International Relations   Paper 1

Q2 Nation-state system is constantly under pressure owing to multiple contemporary challenges of the global politics. Discuss in detail.

Introduction

The Nation State System is the dominant organizational principle of global politics since the emergence of the Modern State System in the 17th Century, particularly after the treaty of Westphalia in 1648. A nation denotes a common ethnic and cultural identity shared by a single people, while a state is a political unit with a governance system controlling a territory and its inhabitants. The nation promotes emotional relationship amongst its members, while states provide political and legal foundation for the identity of its citizens.

The modern nation state system is characterized by

i) Sovereignity of states

Each state has its independent political system with defined borders, exclusive authority over its people and territory, as a right to use force within its boundaries.

ii) Nation-States

The connection between state and nation provides ligitamacy for the state's rule. This happens ~~with~~ when the political entity

entity (state) and the cultural identity (nation) overlap. A national identity is created with factors like common language, history culture and ethnicity taking place.

However, the 21st century presents a unique challenge to this system, with a multitude of contemporary global issues exerting immense pressure on the traditional framework of national sovereignty and control.

i) **Global Capitalism and neo liberalism**

The globalization of production, consumption, and finance in the late 20^h century and the concurrent growth of rich and powerful MNCs has reduced the capacity of states to impose national protectionist policies and limit their ability to restrict the movement of information, goods and people across their borders.

This global spread under neolibnipalism backed by international institutions like WTO, IMF have also curtailed state capacities to regulate and enforce domestic macro-economic strategies.

2) **Immigration**

The influx of migrant workers and refugees to nation states has tended to increase cultural and ideological fragmentation

especially in cases where the immigrant religion and culture are very different from those of the host country. It has been seen that tensions emerge between the majority and minority groups and intergroup violence became prevalent. e.g Islamophobia in Western countries. In the majority groups, the presence of increasing minorities creates a crisis of national identity and gradual shift in ideology.

3) National disintegration

Increasing economic inequality b/w regions within nation states and the rise of identity politics since the late 20th century have increased the likelihood of national disintegration is some countries through the development of secessionist aspirations among some ethnic groups, a phenomenon called or Balkanization? Evidence of Balkanization can be observed both in relatively young nation states in the postcolonial developing world and in established western nation states with long traditions of republicanism (Scotland in UK and Catalonia in Spain)

4) Global Civil Society

New social movements and NGOs highlight issues such as rights of minorities, indigenous people and environment degradation, which

directly challenges the ability to use force in side territories for nation states. These organizations demand that politics be expanded from basic issues of economics, security and legislation, to include key issues such as rights of ethnic groups, religious inclusivety aswell as as environment protection. The tools used by these groups such as social media, allow them to be heard worldwide and therefore gain supporters internationally.

5) **Religious Extremism**
Nation-states are ~~being~~ facing threats from ~~religious~~ extremist groups that target religious minorities within states. The victims are usually minority groups with little political support .eg (RSS in India) Another religious threat is seen from external actors which aim to replace the governing bodies with theocracies. e.g (Taliban and ISIL).

6) **Erosion of Trust in Institutions.**
Citizens are increasingly disillusioned with traditional political institutions, which they percieve as failing to address their concerns. This can lead to populism, extremism, and a general wealening of the social contract b/w states .eg

• The ever decreasing trust in UN by its members. •

Conclusion ::

The nation-state system has been under threat due to the ever evolving sphere of global geo politics. The range of these threats include globalization, rising inequality, regional conflicts and technological advancements countries around the world have employed unique solutions to counter these challenges.