International Relations · GS - II

“Cross-border infrastructure projects are not merely instruments of economic development but can also serve broader geopolitical objectives.” Discuss with reference to China–North Korea relations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Cross-border connectivity, economic diplomacy, China–North Korea relations, regional trade, strategic infrastructure, UN sanctions, East Asian geopolitics, regional security, economic interdependence, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Cross-border infrastructure connects neighbouring countries through bridges, roads, railways and other transport networks. Besides facilitating trade, such projects can strengthen diplomatic relationships and advance strategic interests.

Main Body

Economic Significance

1. Trade facilitation: Improved connectivity can reduce transportation costs and facilitate the movement of goods.
2. Regional development: Infrastructure can support border economies and generate employment.
3. Economic interdependence: Greater trade can strengthen commercial ties between neighbouring countries.

Geopolitical Significance

1. Strategic partnerships: Infrastructure investment can reinforce bilateral relationships and regional influence.
2. Regional security: Connectivity may influence the economic and diplomatic calculations of neighbouring states.
3. Sanctions considerations: Projects involving North Korea must comply with applicable UN Security Council restrictions.
4. China's connectivity with North Korea illustrates how economic engagement can intersect with strategic interests and regional security concerns.

Conclusion

Cross-border infrastructure can promote economic cooperation while reshaping regional relationships. Its long-term benefits depend on transparent implementation, compliance with international obligations and contributions to regional stability.

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