

**INTERNATIONAL RELATION**

❖ **A ground plan for India's reformed multilateralism**

❖ **CONTEXT:** Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the United States has set the stage for an expansive range of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy by India. It is a unique visit as it seeks to achieve a vast list of objectives led by the Indian delegation's participation in the High-Level Week at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

- Coming just after the recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet in Samarkand, which was attended by the Prime Minister, India's varied multilateral engagements showcase a road map for India's renewed multilateral diplomacy.

❖ **UNSC**

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).

❖ **Mandates of UNSC:**

- Ensuring international peace and security
- recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly
- approving any changes to the UN Charter
- establishing peacekeeping operations
- enacting international sanctions
- authorizing military action

- The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states. It is headquartered at New York

❖ **Members:**

- The council has 15 members: 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms.
- The 5 permanent members are the United States, Russia, France, China and the United Kingdom.
- Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term. The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis. India is currently a non-permanent member of UNSC for two years i.e 2021-22.
- The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

❖ **Voting Powers:**

- Each member of the Security Council has one vote. Decisions of the Security Council on matters are made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members. A "No" vote from one of the five permanent members blocks the passage of the resolution. This is known as the veto power of the P5 group (Permanent 5 members of UNSC).
- Any member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that member are specially affected.

❖ **The UN's faultlines**

- UN-led multilateralism has been unable to provide strong mechanisms to prevent wars. The shadow of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has loomed large over several deadlocks in UNSC resolutions since the war broke out in February this year. With the West boycotting Russia, the veto provision of the UNSC is expected to reach an even more redundant level than in the past. As such, a reformed multilateralism with greater representation could generate deeper regional stakes to prevent wars.
  - China's aggression in the South China Sea, the Indo-Pacific region, and now increasingly globally, have also underscored the limitations of the UN-style multilateralism. China's growing dominance could lead it to carve its own multilateral matrix circumventing the West, economically and strategically. The international isolation of Russia and Iran as well as increasing the United States' Taiwan-related steps could usher in these changes more rapidly than expected.
  - China's unabashed use of veto power against India continues at the UN. In the most recent case, it blocked a joint India-U.S. proposal at the UN to enlist Sajid Mir, a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative involved in directing the 2008 Mumbai attacks, as a 'global terrorist'.
  - Consistent with the changing times, India's call for reform of the UNSC has grown in the past few years. In this regard, Mr. Jaishankar's hosting of a ministerial meeting of the G4 (Brazil, India, Germany and Japan) holds special significance.
  - Another high-level meeting of the Indian delegation with the L.69 Group, on "Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council", will be critical in the planning of the next steps. The L.69 group's vast membership spread over Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) could bring about a wider global consensus on the issue of the UNSC reforms.
- ❖ India is also a member of multilateral groups like
- Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.)
  - IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa)

- BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)
- India-CARICOM (Caribbean Community)
- Trilateral formats, such as India-France-Australia, India-France-the United Arab Emirates and India-Indonesia-Australia
- ❖ **Way forward: Overhauling the Security Council**
  - At the heart of India's participation in the 77th General Assembly is the call for a 'reformed multilateralism' through which the United Nations Security Council should reform itself into a more inclusive organisation representing the contemporary realities of today. India's call for this structural overhaul of global multilateral institutions incorporates institutional accountability and a wider representation of the developing countries.
  - At least three recent global developments reflective of the UN's functional evaluation have stood out in India's quest for a reform of the UN. The COVID-19 pandemic was a weak moment for UN's multilateralism. It highlighted the UN's institutional limitations when countries closed their borders, supply chains were interrupted and almost every country was in need of vaccines.
  - Countries of the global South, including India, which stepped up through relief efforts, drug distribution and vaccine manufacturing, have created space for a more inclusive UN, particularly through its Security Council (UNSC) reform.
  - India's emphasis on reinvigorated multilateralism coincides with a critical juncture in the UN-led multilateralism. Just as burden-sharing has become integral to evolving multilateralism between regional countries, the UN could integrate such practices within its institutional ambit.
- ❖ **Conclusion :**

Beyond the UN, the Minister's participation in plurilateral meetings underlines India's search for new frameworks of global governance, amidst growing frustration with the extant multilateral order. As Mr. Jaishankar has rightly highlighted in his remarks at the UN, at a challenging time for the world order, New Delhi continues to affirm its commitment to "diplomacy and the need for international cooperation".

## GEOGRAPHY

- ❖ **Shifting monsoon patterns**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the monsoon has begun to retreat from Rajasthan.**
  - Monsoon is traditionally a seasonal reversing wind accompanied by corresponding changes in precipitation, but is now used to describe seasonal changes in atmospheric circulation and precipitation associated with annual latitudinal oscillation of the **Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** between its limits to the north and south of the equator.
  - Generally, across the world, the monsoons are experienced in the tropical area roughly between 20° N and 20° S.
  - The climate of India is described as the 'monsoon' type. In Asia, this type of climate is found mainly in the south and the southeast.
  - Monsoon in India consists of 2 seasons:
    - The southwest monsoon season - Rainfall received from the southwest monsoons is seasonal in character, which occurs between June and September.
    - The retreating monsoon season - The months of October and November are known for retreating monsoons.
- ❖ **Factors Influencing South-West Monsoon Formation**
  - The differential heating and cooling of land and water creates a low pressure on the landmass of India while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure.
  - The shift of the position of ITCZ in summer, over the Ganga plain (this is the equatorial trough normally positioned about 5°N of the equator. It is also known as the monsoon-trough during the monsoon season).
  - The Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated during summer, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level.
  - The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas and the presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.
  - Southern Oscillation (SO): Normally when the tropical eastern south Pacific Ocean experiences high pressure, the tropical eastern Indian Ocean experiences low pressure. But in certain years, there is a reversal in the pressure conditions and the eastern Pacific has lower pressure in comparison to the eastern Indian Ocean. This periodic change in pressure conditions is known as the SO.
- ❖ **Monsoon onset:**
  - Monsoon enters mainland India between the last week of May and the first week of June — though June 1 is its official onset date over Kerala. The IMD only counts the rainfall between June 1 and September 30 as monsoon rainfall. This doesn't mean that the monsoon system ceases to pour rain over India from October 1. In fact, monsoon-related rain can continue well into the first fortnight of October and only really retreats from India by late October.
- ❖ **Monsoon withdrawal:**

- The retreating, or northeast monsoon in November, is the key source of rainfall for several parts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karnataka. The monsoon begins its withdrawal from the last State it reaches, which is Rajasthan.
- Around September 15, cyclonic systems from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal that fuel the monsoon from June-September are replaced by an 'anti-cyclone' circulation which means dry, windless conditions start to prevail over western and northern India.
- Withdrawal is a cessation of rainfall activity over northwest India for five straight days, an anticyclone establishing itself in the lower troposphere and a marked reduction in moisture content.
- ❖ **Monsoon 2022:**
  - Monsoon rainfall in India has been surplus by around 7% this year though with extreme inequity. Central and southern India saw a sharp surge in rainfall, with the last month seeing several instances of flooding in Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.
  - On the other hand, large parts of U. P., Bihar, Odisha have seen large deficits. The east, north-west and north-east of India have reported a shortfall.
  - This has impacted sowing of the kharif, or summer crop. Paddy planting has been impacted. The Centre is expecting a minimum of six-million tonne (6 MTs) shortfall in rice production and this is likely to elevate inflation.
- ❖ **Excessive rains in southern and central India:**
  - In April, the IMD had forecast 'normal' rains over India but by May-end indicated it to be above normal. Central India and the southern peninsula were expected to get 6% more than their historical average but what we have seen are rains far in excess of this. These heavy rains are premised on a **La Nina**, the converse phenomenon of the El Nino and characterised by cooler than normal sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific.
  - While, El Ninos are linked to reduced rains over India, La Ninas indicate surplus rainfall. India is seeing an extended spell of the La Nina, called a 'triple dip' La Nina which is a phenomenon lasting across three winter seasons in the northern hemisphere. This is only the third time since 1950 that a triple dip La Nina has been observed. This, in part, is why for the third year in a row, India is seeing surplus rain in September, a month that usually marks the retreat of the monsoon.
- ❖ **Changing monsoon patterns:**
  - Since 2019, monsoon in India has returned surpluses, barring a slight dip last year. In 2020, India saw 9% more rain. The rainfall over the country as a whole, in 2021, was 1% less than normal. This year the monsoon is already in surplus by about 6% and a vigorous September is likely to see India post yet another year of surplus rain.
  - Three years of above normal rain in a block of four years is unprecedented in more than a century of IMD's record keeping, data suggests.

### PRELIMS

#### 1. Rohini RH-200

❖ **CONTEXT:** In a few weeks' time, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hopes to achieve a remarkable feat — the 200th successful launch of the Rohini RH-200 sounding rocket in a row.

- Rohini is a series of sounding rockets developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for meteorological and atmospheric study.
- These sounding rockets are capable of carrying payloads of 2 to 200 kilograms between altitudes of 100 to 500 kilometres.
- RH-200 is a two-stage rocket capable of climbing to a height of 70 km bearing scientific payloads.
- The first and second stages of RH-200 are powered by solid motors.
- The '200' in the name denotes the diameter of the rocket in mm.
- Other operational Rohini variants are RH-300 Mk-II and RH-560 Mk-III.
- The first sounding rocket to be launched from Thumba was the American Nike-Apache — on November 21, 1963.
- After that, two-stage rockets imported from Russia (M-100) and France (Centaure) were flown.
- The ISRO launched its own version — Rohini RH-75 — in 1967.

#### 2. Odisha offering cash incentive to PVTGs for marrying after 18

❖ **Context:** Keeping the rampant child marriages among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Odisha in mind, the State government is providing an incentive of ₹20,000 for late marriage.

- Offered by the Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP), a special programme designed to improve living conditions and reduce poverty among the PVTGs, the money is given to the couples marrying after the age of 18 years.
- As per the National Family Health Survey-5, child marriage among girls in Odisha is 20.5% and among boys 13.3%.

- Tribals constitute 22.85% of the State's population. Of the 62 tribal groups residing in Odisha, 13 are recognised as the PVTGs. These 13 PVTGs are: Bonda, Dongria Kondh, Didayi, Lanjia Soura, Kutia Kondh, Chukitia Bhujia, Paudi Bhuyan, Soura, Juanga, Lodha, Hill Kharia, Mankidia and Birhor.

❖ **About PVTGs**

- Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) is a sub-classification of Scheduled Tribe, who are most vulnerable in certain parameter than the other Scheduled Tribe community.
- Government of India created PVTG list with the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of those communities in priority basis.
- During the fourth Five Year Plan a sub-category was created within Scheduled Tribes to identify groups that considered to be at a lower level of development.
  - This was created based on the Dhebar Commission report and other studies.
  - This sub-category was named "Primitive tribal group".
  - The features of such a group include a pre-agricultural system of existence, that is practice of hunting and gathering, zero or negative population growth, extremely low level of literacy in comparison with other tribal groups.
  - Groups that satisfied any one of the criterion were considered as PTG.
- There are total of 75 PVTGs in India.
- No new group was declared as PTG on the basis of the 2001 census.
- In 2006 the government of India renamed "Primitive tribal group" as Particularly vulnerable tribal group.

**3. Latest finds in Tamil Nadu excavation**

❖ **CONTEXT: Hand axes, scrapers, cleavers and choppers as old as 12,000 years to rouletted ware (from the Sangam era – 2,000 years ago), Roman amphora sherds and glass beads indicating active trade with Rome were some of the artefacts found by the most recent Archeological Survey of India (ASI) excavation near Chennai.**

- It was significant as ASI had discovered some Sangam age artefacts from Natham Medu too, 40 km north west of Chennai city.
- The most recent discoveries at Natham Medu are significant for the Mesolithic artefacts found. Every stone artefact from Stone Age reveals a culture before it developed into a civilisation. So, these are significant in weaving the history, bridging the history.
- The majority of these stone shards were discovered 75 cm below the surface. In the same area, a 10m by 10m pit had artefacts and rouletted ceramics from the Sangam age, Roman amphora sherds, and glass beads shows ongoing trade with Rome from that period. The sculptures date from the Pallava era (275 CE) to the late Pallavas on the surface (897 CE).
- The archeological site at Guruvan Medu, also known as Natham Medu, near Vadakkupattu village, was originally discovered in 1922. There are around 200 potential sites in Tamil Nadu that are used by students and universities for their small-scale excavations.
- The chiselled stone tools indicating the Mesolithic civilization found at a depth of 75 cm were the key findings about a culture. Handmade floor tiles also found.
- One of the major archaeological findings from Tamil Nadu in the recent past were in September 2019, indicating that Keeladi, near Madurai, was an urban settlement of Sangam Age on the banks of River Vaigai. The findings, part of a report, had also pushed the history of literacy in south India to at least 2,600 years ago, reducing the gap between the Sangam era or Tamilagam (South India), and the Indus Valley Civilisation (1,500 BCE). Earlier, it was the 3rd century BCE.
- The state Archaeology Department is now investigating the digs at Mayiladumparai and Keeladi near Madurai, where evidence established the origins of the Tamil Brahmi scripts as 600 BCE, rather than around 300 BCE as previously thought — a critical discovery that narrowed the gap between the Indus Valley Civilization and Tamilagam/South India's Sangam Age.
- While Keeladi's findings proved that there were "large scale brick structures and associated artefacts of high economic value" 2600 years ago, radiocarbon dating and a scientific analysis would be bridging more gaps with regard to Natham Medu findings too citing Keeladi model roof tiles they have found in two-month excavation.

**ANSWER WRITTING**

**Q. Ancient History gives us a valuable account of the old Indian society. In this context discuss the sources of ancient Indian History.**

**Introduction**

History is the study of past events. It helps us to understand those processes that enabled the early humans to successfully conquer their environment and develop the present-day civilizations. It is not just a study of battles and kings as is normally understood by some. It is an analysis of society, economy and cultural trends over a long period as reflected in available sources. There are different sources to

Literary Sources

- **Religious Literature:** Most ancient Indian texts contain religious themes and these are known as Vedas. They are assigned to c. 1500–500 B.C. The Vedas are four in number. The Rig Veda mainly consists of prayers. The other three, Sama, Yajur and Atharva-contain prayers, rituals, magic and mythological stories. The Upanishads contain philosophical discussion on atma and pramatma. They are also referred to as Vedanta.
- **Secular Literature:** This category of literature does not have religion as its theme. To this class belongs the Dharmashastras or the law books which prescribe the duties for different social groups. They set out punishments for persons guilty of theft, murder, adultery, etc. The earliest law books is Manu Smriti. It was the first book translated by the British and formed the basis of Hindu code of law. Arthashastra of Kautilya provides rich material for the study of Indian economy and polity of the Mauryan period. Works on grammar are also sometimes useful for historical reconstruction.

#### Non-Literary Sources

- **Inscriptions:** Inscriptions are permanent writings engraved on hard surface such as stone, metal or terracotta. The study of inscriptions is called epigraphy. The earliest inscriptions were written on stone. They usually record the achievements, activities and ideas of those who got them inscribed. So, we get inscriptions which glorify the exploits of kings or mention donations made by men and women for religious purposes.
- **Coins:** The study of coins is known as numismatics. Ancient coins were mostly minted in metals such as copper, silver, gold and lead. The earliest coins found in India contained certain symbols and were called punch-marked coins. Some of the most spectacular gold coins were issued by the Gupta rulers. Coins provide useful information regarding economic history as they were used as a medium of exchange. Some coins were issued by guilds or associations of the merchants and craftsmen with the permission of the rulers. This shows the influence of craft and commerce. Coins also portray kings and gods, and contain religious symbols, all to which throw light on the art and religion of the time.
- **Archaeology:** The excavated sites belonging to the Harappan period show the layout of the settlements and the form of the houses in which people lived, the type of pottery, tools and implements they used and the kind of cereals they consumed. In south India some people were buried along with their tools, weapons, pottery and other belongings under big and heavy stones. These graves are known as megaliths. By digging them we learn about the life of people who lived in the Deccan and south India before the third century BC.
- **Account of Foreign Travellers:** Indigenous literature can be supplemented by foreign accounts. To India came Greek, Roman and Chinese visitors, either as ambassadors or travellers or to seek religious knowledge from time to time. They have left behind an account of the things they saw.

#### Conclusion

Thus, all the above-mentioned sources have helped in constructing the history of the period which has helped us to know the social, political, and economic conditions of that period.

#### MCQs

1. Consider the following pairs:

Tribe in news                      State

1. Limboo (Limbu): Sikkim
2. Karbi: Himachal Pradesh
3. Dongaria Kondh: Odisha
4. Bonda: Tamil Nadu

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Tribal Advisory Council (TAC)

1. Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribal advisory council
2. Uttarakhand is the only state not having any notified Scheduled Area also have Tribes Advisory Council constituted.

Choose the correct statement using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following in the context of Sounding rockets:

1. Used for upper atmospheric research satellites.
2. Generally consist of two or three stages propulsion.
3. Costlier than other launchers.

Select the correct statement:

- a) **1 only**  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) All of the above
4. Consider the following statements:  
1. The duration of the monsoon decreases from southern India to northern India.  
2. The amount of annual rainfall in the northern plains of India decreases from east to west.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) **Both 1 and 2**  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements:  
1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.  
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) **Both 1 and 2**  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statements with reference to UNSC  
1. The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every year among its 15 members.  
2. Any member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council can participate.  
Choose the correct statement/s using the codes given below  
a) 1 only  
b) **2 only**  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Dhebar Commission often mentioned in news is related to which of the following?  
a) 10<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Indian Constitution  
b) Electoral reform  
c) Cyber security  
d) **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs)**
8. Consider the following statements  
1. National Action Plan for Toys (NAPT) 2020 was introduced to promote the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys  
2. Recently Ministry of Environment launched 'Swachh Toycathon', a unique competition to make toys from 'Waste'  
Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?  
a) **1 only**  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Recently, India's first avalanche monitoring radar using a series of short microwave pulses that can detect avalanches within three seconds of its trigger, was set up. In this context, which of the following statement/s is/are not correct?  
1. It has been set up in Arunachal Pradesh.  
2. It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune in collaboration with Geological Survey of India (GSI).  
Select the correct option using the code given below:  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) **Both 1 and 2**  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. India is not a member of which of the following organizations ?  
a) **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**  
b) Commonwealth of Nations  
c) G-20  
d) South Asian Association for Regional cooperation