

## **Political Science & International Relations (PSIR) Optional – Complete UPSC Syllabus**

Political Science & International Relations (PSIR) is one of the most popular optional subjects in the UPSC Civil Services Examination. It appeals to aspirants with interests in politics, governance, diplomacy, and global affairs, and is known for its significant overlap with General Studies papers, particularly Polity, Governance, International Relations, and parts of Ethics and Essay.

Choosing PSIR not only strengthens your understanding of Indian and global political systems but also builds the analytical depth needed for answer writing in Mains and interview discussions. The subject covers both foundational political theories and practical, real-world issues – from Indian constitutional developments to current global challenges.

Below is the **official UPSC PSIR Optional syllabus** for both Paper-I and Paper-II. Aspirants should use this as the base document to plan their study strategy, identify key resources, and align current affairs preparation with the prescribed topics.

### **Paper-I**

#### **Part - A: Political Theory and Indian Politics**

1. Political Theory: Meaning and approaches; Theories of the state: Liberal, Neoliberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial, Feminist; Justice: Rawl's theory & critiques; Equality, Freedom, Rights, Democracy, Power, authority & legitimacy; Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism, Feminism; Indian Political Thought: Dharamshastra, Arthashastra, Buddhist traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, Gandhi, Ambedkar, M.N. Roy, Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan.

2. Indian Government and Politics: Nationalism; Strategies of freedom struggle; Perspectives on movement; Making of the Constitution; Salient features; Principal organs of Union & State; Grassroots democracy; Statutory bodies; Federalism; Planning & development; Caste, religion, ethnicity; Party system; Social movements; Regionalism; Secessionism; Communalism; State politics; Electoral reforms.

#### **Part - B: Comparative Politics and International Relations**

1. Comparative Political Analysis: Nature & approaches; State in comparative perspective; Politics of representation; Globalization.

2. International Politics: Approaches; Key concepts: National interest, power, security; Changing world order; Evolution of international economic system; UN; Regionalization; Global concerns.

### **Paper-II**

#### **Part - A: India and the World**

Indian foreign policy: Determinants, principles, objectives; NAM; India & UN; Nuclear policy; Role in WTO; Regional cooperation (SAARC, BIMSTEC); Relations with major powers (US, Russia, China, Japan, EU); Neighbors; Look East/Act East; West Asia & Africa; Diaspora.

#### **Part - B: Comparative Politics and IR**

South Asian politics; Democratization; SAARC; India's role in regional security; International political economy; Emerging issues: Climate change, migration, pandemics; Changing balance of power.