



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSIGHTSIAS PSIR **(News 2 Notes)**

April 2023

Faculty – Nikhil K Gowda

Director's Desk

Dear Students,

At InsightsIAS, we passionately dedicate ourselves not only to impart the best training to civil service aspirants in the country but also to produce the finest officers for this nation. We are have constantly introduced innovations into our programmes to meet the standard and demands of the civil service exams.

Our PSIR optional classes and test series (Online and offline) conducted by our renowned faculty Mr. Nikhil K Gowda has given quality guidance to many aspirants over past two years. To further provide quality content to PSIR students we are starting a new initiative News2Notes monthly Magazine to provide best quality content for PSIR optional. I would also take this opportunity to thank Karthik, Harindra Gowda and Madhurima who have contributed in bringing out this content.

News2Notes initiative will give you the necessary quality content, current examples and important quotes which can be readily used in exams and would help in maximizing your PSIR optional marks, we hope all of you would benefit from this initiative.

Being India's topmost website for IAS aspirants (with 1.5 lakh unique daily visitors). We have a team that works round the clock to provide you the best possible resources to succeed in the UPSC civil service exam. If you make use of what we offer to you, you will taste success sooner than all your competitors. For this tough exam we have the right guidance and resources ready for you.

Best Regards,

VINAY KUMAR G B

Testimony by Netra Meti -AIR 326



“Nikhil Sir is the perfect choice for PSIR preparation. Sir has vast knowledge in the subject and experience in exams, which he never hesitates to share with students. He approaches every topic with clarity and is always open to discussions which help in building content. Sir has mentored many students and his mains answer writing review both GS and PSIR are really helpful. He gives tailor made comments to improve on one’s weak points in answer writing. He is humble and very approachable, and clarifies your any doubt regarding prelims mains or interview. So yes go for it.”

Akshat Aayush -AIR 106



InsightsIAS PSIR Test series student

Insights PSIR test series by Nikhil Gowda Sir helped me a great deal in improving the structure and content of my answer. The questions were diverse, including elements of theory interlinked with current affairs. Nikhil Sir also gave detailed explanations of areas where I could improve.

Best wishes to aspirants.

Garima -AIR 220 CSE-21

InsightsIAS PSIR Test series student



join any test series. I had prepared structures for almost 95% PYQs and as expected, almost 90% questions got repeated. For content, I did Shubhra Ranjan ma'am's notes and plugged gaps from Arvind Shah (AIR 123, CSE 2020) Sir's notes (they are available on his website). In my fourth attempt, I had joined Nikhil Gowda (of Insights IAS) Sir's test series. Sir's feedback and how to structure answers were also very helpful while writing answers.

Testimonials by students

★★★★★ a minute ago

NEW

Hello!

I joined InsightsIAS back in August 2021. It was great being part of it. Best part about InsightsIAS is Vinay Sir, the Faculties (Nikhil Gowda Sir, Manjunath Sir, Sailesh Sir) and the Mentorship Program.

My optional subject is PSIR. I personally would like to thank NIKHIL GOWDA sir for making PSIR subject seem easy for students like me who are from engineering/science background. He's well versed with the subject and provides conceptual clarity. I would never regret 'not' taking ShubraRanjan classes. In fact many of my friends who have taken classes at SR have come to Nikhil Sir for his personal guidance. I've improved my answer writing because of his key inputs. He's been my mentor for the past 2 years. He's humble and friendly to interact with.

Also I would like to thank Sailesh Bhupalam sir (Epitome of Humbleness) for helping me with Economics and Mains preparation. He has vast knowledge in both economy and polity. He makes Indian economy easy for science students.

Also InsightsIAS has the best Infrastructure!!!!

I am a regular insta batch student of (2021-2022) at Bangalore branch. The basic and analytical skill building in every subjects are very much useful for both beginners and repeaters because of the dedicated staffs of the academy. you can approach any staff of the academy anytime without hesitation. There is no procedures like appointment if the staff is not in any classes they will help you. And i have took psir optional from Mr. Nikhil gowda sir he is currently one of the best teacher's for psir optional in India who will say your real position and will guide for reaching the top score with fullest involvement towards students. The director of the academy Vinay sir is open to all with humble behavior and genuine to all. More over i am from neighbouring States came to Bangalore for insights but there is no partiality with the teachers and they take everyone alike and if we are ready to work hard then insights is the best destination for civil services preparation. They are service minded more than money minded.

★★★★★ 2 minutes ago

NEW

Political science is a dynamic subject, effortlessly drives the attention of the UPSC aspirants. And more essence to the subject is been given by an outstanding teacher like Nikhil sir , who not only provide conceptual clarity , along with that there is a constant effort made to connect the topic to real world political climate . And creates great passion and interest towards the subject which enables student to clear the exam . Sir being a UPSC aspirant himself have clear cut knowledge and edge on the subject what to read "How to read, How much to read and how to apply " .

being a student and class mate of Nikhil sir in National law school of India university, I would give 5 star rating for his teaching abilities .



Test series student interview transcript

Name Homosapien

Date -22/2/23

Keywords - Rajasthan, NIT Bhopal, web series, reading self-help books, PSIR , Electrical engineering

Smitha nagraj board

Chairman

Why don't u just read books, web series gives a biased and narrow perspective?

Differentiate between movie and web series?

Which part of your personality you want to improve?

M1

U read books, name the book u read on IR

Don't u consider Brahma chellany as hypo realist or hawk?

Why u read his books?

Is India really have any foreign policy on Pakistan

M2

RRR dekhi h (nahi dekhi)

Pathan ha

Tum MP se ho kya controversy h

Kyu esi actor k sath Aisa hota h

My name is Khan me bhi esi k sath kyu ho rha tha

Movie is hit, don't u think as a society we are wrong

M3

U r from Delhi why low voting in Delhi

Okkey u are from Rajasthan steps govt has taken to tackle solar e waste

2 priorities of u to popularise EV

Koi element Mila kya h , kaha Mila , lithium me kya special h

Don't u think we are late for Lithium, future me kya soch rhe h

Sodium ion battery ka kya jhol h

Gf / wife h , how u tackle loneliness in your long journey of preparation

M4

Who is jon mearsheimer

Which big IR event is going to happen?

Next day which summit is happening?

What the agenda

Why despite will of West and East, we are not able to resolve debt crises

Which international mechanism to resolve debt crises

Are self-help books really part of literature?

Board - theek tha sajjan log lag rhe the , aaram se answer complete karne de rahe the

Utility of mocks - Dena chahiye, some repeatitive questions and framing of answers .

Note - mask utarne ko nhi bola, no intro , no. why IAS

QUESTIONS REFELECTED IN MAINS 2022 FROM PSIR TEST SERIES

Many of these topic are covered in News2Notes Magazine.

Duration: 3 Hours

Total Marks: 250

Answer the following questions as per the instructions:

- Answer the following in about 150 words (10x5= 50)
- (a) History and culture as a determinant of Indian Foreign policy (20 Marks)
 - (b) China as Hydro hegemon. Analyze (15 Marks)
 - (c) Discuss the impact of domestic Politics on south Asian nation relations (15 Marks)
 - (d) Discuss the probability of India getting membership to NSG in near future (15 Marks)
 - (e) Implications of evolving dynamics in Afghanistan on India's interests and regional security in the region. Elucidate (20 Marks)
- (a) Discuss India's leadership role in WTO negotiations over the years (20 Marks)
 - (b) Can Global Pandemic Resuscitate SAARC? Justify your stand (15 Marks)
 - (c) Is India's demands for a permanent seat in Security Council justified. Discuss (15 Marks)
- (a) Discuss India's Vision for Indo-pacific region and challenges associated with it (20 Marks)
 - (b) Japan and India's differences might just be what makes this unlikely partnership effective. Discuss (15 Marks)
 - (c) Discuss the impact of Abraham accord on India's interest in West Asian geopolitics. (15 Marks)
- (a) The chief challenge in Indo-US Relations is the mismatch between India's self perception and America's strategic view of India. Explain (20 Marks)
 - (b) Indo-Israel Relations has evolved to state of being Natural allies. Examine (15 Marks)
- (c) Do you think with changing dynamics in Indo-pacific region, India's relations with Russia is losing relevance. Justify your stand with suitable examples (15 Marks)

www.insightsonindia.com

1

www.instacourses.insightsonindia.com



- (a) India's Look east Act East policy has both Internal as well as external dimension as part of India's National Interest. (20 Marks)
- (b) India needs to Reinvent and resuscitate NAM. Comment (15 Marks)
- (c) Discuss the elements of Change in India foreign policy since the end of Cold war Era (15 Marks)

All Questions are compulsory and answer within the mentioned word limit

- Comment on the following in 150 words each (10x5=50 Marks)
 - India's aspirations for a permanent seat in UN security council is a mirage
 - India's vision of a New world order
 - India's opposition NPT is based both of realism as well as Idealism
 - New developments in Afghanistan and its impact of Regional security & India's Interest
 - India and Israel are Natural allies
- (a) Japan and India's differences might just be what makes this unlikely partnership effective. Discuss (20 Marks)
- (b) The Main issues in Indo-US relations is the mismatch between India's self-perceptions & America's strategic view of India. Elaborate (15 Marks)
- (c) Growing asymmetry and India's closer relations is the reason for recent border skirmishes between India & China. Comment (15 Marks)

www.insightsonindia.com

1

www.instacourses.insightsonindia.com

Answer any 5, question 1 and 5 are compulsory and at least 1 question has to be answered from both sections

SECTION-A

- Comment on the following in 150 words (5x10 = 50)
 - Traditional Legal institutional approach as a political approach
 - Rise of right-wing politics across the globe
 - Democracy and development are Antithetical to each other
 - How does functioning of pressure groups differ from Political parties
 - Geo-economics is gaining prominence in present International Scenario
 - a) Discuss the idea of Nuclear deterrence and to what extent would you attribute it for bringing global peace (20 Marks)
 - b) Discuss the impact of Cold War on functioning of United Nations (15 Marks)
 - c) Evaluate the role of International Criminal Court (ICC) in addressing the issues of war crimes (15 Marks)
- a) In what sense has gender justice has become an urgent global concern today (20 Marks)
 - b) UN is ill equipped to address the new security challenges that have emerged in 21st Century (15 Marks)
 - c) Explain the relevance of Marxist approach in context of Globalization (15 Marks)
- a) International Politics, like all politics is struggle for power do you agree (20 Marks)
 - b) Discuss the Dynamics of US-Sino rivalry in the Indo-pacific region (15 Marks)
 - c) Discuss the challenges of New social movements in Developing societies (15 Marks)

www.insightsonindia.com

1

www.instacourses.insightsonindia.com



SECTION-B

- Comment on the following in 150 words (10x5= 50)
 - Domestic socio-economic basis for India pursuing NAM
 - CAATSA and its implications on Indo-US relations
 - Has India's support to creation of Palestine state has weakened over time
 - India as net security Provider
 - Role of think tanks in making of Indian foreign policy
 - a) Examine the goals of India's Neighborhood First Policy and to what extent it has achieved its objectives (20 Marks)
 - b) What India needs today is not non-alignment but multi-alignment. Elaborate (15 Marks)
 - c) India's biggest strategic challenge today is managing its relation with China and dealing with the consequences of rise of China (15 Marks)
- a) Discuss India's interest in west Asia and enumerate the challenges it faces in the region

TEST-10 (Short Test)

ration: 1 Hour

Total Marks: 100

All Questions are compulsory and answer within the mentioned word limit

- Comment on the following in 150 words each (10x5=50 Marks)
- How a Rising China has remade Global politics
 - Impact of Arms Race on third world countries
 - Hegemonic Stability Theory
 - Relevance of NAM
 - India's Permanent membership to UN Security council is it a reality or a Pipe line dream
- Explain the significance and importance of demand raised by developing countries for a new International economic order and are they likely to achieve the objectives of NIEO in foreseeable future (20 Marks)
 - Is the UN Peace Keeping forces a failure. Examine (15 Marks)
 - Discuss the factors for increasing regionalization of global politics (15 Marks)

About Faculty



NIKHIL K GOWDA is doing his **Masters of Public Policy (2019-2021)** from **National law School India University (NLSIU) Bengaluru.**

- Interned as a Political consultant to various parties in Karnataka
- Co-ordinated with Ballari District administration with respect to study of utilization of DMF in mining affected regions
- Interned with Sakhi Trust in Hospet on Gender workshop
- Has written article on India's No First use policy Published in Lokniti & Organizer
- Currently Researching on Impact of India's Neighborhood First policy as part of his Dissertation
- Has written 4 Mains, 2IFS Mains, given 2 UPSC Interviews
- Has been guiding students with respect UPSC preparation from past 4 years, his area of expertize are PSIR optional, Polity, IR, and Modern India.

Contents

PAPER- I-A: Political Theory and Indian Politics	2
RESERVATION AS A MEANS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE	3
PAPER- I-B: Indian Government and Politics	6
SC hearing pleas on same sex couples' right to marry: What is civil union, how is it different from marriage	7
National party status has been announced by ECI	9
PAPER -II-A: Comparative Politics and International Relations ..	10
IS GLOBALIZATION OVER?	11
PAPER-II-B: India and the World.....	14
What binds India and the US	15
What do we know about India's space policy?	18
India-Bhutan relations on top agenda	20
Russia's foreign policy statement identifies India and China as main allies.....	21
The Ukraine war and an emboldened China on the LAC	22
NATO door open for india	24
Book Review	25
'Friendly Fascism: The new face of power in America' by BERTRAM GROSS	26
STATS FOR MAINS:	28
PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS.....	29

PAPER- I-A: Political Theory and Indian Politics

RESERVATION AS A MEANS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Syllabus: PSIR, Justice, Equality

CONTEXT: The Article written by AWSTIKA DAS mainly deals about

- The changes done to the recent reservation criteria by the Karnataka state government
- Reservation as a form of affirmative action in achieving social justice.

BODY:

BACKGROUND:

1. Karnataka state follows an in-detailed subcategorized reservation criteria to ensure percolation of social justice to the downtrodden.
2. Muslims as a category were being provided with a reservation criteria of 2B (4%) based on the recommendation of O Chinnappa Reddy Commission by classifying them as socially backward.

PRESENT MODIFICATIONS:

1. Muslims as category have been removed from Other Backward Classes classification and the 4% reservation provided has been scrapped.
 2. They have been now classified under EWS category which provides 10% of reservation pool.
 3. The 4% reservation pool has now been divided between Vokkaligas and Lingayats by providing 2% each to both the communities.
 4. As a result, reservation for Vokkaligas and other castes in the 2C category went up from 4% to 6%, while reservation for Lingayats and other castes increased from 5% to 7% in the 2D category (for backward classes).
- While dealing with a bunch of petitions challenging the reservation criteria devised by the State government of Karnataka, Honorable Supreme court commented that the “The Karnataka government’s decision to scrap 4% OBC quota for Muslims is “prima facie shaky and flawed”.
 - Supreme Court also opined that the **Karnataka Government acted in ‘Haste’ in scrapping the 4% quota.**

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT’S DEFENSE:

- Reservation solely on the basis of religion is unconstitutional.
- It not only violates the mandates of Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Indian Constitution, but also militates against the principles of social justice.

- The backward classes have been referred to as a **“collection of certain castes”** by Dr. B R Ambedkar.
- The whole point was, there were socially and educationally backward classes in society who have been historically deprived and discriminated against and the same cannot be equated with an entire religion.”
- The maintainability of the petition is also in question as the petitioner did not first approach the Karnataka High Court, where a petition challenging the government orders (GO) were pending.
- Some of the groups within the Muslim community that were found to be ‘backward’, such as the Pinjaras, Ladafs, and Mansooris, continue to enjoy the benefits of reservation, as they did under the earlier regime.
- “The Mandal Commission (1979) clearly found that religion could not be the sole basis for reservation,”
- Even throughout the country, except State of Kerala, there is no state that provides for reservation for the Muslim community as a whole.
- There is no reservation given to the Muslim community on the basis of religion as a whole in the central list also.
- Provision of reservation to the whole religious **community would lead to further deprivations of the backward classes or groups within the Muslim community** as the forward classes or groups.
- Reservation is only an enabling clause and state is not duty bound either under Articles 15 and 16 or between Articles 25 to 30 to provide reservation.
- Providing reservation purely by the virtue of being a member of the community cannot be a reasonable and justifiable criteria.
- “The concept of social justice aims to protect those who are deprived and discriminated against within the society. Including within the said ambit an entire religion would be an antithesis to the **concept of social justice and the ethos of the Constitution**.
- The Preamble itself states that India is secular, which has been understood as **“a positive concept of equal treatment of all religions”**. Viewed thus, reservation on the basis of a person belonging to a particular religion militates against secularism and is, therefore, unconstitutional.
- Grant of reservations in a state and redistribution was a purely executive function dependent on the ‘ground realities’.
- **Reservation cannot be claimed as a fundamental right as opined by Supreme Court under ‘Mukesh Kumar vs The State of Uttarakhand’**

SUPREME COURT’S OBSERVATION:

- “This is not about religion. It is about socially and educationally backward classes. The 4% reservation is totally knocked out and the percentage of those who already had it has

increased. There is a class of persons whose benefits are taken away by a stroke and on the basis of an interim report,”

- The state government could have waited for the final report than acting hastily on the interim report.

WAY FORWARD

- The final report on the working of reservation based on the existing regime could be used as a benchmark to understand the correctness of the action taken by the Karnataka government.
- The state government should aim at providing social justice through means beyond reservation.

Source: <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/supreme-court-karnataka-muslim-reservation-religion-unconstitutional-social-justice-secularism-227197>

PAPER- I-B: Indian Government and Politics

SC hearing pleas on same sex couples' right to marry: What is civil union, how is it different from marriage

Syllabus: PSIR: paper 1, Rights

CIVIL UNION

- ❖ Civil union is a **legally recognized relationship between two individuals**, typically of the **same sex**, that provides them with **similar legal rights and benefits as marriage**, but may not be called "**marriage**" or have the same societal or cultural connotations.
- ❖ Civil unions are often created as an **alternative legal framework for same-sex couples** who are not allowed to marry due to legal or cultural restrictions, or for couples who **prefer a different term or status for their relationship**.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CIVIL UNIONS AND MARRIAGE:

1. **Terminology:** Marriage is a universally recognized term for a formal union between two individuals, typically with legal, social, and cultural significance. Civil unions, on the other hand, may **have different names in different jurisdictions or countries**, and may not carry the same societal recognition or cultural significance as marriage.
2. **Legal Rights and Benefits:** Marriage typically confers a wide range of legal rights and benefits, including but not limited to, inheritance rights, tax benefits, healthcare decision-making, spousal support, and child custody rights. Civil unions, depending on the jurisdiction, **may provide similar legal rights and benefits**, but they may not be as comprehensive or recognized in all jurisdictions.
3. **Recognition and Portability:** Marriage is generally recognized worldwide and has a high degree of portability, meaning that a married couple's legal status is recognized in different jurisdictions, even if they move or travel to a different country or state. Civil unions, on the other hand, **may not be universally recognized or portable**, and the legal rights and benefits associated with civil unions may not be recognized in jurisdictions where civil unions are not legally recognized.
4. **Social and Cultural Perceptions:** Marriage is often considered a socially and culturally recognized institution that carries significant societal and cultural connotations, including social recognition, acceptance, and support. Civil unions, on the other hand, may not carry the **same level of societal or cultural recognition**, and may be viewed as a separate and lesser status compared to marriage by some people or communities.
5. **Historical and Religious Context:** Marriage has a long history and is often deeply rooted in religious and cultural traditions, with varying religious or cultural ceremonies associated with it. Civil unions, on the other hand, are **relatively newer legal constructs** that have been introduced in some jurisdictions as an alternative to marriage for same-sex couples, often in response to legal or cultural restrictions on same-sex marriage.

6. **Legal Requirements and Process:** The legal requirements and process for entering into a civil union may be different from those for marriage, depending on the jurisdiction. Civil unions may **have different eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and procedures for dissolution or termination compared to marriage.**

CONCLUSION

It's important to note that the legal status and rights associated with civil unions can vary widely depending on the jurisdiction or country where they are recognized. In some jurisdictions, **civil unions may provide almost identical legal rights and benefits as marriage**, while in others, civil unions may have limited recognition and may not provide the same level of legal protection or societal recognition as marriage. **It's essential to consult the specific laws and regulations of the relevant jurisdiction to understand the legal status and implications of civil unions in that particular area.**

SOURCE- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/what-is-civil-union-how-is-it-different-from-marriage-8563555/>

National party status has been announced by ECI

Syllabus: PSIR, GS2: Election commission

Polity Current Affairs 2023



NCP, TMC and CPI lose national party status, AAP earns coveted tag

The Election Commission withdrew the national party status of the All India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Communist Party of India (CPI). The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been recognised as a national party.

INDIA TODAY

Sanjay Sharma v
New Delhi, UPDATED: Apr 10, 2023 22:18 IST

Left to Right: TMC supreme Mamta Banerjee, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

By Sanjay Sharma: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday withdrew the national party status of Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and the Communist Party of India (CPI).

In a statement, the poll panel announced that it was withdrawing the status of three recognized National Parties- AITC, CPI and NCP- after "following due process and providing sufficient opportunity of two Parliamentary elections and 21 State Assembly Elections".

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday withdrew the national party status of Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and the Communist Party of India (CPI).

- In a statement, the poll panel announced that it was withdrawing the status of three recognized National Parties- AITC, CPI and NCP- after "following due process and providing sufficient opportunity of two Parliamentary elections and 21 State Assembly Elections".

What is a **National Party**?

- The ECI has laid down the technical criterion for a party to be recognised as a national party. A party may gain or lose **national party status from time to time**, depending on the fulfilment of these laid-down conditions.

Criteria to be recognized as National Party:

- a) It is 'recognised' as state party in **four or more states**; or
- b) if its candidates polled at least **6% of total valid votes in any four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections** and have at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls; or
- c) if it has won at least **2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha** from not less than three states.

Qualification to be a National Party

- That party must secure at least 6% of the votes polled in any four states in a Lok Sabha poll or in any four State Legislative Assembly elections
- In addition to it, it must win at least four seats in Lok Sabha

OR

- The party wins at least 11 seats in Lok Sabha (2% of total seats)
- In addition to it, these 11 seats must be from at least three different states

Benefits of a National Party

- ✓ A reserved election symbol which no party or person can use
- ✓ Free airtime on public broadcasters All India Radio and Doordarshan during the Lok Sabha elections
- ✓ Two free copies of electoral rolls
- ✓ Candidates need only one proposer to file their nomination papers
- ✓ Can deploy 40 star campaigners whose expenditure is not clubbed with the election expenses of an individual candidate

KBK Infographics

Benefits:

- If a party is recognised as a **State Party**, it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its **reserved symbol** to the candidates set up by it in the State in which it is so recognised, and if a party is recognised as a '**National Party**' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.
- Recognised '**State**' and '**National**' parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination and are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost at the time of revision of rolls and their candidates get one copy of electoral roll free of cost during General Elections.
- They also get broadcast/telecast facilities over **Akashvani/Doordarshan** during general elections.
- Political parties are entitled to nominate "**Star Campaigners**" during General Elections. A recognized National or State party can have a maximum of 40 "Star campaigners" and a registered un-recognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 "Star Campaigners".
- The **travel expenses of star campaigners** are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

National Party	State Party
1. These parties have influence all over the country or in several states	The influence of a state party is limited to a state or a region
2. These parties take interest in national as well as international issues	State parties are interested on promoting regional/state interest
3. A party that secures at least six per cent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states and win at least four seats in the Lok Sabha	A party that secures at least six per cent votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state and wins at least two seats is recognized as a state party.
4. These parties have been given unique symbols by the Election commission	Some Symbols can be used in different states by the regional parties
5. E.g. Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party	E.g. Haryana Lok Dal in Haryana, Shiv Sena in Maharashtra



By Nikhil K Gowda PSIR Faculty

**PAPER -II-A: Comparative Politics and
International Relations**

IS GLOBALIZATION OVER?

Syllabus: PSIR: Globalization: Responses from developed and developing societies

CONTEXT: The article written by **Joseph Nye Jr.** deals with main issues

- Present developments that has caused a threat to globalization
- How did globalization evolve historically against the threat imposed to it
- How does globalization come out of the headwinds

BODY:

- **Morris Chang**, the Taiwanese semiconductor industry founder proclaimed that “globalization is almost dead”. The developments of recent times that support this arguments are
 1. The phenomenon of “**Brexit**” and “**America first**” that originated in the last decade.
 2. The Sino-American rivalry which focusses on economic de-coupling.
 3. Covid-19 supply chain disruptions which has prompted countries to increase the on-shoring and near-shoring procurement of goods.
- It is important to understand what exactly globalization means. “Globalization is simply the growth of interdependence at intercontinental, rather than national or regional, distances”.
- Climate change and migration have historically caused humanity to spread across the planet. Some of the examples that are available to ponder are
 1. Plague which originated in Asia between 1346 and 1352 killed over one third of the European population
 2. Globalization is simply the growth of interdependence at intercontinental, rather than national or regional, distances.
 3. The military aggressions of Xerxes and then Alexander the Great caused their empires to stretch across continents.
 4. The spread of religions across different countries has caused a form of socio-cultural globalization.
 - However, more recently, the focus has been on economic globalization: the intercontinental flows of goods, services, capital, technology, and information.
 - This is caused by the creation of neo liberal world (**End of history, Francis Fukuyama**).
 - The increased use of technology has reduced the cost and distance rendering today’s economic globalization.
 - The huge flow of vast container ships, internet communications have caused made globalization more “thicker and quicker”, many times better than the ancient silk route

- The economic form of globalization took a new turn when the political element of globalization emerged. This was seen when rioters in Davos broke the windows of a McDonald's to protest labor conditions in Asia.
- The political globalization is also seen when countries discuss about the maintenance of human rights standards, socio-cultural rights in their official diplomatic correspondence.
- The current trend of globalization differs from the previous globalization that occurred in the last century, as the latter was characterized by
 1. Europe, mainly the British provided the political institutional structure required for globalization.
 2. Less number of people to people interactions occurred since the costs of globalization were huge.
- Western firms began spreading around the world in the 1600s, and by the end of the nineteenth century, the global stock of foreign direct investment was equivalent to about 10% of global output. By 2010, the worldwide stock of FDI included non-Western companies and was equivalent to about 30% of world GDP.
- By the first decade of the twentieth century there was great amount of interdependence along with the existence of inequality.
- However the interdependence did not prevent the occurrence of world war I
- After those four years of devastating violence and destruction, global economic interdependence was sharply reduced. World trade and investment did not return to their 1914 levels until the 1960s.
- **Some of the concerns that are seen presently include**
 1. Could the Russia-Ukraine war explode to the range world war?
 2. The process of economic decoupling between US and China leading to de-economic globalization.
 3. Though the US-China trade increased by only 6% of pre pandemic levels, while its imports from Canada and Mexico have risen by over 30%.
- However, some of the developments show positive trends in maintaining globalization. These are
 1. Global trade in goods and services made a strong comeback post pandemic downturn.
 2. While China's share of America's imports dropped from 21% to 17% between 2018 and 2022, US imports from Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Thailand rose by more than 80%.
 3. It bears mentioning that this new Asian trade with the US is, in fact, intermediated Chinese trade. The US and its allies are still more deeply intertwined with the Chinese economy than was ever the case with the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

CONCLUSION.

- Moreover, even if economic globalization takes a downturn, the ecological globalization in the form of cooperation during pandemic, curbing climate change events remain very high.
- Pandemics and climate change obey the laws of biology and physics, not politics. No country can solve these problems alone.
- The cost of lack of cooperation could be enormous. Scientists estimate that both China and the US suffered over one million excess deaths as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in Wuhan, partly owing to both countries' failure to cooperate on policy responses.
- Globalization is largely driven by technological changes that reduce the importance of distance. That will not change. Globalization is not over. It just may no longer be the kind we want.

Source: https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/globalization-not-over-but-changing-in-shape-and-emphasis-by-joseph-s-nye-2023-03?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=organic-social&utm_campaign=page-posts-march23&utm_post-type=link&utm_format=16%3A9&utm_creative=link-image&utm_post-date=2023-04-02

PAPER-II-B: India and the World

What binds India and the US

Syllabus: PSIR: India and the Global Centres of Power: USA

CONTEXT: The article written by **YELENA BIBERMAN** deals with 3 main issues

1. Decline in the global leadership enjoyed by the United States post world war II.
2. Tussle between democracies and neo-authoritarianism in the world
3. The sustenance of democracy in India and US and how it leads to a global cooperation.

BODY:

1. Post World War II, United states emerged as the global leader of the neo-liberal world established (**End of History, Francis Fukuyama**). The establishment of IMF, World Bank and their influence on Global south added to their dominance.
2. This dominance of US continued largely during the cold war era. Off late, especially post 1990s it is believed that there has been a waning of liberal global order coupled with the decline in global leadership of US.
3. The descent of the neo liberal global order could be due to the lack of effective institutions that encourage and organize cooperation (decline of UN). The inevitable outcome of the rise of China and Russia also added to the same.
4. This shakeup of the neo liberal global order is perceived to be an opportunity to build a more democratic, humane and environmentally sustainable world, which largely depends on the relationship India and the US build over the next decade.
5. The US largely is striving to maintain its global supremacy whereas India aims to become a global power. Both the countries need each other to achieve the same.
6. The effective and enduring cooperation between both the countries would require more than arms sales, security summits. It required the strengthening of their democracies.
7. In the context of India, Bharat Karnad argues that it would take policy elites in India, aggressively harnessing the country's economic and military potential to achieve its global power status
8. On the other hand Aparna Pande believes that first there is a need to tackle a multitude of deep societal, political, and economic problems.
9. It is also largely believed that India must maintain and strengthen its World's largest democracy status, as it develops soft power (**Joseph Nye, soft power**), leading to the comparative advantage against China and Russia
10. In this context **Aparna Pande** opines that "The world is comfortable with a rising democratic, plural, secure, tolerant India. The world may not be as comfortable with the rising majoritarian India."
11. Suzanne Mettler and Robert C. Lieberman, in their recent book examines the conditions for the threat to survival of democracy in US. They highlight 4 main conditions

- political polarization
 - conflict over who belongs as a member of the political community (particularly along racial or ethnic lines)
 - high and growing economic inequality
 - excessive executive power
12. Though it is largely believed that the two democracies have shown historical resilience, the Covid-19 pandemic and economic crisis makes it hard to revive back without addressing the structural deficiencies as pointed by **Mettler** and **Lieberman**.
 13. It is believed that in the Indian context, the dilution of Article 370, the new Citizenship amendment law has gained international condemnation, thereby weakening of India's image in the eyes of global public
 14. In this context **Kashish Parpiani** also predicts that the **Biden administration** may link the confirmation of envoys or clearance of arms sales to India's human rights and civil liberties record, especially if progressive legislators gain some influence over US foreign policy agenda.
 15. Hence it is believed that US may not support India's rise with majoritarian tendencies, as it opposes China's rise.
 16. According to Thomas Wright, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, the new world order is one of great-power rivalry rooted in "a clash of social models – a free world and a neo-authoritarian world." The United States is to lead the free world, while China and Russia try to legitimize and promote the neo-authoritarian model.
 17. Thomas Wright also opines that it is crucial to preserve democracy at home to fight the neo-authoritarian world abroad. And this free world is crucial for political and economic freedom of US and other democracies.
 18. He further believes that preserving democracy at home may not be enough, but having a competitive foreign policy aligning with the like minded democracies is important to fight the neo authoritarian world.
 19. Hence there has been an argument that a strong democratic alliance between India and US in the lines of US-UK or US-Israel is not out of equation.
 20. However, **Sumit Ganguly** and **M. Chris Mason** note that India's leaders are not enthusiastic about being used by the United States to "balance" Beijing. But, after the May 2020 border clash, **Ganguly** and **Manjeet S. Pardesi** warn that China sees India as "the principal impediment to the realization of its ambitions to dominate Asia," and this is likely to lead to more violent confrontations.
 21. Hence India has all the more reason to partner with US in a NATO style agreement.
 22. Such a type of cooperation is already set in motion. Quad is one such example where US banks of India to reduce China's dominance. In this context **Harsh V Pant** describes India as "the critical anchor in making the idea of Indo-Pacific a viable

strategic geography” and advises it to “sustain the momentum of showcasing the Indo-Pacific vision and its operational realities.”

23. Hence it is believed that sustenance of India’s democracy is key for robust cooperation between India and US for keeping the Indo pacific strategy intact.

Source: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/what-binds-india-and-the-us/>?

InsightsIAS

What do we know about India's space policy?

Syllabus: GS2, PSIR: Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy

CONTEXT: The article written by **Rajeshwari Pillai Rajagopalan** talks about.

1. Some of the objectives of newly announced India's space policy 2023
2. Benefits of the policy towards India.
3. What messaging the announced objectives serve while dealing with International audience

BODY.

- **Main objectives of India's space policy 2023**

1. The Indian Space Policy 2023, clarifies the role and responsibilities of the Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**), New Space India Limited (**NSIL**), and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (**IN-SPACe**), as well as that of the private players in the Indian space sector.
2. The new space policy opens up the Indian space sector, providing a place for the private sector to play an active role in augmenting the development and competitiveness of the Indian space program.
3. ISRO to focus on aspects like the research and development of advanced space technologies, space exploration and other such non-commercial missions.

- **Benefits of the policy**

1. Encourage the private sector in active participation of India's space activities.
2. Encourages the flowing of Investments from local and international means in space activities.
3. Increased cooperation between the private participants in India and other space powers in the world(eg: US has a vibrant private space ecosystem)
4. Private participants would help in creating new Space infrastructure that further will have a ripple effects in development of space domain.

ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS

- ISRO focusses on Research and development activities in Space domain.
- Strategic activities within the space sector will be handled by NSIL, which is an institutional set up within the Department of Space that will address these activities in a "demand-driven mode".
- IN-SPACe shall act as a medium between ISRO and the private space sector in India.
- Under the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), the private parties will be allowed to perform space activities and use the equipment and facilities of the Department of Space (DoS) for launch manifest.

- The ISRO chairman **Dr. S. Somnath** opined that the new policy is focused on strengthening the participation of private players in India's space program. It also outlines a framework under which the private sector can use ISRO facilities for a small fee.
- **Lt. Gen. AK Bhatt (retd.)**, director general of the Indian Space Association, said that "We have been waiting for it for quite some time, and today's announcement has come as a pleasant surprise. We keenly await and look forward to going through the details of the policy." He added that this is "a special moment for private Space in India," one that will unshackle the Indian space ecosystem.
- The new space policy has integrated both the commercial and national security requirements in a balanced fashion
- Just as India remains committed to nuclear disarmament issues, even as India conducted nuclear tests in 1998, India can remain wedded to an agenda promoting the peaceful use of outer space while still confronting the new realities of greater military dependence on space assets.
- In addition, the space policy can be effectively used to moderate fears and concerns, rebuild confidence, and bring about greater clarity that is required in the Indian space domain.
- Space power adds up to the overall technological, defensive and offensive capabilities of the country, thus it adds to maintain the Balance of power.
- The anti-satellite system demonstrated by India under Mission Shakti in 2019 also acts as a deterrent factor, in similarity to the Nuclear power.
- The new space policy, whose complete details are yet to be known, would help in messaging that India's space sector is not a Government monopoly, but a comprehensive cooperative domain for technological, societal and humanitarian development.

Source: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/04/what-do-we-know-about-indias-new-space-policy/>

India-Bhutan relations on top agenda

Syllabus: PSIR, paper 2: India and south Asia

International Relations Current Affairs 2023



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

All eyes on border talks between Bhutan, China as King begins India visit

He will meet Modi tomorrow; Bhutan PM had caused a storm with his comments on discussing the Doklam trijunction dispute 'trilaterally', with Bhutan, India and China as 'equal' interlocutors

Suhasini Haldar
NEW DELHI

As Bhutan's fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrives in Delhi on Monday afternoon at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu, all eyes will be on his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, and any possible discussions on the progress in Bhutan-China border talks.

While the Bhutanese King met Mr. Modi in September last year, when he stopped over in Delhi on his way to attend British Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, this is the first such high-level meeting between the two leaders since Bhutan and China's talks on their boundary made rapid progress. Mr. Modi and Bhutan's PM Lotay Tshering have spoken often on the phone, but last met for bilateral talks in Thimphu in August 2020.

India wary

In October 2021, Bhutan and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a "three-step roadmap" to expedite border resolution talks. The discussion centres on two valleys to Bhutan's north and the Doklam area to the west of Bhutan, close to the trijunction with India, which was the site of a stand-off



China in the aftermath India is watchful of the possibility of a 'swap agreement' between Bhutan and China in border resolution. APF

between Indian and Chinese forces in 2017. India has been particularly watchful of any possibility of a "swap agreement" between the two countries that could affect its security at the trijunction.

In January 2023, Bhutan and China held talks in Kunming, and reached a "positive consensus" on how to move forward with the talks. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra arrived in Thimphu three days after the Kunming talks for bilateral discussions, where he also called on the King's father, the fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

Row over comments While on a visit to Europe last week, Dr. Tshering told a Belgian newspaper that he hoped to complete boundary demarcation

talks on disputed areas in the next "one or two more meetings" and that a visit by a Chinese "technical team" was expected shortly in Bhutan. The Bhutanese PM's comments on discussing the Doklam trijunction dispute "trilaterally", with Bhutan, India and China as "equal" interlocutors, set off a storm in Delhi, including with the Opposition Congress, which said that "Bhutan and India's so far unshakeable relationship is facing a challenge from an aggressive China".

However, Dr. Tshering subsequently clarified his comments on Saturday, telling The Bhutanese newspaper that he had said "nothing new and there is no change in position".

Both Indian and Bhutanese officials declined to comment on whether King

Meeting PM, EAM

In a statement that was timed with the Bhutan government's announcement of the King's visit, the External Affairs Ministry said the visit was part of the "long-standing tradition" of high-level exchanges between the two countries, and that the leaders would "review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and to further advance the close bilateral partnership, including economic and development cooperation". However, neither Thimphu nor New Delhi referred to any specific agreements expected to be announced during the visit.

The Bhutanese King will receive External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday evening. He is expected to hold talks with Mr. Modi on Tuesday morning, meet with Ms. Murmu on Tuesday evening, and then leave on Wednesday. Sources said that the leaders were expected to discuss India's support to Bhutan for its five-year plans. At present, the Indian government's assistance towards Bhutan's 12th five-year plan (2018-23) amounts to ₹4,500 crore.

All eyes on border talks between Bhutan, China as King begins India visit

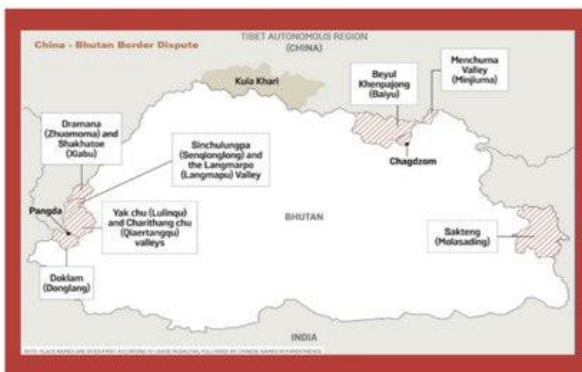
- Bhutan PM Lotay Tshering had caused a storm with his comments on discussing the Doklam trijunction dispute 'trilaterally', with Bhutan, India and China as 'equal' interlocutors.
- A Memorandum of Understanding for a "three step roadmap" to speed up boundary resolution negotiations was inked by Bhutan and China in October 2021.
- The focus of the discussion is on two valleys to the north of Bhutan and the Doklam region to the west of Bhutan, which is near to the trijunction with India and was the scene of a standoff between Indian and Chinese forces in 2017.
- India has kept a close eye out for any potential "swap agreements" between the two nations that might have an impact on its security at the trijunction.
- Bhutan and China met in Kunming in January 2023 and came to a "positive consensus" on how to proceed with the negotiations.

Doklam Controversy

- Doklam is also known as Donglong area of the Sikkim sector. China was constructing motorable road from Dokola towards Bhutan army camp.
- It affects the boundary between the two countries. Bhutan asked Beijing to restore status quo by stopping the work. Donglong is a tri-junction area near the Chumbi Valley.
- It is under China's control; however, Bhutan claims sovereignty over the area.
- Both have written agreements during 1988 and 1998, stating that the two sides agree to maintain tranquillity in their border areas pending a final settlement on the boundary question.
- It was also decided to maintain status quo on the boundary as before March, 1959.

Why is India keeping track of the events surrounding the China-Bhutan boundary dispute?

- India considers the Chinese position close to Doklam to be a serious security risk because it is so close to the vital Siliguri corridor.
- In Bhutan, close to the boundary with Arunachal, a wildlife sanctuary has been claimed by China.
- Since Indian and Chinese army forces engaged in combat along the LAC in the Tawang Sector of Arunachal Pradesh in December 2022, this becomes significant.



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

By Nikhil K Gowda PSIR Faculty

Russia's foreign policy statement identifies India and China as main allies.

Syllabus: India and the Global Centres of Power: Russia

- India and China are main allies of Russia on the world stage.
- The document stresses on the importance of the deepening of ties and coordination with friendly sovereign global centers of power and development located on the Eurasian continent.
- Russia would continue to build up a particularly privileged strategic partnership with India with a view to enhance and expand cooperation in all areas on a mutually beneficial basis and place special emphasis on increasing the volume of bilateral trade, strengthening investment and technological ties and ensuring their resistance to destructive actions of unfriendly states and their alliances.
- As of Feb 2023, Notwithstanding the sanctions imposed by the US and its allies, **bilateral trade between India and Russia reached a record \$30 billion in 2022, including a 36-fold rise in the supply of discounted Russian oil to India.**
- In order to help adapt the world order to the realities of the multi-polar world, Russia intends to make it one of the priorities to enhance the capacity and international role of the interstate associations of BRICS, SCO (Shanghai cooperation organization) CIS (Commonwealth of independent states), EAEU (Eurasian economic union), CSTO (Collective security treaty organization), RIC (Russia, India, China) trilateral and other interstate associations with strong Russian participation.
- India and Russia mutually are members are BRICS, SCO and RIC, hence there are expectations of closer cooperation between the 2 countries in global and regional fora
- Russia still has been the largest supplier of weapons to India, catering to the 50% of Arms imports between 2016 and 2020.
- Though India has maintained neutral stance towards the Russia Ukraine conflict, it has made it clear of its view when PM Modi told President Putin that “**today's era is not the era of war**”.

Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ukraine-war-putin-modi-xi-jinping-russia-identifies-india-china-as-main-allies-in-new-foreign-policy-strategy/articleshow/99148257.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst&s=09&from=mdr

The Ukraine war and an emboldened China on the LAC

Syllabus: PSIR: India and the Global Centres of Power: China

CONTEXT: The article written by **Shantanu Roy-Chaudhury** deals with the following issues

- The fallout of Russia Ukraine war outcomes in the region of Indo Pacific
- Whether China's geopolitics in the region (especially LAC) would get emboldened or deterred because of the ongoing happenings of Russia Ukraine war.

BODY:

1. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, termed as '**special military operation**' by **President Putin**, started in Feb 2022 continues even today. This ongoing event is deemed to be a **watershed in military and diplomatic history**. It is also considered as an **inflection point** in the development of the post-Cold War global order.
2. The very occurrence of a conventional warfare, which was considered improbable in the neo liberal world, proves that kinetic actions taken by a nation-state is indeed and could be a reality irrespective of a globalized world.
3. Not having fought a foreign war since 1979, the Chinese political and military leadership is undoubtedly studying the conflict with great interest.
4. It has been reported that Beijing has begun to **review its own strategic vulnerabilities** that could be exploited during a war and has sought measures to address them across various domains.
5. Chinese leaders have also ordered subordinates to limit their economic exposure to potential Western sanctions as well as to stress-test China's economic bottlenecks.
6. On the military front, China will certainly draw lessons from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and study closely the bloody **urban warfare** and **use of drones**, among other things.
7. The **tactical drawbacks** faced by Russia in the battle field could be a lesson to learn for China in its future kinetic action taken against Taiwan, South China Sea or even on the LAC against India.
8. Eastern Europe has always been an important component in geopolitical dynamics (**Rimland Heartland theory**), more so in the 21st century for the military actions that occurred in the region (**2014 Crimea crisis, 2022 Russia-Ukraine crisis**).
9. China, drawing lessons from the latest conflict ongoing in the Eastern Europe, would be more conscious in its actions against Taiwan in specific, as Russia hasn't been able to have a comprehensive military dominance against the much smaller Ukraine. Hence tactical, local actions taken on the ground become very crucial

- This was also highlighted when given **Xi Jinping** mentioned of **winning “local wars”** in his **work report** at the 20th Party Congress in October 2022.
 1. Crucially, the **divided global response to Russia’s war**, the limited effects of sanctions, and an increasingly self-reliant and insulated Chinese economy could spur adventurism on various fronts when combined with the PLA’s reforms and strengths.
 2. In this context we could see a more aggressive China on the disputed Sino-Indian border. There have been reports of several scuffles since the deadly **Galwan valley** clash along the Eastern Sector of the LAC, bordering the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
 3. This could lead to recurring grey-zone and salami-slicing tactics, thereby increasing mistrust between the two sides, which could spiral out of control.
 4. However, MEA **Dr. S. Jaishankar** has made it clear that overall bilateral ties with Beijing depend on peace and tranquility on the border. This has however made New Delhi to move closer to the US.
- With that in mind, China could take advantage of a distracted Washington and Europe to dictate its positions vis-a-vis India. China’s probing the LAC has also been viewed as sending a message to New Delhi on its shift toward the West, and low-level engagements across the LAC could become the new normal, forcing heightened vigilance at all times by the Indian armed forces.
- In this context, keeping India busy in maintaining its land boundary, would help China to take hold of Maritime domain, especially in the Indian Ocean through its aggressive string of pearls strategy.

CONCLUSION

- Ultimately, if Russia weakens in its ongoing special military operation, it would only help China, since Russia would need to ally with a stronger partner in China, to counter the US.
- The more Russia depends on China as the war progresses, the more Beijing will be able to shape Moscow’s attitudes, including those towards New Delhi.
- Similarly, the more China-India tensions grow, China’s efforts to wean Russia away from India will only increase. It is, therefore, in India’s interest to pay close attention to the conflict in Ukraine from China’s perspective and take note of the discourse emanating from the country.

Source: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/04/the-ukraine-war-and-an-emboldened-china-on-the-lac/>

NATO door open for india

Syllabus: PSIR, GS2: NATO

International Relations Current Affairs 2023



Last Updated: 1st April, 2023 12:07 IST

'NATO's Door Open For India', Says US NATO Ambassador

US Permanent Representative to NATO Ambassador Julianne Smith has confirmed that officials of NATO have held 'informal' exchanges with Indian counterparts.

US News | Written By Saanya Joshi



Image AP

US Permanent Representative to NATO Ambassador Julianne Smith has confirmed that officials of NATO have held 'informal' exchanges with Indian counterparts on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi, India, on March 30. The confirmation comes during the discussion on NATO and strengthening relationships with South Asia and the Indo-Pacific on Friday. After the special briefing, she welcomed questions from participating journalists.



NATO

It is an **intergovernmental** military alliance (also called the **Washington Treaty**) between 30 countries across the world including the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

US Permanent Representative to NATO Ambassador Julianne Smith has confirmed that officials of NATO have held 'informal' exchanges with Indian counterparts on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi, India, on March 30.

- The confirmation comes during the discussion on NATO and strengthening relationships with South Asia and the Indo-Pacific on Friday. After the special briefing, she welcomed questions from participating journalists.

Significance Of Joining NATO Alliance For India

- Given that the **North Atlantic coalition** has been having bilateral discussions with both China and Pakistan, India's discussions with NATO are significant.
- Most of the **NATO members** are well-established **partners** of India. For example, India has military exchanges with many members of NATO – including the US, Britain, and France
- For the European and NATO members to play any role in the Indo-Pacific, they **need partners like India, Australia, and Japan.**
- If India wants to draw Russia into discussions on the Indo-Pacific then, engagement with NATO is significant. Because, NATO has regular consultations with both Russia and China.
- Reaching out to NATO would add a **significant dimension** to India's **increasing engagement** with the US and Europe, given the importance of Beijing and Islamabad in New Delhi's strategic imperatives.
- New Delhi would have the **chance to balance NATO's perceptions** of regional conditions and Indian worries if it engaged in political dialogue with the alliance.

What problems are there currently with the NATO alliance?

- There is disagreement over how to distribute the military's workload and strike a balance between NATO and the EU's readiness to play a separate military role.
- In decisions involving China, the Middle East, and Russia, there is no consensus.
- NATO member country disputes have grown worse. Turkey and Greece are two examples.
- Recent NATO expeditions to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya were unsuccessful.

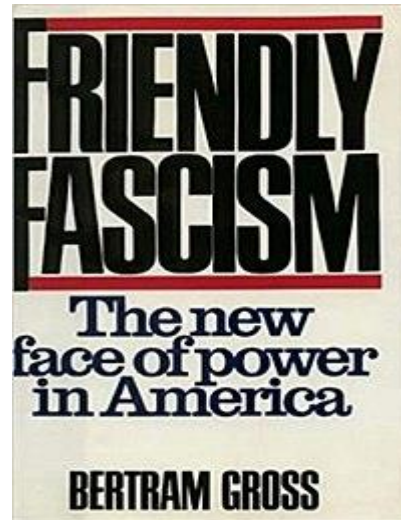


By Nikhil K Gowda PSIR Faculty

Book Review

InsightsIAS

'Friendly Fascism: The new face of power in America' by BERTRAM GROSS



- **Friendly Fascism: The New Face of Power in America** is a book written by **Bertram Gross**, The American social scientist and professor of political science at Hunter College.
- It examines the history of 'fascism', based on the **growth of big business and big government** and describes possible political scenarios for a future United States.
- Gross, talks about the **origin of fascism which happened in Italy followed by Germany, Japan and Spain.**
- He opines that **'Fascism was the result of big government in alliance with big businesses which leads to corporate authoritarianism that subverts constitutional democracy'**.
- Gross further analyses the conditions of World War I which led to the growth of Fascism. He quotes that the **Industrialists, alongside government officials on wartime agencies, saw firsthand the beauties of economic planning and cooperation.**
- This cooperation led to the growth of corporate authoritarianism eventually leading to The US to be called as **Military Industrial Complex.**
- Gross also substantiates the fine difference between Fascism and Communism. He opines that Unlike Communists, **Fascists did not cause problems to the existing structure of economy or production.** While, the Communists and Marxists wanted a destruction of existing mode of production.
- In the contemporary contexts, we can compare the issues of **'Crony Capitalism' to what Gross termed as 'Corporate Authoritarianism'.**
- Gross further opines that the advent of World War II broke the great depression of 1929-1939. The war time again resulted into remarkably flexible government-business partnership.
- The US, instead of investing in welfare activities and public works which could have led to redistribution of income, rather **'invested heavily on arms and weapons which both**

rallied economy further without changing the existing capitalistic economy structure'. Thus the corporate Authoritarianism persisted.

- Gross further opined that the transnational conglomerates which developed post World War II helped in developing cooperation among Oligarchs across borders.
- The book also talks about how ad-hoc communications, opinion polls etc. are used to **manipulate information and develop propaganda** to preserve the existing structure of corporate authoritarianism.
- **Faceless oligarchs manage the minds of elites via learned journals, the business press, and educational programs.** They mystify and immobilize the masses via the hypnotic use of electronic media, mainly television.
- Gross further states that when existing economic structure do not provide enough employment, growth etc. it leads to growth of '**neo-fascism**' in the form of burglary, and robbery which are forms of self-employment that vary inversely with available jobs.
- Gross offers faint hope of averting neo-fascism. **He does prescribe raising aspirations: setting forth clear lofty goals.** He calls for realism in economic strategies to reduce frustration and inequality and provide equitable economic growth
- Hence, the book provides the in detailed growth of Fascism among the politico-economic structure of US.
- However in seeking the gist of fascism, **Gross skips the other reasons of growth of Fascism such as, the single charismatic leader, the one-party dictatorship, rigid censorship etc.** Gross does provide a template of the conditions and thinking behind the growth of corporate authoritarianism.

STATS FOR MAINS:

- ❖ The **UN World Happiness Report 2022** by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network compares citizens' own perceptions of their well-being in 146 countries. **India Rank - 136/146**. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world.
- ❖ **Gross Enrollment Ratio** : According to the latest **All India Survey on Higher Education** report by Ministry of Education for 2019-20, the gross enrolment ratio in higher education for the **female population is 27.3%, compared to 26.9% for males**.
- ❖ **Women in Parliament**: 17th Lok Sabha has **78 women MPs which is the highest number in the history of Lok Sabha**, but still accounts only for 14% of all Lok Sabha MPs. Relevance - **33% Reservation for women in Lok Sabha** | 108th Constitutional amendment Bill.
- ❖ **World Inequality Report 2022** – Findings - According to the Report, **Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%**. In a country with perfect equality between women and men, the female labour income share would be equal to 50%. But the report finds that it is **below 50% around the world**, with significant variations across countries, ranging from below 10% to 45%. Female labour income in India of 18.3% is lower than the average for Asia, which was at 27% in 2019.
- ❖ **Indo - Pacific** : The Indo-Pacific region is **home to around 65% of the global population** and the region accounts **for 62% of global GDP**.
- ❖ India's gross tax revenues **surged 34% in 2021-22, lifting the tax-to-GDP ratio** to an at least 23-year high of 11.7%, from 10.3% in the previous year.
- ❖ The **Telecom industry in India is the second largest in the world** with a subscriber base of 1.1 billion (wireline + wireless - Aug 2022) and **3rd largest sector in terms of FDI inflows**.
- ❖ India is the **world's fourth largest energy consuming country** (behind China, U.S. and European Union), according to the International Energy Agency.
- ❖ According to the **Human Development Report 2021-22, India's rank on the Human Development Index (HDI) has slipped from 130 in 2020 to 132 in 2022**, in line with global fall in HDI scores due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ According to various international studies, the **median age in India would be 28 years during 2022-23, in contrast to 37 in China and 45 in western Europe**.
- ❖ This is an **enormous growth opportunity as India will have the highest number of people in the workforce**.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS

1. To what extent does Russia's foreign policy reflect its position on the reform of the United Nations, and what are the implications of its stance for the global order? 20M
2. To what extent has the evolving relationship between India and the United States been shaped by their respective policies towards China, and what are the implications of this for the regional and global balance of power? 20M

InsightsIAS