Cross Border Human Trafficking

What is the issue?

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- Following the 2015 Nepal earthquake, there has been threefold increase in human trafficking from Nepal to India.
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- Most of the victims were reported to be minors and large number of women left the country to find employment abroad.
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- The destination countries for most of them were Kyrgyzstan, Israel, West Asia, and India.
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What are the concerns in identifying human trafficking?

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- Identifying cases of human trafficking is not easy as no case of human trafficking has been registered since 2015.
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- It is often difficult for the police to identify a human trafficking case at the source since the victim may have been lured through the false promise of marriage or a job.
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- The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950 provides for an open border between Nepal and India and there is a seamless human movement.
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- Individuals are stopped only on the basis of suspicion, intelligence or information from family members or relatives.
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What measures needs to be taken?

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- Closing the border may prevent cross-border trafficking, but it could also engender economic vulnerabilities for those who have jobs or own businesses along the border.
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- It is imperative to create economic opportunities, particularly for the youth, within the country.
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- Nepal-India border needs to be equipped with enhanced intelligence networks and effective monitoring mechanisms.
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Source: The Hindu

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