

- **Use new inland water ports for promoting regional connectivity:** Water transport provides a sustainable alternative to other models of transport.
- **Allow third party goods to be transported under the coastal shipping agreement:** This will save time and costs: an estimate puts the savings at USD 37.5 million per year for Bangladesh. It will also reduce congestion at the Chattogram seaport.
- **Greater regional connectivity-** The coastal shipping agreement between India and Bangladesh can also lead to a greater **BIMSTEC coastal shipping agreement** which can increase trade between the member countries. Further, the road and rail transit routes, both existing and proposed, can also be a part of the **Trans-Asian highway and railway projects**.

CONCLUSION-

- PM Modi has termed the present state of relationship as '**Sonami Adhyay**' and both sides can play a significant role in global and regional value chains by further integrating their economies and boosting connectivity.

INDIA-NEPAL

introduction-

- As close neighbours, India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation characterized by open borders and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture. The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, Nepal published a new political map that claimed Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of its sovereign territory. India responded by saying that artificial enlargement of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it and asked the neighbouring country to refrain from "unjustified cartographic assertion".

India Nepal Ties

India and Nepal share deep social, cultural, strategic, political, and economic ties that have been forged over many centuries.

- **ECONOMIC-** India remains Nepal's dominant trade partner, steadily accounting for approximately 60-65% of all trade with Nepal. As Nepal is a landlocked country, it is dependent on India for access to sea.
- **INVESTMENT-** Indian firms are the biggest investors in Nepal, accounting for about 40% of total approved foreign direct investments. There are about 150 operating Indian ventures in Nepal. They are engaged in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries.
- **POLITICAL-** Both countries share Open Borders under treaty of peace and friendship. Both countries are also members of SAARC and BIMSTEC.
- **SOCIAL-** The two countries have close bonds through marriages and familial ties, popularly known as Roti-Beti ka Rishta.
- **Water Resources** – There are about 250 small and large rivers flow from Nepal to India and constitute an important part of the Ganges river basis. A three-tier bilateral mechanism was established in 2008 to discuss all issues relating to cooperation in water resources and hydropower between the two countries.
- **Cultural-** India and Nepal share rich Hinduism and Buddhist cultural heritage. Both the governments have also tried to build on this shared cultural heritage. India and Nepal have also signed sister-city agreements for twinning of Janakpur-Ajodhya, Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodhgaya.
 - India is also supporting 2 heritage projects, namely, **Pashupatinath riverfront** development and **Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration** in Patan Durbar.
- **Defence cooperation-** Indian and Nepalese military undertake annual joint military exercise '**surya kiran**'. India also provides equipment and training to Nepalese army to assist in its modernisation.