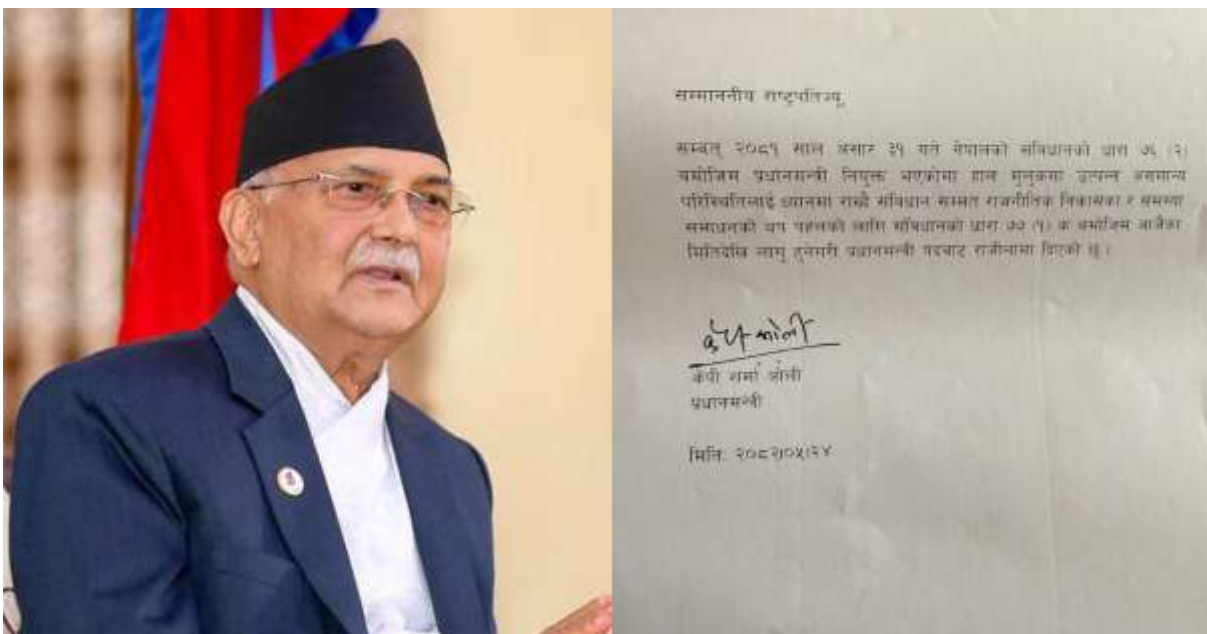


Nepal's Gen-Z Revolt Detailed Analysis



Context:

- Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned on September 9, 2025, a day after the country witnessed one of its most violent protests led by students and youth, who stormed Parliament in opposition to the social media ban.




1. What is the Political history of Nepal?


- **Nepal's political history** is marked by the **rise and fall of monarchies**, dynasties, and **significant movements** that shaped the country's governance structure. The ousting of **King Gyanendra Shah** is a **significant event in Nepal's transition from a monarchy to a republic**. Below is a **detailed elaboration of Nepal's political history**, including the events that led to Gyanendra Shah's ouster.


Events	Analysis
Unification and the Shah Dynasty (1768)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political history of Nepal begins with the unification of various small kingdoms and principalities in the 18th century by Prithvi Narayan Shah, the King of Gorkha. • In 1768, after several decades of conflict, Prithvi Narayan Shah succeeded in unifying the fragmented territories, creating the Kingdom of Nepal. • This marked the beginning of the Shah Dynasty, which would rule Nepal for over two centuries.

Absolute Monarchy (1768–1846)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the unification, Nepal was ruled as an absolute monarchy, where the Shah kings held complete control over the political, military, and economic spheres. • The monarchy was central to the governance of the kingdom, and the kings wielded immense power, often without any institutionalized checks or balances. • During this period, Nepal expanded its territories, but it also faced internal and external challenges, including conflicts with the British in India, culminating in the Sugauli Treaty of 1815, which ceded parts of Nepal's territory to the British.
Rana Dynasty Rule (1846–1951)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1846, the Rana Dynasty took control of Nepal's politics through a palace coup. • Although the Shah kings remained as nominal rulers, the Ranas dominated the political landscape as hereditary prime ministers. • The Rana family centralized power in their hands and effectively reduced the Shah monarchs to symbolic figures. • The Rana period is often criticized for being autocratic, feudal, and oppressive, and while the country experienced internal stability, the Rana oligarchy restricted political freedoms and the development of a more democratic political culture.

	
<p>End of the Rana Dynasty and the Restoration of the Shah Monarchy (1951)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1951, King Tribhuvan (son of King Prithvi Narayan Shah) was able to escape to India with the support of Indian authorities, which eventually led to the overthrow of the Rana regime. • The Rana dynasty's rule came to an end, and the Shah monarch was restored to power. • However, King Tribhuvan only ruled with considerable influence from India, which played a major role in shaping Nepal's political landscape. • In 1959, the first general elections were held, leading to the formation of a parliamentary democracy, though it was short-lived.
<p>The Rise of the Panchayat System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1960, King Mahendra, Tribhuvan's son, dissolved the first democratically elected government, citing instability and the inability to handle national crises.

(1960–1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He imposed a partyless system called Panchayat in 1961. • Under this system, King Mahendra held absolute power, sidelining political parties and dismantling the parliamentary system. • The monarchy regained significant control over governance, with the king appointing officials and making decisions without popular consultation. • The Panchayat system lasted for three decades and was marked by repression of political freedoms, particularly against political parties and leaders who advocated for a more democratic system.
The Jana Andolan and Transition to Constitutional Monarchy (1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jana Andolan (People's Movement) of 1990 marked a turning point in Nepal's political history. • After decades of autocratic rule under the Panchayat system, widespread protests erupted across the country, driven by demands for democracy and greater political freedom. • The movement was fueled by dissatisfaction with the absolute monarchy, widespread poverty, and the lack of democratic representation. • In response to the movement and growing pressure, King Birendra (Mahendra's son) eventually agreed to adopt a new constitution and restore a multi-party democracy. • This led to the Panchayat system's end and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy. Nepal's first multi-party parliamentary elections

	<p>were held in 1991, and the country moved towards a system where the monarchy retained a ceremonial role while political power shifted to elected representatives.</p>
<p>The Outbreak of Civil War and the King's Return to Absolute Power (2001–2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the restoration of democracy in 1990, political instability continued. • The Maoist insurgency began in the mid-1990s, leading to a decade-long civil war.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) sought to overthrow the monarchy and establish a people's republic. • In 2001, a tragic event occurred when King Birendra was assassinated in what is still a highly debated incident, often referred to as the palace massacre. • Birendra's son, Gyanendra Shah, was crowned king in his place. • The civil war intensified, and the monarchy lost much of its popular support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, in response to increasing political instability, Gyanendra dismissed the government and took absolute power by assuming direct control over the country.
The People's Movement of 2006 (Jana Andolan II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gyanendra's move to seize absolute power in 2005 sparked the Jana Andolan II, a second wave of pro-democracy protests. • The movement, led by political parties, civil society, and the Maoists, called for the restoration of democracy and an end to the monarchy. • The protests led to Gyanendra's forced abdication of power. • In April 2006, after several weeks of mass protests and strikes, Gyanendra was forced to restore the parliament and negotiate with political parties. 
The Abolition of the Monarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the Jana Andolan II, political dialogue between the monarchy, political parties, and the Maoists resulted in the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

(2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal officially became a federal democratic republic, marking the end of over two centuries of monarchical rule. • On May 28, 2008, Nepal's Constituent Assembly voted to abolish the monarchy, declaring Nepal a republic. • King Gyanendra, who had been the last monarch, was ousted from the throne, and he left the royal palace in Kathmandu. 
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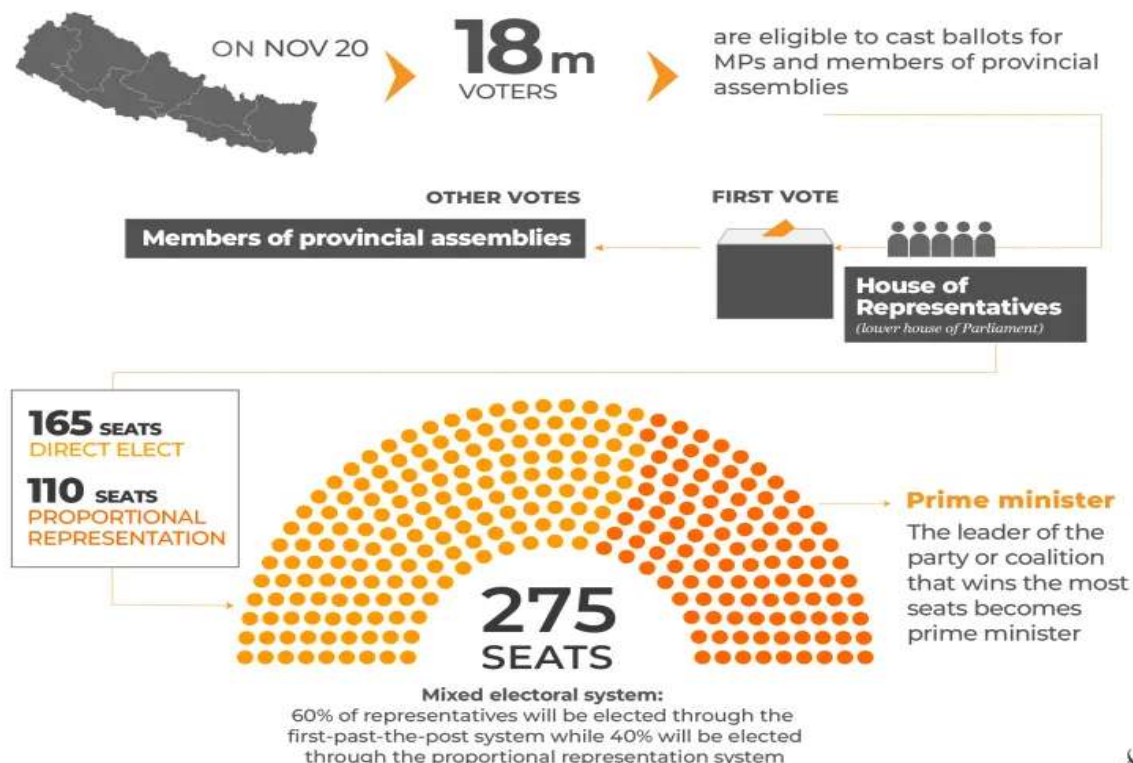
2. What is the Current Political system of Nepal?

- Nepal currently is a **federal democratic republic** with a **multi-party political system**.
- The country is **governed by a parliamentary democracy**, where the **President is the ceremonial head of state**, and the **Prime Minister, as the head of government, holds executive power**.
- **Nepal has a bicameral parliament** consisting of the **House of Representatives and the National Assembly**.
- The country operates under a **federal structure with seven provinces**, each having its own provincial government.

- The **judiciary is independent**, and the political system is guided by the **Constitution of Nepal, which was adopted in 2015**, establishing a framework for **federalism, secularism, and democracy**.
- Nepal follows **proportional representation (PR)**.
- The other electoral system is the **first-past-the-post (FPTP)**, under which **whoever wins more votes gets elected**, to elect the **Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies**.
- In Nepal's **275-member House of Representatives**, **165 members** are elected under FPTP and the **remaining 110 under the PR system**.
- Experts believe the **tendency to blame others for political instability stems from successive governments' quest for power**.
- Nepal has not seen any **government complete its full term ever since the restoration of democracy in 1990**.

NEPAL ELECTIONS 2022

How elections work



NEPAL ELECTIONS 2022

Voting at a glance

Here is a breakdown of how Nepal will vote

29.1_m

POPULATION

7

PROVINCES

18_{million}

VOTERS

68.7%

VOTER TURNOUT
in 2017

18_{years}

VOTING AGE



2,412

CANDIDATES FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 2,187  225

3,224

CANDIDATES FOR THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES

 2,943  280  1

3. What is Nepal's current political situation?

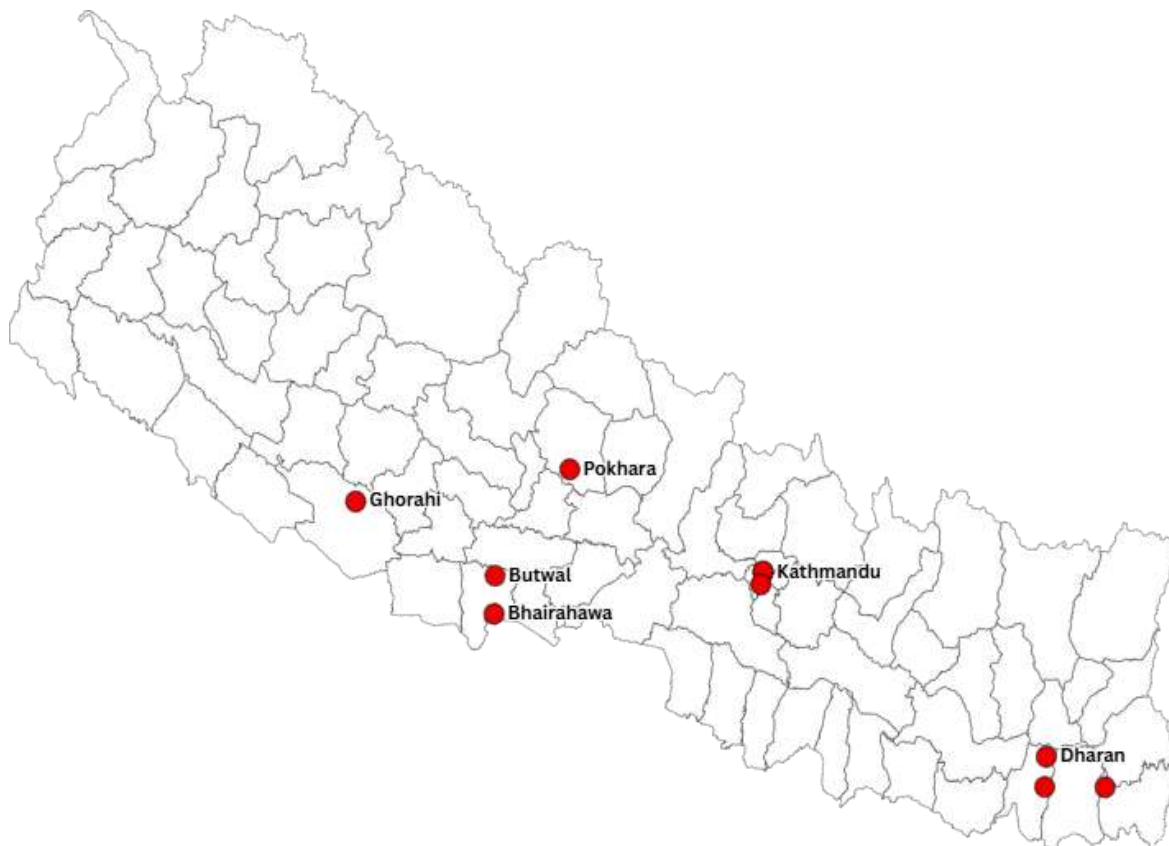
- **KP Oli**, the leader of the **Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)**, or **CPN (UML)** is leading the country's government for the fourth time since 2015.
- He replaced former Maoist guerrilla “**Lider Maximo**” **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, who was at the helm since 2009.
- **Oli** and the **Nepali Congress** party's president **Sher Bahadur Deuba**, 78, will rotate in holding the prime minister's post until the next general election in 2027.
- Recently, after the so-called support for **Gyanendra Shah** increased in the last few weeks, **PM Oli** challenged the former king to return to mainstream politics.

4. Mention key chain of events in current Nepal political crisis?



5. What triggered the protests?

- The immediate spark was the government's decision on **September 4 to block 26 social media platforms**, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, X, and YouTube, after they **failed to comply with a deadline to register locally**, appoint grievance handlers, and remove flagged content.
- Issuing a public notice, the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology** had said it “**has ordered the Nepal Telecommunication Authority to make inactive all non-registered social media sites until they are registered.**”
- Locations* of the reported protests in Nepal following the ban on social media platforms imposed on Thursday (Sep 4, 2025)



6. Who are the protesters on the streets of Nepal's capital?



- A couple of months ago, some **Facebook** pages, including **one called Next Generation Nepal**, began to post on the **grim political situation** in Nepal and the massive corruption in high places.

- No specific individuals appeared to be **promoting the posts**, but it was clear that most of them belonged to a generation that was **born between 1996 and 2012**, the cohort known as “**Generation Z**”, or ‘**Gen Z**’.
- The young people, teens and those in their 20s, **expressed their anger and frustration at the corrupt political system** and the immunity that politicians who have run Nepal by turns since the republic was created in 2008, have given themselves from investigation or accountability.
- The criticism especially targeted the extravagant lifestyles of the children and wards of senior politicians, and expressions like ‘**Nepo Babies**’ and ‘**Nepo Kids**’ trended online.

7. What are the reasons for the recent Nepal protest?



- People in Nepal have **grown frustrated with the republic**, saying it has **failed to bring about political stability** and blaming it for a **struggling economy and widespread corruption**.

Reasons	Analysis
Political Instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability in Nepal has been a recurring issue due to a variety of factors, which have hindered the country's development and governance. • Nepal has seen numerous short-lived coalition governments since the end of the monarchy, with frequent changes in leadership. • One of the major sources of political instability was the drafting of Nepal's new constitution, which was promulgated in 2015 after a long process of negotiation. • The constitution has faced criticism from various groups, including the Madhesi community, indigenous groups, and opposition parties. • Disputes over issues like federal boundaries, representation, and language rights have contributed to ongoing instability. • Nepal has not seen any government complete its full term ever since the restoration of democracy in 1990. • It witnessed 14 governments since the abolition of the monarchy, hampering economic growth and discouraging investment.
Ban on social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 4, 2025, the Nepalese government imposed a ban on 26 major social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, X, Reddit, LinkedIn, Snapchat, Pinterest, and more—for failing to register under a new directive aimed at overseeing digital content.

- **Citizens** viewed it as a severe **breach of free speech** and an act of **censorship**.



Nepotism

- According to The **New York Times**, in the run-up to violent protests in Nepal, social media posts tagged **#nepokids**, showing **politicians' children on luxury trips** and in designer clothes, went viral, drawing outrage in a country where a **quarter of the population lives below the poverty line**.
- A group of youngsters, who launched a campaign called **“Nepo Kid”** on various social media platforms, have also joined the protests.

THE WILDEST NEPOTIST (One who engages in nepotism)
PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL aka PRACHANDA



RELATION	POSITION/ POST
- Renu Dahal (Daughter)	Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City
- Arjun Pathak (Son-in-law)	Personal Secretary of Mayor Wife Renu Dahal
- Bagar KG (Son-in-law)	Personal Secretary of Speaker of the house of representatives.
- Jiwon Acharya (Son-in-law)	Advisor of Vice President of Nepal
- Khem Bhandari (brother-in-law)	Chairman of Bhatapur Hospital, Chitwan
- Harayan Dahal (Brother)	Chairman of CPN, State 3
- Chudamani Khadka (Co-father-in-law)	Member of the House of Representatives
- Mahesh Dahal (Brother's Son)	Newly Appointed Ambassador of Australia
- Bina Magari (Daughter-in-law)	Water Supply Minister

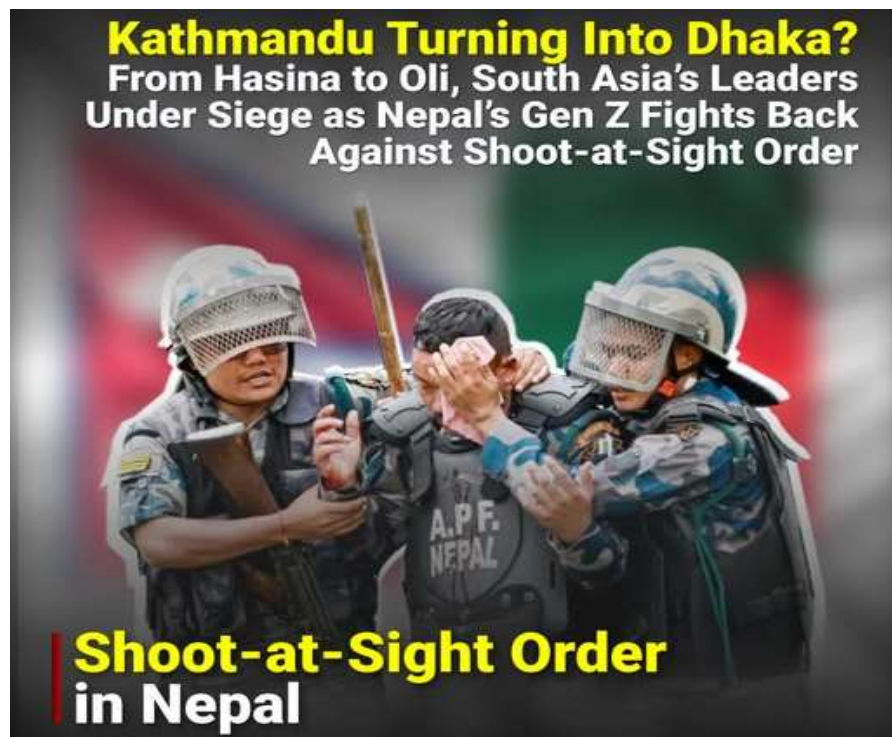
Almost every relatives of Prachanda is in higher possessions of the Government of Nepal, one way or another despite of poor qualification and numerous controversies. Yes, the perfect example of Nepotism exists.


Severe response from Government

- Security forces used **tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets, and live ammunition** at various point.



- The death toll varies across reports, ranging from **17 to 30 protesters killed**, with hundreds injured.



Corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adding to public anger in 2023 were two big corruption scandals in which major political parties were allegedly involved.• In the fake refugee scandal and the Lalita Niwas land grab, top politicians and scores of high-level government officials were arrested despite parties attempting to intervene in order to protect their officials. <div><div><p>Nepal's Corruption Perceptions Index scores in past 9 years</p></div><table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Scores</th><th>Rank</th></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>27</td><td>139/176</td></tr><tr><td>2013</td><td>31</td><td>116/177</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>29</td><td>126/175</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>27</td><td>130/168</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>29</td><td>131/176</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>31</td><td>122/180</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>31</td><td>124/180</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>34</td><td>113/180</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>33</td><td>117/180</td></tr></table></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nepal ranked 110th in the Corruption Perception index in 2023 and there are reports that with the adaptation of federal structures, local bodies too are reporting increased corruption.	Year	Scores	Rank	2012	27	139/176	2013	31	116/177	2014	29	126/175	2015	27	130/168	2016	29	131/176	2017	31	122/180	2018	31	124/180	2019	34	113/180	2020	33	117/180
Year	Scores	Rank																													
2012	27	139/176																													
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2020	33	117/180																													
Economic Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with a per capita income of \$680 in 2015.• The mainstay of the economy is agriculture, providing a livelihood for more than 70% of the population and accounting for 42% of GDP.• In 2020, the economy contracted by 2.1% due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely affected key sectors like tourism and remittances.• In 2023, Nepal's GDP per capita is around \$1,400 USD (compared to the world average of around \$12,000).																														

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing economic woes are causing anger among people, providing a breeding ground for regressive forces that aim to overturn the system. 												
Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal's economic environment is marked by slow growth, high unemployment and widespread underemployment. • The scarcity of job opportunities perpetuates a cycle of poverty and restricts economic mobility. • Nepal faces a severe unemployment crisis, leading many young workers to migrate abroad for better opportunities. • In recent years, the youth unemployment rate reflecting the percentage of individuals aged 15–24 who are jobless but actively seeking employment has been a critical metric of the country's economic challenges. <div data-bbox="531 1199 1367 1705"> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Youth Unemployment Rate (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>19.88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>19.88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>23.80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>22.75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>20.52%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Year	Youth Unemployment Rate (%)	2018	19.88%	2019	19.88%	2020	23.80%	2021	22.75%	2022	20.52%
Year	Youth Unemployment Rate (%)												
2018	19.88%												
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SOUTH ASIA

Nepal, at a glance

Landlocked in the Himalayas, Nepal borders China to the north and India on three sides. Youth-led protests over a social media ban and government corruption turned deadly, forcing Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign.



8. Why Nepal banned social media sites?

- The Nepal government on September 4 banned 26 social media sites, including Facebook, WhatsApp and X, that do not comply with the mandated registration process, reported PTI.

- Although the **government has clarified** its stance that the social media sites **were banned to bring them under regulation.**
- But the **general perception** among the masses is that this will lead to an **attack on free speech, and it may lead to censorship.**
- The ban of social media sites, **including Facebook and Instagram,** has been **imposed owing to them not registering with Nepal's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.**
- According to reports, a notice was **allegedly sent to the social media platforms** and they were given a week's time from **August 28 to register,** however, none of them submitted their applications adhering to the given **deadline.**
 - The list includes **Meta (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), Alphabet (YouTube), X (formerly Twitter), Reddit, and LinkedIn.**
- The government's notice came after **Nepal's Supreme Court order last year asking the social media** sites to provide a **point of contact** and appoint a **resident grievance handling officer and compliance officer.**
- It is reported that **TikTok, Viber, Witk, Nimbuzz, and Popo Live** have been registered with the government and they continue to operate in the country, however, **applications from Telegram and Global Diary are under scrutiny.**
- Previously, **Telegram was banned due to alleged online fraud and money laundering** activities facilitated through the platforms. **TikTok, also banned last year,** had the **restriction ban lifted** in August this year after it agreed to comply with the **Nepali regulations.**

9. Who is Sudan Gurung, the man behind massive Gen Z protest in Nepal?



- According to reports, at the heart of the protest is **38-year-old Sudan Gurung**, who leads **Hami Nepal**, the **organisation behind the Gen Z protest**, which turned deadly and resulted in **19 deaths and more than 300 injuries**.
- According to a report in **The Annapurna Express**, before founding the **NGO Hami Nepal**, Gurung worked in event management.
- He was a **DJ and also owned a nightclub, OMG**.
- **Sudan Gurung** played a crucial role during **2015 earthquake in Nepal** where he used social media to call for volunteers to aid in the relief programme, and nearly **200 people responded**.
- Gurung has also led several protests in the past, including the **Ghopa Camp protest in Dharan in eastern Nepal**, which **raised awareness in every household** of the importance of **transparency** at the **BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences** and highlighted the need to improve medical services there.

- **Sudan Gurung and his organisation, Hami Nepal, called for peaceful protests against the government for banning social media.**
- **Ahead of the blackout, Hami Nepal used Instagram and Discord and called people to protest at Maitighar Mandala on September 8.**
- **The organisation also shared videos titled “how to protest”, urging students to turn up in uniforms with their books and bags as a peaceful symbol of dissent.**

10. How unequal is Nepal?

- **Nepal’s per capita annual income of approximately \$1,400 is the lowest in South Asia.**
- **Its poverty rate has consistently hovered over 20 percent in recent years.**
- **The country’s youth unemployment has been a big challenge, while the percentage of unemployed Nepali youth also not pursuing education stood at 32.6 percent in 2024, compared with 23.5 percent for neighbouring India, according to World Bank data.**
- **As a result, about 7.5 percent of the country’s population was living abroad in 2021.**
 - **By comparison, about 1 percent of Indians live outside their country and around 3.2 percent of Pakistan’s population was abroad.**
- **Nepal’s economy heavily relies on remittances from its citizens working abroad.**
- **As of 2024, personal remittances received comprised 33.1 percent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) among the highest in the world, after Tonga.**

11. Where does the political opposition in Nepal stand in this crisis?

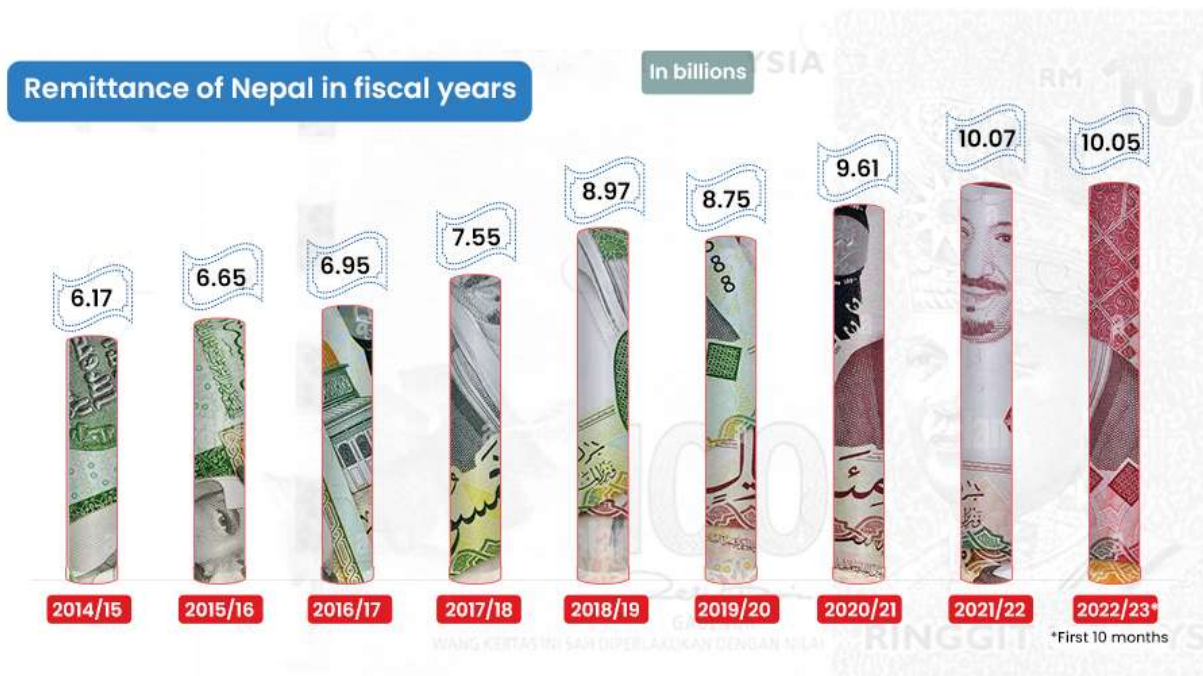
- **The protesters have targeted almost all senior political leaders in the country.**

- **Balen Shah**, a former rapper in his 30s, and **RSP leader Lamichhane**, a former television anchor, have **expressed support for the GenZ protesters**.
- The **pro-monarchy Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)** is **considering resigning from parliament en masse**.

12. Does the former King of Nepal figure anywhere in the present situation?



- The **former King, Gyanendra Shah**, has sent a **message of commiseration to the families** who have **lost one or more members** in the violence, and he has wished a **speedy recovery** to those who have been injured.
- He has also **issued an urgent appeal to all sides to sit together and find a solution to the crisis**, which suggests that **he may be willing to play a role similar to the one envisaged for the monarch by the country's pre-republic Constitution**.
- It is likely that an **interim government will be formed** after a decision is reached on the political agenda.



13. How and when could an interim government be formed in Nepal?

- **President Paudel and the Nepali army** have called the **protesters for talks on the country's political future**, with the **president positioning** himself as a convener of that dialogue.
- But first, more than **3,200 young Nepalis are currently** huddling in an online discussion on social media messaging platform Discord to debate ***“who will officially take part in the talks and what issues will be discussed”***, said **Anish Ghimre**, a **Nepali journalist** with the Kathmandu Post.
- Some of the potential demands they could make include the **dissolution of parliament**, **new elections within six months** or at most, a year and possibly, a **mechanism to directly elect the prime minister**.
- **Term limits for prime ministers**, and a **reduced term for parliament from five years to four** might also figure in their demands.

- Like other **parliamentary systems**, Nepal's voters elect their legislature, and it is the party that comes to **power that chooses the prime minister**.
- There are **currently no term limits for prime ministers**, but no PM has completed a five-year term since the country adopted its post-monarchy constitution in 2008.

14. How will the Nepal's political turmoil impact India?

- The widespread protests **against corruption, nepotism** and restricted economic opportunities, sparked by a ban on social media, have led to the fall of **KP Sharma Oli's government**.
- As unrest grips the **Himalayan nation**, India, which shares a porous border with Nepal, is on alert.
- Central agencies have issued alerts to the Bihar Police, the **Uttar Pradesh Police and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) to keep a strict vigil on the border**.

Impact	Description
High alert on India-Nepal border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's areas bordering Nepal are on high alert after protests in India's areas bordering Nepal are on high alert after protests in the country spiralled into political turmoil. • Police teams and SSB jawans are carrying out joint patrols, while security forces are closely monitoring any cross-border movement. • The Uttar Pradesh government has directed the police to stay on high alert in the border districts with Nepal. • Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has been using the Nepal border to send terrorists to India.

	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and arms smugglers have also used this border.
<p>Flights affected</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several flights in and out of the Nepal capital were cancelled as the Tribhuvan International Airport shut down following deadly protests. • Several airlines have cancelled flights to Nepal amid the political turmoil. • IndiGo, Air India and Nepal Airlines are among those to suspend flights to Kathmandu.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has urged Indian nationals to “defer travel” to the neighbouring country until the situation has stabilised.

<p>Prison Breaks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 13,500 inmates escaped from Nepalese prisons during the unrest, with some attempting to cross into India. • The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has apprehended several escapees along the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar borders 
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15. How Nepal's protest have weaken South Asian political stability?

- The past three years have seen **South Asia** rocked by political turmoil.
- From Afghanistan's Taliban takeover in 2021 to Imran Khan's ouster in Pakistan, from Sri Lanka's street-led removal of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022 to the mass protests that forced Sheikh Hasina to flee Bangladesh in 2024, abrupt regime changes have become a familiar sight.

South Asia's Political Upheaval

Recent years witness abrupt regime changes fueled by public rage and instability.



Nepal Uprising

Social media ban and corruption sparked youth protests, leading to PM Oli's resignation.



Bangladesh Revolt

Student-led protests over job quotas forced Sheikh Hasina to flee in August 2024.



Sri Lanka Crisis

Economic collapse in 2022 triggered mass protests, leading to President Rajapaksa's flight.



Pakistan Ouster

Imran Khan lost no-confidence vote in 2022, followed by protests after his arrest.



Afghanistan Shift

Taliban swept into Kabul in 2021 after US withdrawal, establishing strict Islamic rule.



Shared Drivers

Corruption, inequality, and youth unemployment are common catalysts for regional unrest.

Dimensions	Issues
Strained India-Nepal Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is closely linked to Nepal politically, economically, and culturally. Protests against government policies perceived as favoring foreign interests (India or China) create tension. This fuels anti-India or anti-foreign sentiment, complicating bilateral agreements and regional cooperation.
Ripple Effect on Regional Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instability in Nepal can embolden ethnic or regional movements in neighboring South Asian countries.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups observing Nepal's protests may adopt similar strategies, raising domestic unrest risks in India, Bangladesh, or Bhutan
Impact on South Asian Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional platforms like SAARC rely on political stability among member states. Nepal's unrest weakens trust and collaboration, delaying initiatives in trade, disaster management, and infrastructure development.

BANGLADESH'S HISTORY OF UPHEAVAL AND COUPS

1975

- The first PM Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father, was assassinated along with most of his family members in a military coup.
- Two more coups in the same year ended with General Ziaur Rahman seizing power in November.

1981

- Ziaur Rahman was assassinated by rebels who stormed into a government guest house. The violence was believed to be the act of a small group of army officers, but the army itself remained loyal and suppressed the rebellion.

1982

- Rahman's successor, Abdus Sattar, was ousted in a bloodless military coup led by Hussein Muhammad Ershad, who took over as chief martial-law administrator and later assumed the office of president.

2007

- The army chief staged a military coup and backed a caretaker government that ruled the country for the next two years until Hasina took power in 2009.

2009

- Unhappy with their wages and living conditions, revolting paramilitary forces killed more than 70 people in Dhaka, most of whom were army officers.
- The mutiny, as it was called, which had spread to nearly a dozen towns, ended after 6 days.

2012

- The Bangladesh army said it had foiled a coup attempt by retired and serving officers that was driven by a campaign to introduce Sharia, or Islamic law, throughout the country.

2024

- Bangladesh's Army Chief said Sheikh Hasina had resigned following violent anti-quota protests

16. What is the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal?

- The **India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950** forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
- The treaty talks about the reciprocal treatment of Indian and Nepali citizens in the two countries, in residence, property, business and movement.
- It also establishes **national treatment** for both **Indian and Nepalese businesses**.



Articles	Significance
Article 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There shall be everlasting peace and friendship between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal. • The two Governments agree mutually to acknowledge

	and respect the complete sovereignty , territorial integrity and independence of each other.
Article 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two Governments hereby undertake to inform each other of any serious fiction or misunderstanding with any neighbouring State likely to cause any breach in the friendly relations subsisting between the two Governments.
Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to establish and maintain the relations referred to in Article 1 the two Governments agree to continue diplomatic relations with each other by means of representatives with such staff as is necessary for the due performance of their functions. The representatives and such of their staff as may be agreed upon shall enjoy such diplomatic privileges and immunities as are customarily granted by international law on a reciprocal basis: Provided that in no case shall these be less than those granted to persons of a similar status of any other State having diplomatic relations with either Government.
Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two Governments agree to appoint Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls and other consular agents, who shall reside in towns, ports and other places in each other's territory as may be agreed to. Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls and consular agents shall be provided with exequaturs or other valid authorization of their appointment. Such exequatur or authorization is liable to be withdrawn by the country which issued it, if considered necessary.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasons for the withdrawal shall be indicated wherever possible. • The persons mentioned above shall enjoy on a reciprocal basis all the rights, privileges, exemptions and immunities that are accorded to persons of corresponding status of any other State.
Article 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Nepal shall be free to import, from or through the territory of India, arms, ammunition or warlike material and equipment necessary for the security of Nepal. • The procedure for giving effect to this arrangement shall be worked out by the two Governments acting in consultation.
Article 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Government undertakes, in token of the neighbourly friendship between India and Nepal, to give to the nationals of the other, in its territory, national treatment with regard to participation in industrial and economic development of such territory and to the grant of concessions and contracts relating to such development.
Article 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governments of India and Nepal agree to grant, on reciprocal basis, to the nationals of one country in the territories of the other the same privileges in the matter of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement and other privileges of a similar nature.
Article 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far as matters dealt with herein are concerned, this Treaty:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cancels all previous Treaties, agreements, and engagements entered into on behalf of India between the British Government and the Government of Nepal.
Article 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Treaty shall come into force from the date of signature by both Governments.
Article 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Treaty shall remain in force until it is terminated by either party by giving one year's notice.

17. What is the significance of India Nepal relations?

- India and Nepal share a **multifaceted relationship** characterized by deep-rooted historical, cultural, political, economic, and strategic ties

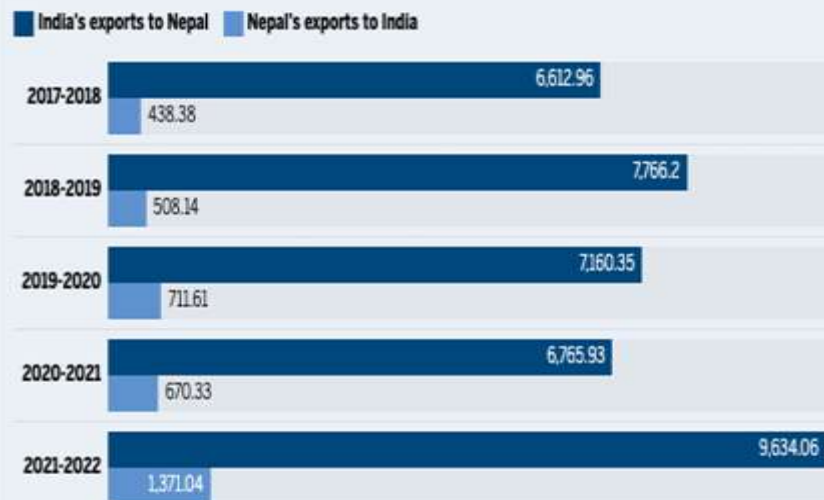
AREAS OF COOPERATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Historical & Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two nations share common religions (Hinduism, Buddhism), festivals (Diwali, Holi), Languages (Maithili, Bhojpuri, and Hindi). 

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Embassy of India in Nepal, in collaboration with Lumbini Development Trust and Lumbini Buddhist University organized the inaugural India-Nepal Cultural Festival in Lumbini on 8 December 2023. • The festival showcased the rich cultural heritage and traditions of India and Nepal, with a focus on Buddhism. • Kashi Tamil Sangamam-In 2023, a Nepalese delegation participated in the Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, an event highlighting South Asian cultural unity. • Proposed Ramayana Circuit-both the countries are planning to boost religious tourism by connecting key sites linked to epic like Ayodhya & Janakpur.
Economic Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India & Nepal hold strong economic ties, with India being Nepal's largest trade and investment partner significantly contributing to both Nepali imports and exports and also providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal. • Recently India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee meeting on trade transit and cooperation to combat unauthorised trade concluded in Kathmandu,(January,2025). • Indian firms are among the largest investors in Nepal, accounting for 33.5% of the total FDI stock in Nepal. • Revised treaty of transit,2023 that would provide Nepal access to inland waterways of India

- **Nepal-india Joint Economic Council (JEC)** 1994-established to promote trade and joint ventures.

Trade between India and Nepal

How much the two nations export to each other (in \$ mn)



India's major role in Nepal's economy

India accounts for:

66% of Nepal's merchandise trade



33% of trade in services



33% of foreign direct investments



100% of petroleum supplies




Significant share of inward remittances from workers and as pension

Defence Cooperation

- **India and Nepal** have long standing and **extensive mutually beneficial cooperation** in the field of **defence and security**.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian and Nepal Army has been working together on the modernization drive of the Nepali Army providing capacity building, equipment , Joint military exercises.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong relations between the both armies are exemplified through the Gorkha Regiment. • Currently around 32,000 Gurkha soldiers from Nepal are serving in the Indian Army.
Electricity Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most important areas of mutually beneficial cooperation in the India-Nepal bilateral relations is the collaboration in the power sector. • The Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation issued on 2 April 2022 during the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India, laid out a comprehensive roadmap for bilateral cooperation in the sector. • The export of electricity from Nepal to India reached around 650 MW in 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal earned more than Rs 10 billion from electricity exports, helping to reduce the trade deficit and augment foreign exchange earnings. • In 2023, a long-term power trade agreement was signed to export 10,000 megawatts of electricity from Nepal to India over 10 years.
Hydroelectricity Export and Regional Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant partnerships have been formed to build cross-border transmission lines. • Nepal has started exporting hydroelectricity to Bangladesh under a tripartite agreement with India and Bangladesh. • Nepal plans to export 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh in 2025, with potential increases in the future. <div data-bbox="553 945 1412 1241">  <p>Shirish A. Adhikari ... Nepal's foray into power trade with Bangladesh, facilitated by India, is a landmark achievement that could reshape South Asia's energy dynamics.</p> </div>
Humanitarian Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has been a longstanding partner of Nepal during emergencies and crisis situations. Nepali nationals in conflict zones, have been evacuated along with Indian nationals under Government of India's evacuation efforts under 'Operation Ajay', 'Operation Ganga' etc. • India was also the first responder when a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April 2015 (followed by a powerful aftershock of 7.4 magnitude on 12 May 2015).




- The Government of India announced a **post-earthquake reconstruction package** of **US\$ 1 billion** during the **International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction** held in **Kathmandu on 25 June 2015**.
- Similarly, when the **Covid-19 Pandemic** hit the world, the **Government of India** worked overtime to **ensure that the supply lines** of trade **between India and Nepal** remained open.
- **Nepal was one of the first countries** to receive the **Made in India- COVID-19 vaccine** on **21 January 2021**, paving the way for **Nepal's nationwide vaccination drive**.

Education

- **India's** development partnership with **Nepal** also extends to the **field of human resource cooperation**.


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of India provides more than 1500 scholarships each year, covering study in India as well as Nepal and encompassing courses ranging from medicine, engineering, agriculture, business, nursing, Ayurveda & other traditional medicine, music, dance etc. • For Government officials and other professionals, Nepal has also been an important partner under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program started in 1964. • Since 2007 alone, more than 2300 professionals, bureaucrats and defence personnel from Nepal have undergone this capacity building programme.
Digital Financial Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal and India decided to establish and enhance digital financial connectivity. • Indians traveling to Nepal can now make payments through their mobile phones. <div data-bbox="578 1268 1078 1619"> </div> <div data-bbox="1105 1255 1373 1650"> </div>

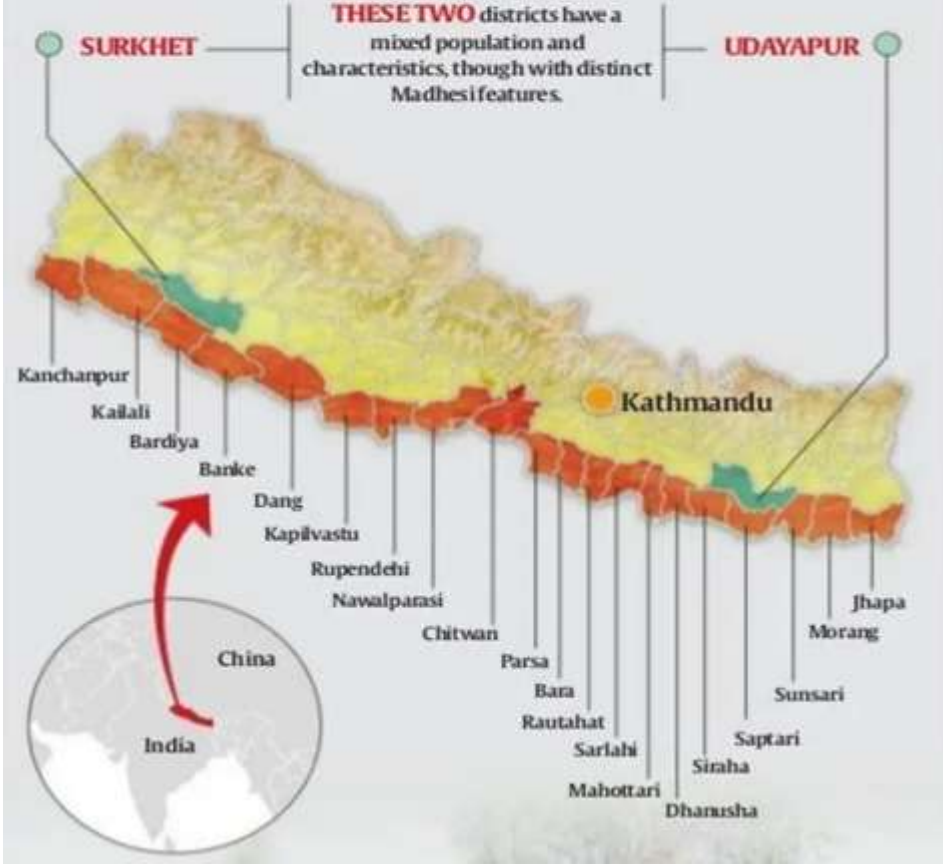
<p>Oil pipeline</p>	
<p>Multilateral engagements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India and Nepal are members of several multilateral forums. • These include BBIN Corridor (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), Non-Aligned Movement, and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) etc.

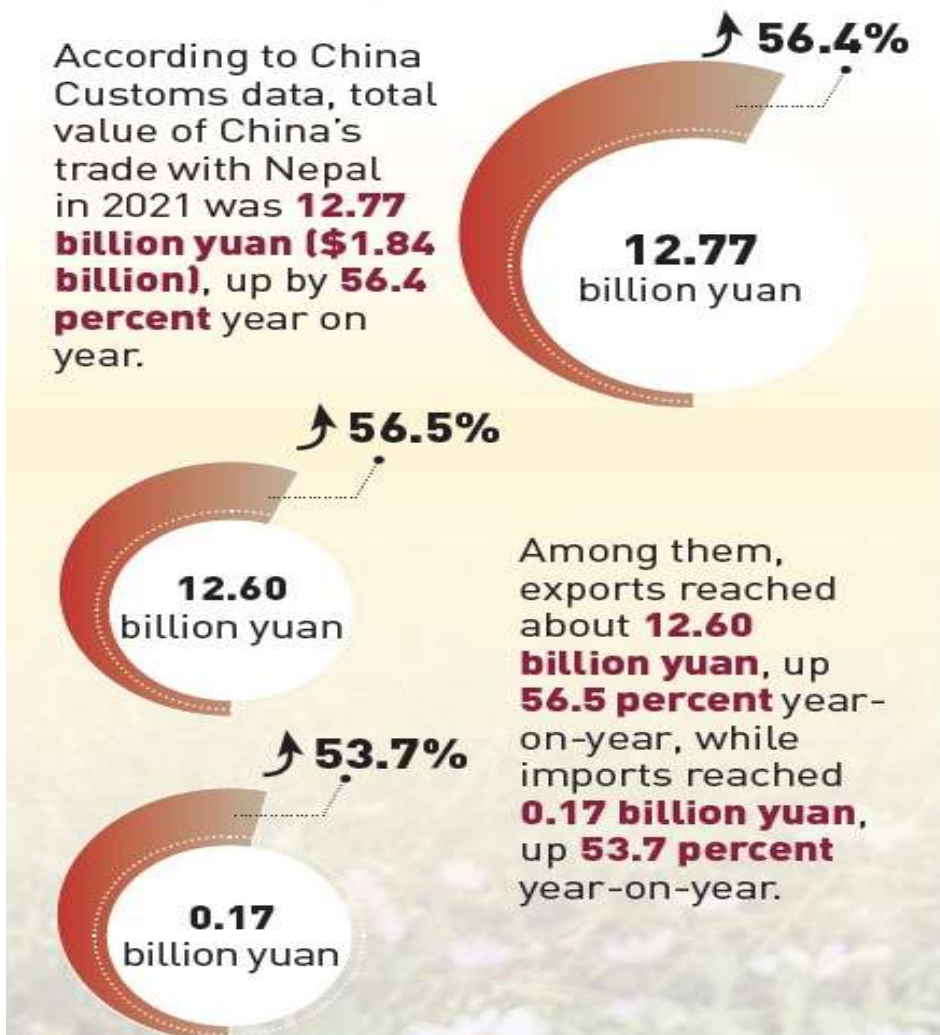
18. What are the challenges in India-Nepal relations?

Challenges	Analysis
<p>Issues with Peace and Friendship Treaty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of replacing the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship with India according to the spirit and aspirations of the Nepalese and according to the need of the time and situation is the most critical issue in the relationship between India and Nepal.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nepalese government argued that the treaty was signed at a time when Nepal was weak and not in a position to articulate its demands. • This treaty is described not only unequally but as an attack on Nepal's sovereignty on the ground that the circumstances in which the treaty was signed have changed and therefore, there is no relevance of this treaty anymore.
Territorial Disputes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the abrogation of article 370 in Kashmir, the Indian government issued a map showing the changed political map of Kashmir. • Nepal raised objection to this new map, accusing India of portraying certain regions of Nepal as Indian territory. • They claimed that the strategically important areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiadhura were part of Nepal. • In June, 2020, the parliament of Nepal voted unanimously to amend the Constitution to redraw the country's new political map. • Meanwhile, in 2020, India had inaugurated a new road to Mansarovar from Kalapani region to cut short the time and distance through Lipulekh pass. • The issue flamed anti-Indian sentiments in Nepal.

	
<p>The Madhesi Issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2015, Nepal adopted a new Constitution, replacing the interim Constitution of 2007. • The provisions of the new Constitution created widespread resentment among Madhesis. Madhesis are an ethnic group, living in the central and eastern Region of Nepal. • Owing to geographical contiguity, they have linguistic, religious, cultural, and matrimonial links with India. • Madhesis accused that the new Constitution failed to grant them adequate representation in the Parliament. • Therefore, they held a blockade along the open border with India causing disruptions in supply of food and fuel. • This five-month long blockade unleashed havoc for the local populations. • This further flamed anti-India sentiments as it was perceived that the blockade had the tacit support of India.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The bottom layer</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">The plains of Madhes cover 22 of Nepal's 75 districts, 17% of the country's area, and are home to over 50% of its population. The land, a narrow strip running along Nepal's southern border with India, is fertile and has a concentration of industries – yet, the region feels deeply discriminated against by Kathmandu</p> 
<p>Chinese Interference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to internal instability in Nepal, China is also trying to make inroads. • In recent years, Nepal has been more inclined towards China. • Currently, China is the largest source of FDI in Nepal. • It is also developing Trans-Himalayan Economic Corridor that will connect China's Tibet with Nepal.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will bring China closer to India. • Besides, China and Nepal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate within the BRI framework. • Nepal also supports China's inclusion in SAARC. <p>► China-Nepal trade volume</p> <p>According to China Customs data, total value of China's trade with Nepal in 2021 was 12.77 billion yuan (\$1.84 billion), up by 56.4 percent year on year.</p>  <p>Among them, exports reached about 12.60 billion yuan, up 56.5 percent year-on-year, while imports reached 0.17 billion yuan, up 53.7 percent year-on-year.</p>
Political Instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal politics of Nepal often determine the nature of India-Nepal relations. • Often, anti-Indian sentiments are flamed for narrow political gains in Nepal.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vested interests in Nepal have managed to block India-Nepal hydro-power cooperation. • Because of this, despite having around 83,000 MW hydro-electricity potential, Nepal remains a net importer of electricity. • Achal Kumar Malhotra, Ambassador (retd), says, <i>“If I were to identify one constant factor in India’s relations with its neighbouring countries, I would describe it as some sort of trust deficit.”</i>
Security Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The porous and poorly guarded border between India and Nepal allows terrorist groups to exploit it for smuggling weapons, ammunition, trained members and fake currency, which poses a significant security risk to India. • Open border between India and Nepal leads to illegal migration and human trafficking threatening Indian security.
Trust Deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trust between India and Nepal has weakened over time due to India’s slow implementation of projects. • Some Nepalese ethnic groups feel that India interferes too much in Nepal’s politics and undermines their political independence, leading to a dislike for India.

19. Enlist views of various scholars on India-Nepal relations?

Scholars	View
V P Haran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former India's Ambassador to Nepal, V P Haran, highlighting that "peace, stability, and prosperity of neighbouring countries are in our national interest," Haran says that active institutionalization is the key to improving India's relations with its neighbours. • For Instance, annual bilateral meetings at summit levels, even if brief, can 'generate momentum for expediting ongoing projects and provide opportunity to clear any misunderstanding.'
Prof. S. D. Muni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He holds that the geography and people-to-people contacts favour India-Nepal relations. • One of the reasons for the breakdown in India's Nepal policy is that the Indian policy has been driven by "a strong sense of inherent insecurity, bordering on paranoia." • He suggests that India should avoid undue delay in the implementation of its projects in Nepal. Otherwise, it will leave space for China.
Shyam Sharan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Shyam Sharan, there is a paradox that despite having deep-rooted P2P relations, the G2G relations between India and Nepal have lagged behind. • Sharan suggests that India should be open to any treaty Nepal is willing to negotiate as India has not much to lose.

C Rajamohan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the China issue, C Rajamohan suggests that India should adopt Nepal first policy. • Although, geography and P2P contacts favour India, India cannot take Nepal for granted. • India should also avoid repeating past mistakes like interfering in Nepal's domestic politics and provide reassurance to Nepal through continued political engagements.
Harsh V Pant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsh V Pant (ORF Head of Strategic Studies) believes that India has neglected South Asia. • India has failed to consolidate its hold in this region because of structural asymmetry, delayed implementation, inward looking policy since the 1990s, and focussed mainly on major powers like the USA.

20. What can be the possible way ahead?

- The **situation in Nepal is complex**, with growing dissatisfaction over the **republic** and calls for the **restoration of the monarchy.**
- Moving forward, there needs to be a **multipronged approach** to address various **loopholes in the current political system.**

DIMENSIONS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Institutional Reforms to bring Political Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting free and fair elections to rebuild public trust in the government. • Address public grievances and political inefficiencies through effective and stringent implementation of constitutional amendments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building and strengthening of democratic institutions to achieve good Governance. • Strengthening Anti-corruption measures to regain Public trust.
Economic Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing structural reforms in the economy through changes in policies, regulations, to alleviate poverty. • Boosting economic growth by effective investment in both human resource and physical infrastructure. • Making Digitization as a cornerstone in economic governance to curb corruption.
Structural Anti-Corruption Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal needs robust institutional frameworks that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen judicial independence, audits, and anti-corruption agencies ▪ Require transparency in governance processes—from budget allocation to law enforcement
Ensuring Press freedom and protection of Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring freedom of speech and preventing suppression of political dissent. • Strict enforcement of laws to prevent attack on journalists and ensure media protection.
Fostering enhanced International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement best practices across the world wrt governance, political reforms.

collaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Foreign investments and trade partnerships. • Maintaining Strategic diplomatic ties and avoidance of over reliance on any one country.
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21. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** India-Nepal Relations, India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950, Kalapani Boundary Issue, India's Neighbourhood First Policy.
- **For Mains:** India-Nepal Relations - Significance, Associated Challenges and Ways to Resolve the Challenges.

Some previous years prelims questions.

Q1.

Community sometimes mentioned in the news	In the affairs of
1. Kurd	Bangladesh
2. Madhesi	Nepal
3. Rohingya	Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Ans: (c)

Some previous years mains questions.

Q1. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (2022-15 Marks)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- Are you aware of FATF blacklisting Nepal ?
- What does FATF do?

Board Sanjay Varma Sir:

- Regarding Trump's statements on Canada, What do you think will happen if India declares the same with regards to Bangladesh?
- What will happen if we do the same with Nepal, hypothetically?

Board Sheelvaedhan sir:

- I will name the borders of India one by one.
- Can you tell me the challenges and nature of the border?
 - Pakistan
 - China
 - Nepal
 - Bangladesh
 - Myanmar
- Now tell me which you think is the most important border for India in future?

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- What was the issue between Nepal and Bhutan during pre independence era?
- What are territorial disputes between India and Nepal?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following Countries.

1. Afghanistan
2. India
3. SriLanka
4. Nepal
5. Bhutan

How many of the above countries are part of the SAARC multilateral group?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Ans: (d)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think the Nepal crisis is part of a bigger geopolitical game?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Do you support the methods adopted in Nepal's anti government protest?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

