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UPSC MAINS POLITICAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS PAPER – I

Political Theory and Indian Politics:

Political Theory: meaning and approaches.

Theories of the State: Liberal, Neo-liberal, Pluralist, Marxist, Post-colonial, and feminist.

Justice: Conceptions of justice. Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.

Equality: Political, Social and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.

Rights: Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.

Democracy: Classical theories and contemporary theories; different models of democracy – participatory, representative, and deliberative.

Concept of power, ideology, hegemony, and legitimacy.

Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Marxism, Socialism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.

Indian Political Thought: Dharmashastra, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions; Sri Aurobindo, M.N. Roy, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar.

Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke, Hobbes, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, and Hannah Arendt.

Indian Government and Politics:

Indian Nationalism:

(a) India's Freedom Struggle: Political Strategies, Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience, Liberal and Non-cooperation; Peasant and workers' movements, Militant and revolutionary movements.

(b) Perspectives on Indian National Movement: Liberal and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.

Making of the Indian Constitution:

Legacies of the British rule; various social and political perspectives.

Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble, Directive Principles; Fundamental Rights and Duties, Parliamentary System and Constitutional Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.

(a) Principal Organs of the Union Government: role and actual working of the legislature, Executive and Supreme Court.

(b) Principal Organs of the State Government: role and actual working of the Legislature, Executive, and High Courts.

Grassroots Democracy: Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; Grass root movements, significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments;

Statutory Institutions/Commissions: Election Commission, Finance Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Women; National Commission for Minorities, National Human Rights Commission, National Backward Classes Commission.

Federalism: Constitutional provisions related to; changing nature of state-center relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.

Planning and Economic Development : Gandhian and Nehruvian perspectives; role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and its impact and economic reforms.

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

Party System: National and regional political parties, social base and ideological bases of parties; patterns of coalition politics; trends in electoral behavior; Pressure groups, changing socio-economic profile of Legislators.

Social Movements: Women's movements; Civil liberties and human rights movements; environmentalist movements.

UPSC MAINS POLITICAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS PAPER – 2

Don't forget to read-[IAS Preparation for Prelims](#) and [IAS Preparation for Mains](#)

Comparative Politics and International Relations

Comparative Politics: Nature and approaches; political economy and political sociology, perspectives and limitations of the comparative method.

Study of State in comparative perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in socialist and capitalist economies and advanced industrial and developing societies.

Politics of Participation and Representation : Pressure groups, Political parties and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.

Globalization: Responses from different developing and developed societies.

Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Functionalist, Marxist and Systems theory.

Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Transnational actors and collective security, Balance of power and deterrence; World capitalist economy and globalization.

Changing International Political Order:

(a) Rise of super powers; ideological and strategic Bipolarity, arms race and Cold War; nuclear threat;

(b) Non-aligned movement: Concept, Aims and achievements;

(c) Collapse of the Soviet Union; relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world, Unipolarity and American hegemony.

Evolution of the International Economic System:

From Bretton woods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Globalization of the world economy, Third World demand for new international economic order.

United Nations:

Emergence, role and actual record: specialised agencies of UN and their aims and functioning; a need for UN reforms.

Regionalization of World Politics: APEC, EU, ASEAN, SAARC, NAFTA.

Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, environment, human rights, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation

India and the World:

Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; continuity and change, institutions of policy-making.

India's Contribution to the Non- Alignment Movement: Study of Different phases and current role.

India and South Asia:

(a) Regional Co-operation: SAARC – existence, past performance and future prospects.

(b) South Asia and concept of Free Trade Area.

(c) India and its “Look East” policy.

(d) Impediments to regional co-operation: illegal cross-border migration; river water disputes; ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; border disputes.

India and the Global South: Relations with Latin America and Africa ; leadership role in the demand for WTO and NIEO negotiations.

India and the Global Centers of Power: EU, USA, Japan, China and Russia.

India and the UN System: Its role in UN Peace-keeping; India’s demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.

India and the Nuclear Power Question: Changing perceptions and policy.

Recent developments in Indian Foreign policy: India and its position on the recent crisis in Iraq , Afghanistan, and West Asia, growing relations with Israel and US; vision of a new world order.