International Relations · GS - II

Assess the significance of high-level diplomatic engagement between India and countries with which it has limited political and economic interaction.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Diplomatic representation, strategic autonomy, Korean Peninsula, bilateral engagement, regional stability, economic opportunities, geopolitical balance

Model Answer

Diplomacy beyond established partnerships

High-level diplomatic engagement remains important even when countries have limited economic interaction or divergent political systems. The acceptance of diplomatic credentials by national leadership symbolises formal engagement and provides an opportunity to strengthen bilateral communication.

Significance for India

1. **Strategic outreach:** Engagement with North Korea allows India to maintain diplomatic channels with an important East Asian country and remain informed about developments on the Korean Peninsula.
2. **Regional stability:** Direct communication can facilitate dialogue on nuclear proliferation, missile developments and wider security concerns in Northeast Asia.
3. **Multilateral diplomacy:** Diplomatic presence helps India articulate its positions on disarmament, non-proliferation and international security forums.
4. **Economic possibilities:** Where international obligations permit, diplomatic engagement can explore limited opportunities in trade, education, healthcare and cultural exchanges.

5. **Strategic autonomy:** Maintaining diplomatic relations with countries across geopolitical divides reflects India's ability to pursue independent foreign policy interests.

Constraints and considerations

India's engagement with North Korea operates within the framework of United Nations Security Council sanctions and its non-proliferation commitments. Differences over nuclear weapons, regional security and international obligations restrict the scope of cooperation.

Conclusion

Diplomatic engagement does not necessarily imply political agreement or strategic alignment. For India, maintaining communication channels while upholding international commitments is an important instrument of balanced and pragmatic foreign policy.

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