



PLUTUS IAS

Weekly Current Affairs

Weekly Current Affairs 13-Nov-2023 to 19-Nov-2023



The Indian **EXPRESS**

Corporate Office

Basement 8, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh Metro Station
Gate No. 6, New Delhi 110005

17A/41, 1st Floor, WEA Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

706 1st Floor Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Near Batra Cinema
Delhi - 110009

C 59 Noida Sector 2, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301

Phone: 08448440231

Email: info@plutusias.com

Web: www.plutusias.com



CONTENTS

Polity and Governance 1

Bihar Increases Reservation Quota1

Sub-Categorization of Scheduled Castes3

International Relations 5

2 + 2 Ministerial Dialogue.....5

India's Position on Israel-Palestine Conflict ...6

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)7

Voice of Global South Summit (VOGS)9

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

BIHAR INCREASES RESERVATION QUOTA

Why in the news?

Recently, the Bihar State Assembly passed a bill to increase the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs), and Backward Castes (BCs) in government services to 65 per cent within the state.

About the Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill

- The decision to enhance the reservation quotas in government jobs aligns with the Bihar Caste-Based Survey 2022 findings, reflecting a proportional increase in their respective populations.
- **Key provisions of the Bill**
 - The quota for the Extremely Backward Class (EBC) is set to rise from 18% to 25%, the Backward Class (BC) from 12% to 18%, the Scheduled Caste (SC) from 16% to 20%, and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) quota will be doubled, increasing from 1% to 2%.

- The existing 3% reservation for BC women has been eliminated.
- Furthermore, the 10% EWS quota for economically disadvantaged individuals in the general category remains unchanged.
- Consequently, the total reservation limit now reaches 75%, leaving 25% unreserved.
- The legislative measures extending the reservation increase apply to government jobs and educational institutions.

- This decision also **takes Bihar's reservation quota past the 50 per cent cap imposed by the Supreme Court under the Indra Sawhney Case.**

Background of Reservations In India: A Timeline

- Reservations in India have their roots in the country's historical and socio-economic context, particularly addressing issues of social inequality and discrimination.
- The British colonial government introduced some reservation elements in the early 20th

Bihar Increases Reservation Quota

PLUTUS IAS



Category	Existing Reservation (%)	Revised Reservation (%)
Extremely Backward Class (EBC)	18	25
Backward Class (BC)	12	18
Scheduled Caste (SC)	16	20
Scheduled Tribe (ST)	1	2
Backward Class (BC) Women	3	0
Total	50	65

century, but it was only after independence in 1947 that reservations were enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The Constitution provides reservations for SCs and STs in government jobs and educational institutions.

Constitutional Provisions for Reservations:

- **Article 15(4):** This article enables the government to make special provisions for advancing any **socially and educationally backward class of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes**.
- **Article 16(4):** This article enables the government to make reservations for **appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens**, which, in the government's opinion, is not adequately represented in the services under the state.
- **Article 330:** This article reserves seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha.
- **Article 332:** This article reserves seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State Legislative Assemblies.

Mandal Commission of 1979

- The Mandal Commission, officially known as the **Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBC)**, was established by the Government of India in 1979 to identify and address the needs of the country's socially and educationally backward classes.
- **Headed by B. P. Mandal, a former Chief Minister of Bihar**, the commission submitted its report in 1980, employing 11 indicators encompassing social, economic, and educational criteria to assess backwardness.
- Upon examination, the Mandal Commission determined that **52% of the Indian population fell into the socially and educationally backward classes category**.
- As a significant recommendation, the **commission proposed a 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in central govern-**

ment jobs and educational institutions.

- In addition to reservations, the commission advocated for various developmental measures, including scholarships, financial assistance, and special coaching programs aimed at promoting the overall well-being of OBCs.
- Subsequently, **in 1990, the V.P. Singh Government decided to implement** the recommendations put forth by the Mandal Commission.

Indra Sawhney Case 1992

- The Indra Sawhney, or the Mandal Commission case, is a landmark case in Indian constitutional law. It was decided by a **nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India** in 1992.
- The case arose from a challenge to the Central Government's decision to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.
- The petitioners argued that the reservation for OBCs was unconstitutional and violated the **fundamental right to equality enshrined in Article 14** of the Constitution of India.
- **The Indra Sawhney case established the following principles:**
 - Reservation for backward classes is a constitutional valid measure under Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India.
 - The total reservation for all categories of backward classes should not exceed 50%.
 - Creamy layer exclusions should be applied to prevent reservation benefits from being cornered by the affluent members of the backward classes.

103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019

- To provide 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in Central Government jobs and educational institutions, the Parliament of India passed the Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill in January 2019.
- The Act added **Articles 15(6) and 16(6)** to permit the government to take special provisions

for advancing “economically weaker sections”.

- The Amendment does not make such reservations mandatory in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs.
- The Act was challenged in the Supreme Court of India, which upheld its constitutionality in November 2022.
- The Court held that the 10% reservation for EWS does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution and the guidelines given in the Indra Sawhney Case and that it is a reasonable measure to promote social and economic justice.

SUB-CATEGORIZATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES

Why in the news?

During his visit to Telangana, PM Modi announced that the Government of India would establish a sub-committee to reclassify reservations for Scheduled Castes, specifically focusing on empowering the Madiga community.

About:

Sub-categorization, often referred to as the classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) into sub-groups, has been a topic of contention in the context of reservation policies in India. This practice aims to address the inequality within the SCs, recognizing that certain groups within this category may remain under-represented despite existing reservation benefits.

Special Quotas and Legislative Attempts:

- States like Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar have introduced special quotas for the most vulnerable Dalits within the SCs.
- In 2000, Andhra Pradesh passed a law reorganizing 57 SCs into sub-groups, attempting to allocate the SC quota in educational institutions and government jobs in proportion to their population.
- However, the 2005 Supreme Court ruling de-

clared this law unconstitutional, asserting that states cannot modify the Presidential list identifying SCs and STs.

Presidential List and Sub-Categorization:

- Article 341 of the Constitution empowers the President to notify castes as SCs and STs.
- The Presidential list is dynamic, varying across states, with certain castes identified as SCs in one state and not in another.
- No community has been specified as SC in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

Grounds for Sub-Categorization:

- Special protections for SCs originated from the historical practice of untouchability, applying to all castes regardless of economic or educational factors.
- The 2018 ruling introduced the concept of the “creamy layer,” imposing an income ceiling for eligibility for reservation.
- The creamy layer concept was upheld for SCs, prompting a review by the central government.

Arguments Against Sub-Categorization:

- Critics argue that the test of social and educational backwardness is not applicable to SCs and STs, emphasizing that special treatment is based on the historical injustice of untouchability.
- Concerns about sub-categorization being driven by political motives to appease vote-banks are raised.
- Reference to the Jarnail Singh case highlights the goal of ensuring that all backward classes progress together, with the court acknowledging existing social inequities among SCs.
- The pending review of the 2018 verdict on the creamy layer concept adds complexity to the ongoing debate.

Conclusion:

The debate around sub-categorization reflects the intricate challenges in balancing historical injustices, social realities, and the constitutional goal of achieving social transformation through reservation policies for SCs.

Prelims Questions

Q1. With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

- Article 15 of the Constitution of India enables the government to make special provisions for advancing Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- It also empowers the government to make reservations for appointments or posts for any backward class of citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Q2. Consider the following:

- The 1950 Constitution provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- The 92nd and 93rd Amendments extended the reservation in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Local Bodies.
- The 103rd Amendment makes reservations for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) mandatory in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs.

How many of the above mentioned statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q3. With reference to reservation for SC/ST's , consider the following statements:

- Article 341 empowers the President to identify and notify certain castes as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The Presidential list is uniform across all states, ensuring that the same castes are identified as SCs in every state.
- No community has been specified as SC in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

S. No.	Answers
1.	A
2.	A
3.	D

Mains Questions

Q1. Analyse the historical context of reservations in India in the context of the recent passage of the Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill.

Q2. Discuss the concept of sub-categorization within the Scheduled Castes category in the context of Indian reservation policies. Provide your insights on whether sub-categorization is a viable approach to addressing the internal inequalities within the Scheduled Castes.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

Why in the news?

The Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister of India convened with their counterparts from the United States government for the fifth instalment of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, conducted in New Delhi.

2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- The 2+2 meetings involve high-level representatives from both participating countries, specifically the Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs and Defence.
- The main aim of these meetings is to expand the range of discussions, fostering improved comprehension of each other's strategic concerns and sensitivities.
- This mechanism fosters a more robust and integrated strategic relationship, especially in the dynamic global environment.
- India has held 2+2 meetings with the following countries:
 - **United States (5 times)**
 - **Japan (3 times)**
 - **Australia (2 times)**
 - **Russia (1 time)**

India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:

- The India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is an annual event held since 2018.
- The latest meeting occurred in New Delhi on November 10, 2023, symbolising the strengthening strategic alliance between India and the United States.
- Discussions cover diverse topics, including de-

fense cooperation, trade, investment, technology, and coordination on global issues like the Indo-Pacific region, counterterrorism, and climate change.



India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:

- The India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue has occurred three times in 2019, 2021, and 2023.
- The latest meeting transpired in Tokyo on March 8, 2023.
- This meeting underscores the unique strategic partnership between India and Japan.
- Discussions cover defense collaboration, maritime security, trade, investment, technology, and the alignment on regional and global issues, including the Indo-Pacific region and participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad).

India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:

- The India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, initiated in 2020, held its second meeting in New Delhi on September 11, 2023.
- This meeting reflects the growing strategic partnership between India and Australia.

- Topics discussed include defence cooperation, maritime security, trade, investment, technology, and coordination on regional and global issues, including the Indo-Pacific region and the Quad.

India-Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:

- India has held one 2+2 meeting with Russia in New Delhi on December 6, 2021.
- The Indian and Russian Foreign and Defense Ministers attended the meeting.
- It is a sign of the growing strategic partnership between the two countries.
- India and Russia have a long history of close ties, and the 2+2 meeting provides a high-level forum for discussing and strengthening bilateral relations on various issues, including defence, security, trade, investment, and technology.

Significance for Indian Diplomacy

- 2+2 meetings allow for high-level dialogue between India and its key partners on various issues, including defence, security, trade, investment, and technology.
- It helps build trust and understanding between India and its partners, which is essential for strengthening bilateral relations.
- It serves as a forum for India to collaborate with its allies on regional and global matters, including the Indo-Pacific region, counterterrorism, and climate change.
- The meetings strongly signal India's commitment to its strategic partnerships.

INDIA'S POSITION ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Why in the news?

India recently supported a resolution at the UN General Assembly that denounces Israeli settlement activities in the "Occupied Palestinian Territory."

About the Resolution on Israeli settlement

- The UN General Assembly's **Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (Fourth Committee)** approved a resolution titled '**Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan**' through a recorded vote. The vote results were 145 in favor, seven against, and 18 abstentions.
- The resolution explicitly states that **Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are considered illegal** and are identified as **impediments to peace**, as well as obstacles to economic and social development.
- Moreover, the resolution reiterates the demand for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities throughout the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- **India**, alongside nations such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, France, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the U.K., was one of the 145 nations that voted in favour of the resolution.

Evolution of India's Position on the Israel-Palestine Conflict

• Historical Stance

- India's solidarity with the Palestinian people traces back to its freedom struggle against British colonialism.
- Notably, in 1938, Mahatma Gandhi opposed the proposal for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- In 1947, India voted against the partition of Palestine at the United Nations General Assembly, and post-independence, support for Palestine became a fundamental aspect of India's foreign policy.

• Recognition of Palestine

- In 1974, India became the first non-Arab nation to acknowledge the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people.
- In 1988, India took a significant step by be-

ing one of the first countries to recognise the state of Palestine.

- Following the creation of the Palestine Authority through the Oslo Peace Accord, India established a Representative Office, initially in Gaza and later relocated to Ramallah in 2003.

● **Support at International Forums**

- India has consistently played a proactive role in garnering support for the Palestinian cause at multilateral forums.
- The country has been steadfast in voting in favour of numerous UN resolutions supporting Palestine.

Recent Developments

● **Shift in Stance**

- In 2017, Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel, while in 2018, Israeli PM Netanyahu visited India.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has demonstrated a more pronounced pro-Israel stance.
- This shift is evident in the public camaraderie between the prime ministers of India and Israel.
- However, despite this change, India's official position advocating for a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine as good neighbours, remains unwavering.

● **Commitment to a Two-State Solution**

- India continues to adhere to its traditional belief in the two-state solution and supports establishing a sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine.
- Despite the deepening relationship with Israel in recent years, India's support for Palestine has not waned.

Way Forward for India

- **Diplomatic Continuity:** India should persist in diplomatic efforts, utilising its international in-

fluence to encourage both Israel and Palestine to return to the negotiating table.

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** India must continue providing crucial humanitarian aid to address the immediate needs in conflict-affected areas, thereby alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people.
- **Mediation Role:** As a mediator, India can facilitate meaningful dialogues that lead to a lasting resolution, emphasising its commitment to justice and peace in the region.
- **People-to-People Engagement:** India can foster dialogues and exchanges between Israeli and Palestinian civil society groups, academics, and youth. This initiative aims to promote mutual understanding and trust through people-to-people interactions.

In conclusion, as India moves forward, it must remain steadfast in its commitment to promoting peace, stability, and justice in the region. India can actively contribute to the ongoing pursuit of a just and lasting resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE (IPRD)

Why in the news?

The Indian Navy Chief, Admiral R Hari Kumar, recently addressed the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), expressing concerns over the militarization of the Indo-Pacific and the fragile security situation in the South China Sea.

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD):

- Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) was Jointly hosted by the Indian Navy and the National Maritime Foundation.
- Highlighted the fragile security situation in the South China Sea, emphasizing violations of established Codes of Conduct as a clear threat to regional order.
- Admiral R Hari Kumar warned of China's aggressive behavior, its violation of established

codes of conduct, and the potential for conflicts arising from differing interpretations of international laws.

About “Indo-Pacific” :

The term “Indo-Pacific” has gained prominence over the last decade, reflecting the interconnected strategic significance of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. This concept has risen in prominence due to the recognition of these oceans as a linked strategic theater, driven by shifting global dynamics, particularly the centrality of Asia in international affairs.

Significance of the Indo-Pacific Region:

● Strategic Theater:

- Acknowledges the interconnectedness of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific as a unified strategic theater.
- Maritime routes in these regions are central to global trade, emphasizing their pivotal role in shaping geopolitical dynamics.

● Economic Activity and Population:

- Encompassing four continents—Asia, Africa, Australia, and America—the Indo-Pacific region stands as one of the most populous and economically active areas globally.
- With 60% of the world’s population and two-thirds of global economic output, it serves as a crucial global economic center.

● Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- The Indo-Pacific region is a significant source and destination for Foreign Direct Investment.
- Many critical and large supply chains have a connection to the Indo-Pacific, underscoring its importance in the global economic landscape.

● Abundance of Marine Resources:

- The combined Indian and Pacific Oceans house vast reserves of marine resources, including offshore hydrocarbons, methane hydrates, seabed minerals, and rare earth

metals.

- Littoral countries, with sizable coastlines and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), possess competitive capabilities for exploiting these valuable resources.

● Global Economic Players:

- Home to several of the world’s largest economies, the Indo-Pacific region includes influential players such as India, the U.S.A, China, Japan, and Australia.
- The concentration of economic power in the region further solidifies its impact on global economic dynamics.

India’s Concerns:

● IMEC Project:

- India’s upcoming India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) faces potential hindrance due to China’s presence in the Indian Ocean.
- IMEC involves multimodal economic corridors, integrating shipping, railways, roadways, electricity cables, high-speed data cables, and a hydrogen pipeline.

● China’s ‘Grey Zone’ Tactics:

- China’s use of ‘grey zone’ tactics in the Indo-Pacific to coerce neighbors and expand territorial claims.
- Grey Zone Tactics is a strategic approach in which a nation seeks to gain advantages over another without engaging in overt warfare. It involves a set of tactics, such as cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and economic pressures, aimed at subtly undermining or destabilizing an adversary. China has demonstrated notable proficiency in employing this strategy, particularly in its interactions with India and neighboring countries.
- Expansionist moves extend from the South China and East China Seas to the land frontier with India.

- **Increasing Militarization:**

- More than 50 warships from extra-regional forces deployed in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for various missions, including anti-piracy patrols off the Gulf of Aden.

Way Forward:

- **International Partnerships:**

- Strengthen ties with like-minded nations to enhance security in the region.
- Engage in partnerships and alliances with countries that share similar concerns.

- **Maritime Security Initiatives:**

- Develop and participate in initiatives focused on enhancing maritime security.
- Involve joint patrols, information sharing, and coordinated efforts to combat piracy and other maritime threats.

- **Economic and Infrastructure Development:**

- Invest in infrastructure and economic development in the region.
- Economic stability contributes to overall security, reducing tensions between nations.

- **Soft Power Diplomacy:**

- Utilize soft power elements, including cultural exchanges, educational programs, and economic cooperation.
- Build positive relationships and understanding among nations through diplomacy beyond military strategies.

VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT (VOGS)

Why in the news?

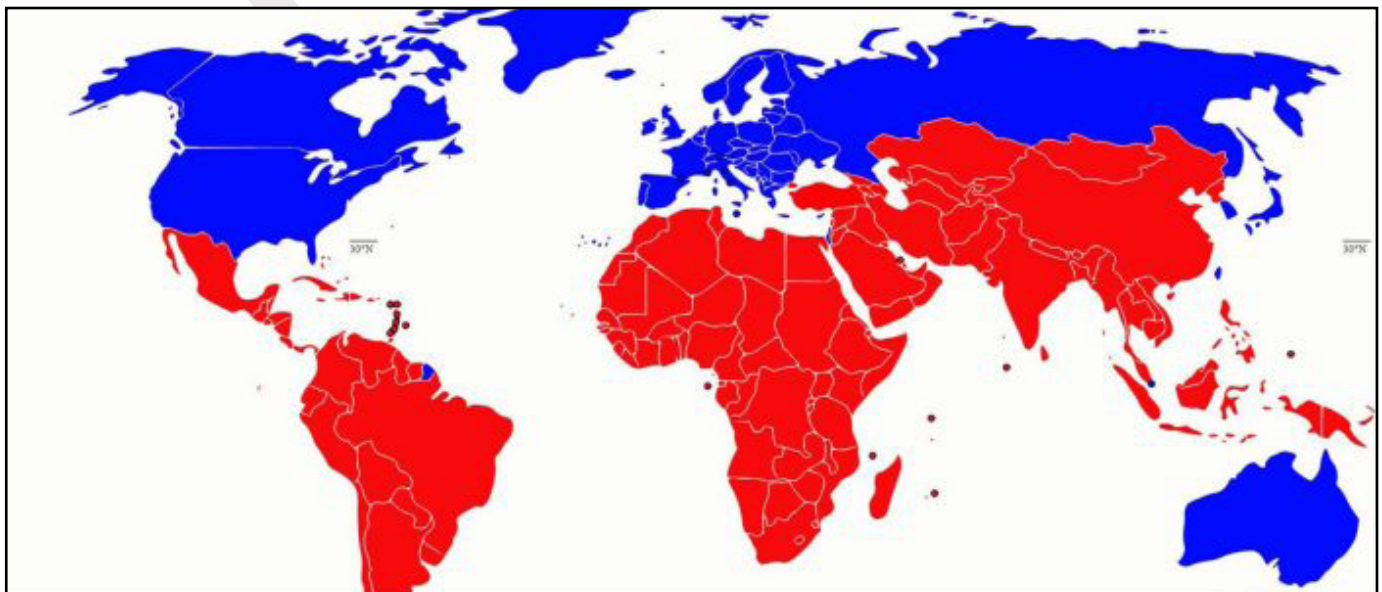
The follow-up edition of the Voice of the Global South Summit, hosted by India was held recently. It expands upon the inaugural summit conducted in January, which convened delegates from 125 nations in the Global South.

About Voice of Global South Summit (VoGS)

The Voice of Global South (VoGS) Summit, an Indian initiative, serves as a unified platform for countries in Asia, Africa, and South America to articulate their viewpoints and priorities on pressing global issues. It seeks to find collaborative solutions to challenges faced by developing nations through constructive dialogue.

Foundation and Objectives:

The genesis of this initiative lies in recent global events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating debt, the Ukraine conflict, and issues relat-



ed to food and energy security. These challenges often do not receive adequate attention on existing global platforms. The summit is inspired by India's Prime Minister vision of inclusive development, encapsulated in the philosophy of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas.'

Global South:

The term 'Global South' refers to countries in Asia, Africa, and South America, distinguishing them based on economic development and historical factors. India, along with major nations like Brazil, China, Indonesia, and Mexico, aims to represent the underrepresented Global South in international forums.

Features of Global South:

- Primarily lower-income countries, often with colonial histories.
- Not strictly confined to the Southern Hemisphere, with some nations located in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Employed as a neutral substitute for the term "Third World."
- Recognizes shared history and challenges the dominance of the Global North in international affairs.

Indian Context:

- India advocates for the reform of multilateral institutions such as the UNSC, UN, and IMF.
- Aims to unite Global South nations for collective representation and collaboration.
- Seeks cooperation with other Global South countries while challenging global capitalist structures.

Significance of Global South:

- Aims to address shared concerns like energy security and sustainable development.
- Creates potential for technical and idea exchanges among Global South nations.

- Provides a platform for highlighting concerns often overlooked on the global stage.

Challenges for Consolidation:

- Ongoing debates over climate reparations and the exclusion of India and China.
- Ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict on the Least Developed Nations.
- The Growing Ascendancy of China in the Global South through Programs Such as the Belt and Road Initiative.

Way Forward:

- India should actively engage in regional politics within the Global South.
- Recognition of differentiation within the Global South in terms of wealth, needs, and capabilities.

Below is a table differentiating the First, Second, and Third World classifications:

Criteria	First World	Second World	Third World
Economic Development	Developed and Industrialized Nations	Industrializing or Socialist Nations	Developing and Less-Developed Nations
Geopolitical Influence	High	Moderate to High	Low
Historical Context	Capitalist Democracies (during Cold War)	Socialist Bloc (during Cold War)	Non-Aligned or Un-aligned Nations (Cold War)

Exam- ples	USA, Canada, Western European Countries	Former USSR, Chi- na, Eastern Europe	India, Brazil, African and Asian Coun- tries
De- velop- ment Indica- tors	High GDP, HDI, Industri- alization, Advanced Technol- ogy	Moderate GDP, Indus- trialization Progress	Lower GDP, Limited Industri- alization

It's essential to note that the terms "First," "Second," and "Third World" have evolved and are now considered outdated. The classifications were originally based on Cold War-era geopolitical alliances and economic structures, and they don't accurately represent the current global geopolitical landscape. The preferred terminology today is "Developed," "Developing," and "Least Developed" nations or Global South and North nations.

Prelims Questions

Q1. With reference to 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, consider the following statements:

1. The 2+2 meetings involve the Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs and Home.
2. It is a part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Q2. Consider the following:

1. United States

2. Japan
3. Australia
4. United Kingdom

How many nations mentioned above have a 2+2 ministerial dialogue with India?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

Q3. With reference to Palestine, consider the following statements:

1. India was the first non-Arab nation to acknowledge the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people.
2. Mahatma Gandhi supported the proposal for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
3. India supports establishing a sovereign state of Palestine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

Q4. The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of (PYQ Civil Services Exam 2018)

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

Q5. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Region, consider the following statements:

- The Indo-Pacific region encompasses four conti-

nents—Asia, Africa, Australia, and America.

- The Indo-Pacific region constitutes 60% of the world's population.
- The Indo-Pacific region contributes to two-thirds of the global economic output.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Which of the following terms refers to a strategic approach in which a nation seeks to gain advantages over another without engaging in overt warfare, utilizing tactics such as cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and economic pressures to subtly undermine or destabilize an adversary?

- (a) Guerrilla Warfare
- (b) 'Grey Zone' Tactics
- (c) Asymmetric Warfare
- (d) Conventional Warfare

Q7. Regarding the "Global South" recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. Primarily lower-income countries, often with colonial histories.
2. These countries are strictly confined to the Southern Hemisphere.
3. 'Global South' is Used as an alternative to "Third World."

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q8. Regarding the "Voice of Global South Summit (VoGS)" recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint initiative of India, China and Brazil.
2. This initiative is primarily aimed at reforming the IMF.

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

Answers

S. No.	Answers
1.	A
2.	C
3.	C
4.	B
5.	A
6.	B
7.	B
8.	D

Mains Questions

Q1. 2+2 dialogues are crucial for navigating complex geopolitical challenges and fostering strategic partnerships. Discuss.

Q2. Examine India's evolving stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict, considering its recent support for a UN resolution denouncing Israeli settlement activities.

Q3. Discuss the geopolitical significance and challenges associated with the Indo-Pacific region in the context of evolving global dynamics.

Q4. Analyze the challenges faced by developing countries in the current global scenario and assess how platforms like Voice of Global South Summit VoGS can contribute to addressing these challenges.