

PSIR Pulse

October 2025



By- Shashank Tyagi
Ex Consultant, Office of Minister Social
Welfare, GNCTD
Faculty - PSIR Optional, StudyIQ IAS



Table of Contents

GEOPOLITICS AT GLANCE	3
• 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	3
• South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)	5
• India's Diaspora and the Challenge of Public Diplomacy	8
• Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza plan	10
• India's Neighbourhood First Policy: Building Peace, Prosperity, and Regional Leadership	12
• India-Bhutan Relations: A Model of Trust and Cooperation	15
INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (IGP)	19
• 100 Years of UPSC	19
• Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India	21
• Women's Representation in India's Judiciary: Breaking the Glass Ceiling of Justice	23
MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS	27
SCHOLAR DIGEST: KNOW YOUR SCHOLARS	29
• Immanuel Wallerstein	29
• Sir Syed Ahmed Khan	30
• Joseph Stiglitz	31
ENRICH YOUR ANSWER	33
PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS	36

GEOPOLITICS AT GLANCE

80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)



INTRODUCTION

At the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterated the urgent need for reforming multilateral institutions. He stressed that the UN must reclaim credibility, deliver on its founding Charter of peace and dignity, and respond to modern challenges such as terrorism, climate change, economic friction, and sustainable development. India, alongside the Global South, positioned itself as a responsible leader ready to strengthen cooperation and assume greater global responsibilities.

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY – STRUCTURE AND ROLE

The UNGA is the primary deliberative, representative, and policymaking organ of the United Nations, where all 193 member states have equal voting rights.

- ❑ **Nature of work:** It provides a universal forum for debates on peace and security, development, human rights, international law, and budgetary matters.
- ❑ **Decision-making:** Two-thirds majority is needed for critical issues (new members, peace/security), while other matters require a simple majority. Its resolutions are non-binding but politically persuasive, with enforcement usually left to the Security Council.

- ❑ **Structure:** Six committees (disarmament, economic, humanitarian, political, budgetary, legal) carry forward substantive work, supported by the President and Bureau.
- ❑ **Key powers:** Approval of UN budget, election of non-permanent Security Council members, ICJ judges, and recommendation of the Secretary-General.

Historically, UNGA has been instrumental in shaping **global milestones** such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Decolonization Declaration (1960), and global development compacts like the MDGs and SDGs.

80TH SESSION THEME AND PRESIDENCY

The 80th session of the UNGA carried the theme **“Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights.”** It is presided over by Annalena Baerbock of Germany.

Highlights of EAM Jaishankar’s Address

1. The UN’s Crisis of Credibility

- The UN is struggling to deliver on its Charter amidst unresolved conflicts, slow SDG progress, climate inaction, and rising economic frictions.
- He described the institution as being in “a state of crisis,” warning that without reform, multilateralism risks irrelevance.

2. Security Council Reform – Core Demand

- Jaishankar called for expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats to reflect current realities.
- India, with its developmental record and global outreach, highlighted its readiness to shoulder greater responsibilities.

3. Global Challenges

- **Conflict:** Ukraine and Middle East illustrate weakening conflict-resolution capacity of the UN.
- **Development:** SDG delivery is lagging, threatening Agenda 2030.
- **Climate:** Empty commitments risk turning climate action into climate injustice.
- **Economy:** Tariff volatility, technology restrictions, and supply-chain rigidity highlight the need for collective responses.

4. Terrorism – Shared and Urgent Threat

- Terrorism remains a synthesis of intolerance, bigotry, and violence.
- India’s own experience of living next to a state sponsoring global terrorism underscores urgency.
- Called for choking terror financing, sanctioning masterminds, and closing safe havens.

5. India and the Global South – Readiness to Lead

- India projects itself as a voice of the Global South.
- Contributions in development partnerships, humanitarian response, crisis mediation, and technology-sharing were highlighted.
- Urged the Global South to take more active roles in shaping the multilateral order.

6. Principles for Reform

- Cooperation, empathy, and common purpose must guide the world order.
- “Islands of prosperity cannot survive in an ocean of turbulence” — collective global well-being is interdependent.

- Reforming multilateralism is not optional but a necessity for the 21st century.

Quote to Remember

"The credibility of the UN is at stake. Reform is not a choice, but an absolute necessity to restore trust in multilateralism." – S. Jaishankar at UNGA 80

WHERE TO USE

- ☐ **GS Paper II (IR):** UN reforms, India and the Global South, multilateral institutions.
- ☐ **GS Paper III (Security):** Terrorism as a global challenge, India's call for collective action.
- ☐ **Essay:** Global governance, crisis of multilateralism, or India's role in shaping a fair world order.
- ☐ **Interview:** To demonstrate awareness of India's current positioning in multilateral diplomacy

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (SSTC)



South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

INTRODUCTION

The deadline for achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is fast approaching. Global progress on poverty, hunger, health, education, climate, and equality requires faster, more collective efforts. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) has emerged as a practical framework for advancing these goals, built on principles of solidarity, shared learning, and mutual respect. By sharing low-cost, easily

replicable solutions, SSTC allows developing countries to collaborate meaningfully and amplify each other's progress.

SOUTH–SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (SSTC)

South–South cooperation involves collaboration between countries of the Global South, along with institutions and civil society, to exchange knowledge, technology, and resources to address common development challenges. Triangular cooperation complements this by linking Southern partners with a Northern country or multilateral agency. While Global South partners take the lead, the third partner provides finance or technical expertise, strengthening trust and accountability.

The origins of SSTC lie in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) of 1978, which gave formal recognition to this model. The UN further institutionalised it by designating 12 September as the International Day for South–South Cooperation. Today, SSTC spans sectors including agriculture, health, education, climate change, social protection, urbanisation, human rights, and employment, drawing participation from governments, multilateral organisations, civil society, academics, and the private sector.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF SSTC

Over the past three decades, SSTC has matured into a credible global mechanism for practical development cooperation.

- ❑ More than 47 governments have contributed to the UN Fund for South–South Cooperation, enabling projects in over 70 countries and benefitting 155 nations.
- ❑ In 2024, the World Food Programme mobilised US\$10.9 million from Global South countries and private partners for projects aligned with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).
- ❑ UN pooled funds have supported rice fortification and supply-chain optimisation in Nepal.
- ❑ The UN India Development Partnership Fund has financed projects in the Lao PDR, showcasing South-led commitment to inclusive growth.

These initiatives demonstrate SSTC's capacity to align with SDGs, provide financing, and generate scalable development models.

INDIA'S ROLE IN SSTC

India has positioned itself as a leading proponent and innovator in South–South cooperation.

- ❑ **Institutional mechanisms:** The Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs provides an institutional base for planning and delivering demand-driven projects.
- ❑ **India–UN Development Partnership Fund:** Since 2017, the fund has supported more than 75 projects across 56 countries, with a focus on LDCs and SIDS.
- ❑ **Digital diplomacy:** India exports digital public infrastructure such as Aadhaar and UPI—low-cost, scalable tools adaptable to diverse contexts.
- ❑ **Voice of the Global South:** India convened global South summits and advocated for African Union membership in the G20, amplifying Southern priorities in multilateral forums.
- ❑ **Partnership with WFP:** Initiatives like Annapurti (Grain ATM), PDS supply-chain optimisation, women-led nutrition programmes, and rice fortification not only strengthened India's food security but also created replicable models for other countries.

CHALLENGES TO SSTC

Despite its progress, SSTC faces significant challenges:

- ❑ **Funding constraints:** Declining support for humanitarian and development initiatives hinders pilot projects and their scaling.
- ❑ **Institutional gaps:** Weak institutions, lack of trained personnel, and limited infrastructure reduce the capacity of some partners to absorb new solutions.
- ❑ **No shared framework:** The absence of a common global framework weakens monitoring, evaluation, and accountability.
- ❑ **Trust deficit:** When cooperation appears politicised or donor-driven rather than solidarity-based, it undermines credibility.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Innovation and new opportunities:** The 2025 UN Day theme highlights the need to explore fresh approaches, backed by stronger institutions.
- ❑ **Financing and accountability:** Increase funding for demand-driven projects and build accountability systems into programmes from the outset.
- ❑ **Broader coalitions:** Strengthen triangular cooperation by engaging civil society, private actors, and local communities, ensuring people-centred solutions.
- ❑ **Focus areas for impact:** Prioritise food security, nutrition, and resilience, where India's models provide practical pathways.
- ❑ **Emerging domains:** Expand SSTC into digital economy, AI governance, and climate financing, using replicable low-cost solutions that can be easily adopted across the Global South.

Quote to Remember

South South cooperation is not charity; it is solidarity in practice, based on shared struggles and shared hopes.
– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

- ❑ **GS Paper II (IR):** Role of India in South–South cooperation, development partnerships, global governance.
- ❑ **GS Paper III (Economy/Environment):** Sustainable development, climate action, digital public infrastructure.
- ❑ **Essay:** Topics on globalization, inclusive development, or India as a voice of the Global South.
- ❑ **Interview:** Use to illustrate India's leadership in development diplomacy and digital governance.

PSIR
Optional Subject (2026-27)
LIVE CLASSES & TEST SERIES

- 400+ Hours Live Lectures
- Comprehensive coverage of PYQ
- Hand written notes & crux
- Answer Writing Sessions
- Mains Test series
- One to One Mentorship

Gyan Bhandar

SHASHANK TYAGI



INTRODUCTION

India's diaspora population has expanded to 3.43 crore, making it the largest in the world, according to a government reply in Lok Sabha.

The Indian diaspora, among the world's largest, has earned global respect for its professional excellence, innovation, and political influence. Yet, while the diaspora thrives abroad, India's real challenge lies not in its people, but in its inability to manage global perception through coherent public diplomacy.

HOW INDIA'S DIASPORA IS A GLOBAL ASSET

Overseas Indians, especially Indian-Americans, are among the most successful immigrant groups globally, leading in technology, academia, medicine, and governance. From Silicon Valley CEOs to lawmakers in Western capitals, they represent the face of a confident, global India. They have strengthened bilateral relations, lobbied for immigration reforms, and promoted India's democratic and entrepreneurial identity across borders.

However, much of this has been achieved independently without structured state support or coordinated diplomatic engagement. The diaspora acts as India's informal ambassadorial network, yet the government has rarely converted this potential into strategic influence.

THE CORE ISSUE: INDIA'S WEAK PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

India struggles to tell its story effectively. Colonial legacies have left India's communication reactive and defensive, rather than assertive and data-driven. Successive governments have relied on symbolic mass rallies, nostalgia-based soft power, and cultural branding, while avoiding professional lobbying or narrative control.

In contrast, countries with far fewer resources, such as Pakistan or Israel, actively shape international narratives through targeted lobbying, think-tank engagement, and proactive storytelling. India's overreliance on cultural pride like Bollywood and bhangra has not evolved into a sustained communication strategy rooted in policy, development, and democratic values.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS DIASPORA

- ❑ **Absence of strategic communication:** India lacks a coordinated communication framework to promote its global achievements or counter misinformation.
- ❑ **Reactive diplomacy:** India's public responses often follow controversies instead of preempting them through narrative management.
- ❑ **Overdependence on cultural soft power:** Nostalgia, emotion, and cultural showcases dominate India's outreach rather than policy-based advocacy.
- ❑ **Institutional fragmentation:** Ministries, embassies, and diaspora groups work in silos with limited coordination.
- ❑ **Underutilized expertise:** Highly skilled Indian-origin professionals willing to contribute to India's development often face bureaucratic indifference.

THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA

The diaspora possesses immense economic, intellectual, and political capital influencing policies in the U.S., UK, Canada, and the Gulf. Their credibility in global innovation, finance, and science has positioned India as a hub of human capital.

Indian-Americans have repeatedly defended India's interests in forums where India itself remained absent. Their contributions in STEM, academia, and public policy can serve as a vast reservoir for India's "knowledge diplomacy", linking global expertise to India's development and governance needs.

THE WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Strengthen institutional public diplomacy:** Establish a Public Diplomacy and Narrative Management Division within the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- ❑ **Professionalize lobbying:** Collaborate with professional agencies in Washington, London, and Brussels to shape opinion and counter misinformation.
- ❑ **Build structured diaspora partnerships:** Create consultative platforms for Indian-origin legislators, professionals, and entrepreneurs to engage with Indian policy goals.
- ❑ **Empower embassies:** Train public diplomacy officers in strategic communication, media outreach, and narrative shaping.
- ❑ **Shift from symbolism to substance:** Replace mass rallies with evidence-based storytelling highlighting India's democratic resilience, technological leadership, and developmental innovations.
- ❑ **Institutionalize feedback:** Create participatory systems to incorporate diaspora perspectives in national policy and diplomacy.

CONCLUSION

India's diaspora has enhanced the nation's global image through excellence, credibility, and soft influence. Yet, India's weakness lies in narrative coherence and institutional coordination. To harness its full potential, India

must treat the diaspora not merely as emotional patriots, but as strategic partners in shaping India's voice, vision, and value in the world order.

Quotes

- *"The world will respect India not for what others say about it, but for what Indians themselves project and practice."* – S. Jaishankar
- *"Public diplomacy today is not about information, but about persuasion."* – Joseph Nye
- *"The Indian diaspora is India's bridge to the world."* – Narendra Modi

DONALD TRUMP'S 20-POINT GAZA PLAN



INTRODUCTION

Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza plan proposes an immediate ceasefire, hostage release, Hamas disarmament, and international oversight leading to reconstruction and a conditional path to Palestinian statehood. While ambitious, the plan faces deep scepticism from both Israel and Hamas, with major ambiguities threatening its credibility and implementation.

MAIN CONCERNS AND WEAKNESSES:

- ❑ **Undefined Timelines and Sequencing:** Except for the 72-hour hostage release clause, the plan lacks clarity on when the ceasefire, Israeli withdrawal, and demilitarisation will occur. The absence of fixed timelines makes it more declaratory than operational.
- ❑ **Absence of Neutral Oversight:** There is no independent mechanism to verify progress or adjudicate disputes. Without a credible monitoring body, both sides may accuse the other of violations, risking collapse of the process.

- ❑ **Unclear Stabilisation Force:** The multinational force's composition, rules of engagement, and coordination with Israeli forces are undefined. This raises feasibility, safety, and command-control concerns in an already volatile setting.
- ❑ **Israeli Reservations:** Israel prioritises security over speed. It fears that amnesty or safe passage for militants may allow regrouping. The leadership rejects any implied movement toward Palestinian statehood or a return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza.
- ❑ **Palestinian and Hamas Objections:** Hamas views the plan as one-sided, requiring full disarmament and hostage release while Israel retains military leverage. Exclusion from governance decisions and continued fighting under a so-called "ceasefire" undermine trust. Widespread arrests in the West Bank further erode confidence.
- ❑ **Weak Political and Legal Anchoring:** The plan overlooks the West Bank, settlement expansion, and UN-mandated 1967 border references. Without a legal or diplomatic anchor, it lacks legitimacy and coherence with international frameworks.
- ❑ **Unclear Path to Representation:** A technocratic committee and external oversight board replace governance, but no roadmap for elections, reforms, or institutional legitimacy is defined. This risks perpetuating unaccountable rule.
- ❑ **Fragile External Support and Financing:** Gulf countries remain non-committal, focused instead on their regional priorities like the Abraham Accords and Iran containment. With uncertain funding and enforcement, the plan's reconstruction promises ring hollow.
- ❑ **Economic Optimism without Political Substance:** Reconstruction visions of "Riviera-style" redevelopment ignore the political roots of the conflict. Economic revival without sovereignty or justice risks reproducing instability.

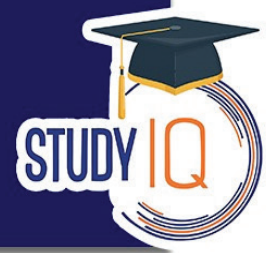
CONCLUSION

Trump's Gaza plan provides short-term relief but not sustainable peace. Undefined timelines, missing oversight, and lack of credible political direction weaken its viability. A durable ceasefire demands clear sequencing, neutral verification, inclusive governance, and alignment with international law, without which the plan risks becoming another rhetorical blueprint rather than a genuine roadmap to peace.

WHERE TO USE

- ❑ **GS Paper 2 – International Relations:** Use it under topics like "India and the World," "Effect of Policies of Developed Countries on India's Interests"
- ❑ **PSIR Paper II:** Fits under "Changing Nature of US Foreign Policy."
- ❑ **Essay Paper:** Can be used in essays on "Quest for Peace in a Polarised World," "Decline of Multilateralism," or "Middle East and the Fragility of Modern Peace Processes."
- ❑ **Current Affairs / International Affairs Notes:** Use this as a case study to show how peace plans fail without mutual trust, clear timelines, or multilateral legitimacy, useful in policy analysis or interview discussions.

India's Neighbourhood First Policy



CONTEXT

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya said today that India's neighbourhood first policy is helping all the neighbouring countries.

INTRODUCTION

India's **Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP)** forms the bedrock of its regional diplomacy and is a central pillar of its foreign policy. Formally conceptualized in 2008 and vigorously pursued since 2014, the NFP seeks to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region by deepening diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with neighbouring countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The policy is guided by the "5S" principles articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi: **Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Shanti (Peace), Samridhhi (Prosperity), and Sanskriti (Culture)**.

SALIENT FEATURES OF INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

- ❑ **Prioritising Immediate Neighbours:** The NFP underscores the idea that India's progress is inseparable from regional stability. A peaceful South Asia is essential for realizing India's own development goals.
- ❑ **Dialogue-Centred Engagement:** The policy emphasizes diplomacy and dialogue as instruments of trust-building. The invitation of all SAARC heads of government to Prime Minister Modi's 2014 swearing-in ceremony symbolised this outreach.

- ❑ **Resolving Bilateral Issues Peacefully:** India aims to address disputes through mutual consent. The operationalization of the **India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)** marked a landmark success in this spirit.
- ❑ **Connectivity and Regional Integration:** India envisions South Asia as an interconnected region with India as its logistical and economic hub.
 - **Physical Connectivity:** Projects such as the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project** (linking India and Myanmar) and new railway lines to Bangladesh and Nepal aim to improve trade routes.
 - **Digital Connectivity:** Expansion of internet, e-learning, and telecom infrastructure strengthens India's role as a digital hub.
 - **Energy Connectivity:** Regional power grids enable electricity trade, benefiting Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
- ❑ **Economic and Technical Cooperation:** Through SAARC, BIMSTEC, and **BBIN (Bangladesh–Bhutan–India–Nepal)**, India promotes free movement of goods, energy cooperation, and development of joint water management and transport infrastructure. The **SAARC Satellite** exemplifies India's commitment to sharing technology for development.
- ❑ **Disaster and Humanitarian Leadership:** India positions itself as the **first responder** in regional crises — from the **2015 Nepal earthquake** to the **2022 Sri Lankan economic crisis** — reinforcing goodwill and regional trust.
- ❑ **Defence and Security Cooperation:** Joint military exercises like **Surya Kiran (with Nepal)** and **Sampriti (with Bangladesh)** strengthen defence ties. The policy promotes joint responses to terrorism, piracy, and natural disasters, bolstering India's status as a **net security provider** in the Indian Ocean Region.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

- ❑ **Security and Strategic Relevance:** Stable borders and cooperative neighbours enhance India's internal and external security. Engagement with neighbours also helps counterbalance **China's expanding footprint** in the region, especially under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ❑ **Economic Integration and Development:** Regional trade, energy partnerships, and infrastructure development foster shared prosperity. Projects like **BBIN MVA** and **trilateral highways** link India's Northeast to ASEAN, accelerating growth and integration.
- ❑ **Strengthening Soft Power:** Cultural exchanges, educational scholarships, and medical assistance enhance India's image as a benevolent regional leader. India's focus on humanitarian diplomacy and inclusive development fosters long-term goodwill.
- ❑ **Managing Migration and Refugees:** Stable neighbours reduce irregular migration and refugee crises, helping India manage resources effectively.
- ❑ **Establishing India as a Net Security Provider:** By extending maritime security and disaster relief support to countries like **Maldives and Sri Lanka**, India demonstrates leadership in regional stability and crisis management.
- ❑ **Enhancing Global Standing:** The NFP reinforces India's image as a responsible regional power and strengthens its position in global forums like **SAARC, BIMSTEC, and IORA**, aligning with its aspiration for global leadership.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE NFP

- ❑ **The Pakistan Factor:** Persistent hostility, terrorism, and border tensions divert diplomatic attention and resources from constructive regional cooperation.

- ❑ **The China Challenge:** China's strategic and financial presence through the BRI and debt-financing in Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Nepal complicates India's influence.
- ❑ **Political Instability in Neighbouring States:** Frequent government changes in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka disrupt project continuity and policy consistency.
- ❑ **Perception of Dominance:** India's size and influence often evoke a "Big Brother" perception, causing smaller neighbours to hedge with China to assert autonomy.
- ❑ **Security and Border Issues:** Unresolved disputes (Kalapani with Nepal, Sir Creek with Pakistan) and cross-border concerns like illegal migration and terrorism hinder cooperation.
- ❑ **Water and Resource Conflicts:** Disagreements over trans-boundary rivers (like Teesta and Mahakali) affect trust and long-term partnerships.
- ❑ **Bureaucratic Delays and Implementation Gaps:** Slow project execution, administrative red tape, and funding delays have occasionally dented India's credibility.

MAJOR INITIATIVES UNDER THE NFP

- ❑ **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA):** Enables seamless regional transport and cargo movement.
- ❑ **Coastal Shipping Agreements:** Enhances logistics between India and Bangladesh using ports like Chittagong and Mongla.
- ❑ **Agartala–Akhaurya Rail Link:** Connects India's Northeast with Bangladesh's rail system.
- ❑ **Cross-Border Pipelines:** Projects like the **Motihari–Amlekhgunj pipeline** improve fuel connectivity to Nepal.
- ❑ **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region):** The maritime complement of NFP, ensuring peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean.
- ❑ **Lines of Credit:** India provides concessional financing for housing, railway, and infrastructure projects across South Asia.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Dedicated Implementation Cell:** Establish a "Neighbourhood Projects Cell" in the MEA to fast-track approvals and improve inter-ministerial coordination for project delivery.
- ❑ **Digital and Financial Integration:** Offer India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** like UPI, Aadhaar, and digital health platforms to neighbouring countries to foster dependency through technology-led cooperation.
- ❑ **Deepen Soft Power Diplomacy:** Expand scholarships, cultural exchange programmes, and joint heritage projects to nurture lasting goodwill.
- ❑ **Innovative Financing and Debt Support:** Encourage **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** for regional infrastructure and assist neighbours in debt management and sustainable financing to counterbalance Chinese loans.
- ❑ **Strengthen Institutional and People-to-People Linkages:** Enhance parliamentary exchanges, media cooperation, and youth interactions to build trust and mutual understanding.

CONCLUSION

India's **Neighbourhood First Policy** lies at the heart of its regional and global strategy. A stable, prosperous, and interconnected South Asia is vital for India's own security and growth. However, sustaining goodwill requires consistent delivery, strategic sensitivity, and inclusive partnerships. By blending hard infrastructure with soft

diplomacy and aligning regional priorities with national interests, India can ensure that its neighbourhood truly becomes its first circle of strength and stability.

Quote to Use:

"India cannot rise alone, its destiny is intertwined with that of its neighbours." — **Dr. S. Jaishankar**

WHERE TO USE:

- ☐ **GS Paper 2:** India and its Neighbours; Regional Cooperation and Security.
- ☐ **PSIR Paper 2:** India's Foreign Policy; India in South Asia.
- ☐ **Essay Paper:** Topics on regional diplomacy, India's rise, or neighbourhood policy.
- ☐ **Interview:** As an example of India's balanced regional approach integrating diplomacy, development, and security.

INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS: A MODEL OF TRUST AND COOPERATION



CONTEXT

Cross-border movement, future roadmap for integrated check posts and border management issues including mobile signal spillover were among the key issues discussed at the 14th India-Bhutan meeting border management and security held on October 16-17 in Thimphu.

INTRODUCTION

India–Bhutan relations stand as the cornerstone of India’s **Neighbourhood First Policy**, built upon a deep foundation of trust, shared strategic interests, and developmental partnership. This unique relationship, often described as a “model of good neighbourly ties” has withstood changing geopolitical pressures and continues to symbolise South Asia’s most stable bilateral bond. Rooted in mutual respect and cultural affinity, the relationship has evolved from protectorate arrangements to one of sovereign equality and mutual cooperation.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

The bilateral framework is anchored in two historic treaties:

- ❑ **Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1949):** The first formal basis of the relationship, establishing close political, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations.
- ❑ **Revised Treaty of Peace and Friendship (2007):** This revision reflected Bhutan’s transition to a constitutional monarchy and enhanced sovereignty, granting Thimphu full authority over foreign policy while retaining India’s role as a key development and security partner.

These treaties laid the foundation for a partnership that remains vital for India’s strategic and developmental interests.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS

- ❑ **For India**
 - Bhutan’s geographical location is of immense strategic value, acting as a buffer between India and China. The **Doklam Plateau and Chumbi Valley** lie adjacent to India’s Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the “**Chicken’s Neck**”, a narrow strip connecting mainland India to its northeastern states. Stability in Bhutan directly contributes to India’s national security.
 - Bhutan also serves as a diplomatic ally in regional groupings such as **SAARC, BIMSTEC, and BBIN**, reinforcing India’s leadership and balancing Chinese influence in the Himalayas. Moreover, cooperation in border security helps India curb insurgent movements in the northeast, making Bhutan an indispensable security partner.
- ❑ **For Bhutan**
 - India remains Bhutan’s most significant economic and developmental partner. Over **75% of Bhutan’s imports** and **60% of exports** are with India, facilitated by duty-free access and currency stability between the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN).
 - Hydropower cooperation forms the backbone of Bhutan’s economy. Projects such as **Tala, Chukha, Kurichhu, and Mangdechhu** generate sustainable revenue, accounting for over **25% of Bhutan’s GDP**, while providing clean energy to India. Indian development aid funds Bhutan’s **Five-Year Plans**, supporting education, health, roads, and community projects. Additionally, about **50,000 Indians** work in Bhutan’s infrastructure, power, and education sectors, reinforcing people-to-people ties.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS

- ❑ **Bhutan–China Border Negotiations:** Ongoing border talks between Bhutan and China, particularly regarding the **Doklam Plateau**, are a major concern for India. Any compromise in these negotiations could affect India’s security calculus around the Siliguri Corridor.

- ❑ **Hydropower Dependency and Economic Concerns:** While hydropower remains the economic lifeline, there are domestic criticisms in Bhutan regarding project costs, delays, and dependency on India. Diversifying into non-hydro sectors like IT, tourism, and sustainable industries has become a priority for Bhutan's long-term resilience.
- ❑ **Trade Imbalance and Diversification:** Bhutan's trade deficit with India persists despite preferential trade arrangements. Bureaucratic and non-tariff barriers occasionally hinder Bhutanese exports, while the country seeks to expand trade with other partners for diversification.
- ❑ **Connectivity Gaps:** Limited road and rail connectivity constrain economic integration. Bhutan's environmental concerns have also delayed its participation in the **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement**, slowing regional connectivity efforts.
- ❑ **Perception of Dominance ("Big Brother Syndrome"):** Despite mutual trust, occasional Bhutanese public opinion views India as an overbearing partner. Managing this perception requires greater transparency and sensitivity in policy coordination.
- ❑ **Environmental and Social Concerns:** Bhutan's **Gross National Happiness** model prioritises environmental protection, which can clash with India's infrastructure-driven approach. Projects must align with Bhutan's ecological standards to sustain harmony.
- ❑ **Border Management Issues:** Although largely peaceful, the **699 km Indo-Bhutan border** faces sporadic challenges, including smuggling and insurgent movements, requiring ongoing vigilance and cooperation.

KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION

- ❑ **Hydropower Collaboration:** Hydropower is the central pillar of economic cooperation. India finances, builds, and buys surplus power from Bhutan at preferential rates. This partnership benefits both nations, Bhutan earns revenue and India gains renewable energy.
- ❑ **Trade and Economic Ties:** India remains Bhutan's largest trade partner and investor. Free trade access, currency stability, and concessional financing underpin economic engagement. Development grants from India have funded hospitals, schools, highways, and digital infrastructure.
- ❑ **Strategic and Defence Cooperation:** India trains and equips the **Royal Bhutan Army (RBA)** and collaborates on intelligence sharing and border management. The **Doklam standoff (2017)** demonstrated India's commitment to Bhutan's sovereignty and regional security.
- ❑ **Connectivity and Infrastructure Development:** India's **Project DANTAK** continues to build vital roads, bridges, and tunnels in Bhutan. Proposed **rail links (Gelephu–Kokrajhar, Samtse–Banarhat)** aim to enhance regional connectivity and economic integration.
- ❑ **Environmental and Climate Partnership:** Joint conservation initiatives like the **Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA)** highlight cooperation in biodiversity preservation, disaster management, and climate adaptation.
- ❑ **Health and Human Development:** India supports Bhutan's health infrastructure through institutions such as **Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital**, vaccination drives, and pandemic assistance, reflecting deep humanitarian ties.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Diversify and Balance the Economic Partnership:** India should help Bhutan reduce hydropower dependency by promoting investment in digital services, tourism, agriculture, and education. Access to India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (like UPI)** can modernize Bhutan's financial ecosystem.
- ❑ **Upgrade Connectivity:** Accelerate rail and road link projects and improve logistics networks to enhance trade and tourism. Cross-border digital integration can bridge infrastructure gaps while respecting Bhutan's environmental values.
- ❑ **Strengthen Security Coordination:** Continue close consultations on Bhutan–China border negotiations and enhance joint surveillance in sensitive zones like Doklam. Expand cooperation on counter-terrorism, cyber defence, and intelligence-sharing.
- ❑ **Deepen Sustainable and Climate Cooperation:** Jointly pursue green energy transitions like solar, hydro, and hydrogen, aligned with Bhutan's **carbon-negative** goals. Integrate eco-tourism and green technology in development planning.
- ❑ **Promote Mutual Sensitivity and People-Centric Diplomacy:** Regular dialogue and cultural exchanges will sustain trust and reduce misperceptions. India must engage with Bhutan's evolving democratic institutions with empathy and transparency.

CONCLUSION

India–Bhutan relations remain a beacon of stability in South Asia anchored in mutual respect, trust, and shared prosperity. To preserve this partnership amid changing geopolitical realities, both nations must pursue balanced growth, sustainable development, and cooperative security. Strategic sensitivity, equitable benefits, and sustained people-to-people engagement will ensure that this “friendship in the Himalayas” continues to thrive as a model of India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

Quote to Use:

“Friendship rooted in trust needs no treaty. It grows from shared destiny.”

WHERE TO USE:

- ❑ **GS Paper 2:** India's Neighbourhood Policy, Bilateral Relations, India's Strategic Interests in the Himalayas.
- ❑ **PSIR Paper 2 (IR Section):** India and its Neighbours; India's role in South Asia.
- ❑ **Essay Paper:** Topics on regional cooperation, diplomacy, or small-state partnerships.
- ❑ **Interview:** As an example of successful diplomacy balancing security, development, and sustainability.

PSIR
Optional Subject (2026-27)
LIVE CLASSES & TEST SERIES

- 400+ Hours Live Lectures
- Comprehensive coverage of PYQ
- Hand written notes & crux
- Answer Writing Sessions
- Mains Test series
- One to One Mentorship

Gyan Bhandar

SHASHANK TYAGI

INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (IGP)

100 YEARS OF UPSC



CONTEXT

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), established on 1st October 1926, completes a hundred years of shaping India's higher civil services. For over a century, it has stood as an emblem of fairness, transparency, and integrity in recruitment. Safeguarding the principle of meritocracy, UPSC has inspired trust among millions of aspirants, becoming one of the most respected institutions of independent India.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

UPSC's journey reflects India's own transition from colonial subjugation to constitutional democracy. It was first conceived under the Government of India Act, 1919, based on the recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924).

- ❑ **Colonial beginnings (1926–1935):** The first Public Service Commission was set up under Sir Ross Barker with limited powers, functioning as an “experiment” in impartial recruitment.
- ❑ **Federal stage (1935–1950):** The Government of India Act, 1935, transformed it into the Federal Public Service Commission, giving it wider scope and enabling greater Indian representation in administration.
- ❑ **Constitutional status (1950 onwards):** Article 315 established UPSC as an independent constitutional body. Since then, it has overseen recruitment, promotions, and disciplinary matters for All India and Central Services, becoming a cornerstone of democratic governance.

THE PILLARS OF TRUST, INTEGRITY, AND FAIRNESS

The credibility of UPSC stems from three foundational principles:

- ❑ **Transparency in procedure:** Anonymous evaluation, multiple-subject examinations, linguistic inclusivity.
- ❑ **Integrity:** Insulation from political interference and external pressures.
- ❑ **Fairness:** Equal opportunity across urban–rural divides, caste, class, and linguistic diversity.

This framework ensures UPSC remains India’s “true level playing field” in an otherwise unequal society.

REFORMS AND INNOVATIONS

To keep pace with changing times, UPSC has consistently reformed its processes:

- ❑ **Digital Portals:** Moving from paper to online systems for applications, enhancing accessibility, transparency, and efficiency.
- ❑ **Face-Recognition and Biometric Systems:** Preventing impersonation and safeguarding credibility.
- ❑ **PRATIBHA Setu Initiative:** Providing a platform for candidates who reach the interview stage but do not make the final list, connecting them with other opportunities.
- ❑ **Artificial Intelligence Tools:** Experimenting with AI for logistics, data management, malpractice detection, and grievance redressal.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Even as UPSC modernizes, it faces significant challenges:

- ❑ **Technological Disruptions:** Integration of AI and digital tools while safeguarding privacy.
- ❑ **Global Competitiveness:** Preparing civil servants for roles in climate diplomacy, cybersecurity, AI governance, and global trade negotiations.
- ❑ **Inclusivity Amidst Inequality:** Ensuring rural and economically weaker aspirants are not excluded by digital reforms.
- ❑ **Confidentiality vs Transparency:** Balancing secrecy in paper-setting and evaluation with growing demands for accountability.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Continuous Digital Transformation:** Adoption of AI, blockchain, and secure digital evaluation systems.
- ❑ **Inclusive Outreach:** Establishing support centres in remote areas to bridge the digital divide.
- ❑ **Curriculum Reforms:** Updating subjects to include technology governance, climate policy, and AI ethics.
- ❑ **Capacity Building:** Training evaluators, invigilators, and staff to maintain institutional integrity.
- ❑ **Diversified Assessments:** Designing tests to evaluate analytical ability, ethics, and adaptability.
- ❑ **Global Benchmarking:** Learning from international best practices to maintain world-class standards.
- ❑ **Transparency Enhancements:** Periodic audits of processes to strengthen aspirant trust.

Quote to Remember

“Examinations are not merely a gateway to service but a mirror to the integrity of a nation’s institutions.”

WHERE TO USE

- ❑ **GS Paper II (Polity):** Constitutional bodies, role of UPSC, independence and functioning.
- ❑ **GS Paper IV (Ethics):** Meritocracy, integrity, fairness in institutions.
- ❑ **Essay:** Topics on democracy, governance, meritocracy, or institutional reforms.
- ❑ **Interview:** Illustrate India's faith in impartial institutions when asked about governance reforms.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) IN INDIA



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



CONTEXT

- ❑ India's judicial system faces challenges of access, delays, and accountability, with over 4.57 crore pending cases (India Justice Report 2025).
- ❑ ADR mechanisms like arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and Lok Adalats serve as essential tools to provide timely, cost-effective, and participatory justice.

DEFINITION AND NATURE OF ADR:

- ❑ ADR refers to processes for resolving disputes outside the formal court system.
- ❑ Encourages cooperative and non-adversarial problem-solving, often with neutral facilitators.
- ❑ Key methods include Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation, Negotiation, and Lok Adalats.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

- ❑ Article 39A of the Constitution ensures equal access to justice for all.

- ❑ Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 formally recognises ADR mechanisms.
- ❑ Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and Arbitration Act, 2021 provide legal structure for arbitration and mediation.
- ❑ Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 institutionalises Lok Adalats.
- ❑ ADR aims to resolve disputes within 180 days to promote speedier justice.
- ❑ Pre-litigation mediation in civil and commercial cases reduces court backlog and fosters social harmony.

FUNCTIONING OF LOK ADALATS:

- ❑ Operate under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, aligned with Article 39A.
- ❑ Types include Permanent Lok Adalats (Section 22-B), National Lok Adalats, and e-Lok Adalats.
- ❑ First Lok Adalat was organised in Gujarat in 1999.
- ❑ Decisions (awards) are final and binding, based on mutual consent, with no appeal.
- ❑ Parties dissatisfied can still approach regular courts, preventing misuse.
- ❑ Public awareness is crucial for effectiveness and participation.

IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING ADR:

- ❑ Reduces case backlog through a faster dispute resolution mechanism (180-day limit).
- ❑ Offers affordable and inclusive justice, especially for weaker societal sections.
- ❑ Promotes dialogue, empathy, and consensus, enhancing social harmony (Panch Parmeshwar tradition).
- ❑ Increases efficiency of formal courts by diverting civil and compoundable criminal cases.
- ❑ Particularly beneficial for states with high case pendency, e.g., Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ Institutional Strengthening: Establish more mediation centres and permanent Lok Adalats at district levels.
- ❑ Digital and e-ADR Platforms: Promote e-Lok Adalats and online mediation for accessibility and speed.
- ❑ Legal and Administrative Reforms: Strengthen the Arbitration Council of India and standardise mediation procedures.
- ❑ Awareness and Capacity Building: Conduct legal literacy campaigns and train mediators, arbitrators, and community leaders.
- ❑ Integration with Formal Judiciary: Encourage pre-litigation mediation to prevent cases from reaching courts.

CONCLUSION

- ❑ ADR complements the formal justice system by promoting speed, affordability, and inclusivity.
- ❑ Strengthening ADR can decongest courts, foster social harmony, and uphold the constitutional guarantee of equal access to justice.
- ❑ Essential for a citizen-centric, efficient, and resilient judicial system in India.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN INDIA'S JUDICIARY: BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING OF JUSTICE



WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

INTRODUCTION

Since its establishment in 1950, the Supreme Court has had only 11 women judges, while the situation is not better for High Courts and lower courts.

The Indian judiciary, despite being a pillar of democracy, reflects a deep gender imbalance particularly in its higher echelons. While women constitute around one-third of judges in the lower judiciary, their numbers dwindle drastically in High Courts and the Supreme Court. The “glass ceiling” persists, blocking women’s upward mobility into the most powerful judicial roles. Minority and marginalized women face even steeper barriers, revealing how intersectional discrimination continues to shape access to justice itself.

STATUS OF WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE JUDICIARY

❑ Supreme Court:

- As of 2025, there is only **one woman judge (Justice B.V. Nagarathna)** among 34 judges, constituting **just 2.9% representation**.
- Since 1950, only **11 women** have ever served on the Supreme Court — **a mere 3.8% of 287 total appointments**.

- No woman has ever held the position of **Chief Justice of India**, underscoring the persistence of gender exclusion at the very top.
- ❑ **High Courts:**
 - Across India's High Courts, **women make up only 13.1%** of the total judges.
 - Disparities are striking — **five High Courts have no women judges**, while **seven have less than 10%**.
 - Sikkim and Telangana lead comparatively, with **33.3% women judges**, showing that progress is possible with institutional commitment.
- ❑ **District and Subordinate Judiciary:**
 - Representation improves at the lower levels — women form **about 35%** of judges in subordinate courts
 - However, this proportion varies widely — from **19.5% in Gujarat** to **70% in Goa**.
 - A total of **7,852 women judges** serve at these levels, but **17 of 36 States and UTs** still fall below the national average.
- ❑ **Legal Profession:**
 - Out of **1.7 million advocates** in India, only **15% are women**.
 - Their presence in legal leadership remains negligible — **just 2% of State Bar Council representatives** are women.

REASONS FOR LOW REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

- ❑ **Structural Barriers in Judicial Rules:** Article 233 requires **7 years of continuous practice** for district judge eligibility. Combined with a **minimum entry age of 35** for direct recruitment and **retirement norms** that restrict later appointments, these rules disadvantage women who often step back temporarily due to family responsibilities.
- ❑ **The “Leaking Pipeline” Syndrome:** While women enter the judiciary in significant numbers, many exit mid-career. Family duties, long hours, lack of institutional support, and workplace bias cause an attrition that narrows the path from lower courts to higher benches.
- ❑ **Opaque Collegium System:** Unlike lower judiciary exams, higher judicial appointments through the **Collegium** remain opaque. Informal recommendations, personal networks, and subjective evaluations favour men, perpetuating exclusion.
- ❑ **Hostile and Sexist Work Environment:** Research on judicial appointments highlights the **existence of gender bias** acknowledged even by serving judges. Many female litigators report professional isolation, harassment, and lack of mentorship, creating invisible barriers to progression.
- ❑ **Inadequate Infrastructure and Support:** Even basic facilities like **separate toilets and resting rooms** are missing in 22% of courts. Absence of childcare, flexible hours, and maternity support pushes many women toward corporate legal jobs instead of public service.
- ❑ **Lack of Enabling Provisions:** While several states (Assam, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha) have **reservations for women in lower courts**, no such measure exists for higher judiciary. Absence of proactive inclusion policies keeps higher benches male-dominated.

IMPACT OF LOW WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN JUDICIARY

- ❑ **Prejudice in Judgements:** Lack of a gender lens often results in regressive rulings. **Example:** The **Madhya Pradesh HC (2020)** granted bail to a molester on the condition that he let the victim tie a “rakhi.”

- ❑ Similarly, the **Karnataka HC (2020)** questioned a rape survivor's "after-assault behaviour." Such cases highlight how absence of women's perspectives perpetuates patriarchal norms.
- ❑ **Narrowing of Legal Jurisprudence:** Women judges often advance progressive interpretations in areas like **sexual harassment, reproductive rights, and equality**. Limited female representation slows the evolution of gender-sensitive jurisprudence.
- ❑ **Deficiencies in Legal Reasoning:** A homogeneous judiciary risks ignoring lived experiences of half the population. Judicial diversity enhances empathy, fairness, and relevance of legal reasoning — its absence weakens justice delivery.
- ❑ **Impact on Access to Justice:** Women litigants, particularly in sensitive cases (sexual violence, family disputes), often feel more secure before a woman judge. Lack of women on the bench deters victims from coming forward.
- ❑ **Erosion of Institutional Legitimacy:** A judiciary that does not reflect societal diversity appears disconnected from the people it serves. It undermines **trust, inclusivity, and the legitimacy** of the institution.
- ❑ **Lack of Role Models:** Few visible female judges means fewer inspirations for young women in law. Representation matters — it shapes aspirations and normalizes women's leadership in judicial spaces.

WAY FORWARD

- ❑ **Gender-Based Affirmative Action:** Adopt **30% reservation** for women in judicial appointments, especially in district and High Courts. Collegium recommendations must consciously prioritize qualified women.
- ❑ **Gender-Inclusive Selection Committees:** Every selection and promotion committee including the **Collegium** should have **at least one woman member** to ensure gender diversity and counter implicit bias.
- ❑ **Lateral Entry Opportunities:** Allow women with strong academic, research, or tribunal experience to enter mid-level or specialized judicial roles. This diversifies the talent pool beyond traditional litigation routes.
- ❑ **Family and Work-Life Balance Support:** Introduce **childcare centres in court complexes**, flexible working hours, and **adequate paid maternity leave** without penalizing seniority or promotion prospects.
- ❑ **Infrastructure Improvements:** Provide **basic amenities** like separate, hygienic washrooms, resting spaces, and safe court environments to retain women in the profession.
- ❑ **Gender Sensitization and Bias Training:** Regular **gender and unconscious bias training** for judges, clerks, and court staff can create a more respectful, equitable environment.
- ❑ **Mentorship and Networking:** Institutionalize **mentorship programs** connecting senior women judges with younger female lawyers to guide professional development and encourage retention.

CONCLUSION

Bridging the gender gap in India's judiciary is not merely a matter of representation — it is a democratic necessity. A judiciary that mirrors the diversity of society ensures richer jurisprudence, fairer outcomes, and stronger public trust. True judicial independence must also mean **freedom from patriarchal bias**. Empowering women judges will make India's justice system not just independent, but inclusive — a judiciary of the people, by the people, and truly **for all** the people.

Quote to Use:

"A judiciary that does not reflect the society it serves cannot claim to deliver complete justice." — **Justice Leila Seth**

WHERE TO USE:

- ❑ **GS Paper 2:** Role of Judiciary, Social Justice, Women Empowerment.
- ❑ **Essay Paper:** Topics on gender, institutions, or inclusivity.
- ❑ **PSIR Paper 2:** Indian Polity and Governance; Judicial Reforms.
- ❑ **Interview:** As a talking point on gender and institutional reform in governance.



PSIR

Optional Subject (2026-27)

LIVE CLASSES & TEST SERIES



**400+ Hours
Live Lectures**



**Answer Writing
Sessions**



**Comprehensive
coverage of PYQ**



Mains Test series



**Hand written
notes & crux**



**One to One
Mentorship**



Gyan Bhandar



SHASHANK TYAGI

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. Discuss the impact of economic globalization on sovereign states.

In the current global context, international politics, and evolving interpretations of sovereignty and autonomy due to globalization, the concept of the state is undergoing significant changes. The core question in the globalization debate revolves around whether it is reshaping the power, function, and authority of nation-states.

Peter Willetts argues that individual countries can no longer be seen as having self-contained economies. The intricate interdependence among states has greatly diminished their ability to exercise control over two crucial aspects of sovereignty: currency and foreign trade.

Schotte suggests that globalization has given rise to a form of governance known as “post-sovereign,” indicating a decline in the autonomy and sovereignty of states. The economic and political aspects of globalization have led to a process of “state retreat.”

A prominent feature of economic globalization is the emergence of “supra-territoriality,” where the significance of territorial boundaries, geographical distance, and state borders is diminishing. Ohmae describes this as an increasing number of economic activities taking place within a “borderless world.”

In the past, sovereign control over economic affairs was feasible within discrete national economies. However, economic globalization has led to the incorporation of national economies into a single global economy, limiting economic sovereignty. Susan Strange argues that, unlike in earlier times when states held mastery over markets, contemporary markets have become the masters of states and governments.

However, David Held argues that states have not lost their sovereignty entirely and still play a crucial role in driving economic modernization. He suggests that the contemporary globalized world system operates through overlapping authorities and multiple legal frameworks, resulting in multiple forms of sovereignty.

Realists contend that the impact of globalization, in its economic, political, and cultural dimensions, has been exaggerated, asserting that states remain the decisive and dominant actors. They argue that states willingly engage in the global economy driven by their national self-interest.

Overall, the discourse surrounding the effects of globalization on state sovereignty and autonomy varies, with perspectives ranging from a significant decline in state power to the assertion that states continue to hold essential roles in a complex global system.

Q. “Real Laws give birth to real rights”- Bentham. Critically Examine

Harold Laski defined rights as the essential conditions required for individuals to reach their full potential. Political theorists have offered various interpretations regarding the source of rights and the role of the state, with Bentham’s Legal Theory of Rights being particularly influential.

Jeremy Bentham, a British philosopher and legal theorist, famously asserted that rights are “creatures of law.” He explored the relationship between law and rights, arguing that it is the state, through its laws, that defines and establishes the Bill of Rights. Consequently, rights exist only as far as they are acknowledged and protected by the legal system. As a utilitarian, Bentham believed that legal rights are created to promote the greater good of society.

Bentham opposed the Natural Rights Theory of Social Contractualism, contending that tracing nature as the source of rights is abstract and merely “anarchical fallacies.” He maintained that rights are neither prior nor subsequent to the state, as the state is the source of law. For instance, the right to freedom of speech is enshrined

in many countries' constitutions, but without legal recognition and protection, individuals might not be able to exercise it without fear of persecution. Additionally, if the law changes, the substance of the right also changes, as exemplified by the Right to Property under the Indian constitution.

For Bentham, rights are not innate or natural but are instead created and defined by laws. Moreover, rights are not absolute and can be limited or curtailed if necessary for the greater good of society.

Bentham's perspective overlooks the fact that many rights exist independently of the law. For example, the right to life is a fundamental human right that is not created by law but is rather recognized and protected by it. Therefore, while the state can recognize rights, it cannot be the source of rights, as the legal system can be biased and discriminatory, failing to protect the rights of all individuals equally and privileging a few.

Additionally, social philosophers like Gandhi argue that the true source of rights is duty, a concept almost completely ignored by the Legal Theory of Rights. Gandhi believed that "every right comes with a responsibility," and if everyone fulfilled their responsibilities instead of insisting on their rights, the rule of law would be established among people immediately.

Bentham's view of rights was legalistic and utilitarian. Despite being contradicted by many, his ideas had a significant influence on the development of modern legal systems and on ensuring ways to safeguard basic human rights.

Q. Fascism is by no means a systematic doctrine. It is a queer mixture of incongruous elements. In the light of the above statement throw light on the liberal and Marxist critique of fascism

Fascism is a complex ideology that incorporates various elements and has been subject to criticism from both liberals and Marxists.

From a liberal perspective, fascism is criticized for its totalitarian nature and rejection of democratic principles and human rights. Liberals argue that fascism undermines individual liberty by subordinating individuals to the absolute authority of the state and reducing them to mere instruments to serve the state's goals. Fascism also emphasizes irrationality, in contrast to liberalism's focus on individual freedom and rationality. Additionally, fascism rejects the idea of natural and social equality, instead promoting hero-worship, elitism, and racist doctrines. Moreover, fascism undermines the pluralistic nature of society by establishing a monopoly of power through a single political party, eliminating free and open competition for political power. Lastly, fascism demolishes constitutional government, which is seen as essential for human freedom, progress, and the functioning of liberal democracy.

From a Marxist perspective, fascism is seen as an attempt to preserve capitalism, particularly during its decadent phase. Marxists argue that fascism creates a nationalistic myth to suppress class conflict and prevent international movements towards communism. Figures like Leon Trotsky have argued that the mass support for fascism comes from desperate and rootless middle-class individuals. Critics suggest that the widespread fear and uncertainty during times of crisis provide fertile ground for the rise of authoritarianism in fascist countries.

Thus, both liberals and Marxists criticize fascism for its rejection of democratic principles, human rights, and individual liberties.

SCHOLAR DIGEST: KNOW YOUR SCHOLARS

IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN



INTRODUCTION

Immanuel Maurice Wallerstein (September 28, 1930 – August 31, 2019) was an American sociologist and economic historian, renowned for pioneering the world-systems approach within sociology.

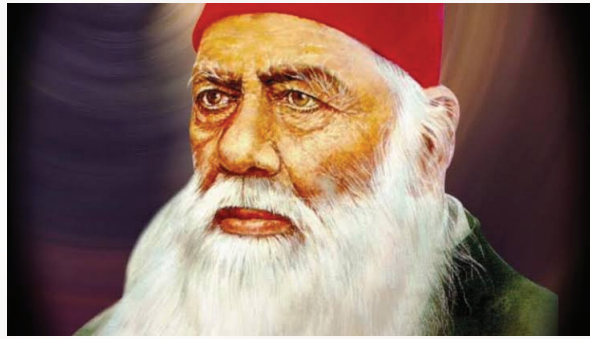
WORLD SYSTEM THEORY

World-systems theory, developed by American sociologist and historian Immanuel Wallerstein (1930–2019) in his 1974 work “The Modern World System,” presents a contrasting perspective to modernization theory. While modernization theory posits that economic development will eventually spread globally, Wallerstein’s theory argues that economically powerful regions primarily benefit themselves at the expense of peripheral areas. This concept can be traced back to a notion proposed by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870–1924), the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution (1917), who suggested that class struggles in capitalist Europe had, to some extent, shifted into the international economic arena, with Russia and China representing proletarian countries. Wallerstein’s focus was on the period when European capitalism first expanded into Africa and the Americas, but he also emphasized that world-systems theory could be applied to earlier systems where Europeans did not hold dominance.

In line with Wallerstein’s perspective, German-born American economist André Gunder Frank (1929–2005) argued for the existence of an ancient world system, indicating an early tension between core and periphery. He further extended the application of world-systems theory to the 20th century, asserting that “underdevelopment” wasn’t just a matter of falling behind but resulted from the exploitative economic power wielded by industrialized nations. This idea, often referred to as the “development of underdevelopment” or “dependency theory,” offered an alternative narrative for world history, one that lacked a positive outcome for the majority of humanity.

Similar to modernization theory, world-systems theory has faced criticism for its Eurocentric perspective. Additionally, many economists have questioned the empirical evidence supporting it. While the theory has been productive in raising important questions, its proposed answers have generated significant controversy.

SIR SYED AHMED KHAN



INTRODUCTION

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (1817-1898) was a pivotal figure in the socio-political landscape of 19th century India. He was a visionary reformer, educationist, and statesman, who played a significant role in the intellectual and social upliftment of Muslims in India. His contributions laid the foundation for modern education among Indian Muslims and were instrumental in shaping the future of the community.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was born on October 17, 1817, in Delhi, into a family with strong Mughal connections. His early education was deeply rooted in traditional Islamic learning. He studied Arabic and Persian, which were the languages of administration and culture at the time. His curiosity and thirst for knowledge led him to study a wide range of subjects, including mathematics and medicine. This diverse educational background helped shape his progressive outlook and laid the foundation for his future endeavors.

CAREER AND EARLY REFORMS

Sir Syed started his career as a clerk in the East India Company, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become a judge. His exposure to British administration and legal systems influenced his thinking and approach to social reform. The events of the 1857 Revolt profoundly impacted him, highlighting the need for educational and social reforms within the Muslim community. He realized that the backwardness of Muslims in education and their alienation from modern sciences were major obstacles to their progress.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

One of Sir Syed's most significant contributions was in the field of education. He believed that the upliftment of Muslims could only be achieved through modern education. To this end, he founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh in 1875, which later became Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The college aimed to provide Western-style education while preserving Islamic culture and values. Sir Syed emphasized the importance of scientific knowledge and rational thinking, encouraging Muslims to embrace modern sciences and English education.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Sir Syed was also a prolific writer and intellectual. He wrote extensively on various subjects, including history, politics, religion, and education. His works, such as "Asar-us-Sanadid," a comprehensive study of Delhi's monuments, and "Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq," a journal aimed at social reform, reflect his deep concern for the moral and intellectual revival of the Muslim community. His writings advocated for a rational approach to Islam, promoting an interpretation that harmonized with modern values and scientific thought.

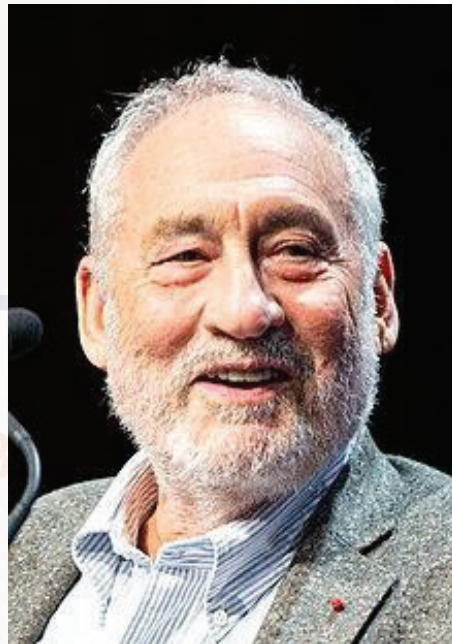
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Apart from his educational endeavors, Sir Syed was also actively involved in social and political matters. He was a strong advocate for Hindu-Muslim unity and believed that the future of India depended on the cooperation and mutual respect between its diverse communities. However, he also recognized the unique challenges faced by Muslims and worked tirelessly to address their concerns. He founded the All India Muhammadan Educational Conference, which aimed to promote education and socio-political awareness among Muslims.

LEGACY

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's legacy is vast and enduring. He is remembered as a pioneer of modern education in India and a visionary leader who foresaw the importance of education in the socio-economic development of the Muslim community. Aligarh Muslim University stands as a testament to his vision and dedication, continuing to be a leading institution of higher education in India. His efforts laid the groundwork for future generations, contributing significantly to the intellectual and cultural renaissance of Indian Muslims.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ



INTRODUCTION

Joseph Eugene Stiglitz, born on February 9, 1943, in Gary, Indiana, USA, is an American economist renowned for his pioneering work on the theory of markets characterized by unequal access to information. Alongside A. Michael Spence and George A. Akerlof, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2001 for his contributions to this field.

CONCEPT OF INFORMATION ASYMMETRY

Joseph Stiglitz is renowned for his significant contributions to the field of information economics, a sub-discipline of microeconomics that explores the impact of information and information systems on economic dynamics and decision-making. His groundbreaking work on information asymmetry played a pivotal role in securing him the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001.

Information asymmetry refers to an unequal distribution of information between participants in an economic exchange. In such situations, one party involved in the transaction may possess more comprehensive information compared to the other party. For instance, a buyer might be better informed than a seller, or a borrower could have greater insights into their ability to repay a loan compared to the lender.

One of Joseph Stiglitz's notable contributions is the development of the screening technique, a method designed to bridge the information gap necessary for optimizing economic transactions in markets. Stiglitz's screening technique has found widespread application, particularly in industries such as insurance and lending.



STUDY IQ
DUPLICATIONS

PSIR

Optional Subject (2026-27)

LIVE CLASSES & TEST SERIES

-  **400+ Hours Live Lectures**
-  **Answer Writing Sessions**
-  **Comprehensive coverage of PYQ**
-  **Mains Test series**
-  **Hand written notes & crux**
-  **One to One Mentorship**

 **Gyan Bhandar**





SHASHANK TYAGI

ENRICH YOUR ANSWER

Q. How does the government's philosophy of maximum governance and minimum governance coincide with the idea of competitive and cooperative federalism? Give reasons.

Q: How the government's philosophy of 'maximum governance and minimum government' coincide with the idea of competitive and cooperative federalism? Give reasons?

Ans

Approach

Intro

→ Define 'maximum governance and minimum government'.

Body

→ Elaborate on idea of competitive and cooperative federalism.

→ Give steps taken by Government based on this principle

eg * NITI Aayog replaced Planning Comm.

* Enhanced financial devolution to states

* Rationalisation of centrally sponsored schemes.

Conclusion: give some suggestions.

eg Reform 7th schedule list in the direction of empowerment of states

Introduction

Explain the concept of political obligation using various thinkers

- Plato
- Aristotle
- Marx etc.

body → Background of Hobbes
↳ reasoning for absolute obligation

→ Explain Hobbesian concept of state absolutism

→ Give criticism → subjugates individual
→ totalitarian state

conclusion → Give defence → concern for life

→ Give relevance → COVID (China)

Q: Discuss the features of Asymmetrical federalism

Approach

(Intro): Define federalism and Asymmetrical federalism.

(Body) Give features of Asymmetrical federalism

- Article 371 to 371 J in Part XXI of Constitution contain special provisions for eleven states.
- Special responsibility of Government for the development of certain areas of particular states.
- Presence of Union Territories in India.
- Unequal representation of states in Rajya Sabha (eg UP 31 seats, Goa-1 seat)
- Presence of 5th and 6th schedule to accommodate scheduled and tribal areas.

(Conclusion): Give justification of Asymmetrical federalism.

eg: to protect diversity without sacrificing unity or imposing uniformity.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is primarily constituted under which article of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Article 315
- (b) Article 320
- (c) Article 312
- (d) Article 323

Answer: (a) Article 315

2. Which of the following is a major function of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

- (a) Passing binding resolutions on member states
- (b) Approving the UN budget and discussing international peace and security
- (c) Appointing judges to the International Court of Justice
- (d) Commanding UN peacekeeping forces

Answer: (b) Approving the UN budget and discussing international peace and security

3. South-South Cooperation mainly refers to:

- (a) Collaboration between developed countries for global development
- (b) Partnership between developing countries to share knowledge, technology, and resources
- (c) Bilateral trade agreements between North and South countries
- (d) Military alliances among developing nations

Answer: (b) Partnership between developing countries to share knowledge, technology, and resources

4. Which statement about the UPSC is correct?

- (a) It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Its advice is binding on the government in all matters
- (c) It advises the government on recruitment, promotion, and disciplinary matters of civil services
- (d) It can legislate recruitment rules for All India Services

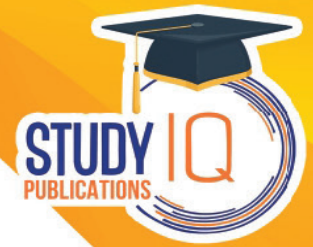
Answer: (c) It advises the government on recruitment, promotion, and disciplinary matters of civil services

5. A key principle of South-South Cooperation is:

- (a) Promoting dependency on developed countries
- (b) Mutual benefit, equality, and respect for sovereignty among developing nations
- (c) Imposing conditions on aid like in traditional North-South assistance
- (d) Replacing multilateral organizations like the UN

Answer: (b) Mutual benefit, equality, and respect for sovereignty among developing nations

UPSC IAS (Mains)



FEATURES OF THE COURSE -

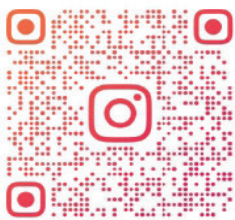
- 1. 400+ hours of live lectures spread over 5 months
- 2. Comprehensive coverage through high quality lecture notes
- 3. Hand written notes and hand written model answers
- 4. Live answer writing program under the guidance of faculty
- 5. Previous Year Questions discussions
- 6. PSIR Current affairs to keep the aspirant updated
- 7. Doubt clearing sessions by the faculty
- 8. Static Session

Contributor:
Sajal Tiwari

For any feedback, Kindly reach out on:
psirsupport@studyiq.com



@SHASHANKTYAGI4U



SHASHANKTYAGI4U

Shashank Tyagi

Faculty PSIR Optional, StudyiqIAS
Ex. Consultant, Office of Minister
Social Welfare, GNCTD

