

**Question : 1**

Define International Relations. Discuss its scope and importance of the study of International Relations?

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:**

International Relations is the study of world in transition. World is drastically changes: from day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year. Therefore, it would be a complex phenomena involved multifaceted approaches towards the globe. However International relations can be defined into two possible views i.e Broader and Narrower.

**Narrower View:**

"International Relations is the interest based relations at international level."

As we know that nature of relations between states are commonly political so the above devised definition can be rephrased as;

"International Relations is the interest based political relations between states at international level."

**Broader view:**

"International relations is the interest based political as well as non-political relations between states and not states actors at international level."

As non-political relations includes (social, economic, strategic, religious) etc between states as well other actors such as (MNCs, IGOs, INGOs). So the above devised definition can be rephrased as;

"International Relations is the interest based relations between states political as well as non-political: social, economic, strategic, religious, geostrategic between states as well as Non-state actors: IGOs, INGOs, Terrorist organizations, MNCs at International level."

## Elements of International Relations:

Nature → The nature of International relations includes political as well as non-political relations

Interests → It includes common interests i.e. Harmony of interest and conflicting interest i.e. Disharmony of interests

Actors → Multiple actors are there: States and Non-State Actors

Analysis → These relations can be analysed at state level, domestic level, regional level, Interstate level, and global level.

# Scope of International Relations:

## History of International Relations:

Historical evolution of International relations involves from the thousands of years ago. Richard Little and Barry Buzan considers the Sumerian city states to be the evolving time of the International relations as an academic discipline. However, later after the advent of Nation-state system in response of treaty of Westphalia 1648, considers to be the starting of modern IR. Moreover after some time its scope was limited but then two main events: WWI and Imperialism inaugurated this at broader level.

Four main events are responsible for the evolution of International Relations.

### 1. City-State System:

As mentioned earlier that in ancient times the city state system established the base of IR by having sovereignty and territorial demarcation.

### 2. Nation-State System:

After the peace of Westphalia 1648 the base of Nation-State system was formed. This system symbolizes the sovereignty, non-intervention, collaboration, harmony among states.

## 3. Congress of Vienna (1815)

Congress of Vienna in 1815 marked the third important event in the evolution of IR as an academic discipline because of the discussion and harmony of interests developed between states in a meeting of European countries.

## 4. World War I (1914-1918)

Right after the end of World War I, it was clear that world is at critical juncture where peace can not be formed without building relations among them.

## Scope of International Relations:

The scope of International Relations is very broad as it explained the domains of IR.

By Kofi Annan (former UN Secretary General) "World is at critical juncture, so are you... Go ahead and make your plans and do not stop learning. And be open to detour so it leads to new discoveries"

## International Relations and Political Relations:

According to Hans Morgenthau, the core of International Relations is international politics. He once said that international politics is

like the nucleus and other relations are like electrons which are revolving around the nucleus.

## Palmer and Perkins Views:

Palmer and Perkins have however contrary view to Hans Morgenthau that International Relations are not only limited to International politics. There are several other relations which play a very critical role in the interstate relations. We can also say that International Relations formed a cloud configuration (social, economic, religious, strategic etc).

Other scopes of International Relations included the;

## Approaches to Theories

Theories can explain the concept of relations between states by giving views of certain ideologies.

## International political community

International political community makes the relations between globes at better level to end the conflicts and prevents war between states. This community by making political policies can enhance the relations.

## International Security

By having some policies of containment and limiting rivalries there would be more secure global order by have institutions like UN etc.

## International political Economy:

This will make the Economic settlement of states by making institutions like IMF, World bank, and World Trade Organization.

However, there are many other approaches in International relations.

## Significance of International Relations:

There are various significance of International Relations in a global world.

### To prevent Wars:

IR can prevent war by having dialogues between states in order to collaborate and end the conflicts. For this purpose there already have some institutions like UNSC.

### To Understand the defect of Nation-State system:

Nationalism was the basic of Nation-state system where states only consider their Raison d'état but IR can imply mutual interest and goods between states.

### Limited Sovereignty

To make the relation better the states have to give or compromise

Some of its sovereignty to others in order to create harmony of interest

## Better World Order:

International relations promote cooperation between states to stand on single platform and discuss the global issues by mutual interest. Therefore, certain organizations nowadays work for it.

## Conclusion:

International Relations being a broader spectrum of interstate collaboration in order to create harmony, emphasise economy, better political relations, and work on global security.