



Authorities to Suspend Cross-Border Transit

Why in News?

Authorities plan to temporarily close the border between **Uttarakhand State in India** and [Nepal's Sudurpaschim Province](#) from the evening of 19th April as a **routine precaution ahead of India's general elections**.

- The closure will not impact **cross-border emergency services**.

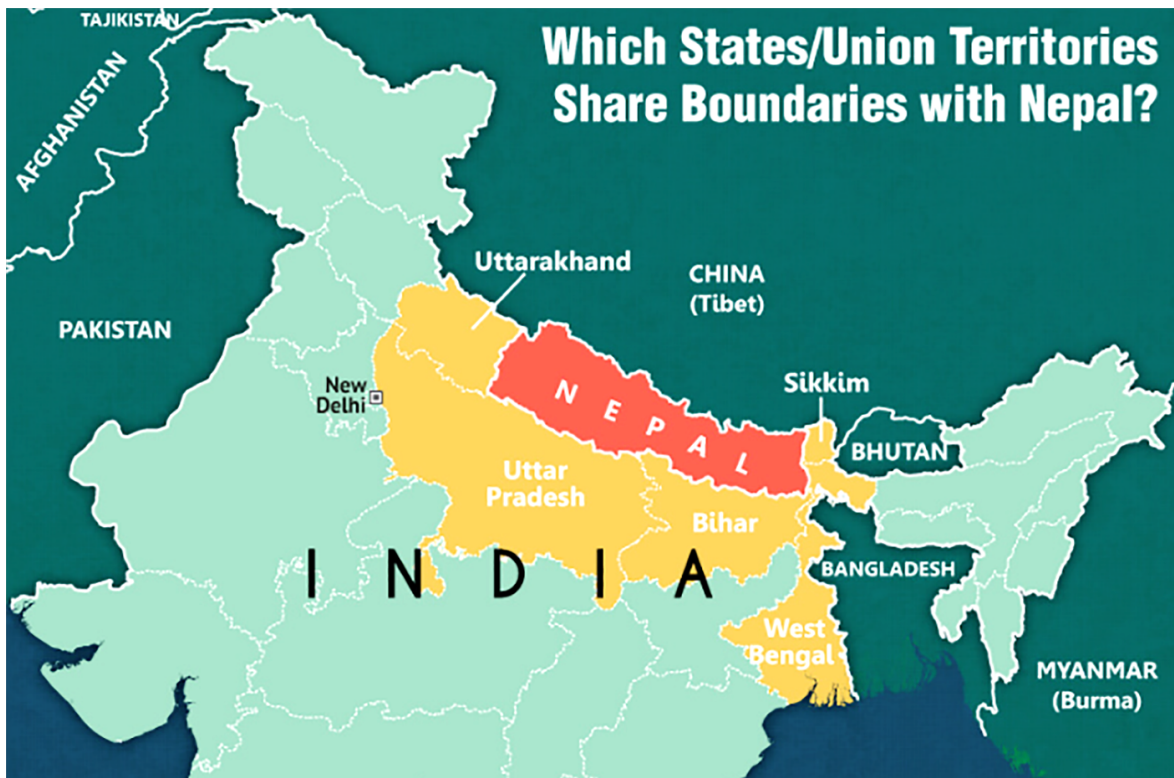
Key Points

- An **increased security** presence will be in place across India with **heightened vigilance** likely being exercised on both sides of the border.
- Disruptions to **cross-border freight and passenger traffic** could extend for several days after the closure is lifted as transport companies and customs officials clear their backlogs.

India-Nepal

- Nepal **shares a border with 5 Indian states**- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar. Hence an important point of cultural and economic exchange.
- The importance for India **can be studied from two different angles:**
 - Their strategic importance for India's national security.
 - Their place in India's role perception in international politics.
- Nepal is right in the middle of India's '**Himalayan frontiers**', and along with Bhutan, it acts as a **northern 'borderland' flanks** and acts as buffer states against any possible aggression from China.
- Rivers originating in Nepal **feed the perennial river systems** of India in terms of ecology and hydropower potential.
- Many Hindu and Buddhist religious sites are in Nepal making it an **important pilgrimage site** for a large number of Indians.

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