India Nepal - An ‘On & off’ relationship

Why in news?

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Nepali PM ‘Sher Bahadur Deuba’ visited India recently.

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How did the visit pan out?

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- While India has denied having discussed Doklam, the joint statement issued said that ‘defence is an important aspect of Indo-Nepal ties.
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- Deuba also apparently failed to convince India that the embankments India “unilaterally” built on its side of the border causes floods in the Madhes area every year.
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- There has been strident criticism in Nepal for the joint statement and Deuba’s commitment to amend the constitution to address the grievances of the Madhesis.
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- Considering that India is seen as a nosy big-brother in Nepal, Deuba will need to dispel the suspicion about any “secret deal” having been made during his visit.
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What are current issues of concern in Nepal?

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- Political instability has seen almost 10 governments fall in Nepal in as many years, with the current PM too facing similar issues.
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- Nepal’s political order harbours heightened anxieties about its new constitution in the backdrop of the upcoming November general elections

that would formalize the republic.
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- A law and order problem can be detrimental to the timely conduct of the polls scheduled in November.
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- The republic is also vulnerable as some powerful groups vouch to restore Nepal’s monarchy and its Hindu status that the new constitution removed.
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How is it from the Indian perspective?

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- The growing influence of China in Nepal is an irritant and India has been making continued efforts to remain Nepal’s primary ally.
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- India badly needs to tell Nepali people that the post-earthquake blockade was an aberration and unfortunate.
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- The hydro project ‘Arun Three’ that will be built with Indian aid is touted to start soon, which is avenue to build goodwill.
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- However, the increasing hostility or indifference of more and more political actors in Nepal towards India makes things look difficult.
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Source: Indian Express

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