freedom, cultural heritage and humanitarian commitments while avoiding unnecessary escalation. Transparent administrative arrangements and diplomatic communication can help manage sensitivities.

Thus, India's Tibetan engagement is not merely a cultural issue; it is also an important dimension of its foreign policy, shaped by historical connections, humanitarian responsibilities and regional strategic realities.

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