



India-Nepal Literature Festival

Why in News?

A three-day **India-Nepal Literature Festival** was organised in **Vrindavan (Mathura), Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

- **About the festival:**
 - The event was **organised by Geeta Shodh Sansthan**, an affiliate of Uttar Pradesh **Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad**, and **Krantidhara Sahitya Academy, Meerut**.
 - More than **180 litterateurs, writers, journalists and educationists** from India and Nepal **participated** in this festival.
 - The main objective of this festival was to **promote and enhance the literary and cultural heritage of both the countries**.
- **Importance:**
 - The exchange of literature and culture was encouraged.
 - Cooperation between the litterateurs of India and Nepal was promoted.
 - Traditional and contemporary literature got a new direction.

India-Nepal relations

- As neighbours, **India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation**, characterized by **an open border**, kinship between the people of the two countries and strong cultural ties.
- India contributes nearly two-thirds of **Nepal's merchandise trade and nearly one-third of its services trade**.
- Battalion level joint military exercise, '**Surya Kiran**', is conducted on rotation basis in both India and Nepal.
- India assisted Nepal mainly by upgrading 10 roads in the Terai region, establishing cross-border rail links at Jogbani-Biratnagar and Jaynagar-Bardibas, and setting up integrated check posts at major locations like Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa and Nepalgunj.
- India has signed three sister-city agreements to connect **Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodh Gaya** and **Janakpur-Ayodhya**.