

Nepal PM's visit to India

April 6, 2022

In news- Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba visited India recently.

Key updates-

- The visit of Nepal's Prime Minister is his first one since assuming office in July 2021.
- The **35-km cross-border railway line linking Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal was launched**. This is the **first broad-gauge passenger rail link between the two sides** and it **will be extended to Bardibas in Nepal** under a project supported by Indian grant.
- The Indian side handed over the Solu Corridor, **a 90-km, 132 kV power transmission line** built for Rs 200 crore under an Indian line of credit, which **brings electricity to several remote districts in northeastern Nepal** by connecting them to the country's national grid.
- India's RuPay card has been launched in Nepal. Nepal became the **fourth country, after Bhutan, Singapore and the UAE**, where RuPay is live.
- Nepal signed **a framework agreement to join the India-led International Solar Alliance** (becoming the 105th member country of ISA).
- An MoU **on enhancing technical cooperation in the railways sector**, and **two agreements between Indian Oil Corporation and Nepal Oil Corporation for the supply of petroleum products** for five years and for sharing of technical expertise were signed.
- The two sides **agreed to expedite work on the delayed Pancheshwar multipurpose dam project (on Mahakali river)** that is considered to be a gamechanger for the development of the region.
- The Indian side made it clear both countries need to address the boundary issue through dialogue and to avoid the politicisation of such issues.

Nepal-India Bilateral relations-

- As close neighbors, India and Nepal share unique ties of friendship and cooperation characterized by an open border and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture.
- There has been a long tradition of free movement of people across the border.
- **Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states** – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- **The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.**
- There are regular exchanges of high-level visits and interactions between India and Nepal.
- Both countries have several bilateral institutional dialogue mechanisms, including the India-Nepal Joint Commission co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Minister of Nepal.
- India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal.
- MOUs have been signed between both the governments for laying an electric railway track linking Kathmandu with Raxaul (Bihar) in India.
- India has signed **three sister-city agreements for twinning Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodhgaya and Janakpur-Ayodhya.**
- India and Nepal share multiple multilateral forums such as BIMSTEC, Non Aligned Movement (NAM), BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).