

(1)

Q Define IR and its scope in 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Answer:

I. Introduction : The term IR (International Relation) was coined by Jeremy Bentham in 18<sup>th</sup> century. It can be defined as, all sorts of interaction between or among the <sup>nation</sup>-states of the world. It has a wide scope ranging from a micro or individual level to macro or global level. However, with the passage of time, challenges of and scope of IR is growing manifold. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, the scope of IR include globalization, rise of multi-national organizations, changing concept of security, economic development, environmental sustainability, violation of human rights and so on. IR, as a discipline, has changed the ways of dealings between or among countries <sup>of the world</sup>. In international relation, each country tries to protect her national interest through several means such as foreign policy, diplomacy, war, nationalism, globalization and so on. Hence, various aspects of IR have enlarged its scope in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

II. Importance of studying IR in 21<sup>st</sup> Century :

In ancient times, city states concept was existed in Greece. With the passage of time, different nations were connected through trade and diplomacy. But

(2)

it was the treaty of Westphalia (1648) through which IR started officially. This treaty ended the thirty year war in Europe (1618-1648) and thus states recognized each other boundaries. Furthermore, French Revolution (1775) and French Revolution (1789) further enlightened international states.

Alongwith this, Congress of Europe in 1815 helped in the evolution of an international society which officially ended the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815). Additionally, League of Nation<sup>(LON)</sup> was also created as a result of treaty of Versailles (1919), which ended WW1. But, LON failed in maintaining peace as WW2 happened. Thus, LON was replaced by United Nation (1945 till date).

Historically, IR emerged as a subject and discipline along these mentioned events. As, theories of IR present its solutions as well. For instance, realism suggests that how one state overcome other through dominance and power, while liberalism focuses on openness, cooperation and reciprocity. Narratives are build through constructivism; Idealism favors peace over power in foreign policy. Therefore, the importance and knowledge of IR in 21<sup>st</sup> century cannot be ignored.

### III. Scope of IR in 21<sup>st</sup> Century :

Scope of IR is broad and it can be explained as following

1. Rise in Global Governance and International Organization : In current times, globalization of the world and many other international organization have led to the concept of global governance. The world is like a village, and each state is like its inhabitant. Moreover, several international organizations such as United Nation, European Union, SCO, SAARC, BRICS etc have enhanced regionalism and globalism. In all those situation, IR scope has increased and relevant. So, rise in globalism has impacted IR in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Different countries of the world cooperate and work with other countries accordingly. Therefore, rise in global governance and international organization have increased the role of IR in the modern world.

2. Changing Nature of Security and Conflict in 21<sup>st</sup> Century : The new concepts of security and conflict have widened the scope of IR in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Previously, the states were involved in traditional security matters such as direct military confrontation and warfare. But, now a days, states are engage in various non-traditional security conflicts which include

hybrid warfare, cyber crime, Sensationalism, non-state actors terrorism and so on. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, the concept of security and conflict is evolving. States in this regard have made alliances and blocs such as European Union, BRICS, SCO, SAARC etc. Hence, the scope of IR has broadened in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

3. Economic Interdependence and trade Politics : In 21<sup>st</sup> century, economic interdependence and trade politics have ~~increased~~ increased the scope of IR. Different states of the world are economically interdependent, and different regions of the world are also economically linked with each other. This has led to the increasing gap between north and south. The countries in the north are getting rich and developed as compared to the countries in south. Similarly, trade politics is on peak. The trade war between china and USA is its prime example. Such trade politics have negative repercussions on world economy. Therefore, the field of IR can play an important role in this regard.

4. Environmental challenge and Sustainable Development : IR can play an important role in combating environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development. Environmental challenges include climate change, global warming, deforestation, ozone layer depletion etc. All

these problems can be overcome through the core principles of IR. Moreover, sustainable development can be ensured through international cooperation among countries of the world. Hence, the scope of IR cannot be ignored when it comes to environment and development in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

5. Prevailing Political Stability in the World : IR can play an important role in bringing political stability not only in the different regions of the world but also in between various states. Some IR theories like Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Idealism can be handy in this way. For this purpose, UN is a best platform, where countries of the world can resolve their political issues and conflict through annual General Assembly meeting of UN.

6. Prevention of Nuclear War and Promotion of Peace IR : Through the core principles of IR, nuclear war threat can be reduced. Similarly, peace in the world can be brought through effective foreign policy and diplomacy.

7. Link of IR as a Subject with Other Departments : Various departments such as Political Science, Current Affairs, Pakistan

Affairs, Journalism, Gender studies, climate change, Military studies and defense analysis etc, all are linked with IR somehow. Narratives building in Journalism is because of IR.

### 8. Different Level of Analysis

in IR: These are three major level of analysis in IR

- (a) Global level
- (b) Regional level
- (c) National / local level

Hence, the scope of IR ranges from micro level such as an individual to macro level like UN.

9. National Interest of a country can be achieved through effective utilization of principles of IR.

### 10. Scope of IR Theories :

Some theories of IR are sine qua non for states to advance in 21<sup>st</sup> century such as:

- (a) Realism
- (b) Idealism
- (c) Liberalism
- (d) Constructivism etc.

The application of these theories make the scope of IR unlimited.

11. Role of IR in Resolving International Disputes : Any international dispute cannot be resolved without using the principles of IR. Through effective usage of foreign policy, Diplomacy, national power, and strategy, disputes can be resolved. Therefore, to avoid war and maintain peace in the world, the scope of IR becomes eminent.

12. Violation of Human Rights : The issue of human rights can be addressed through case solutions of IR. UDHR 1948 provides basic fundamental rights to human beings and it can be safeguarded through application of international law, which is a branch of IR.

13. Concept of Global Security : International security can be enhanced and improved through the scope of IR. Thus, peace will prevail over war.

IV. Conclusion : IR deals with the totality of relations among the states of the world. It provides different level of analysis <sup>analysis</sup> from micro level to global level. Alongwith this, it provides solution to the issues faced by the world. With the passage of time,

its scope is increasing. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, IR, is applicable in multiple ways like global governance and international organization; changing security and conflict nature; rise in trade politics; globalization and nationalism debate; issues of human rights; resolving international disputes; promoting national interest through foreign policy; and application of IR theories. Hence, all these mentioned factors enhances the importance and scope of IR. Therefore, IR as a subject as well as "field" is sine qua non for the world in not only in 21<sup>st</sup> century but also ~~onwards~~ onwards.