

**OPSC OAS MAINS
SOLVED PAPER**

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(2023 & 2022)

Answers Written by

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MA (Gold Medalist), NET

Published By

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Title: OPSC OAS Mains Solved Paper: Political Sc & IR

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How to Utilize This Book?

This book has been designed to serve as a practical guide for OPSC OAS aspirants with Political Science & International Relations as an optional subject. To make the best use of it, begin by carefully going through the solved answers to previous years' questions, as they reflect the pattern, depth, and analytical style expected in the exam. Do not merely read the solutions; instead, compare them with your own written answers to identify gaps in content, structure, and presentation. Pay attention to the way each answer is introduced, developed, and concluded, as this will help you improve your writing skills and time management in the examination hall. It is also advisable to supplement these solutions with standard reference books and current affairs updates, especially for dynamic topics like International Relations and Indian Politics. By revising regularly and practicing answer-writing alongside, you can turn this book into a powerful tool for both concept clarity and exam-oriented preparation.

Regards...

Brajabandhu Mahanta

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OPSC OAS Mains 2023 Solved Paper**Political Science****Paper-I****GROUP-A**

Q1. Discuss the historical, normative and empirical approaches to political theory. How do these approaches contribute to the understanding of contemporary political issues?

Answer:

Political theory seeks to explain, evaluate and guide political life. Its study has been enriched by three major approaches: historical, normative and empirical.

The **historical approach** examines political thought in its historical context. Thinkers like Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes or Marx are studied not only for their abstract ideas but also for how these ideas emerged from particular socio-political circumstances. This helps us trace the evolution of concepts such as democracy, sovereignty, liberty and justice, and understand their relevance for present times.

The **normative approach** is concerned with values and ideals. It asks: *What ought to be the nature of justice? What is the best form of government?* Thinkers like Plato, Rawls, or Gandhi offer normative visions that provide moral benchmarks for assessing existing institutions. Even in contemporary debates—such as human rights, gender equality, or environmental justice—the normative dimension guides reform and policy choices.

The **empirical approach** emerged strongly in the 20th century with behaviouralism. It stresses observable facts and data, relying on surveys, statistical methods, and comparative studies. Empirical research helps us understand how institutions actually function, how citizens behave politically, or how policies affect society. For instance, electoral studies and public opinion surveys shape our knowledge of democratic participation.

Together, these approaches complement one another. While the historical approach roots us in tradition, the normative sets standards, and the empirical tests reality. In

an era of globalization, identity politics, and climate crisis, their combined insights enable a comprehensive understanding of contemporary political issues.

Q2. Explain the concept of State sovereignty. How have monistic and pluralistic theories interpreted sovereignty in the context of globalization?

Answer

Sovereignty refers to the **supreme and absolute authority** of the State, internally over citizens and externally in relation to other States. It is central to the modern nation-state system, articulated by **Jean Bodin** and further refined by **Hobbes and Austin**. Yet, in the era of globalization, this traditional notion faces serious re-examination.

1. Monistic Theory of Sovereignty

- **Core Idea:** Sovereignty is **indivisible, absolute, and unlimited**.
- **Key Thinkers:** Jean Bodin, Thomas Hobbes, John Austin.
- The sovereign is the **ultimate authority** with no legal limitations.
- **Globalization Context:**
 - Monists argue sovereignty remains intact even under globalization.
 - International treaties and institutions (UN, WTO, IMF) do not diminish sovereignty since States **voluntarily accept obligations**.
 - Example: India retains sovereignty despite membership in WTO or UN.

2. Pluralistic Theory of Sovereignty

- **Core Idea:** Sovereignty is **diffused** among various associations and institutions.
- **Key Thinkers:** Harold Laski, G.D.H. Cole.
- The State is one among many social associations, not the sole sovereign body.
- **Globalization Context:**
 - Pluralists argue globalization **erodes absolute sovereignty**.
 - Supranational bodies (EU, UN), multinational corporations, NGOs, and global markets influence domestic policies.

- Issues like **climate change, terrorism, trade, and human rights** demand global cooperation, weakening State monopoly.

3. Contemporary Relevance

- Globalization has led to “**shared**” or “**pooled sovereignty**”, especially visible in the **European Union**.
- Sovereignty today is better seen as **relational, limited, and negotiated** rather than absolute.

Conclusion

While the **monistic view defends sovereignty as absolute**, the **pluralistic approach emphasizes its diffusion** in a globalized world. Contemporary political reality shows sovereignty is no longer absolute but **redefined through interdependence, cooperation, and collective governance**.

Q3. Critically examine classical democratic theory. How do contemporary democratic models address the limitations of classical theories?

Answer

Democracy, meaning “rule by the people,” has evolved through different stages. The **classical democratic theory**, rooted in the ideas of **Rousseau, Jefferson, and Mill**, emphasized direct participation, equality, and popular sovereignty. However, in modern mass societies, its limitations became evident, leading to the emergence of contemporary models.

1. Classical Democratic Theory

- **Core Features:**
 - Direct participation of citizens in decision-making.
 - Sovereignty of the people as the supreme authority.
 - Emphasis on **common good** and equality.
- **Criticism:**
 - Impractical in large, complex, modern nation-states.

- Assumes a high level of political knowledge and participation among citizens.
- Neglects the role of organizations, elites, and institutions in decision-making.

2. Contemporary Democratic Models

- **Protective Democracy (Bentham, James Mill):**
 - Focus on safeguarding individual rights and liberties.
 - Representative institutions replace direct participation.
- **Pluralist Democracy (Laski, Dahl):**
 - Power is distributed among competing groups.
 - Democracy is a process of negotiation and compromise.
- **Participatory Democracy (Pateman, Macpherson):**
 - Stresses active involvement at multiple levels (local self-government, workplace democracy).
 - Seeks to revive the spirit of classical participation.
- **Deliberative Democracy (Habermas, Rawls):**
 - Emphasis on rational dialogue, consensus-building, and public reasoning.
 - Addresses alienation and exclusion by fostering inclusive deliberation.

Conclusion

Classical democratic theory laid the foundation of people's sovereignty but was idealistic and impractical in large-scale societies. **Contemporary models**—protective, pluralist, participatory, and deliberative—adapt democracy to modern complexities, ensuring **representation, inclusiveness, and accountability**, while keeping alive the normative spirit of classical ideals.

Q4. Discuss the major theories of human rights. How do these theories influence contemporary debates on justice, equality and political obligation?

Answer

Human rights are universal claims to dignity, freedom, and equality inherent to all individuals. Different theoretical approaches have sought to explain their basis, scope, and justification.

1. Major Theories of Human Rights

- **Natural Rights Theory**
 - Rooted in thinkers like **Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson**.
 - Rights are inherent, inalienable, and derived from natural law.
 - Example: Right to life, liberty, and property.
- **Legal/Positivist Theory**
 - Advocated by thinkers like **Jeremy Bentham**.
 - Rights are not natural but conferred by the State through laws.
 - Emphasizes enforceability over morality.
- **Marxist/Materialist Theory**
 - Sees rights as products of socio-economic structures.
 - Critiques bourgeois rights as individualistic, advocating for socio-economic rights (health, work, education).
- **Liberal-Utilitarian Theory**
 - Thinkers like **Mill** argue rights are justified as they maximize individual liberty and collective happiness.
- **Modern Internationalist Perspective**
 - Post-1948 **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** emphasizes indivisibility of civil, political, social, and cultural rights.

2. Influence on Contemporary Debates

- **Justice:**

- Rawls' theory of justice integrates rights with fairness and equality.
- Human rights provide normative foundations for distributive justice.
- **Equality:**
 - Rights-based approaches empower marginalized groups (gender, caste, minorities).
 - Affirmative action and anti-discrimination laws stem from rights discourse.
- **Political Obligation:**
 - States are obligated to protect and promote rights.
 - Citizens' obedience is conditional upon the State safeguarding rights (Lockean view).

Conclusion

Theories of human rights—natural, legal, Marxist, and internationalist—continue to shape contemporary political discourse. They guide debates on **justice, equality, and obligations**, making rights not only a moral claim but also a foundation for legitimate political authority.

Q5. Explain the concept of political obligation. To what extent can individuals justifiably disobey the State in the framework of democratic governance?

Answer

Political obligation refers to the **moral duty of citizens to obey the laws of the State** and support its institutions. It is central to political theory because it concerns the legitimacy of authority and the grounds of citizens' compliance.

1. Concept of Political Obligation

- **Classical View:** Rooted in **Plato** and **Socrates**, who argued that citizens must obey the laws as they benefit from the State.
- **Social Contract Theory:** Thinkers like **Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau** linked obligation to the consent of the governed.

- **Modern Views:** Political obligation derives from considerations of **utility (Mill)**, **fairness (Rawls)**, and **reciprocity**.

2. Grounds for Justifiable Disobedience in Democracy

While political obligation requires obedience, democratic frameworks also recognize **legitimate dissent**.

- **Civil Disobedience:**
 - Advocated by **Thoreau, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr.**
 - Non-violent, conscientious breach of law to uphold higher moral principles.
- **Conditions for Justifiable Disobedience:**
 - When State laws are **unjust, discriminatory, or violate basic rights**.
 - When legal and institutional remedies are **exhausted or ineffective**.
 - When disobedience is conducted in a **peaceful and accountable manner**.
- **Examples:**
 - Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha against colonial law.
 - Civil rights movements challenging racial discrimination in the US.

3. Democratic Governance and Balance

- Democracy requires a **balance**: citizens owe loyalty to democratic laws, but also retain the **right to dissent**.
- Constructive disobedience strengthens democracy by compelling reforms and safeguarding justice.

Conclusion

Political obligation ensures stability, but it is **not absolute**. In democratic governance, individuals may justifiably disobey when laws contradict justice, rights, and constitutional morality—thereby reaffirming the legitimacy of democracy itself.

Q6. Analyze the concept of political culture. How does political culture shape political economy and governance in democratic and authoritarian regimes?

Answer

Political culture refers to the **values, beliefs, attitudes, and orientations of citizens towards politics and authority**. As defined by **Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba**, it is the psychological dimension of politics that influences political participation, legitimacy, and governance.

1. Concept of Political Culture

- Political culture shapes the way individuals relate to political institutions.
- **Types (Almond & Verba):**
 - **Parochial:** Limited awareness, passive role.
 - **Subject:** Awareness but low participation.
 - **Participant:** Active and engaged citizenry.
- It acts as the foundation of political systems, determining legitimacy and stability.

2. Political Culture and Political Economy

- In **democracies**:
 - A participatory culture fosters accountability, transparency, and inclusive economic policies.
 - Example: Welfare state policies in Scandinavia emerge from egalitarian political culture.
- In **authoritarian regimes**:
 - A subject or parochial culture sustains centralized economic control.
 - Example: State-led economies in China or erstwhile USSR reflected authoritarian political culture.

3. Political Culture and Governance

- **Democratic Regimes:**

- Civic culture encourages compromise, tolerance, and respect for institutions.
- Enhances responsiveness and citizen trust.
- **Authoritarian Regimes:**
 - Political culture emphasizing obedience ensures stability but suppresses dissent.
 - Governance becomes top-down, often prioritizing order over rights.

Conclusion

Political culture is the link between society and the political system. While democratic regimes thrive on a **civic-participant culture** that shapes inclusive governance and welfare-oriented economy, authoritarian regimes rely on **subject or parochial culture** that supports centralized governance and controlled economies. Thus, political culture fundamentally influences the trajectory of both political economy and governance.

Q7. Define hegemony in political theory. How do the theories of Pareto, Mosca, Michels and Gramsci contribute to our understanding of elite dominance and power structures?

Answer

Hegemony in political theory refers to the **dominance of one class or group over others**, not merely through coercion but also through consent, values, and ideology. While elite theorists like Pareto, Mosca, and Michels highlight structural inevitability of elite dominance, Gramsci introduces a cultural and ideological dimension to hegemony.

1. Pareto – Circulation of Elites

- Society is always ruled by a minority elite.
- Elites circulate between “lions” (force) and “foxes” (cunning).
- Elite dominance is inevitable, though composition changes over time.

2. Mosca – Ruling Minority

- Every society is divided into a ruling minority and a ruled majority.

- Political class holds organizational capacity, ensuring its dominance.
- Highlights the structural inequality of power distribution.

3. Michels – Iron Law of Oligarchy

- In large organizations, leadership becomes inevitable.
- Even democratic parties tend towards oligarchic control.
- Shows how organizational necessity breeds elite dominance.

4. Gramsci – Cultural Hegemony

- Goes beyond coercion to stress **ideological consent**.
- Dominant class maintains power by shaping cultural norms, values, and common sense.
- Example: Media, education, religion legitimize existing power structures.

Conclusion

Together, these theories reveal different dimensions of power: **Pareto and Mosca stress structural inevitability, Michels highlights organizational oligarchy, and Gramsci emphasizes ideological domination.** Understanding hegemony thus requires combining structural and cultural insights to explain elite dominance in both authoritarian and democratic systems.

Q8. Compare and contrast the political philosophies of Manu and Kautilya. How are their ideas relevant to contemporary governance in India?

Answer

Ancient Indian political thought is represented significantly by **Manu**, author of *Manusmriti*, and **Kautilya (Chanakya)**, author of *Arthashastra*. While Manu emphasizes a **moral-religious order (Dharma)**, Kautilya is known for his **pragmatic statecraft (Artha)**.

1. Manu's Political Philosophy

- Based on **Dharma** as the foundation of political and social order.
- King seen as protector of Varna system and upholder of justice.
- Emphasis on **social hierarchy, duties, and moral obligations**.

- State legitimacy derived from **religious sanction**.

2. Kautilya's Political Philosophy

- Advocated a **realist and pragmatic approach** to politics.
- State's purpose: **security, prosperity, and power**.
- Stressed **Matsyanyaya** (law of the fish) – without state authority, the strong exploit the weak.
- King's duty is to ensure **order, economic prosperity, and diplomatic supremacy**.

3. Comparison and Contrast

- **Similarities:** Both saw the king as central authority, emphasized rule of law and justice.
- **Differences:**
 - Manu: **Religious-ethical order**; stressed caste hierarchy.
 - Kautilya: **Secular-pragmatic order**; emphasized power, diplomacy, and welfare.

4. Contemporary Relevance

- **Manu's emphasis on Dharma** reflects in constitutional morality, rule of law, and duties of citizens.
- **Kautilya's pragmatism** resonates in modern governance strategies, diplomacy, national security, and economic reforms.
- Together, they highlight the balance of **moral order and pragmatic statecraft** in governance.

Conclusion

While Manu provides the **ethical foundation**, Kautilya offers **practical governance strategies**. Their combined relevance lies in shaping an India that balances **values with realpolitik**, essential in contemporary democratic governance.

Q9. Critically examine Mahatma Gandhi's political philosophy. How does his concept of non-violence compare with Ambedkar's approach to social justice?

Answer

Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar were two towering figures of modern India. While Gandhi's political philosophy centered on **non-violence (ahimsa), truth (satyagraha), and moral regeneration**, Ambedkar emphasized **constitutionalism, social justice, and annihilation of caste**. Both aimed at human dignity but adopted different methods.

1. Gandhi's Political Philosophy

- **Non-violence (Ahimsa):** Both a moral principle and a political strategy.
- **Satyagraha:** Peaceful resistance against injustice; seen in movements like Champaran and Salt March.
- **Trusteeship:** Advocated harmony between classes, with the wealthy as trustees of society's welfare.
- **Criticism:** His reliance on moral persuasion often ignored structural inequalities, particularly caste.

2. Ambedkar's Approach to Social Justice

- Focused on **legal-institutional measures** to dismantle caste oppression.
- Advocated **reservation, constitutional safeguards, and political representation** for Dalits.
- Rejected Gandhian faith in moral reform, emphasizing **social and economic restructuring**.
- Championed **liberty, equality, fraternity** as foundational principles of democracy.

3. Comparison: Non-violence vs. Social Justice

- Gandhi believed **social harmony** could be achieved through **moral change and non-violence**.

- Ambedkar insisted that **legal rights and structural reforms** were essential to end centuries of caste exploitation.
- Gandhi sought **reconciliation**, Ambedkar demanded **emancipation**.

Conclusion

While Gandhi's political philosophy inspired mass mobilization and moral awakening, Ambedkar's vision laid the groundwork for **institutional justice and constitutional democracy**. Their approaches—**ethical non-violence and legal equality**—together enrich India's pursuit of a just and inclusive society.

Q10. Analyze Plato's concept of justice. How does Aristotle's critique of Plato contribute to the development of Western political thought?

Answer

Plato and Aristotle, the two foundational figures of Western political philosophy, offered contrasting views on justice and the ideal state. While Plato emphasized **justice as harmony**, Aristotle critiqued his idealism, steering political thought towards **realism and practicability**.

1. Plato's Concept of Justice

- Found in *The Republic*, where justice is both **individual and social virtue**.
- **Justice in the State**: Each class (rulers, auxiliaries, producers) performing its designated function without interfering in others.
- **Justice in the Individual**: Harmony among the three parts of the soul—reason, spirit, and appetite.
- Advocated a hierarchical, rigid society led by philosopher-kings, with communal property and family among guardians.

2. Aristotle's Critique of Plato

- **Rejection of Communism of Property and Family**: Argued private property ensures responsibility and efficiency; family is essential for moral development.
- **Practicability**: Plato's state is too ideal and ignores human nature.

- **Concept of Justice:** Defined justice as “**giving each his due**”, distinguishing between distributive and corrective justice.
- **Classification of Governments:** Emphasized empirical study of constitutions, unlike Plato’s abstract idealism.

3. Contribution to Western Political Thought

- Plato laid the **normative foundations** of political philosophy by linking politics with morality.
- Aristotle grounded politics in **empiricism and practicality**, influencing modern constitutionalism and theories of citizenship.
- Their dialogue between idealism and realism became the **starting point of Western political discourse**.

Conclusion

Plato’s justice symbolizes **ideal harmony**, while Aristotle’s critique redirected political thought towards **practical governance and empirical analysis**. Together, they shaped the enduring tension between **idealism and realism** in political theory.

Q11. Discuss Machiavelli’s views on power and statecraft. How did his ideas influence modern political realism?

Answer

Niccolò Machiavelli, often called the **father of modern political science**, broke away from medieval moral-religious traditions and emphasized a **realist approach** to power and governance. His work *The Prince* (1513) redefined statecraft in terms of **pragmatism, power, and necessity**.

1. Machiavelli’s Views on Power and Statecraft

- **Politics Autonomous from Morality:** Separated politics from ethics and religion; rulers should act based on necessity, not virtue.
- **Power as the Core of Politics:** Stability of the state is the ultimate goal; all actions are justified to preserve power.
- **Use of Force and Deception:** Advocated that rulers may need to act like both **lion (force)** and **fox (cunning)**.

- **Virtù and Fortuna:** Success depends on a ruler's **virtù (skill, decisiveness)** in controlling **fortuna (chance, fate)**.
- **Republicanism:** In *Discourses on Livy*, he praised republican institutions for ensuring civic liberty and participation.

2. Influence on Modern Political Realism

- **Foundations of Realism:** Anticipated later realist thinkers like Hobbes and Morgenthau, who emphasized **power, survival, and national interest**.
- **Diplomacy and Statecraft:** His stress on pragmatism influenced modern diplomacy, balance of power, and realpolitik.
- **Secularization of Politics:** Shifted politics to a scientific and empirical discipline, independent of divine sanction.
- **Contemporary Relevance:** Seen in power politics of nation-states, foreign policy realism, and strategies of national security.

Conclusion

Machiavelli's political philosophy marks the transition from **idealism to realism**. His emphasis on power, pragmatism, and state interest laid the foundations of **modern political realism**, making him one of the most influential figures in Western political thought.

Q12. Evaluate J.S. Mill's contributions to liberal political thought. How do his ideas on liberty and Representative Government influence contemporary democracy?

Answer

John Stuart Mill (1806–1873), a leading figure of **liberal political thought**, synthesized utilitarianism with individual freedom. His writings, particularly *On Liberty* (1859) and *Considerations on Representative Government* (1861), remain foundational to modern democratic theory.

1. Mill's Contributions to Liberal Thought

- **Liberty:**
 - Advocated freedom of thought, expression, and association.

- Introduced the “**Harm Principle**”—individual liberty can only be restricted to prevent harm to others.
- Opposed “tyranny of the majority” and defended minority rights.
- **Representative Government:**
 - Saw representative democracy as the best form of government for modern societies.
 - Advocated proportional representation, wider suffrage, and political participation.
 - Supported women’s enfranchisement (*The Subjection of Women*, 1869).
- **Utilitarianism Recast:**
 - Elevated **qualitative aspects of pleasure**—valuing higher intellectual and moral pursuits over mere physical satisfaction.

2. Influence on Contemporary Democracy

- **Civil Liberties:** Mill’s defense of free speech influences constitutional protections worldwide, including India’s **Article 19**.
- **Representative Institutions:** Modern electoral systems, proportional representation debates, and participatory democracy reflect Mill’s insights.
- **Minority Rights:** Safeguards for marginalized groups and pluralism echo Mill’s concern against majority tyranny.
- **Gender Equality:** His advocacy for women’s rights anticipated feminist movements and inclusive democracy.

Conclusion

J.S. Mill expanded liberalism by linking liberty with democracy and social progress. His ideas continue to shape **constitutionalism, human rights, and representative governance**, making him a central figure in the evolution of modern democratic thought.

GROUP-B

Q13. Discuss the contributions of any two thinkers from the Indian Nationalist Movement, such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dadabhai Naoroji or Bal Gangadhar Tilak. How did their ideas influence the freedom struggle and post-Independence policies?

Answer

The Indian Nationalist Movement was not only a struggle for independence but also a battle of ideas. Thinkers like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** and **Dadabhai Naoroji** provided intellectual foundations that shaped both the freedom struggle and India's post-independence trajectory.

1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772–1833)

- Known as the **“Father of Indian Renaissance.”**
- Advocated **social and religious reform**: campaign against *sati*, child marriage, and caste-based oppression; promoted widow remarriage and women's education.
- Founded the **Brahmo Samaj** (1828) to promote monotheism and rational religious practices.
- Political thought: Supported **constitutional reforms, freedom of press, and rights of citizens** under colonial rule.
- **Influence:**
 - Inspired **social reform movements** in the 19th century.
 - Post-independence India adopted his ideals in **abolition of discriminatory practices**, promotion of women's rights, and constitutional guarantees of equality and freedom.

2. Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917)

- Popularly called the **“Grand Old Man of India.”**
- Propounded the **Drain of Wealth Theory**, exposing how British policies impoverished India.

- Advocated **moderate politics**, constitutional agitation, and representation of Indians in governance.
- First Indian to be elected to the **British Parliament**.
- His economic critique laid the intellectual foundation for nationalist economic policies.
- **Influence:**
 - Inspired economic nationalism in the freedom struggle, later taken up by Tilak and Gandhi.
 - Post-independence, his vision reflected in **planning, self-reliance, and welfare policies** adopted by Nehruvian India.

Conclusion

Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Dadabhai Naoroji represent the **social reformist and economic nationalist strands** of the Indian freedom movement. Their contributions not only strengthened the struggle against colonialism but also influenced **post-independence policies of social justice, equality, and economic self-reliance**, laying the foundations of modern India.

Q14. Analyze the constitutional developments in India before independence. How did the Morley-Minto Reforms (1909), the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919), and the Government of India Act, 1935 contribute to the making of the Indian Constitution?

Answer

The Indian Constitution was not created in isolation; it was the result of a long series of **constitutional developments during British rule**. The reforms of 1909, 1919, and 1935 provided important institutional and procedural experiences that shaped the framing of the Constitution in 1947–49.

1. Morley-Minto Reforms (Indian Councils Act, 1909)

- Introduced **limited representation of Indians** in legislative councils.
- Expanded central and provincial councils and included Indians in the **Executive Council of the Viceroy**.

- Most significant feature: **Separate electorates for Muslims**, institutionalizing communal representation.
- **Contribution:** Initiated the practice of **elections and representation**, though communal divisions later complicated Indian politics.

2. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (Government of India Act, 1919)

- Introduced the system of **Dyarchy** in provinces:
 - Reserved subjects (law, order, finance) under British control.
 - Transferred subjects (education, health, agriculture) given to Indian ministers.
- Expanded provincial councils and introduced **bicameralism** at the center.
- Declared that the objective of British policy was “**progressive realization of responsible government in India.**”
- **Contribution:** Familiarized Indians with **self-governance** and parliamentary practices, strengthening demand for full responsible government.

3. Government of India Act, 1935

- Most comprehensive pre-independence constitutional document.
- Introduced **provincial autonomy** and responsible government at provincial level.
- Proposed an **All-India Federation**, though never fully implemented.
- Established **Federal Court** and expanded bicameral legislatures.
- **Contribution:** Served as a **blueprint for the Indian Constitution**, influencing federal structure, provincial autonomy, and judicial institutions.

Conclusion

The reforms of 1909, 1919, and 1935 gradually introduced **representation, responsible government, federalism, and judicial review**. Despite limitations, these acts laid the **institutional foundations** upon which the framers of the Indian Constitution built a democratic, federal, and parliamentary system after independence.

Q15. The Indian judiciary is regarded as the guardian of the Constitution. Discuss the powers and functions of the Supreme Court, with special reference to judicial review and judicial activism.

Answer

The Indian judiciary, particularly the **Supreme Court of India**, is considered the **guardian and interpreter of the Constitution**. It ensures that the legislature and executive act within constitutional limits. Its role is vital in safeguarding fundamental rights and maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution.

1. Powers and Functions of the Supreme Court

- **Constitutional Guardian:** Final interpreter of the Constitution under Article 141.
- **Judicial Review:** Authority to examine laws and executive actions for constitutional validity (Articles 13, 32, 136, 226).
- **Protector of Fundamental Rights:** Through writ jurisdiction (Article 32), citizens can directly approach the Court.
- **Advisory Jurisdiction:** President may seek its advice under Article 143.
- **Appellate Jurisdiction:** Hears appeals in constitutional, civil, and criminal matters.
- **Original Jurisdiction:** Disputes between Union and States, or among States (Article 131).

2. Judicial Review

- A basic feature of the Constitution (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973).
- Strikes down unconstitutional laws or executive orders.
- Examples:
 - **Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain (1975)** – curtailed arbitrary use of power.
 - **NJAC case (2015)** – struck down law affecting judicial independence.

3. Judicial Activism

- Expands the role of judiciary beyond strict interpretation, often through **Public Interest Litigations (PILs)**.
- Ensures social justice and accountability.
- Examples:
 - **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)** – guidelines on sexual harassment.
 - **MC Mehta cases** – environmental protection.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court, through its powers of **judicial review and activism**, acts as the **sentinel on the qui vive**, preserving the spirit of democracy and constitutionalism. By balancing legal authority with social responsibility, it upholds the rule of law and ensures justice in India's democratic framework.

Q16. Political parties and pressure groups shape Indian democracy in different ways. Compare their roles in influencing public policy and governance.

Answer

In a democracy, both **political parties** and **pressure groups** play crucial roles in shaping public opinion, policy, and governance. While political parties seek **direct control of power** through elections, pressure groups influence policies **indirectly** without contesting elections. Together, they contribute to pluralism and participatory democracy in India.

1. Role of Political Parties

- **Representation of People's Will:** Act as a bridge between society and the state.
- **Policy Formulation:** Draft manifestos that guide governmental action once in power.
- **Government Formation:** Contest elections, form ministries, and implement policies.
- **Accountability:** Opposition parties hold ruling governments responsible through debates, no-confidence motions, etc.

- **Examples:** Congress and BJP shaping economic reforms, regional parties like BJD and DMK influencing federal policies.

2. Role of Pressure Groups

- **Issue-based Influence:** Focus on specific causes such as environment (Greenpeace India), farmers (BKU), or business interests (FICCI, CII).
- **Policy Lobbying:** Persuade lawmakers through petitions, strikes, media campaigns, and PILs.
- **Mobilization of Public Opinion:** Create awareness and pressure governments to act, e.g., Anna Hazare movement for Lokpal.
- **Checks on Power:** Ensure that neglected groups and interests are represented.

3. Comparison of Roles

- **Parties:** Broader, long-term agenda; seek power directly.
- **Pressure Groups:** Narrow, issue-specific agenda; influence decision-makers indirectly.
- **Complementarity:** Pressure groups keep parties responsive to grassroots demands, while parties translate those demands into policy.

Conclusion

Political parties and pressure groups are **complementary actors** in Indian democracy. Parties provide the structure of governance, while pressure groups infuse **pluralism, participation, and accountability** into policymaking. Together, they enrich Indian democracy by shaping policies in line with both **mass aspirations and specific interests**.

Q17. Local self-governance has been strengthened by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. Analyze their impact on grassroots democracy and discuss the challenges faced by Panchayati Raj and Municipal governance in India.

Answer

The 73rd (1992) and 74th (1992) Constitutional Amendments gave **constitutional status** to **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**. They

marked a turning point in deepening **grassroots democracy** by institutionalizing decentralization and participatory governance.

1. Impact on Grassroots Democracy

- **Institutionalization of Local Self-Government:** PRIs (rural) and ULBs (urban) recognized as the **third tier** of governance.
- **Democratic Participation:** Regular elections mandated every 5 years; Gram Sabhas empowered.
- **Inclusive Representation:** Reservation of **1/3rd seats for women**, and for SCs/STs, enhanced social justice.
- **Devolution of Powers:** 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule (for PRIs) and 18 in the Twelfth Schedule (for ULBs).
- **Financial Empowerment:** State Finance Commissions established to ensure funds for local bodies.
- **Impact:** Enhanced **political participation of marginalized groups**, greater accountability, and localized decision-making.

2. Challenges in Panchayati Raj and Municipal Governance

- **Limited Devolution:** Many States reluctant to devolve real powers; functions often remain with line departments.
- **Financial Constraints:** Dependence on State and Central grants; inadequate local revenue generation.
- **Capacity Deficit:** Lack of trained personnel, planning expertise, and administrative infrastructure.
- **Elite Capture and Corruption:** Local elites often dominate decision-making, reducing inclusiveness.
- **Urban Challenges:** Municipalities face issues of rapid urbanization, inadequate service delivery, and weak planning capacity.
- **Coordination Issues:** Overlap of responsibilities between States and local bodies creates inefficiency.

Conclusion

The 73rd and 74th Amendments significantly strengthened **grassroots democracy**, widened participation, and institutionalized decentralization. However, their potential remains underutilized due to **financial, administrative, and political challenges**. For genuine democratic deepening, States must ensure **greater devolution of powers, capacity building, and financial autonomy** of local governments.

Q18. State politics in Odisha has been shaped by historical and social factors. Discuss the impact of Odia nationalism, the Praja Mandal Movements and the integration of Princely States on Odisha's political landscape.

Answer

The evolution of Odisha's state politics has been deeply influenced by **Odia identity, anti-feudal struggles, and integration of princely states**. These historical processes not only shaped the demand for a separate state but also laid the foundations of Odisha's democratic politics after independence.

1. Odia Nationalism

- Emerged in the 19th century against the **linguistic fragmentation of Odia-speaking areas** across Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Madras Presidency.
- Leaders like **Madhusudan Das, Fakir Mohan Senapati, and Gopabandhu Das** mobilized for cultural unity and administrative autonomy.
- Resulted in the creation of **Odisha as the first linguistic state of India in 1936**.
- **Impact:** Established **linguistic identity** as a political force; influenced post-independence linguistic reorganization of states in India.

2. Praja Mandal Movements

- Launched in princely states of Odisha during the 1930s–40s against feudal oppression.
- Demands: **responsible government, end of arbitrary rule, and peasant rights**.

- Prominent in states like Talcher, Dhenkanal, and Nilgiri.
- Leaders such as **Nabakrushna Choudhury and Harekrushna Mahatab** linked these movements to the broader Indian national struggle.
- **Impact:** Cultivated traditions of **mass mobilization, peasant rights, and grassroots democracy** in Odisha.

3. Integration of Princely States

- Post-independence, Odisha had over **24 princely states**, which were integrated between 1947–48.
- This expanded Odisha's territory and political base.
- Former rulers had to merge under democratic governance, reducing feudal dominance.
- **Impact:** Strengthened the **Congress Party's dominance** in the early decades; facilitated spread of democratic institutions at the regional level.

Conclusion

Odia nationalism, Praja Mandal agitations, and princely state integration collectively shaped Odisha's politics by embedding **linguistic pride, grassroots struggles, and democratic integration**. These historical experiences continue to influence Odisha's political culture, marked by regional identity, peasant concerns, and strong democratic participation.

OPSC OAS Mains 2023

Solved Paper

Political Science

Paper-II

GROUP-A

Q1. What are the major determinants of foreign policy? Does ideology continue to play a significant role in foreign policy formulation as before? Discuss.

Answer:

Foreign policy refers to the strategies and principles adopted by a state in its relations with other states and international actors. It is shaped by a combination of internal and external determinants.

The **major determinants of foreign policy** include:

1. **Geography:** Strategic location, borders, access to seas, and natural barriers shape security and diplomatic priorities.
2. **Economic Factors:** Trade interests, energy security, market access, and technology influence foreign engagements.
3. **Political System and Leadership:** Nature of government, leadership vision, and domestic politics impact policy directions.
4. **Military Strength:** Defense capabilities act as both deterrent and bargaining power.
5. **National Interest:** Security, sovereignty, and development remain core determinants.
6. **International Environment:** Balance of power, alliances, global institutions, and crises shape external strategies.
7. **Public Opinion and Diaspora:** In democratic setups, civil society, media, and expatriate communities also influence decisions.

Regarding **ideology**, during the Cold War, foreign policy was heavily guided by ideological alignments such as capitalism vs. socialism or non-alignment. However, in

the post-Cold War era, **pragmatism has overtaken ideology**. States prioritize economic growth, technological advancement, and national interest over rigid ideological commitments. For instance, India, once guided by non-alignment and socialist leanings, now engages pragmatically with both the USA and Russia, and balances relations with Israel and Arab states.

Yet, ideology has not disappeared. Issues like democracy promotion, human rights, environmentalism, and global justice still reflect ideological undercurrents. However, these remain secondary to national interests.

In conclusion, foreign policy is a product of multiple determinants where ideology still matters, but its influence is limited compared to the primacy of national interest and pragmatic considerations in today's globalized world.

Q2. Examine the significance of EU as a regional organization in the light of recent developments in international political affairs.

Answer:

The **European Union (EU)** is the most advanced form of regional integration in the world, with both economic and political dimensions. In the 21st century, it has emerged as a key actor in global governance, though challenged by internal and external crises.

Economic Significance

- The EU is the **largest trading bloc** and a key player in the World Trade Organization.
- The **Euro** stands as the second most important global currency after the US dollar.
- It influences global regulations on **trade, digital economy, and environmental standards**, strengthening its bargaining power.

Political and Security Significance

- The EU seeks **strategic autonomy** in a multipolar world.

- The **Russia-Ukraine conflict** highlighted EU unity in imposing sanctions, extending military and financial aid, and reducing energy dependence on Russia.
- While NATO remains primary in defense, the EU is increasingly asserting itself as a **security provider**.

Role in Global Issues

- The EU is a **leader in climate diplomacy**, spearheading commitments under the Paris Agreement and promoting green energy.
- It actively supports **multilateralism, democracy, and human rights**, countering authoritarian tendencies worldwide.

Challenges

- Internal divisions, **Brexit**, rise of **right-wing populism**, and **migration crises** threaten unity.
- Dependence on the USA for defense continues to limit its strategic autonomy.

Conclusion

The EU remains a **significant regional organization** shaping international affairs. Its handling of recent crises, particularly the Ukraine war and great power competition, shows its potential as a stabilizing force. However, its global relevance will depend on achieving greater internal cohesion and independence in security matters.

Q3. Which theoretical framework do you believe is best suited to explain the current international scenario? Discuss while elucidating the major features and principles of the theory.

Answer:

The contemporary international order is marked by **great power rivalry, regional conflicts, economic interdependence, and security uncertainties**. Among various theories of International Relations, **Realism—particularly Neo-Realism (Structural Realism)**—appears best suited to explain the current scenario.

Major Features of Realism/Neo-Realism

1. **State-Centrism:** The state remains the primary actor in world politics, prioritizing sovereignty and security.
2. **Anarchy of International System:** There is no overarching authority above states, making self-help essential.
3. **Power Politics:** States seek power as a means to ensure survival and deter threats.
4. **Balance of Power:** Stability is achieved when power is distributed in a way that prevents dominance by any one actor.
5. **Security Dilemma:** One state's pursuit of security often generates insecurity in others, fueling arms races and conflicts.

Relevance to Current International Scenario

- The **US-China rivalry** reflects the realist logic of power transition, with China challenging American hegemony.
- The **Russia-Ukraine war** exemplifies security concerns, balance of power calculations, and the use of military power to secure national interests.
- The **Indo-Pacific strategy** and formation of alliances like QUAD and AUKUS show states balancing against perceived threats.
- Despite globalization, economic interdependence has not eliminated conflicts, proving the persistence of power politics.

Conclusion

While liberal and constructivist approaches highlight cooperation and norms, the dominance of **strategic competition, military build-up, and power balancing** underscores the continuing relevance of Realism in explaining present-day international politics. It remains the most compelling framework to interpret the uncertainties of today's world order.

Q4. Explain the international conditions under which India resorted to non-alignment movement. What relevance does the movement hold today?

Answer:

The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** was a cornerstone of India's foreign policy after independence. Conceived by leaders like **Jawaharlal Nehru, Tito, Nasser, and Sukarno**, it provided newly independent states a collective platform to pursue sovereignty and development without being drawn into Cold War rivalries.

International Conditions Leading to NAM

1. **Cold War Rivalry:** The bipolar world order led by the USA and USSR forced countries to align with military blocs (NATO and Warsaw Pact). India, unwilling to compromise its autonomy, adopted non-alignment.
2. **Colonial Legacy:** Newly independent nations in Asia and Africa sought to preserve hard-won sovereignty and avoid neo-colonial domination.
3. **Nuclear Arms Race:** Superpower militarization and the threat of nuclear war created insecurity for smaller states.
4. **Developmental Needs:** Economic reconstruction and modernization were urgent priorities for India, which required cooperation from both blocs without ideological constraints.

Relevance of NAM Today

- **Strategic Autonomy:** In the current multipolar world, India still pursues independent foreign policy, balancing relations with the USA, Russia, and China.
- **Global South Voice:** NAM continues as a platform to champion the concerns of developing nations on trade, climate change, and sustainable development.
- **Non-Military Cooperation:** Issues like terrorism, pandemics, and energy security require collective action beyond military alliances.
- **Balancing Power Rivalry:** With rising US-China competition, non-alignment principles help India avoid entanglement in rigid blocs while safeguarding national interest.

Conclusion

Though the Cold War has ended, **NAM's essence of autonomy, peace, and cooperation** remains relevant. For India, it still serves as a diplomatic tool to navigate global power rivalries while advancing development and strategic interests.

Q5. Discuss how game theory explains international politics. Elucidate using examples.

Answer:

Game theory is a mathematical approach used in political science to study strategic interactions where the outcome for each actor depends on the choices of others. In international politics, it helps explain how states make decisions under conditions of conflict, competition, and cooperation.

Major Features of Game Theory in International Relations

1. **Rational Choice Assumption:** States are seen as rational actors seeking to maximize their interests.
2. **Strategic Interaction:** Decisions are interdependent; one state's move affects others.
3. **Payoff Structures:** Outcomes depend on cooperation, competition, or compromise.
4. **Predictive Value:** It anticipates likely strategies in diplomacy, war, or negotiation.

Key Models and Examples

- **Prisoner's Dilemma:** Explains the security dilemma. For instance, during the **Cold War nuclear arms race**, both the USA and USSR continued to build weapons despite mutual interest in avoiding destruction.
- **Chicken Game:** Explains brinkmanship, as in the **Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)**, where both superpowers risked confrontation until one side backed down.

- **Stag Hunt:** Reflects collective action problems in global challenges. For example, **climate change negotiations** require states to cooperate for long-term benefits, but mistrust leads to suboptimal outcomes.
- **Zero-Sum Games:** Trade wars or territorial disputes, such as the **US-China trade conflict**, often follow zero-sum logic where one's gain is another's loss.

Conclusion

Game theory provides a powerful framework to analyze international politics by highlighting the dilemmas of trust, cooperation, and competition. While it simplifies complex realities, its models remain useful for understanding nuclear deterrence, alliance politics, and global negotiations.

Q6. Do you think the relevance of UN as an international organisation has declined over time? Examine.

Answer:

The **United Nations (UN)** was established in 1945 to maintain peace, promote cooperation, and prevent another world war. Over the decades, it has contributed significantly to international security, decolonization, human rights, and development. However, its effectiveness and relevance have increasingly come under question.

Achievements of the UN

- **Peace and Security:** UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, Asia, and the Balkans have prevented conflicts from escalating.
- **Development Goals:** The UN spearheaded the **MDGs and SDGs**, shaping global development discourse.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Agencies like **UNICEF, WHO, and UNHCR** have been vital in refugee relief, vaccination drives, and health crises.
- **Norm-building:** The UN has advanced principles of human rights, disarmament, and environmental protection.

Declining Relevance – Challenges

1. **Security Council Paralysis:** Veto power of P5 often blocks collective action, as seen in the **Ukraine crisis and Syrian conflict**.
2. **Selective Intervention:** Double standards in humanitarian interventions have weakened credibility.
3. **Rise of Regionalism:** Organizations like EU, AU, and ASEAN increasingly handle regional issues independently.
4. **Great Power Rivalries:** The US-China competition undermines consensus in UN forums.
5. **Reform Stagnation:** Calls for expanding the Security Council to reflect present realities remain unfulfilled.

Conclusion

The UN's relevance has **not disappeared** but is challenged by institutional inertia and geopolitical rivalries. While its effectiveness in conflict resolution has declined, its role in development, humanitarian aid, and norm-building remains indispensable. For continued relevance, **comprehensive reforms and democratization of decision-making** are essential.

Q7. Examine how gender justice finds a place in international politics with a special focus on the Beijing Declaration, 1995.

Answer:

Gender justice has emerged as a critical dimension of international politics, reflecting the recognition that sustainable peace, development, and democracy are impossible without gender equality. International organizations and global movements have increasingly emphasized the protection and promotion of women's rights.

Gender Justice in International Politics

- The **UN Charter (1945)** was the first international treaty to affirm gender equality.
- The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** recognized equal rights for men and women.

- Later instruments like **CEDAW (1979)** created binding obligations on states to eliminate discrimination against women.
- Global governance now links gender justice with **human rights, development, peace, and security** (e.g., UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security).

Beijing Declaration, 1995

- Adopted at the **Fourth World Conference on Women**, the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** is a landmark in advancing gender justice.
- It identified **12 critical areas of concern**, including women and poverty, health, education, violence against women, armed conflict, and political participation.
- The declaration emphasized **mainstreaming gender perspectives** in all policies and called for removing structural inequalities.
- It shifted the discourse from women's welfare to **empowerment and agency** in global decision-making.

Contemporary Relevance

- Gender justice remains central to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5)**.
- Global debates on reproductive rights, equal pay, representation in politics, and gender-based violence draw legitimacy from Beijing's framework.
- It continues to inspire policies ensuring **inclusive governance and peacebuilding**.

Conclusion

The Beijing Declaration institutionalized gender justice in international politics by transforming it into a global agenda. Its enduring legacy lies in ensuring that equality and empowerment of women remain indispensable for global peace, security, and development.

Q8. What are the major challenges preventing complete nuclear disarmament in the world? How can they be addressed? Discuss.

Answer:

Nuclear disarmament has been a long-standing global aspiration, reinforced by treaties such as the **NPT (1968)**, **CTBT (1996)**, and the recent **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017)**. Despite these efforts, the world continues to face hurdles in achieving complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Major Challenges

1. **Security Dilemmas:** States retain nuclear weapons as deterrence against rivals, e.g., India-Pakistan, US-China, and NATO-Russia dynamics.
2. **Great Power Rivalries:** Nuclear powers view their arsenals as symbols of strategic dominance and bargaining tools.
3. **Lack of Trust:** Deep-rooted mistrust between states prevents cooperation in disarmament negotiations.
4. **Technological Advancements:** Modernization of nuclear arsenals (hypersonic missiles, tactical nukes) undermines disarmament initiatives.
5. **Non-NPT States:** Countries like India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea remain outside or challenge the NPT framework, weakening its universality.
6. **Domestic Political Pressures:** National prestige, military-industrial lobbies, and nationalist narratives resist disarmament efforts.

Possible Solutions

- **Strengthening Multilateralism:** Revitalizing UN initiatives and ensuring universal participation in treaties.
- **Confidence-Building Measures:** Arms reduction agreements, verification mechanisms, and hotlines between rivals.
- **Regional Security Frameworks:** Addressing underlying political conflicts in South Asia, Korean Peninsula, and West Asia.

- **Global Norms and Civil Society Pressure:** Expanding advocacy through NGOs, academic forums, and international campaigns against nuclear weapons.
- **Phased and Verified Disarmament:** Gradual reduction with strict international inspections under IAEA.

Conclusion

Complete nuclear disarmament remains elusive due to **security compulsions and geopolitical rivalries**. However, a mix of **political will, trust-building, and strengthened global governance** can pave the way towards a nuclear-free world, ensuring global peace and security.

Q9. Examine the concept of balance of power. How does it find a place within the theoretical framework of realism?

Answer:

The **Balance of Power (BoP)** is a central concept in international relations, referring to a condition where power is distributed among states in such a way that no single state becomes dominant. It has been historically regarded as a mechanism to maintain stability and prevent hegemonic ambitions.

Concept of Balance of Power

- **Definition:** Balance of power means the distribution of power in which states counteract each other to prevent dominance.
- **Methods:** Formation of alliances, armament build-up, territorial adjustments, and diplomatic coalitions are common strategies.
- **Historical Examples:** The Concert of Europe (1815), Cold War bipolarity between the USA and USSR, and current Indo-Pacific balancing against China illustrate BoP in action.

Balance of Power in Realist Framework

- **Classical Realism:** Thinkers like Hans Morgenthau emphasize that states pursue power for survival, and balance of power naturally emerges as a stabilizing force.

- **Neo-Realism (Waltz):** In an anarchic international system, states engage in balancing (internal or external) to ensure survival.
- **Security Dilemma:** Realism argues that balancing often leads to arms races, but it remains essential to prevent hegemony.
- **Alliances as Balancing Tools:** NATO during the Cold War and QUAD in the Indo-Pacific are realist balancing strategies.

Conclusion

The balance of power lies at the **core of realism**, reflecting the perpetual struggle for security in an anarchic system. While critics argue it produces instability, for realists it remains the most effective mechanism to maintain order and prevent dominance in international politics.

Q10. Analyse the evolution of the international economic order.

Answer:

The **international economic order** refers to the framework of rules, institutions, and practices that govern global trade, finance, and development. It has evolved through different historical phases shaped by wars, decolonization, globalization, and technological changes.

Evolution of the International Economic Order

1. Colonial and Mercantilist Era (16th–19th Century):

- Dominated by European colonial powers.
- Focused on exploitation of colonies and mercantilist trade practices.

2. Post-World War II Bretton Woods System (1944):

- Established **IMF, World Bank, and GATT (later WTO)**.
- Introduced a dollar-based system with fixed exchange rates, promoting trade liberalization and reconstruction.

3. Cold War Period (1945–1991):

- Economic competition between capitalist and socialist blocs.
- Rise of **Non-Aligned Movement** and demand for economic sovereignty.

- 1970s saw calls for a **New International Economic Order (NIEO)** by developing countries to correct inequalities in trade, finance, and technology transfer.

4. Post-Cold War Globalization (1991–2008):

- Expansion of **WTO (1995)**, liberalization, and free-market reforms.
- Growing dominance of multinational corporations and financial institutions.

5. Contemporary Era (2008–present):

- Global financial crisis exposed weaknesses of neoliberal order.
- Rise of emerging economies (BRICS, G20) challenging Western dominance.
- Increasing focus on **sustainable development, digital economy, and South-South cooperation**.
- Ongoing US-China economic rivalry reshaping trade and investment flows.

Conclusion

The international economic order has evolved from colonial exploitation to multilateralism and now towards multipolar globalization. The challenge today is to create a more **equitable, inclusive, and sustainable order** that balances development needs with global stability.

Q11. What was the significance of the Vietnam War in global politics? Discuss.

Answer:

The **Vietnam War (1955–1975)** was one of the most significant conflicts of the Cold War era. It involved North Vietnam, supported by the USSR and China, against South Vietnam, backed by the USA. More than a regional conflict, it became a **symbol of ideological struggle** between communism and capitalism.

Significance in Global Politics

1. Cold War Dynamics:

- The war reflected the **US policy of containment** against communism.
- It highlighted the **limits of American military power**, as the US failed to prevent the victory of communist North Vietnam.

2. Decline of US Hegemony:

- The war caused enormous human and financial losses for the USA, weakening its global credibility.
- It triggered domestic opposition, leading to the **Vietnam Syndrome**, where the US became reluctant to engage in foreign military interventions for years.

3. Boost to Communist Movements:

- The victory of North Vietnam inspired leftist and anti-colonial struggles across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- It showed that a determined national liberation movement could defeat a superpower.

4. Impact on International Relations:

- The war contributed to the **rise of détente** in the 1970s, as both the USA and USSR realized the futility of prolonged proxy wars.
- It also influenced US-China rapprochement, with Nixon's 1972 visit to Beijing aiming to balance Soviet influence.

Conclusion

The Vietnam War was more than a regional conflict—it reshaped **global Cold War politics**, exposed the vulnerability of superpowers, and strengthened anti-colonial and revolutionary movements worldwide. It remains a defining episode in the history of international relations.

Q12. Define national interest. What are the important factors that determine a country's national interest?

Answer:

National interest refers to the goals and objectives a state seeks to achieve in its interactions with other states to safeguard sovereignty, security, and development. It is the guiding principle of foreign policy and reflects both short-term priorities and long-term aspirations.

Definition

According to Hans J. Morgenthau, national interest is the **“protection of physical, political, and cultural identity against encroachments by other nation-states.”** It encompasses survival, security, economic prosperity, and prestige in the international system.

Important Factors Determining National Interest

1. **Geography:** Strategic location, natural boundaries, and access to seas influence security and foreign relations. For example, India's location in the Indo-Pacific shapes its maritime strategy.
2. **Economic Needs:** Trade, markets, energy resources, and technology acquisition form a crucial part of modern national interest.
3. **Political System and Ideology:** Democratic states may emphasize human rights and cooperation, while authoritarian regimes prioritize regime security.
4. **Military Strength:** Defense capabilities act as deterrents and enhance bargaining power. Nuclear weapons, for instance, strengthen deterrence policies.
5. **Leadership and Public Opinion:** Leaders' vision and domestic political pressures often shape priorities, as seen in India's pursuit of strategic autonomy.
6. **International Environment:** Balance of power, alliances, and global institutions significantly condition a nation's policies.

7. **Historical and Cultural Factors:** Shared civilizational values, diaspora ties, and identity also shape foreign engagements.

Conclusion

National interest is dynamic and multidimensional, influenced by both domestic factors and global conditions. For effective foreign policy, states must balance **security, economic growth, and global standing**, ensuring survival while adapting to changing realities.

GROUP-B

Q13. Examine the major determinants of India's foreign policy. What are some of the core determinants that have remained unchanged over time? Examine.

Answer:

India's foreign policy has evolved significantly since independence, responding to global shifts and domestic needs. However, it is guided by enduring principles and determinants that ensure continuity alongside change.

Major Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

1. Geopolitical Location:

- India's position in South Asia and proximity to the Indian Ocean makes regional security, maritime dominance, and neighborhood policy central.

2. Security Concerns:

- Threats from Pakistan, terrorism, and China's assertiveness remain decisive.
- Nuclear capability further strengthens India's security calculus.

3. Economic Factors:

- Post-1991 liberalization, economic diplomacy, trade, energy security, and technology partnerships have shaped India's global outreach.

4. Historical and Ideological Legacy:

- Nehruvian ideals of non-alignment, anti-colonial solidarity, and support for global peace still resonate.

5. Domestic Politics and Leadership:

- Leaders like Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Narendra Modi have influenced priorities, from NAM to “Act East Policy” and strategic partnerships.

6. Global Environment:

- The Cold War, post-Cold War unipolarity, and the current multipolar order have conditioned India’s alignments and choices.

Core Determinants that Remain Unchanged

1. Strategic Autonomy:

- From non-alignment to multi-alignment, India has preserved independence in decision-making.

2. Regional Primacy:

- South Asia remains central, with policies like “Neighborhood First.”

3. Quest for Global Status:

- India consistently aspires for great power recognition, evident in its pursuit of a permanent UNSC seat.

4. Commitment to Development:

- External relations are linked to securing resources, technology, and markets for national growth.

Conclusion

India’s foreign policy reflects a blend of continuity and change. While tactics adapt to new challenges such as terrorism, China’s rise, and globalization, **strategic autonomy, regional security, and global recognition** remain enduring pillars. Thus, India’s foreign policy is dynamic yet anchored in timeless national priorities.

Q14. Examine India's relationship with Bangladesh in the light of recent events in the country.

Answer:

India and Bangladesh share deep historical, cultural, and geographical ties, with India playing a pivotal role in Bangladesh's liberation in 1971. Over the decades, their bilateral relations have witnessed ups and downs, but recent developments have further highlighted the significance of this partnership in South Asia.

Recent Developments in Bangladesh

1. Political Unrest and Democratic Concerns:

- Bangladesh has faced widespread protests, allegations of electoral irregularities, and concerns over authoritarian tendencies.
- India has maintained cautious engagement, supporting stability while emphasizing democratic processes.

2. Economic Cooperation:

- India is among Bangladesh's top trade partners, with bilateral trade crossing **\$15 billion**.
- Connectivity projects such as rail links, border haats, and the **BBIN initiative** have deepened ties.

3. Security and Border Management:

- Both countries have cooperated in counter-terrorism and reducing cross-border insurgency.
- However, issues like **border killings, illegal migration, and Rohingya refugee inflow** remain contentious.

4. China Factor:

- Bangladesh's growing engagement with China through the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** raises strategic concerns for India.
- India has responded with infrastructure, energy cooperation, and defense partnerships to maintain influence.

5. Water Sharing and Climate Issues:

- The unresolved **Teesta water-sharing agreement** continues to strain ties.
- Both nations face shared climate vulnerabilities like floods and cyclones, offering scope for cooperation.

Conclusion

India-Bangladesh relations are marked by **mutual dependence and strategic sensitivity**. While economic and security cooperation has expanded, challenges like water disputes, migration, and China's rising presence complicate ties. In light of recent political turbulence in Bangladesh, India's approach remains pragmatic—balancing support for stability with the promotion of democratic values. Sustaining trust and resolving pending issues will be crucial for long-term partnership.

Q15. Analyse the events which facilitated India's integration into the international economic corridor. What benefits and challenges did it bring to India? Examine.

Answer:

India's integration into the international economic corridor reflects its gradual opening to globalization and participation in global trade and investment flows. Historically inward-looking, India's economy became increasingly outward-oriented after the 1990s, making it a significant player in the global economic system.

Events Facilitating Integration

1. Colonial Legacy & Early Years (1947–1990):

- Post-independence, India adopted a protectionist and socialist economic model, with limited participation in global trade.
- However, initiatives like joining **GATT (1948)** laid the foundation for future integration.

2. Economic Liberalization (1991):

- The Balance of Payments crisis pushed India to adopt **structural reforms** under IMF-World Bank guidance.

- Reforms included de-licensing, reduction of tariffs, FDI liberalization, and opening of financial markets.

3. WTO Membership (1995):

- India became part of the global trade order, aligning with rules on goods, services, and intellectual property.

4. Regional & Bilateral Engagements:

- Participation in **ASEAN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, BRICS, G20**, and FTAs expanded economic corridors.
- Recent initiatives like **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC, 2023)** reflect deepening integration.

Benefits for India

- **Economic Growth:** Export-led growth and foreign investment accelerated development.
- **Technology & Services Boom:** IT and outsourcing sectors became globally competitive.
- **Strategic Leverage:** Active participation in G20 and BRICS enhanced India's voice in global governance.
- **Energy & Connectivity Gains:** Access to energy markets and infrastructure corridors boosted strategic depth.

Challenges for India

- **Trade Deficits:** Persistent imbalances, especially with China.
- **Agricultural Concerns:** WTO obligations often conflict with farmers' interests.
- **Dependency Risks:** Overdependence on global supply chains exposed vulnerabilities during COVID-19.
- **Inequality & Jobless Growth:** Benefits of globalization unevenly distributed domestically.

Conclusion

India's integration into the international economic corridor has brought **growth, visibility, and influence**, but also challenges of inequality, dependence, and competition. Balancing globalization with national interests and self-reliance will determine the sustainability of India's global economic engagement.

Q16. Why has India not signed the CTBT? How does it impact global nuclear disarmament efforts? Explain.

Answer:

The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**, adopted in 1996, seeks to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes. While 187 states have signed it, India, along with a few key nuclear powers, has refrained. India's stance is rooted in concerns of sovereignty, national security, and the inequities of the global nuclear regime.

Reasons Why India Has Not Signed CTBT

1. Discriminatory Nature:

- CTBT allows the nuclear "haves" (recognized under the NPT) to retain their arsenals while restricting others.
- India views it as perpetuating nuclear apartheid.

2. National Security Concerns:

- Surrounded by nuclear-armed neighbors—China and Pakistan—India prioritizes retaining its testing option to ensure credible deterrence.

3. Unfulfilled Disarmament Commitments:

- India had supported the **Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963)** but opposed CTBT as it lacked a clear roadmap for **time-bound universal nuclear disarmament**.

4. Strategic Autonomy:

- Signing CTBT would restrict India's sovereign right to develop and upgrade nuclear capabilities, undermining its great power aspirations.

Impact on Global Nuclear Disarmament

1. Weakening Universality of CTBT:

- Without India, Pakistan, China, and the USA, the treaty cannot enter into force, undermining its effectiveness.

2. Encouragement of Regional Rivalries:

- India's refusal indirectly justifies Pakistan's stance, sustaining the South Asian nuclear competition.

3. Credibility Gap in Disarmament Efforts:

- India's non-participation reflects broader disillusionment of developing nations with unequal global regimes, weakening trust in multilateral disarmament.

Conclusion

India's refusal to sign CTBT is driven by **security compulsions and the treaty's discriminatory framework**. While it complicates global disarmament efforts, India continues to advocate for **universal, non-discriminatory, and verifiable nuclear disarmament**. Thus, India's position is not against disarmament but against selective frameworks that compromise equity and security.

Q17. What are India's major concerns regarding WTO trade negotiations? How does India balance domestic protectionist policies with WTO commitments?

Answer:

India has been an active member of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** since its inception in 1995. While supporting a rules-based multilateral trading system, India has consistently voiced concerns regarding inequities in trade negotiations that disadvantage developing nations. Balancing domestic protection with global commitments has thus been a defining feature of India's trade policy.

India's Major Concerns in WTO Negotiations

1. Agriculture and Food Security:

- India insists on retaining subsidies for farmers and maintaining its **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** system.

- The **Peace Clause** under the Bali Agreement (2013) is temporary; India demands a permanent solution for **public stockholding programs**.

2. **Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT):**

- India seeks flexibility for developing countries in tariff reductions and subsidy limits to protect vulnerable sectors.

3. **Trade in Services:**

- India champions easier **movement of professionals (Mode 4)**, given its strong IT and service sector exports, but faces restrictions from developed countries.

4. **E-commerce and Digital Trade:**

- India resists binding rules on data flows and e-commerce moratoriums, prioritizing digital sovereignty and domestic startups.

5. **Unequal Negotiating Power:**

- Developed countries push for stringent intellectual property rules and market access, while ignoring developmental concerns of the Global South.

Balancing Protectionism with WTO Commitments

- **Strategic Flexibility:** India uses WTO provisions like S&DT to protect farmers and small industries while complying with broader rules.
- **Domestic Reforms with Safeguards:** While liberalizing trade, India maintains tariff barriers in sensitive sectors (agriculture, dairy, textiles).
- **Coalition Building:** India partners with developing countries through groups like **G-33 and G-77** to counter developed nations' pressure.
- **Selective Engagement:** India supports multilateralism but resists plurilateral initiatives that undermine its autonomy.

Conclusion

India's approach reflects a **pragmatic balance between protecting domestic interests and fulfilling WTO obligations**. By championing food security,

development, and fair trade, India positions itself as a voice of the Global South while cautiously engaging in global trade liberalization.

Q18. How does India navigate its strategic economic and diplomatic relationships with major global powers – USA, EU, China, Russia – while maintaining its policy of strategic autonomy?

Answer:

India's foreign policy since independence has been guided by the principle of **strategic autonomy**, first reflected in the policy of non-alignment and later adapted to contemporary multipolar realities. In a world marked by great power rivalries, India balances ties with the **USA, EU, China, and Russia** while safeguarding its independent decision-making.

India-USA Relations

- **Economic and Strategic Cooperation:** Strong partnerships in trade (over \$190 billion in 2023), defense (COMCASA, BECA), and technology (semiconductors, AI).
- **Security Cooperation:** Shared Indo-Pacific vision through QUAD and counter-terrorism initiatives.
- **Balancing Factor:** Despite growing closeness, India avoids military alliances and retains autonomy in critical decisions like oil imports from Russia.

India-EU Relations

- **Trade and Connectivity:** EU is India's third-largest trading partner. Negotiations for **FTA (BTIA)** and cooperation in green technology highlight economic engagement.
- **Global Issues:** Collaboration on climate change, digital governance, and multilateral reform.
- **Autonomy Element:** India resists EU pressure on human rights while cooperating on strategic areas.

India–China Relations

- **Economic Interdependence:** China is a major trading partner, though trade deficit remains high.
- **Strategic Challenges:** Border disputes (Galwan 2020), China's BRI, and its Pakistan ties create friction.
- **Balancing:** India strengthens Indo-Pacific partnerships (QUAD, AUKUS alignment) without severing economic links.

India–Russia Relations

- **Historical Ties:** Defense, space, and energy cooperation remain strong.
- **Ukraine War Context:** India pursues neutrality, buying Russian oil while urging diplomacy, reflecting autonomy in foreign policy.

Conclusion

India's diplomacy illustrates **multi-alignment rooted in strategic autonomy**. By engaging all major powers on trade, security, and technology while avoiding rigid blocs, India enhances its global stature and preserves independent decision-making in line with national interest.

OPSC OAS Mains 2022 Solved Paper**Political Science****Paper-I****GROUP-A**

Q1. Critically examine the normative approach to Political theory. Discuss its problems.

Answer: Normative Approach to Political Theory: A Critical Examination

The normative approach to political theory is concerned with evaluating political institutions, principles, and actions based on moral and ethical standards. It seeks to determine how political systems *ought to be* rather than merely describing how they function. Thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, and John Rawls have contributed significantly to this approach, focusing on justice, liberty, equality, and rights.

One of the strengths of the normative approach is its ability to provide ethical guidance and a vision for an ideal society. It fosters critical reflection on existing political structures and inspires reform based on moral reasoning. Additionally, it helps in formulating principles for governance, law, and policy-making that prioritize human dignity and welfare.

However, this approach faces several criticisms.

First, it is often criticized for being too abstract and detached from real-world political dynamics. Political realities are shaped by power struggles, economic constraints, and historical contexts, which normative theory sometimes overlooks.

Second, the approach tends to be subjective, as moral values and ethical principles vary across cultures and societies, making universal political prescriptions difficult.

Third, it lacks empirical rigor, as it does not rely on observable data but rather on philosophical reasoning, which can lead to impractical or idealistic conclusions.

Despite these limitations, the normative approach remains significant in political theory, as it provides a moral compass for evaluating political systems and policies.

However, for a more comprehensive understanding, it should be complemented with empirical and realist approaches.

Q2. Globalization has ensured the 'retreat of State'. Comment.

Answer: Globalization and the 'Retreat of the State'

Globalization, characterized by the increasing interconnectedness of economies, cultures, and political systems, has significantly altered the role of the state. The argument for the "retreat of the state" suggests that globalization has diminished state sovereignty by shifting power to transnational entities, multinational corporations, and international institutions.

Economic globalization has led to the rise of free trade, financial deregulation, and global supply chains, reducing the state's control over its economy. Institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and multinational corporations often influence national policies, sometimes limiting states' autonomy in economic decision-making. Similarly, supranational organizations like the European Union (EU) have eroded traditional state authority by establishing binding laws and regulations.

Additionally, globalization has facilitated cultural homogenization through media, technology, and migration, challenging national identities and traditional governance structures. The rise of non-state actors, including global advocacy groups and terrorist organizations, further complicates state authority in security and governance.

However, the idea of the state's complete retreat is contested. States continue to play a crucial role in regulating economies, ensuring social welfare, and maintaining security. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the indispensability of the state in crisis management. Moreover, rising nationalism and protectionist policies indicate a reassertion of state control in some regions.

In conclusion, while globalization has transformed the functions and authority of the state, it has not rendered it obsolete. Instead, the state has adapted to new challenges, balancing national interests with global interdependence.

Q3. Rawls's theory of justice is both contractual and distributive. Examine.

Answer: Rawls's Theory of Justice: A Contractual and Distributive Perspective

John Rawls's *Theory of Justice* (1971) is both contractual and distributive in nature, as it seeks to establish a just society based on fairness through a hypothetical social contract while ensuring an equitable distribution of resources.

Rawls's theory is contractual because it is based on the idea of an *original position*, where rational individuals, behind a *veil of ignorance* (ignorant of their social status, class, and abilities), would choose principles of justice that ensure fairness for all. This hypothetical contract leads to two fundamental principles:

1. **Equal Basic Liberties** – Every individual should have equal rights and freedoms.
2. **Difference Principle** – Social and economic inequalities should be arranged to benefit the least advantaged and be attached to positions open to all.

The theory is also distributive because it focuses on how resources, wealth, and opportunities should be fairly allocated within society. Rawls rejects strict equality but advocates for a just distribution that improves the conditions of the disadvantaged. His *Difference Principle* ensures that any inequality must ultimately benefit the least well-off.

However, critics argue that Rawls's principles are too idealistic and may not align with real-world economic and political dynamics. Libertarians like Robert Nozick oppose redistributive justice, advocating for individual entitlements and free-market principles instead.

In conclusion, Rawls's theory blends contractualism and distributive justice, offering a moral framework for a fair society while recognizing the need for some inequalities, provided they serve the common good.

Q4. Explicate the features of deliberative democracy. Show its difference with participatory democracy.

Answer: Features of Deliberative Democracy and its Difference from Participatory Democracy

Deliberative democracy is a model of democracy that emphasizes reasoned discussion and dialogue among citizens and representatives in decision-making. It goes beyond mere voting and aggregation of preferences, focusing on rational debate to reach a consensus. Key features include:

1. **Reasoned Deliberation** – Citizens and representatives engage in informed discussions based on logic and evidence.
2. **Public Participation** – While not as direct as in participatory democracy, deliberative democracy encourages active civic engagement in policy debates.
3. **Consensus-Oriented Decision-Making** – The goal is to reach policies that reflect reasoned agreement rather than just majority rule.
4. **Pluralism and Inclusivity** – Diverse perspectives and minority voices are considered to ensure fair representation.
5. **Institutional Frameworks** – Forums such as citizens' assemblies, public hearings, and legislative debates facilitate deliberation.

Difference between Deliberative and Participatory Democracy

Feature	Deliberative Democracy	Participatory Democracy
Nature of Participation	Emphasizes discussion and reasoning	Focuses on direct citizen involvement
Decision-Making Process	Involves rational debate and consensus-building	Involves direct action, referendums, and local governance
Citizen Role	Citizens engage through structured forums	Citizens actively make policy decisions
Focus	Quality of discussion and legitimacy of decisions	Quantity of participation and direct engagement
Examples	Citizens' juries, deliberative polls	Direct democracy, town hall meetings

In conclusion, while both models seek to enhance democratic participation, deliberative democracy prioritizes informed debate, whereas participatory democracy emphasizes direct citizen action in governance.

Q5. Define power and critically examine Pareto's circulation of elite.

Answer: Power and Pareto's Circulation of Elites

Power is the ability to influence or control the behavior of others, often through authority, coercion, or persuasion. Max Weber defines power as the probability that an individual or group can achieve their will despite resistance. In political science, power manifests in various forms—military, economic, ideological, and political.

Pareto's Circulation of Elites

Vilfredo Pareto, an Italian sociologist, proposed the *Circulation of Elites* theory, arguing that power is always concentrated in a minority elite rather than the masses. According to Pareto, society is divided into two classes:

1. **Governing Elite** – Those who hold power and authority.
2. **Non-Governing Elite** – Those aspiring to power, waiting for an opportunity to replace the ruling elite.

Pareto argued that elites are of two types:

- **Lions** – Strong, conservative, and coercive rulers who rely on force.
- **Foxes** – Cunning, manipulative leaders who use diplomacy and deception.

Over time, these elites decay due to corruption, inefficiency, or complacency, leading to their replacement by new elites through a cyclical process known as *elite circulation*.

Criticism of Pareto's Theory

1. **Elitist and Anti-Democratic** – It ignores the role of the masses and democratic institutions in shaping political change.
2. **Oversimplification** – Political transitions are complex and influenced by multiple socio-economic factors, not just elite struggles.

3. **Lack of Empirical Evidence** – The rigid classification of elites into "lions" and "foxes" is overly simplistic.

Despite criticisms, Pareto's theory remains influential in analyzing political leadership transitions and elite power struggles.

Q6. Hegemony is primarily based on the organization of consent. Comment.

Answer: Hegemony and the Organization of Consent

Hegemony, as conceptualized by the Marxist thinker Antonio Gramsci, is the dominance of one group over others, not just through coercion but primarily through the organization of consent. Unlike traditional notions of power that emphasize force, hegemony operates by securing voluntary agreement from the masses, making domination appear natural and legitimate.

Gramsci distinguishes between **coercive power** (exercised through state institutions like the military and police) and **hegemonic power** (exercised through cultural, ideological, and institutional means). The ruling class maintains control by shaping public consciousness through education, media, religion, and political institutions, ensuring that its worldview becomes the accepted norm. This ideological dominance creates a "common sense" that aligns the interests of the masses with those of the elite.

Examples of Hegemony Through Consent

1. **Capitalist Ideology** – Market-driven economic policies are often accepted as natural and beneficial, even when they disproportionately benefit elites.
2. **Democratic Legitimacy** – Elections and representative institutions provide a sense of public participation, reinforcing the existing power structures.
3. **Cultural Influence** – Media and popular culture shape perceptions, reinforcing social hierarchies and consumerist values.

Criticism of the Concept

- Some argue that consent is not entirely manufactured, as people actively negotiate power dynamics.

- Structural constraints, like economic dependence, may compel consent rather than genuine agreement.

In conclusion, hegemony is sustained more by the **subtle shaping of beliefs** than by overt force. However, consent is never absolute, as counter-hegemonic movements challenge dominant ideologies over time.

Q7. Examine various theories of political obligation and their limitations.

Answer: Theories of Political Obligation and Their Limitations

Political obligation refers to the moral duty of individuals to obey the laws and authority of the state. Various theories attempt to justify why citizens should comply with the state's authority.

1. Consent Theory

- Rooted in the social contract tradition of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, this theory argues that individuals have a duty to obey the state because they have implicitly or explicitly consented to its authority.
- **Limitation:** Most individuals are born into a political system without explicitly consenting to it, making the idea of a voluntary contract unrealistic.

2. Utilitarian Theory

- Proposed by Bentham and Mill, this theory states that individuals should obey laws because they maximize overall happiness and societal welfare.
- **Limitation:** If disobedience leads to greater utility in certain cases, it would justify breaking laws, undermining stable governance.

3. Fair Play Theory

- Developed by Hart and Rawls, this theory argues that individuals who benefit from a social system have a duty to obey its rules as a matter of fairness.
- **Limitation:** Critics argue that individuals do not always voluntarily accept benefits from the state, making this obligation less binding.

4. Natural Duty Theory

- Inspired by Kantian ethics, it suggests that people have a moral duty to support just institutions irrespective of consent.
- **Limitation:** The definition of "just institutions" is subjective, leading to differing interpretations.

Conclusion

Each theory provides a perspective on why citizens should obey the state, but none offer a universally accepted justification. The complexities of individual autonomy and state authority make political obligation a contested issue.

Q8. Modern liberalism is synonymous with welfare state. Comment.

Answer: Modern Liberalism and the Welfare State

Modern liberalism is closely associated with the **welfare state**, as it advocates for state intervention to ensure social justice, economic security, and individual well-being. Unlike classical liberalism, which emphasizes minimal state interference and free markets, modern liberalism recognizes the need for state action to correct market failures and protect vulnerable sections of society.

Key Features of Modern Liberalism and the Welfare State

1. **Positive Role of the State** – Inspired by thinkers like John Maynard Keynes and John Rawls, modern liberalism argues that the state should actively promote economic stability and social welfare.
2. **Social Justice and Equality** – The welfare state ensures access to education, healthcare, and social security, reducing inequalities created by capitalism.
3. **Regulated Economy** – Unlike laissez-faire economics, modern liberalism supports government regulation to prevent exploitation, maintain fair wages, and protect workers' rights.
4. **Democratic Rights and Freedoms** – While advocating social welfare, modern liberalism upholds individual liberties, ensuring that state intervention does not become authoritarian.

Criticism of the Welfare State

- **Economic Burden** – Critics argue that excessive welfare spending can lead to fiscal crises and discourage individual initiative.
- **State Overreach** – Libertarians like Robert Nozick believe the welfare state infringes on personal freedoms by redistributing wealth.
- **Bureaucratic Inefficiency** – Large welfare programs may lead to inefficiency and corruption.

Conclusion

While modern liberalism is deeply linked to the welfare state, it balances state intervention with individual freedom, making it distinct from socialism. However, ongoing debates on economic sustainability and the extent of welfare policies continue to shape its evolution.

Q9. Analyze Mahatma Gandhi's critique of western civilization and democracy.

Answer: Mahatma Gandhi's Critique of Western Civilization and Democracy

Mahatma Gandhi, in his seminal work *Hind Swaraj* (1909), offered a sharp critique of Western civilization and democracy, arguing that they prioritized materialism, violence, and moral decay over ethical and spiritual well-being. His views were shaped by his experiences in colonial India and South Africa, where he witnessed the exploitative nature of Western political and economic systems.

Critique of Western Civilization

1. **Materialism and Moral Decay** – Gandhi believed that Western civilization focused excessively on industrial progress and consumerism, leading to moral degradation and alienation.
2. **Mechanization and Loss of Self-Sufficiency** – He criticized industrialization for promoting economic exploitation and unemployment, advocating instead for village-based self-reliant economies.
3. **Imperialism and Violence** – Western civilization, according to Gandhi, thrived on militarism and oppression, contradicting the principles of peace and non-violence (*Ahimsa*).

4. **Neglect of Spiritual Values** – He argued that Western society emphasized bodily comfort over inner spiritual growth, leading to a crisis of values.

Critique of Western Democracy

1. **Majoritarianism and Elitism** – Gandhi saw Western democracy as rule by a few in the name of the many, often failing to represent the true will of the people.
2. **Excessive Dependence on Institutions** – He rejected a system where citizens were passive participants, advocating for direct participation through *Swaraj* (self-rule).
3. **Ethical Deficit** – Western democracies, he argued, lacked moral and ethical foundations, focusing more on power and competition rather than justice and duty.

Conclusion

Gandhi envisioned an alternative model of democracy rooted in decentralization, self-sufficiency, and moral values. While his critique remains relevant, modern perspectives argue that democracy can evolve to integrate ethical and participatory principles.

Q10. Rousseau is an inspiration to totalitarianism, Comment.

Answer: Rousseau as an Inspiration to Totalitarianism: A Critical Analysis

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a key thinker of the Enlightenment, is often linked to democratic ideals through his work *The Social Contract* (1762). However, some critics argue that his concept of the "**General Will**" has been used to justify totalitarianism.

Arguments Supporting the Link to Totalitarianism

1. **Supremacy of the General Will** – Rousseau believed that individuals must submit to the collective will of society, which, if necessary, could compel individuals to be "forced to be free." This idea has been interpreted as legitimizing state control over personal freedoms.

2. **Rejection of Pluralism** – Unlike liberal democracy, Rousseau did not advocate for diverse opinions; instead, he emphasized a unified general will. This has been seen as a precursor to authoritarian regimes suppressing dissent.
3. **Influence on Jacobinism** – The radical phase of the French Revolution, particularly under Robespierre, drew inspiration from Rousseau's ideas, justifying political purges in the name of the people's will.
4. **State as the Moral Authority** – Rousseau suggested that the state could mold citizens' morals through civic education, which totalitarian regimes have used to justify ideological indoctrination.

Counterarguments

- **Democratic Aspirations** – Rousseau's intent was to establish a participatory democracy, not a dictatorship.
- **Misinterpretation** – His ideas were selectively used by totalitarian regimes, whereas he advocated for a just and virtuous republic.

Conclusion

While Rousseau's ideas have been misappropriated by authoritarian regimes, his core philosophy aligns more with participatory democracy than totalitarianism.

Q11. The history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggle.
Comment.

Answer: "The History of All Hitherto Existing Societies is the History of Class Struggle" – A Critical Analysis

This statement, from *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, encapsulates the central idea of Marxist historical materialism. It argues that societal evolution is driven by conflicts between dominant and subordinate economic classes.

Marxist Interpretation of Class Struggle

1. **Primitive Communism** – Early societies were classless, based on communal ownership.
2. **Slave Society** – The first class division emerged between masters and slaves.

3. **Feudalism** – Nobles and landlords exploited peasants and serfs.
4. **Capitalism** – The bourgeoisie (owners of production) oppresses the proletariat (workers), leading to economic inequality and alienation.
5. **Socialism and Communism** – Marx predicted that class struggle would culminate in a proletarian revolution, overthrowing capitalism and establishing a classless, stateless society.

Criticism of the Class Struggle Theory

- **Overemphasis on Economics** – Critics argue that political, cultural, and religious factors also shape history, not just economic class conflict.
- **Neglect of Middle Classes** – The theory assumes a binary division, ignoring the role of the middle class in modern economies.
- **Failure of Communist States** – Marx's predictions have not fully materialized, as capitalist democracies have adapted through welfare policies and labor rights.

Conclusion

While class struggle has undeniably shaped history, other social, political, and technological factors also influence societal change. Marx's analysis remains relevant, but modern societies exhibit more complex dynamics beyond simple class conflict.

Q12. Neo-liberal theory is good for maintaining political economy from a global perspective. Analyze.

Answer: Neo-Liberal Theory and Its Role in the Global Political Economy

Neo-liberalism is an economic and political philosophy that advocates for **free markets, minimal state intervention, privatization, and deregulation**. Emerging in the late 20th century with leaders like **Ronald Reagan** and **Margaret Thatcher**, it became the dominant approach to globalization and economic development.

Arguments in Favor of Neo-Liberalism

1. **Economic Growth and Efficiency** – Free-market policies encourage competition, innovation, and investment, leading to economic expansion.

2. **Global Trade and Integration** – Neo-liberal policies promote free trade agreements (e.g., WTO, NAFTA), reducing tariffs and expanding global markets.
3. **Reduction of State Bureaucracy** – Privatization of industries increases efficiency by reducing government control and corruption.
4. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** – By reducing restrictions, developing nations attract capital from multinational corporations, boosting industrialization and employment.
5. **Financial Liberalization** – Open capital markets provide opportunities for economic development and integration into the global economy.

Criticism and Challenges

- **Economic Inequality** – Unregulated capitalism often leads to wealth concentration among elites, widening the rich-poor gap.
- **Market Failures** – Environmental degradation, financial crises (e.g., 2008 global recession), and monopolies expose the limits of free markets.
- **Weakening of State Sovereignty** – Global institutions like the IMF and World Bank impose structural adjustment programs that undermine national policies.
- **Social Welfare Erosion** – Neo-liberal policies often lead to cuts in public services, affecting vulnerable populations.

Conclusion

While neo-liberalism fosters economic growth and globalization, its **unregulated** nature exacerbates inequalities and crises. A balanced approach, with strategic state intervention, is necessary to ensure sustainable and inclusive development.

GROUP-B

Q13. Tilak rejected the method of petitions and asserted that Swaraj is the birthright of Indians. Comment.

Answer: Tilak's Rejection of Petitions and Assertion of Swaraj as a Birthright

Bal Gangadhar Tilak, one of the pioneers of India's freedom movement, played a crucial role in transforming the nationalist struggle from **moderate constitutionalism** to **militant nationalism**. His famous declaration, "*Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it*", became a rallying cry for Indian self-rule.

Rejection of the Method of Petitions

Tilak was critical of the **moderate** leaders of the Indian National Congress, such as Dadabhai Naoroji and Gopal Krishna Gokhale, who relied on petitions, constitutional reforms, and appeals to the British for political concessions. He argued that:

1. **Petitions Showed Weakness** – The British would not grant rights voluntarily; they had to be demanded forcefully.
2. **Failure of Moderates** – Despite decades of petitions, British policies remained exploitative, as seen in repressive laws like the **1897 Sedition Act**.
3. **Need for Mass Mobilization** – He believed in arousing nationalist consciousness through public movements, boycotts, and protests.

Assertion of Swaraj as a Birthright

Tilak's demand for **Swaraj (self-rule)** was rooted in his belief that:

1. **Indians Had a Natural Right to Govern Themselves** – He saw British rule as illegitimate and exploitative.
2. **Swadeshi and Boycott Were Necessary** – Tilak promoted the **Swadeshi Movement** and **Boycott of British Goods** as a means of economic self-sufficiency.
3. **Mass Resistance Was Essential** – He encouraged active resistance, including protests, strikes, and defiance of colonial laws.

Impact on the Freedom Movement

Tilak's militant nationalism laid the foundation for later movements led by Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Bhagat Singh. His ideas shaped the transition from **petition-based appeals** to **direct mass action**, making *Swaraj* the ultimate goal of Indian nationalism.

Q14. To what extent we can say Quit India movement is the most un-Gandhian of all Gandhian movements. Comment.

Answer: Quit India Movement: The Most Un-Gandhian of All Gandhian Movements?

The **Quit India Movement (1942)** was one of the most significant mass uprisings against British rule, launched by Mahatma Gandhi with the call of "*Do or Die*." However, it is often argued that this movement was the most **un-Gandhian** among all his struggles due to its **spontaneous, violent, and leaderless** nature.

Un-Gandhian Aspects of the Quit India Movement

1. **Mass Violence** – Unlike Gandhi's previous movements (Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience), which emphasized strict non-violence (*Ahimsa*), the Quit India Movement witnessed violent uprisings, attacks on government buildings, destruction of railway lines, and assaults on officials.
2. **Lack of Direct Leadership** – The British swiftly arrested Gandhi and other top Congress leaders, making the movement **leaderless**. Local activists, students, and workers led protests, often deviating from Gandhian principles.
3. **Call for Immediate Action** – Gandhi's earlier movements focused on gradual pressure on the British, but Quit India demanded **instant withdrawal**, making it more radical.
4. **Absence of Negotiation** – Unlike the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931)** and **Round Table Conferences**, the movement rejected negotiations, signaling a departure from Gandhi's usual approach of dialogue.

Gandhian Aspects of the Movement

1. **Moral Courage and Sacrifice** – The movement reflected Gandhi's belief in **self-sacrifice and mass mobilization**.
2. **Faith in the People** – Gandhi trusted that Indians could fight for freedom even in his absence.
3. **Ultimate Commitment to Swaraj** – The demand for complete independence was a continuation of his lifelong struggle.

Conclusion

While Quit India Movement **deviated from strict Gandhian non-violence**, it still embodied his ideals of **mass struggle, fearlessness, and self-rule**. Thus, it was an **un-Gandhian movement in strategy but not in spirit**.

Q15. Examine the issue areas between center and States. Do you think these are standing in the way of holding together? Give reasons.

Answer: Issues Between the Centre and States: Challenges to India's Federal Structure

India follows a **quasi-federal** system, where the **Centre and States share powers**, but conflicts often arise due to political, economic, and administrative reasons. These tensions sometimes challenge the principle of **cooperative federalism** and raise concerns about the country's unity.

Key Areas of Conflict

1. Legislative Issues

- The **Seventh Schedule** divides powers into the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists, but the Centre often encroaches on State subjects (e.g., agricultural laws).
- Use of **Article 249** allows Parliament to legislate on State subjects in the national interest, which states see as interference.

2. Financial Issues

- **Revenue Sharing** – States demand a greater share in **GST revenues and Finance Commission grants**, while the Centre controls major taxation powers.
- **Central Schemes** – Many **centrally sponsored schemes** impose financial burdens on states without adequate funding.

3. Governor's Role

- Governors, appointed by the Centre, often act against elected State governments, leading to tensions (e.g., West Bengal, Maharashtra).
- **Misuse of Article 356** (President's Rule) has led to concerns about democracy.

4. Law and Order Conflicts

- **Use of Central Agencies** like CBI and ED in opposition-ruled states is viewed as political interference.
- **Deployment of Central Forces** in states during protests without consultation causes friction.

5. Regional Autonomy and Special Status

- The dilution of **Article 370 (Jammu & Kashmir)** and demands for special status (e.g., Andhra Pradesh) create tensions.

Do These Issues Threaten India's Unity?

While Centre-State tensions **challenge cooperative federalism**, they do not pose an immediate threat to national unity. India's democratic framework allows for political negotiations, judicial interventions, and constitutional mechanisms to resolve disputes. However, **greater decentralization and fiscal autonomy** can strengthen federal harmony.

Q16. While discussing Prime Minister's relation with President of India, do you agree with the view that an active President is against the Constitution?

Answer: Prime Minister-Presidential Relations: Is an Active President Against the Constitution?

The **President of India** is the constitutional head of the state, while the **Prime Minister (PM)** is the head of the government. As per **Article 53**, the President exercises executive power **only on the advice of the Council of Ministers**, headed by the Prime Minister (*Article 74*). However, debates arise on whether an **active President** contradicts the Constitution.

Arguments That an Active President is Against the Constitution

1. **Parliamentary System of Government** – India follows the **Westminster model**, where real executive power lies with the PM. Any proactive role by the President **challenges this structure**.
2. **Binding Nature of Ministerial Advice** – After the **42nd and 44th Amendments**, the President must accept the PM's advice. A President taking independent actions violates this principle.
3. **Ceremonial and Symbolic Role** – The President is meant to be a constitutional figurehead, ensuring smooth governance without interfering in executive decisions.
4. **Precedents of Non-Interference** – Most Presidents have acted as per the PM's advice, avoiding an assertive role in governance.

Arguments That an Active President is Not Unconstitutional

1. **Discretion in Certain Situations** – Under **Article 78**, the President can seek information from the PM and suggest reconsideration of decisions (*Article 74*).
2. **Crisis Situations** – During **hung parliaments**, Presidential discretion in appointing the PM or calling for fresh elections is crucial.
3. **Guardian of the Constitution** – As per **Article 60**, the President takes an oath to protect the Constitution, allowing them to act if democratic values are at risk.

Conclusion

While the President must function **within constitutional limits**, occasional **activism** is not entirely unconstitutional. However, excessive interference **weakens the PM's authority** and disrupts democratic governance. Thus, a **balanced and cautious approach** is necessary.

Q17. There has been politicization of caste in Indian Politics. Comment.

Answer: Politicization of Caste in Indian Politics

Caste has been an integral part of Indian society for centuries, influencing social, economic, and political structures. With the advent of **democracy and electoral politics**, caste has become a significant factor in political mobilization, often leading to its **politicization**.

Ways in Which Caste Has Been Politicized

1. Electoral Mobilization

- Political parties use **caste-based vote banks**, selecting candidates and crafting policies to appeal to specific caste groups.
- Dominant castes (e.g., Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh, Vokkaligas in Karnataka) and marginalized groups (Dalits, OBCs) have formed strong political identities.

2. Caste-Based Political Parties

- Parties like the **Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)**, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and Dravidian parties explicitly champion the interests of particular caste groups.
- Even national parties like the **Congress and BJP** adjust their caste strategies based on electoral demographics.

3. Reservation and Affirmative Action Politics

- Debates over **reservation policies** (e.g., Mandal Commission, EWS quota) often take a political turn, with parties using them to secure votes.
- Demands for **OBC and Dalit reservations** in jobs and education have led to mass agitations (e.g., Patidar, Jat, and Maratha movements).

4. Caste and Coalition Politics

- Regional parties often form alliances based on caste equations, influencing national politics.

- The **Mandal vs. Kamandal** (OBC politics vs. Hindutva politics) debate has shaped contemporary electoral strategies.

Consequences of Caste Politicization

Positive Aspects

- **Empowerment of Marginalized Groups** – Caste politics has helped Dalits, OBCs, and Adivasis gain political representation.
- **Policy Formulation** – Focus on caste-based issues has led to **affirmative action and social justice policies**.

Negative Aspects

- **Division and Vote-Bank Politics** – Caste-based mobilization often deepens social fragmentation.
- **Violence and Caste Conflicts** – Electoral competition has sometimes led to caste violence and riots.

Conclusion

While caste politicization has empowered marginalized communities, its excessive use for electoral gains weakens the spirit of **inclusive democracy**. Moving towards **issue-based politics** rather than caste-based polarization is essential for national unity and progress.

Q18. Women movement in India is a part of global feminist movement. Analyze.

Answer: Women's Movement in India as Part of the Global Feminist Movement

The **women's movement in India** has evolved over decades, addressing issues of gender equality, social justice, and political rights. While rooted in India's unique socio-cultural and historical context, it has been significantly influenced by the **global feminist movement**, drawing inspiration from international struggles for women's rights.

Phases of the Women's Movement in India and Global Influence

1. Colonial and Pre-Independence Phase (19th–1947)

- Inspired by **Western liberal feminism**, Indian reformers like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyotirao Phule** fought against **Sati, child marriage, and lack of education for women.**
- Women's participation in the **freedom struggle**, led by Sarojini Naidu and Kasturba Gandhi, was influenced by the **suffragette movement in the West.**

2. Post-Independence Phase (1947–1970s)

- The **Constitution of India (1950)** granted **equal rights to women**, influenced by international human rights principles.
- The **Second Wave of Feminism (1960s–70s)** in the West, which focused on issues like reproductive rights and workplace equality, encouraged Indian women to raise concerns about **dowry deaths, domestic violence, and employment discrimination.**

3. Contemporary Phase (1980s–Present)

- The **#MeToo movement** and global campaigns for gender justice have resonated in India, sparking debates on **sexual harassment laws and workplace safety.**
- **UN conventions like CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)** have influenced **legislative changes in India**, such as the **Domestic Violence Act (2005)** and **Maternity Benefit Act (2017).**

Conclusion

The Indian women's movement has been shaped by **local struggles and global feminist ideologies.** While addressing **India-specific issues like caste and religion-based discrimination**, it remains a crucial part of the **larger global feminist movement advocating for gender justice and equality.**

OPSC OAS Mains 2022: Solved Paper

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Paper-II

GROUP-A

Q1. How do you describe the international system? Examine its evolution from the peace of Westphalia forward.

Answer: The International System and Its Evolution Since the Peace of Westphalia

The **international system** refers to the structure of global politics, where states interact based on **sovereignty, diplomacy, and power dynamics**. It has evolved through various historical phases, influenced by wars, treaties, and ideological shifts.

Evolution of the International System

1. The Peace of Westphalia (1648) and the Birth of Sovereignty

- Ended the **Thirty Years' War** in Europe.
- Established the **modern state system**, where states had **absolute sovereignty** over their internal affairs.
- Marked the beginning of **balance-of-power politics** in Europe.

2. 19th Century: Concert of Europe and Colonialism

- The **Congress of Vienna (1815)** created the **Concert of Europe**, promoting diplomacy to prevent major wars.
- Rise of **imperialism and colonialism**, where European powers dominated Asia and Africa.

3. World Wars and the League of Nations (20th Century)

- **World War I (1914–1918)** exposed the failures of power politics.
- The **League of Nations (1919)** was formed to prevent future conflicts but failed due to lack of enforcement mechanisms.

- **World War II (1939–1945)** led to the emergence of the **United Nations (1945)** and a new international legal order.

4. Cold War and Bipolarity (1945–1991)

- The world was divided between the **USA (Capitalism)** and **USSR (Communism)**.
- Creation of alliances like **NATO** and **Warsaw Pact** shaped global conflicts.

5. Post-Cold War and Globalization (1991–Present)

- Rise of a **unipolar world (led by the USA)**, later shifting to **multipolarity** with the rise of China, India, and regional powers.
- Global institutions like the **WTO, IMF, and UN** play a key role in governance.
- Emerging challenges include **climate change, terrorism, and cyber warfare**.

Conclusion

The international system has evolved from a **state-centric model** to a complex, interdependent system influenced by **globalization, regionalism, and emerging multipolarity**. While sovereignty remains a core principle, **global governance and transnational challenges** shape modern international relations.

Q2. Examine the theoretical aspects of collective security. List the difficulties encountered in implementing the principles pertaining to collective security as outlined in the UN Charter.

Answer: Theoretical Aspects of Collective Security and Challenges in Implementation

Collective security is a principle in international relations where states agree to **jointly respond to threats against peace and security**. It is based on the idea that **an attack on one state is an attack on all**, requiring a unified response. This principle is rooted in **liberal internationalism** and aims to **prevent aggression and maintain stability**.

Theoretical Aspects of Collective Security

1. Core Principles

- **Indivisibility of Security** – Security threats anywhere are a concern for all.
- **Deterrence through Unity** – A strong collective response discourages aggression.
- **Legal and Institutional Framework** – Established through international organizations like the **League of Nations (1919)** and later the **United Nations (1945)**.

2. UN and Collective Security

- **Chapter VII of the UN Charter** gives the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** the power to take action against threats to peace.
- Measures include **diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, and military intervention**.
- **Peacekeeping operations** are a practical implementation of collective security.

Challenges in Implementing Collective Security

1. **Veto Power of Permanent UNSC Members** – The five permanent members (**USA, Russia, China, France, UK**) can block action, leading to inaction (e.g., Syria crisis).
2. **Conflicting National Interests** – States prioritize their interests over collective action.
3. **Lack of Universal Participation** – Not all states contribute equally to peacekeeping missions.
4. **Selective Enforcement** – The UN intervenes in some conflicts but ignores others (e.g., Iraq vs. Rwanda).
5. **Rising Multipolarity** – Power shifts and regional conflicts challenge the effectiveness of global security mechanisms.

Conclusion

While **collective security remains a vital concept**, its implementation faces structural and political hurdles, requiring **UN reforms and stronger global cooperation**.

Q3. What are the fundamental suppositions of idealism as a methodology for examining International Relations? Elucidate its enduring significance in the process of fostering peace.

Answer: Idealism in International Relations: Assumptions and Significance

Idealism is a major theoretical approach in **International Relations (IR)** that emphasizes **morality, international cooperation, and institutions** to promote global peace. It emerged as a response to the destructive effects of **power politics and war**, advocating for a **rules-based global order**.

Fundamental Assumptions of Idealism

1. **Human Nature is Essentially Good** – Idealists believe that humans are capable of **rationality and cooperation**, reducing the likelihood of war.
2. **War is Preventable** – Conflicts arise due to misunderstandings and flawed policies rather than inherent state aggression.
3. **International Institutions Promote Stability** – Organizations like the **League of Nations and the United Nations** help mediate disputes and foster global cooperation.
4. **Moral Principles Should Guide Foreign Policy** – States should act in accordance with **universal values**, such as democracy, human rights, and justice.
5. **Economic and Social Interdependence Prevents War** – Trade, cultural exchanges, and diplomacy reduce the incentives for conflict.

Enduring Significance in Fostering Peace

- **Formation of International Organizations** – The **United Nations (1945)** embodies idealist principles, promoting diplomacy and conflict resolution.

- **Advancement of International Law** – Treaties like the **Geneva Conventions** and **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** reinforce global norms.
- **Promotion of Liberal Democracy** – Democracies rarely fight each other (*Democratic Peace Theory*), supporting the spread of democratic values.
- **Encouragement of Diplomacy over War** – Negotiations, peace talks, and conflict resolution efforts align with idealist thought.

Conclusion

Despite criticism from **realists** who argue that power politics dominate international relations, **idealism continues to influence global governance, diplomacy, and peace initiatives**, demonstrating its enduring relevance in world affairs.

Q4. Analyze the significant decrease in the United States of America's dominance as a hegemonic power and its consequences for the evolving global political structure

Answer: Decline of U.S. Hegemony and Its Impact on Global Politics

The **United States (U.S.)**, since the end of the Cold War (1991), has been the world's **preeminent hegemonic power**. However, in recent years, its dominance has significantly declined due to **economic shifts, military overreach, and the rise of new global players**.

Reasons for the Decline of U.S. Hegemony

1. Economic Challenges

- The **2008 financial crisis** weakened the U.S. economy, shifting global economic power towards **China and emerging economies**.
- **Debt crisis and trade deficits** have reduced America's financial leverage.

2. Geopolitical Failures and Military Fatigue

- Costly wars in **Iraq and Afghanistan** diminished U.S. global credibility and military dominance.
- Withdrawal from global commitments (e.g., **Paris Climate Accord, Iran Nuclear Deal**) weakened U.S. diplomatic influence.

3. Rise of China and Multipolarity

- **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and economic expansion challenge U.S. influence in Asia and Africa.
- Other regional powers like **Russia, India, and the EU** are asserting greater independence in global affairs.

4. Declining Soft Power and Internal Divisions

- Political polarization and social unrest in the U.S. (e.g., Capitol Riots, racial tensions) have affected its **global leadership image**.
- Influence of multilateral organizations like **BRICS and ASEAN** shows a shift from U.S.-centric governance.

Consequences for Global Political Structure

- **Rise of a Multipolar World** – Power is now distributed among **China, Russia, the EU, and regional actors**.
- **Weaker U.S. Alliances** – Traditional allies (e.g., Europe, Japan) are pursuing independent policies.
- **Increased Regional Conflicts** – A less dominant U.S. means weaker conflict resolution (e.g., Ukraine war, South China Sea tensions).
- **Stronger Global Institutions** – Organizations like the **UN, WTO, and IMF** may play a greater role in balancing power dynamics.

Conclusion

The **decline of U.S. hegemony** is leading to an **unstable but multipolar world order**, where **regional powers and emerging economies** play a more prominent role in shaping international relations.

Q5. Analyze the factors that led to the conclusion of the Cold War and evaluate its impact on the field of international relations

Answer: End of the Cold War: Causes and Impact on International Relations

The **Cold War (1947–1991)** was a period of ideological, political, and military rivalry between the **United States (USA)** and the **Soviet Union (USSR)**. It ended with the **dissolution of the USSR in 1991**, leading to significant shifts in global politics.

Factors Leading to the End of the Cold War

1. Economic Weakness of the USSR

- The Soviet economy struggled due to **low productivity, excessive military spending, and inefficiencies in the command economy**.
- The **costly war in Afghanistan (1979–1989)** drained Soviet resources.

2. Reforms by Mikhail Gorbachev

- **Glasnost (Openness)** – Allowed political freedom, weakening Soviet authoritarianism.
- **Perestroika (Restructuring)** – Introduced economic reforms, but failed to revive the economy.
- Reduction of Soviet influence in **Eastern Europe**, leading to **democratization movements**.

3. Rise of Nationalism in the Soviet Bloc

- Countries like **Poland, East Germany, and the Baltic States** sought independence.
- The fall of the **Berlin Wall (1989)** symbolized the collapse of Soviet control.

4. Diplomatic Engagement and Arms Reduction

- **Reagan-Gorbachev summits** led to **arms control agreements** (INF Treaty, 1987).
- **USA's technological superiority** (e.g., Strategic Defense Initiative) pressured the USSR.

Impact on International Relations

1. **Unipolar World Order** – The USA emerged as the **sole superpower**, shifting power dynamics.
2. **Expansion of Liberalism** – Democracy and free-market economies spread globally.
3. **NATO Expansion** – Former Soviet allies joined NATO, reshaping security alliances.
4. **Rise of New Conflicts** – Ethnic and regional conflicts (e.g., Yugoslavia, Chechnya) emerged in the absence of bipolar stability.
5. **Globalization and Economic Integration** – Market-driven globalization accelerated, increasing interdependence.

Conclusion

The Cold War's end **reshaped international relations**, leading to a **unipolar world order**, **new security concerns**, and **economic globalization**, but also **regional instability** due to the power vacuum left by the USSR's collapse.

Q6. With rising cross-border conflicts, increase in nuclear warheads is a matter of concern. In this context, mention the need for disarmament and the measures already taken at global level. Also, enumerate the steps taken by India in this regard.

Answer: Need for Disarmament and Global & Indian Initiatives

The rise in **cross-border conflicts and nuclear proliferation** poses a significant threat to global security. With over **12,000 nuclear warheads worldwide**, disarmament is crucial to prevent catastrophic wars, nuclear terrorism, and arms races.

Need for Disarmament

1. **Preventing Nuclear War** – The use of nuclear weapons can lead to mass destruction (e.g., Hiroshima and Nagasaki).
2. **Reducing Arms Races** – Disarmament prevents states from engaging in competitive stockpiling.

3. **Ensuring Global Stability** – Reducing nuclear weapons minimizes the risk of conflict escalation.
4. **Diverting Resources to Development** – Reducing defense spending allows more investment in healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Global Disarmament Measures

1. **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (1968)** – Prevents nuclear proliferation but is criticized for favoring nuclear-armed states.
2. **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (1996)** – Bans all nuclear testing, though not fully ratified.
3. **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) (1991, 2010)** – Agreements between the U.S. and Russia to reduce nuclear arsenals.
4. **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) (2017)** – Aims for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

India's Steps Towards Disarmament

1. **No First Use (NFU) Policy** – India commits to not using nuclear weapons unless attacked first.
2. **Non-Signatory to NPT & CTBT** – India supports disarmament but views these treaties as discriminatory.
3. **Support for Global Disarmament** – Advocates for universal, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament at the UN.
4. **Civil Nuclear Agreements** – Engages in peaceful nuclear energy cooperation with countries like the U.S. and Russia.

Conclusion

While disarmament remains a complex issue, **global cooperation and diplomatic efforts** are necessary to **reduce nuclear threats and promote peace**. India continues to support **responsible nuclear policies and global non-proliferation efforts**.

Q7. The Cuban Missile Crisis was a pivotal moment in the Cold War. Enumerate the primary factors contributing to it, as well as its resultant outcomes.

Answer: Cuban Missile Crisis: Causes and Consequences

The **Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962)** was a **13-day standoff** between the **United States (USA)** and the **Soviet Union (USSR)** over the placement of Soviet nuclear missiles in **Cuba**. It is considered the **closest the world has ever come to nuclear war** during the Cold War.

Factors Leading to the Crisis

1. Soviet Response to U.S. Missiles in Europe

- The **USA had deployed nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy**, threatening Soviet security.
- The **USSR aimed to counterbalance U.S. nuclear superiority** by placing missiles in Cuba.

2. Cuban Fear of U.S. Invasion

- After the **1959 Cuban Revolution**, Fidel Castro's government aligned with the USSR.
- The failed **Bay of Pigs invasion (1961)** by U.S.-backed forces made Cuba seek Soviet protection.

3. Superpower Rivalry

- The Cold War was at its peak, with the USA and USSR competing for global dominance.
- The crisis was part of the larger nuclear arms race between the two powers.

Consequences of the Crisis

1. Avoidance of Nuclear War

- **Diplomatic negotiations** led to the USSR withdrawing missiles from Cuba.
- In return, the USA **secretly agreed** to remove its missiles from Turkey.

2. Creation of the Moscow-Washington Hotline

- A **direct communication link** was established to prevent future crises.

3. Shift in Cold War Strategy

- Both superpowers pursued **arms control agreements**, leading to treaties like the **Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963)**.

Conclusion

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a turning point in the Cold War, emphasizing **diplomacy over confrontation** and shaping future international conflict resolution.

Q8. The Demand voiced by emerging countries for a New international Economic Order (NIEO) holds great significance and importance. Will they be able to attain their objectives of NIEO in the near future?

Answer: Significance and Future of the New International Economic Order (NIEO)

The **New International Economic Order (NIEO)** was a demand made by **developing countries** in the 1970s to create a **fairer global economic system**. It aimed to reduce economic disparities between the **Global North (developed countries)** and the **Global South (developing countries)** by restructuring international trade, finance, and development policies.

Significance of NIEO

1. **Economic Sovereignty** – Calls for greater control over **natural resources and industries** to reduce dependency on Western economies.
2. **Fair Trade Practices** – Advocates for **better prices for raw materials and reduced trade barriers** for developing countries.
3. **Financial Reform** – Seeks **equitable lending terms from global financial institutions** like the IMF and World Bank.
4. **Technology Transfer** – Demands access to **modern technology** to bridge the development gap.
5. **Debt Relief** – Argues for **easier loan repayment terms** to avoid economic crises in developing nations.

Challenges to Achieving NIEO Objectives

1. **Dominance of Developed Nations** – Western countries control key financial institutions, resisting major reforms.
2. **Globalization and Neoliberalism** – The **free-market economy** favors established economies over emerging ones.
3. **Internal Economic Challenges** – Political instability, corruption, and weak governance hinder developing nations' progress.
4. **Geopolitical Conflicts** – Rivalries between major powers (e.g., U.S.-China tensions) distract from economic cooperation.

Future Prospects

- **BRICS, G20, and South-South Cooperation** offer alternative platforms for economic restructuring.
- The **rise of China and India** challenges Western economic dominance, pushing for reforms.
- While full NIEO implementation is **unlikely in the near future**, gradual economic shifts **toward a multipolar world order** could make the global economy more equitable.

Conclusion

The NIEO remains **an important goal for global economic justice**, but structural barriers **limit its realization**. However, **regional cooperation and alternative financial institutions** may gradually shift global economic power toward developing nations.

Q9. Analyze the significance and interpretation of reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Discuss the impact of these UNSC reforms on emerging countries

Answer: Significance and Impact of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Reforms

The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** plays a crucial role in **maintaining global peace and security**. However, its structure, particularly the **permanent**

membership and veto power, has been criticized as outdated and **unrepresentative of contemporary global realities**. The demand for **UNSC reforms** is driven by the need for **greater inclusivity, legitimacy, and effectiveness** in global governance.

Significance and Interpretation of UNSC Reforms

1. **Enhanced Representation** – The current structure favors **WWII-era powers (P5: U.S., U.K., France, Russia, China)**, ignoring the rise of **emerging economies** like India, Brazil, and South Africa.
2. **Democratization of Decision-Making** – Expanding **permanent membership** would reduce the dominance of a few powerful nations.
3. **Addressing Regional Imbalances** – **Africa, Latin America, and the Global South** lack representation among permanent members.
4. **Limiting Veto Power** – Calls for **restricting or reforming veto use** to prevent deadlocks in crises like Syria and Ukraine.
5. **Strengthening Global Peace Efforts** – A more representative UNSC could better **address contemporary security challenges**, including terrorism and climate change.

Impact of UNSC Reforms on Emerging Countries

1. **Greater Political Influence** – Countries like **India, Brazil, and South Africa** would gain a stronger voice in global governance.
2. **Better Policy Representation** – Developing nations would have **more influence on peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and economic policies**.
3. **Economic and Strategic Benefits** – Permanent membership would enhance **foreign investment, diplomatic leverage, and security alliances**.
4. **Regional Stability** – Greater representation could lead to **more balanced solutions** for regional disputes.

Conclusion

UNSC reforms are essential to ensure **fair global governance**. While resistance from **current P5 members** poses challenges, emerging economies must **continue**

diplomatic efforts and alliances to push for a more inclusive and effective UN system.

Q10. What is the impact of the regime change and political instability in Myanmar on regional security and peace? Will the intervention of ASEAN provide positive results in this particular situation?

Answer: Impact of Regime Change and Political Instability in Myanmar on Regional Security

The **military coup in Myanmar (February 2021)** led to severe **political instability, human rights violations, and violent conflicts**. This has had far-reaching consequences for **regional security and peace**, particularly for **neighboring countries and ASEAN**.

Impact on Regional Security and Peace

1. **Refugee Crisis** – Thousands of **Rohingya and anti-coup activists** have fled to neighboring countries like **India, Bangladesh, and Thailand**, creating humanitarian and security concerns.
2. **Rise in Armed Conflicts** – Ethnic militias and pro-democracy groups are engaged in **armed resistance**, leading to instability along Myanmar's borders.
3. **Economic Disruptions** – Myanmar's instability affects **regional trade and investment**, especially for countries like China and India.
4. **Terrorism and Crime** – The power vacuum has enabled **drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and militant activities** in Southeast Asia.
5. **Geopolitical Rivalries** – Competing interests of **China, India, and Western powers** have complicated regional diplomacy.

Can ASEAN's Intervention Yield Positive Results?

ASEAN has taken initiatives like the **Five-Point Consensus (2021)**, calling for dialogue, humanitarian aid, and an end to violence. However, its success depends on:

1. **Strong Diplomatic Pressure** – ASEAN must push Myanmar's military junta for **inclusive political dialogue**.

2. **Engagement with Global Powers** – Cooperation with the **UN, India, and China** is crucial for effective mediation.
3. **Enforcement Mechanisms** – ASEAN lacks strong enforcement tools, making its influence limited without **economic and diplomatic sanctions**.

Conclusion

While ASEAN's intervention is a **step in the right direction**, its impact remains **limited without stronger enforcement and international cooperation**. Myanmar's crisis will continue to challenge regional security unless a **peaceful political settlement** is achieved.

Q11. Examine the phenomenon of global warming and outline its impact on the Earth's overall climate. Elucidate the strategies implemented to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases, which contribute to the phenomenon of global warming, in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Kyoto Protocol of 1997

Answer: Global Warming and Its Impact on Earth's Climate

Global warming refers to the **long-term increase in Earth's average temperature** due to the accumulation of **greenhouse gases (GHGs)** like **carbon dioxide (CO₂)**, **methane (CH₄)**, and **nitrous oxide (N₂O)**. This phenomenon is primarily driven by **human activities** such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial emissions.

Impact of Global Warming on Earth's Climate

1. **Rising Temperatures** – The Earth's temperature has increased by **1.2°C since pre-industrial times**, leading to **heatwaves and altered weather patterns**.
2. **Melting Ice Caps and Rising Sea Levels** – Polar ice sheets and glaciers are melting, causing **coastal flooding and habitat loss**.
3. **Extreme Weather Events** – Increased frequency of **hurricanes, cyclones, droughts, and wildfires**.
4. **Disruption of Ecosystems** – Coral bleaching, species extinction, and loss of biodiversity due to changing climate conditions.
5. **Impact on Agriculture** – Changing rainfall patterns affect **crop yields and food security**, leading to socio-economic consequences.

Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases under the Kyoto Protocol (1997)

The **Kyoto Protocol**, adopted in **1997**, was the first international treaty to set **legally binding targets** for reducing GHG emissions. Key provisions include:

1. **Emission Reduction Targets** – Developed countries committed to reducing GHG emissions by **5.2% below 1990 levels (2008–2012 target period)**.
2. **Carbon Trading (Cap-and-Trade System)** – Countries could trade **carbon credits** to meet their targets.
3. **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** – Encouraged developed nations to invest in **emission-reduction projects in developing countries**.
4. **Joint Implementation (JI)** – Allowed industrialized nations to invest in emission-reduction projects in other developed nations.

Conclusion

While the **Kyoto Protocol** laid the foundation for international climate action, it faced challenges due to **non-compliance and U.S. withdrawal**. It was later replaced by the **Paris Agreement (2015)**, which emphasizes **voluntary commitments and a global approach to climate mitigation**. Global efforts must continue to **combat global warming and ensure climate resilience**.

Q12. Examine the effectiveness of global agreements in addressing the issue of international terrorism.

Answer: Effectiveness of Global Agreements in Addressing International Terrorism

International terrorism is a major security threat, requiring coordinated global efforts to combat it. Various **multilateral agreements and frameworks** have been developed to counter terrorism, focusing on **prevention, intelligence sharing, financing restrictions, and military action**. However, their effectiveness remains a subject of debate.

Key Global Agreements on Counterterrorism

1. **UN Conventions and Resolutions**

- The **UN Security Council Resolutions** (e.g., 1373, 1540, 2396) mandate **sanctions, freezing terrorist assets, and intelligence cooperation.**
- The **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)**, proposed by India, is still under negotiation due to disagreements over defining terrorism.

2. **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

- Focuses on **curbing terror financing** by monitoring financial networks and sanctioning non-compliant states.

3. **Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)**

- Strengthens **criminal justice systems and intelligence-sharing mechanisms** among member nations.

4. **Regional Frameworks**

- **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), ASEAN, and EU strategies** focus on counter-radicalization and intelligence cooperation.
- **NATO and Interpol** facilitate **military and law enforcement coordination.**

Effectiveness and Challenges

1. **Lack of a Universal Definition** – Disagreements over defining **terrorism and "freedom movements"** hinder cooperation.
2. **State-Sponsored Terrorism** – Some nations provide **safe havens or indirect support** to terrorist groups.
3. **Technological and Cyber Threats** – Global agreements struggle to counter **online radicalization and encrypted terror communications.**
4. **Selective Implementation** – **Political interests** often influence counterterrorism efforts, leading to **double standards.**

Conclusion

While **global agreements** have improved counterterrorism efforts, **political divisions, weak enforcement, and evolving threats** reduce their effectiveness. Stronger **international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and legal consensus** are needed for a more effective global response to terrorism.

GROUP-B

Q13. Explain the prominent characteristics of India's foreign policy during the 21st century. Analyze the growing importance of maritime security in India's foreign policy.

Answer: Characteristics of India's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century

India's foreign policy in the 21st century is shaped by **globalization, economic growth, regional security concerns, and strategic partnerships**. Some key characteristics include:

1. **Strategic Autonomy** – India follows a **multi-aligned approach**, maintaining ties with major powers like the **U.S., Russia, and China** while upholding its **non-aligned roots**.
2. **Act East Policy** – Strengthens engagement with **ASEAN, Japan, and South Korea**, replacing the earlier **Look East Policy**.
3. **Neighborhood First Policy** – Prioritizes relations with **SAARC nations** through diplomacy, economic aid, and connectivity projects.
4. **Economic Diplomacy** – Focuses on **FDI, trade partnerships, and energy security**, strengthening ties with the **Gulf, Africa, and Latin America**.
5. **Multilateral Engagement** – Active participation in **UN, BRICS, QUAD, G20, and SCO**, advocating for a **multipolar world order**.
6. **Counterterrorism and Defense Modernization** – Enhancing security cooperation with global allies, addressing **cross-border terrorism**, and modernizing armed forces.
7. **Soft Power Diplomacy** – Promotes **cultural diplomacy, yoga, Ayurveda, and diaspora engagement** to enhance global influence.

Growing Importance of Maritime Security in India's Foreign Policy

With a **7,500 km coastline** and dependence on **maritime trade (90% of trade by volume)**, India has prioritized **maritime security** in its foreign policy.

1. **Indian Ocean Strategy (SAGAR)** – "Security and Growth for All in the Region" aims for a **stable and rule-based maritime order**.
2. **QUAD and Indo-Pacific Strategy** – Cooperation with **the U.S., Japan, and Australia** to counter **China's assertiveness in the South China Sea**.
3. **Blue Economy** – Focus on **sustainable ocean resources, fishing, and deep-sea mining**.
4. **Naval Modernization** – Strengthening the **Indian Navy** and increasing maritime surveillance.
5. **Anti-Piracy Operations** – Deploying naval forces to protect **sea lanes from piracy and smuggling**, particularly near the **Horn of Africa**.

Conclusion

India's foreign policy in the 21st century is characterized by **strategic autonomy, regional leadership, and multilateralism**. Maritime security has become a **key priority**, ensuring **trade protection, geopolitical influence, and national security** in the evolving global order.

Q14. Examine the significance of the moral principles upheld by the Non-Aligned Movement in enhancing India's ability to influence others through non-military means i.e. Soft Power, in alignment with her own national goals.

Answer: Significance of Non-Aligned Movement's Moral Principles in Enhancing India's Soft Power

The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, founded in 1961, was based on **principles of peaceful coexistence, sovereignty, anti-colonialism, and global justice**. These moral foundations have played a crucial role in shaping **India's soft power strategy**, allowing it to influence global affairs **without relying on military strength** while aligning with its **national goals** of economic development, regional leadership, and global peace.

Moral Principles of NAM and Their Impact on India's Soft Power

1. **Peaceful Coexistence and Diplomacy** – India's **commitment to non-violence and diplomacy** (inspired by Gandhi and Nehru) enhances its **credibility as a mediator** in international conflicts. This is evident in India's **role in UN peacekeeping missions and diplomatic engagements in the Middle East and Africa**.
2. **Sovereignty and Non-Interference** – India's NAM-based policy of respecting **sovereignty and non-intervention** has fostered goodwill among **developing nations**, reinforcing its leadership in forums like **BRICS, G20, and the Global South**.
3. **Anti-Colonialism and South-South Cooperation** – India's historic support for **decolonization and economic independence** resonates with many developing countries, strengthening its **economic and technological partnerships in Africa, Latin America, and ASEAN**.
4. **Cultural Diplomacy** – NAM's emphasis on **civilizational and cultural identity** has allowed India to project **yoga, Ayurveda, Bollywood, and linguistic heritage** as instruments of global influence, promoting tourism and international goodwill.
5. **Humanitarian Assistance and Development Aid** – India's **disaster relief efforts (such as in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Africa), medical diplomacy (Covid-19 vaccine exports under "Vaccine Maitri"), and technology transfers** reflect its commitment to NAM's humanitarian ideals.

Conclusion

The moral principles of NAM have provided India with a **strong foundation for soft power diplomacy**, allowing it to expand its influence without military coercion. By leveraging these values in **cultural, economic, and diplomatic engagements**, India has enhanced its **global stature** while pursuing national goals of **economic growth, strategic autonomy, and regional leadership**.

Q15. Discuss the importance of India-Russia relationship in the current global context. In light of recent developments, highlight the scope for strengthening economic and strategic cooperation between two countries especially with regards to India's Act Far East policy.

Answer: India-Russia Relationship in the Current Global Context

India and Russia share a **long-standing strategic partnership** based on historical ties, defense cooperation, and mutual geopolitical interests. In the current global context, where the **Ukraine conflict has reshaped global alliances**, maintaining a **balanced and pragmatic relationship** with Russia is crucial for India.

Importance of India-Russia Relations

1. **Defense and Security Cooperation** – Russia remains **India's largest defense supplier**, with deals like **S-400 missile systems, AK-203 rifles, and joint ventures in BrahMos missiles**. This cooperation is critical for **India's self-reliance in defense**.
2. **Energy Security** – With rising global energy prices, India has **diversified its oil imports**, increasing **purchases of Russian crude oil at discounted rates**, ensuring energy security.
3. **Strategic Autonomy** – India maintains a **neutral stance on global conflicts**, balancing relations with both **Russia and the West**, showcasing its **non-aligned and independent foreign policy**.
4. **Geopolitical Stability** – Strong ties with Russia help **India counterbalance China's influence** in the region, especially in **Central Asia, BRICS, and SCO**.

Scope for Strengthening Economic and Strategic Cooperation

1. **India's Act Far East Policy** – This policy, announced in 2019, focuses on **increasing economic engagement with Russia's resource-rich Far East**. India has committed a **\$1 billion credit line** for investment in sectors like energy, infrastructure, and connectivity.
2. **Trade Expansion** – Both countries aim to boost **bilateral trade beyond \$50 billion by 2030**, focusing on **pharmaceuticals, IT, agriculture, and infrastructure**.

3. **Connectivity via INSTC** – The **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** enhances connectivity between **India, Iran, and Russia**, reducing dependency on Western trade routes.
4. **Nuclear Energy & Space Collaboration** – India and Russia continue cooperation in **nuclear energy (Kudankulam project)** and **space missions**, strengthening technological ties.

Conclusion

Despite **Western sanctions on Russia**, India continues to deepen **economic and strategic engagement** while balancing global interests. Strengthening the **Act Far East policy, energy cooperation, and trade partnerships** will further solidify the **India-Russia relationship in the evolving global order**.

Q16. India benefits from the development and consolidation of NATO, as well as a more robust strategic alliance between the United States and Europe. What is your perspective on this assertion? Provide justifications and illustrations to bolster your response.

Answer: India's Benefits from NATO's Consolidation and a Stronger US-Europe Strategic Alliance

The assertion that India benefits from the **development and consolidation of NATO**, along with a stronger **US-Europe strategic alliance**, holds merit due to evolving global security dynamics. A robust NATO and closer **US-Europe ties** serve India's **strategic, economic, and geopolitical interests** in multiple ways.

Justifications for India's Benefit

1. **Counterbalance to China's Rise** – A stronger NATO and **US-Europe alignment** help divert **China's strategic focus** towards Europe, reducing its **military pressure on India's borders (LAC disputes in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh)**. This benefits India in managing its **security challenges with China**.
2. **Support for a Rules-Based Order** – India advocates for a **free and open Indo-Pacific**, aligning with **Western democracies' commitment to international law, sovereignty, and maritime security**. NATO's expanding focus on the

Indo-Pacific region indirectly supports India's interests in the **South China Sea and Indian Ocean Region**.

3. **Defense and Technology Partnerships** – The US and Europe are key defense suppliers for India. Strengthening transatlantic ties boosts India's access to **cutting-edge defense technologies, cyber security cooperation, and military training programs** (e.g., Rafale jets from France, MQ-9 drones from the US).
4. **Economic and Trade Stability** – NATO's deterrence against **Russia's expansionism** ensures **economic stability in Europe**, a major trade partner of India. A stable **global economic order benefits India's export-driven sectors** like IT, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing.
5. **Diversification of Strategic Alliances** – India maintains **strategic autonomy** in foreign policy. A strong **NATO-US-Europe bloc** allows India to navigate between **Russia, the West, and emerging power centers** to maximize its diplomatic and economic advantages.

Illustrations

- **Ukraine War Impact:** The war forced Europe to reassess security, increasing its **focus on the Indo-Pacific**, aligning with India's regional concerns.
- **Quad and AUKUS Cooperation:** India's partnership in **Quad (US, Japan, Australia, India)** complements NATO's interest in the Indo-Pacific, enhancing India's security.

Conclusion

India benefits from NATO's consolidation as it ensures **geopolitical stability, technological cooperation, and containment of China's assertiveness**. While maintaining **strategic autonomy**, India can leverage a **stronger US-Europe alliance** for its **security, economic, and diplomatic interests** in the evolving global order.

Q17. What do you mean by the term 'Global South'? Elucidate India's endeavors to establish itself as the preeminent representative of the global South, emphasizing its relevance for the country.

Answer: Understanding the Term 'Global South' and India's Role as Its Representative

The **Global South** refers to **developing and underdeveloped nations** primarily located in **Asia, Africa, and Latin America** that share common historical experiences of **colonialism, economic dependence, and socio-political challenges**. The term has evolved as an alternative to the outdated **First World-Third World classification**, emphasizing economic disparities and global power imbalances.

India's Endeavors to Represent the Global South

India, as the **world's most populous democracy and a major emerging economy**, has actively positioned itself as the **voice of the Global South** through multiple diplomatic, economic, and strategic initiatives:

1. **Advocacy for a Multipolar World** – India consistently pushes for **equitable global governance** by demanding reforms in **institutions like the UN Security Council (UNSC), IMF, and WTO**, ensuring fair representation for the Global South.
2. **Leadership in South-South Cooperation** – India has strengthened cooperation with developing nations through **developmental aid, technical assistance, and economic collaboration** via platforms like **IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa), BRICS, and the G77**.
3. **Championing Climate Justice** – India, under the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, advocates for **climate equity**, ensuring that **developing nations receive financial and technological support for sustainable development**.
4. **Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid** – India has provided **vaccine diplomacy (Vaccine Maitri during COVID-19), infrastructure projects (Chabahar port for connectivity), and concessional credit lines** to African, Asian, and Latin American countries.

5. **Strategic Role in Global Summits** – Hosting the **Voice of Global South Summit (2023)** ahead of the G20 Presidency, India amplified the concerns of developing nations on trade, security, and digital inclusion.

Relevance of This for India

1. **Geopolitical Influence** – Leading the Global South strengthens India's diplomatic standing, helping it negotiate better terms in **global trade and climate agreements**.
2. **Economic Opportunities** – Stronger ties with developing countries **boost trade, investment, and energy security**, particularly with **Africa and Latin America**.
3. **Countering Chinese Influence** – India's engagement in the Global South acts as a **counterbalance to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, promoting a **more transparent and inclusive development model**.
4. **Strengthening Strategic Autonomy** – Representing the Global South allows India to maintain a **balanced foreign policy**, engaging with both the **West and emerging economies** without aligning strictly with any bloc.

Conclusion

India's proactive diplomacy, economic initiatives, and climate leadership have positioned it as a **key advocate for the Global South**. By ensuring **equitable representation and fostering South-South cooperation**, India not only strengthens its **global influence** but also aligns its leadership role with its **national interests of economic growth, regional stability, and strategic autonomy**.

Q18. What are the both direct and indirect subsidies granted to the agricultural sector in India? Examine the concerns brought out by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on agricultural subsidies.

Answer: **Agricultural Subsidies in India and WTO Concerns**

The agricultural sector in India receives both **direct and indirect subsidies** to ensure food security, farmer welfare, and rural development. These subsidies help stabilize prices, improve productivity, and support farmers against market fluctuations.

Direct Subsidies

1. **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** – The government procures crops at MSP to protect farmers from market volatility.
2. **Fertilizer Subsidy** – Provides financial assistance for fertilizers like **urea, DAP, and MOP**, reducing input costs.
3. **Seed Subsidy** – Encourages farmers to use **high-yielding and climate-resilient seeds** through subsidy programs.
4. **Income Support (PM-KISAN)** – Direct income transfers of ₹6,000 per year to small and marginal farmers.
5. **Subsidized Crop Insurance (PMFBY)** – Farmers receive insurance at reduced premium rates to safeguard against crop loss.

Indirect Subsidies

1. **Power Subsidy** – Free or subsidized electricity for irrigation and farming activities.
2. **Irrigation Subsidy** – Government investments in **canal networks, drip irrigation, and rural water supply**.
3. **Credit Subsidy (Interest Subvention Scheme)** – Low-interest loans for farmers to improve access to finance.
4. **Subsidized Transport & Storage** – Reduced railway freight and financial aid for **cold storage, godowns, and warehouses**.

WTO Concerns on Indian Agricultural Subsidies

The **WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)** classifies subsidies into:

- **Green Box** – Allowed subsidies (e.g., R&D, environmental programs).
- **Amber Box** – Trade-distorting subsidies (e.g., price support, input subsidies) with limits.
- **Blue Box** – Conditional subsidies linked to production limits.

Concerns Raised by WTO

1. **Violation of De Minimis Limits** – WTO mandates that trade-distorting subsidies must not exceed **10% of the value of agricultural production** for developing countries. India's **MSP and input subsidies** often exceed this limit.
2. **Public Stockholding Issue** – India's **food security programs (e.g., PDS, NFSA)** involve large-scale government procurement, which WTO members argue distorts trade.
3. **Export Subsidy Disputes** – India's subsidies for sugar and rice exports have faced **challenges from countries like Australia and Brazil** for unfair market advantage.
4. **Non-Transparent Subsidy Reporting** – WTO demands **accurate and timely disclosure of subsidy figures**, which India has struggled with.

Conclusion

While **agricultural subsidies** are crucial for India's **food security and farmer welfare**, WTO concerns highlight the need for **reforming MSP mechanisms, improving transparency, and negotiating a fairer trade framework**. Balancing **farmer support with global trade obligations** remains a key challenge for India's agricultural policy.

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