

12th Political Science Lesson 12 Notes in English

12. Environmental Concerns and Globalisation

"If conservation of natural resources goes wrong, nothing else will go right" -M.S. Swaminathan

Protection of Global Environment

- The protection of environment as a global requirement is a **post-industrialization revelation**.
- **Major concerns** like deforestation, industrial pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, depletion of ozone layer, global warming and the consequent rise sea levels etc. have been acknowledged to be matters that require immediate and serious interventions given the adverse impacts they cause.
- In 1982, the **UN General Assembly**, through its "**World Charter for Nature**", underscored that the entire humanity is a part of nature, and life depends on nature.
- The idea of sustainable development that propels the contemporary debate of environmentalism focuses immensely on **conservation of biodiversity** in terms of prevention of environmental pollution, protection of wetlands, and promotion of ecological balance.
- Globally, the UN continues to be **the lynchpin** in global environmental governance, through its organs and various specialized agencies.

Top Ten Global Carbon Emitters

1. China
2. The US
3. The EU
4. India
5. Russia
6. Japan
7. Germany
8. Iran
9. Saudi Arabia
10. South Korea

Genesis of Institutional Protection of Environment

- The topics of **securitization** and **protection of environment** is a natural off shoot of the complex relations that exist between the human life and ecology.
- Nature in its capacity as a **life-supporting system** has various implications across different spectra including ecology, peace, conflict, human rights and security.

- Given **the irreplaceable role** played by nature in the sustenance of life, an institutional approach vis-à-vis environment was found necessary.
- Hence, environmental law emerged as the sole option which could transact proper business in **the realm of ecological equilibrium**.
- Although **the institutional manifestations** and **legal frameworks** as an expression of international interests in the protection of environment is a 20th century product, the very germination of the seeds of environmental thought from an institutional perspective dates back to 1872 since the formation of a non-governmental congress of private citizens for the protection of nature.
- It later led to the establishment of a consultative commission at **Berne** to deal with international protection of nature.
- However, **the First World War** made the commission's activities futile.
- But, after the World War II, the commission was rechristened as the first intergovernmental body, with legal recognition, for environmental protection.
- The **Brunnen Conference** for Protection of Nature in 1947, sponsored by the Swiss League, adopted a draft constitution for the International Union for the Protection of Nature.
- There has been further institutional evolution on environmental matters.
- As far as the UN is concerned, the Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**) is the only organ which directly works on environmental policies.
- Besides, around eight of the specialized bodies within the UN ambit also directly engage with environmental concerns.
- With the constitution of UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) in **1945**, the post-war phase gained a boost on building consensus on environmental issues.
- The second overture in this track with the establishment of International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) in **1948** which lifted the global environmental narrative to a higher trajectory.
- Since then, efforts were accelerated on lines of crafting a set of international laws regarding environmental protection.
- **Environmental law**, in its policy dimension, is a collection of agreements, treaties, conventions, declarations, principles, opinions of jurists, practices and pertaining to mutual rights and obligations among states.
- **The success of environmental law** as method relies upon the cooperation and coordination among states by means of international responsibility on ecological considerations at any policy arena given.

Multilateral Conferences on Environment

- Environmental diplomacy has become an important **subset of internationalism** in the **1970s**.
- Numerous efforts, formally and informally, have been afoot to protect the environment at the international level.

- **The United Nations (UN)** remains the main impetus and driver of incorporating environmental concerns in this direction.
- A series of the **important conferences** as follows:

Ramsar Convention, 1971

- The Convention on **Wetlands**, also called **the Ramsar Convention**, is an international treaty calling for “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.
- It was adopted at **Ramsar, Iran** in **1971** and **came into force in 1975**.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) is the depository of the Convention.
- **The Secretariat of Ramsar Convention** is functioning within the headquarters of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) in **Gland, Switzerland**.
- On 21 August 2015, **the Contracting Parties** approved **the Four Ramsar Strategic Plan** for **2016-2024**.
- **The World Wetlands Day** is celebrated on **2nd February** every year.
- **The Montreux Record** is “a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference”.
- It is maintained as part of **the Ramsar List**.
- Under the three pillars of the Convention, the contracting parties commit to:
 1. **Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;**
 2. **Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management;**
 3. **Cooperate internationally on trans- boundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.**

The World Heritage Convention, 1972

- **The World Heritage Convention in 1972** sought to identify and protect the world’s natural and cultural heritage considered to be of **Outstanding Universal Value**.
- It defines the criteria for the selection of natural and cultural sites to be inscribed on **the UNESCO’s World Heritage List**.
- The enforcement of the Convention is carried out through **the Operational Guidelines**, which reflects the procedures for new inscriptions, site protection, danger-listings, and the provision of international assistance under **the World Heritage Fund**.
- Moreover, the Convention is administered by **the World Heritage Committee** supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, which is the secretariat of the Convention based at Paris.

- **The Committee** is also assisted by the three technical advisory committees – IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM.

UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972)

- The UN Conference on the Human Environment or **the Stockholm Conference** was the first major multilateral conference on environmental issues.
- It was held at **Stockholm in Sweden** from **June 5-16, 1972**.
- The conference, which was attended by delegations from **114 governments**, was a breakthrough by scripting a new discourse on environmental politics by laying the foundation of a global environmental governance regime based on international cooperation.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was also **an institutional innovation** of the Stockholm Conference.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild flora and fauna (CITES), 1973

- As an output of **the 1973 resolution** of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), **the CITES**, which took place at **Washington**, seeks to control or prevent international commercial trade in endangered species or products derived from them.
- It is not a direct attempt towards **the protection of the endangered species** but aims to reduce the economic incentive that triggers the poaching of endangered species and the destruction of their habitat.
- Hence, the Convention seeks to eliminate this illicit market by decimating the end-user demand.
- The CITES, also called **the Washington Convention** entered into force in **1975**.

Convention on Migratory Species, 1979

- The Convention on **the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**, also known as **the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** or the Bonn Convention, which came into force 1983, seeks to “conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range”.
- It proposed strict protective measures for endangered migratory species.
- Besides, **multilateral agreements for the conservation** and management of migratory species along with cooperative research activities which constitute the mandate of the Convention.

Convention on Migratory Species, 1979



- **Appendix I** of the Convention deals with **the list of migratory species** that are categorized as endangered which requires immediate international cooperation to mitigate the same.
- On the other hand, **Appendix II** is a composite of **other species** that require significant attention or benefit from **international agreements under the Convention**.

Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer, 1985

- **The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer** is a multilateral environmental agreement, which kick-started global cooperation for **the protection of Earth's ozone layer**.
- It was adopted on **22 March 1985**.
- Subsequently, **the Montreal Protocol** on Substances that **Deplete the Ozone Layer** was adopted on **16 September 1987** which came into effect in **1989**.
- This international treaty looks into eliminating the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
- **The Ozone Secretariat** located at **Nairobi, Kenya** is the Secretariat for both the **Vienna Convention** and **Montreal Protocol**.

World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

- The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), also known as **the Brundtland Commission** after its chairperson **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, helped chalk out the strategies for environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Its final report titled **Our Common Future**, published in **1987** underscores **the interdependence of environmental protection** with other factors like economic development and energy production and have become **the lynchpin** of the international environmental law until now.
- The idea of sustainable development received **the first-ever official definition** under this initiative.

Basel Convention on Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, 1989

- **The Basel Convention** which came into force in 1992, was a response to **NIMBY** (Not in My Back Yard) syndrome, that grappled **the industrialized world in the 1980s** with regard to the heightening concerns about the hazardous wastes and the public resistance to it resulting in an upsurge of disposal costs.
- It created a **market for hazardous wastes** particularly in the environmentally-less- conscious **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** which offered cheap disposal alternatives.
- The Convention sought to **reduce the trans- boundary movement of hazardous wastes** by taking necessary steps to minimize the creation of such wastes along with measures to prohibit the shipment of such substances from the developed world to the LDCs.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992



- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which also earned fame as **the Earth Summit**, was held on during **3-14 June 1992** at **Rio de Janeiro**.
- The Summit which is credited to be **the biggest international conference** in the history of international relations, focussed on myriad issues ranging from patterns of production to alternative sources of energy, public transportation and the growing need for environmental awareness.
- **Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration** on Environment and Development, the Statement of Forest Principles, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity are the documental results of **the two-week summit**.
- The Rio process also triggered the constitution of a couple of follow-up mechanisms such as **the Commission on Sustainable Development**, Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, and the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development.
- The conference was also regarded as the '**Parliament of the World**'.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification, 1994

- As the only legally binding international agreement connecting environment and development on lines of sustainable land management, **the 1994 UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** aims to address a range of most vulnerable ecosystems, particularly the arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas, known as the **Drylands**.
- The newly adopted **UNCCD 2018- 2030 Strategic Framework**, through its **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** measures, is a bid to restore the productivity of the degraded lands along with improving the livelihood of people in these regions.
- **The Secretariat of the Convention**, established in **1999**, functions at **Bonn in Germany**.
- Since 2001, **the Conference of Parties (COP)**, which is **the supreme decision-making apparatus**, meets biennially and have had **13 sessions till date**.
- **The Ankara and Changwon Initiatives** are the latest the agenda launched by **the UNCCD**.

General Assembly Special Session on the Environment, 1997

- In a bid to review the progress of the post-Earth Summit environmental regime, the UN General Assembly (**UNGA**) convened a Special Session on Implementation of **Agenda 21** during **June 23-27, 1997**.
- The session sought to scrutinise the trajectory of the success of Agenda 21 and attempted to evolve a new narrative on the environmental conservation by intensifying the commitment of member states.
- The special session, which is also known as **"Earth Summit + 5"**, adopted "Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including Statement of Commitment".

Kyoto Protocol, 1997

- **The Kyoto Protocol**, adopted on **11th December 1997**, is an international environmental treaty that enhances the scope of the **UNFCCC (1992)** that imposed legal commitment on the ratified State Parties to reduce greenhouse gas (**GHG**) emissions.
- It came into force on 16th February 2005.
- Considering the historical responsibility of the developed world for the high levels of GHG footprint, the treaty places a stringent mandate on them under the principle of **"common but differentiated responsibilities"**.
- The COP 7 held at Marrakesh in Morocco in 2007 adopted the detailed framework for the protocol.
- It is usually referred to as the **"Marrakesh Records"**.
- After the first commitment which began in 2008, the protocol was amended on 8 December 2012 at **Doha, Qatar**.
- **The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol** endorsed a second commitment to the **Annex I** countries starting from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2020.
- Along with a series of changes on certain Articles, the protocol now requires the State Parties to report a **revised list of GHG** for the period second commitment.

- Unlike the first commitment target of reducing emissions to an average of five per cent below 1990 levels, a minimum eight per cent reduction against the same year benchmark is expected under the second commitment.
- The three market- based mechanisms identified by the Kyoto Protocol to meet the targets are **International Emissions Trading**, Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation, which help support green investment and provide cost-effective means to realize the emission targets.

World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002

- The UN-backed **World Summit** on Sustainable Development took place at **Johannesburg**, South Africa during **August 26 – September 6, 2002**.
- The Convention which was informally referred to as **Earth Summit 2002** went on to resuscitate the spirit of its prequel by tabling new challenges and concerns that affect the environmental realm.
- This renewed environmentalism in **the new format** offered a sustainability- driven roadmap in addressing the problems of the millennium.
- **The Johannesburg Declaration** on Sustainable Development, the documental by-product of the summit, reemphasized the basic tenets of the multilateral initiatives in the past with more force.
- It postulated the necessity of a time-bound structure of actions expected from the member states over an array of agreements including **Agenda 21**.
- Moreover, the Convention succumbed to severe castigations from various quarters over its inability to bring any new arrangement of its own.

UN Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012

- **The UN Conference on Sustainable Development**, also known as **Rio+20**, was held at **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** on **20-22 June 2012**.
- With its uncompromising stand on rolling out an affirmative sustainable development plan, the member states focussed on evolving a process for the development of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** that combines with **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**.
- Moreover, the adoption of ground-breaking guidelines for green economy policies was another result of the Rio+20.
- The conference also sought to constitute an inter-governmental process under the General Assembly to frame a strategy concerning finance vis-à-vis sustainable development.
- An agreement to establish a high-level political forum for sustainable development was also achieved.
- The report of the conference was themed **"The Future We Want"**.

UN Sustainable Development Summit, 2015

- As a high-level plenary meeting of **the UNGA**, the UN Sustainable Development Summit, which spanned over **25-27 September 2015** at the UN Headquarters in **New York**, adopted the post-2015 agenda titled **“Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.
- It is a composite of a Declaration, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) and 169 targets.
- The SDGs **came into effect in 2016** and will guide the discourse on **sustainable development until 2030**.

The Sustainable Development Goals adopted are as follows	
Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
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Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Paris Agreement, 2016

- The Paris Agreement (**L'accord de Paris in French**) is a multilateral agreement within the precincts of the **UNFCCC**.
- It provides an enhanced framework for the mitigation of greenhouse gases emission, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020.
- It was opened for signature on 22 April 2016 and came into force on 4 November 2016.
- As an instrument to combat climate change, **the Paris Accord** aims to keep global temperatures **"well below"** 2.0 C (3.6 F) above pre-industrial times and **"endeavour to limit"** them even more to, 1.5 C.
- It also helped reach a consensus on limiting the human-driven greenhouse gases emission to the levels naturally absorbable by trees, soil and oceans, between 2050 and 2100.
- Apart from the mandatory periodical review every five years to assess the contributions of the State Parties, the treaty also ensures that the developed countries shall help LDCs in adapting with the climate change through **"climate finance"** to enable them to switch over to renewable energy.
- Until now, 184 out of the **197 State Parties** have ratified the treaty.

India's Commitment to Paris Deal

- In anticipation of this moment, countries publicly outlined what **post-2020 climate actions** they intended to take under **the new international agreement**, known as their **Intended Nationally Determined contributions**.
- In its INDC, India has pledged to improve the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels.
- It has also pledged to increase the share of **non- fossil fuels-based electricity** to 40 per cent by 2030.

- It has agreed to **enhance** its **forest cover** which will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂, the **main gas responsible for global warming**) by 2030 INDCs.
- India has also reiterated its need for **international finance** and **technology** support to meet its climate goals.
- In this regard, it has said it would require at least US \$ 2.5 trillion (at 2014-15 prices) to meet its climate change actions between now and 2030.

India's Stand on Environmental Issues

- India's engagement in global environmental governance has been remarkable. From the 1972 **Stockholm Conference** to the **COP21 in 2015, New Delhi** possesses impressive credentials in terms of the diplomatic and administrative capital invested.
- The then Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi's speech** at the Stockholm Conference evoked a new sense of politico-environmental consciousness which held the developed countries, i.e. North, responsible for escalating the ecological threat indicators.
- The ideological undercurrents of the Indian environmental policies, particularly the climate change, can be traced back to the preparations for the **Rio Earth Summit 1992** wherein an important report titled "**Global Warming in an Unequal World**" of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) which attacked the West for its ginormous contribution to the global carbon footprint as "**carbon colonialism**".
- India has invariably rejected GHG reduction commitments from the developing countries as inequitable provided that the "**South**" has played a little role in triggering the so-called "**climate issues**" of the present day magnitude.



- Domestically, measures are taken at the constitutional and statutory levels to address environmental concerns.
- Some of the important legal documents dealing with environment in the country are: **Environment Protection Act (1986), Wildlife Protection Act (1972),**

- **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1981), Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1974), Indian Forest Act (1927)** and so forth.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal agency responsible for environmental policy formulation and implementation in the country.
- The judiciary also plays an unparalleled role through the instrument of judicial activism on environmental matters.

India and International Cooperation on Environment

- **New Delhi** is a member of many of the multilateral environmental conventions, treaties and institutions.
- The Indian government underscores the historical responsibility of the west in the **environmental degradation** and **projects** its low per capita emissions.
- Climate change, as exemplified in the national policy narrative, acquires the position of being a development issue, basing “**inter-generational equity**” (which stands for greater environmental protection) that requires the current generation to treat development as a matter of urgency so that the upcoming generations receive **an Earth invulnerable to climate change**.
- As a party to **the Paris Accord**, India subscribes to the non-negotiable nature of the agreement.
- Besides, the Government of India reemphasises “**equity**” and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- New Delhi’s commitment to decarbonisation embraces a strategy to reduce its reliance on coal and to evolve **a renewable energy-driven economy**.
- India’s role in global agenda of environmentalism reached a new high with the establishment of **the International Solar Alliance**, an idea proposed by the Indian government, in 2016.
- Despite pushing **a stern rhetoric**, India’s environmental profile is one of the worst in the world.
- According to a report launched by **Global Carbon Project in 2018**, India is the 4th largest emitter of carbon which accounts for 7% of the global emissions in the year 2017.
- Another report titled **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** for the year 2018 ranks India 177 among 180 countries.
- The low ranking is deemed to be a result of poor performance in the environmental health policy and deaths due to air pollution.

India is a party to the following international conventions, treaties and institutions

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- International Whaling Commission
- Ramsar Convention
- United Nations Forum on Forestry

- International Tropical Timber Organisation
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
- Asia Pacific Forestry Commission
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Kyoto Protocol

International Solar Alliance

- **The International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between **the Tropic of Cancer** and **the Tropic of Capricorn**, now extended to all members of UN.
- **The Paris Declaration** establishes **ISA** as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries.

Objectives:

- The ISA's major objectives include **global deployment** of over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.

What it does?

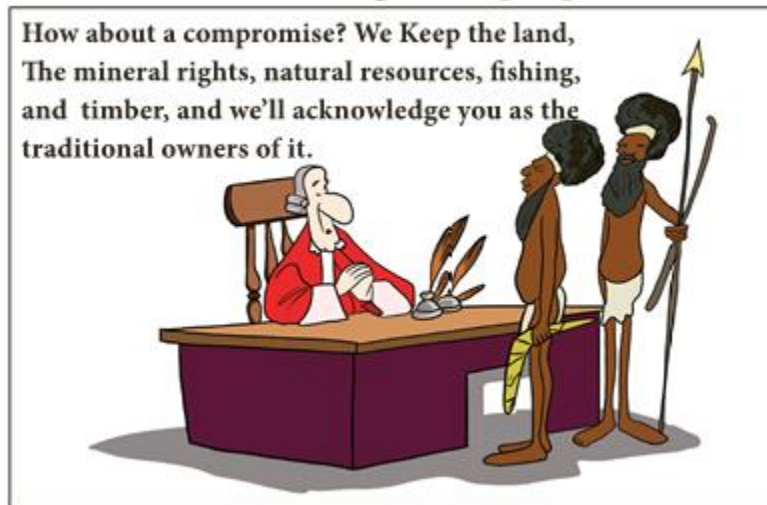
- As an **action-oriented organisation**, the ISA brings together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate global demand, thereby reducing prices through bulk purchase, facilitating the deployment of existing solar technologies at scale, and promoting collaborative **solar R&D and capacity building**.

When it entered into force?

- When the **ISA Framework Agreement** entered into force on December 6th, 2017, ISA formally became a de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organisation, headquartered at **Gurugram, India**.

Indigenous People and their Rights

Definition



- In a popular sense, the very meaning of **cultural diversity** is often represented by **indigenous peoples**.
- Approximately **350 million indigenous peoples** belonging to 5000 different cultures are **residing over 20 percent of the Earth's territory**.
- Of all the challenges concerning the realm of indigenous people and their rights, the most arduous has been the inability to reach a consensus on who are indigenous peoples.
- Hence, the dilemma centres on the fundamental question vis-à-vis the factors that converge in building what indigeneity means.
- Even **the UN Working Group** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could not arrive at a formal definition that explains the true identity of theirs.
- The primary dilemma that made this process a rigma role was the inconclusiveness on working out a set of absolute parameters that assign indigeneity to a group.
- Is it the smallness in the population that matters? Or is it the proximity to one's own land, and the corresponding longevity, and a conventional non-industrial lifestyle that make up the indigenous identity?
- An element of uniformity was achieved on defining certain groups such as **the First Nation/Native American of North America**, the residents of **the Amazon jungles**, Inuit from the far North and the indigenous groups based in **Papua New Guinea**.
- Out of the **multiple attempts** in search of a universally recognized definition, the one by **Julian Berger**, a UN official, stands important.
- According to him, "the notion of belonging to a separate culture with all its various elements – language, religion, social, political systems, moral values, scientific and philosophical knowledge, beliefs, legends, laws, economic systems, technology, art, clothing, music, dance, architecture, and so on – is central to indigenous people's own definition".
- He further states, indigenous peoples:
 1. Are the **descendants of the original habitants** of a territory which has been overcome by conquest;

2. Are **nomadic** and **semi-nomadic peoples**, such as shifting cultivators, herders and hunters and gatherers, and practice a labour-intensive form of agriculture which produces little surplus and has low energy needs;
 3. **Do not have centralized political institutions** and organize at the level of the community and make decisions on a consensus basis;
 4. Have all the **characteristics of a national minority**: they share a common language, religion, culture, and other identifying characteristics and a relationship to a particular territory but are subjugated by a dominant culture and society;
 5. Have a different world view, consisting of a **custodial and non-materialist attitude** to land and natural resources, and want to pursue a separate development to that proffered by the dominant society;
 6. Consist of individuals who subjectively **consider themselves to be indigenous**, and are accepted by the group as such.
- The contemporary understanding is that the indigenous peoples, in general, are marked by **deficits in authority and political power**, and the corresponding absence of inclusion.
 - Their existence is also characterized by subordination to an immigrant or ethnic group-dominant state.
 - It is important to note that their indigeneity is not a product of the lack of power. Rather, the powerlessness emanates from their indigeneity.
 - These groups, with their inherent and inviolable constancy to the conventional way of life-based on the endemic values and traditions, kept them aloof from the evolution that helped advance **the social, political** and economic establishments.
 - In turn, the indigenous peoples were looked upon as a threat to this **"march of progress"** and the changing order of life.
 - It is also important to know that the indigenous populations are not essentially **"socially-static"** or **status-quoists**.
 - The global tendency to accuse them as conservative is a result of their slow pace of response to the assimilation and adaptation against the increasing complexity of **the macro-social systems**.

Let's have a look at some of the most important indigenous societies in the world:

Name of the Community	Place of Origin
Haida	West Coast of Canada
Inuit/Eskimo	Canada/Arctic/Alaska/ Greenland
Yanomami	Amazon Basin
Blackfoot	Canada/United States
Mohawk	Canada/United States

Innu	Labrador/Quebec, Canada
Maori	New Zealand Chittagong Hill
Tribes	Bangladesh
Sami	Scandinavia
Bushmen	Southern Africa
Aka	Central Africa
Okiek	Kenya
Vedda	Sri Lanka
Jarawas	Andaman Islands
Agta	Philippines
Penan	Borneo
Jahai	Northern Malaysia
Aborigines	Australia
Ache	Paraguay
Yanama	Tierra del Fuego
Ainu	Japan
Chukchi and Yupik	Eastern Siberia
Nia/Nganasan	North-Central Siberia

The Government of India hardly recognizes any community

- Building an Indian conceptual case of indigeneity receives both theoretical and empirical setbacks.
- Officially, the Government of India hardly recognizes any community in the country as indigenous.

- However, experts are of the view that there are three assumptions that help construct an Indian approach towards the puzzle of indigenous identity.
- They are:
 - a) **Indigenous** are those groups of people who have lived in a region or country to which they belong before colonization or conquest by people from outside that region or country.
 - b) They have become marginalized as a result of colonization or conquest of that region or country.
 - c) Such groups are governed more by means of their own social, economic and cultural institutions rather than the laws which are applicable to the society or country as a whole.
- Besides, the concept of indigeneity in India is a product of the prevailing **"tribal consciousness"**.
- The idea of tribal identity has more often than not guided the national debates on what constitutes indigenous populace in India.
- The indigenous groups in India have been referred under multiple titles.
- **Adivasis** (original inhabitants), **Aborigines**, **Adim Jati** (ancient tribes) or **Vanavasi** (forest dwellers).
- Under the constitution, they are recognized as **"Scheduled Tribes"** and their territories as **"Scheduled Areas"**.
- In spite of the absence of a formal definition by the Government of India, a loose definition in terms of reaching a legal consensus was constructed by bringing a set of features like **"'primitive' traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness"**.
- Groups with a demographic base of millions such as **Gondas** and **Bhils** to the **Great Andamanese**, who are of around just dozens in strength, come under this category.
- Furthermore, **Sharad Kulkarni**, in his work "India:
- **Indigenous communities in the sub-continent" (1988)**, says:
 - "The indigenous tribal peoples of India have lost most of their tranquil habitats; they have also lost some of their confidence and identity.
 - **Forces of oppression and exploitation** have encroached upon tribal life and have reduced many of them to sub-human conditions.
 - **The laws meant for their protection** have remained largely ineffective.
 - However, efforts made some impact in **raising their standard of living**.
 - Social activists have contributed to mobilizing them for **the protection of their rights**.
 - The picture is rather gloomy and unclear but there are rays of hope on the horizon".

Threats and Issues faced by Indigenous People

- Discrimination and structural violence
- Eviction from homeland resulting in the denial of land rights
- Technology-driven forced resettlement
- Exploitation of intellectual property such as traditional arts, stories etc.

- Physical removal from native territories
- Lack of access to traditional resources
- Destructive development and forced displacement
- Question of Autonomy and Self- Determination
- Neglect by civil society
- Only a few countries recognize indigenous peoples as legitimate groups
- Minimal political participation
- Poverty
- Health issues
- Unemployment
- It is noteworthy that the Indian stance of indigeneity also coincides with **the global strides of anticolonial imperatives** supported by **the canons of subaltern inputs**.
- In addition, the concept of indigeneity in India more or less overlaps with what can be called **"tribal consciousness"**.
- Globally, **the indigenous groups** are subjected to **a great deal of challenges**.
- By virtue of their identity, they are often mistreated as second-class citizens by the so called **"mainstream" citizens**.
- The major challenges faced by the indigenous peoples are as follows:

Rights of the Indigenous People

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (**UNDRIP**) was adopted on 13 September 2007 by **the UN General Assembly**.
- As the most comprehensive international instrument on the indigenous peoples' rights, it seeks to ensure a "universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the worlds".
- The Declaration contains **46 Articles** which is the outcome of a drafting process which began in **1985** by **the Working Group** on Indigenous Populations.
- In its essence, **the UNDRIP** is a manual for the governments of the world on how to revere the human rights of the indigenous communities.
- It also serves in helping the enforcement of other mechanisms, affecting indigenous groups, like **the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention 169**, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Human Rights, Self-Determination and Nationality	
Articles 1 – 6	• Right to all human rights • Right to freedom and equality and right against exploitation • Right to self-determination • Right to autonomy or self-government

	• Right to maintain their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural identity • Right to nationality
Life, Liberty, Culture and Security	
Articles 7 – 10	• Right to life, liberty and security • Right against forced assimilation or destruction of culture • Right to belong to an indigenous community or a nation • Right against forced removal or relocation
Culture, Religion and Language	
Articles 11-13	• Right to culture • Right to spiritual and religious traditions and customs • Right to know and use language, histories and oral traditions
Education, Media and Employment	
Articles 14-17	• Right to establish educational systems and access to culturally sensitive education • Right to accurate reflection of indigenous cultures in education • Right to create media in their own language and access to non-indigenous media • Right to employment
Participation and Development	
Articles 18-24	• Right to participation in decision making • Right of free, prior and informed consent for laws and policies • Right to their own political, economic and social system, subsistence and development

	• Right to economic and social well-being • Right against violence and discrimination of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities • Right to set priorities and strategies for development • Right to health
Land and Resources	
Articles 25-32	• Right to spiritual relationship with traditional land and resources • Right to own, use, develop and control traditional land and resources • Right to indigenous laws and traditions on land and resources • Right to get back or to be compensated against the land acquisitions without their free, prior and informed consent • Right against militarization on indigenous land without their free, prior and informed consent • Right to cultural and intellectual property • Right to decide on land and resource development
Self-Government and Indigenous Laws	
Articles 33-37	• Right to identity, membership and citizenship • Right to distinctive institutional structures and customs • Right to individual responsibilities • Right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation • Right to recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties and agreements
Implementation	

Articles 38-42	• Right to be consulted by the states in taking measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration • Right to financial and technical assistance from States for the enjoyment of the rights contained in the Declaration • Right to just and fair procedures for the conflicts and disputes with States or other parties • The responsibility on the UN system and other intergovernmental agencies to contribute towards realization of the provisions of the Declaration. • The responsibility of the UN, its bodies, including to Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration.
Nature of Guarantee	
Articles 43-44	• The rights as enshrined are considered the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous people. • Equal guarantee of all rights to male and female indigenous individuals.

Contemporary Development Projects and Necessity of Right to Development

- Trade, investment, finance, aid, debt, technology, innovation and global governance, all have consequences for the achievement of **the right to development**, as do the global challenges mentioned above.
- The right to development demands that these difficult and diverse issues be addressed comprehensively and coherently with **the ultimate policy objective of securing freedom** from fear and freedom from want for everyone.

- This ultimate objective of development is broadly reflected in diverse and evolving policy arenas.



- For example, **the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation** states that “relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, [and] ensuring full employment,
- While allowing for the optimal use of the world’s resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development”.
- Similarly, the General Assembly in its annual resolutions on the right to development affirms human rights and improved human wellbeing as guiding considerations for **multilateral trade negotiations** and **calls for mainstreaming the right to development** and **strengthening the global partnership for development** within international trade institutions among other things.
- The right to development provides a framework for the consideration of extraterritorial obligations and the obligations of States in their collective capacities, including as **members of international Organisations** like **the World Trade Organisation** and **multilateral development banks**, and as actors in global trade, investment and finance.
- As trade negotiations have proliferated and the human rights impact of trade and investment agreements is better understood, it has become increasingly clear that States must step up their efforts to integrate human rights, including the right to development, in new trade and investment in order to fulfil their human rights commitments.
- Likewise, the obligations outlined in the Declaration require that aid or official development assistance, as well as international lending, should be adequate, effective and transparent, administered through participatory and accountable processes, and targeted towards the countries, people and groups most in need, including within those States where the ability to mobilize domestic resources is weakest.

Globalisation: Concept, Causes and Consequences

Meaning

- **Globalisation** postulates a structure of interaction among countries leading to an **integrated world economy**.
- This interaction is manifested in a variety of expressions ranging from social to political and cultural to economic and technological by means of improvising the means of communication, infrastructure and transportation.
- **International trade** and **cross-border investments** are acknowledged to be the vital factors in creating an integrated world economy.
- The idea of integration requires further examination given the inherent complexity.
- Theoretically, it consists of two subsets namely negative integration and positive integration.
- The former talks of **the policy of free trade**, which talks of removing trade barriers or protective barriers such as tariffs and quotas whereas the latter focuses on standardizing international economic laws and policies.
- At any given layer of the term Globalisation in its truest sense refers to an emanating system of an international network on economic and social lines.
- One of the earliest applications of the term '**Globalisation**' can be traced back to a 1930 publication titled '**Towards New Education**' which sought to imply an overview of the human experience in education.
- In 1897, another term "**corporate giants**", coined by **Charles Russell Tazel**, found its place in the economic literature that meant the big trusts and large enterprises.
- These two terms began to be used interchangeably between 1960 and 1980 by scholars within the realm of economics and other social sciences.
- World Bank defines Globalisation as "**the growing integration of economies and societies around the world**".
- The transformation of the term '**Globalisation**' to a conceptual framework triggered a new array of thinking providing new interpretations and discourses on the global economic narrative.
- With the end of **the Cold War**, the concept made its way to be representing a world that is progressively interdependent in its economic and informational dimension.
- Acting as a paradigm of spatial-temporal processes of change, Globalisation unpacks a template of fundamental metamorphosis which **rescripts the international economic patterns**.
- According to **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, "Globalisation, or the increased interconnectedness and interdependence of people and countries, is generally understood to include two interrelated elements:
 - the opening of borders to increasingly fast flows of goods, services, finance, people and ideas across international borders; and the changes in institutional and policy regimes at the international and national levels that facilitate or promote such flows.
 - It is recognized that Globalisation has both positive and negative impacts development".
 - It is clear that WHO provides a holistic approach in defining the notion of Globalisation by embracing **socio-economic** and **politico-technological paradigms**.

- Globalisation as a key element in the theory and practice of business posits a construct of connectivity across various spectra.
- **The International Monetary Fund's (IMF)** identification of the four basic tenets of Globalisation in 2002 subsided the ambiguities concerning the term to a large extent.
- They are as follows: **trade and transactions, capital movements and investment, migration and movement of people and the spreading of knowledge.**

Vectors of Globalisation

- Globalisation as a process exhibits an array of patterns at various levels.
- **Economic Dimension Basing** free trade in its axis, there is no room for dubiety that this is the highest manifestation of Globalisation.
- It is evident that the process of economic Globalisation has in the recent past has been dominated by a group of developed countries like the US, Japan, China etc.
- **Multinational corporations (MNCs)** such as Google, Microsoft, Apple, McDonalds etc. and international Organisations like IMF and World Bank are at the forefront as the global market determinants.
- According to **Bottery**, economic Globalisation can be aptly expressed as the convergence of three different factors.
- They are as follows:
 1. **Increasing movement of capital around the world through information and technology.**
 2. **The prevalence of supranational bodies such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the World Bank, and the IMF.**
 3. **Increased influence of Transnational Companies (TNCs).**

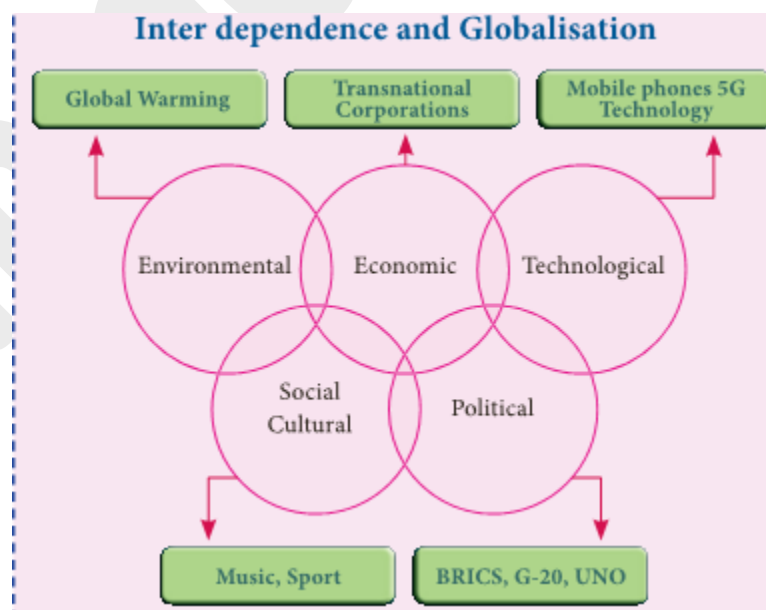
Cultural Dimension

- Globalisation acts as an agent of transmission of ideas and cultures across the world. It is more often used in synonymous with the term "**modernity**".
- Mostly, the patterns of this process was geared toward creating a "**homogenous**" standards of practices, and inculcation of ideas and values, short of a single world culture.
- Arguably, the inception of this vector could be traced back to the nascence of global trade.
- Every commodity is an expression of one's culture.
- For instance, **the Indian fashion industry** embraced the "**denim**" clothing since the **advent of western textile MNCs** into the domestic market.
- Moreover, thanks to the growing domains of communication, particularly in the form of social media platforms such Facebook, Twitter and so forth, which bring peoples hailing from different regions and cultural affiliations together, making this exchange a cakewalk.
- These **new synthetic and virtual interaction** which replaced the physical interaction across various quarters, help rewrite the new order of global subcultures.

- Globalisation, in this sense, unlike some critics claim, is not amounting to **westernization or Americanization**.
- In cultural terms, it represents a template of mutual reciprocity.
- Hence, it's not just about how non-western societies adapt the cultural aspects of the west, but also the cases wherein the western system imbibe foreign values, both tangibly and intangibly.

Political Dimension

- With the end of the **Second World War in 1945**, the **hitherto-dominated** control of the state apparatuses over the welfare of citizens were slowly eroding.
- The period, since then, was characterized by the emergence of non-state actors like **Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)** and **supranational Organisations** as important players in the **domain of human affairs**.
- The trends went one to experience the rising membership of nation-states in multilateral bodies such as the **UN, European Union (EU)** and so forth.
- Furthermore, the dissemination of liberal- democratic ideas, collapse of communist systems like USSR, and galloping number regional Organisations also add up to the political undercurrents of Globalisation.
- Ideologically, **Globalisation fosters a cosmopolitan character** over nationalistic sentiments.
- Though a **single world government** may be impractical, in realist terms, a considerable amount of cooperation has been able to be achieved among the comity of nations.
- Critics opine that with the increasing role of non-state actors, the state systems are facing the erosion of sovereignty as they are losing the hitherto-enjoyed control over economic activities.



Merits of Globalisation

- 1) The world has become more **interdependent** economically, socially, culturally, and politically.

- 2) The concept of **free trade** ensure job growth; increases competition; movement of labour; economic prosperity; minimal interference of state in economic activities.
- 3) It seeks to bring **economic balance to poor regions** by injecting technology and foreign capital.
- 4) It helps **alleviate poverty** and promotes economic prosperity.
- 5) It promotes **inter-cultural communication** and **cosmopolitanism**.

Demerits of Globalisation

1. The most important accusation ever raised against globalisation is that the **"rich becomes richer and poor becomes poorer"**.
 2. **Risks of the theft** of intellectual property are high.
 3. **Inequitable** distribution of resources.
 4. **States become subservient** to corporate interests.
- In the book **'The Race to the Top: The Real Story of Globalisation'**, **Thomas Larsson** argues that Globalisation "is the process of the shrinking of the world, the shortening of distances, and the closeness of things.
 - It allows the increased interaction of any person on one part of the world to someone found on the other side of the world, in order to benefit".

India and Globalisation

- The general idea of **Globalisation in India** is related to the integration of the national economy with the world economy.
- Hence, it underscores the opening up of the domestic economy to **foreign direct investment (FDI)** which requisites a conducive environment for foreign firms to invest in various fields of economic activities.
- This calls for **the removal of restraints and barriers** for allowing the entry of **multinational corporations (MNCs)** into the domestic market.
- India's present ascendancy in the economic trajectories is a consequence of the **New Economic Policy (NEP)** which initiated a **massive scheme of fiscal reforms** following the **1991 financial crisis**.
- It liberated the country from the shackles of **the socialist model** and **reconfigured the domestic economic structure** which helped improve the poor standards of living.
- **The balance of payments crisis** gave an impetus for a new economic discourse in the country which in turn led to policy development that embraced an export- friendly ecosystem along with the inflow of foreign capital.
- The crisis was a result of the soaring currency reserves which reached up to a mark of almost billion which took inflation to an upsurge at an annual rate of 17 per cent.
- Furthermore, **the fiscal deficit** was surging and an unstable economy reigned in.

- **The NEP**, popularly known as **the Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG)**, that came up in July 1991, sought to transform the national economy to a globally competent and fast growing economy.
- **Industry, trade and finance** constituted the major sectors which underwent a dramatic change.
- The economic compulsions both at home and abroad necessitated a reorientation that would fasten the country with the global market on a rapid pace.
- As initiated in the 1990s, the most important measures taken up as part of the LPG can be summarised as follows:

The three industries reserved for the public sector are:

1. Arms and ammunition and allied items of defence equipment, defence aircraft and warships.
2. Atomic energy.
3. Railway transport

a) Devaluation:

- The foremost attempt **towards globalisation** was devaluating the national currency by 18-19 against major currencies in **the foreign exchange market**.
- The measure sought to help **survive the balance of payment crisis**.

b) Disinvestment:

- In a bid to boost privatisation, the government began selling **the shares of the public sector undertakings (PSUs)** to private players.

c) Elimination of License Raj:

- Doing away with **industrial licensing** constituted another strategy to boost the spirit of a **liberal market**.
- As a result, most of **the industrial initiatives** were exempted from license from the government.

d) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- This opened the vistas of **foreign capital flow**, by allowing overseas companies to invest directly into the Indian market.
- In 2018, the Government of India allowed **100% FDI** in some sectors like single-brand retail and construction.

e) Abolition of MRTP Act:

- In pursuance of liberalisation, **the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act (1969)**, which regulates monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices, was abolished by **the Government of India**.
- It was replaced **the Competition Act in 2002**, which introduced a new focus of promoting competition instead of **anti-monopoly measures**.

List of industries which mandatorily require licensing are as follows:

- Distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks.
- Cigars and Cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes.
- Electronic Aerospace and Defence equipment: all types.
- Industrial explosives including detonating fuses, safety fuses, gun powder, nitrocellulose and matches.
- Hazardous chemicals.
- Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

MORE TO KNOW:

Must watch Documentary film Director



- Davis Guggenheim eloquently weaves the science of global warming with former USA Vice President Al Gore's personal history and lifelong commitment to reversing the effects of global climate change in the most talked-about documentary of the year.
- An audience and critical favorite, "**An Inconvenient Truth**" makes the compelling case that global warming is real, man-made, and its effects will be cataclysmic if we don't act now.
- Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way: often humorous, frequently emotional, and always fascinating.
- In the end, An Inconvenient Truth accomplishes what all great films should: it leaves the viewer shaken, involved and inspired.

National Green Tribunal

- National Green Tribunal, established in 2010, deals with the expeditious disposal of cases of environmental importance.

Nagoya Protocol

- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, also known as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Its aim is the implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Cochin International Airport

- Cochin International Airport (CIAL), Kerala, is the world's first fully solar- powered airport.

Self-Identification

- There is no international agreement on the definition of indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities decide their case of indigeneity.
- It is called "**Self- Identification**".

World Indigenous People Day

- International Day of the World's Indigenous People is celebrated on 9th August every year.

The UNDP

- The UNDP reports that "during the most recent period of rapid growth in global trade and investment, 1960 to 1998, inequality worsened both internationally and within countries.
- The richest 20 percent of the world's population consume 86 percent of the world's resources while the poorest 80 percent consume just 14 percent".