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India's Assistance for Pashupatinath Temple

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Why in News

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Nepal for the construction of a sanitation facility at the Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu.

This comes amid a raging **border row between the two countries**.

Key Points

- The facility will be constructed under the **Nepal-Bharat Maitri: Development Partnership** as a high impact community development scheme by India.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has pledged to extend financial assistance amounting to Rs. 2.33 crore.
- **Implemented by:** Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
- **Norms and Completion:** Norms to be laid out by the Government of Nepal and completion within 15 months.
- Earlier in 2018, **Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala** was also inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **Significance:** This initiative is another milestone in strengthening cultural ties and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Pashupatinath Temple

- Dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, Pashupatinath is one of the most important religious sites in Asia for devotees of Shiva.
- It is the largest temple complex in Nepal and stretches on both sides of the **Bagmati River**.
- Temples dedicated to several other Hindu and Buddhist deities surround the temple of Pashupatinath.
- Only Hindus are allowed through the gates of the main temple.

- It was conferred the status of a **World Heritage Site** in 1979 by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.

Source : TH