

## UPSC Optional Syllabus — Political Science and International Relations 2024

### PSIR Optional Paper 1

#### Political Theory and Indian Politics

| Macro Topic               | Micro Topics  |
|---------------------------|---|
| Political Theory          | Meaning and approaches.   |
| Theories of state         | Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, post-colonial and Feminist  |
| Justice                   | Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.                        |
| Equality                  | Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.                                    |
| Rights                    | Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; Concept of Human Rights.   |
| Democracy                 | Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy—representative, participatory and deliberative.                |
| Concept of power          | Hegemony, Ideology and Legitimacy.  |
| Political Ideologies      | Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism  |
| Indian Political Thought  | Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist Traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M. K. Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, M. N. Roy. |
| Western Political Thought | Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.   |

#### Indian Government and Politics

| Macro Topic        | Micro Topics   |
|--------------------|--|
| Indian Nationalism | Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle: Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Militant and Revolutionary Movements, Peasant and Workers Movements.</p> <p>- Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical Humanist and Dalit.</p>  |
| Making of the Indian Constitution                | Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.  |
| Salient Features of the Indian Constitution      | The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.   |
| Principle organs of the government               | <p>Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.</p> <p>- Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.</p>   |
| Grassroots Democracy                             | Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; Significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroots movements.  |
| Statutory Institutions/Commissions               | Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission. |
| Federalism                                       | Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.   |
| Planning and Economic Development                | Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; Role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.  |
| Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics | N/A   |
| Party System                                     | National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; Patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio-economic profile of Legislators.   |
| Social Movement                                  | Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements.  |

## PSIR Optional Syllabus Paper 2

### Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics

| Macro Topic  | Micro Topics   |
|--|--|
| Comparative Politics                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Nature and major approaches;</li> <li>◆ Political economy and political sociology perspectives;</li> <li>◆ Limitations of the comparative method.</li> </ul>  |
| State in Comparative Perspective                   | Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies and advanced industrial and developing societies.   |
| Politics of Representation and Participation       | Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.   |
| Globalisation                                      | Responses from developed and developing societies.   |
| Approaches to the Study of International Relations | Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory   |
| Key Concepts in International Relations            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ National interest, security and power</li> <li>◆ Balance of power and deterrence</li> <li>◆ Transnational actors and collective security</li> <li>◆ World capitalist economy and globalisation</li> </ul>   |
| Changing International Political Order             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rise of super powers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat</li> <li>◆ Non-aligned Movement: Aims and achievements</li> <li>◆ Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; Relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world</li> </ul> |
| Evolution of the International Economic System     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ From Brettonwoods to WTO</li> <li>◆ Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance)</li> <li>◆ Third World demand for new international economic order;</li> <li>◆ Globalisation of the world economy</li> </ul>  |
| United Nations                                     | Envisaged role and actual record   |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
|                                   | Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning<br>Need for UN reforms                      |
| Regionalisation of World Politics | U, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA  |
| Contemporary Global Concerns      | Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice<br>terrorism, nuclear proliferation |

## India and the World

| Macro Topic                                  | Micro Topics  |
|--|---|
| Indian Foreign Policy                        | Determinants of foreign policy<br>The institutions of policy-making<br>Continuity and change  |
| India's Contribution                         | To the Non-Alignment Movement Different phases; Current role  |
| India and South Asia                         | -Regional Co-operation: SAARC-past performance and future prospects.<br>- South Asia as a Free Trade Area.<br>- India's "Look East" policy.<br>- Impediments to regional cooperation:<br>River water disputes;<br>illegal cross-border migration;<br>Ethnic conflicts and insurgencies;<br>Border disputes. |
| India and the Global South                   | Relations with Africa and Latin America<br>A leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations  |
| India and the Global Centres of Power        | USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia  |
| India and the UN System                      | Role in UN Peace-keeping<br>Demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council   |
| India and the Nuclear Question               | Changing perceptions and policy   |
| Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy | India's position on the recent crises in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with the US and Israel<br>Vision of a new world order   |