



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

Institute for IAS Examination

**SYLLABUS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE &  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
(PSIR)**

# POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SYLLABUS

## Paper I

### Political Theory and Indian Politics

- 1. Political Theory:** meaning and approaches.
- 2. Theories of state:** Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluralist, post-colonial and Feminist.
- 3. Justice:** Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.
- 4. Equality:** Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.
- 5. Rights:** Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; Concept of Human Rights.
- 6. Democracy:** Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy—representative, participatory and deliberative.
- 7. Concept of power:** hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.
- 8. Political Ideologies:** Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.
- 9. Indian Political Thought:** Dharmashastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist Traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M. K. Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, M. N. Roy.
- 10. Western Political Thought:** Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.

### Indian Government and Politics

- 1. Indian Nationalism:**
  - (a) Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle: Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; Militant and Revolutionary Movements, Peasant and Workers Movements.
  - (b) Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical Humanist and Dalit.
- 2. Making of the Indian Constitution:** Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.

**3. 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.

**4. (a) Principal Organs of the Union Government:** Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.

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

**5. Grassroots Democracy:** Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; Significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.

**6. 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.

**7. Federalism:** Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.

**8. 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.

**9. Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.**

**10. 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.

**11. Social Movement:** Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements.

## **Paper II**

### **Comparative Politics and International Relations**

#### **Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics**

**1. Comparative Politics:** Nature and major approaches; Political economy and political sociology perspectives; Limitations of the comparative method.

**2. State in Comparative Perspective:** Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and advanced industrial and developing societies.

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

**4. Globalisation:** Responses from developed and developing societies.

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

**6. Key Concepts in International Relations:** National interest, security and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalisation.

**7. Changing International Political Order:**

(a) Rise of super powers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat;

(b) Non-aligned Movement : Aims and achievements.

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

**8. Evolution of the International Economic System:** From Brettonwoods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalisation of the world economy.

**9. United Nations:** Envisaged role and actual record; Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.

**10. Regionalisation of World Politics:** EU, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA.

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

## **India and the World**

**1. Indian Foreign Policy:** Determinants of foreign policy; the institutions of policy-making; Continuity and change.

**2. India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement Different phases; Current role.**

**3. India and South Asia:**

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

(b) South Asia as a Free Trade Area.

(c) India's "Look East" policy.

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

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

**5. India and the Global Centres of Power:** USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.

**6. India and the UN System:** Role in UN Peace-keeping; Demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.

**7. India and the Nuclear Question:** Changing perceptions and policy.

**8. Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy:** India's position on the recent crises in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with US and Israel; Vision of a new world order.

