

1. Should India's diaspora be made an important stakeholder in India's internal political processes? Critically comment.

Introduction:

The Diaspora encompasses a group of people who can either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently. Indian diaspora of 31.2 million is a very large and vibrant people spread almost all over the world.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas convention described diaspora as India's brand ambassadors and said they were the symbols of the country's capabilities. The theme of PBD 2019 is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India."

Body:

India's diaspora be made an important stakeholder in India's internal political processes because they can act as a crucial force in the development and will have immense contributions in building new India such as,

- **Investments:** Indian diaspora are a major source of Direct Foreign Investment and have invested hugely in the Indian industry and infrastructure to encourage its economic growth. They can resolve the economic crisis by making investments in India.
- **Remittances:** They have been a source of large inflows of remittances, which has been helping balance the current account and increase our foreign reserve substantially. Remittances amount to a whopping 3.4 per cent of India's GDP. According to the World Bank, the Indian diaspora is going to be the largest earner of remittances in the world in the next few years.
- **Expertise:** The Indian Diaspora has played an important role in the field of Science & Technology. They bring technical and domain expertise to domestic startups and often act as angel investors. Diaspora Indian faculty abroad volunteer time and resources to help faculty on Indian campuses improve the quality of education. Ex. Dr Raghuram Rajan at the RBI.
- **Soft power:** Indian diaspora is an important part of India's "soft diplomacy". They have become a major political power in countries like Canada, Fiji, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago etc. It helps in developing good political relations with these nations. For example, Indian diaspora played a critical in the fructification of the Indo-US Nuclear deal.
- **Resource for the development:** It serves as an important 'bridge' to access knowledge, expertise, resources and markets for the development of the country of origin with the rest of the world. Ex. About one-third of the engineers in Silicon Valley are of Indian descent, while 7 per cent of the Valley's high-tech firms are led by Indian CEOs. They can help the Indian IT industry to flourish.

- **Disaster relief:** Successful diaspora groups are among the largest contributors to the CMDRF. They are invaluable in mobilising resources, talent, and knowledge which will be integral in rebuilding the State. For example, in Kerala, the migrant community and diaspora moved swiftly to organise an Internet-driven response.
- **Tourism:** The Diaspora makes a significant contribution to the growth of tourism in India. PIOs make frequent visits to their home state or to visit their relatives. Know India Program (KIP) is a good initiative in this direction for promoting tourism among 2nd generation PIOs.
- **NGOs:** Diaspora has come forward with several non-governmental organizations in India helping in array of welfare, developmental, educational, environmental and social projects.

There is a Negative side too.

- Remittances are not always used for beneficial purposes. For instance, India faced problems due to foreign funding for extremist movements like the Khalistan movement and Naxalism.
- Some NGOs established by diaspora used for money laundering and black money parking.

Conclusion:

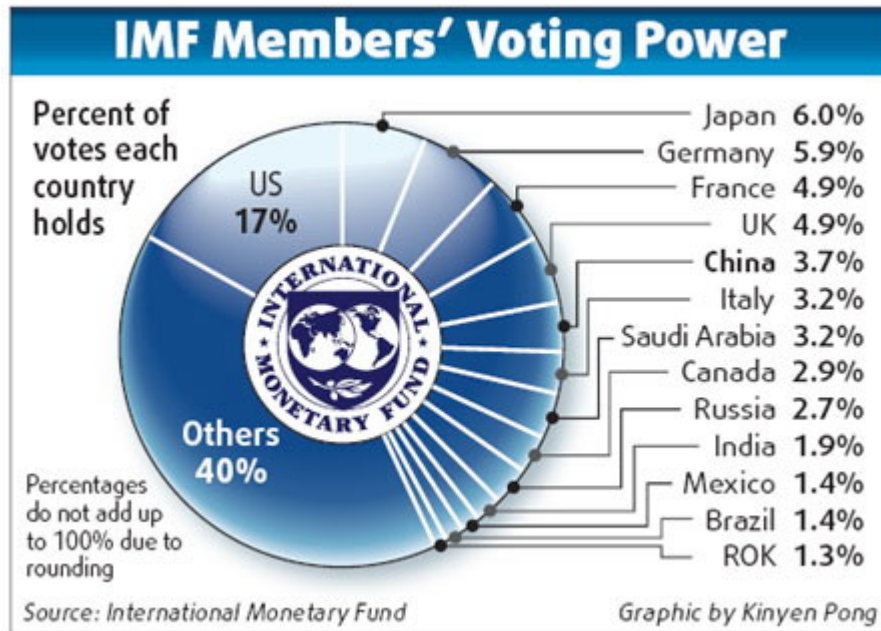
It is being said that “The sun on Indian diaspora never sets”. The future holds a great place for India to bank upon its diaspora for economic development and geographical influence. The diaspora of India is rich and diverse and can help in developing India and hence a sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding engagement with them is needed.

2. The constitution and voting rights in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) doesn't reflect contemporary global economic reality. Comment. What sorts of reforms are needed to address this problem? Suggest.

Introduction:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was conceived at the Bretton Woods Conference mainly to help members during the Balance of Payment (BoP) crisis and to stabilize the currency exchange rates of countries, and giving practical/technical help to members by helping in framing economic or financial policies etc.

Body:



Given its unequal voting power mechanism and quota parameters IMF doesn't always serve the interests of poor & developing countries:

- The flaw lies in the voting process and the weights assigned to countries based on their quotas. Unlike the General Assembly of the United Nations, or the World Trade Organisation, where each country has one vote, decision-making at the IMF was designed to reflect the position of each member country in the global economy.
- It is almost impossible to make any reform in the current quota system as more than 85% of total votes are required to make it happen. The 85% votes does not mean 85% countries but countries which have 85% of voting power and only USA has voting share of around 17% and G7 collectively own >40% while India and Russia have barely 2.5% each. BRICS, G20 and emerging market economies are against this scheme especially after Subprime crisis and declined economic strength of USA & G7.
- Currently in Executive board, 5 out of 24 directors are permanently decided by five largest quota holders. Applying these weights to all policy decisions and in the selection of a suitable head to lead the institution, representing 187 member countries, make the decision-making process totally biased against most of the countries.
- The 2008 and 2010 reforms have no doubt resulted in redistribution of weights in favour of emerging market group, including countries such as China and India, but, this has not altered the dominant position of the US and European countries in decision making.

Reforms needed to address this problem:

- **Voting rules:** At least for a handful of crucial decisions, a double majority of quotas and countries could be required, thus ensuring that those decisions affecting key aspects of the institution command unquestionable support.
- **Participative decision making:** The dynamic of decision-making has to be changed to decisively increase the input of developing and emerging economies.
- **Quota reforms:** Recently, the International Monetary Fund has made country quota reforms agreed by the G20 in 2010 a reality. Under this emerging and developing economies gained more influence in the governance architecture of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **Affirmative facility for borrowing:** Borrowing capacity and raising fund resources must be determined through current economic positions and performance of member countries rather than on fixed norms.

If implemented, about 6 percent of quota shares will shift to emerging market countries. As a result, quota shares of traditionally strong economies such as the United States, Saudi Arabia and European countries will be diminished.

Conclusion:

The IMF could turn irrelevant unless it reforms to keep up with rival global institutions and reflects contemporary global economic reality. With its core resources increased, IMF will be able to better respond to the ongoing financial crisis.

3. What is G-7? Who are the members of this grouping? How do decisions taken by the members of the G-7 affect the world in general? Examine.

Introduction

The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries, with the seven largest IMF-described advanced economies in the world, represent 58% of the global net wealth (\$317 trillion).

Body

Decisions taken by G-7 members affect the world:

- **Huge wealth:** The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal bloc of industrialised democracies. Its current members make up nearly 50 percent of the world economy, and represent more than 58 percent of net global wealth.
- **Trio power:** Because economic power, military and political power, the G7 forum has also become a place for prominent international crises or disputes to be discussed or resolved.

- **Multiplier effects:** Power gives the G-7 great influence on the policies, programs, and decisions of the UN Security Council, World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- **Helps developing countries:** Attempting to answer globalization's critics, G-7 helps poor countries reduce their debt burden and increase their access to better education, health care, and information technology.
- **Flexibility in decisions:** The G7 takes no mandatory decisions, and the meeting is billed as an opportunity to allow leaders to exchange ideas in key issues. A leaders' declaration at the end of summit is not binding in nature.

Criticism:

- **Lack of implementation:** G7 countries have failed to implement many of the recommendations of past summits, notably those recently committing the U.S. and other wealthy nations to debt relief, reductions of carbon emissions, conflict prevention, and reform of the international financial architecture
- **No longer influential:** The G7 is no longer as influential as it once was because they exclude important emerging powers. Without China and other emerging global powers, the group lacks relevance.
- **G20 prevails:** Many analysts also believe the power and prestige of the G20, a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors from nineteen of the world's largest countries as well as the EU, has surpassed that of the G7.
- **New economic dynamics:** Emerging powers including Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa, whose absence from the G7 was often noted, all belong to the G20.

Conclusion

The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss, and sometimes act in concert to help resolve, global problems, with a special focus on economic issues. The group has discussed financial crises, monetary systems, and major world crises such as oil shortages. G-7 promotes collective decision-making, but critics note that it often lacks follow-through and excludes important emerging powers.

4. What are some of the longest pending and most pressing reforms in the United Nations (UN)? Is UN losing its significance? Critically comment.

Introduction

UNO is an intergovernmental organization which was made to replace the ineffective League of Nations in 1945 so as to avoid another world war. But during cold war, USA and USSR often paralysed the organization and it intervened only in conflicts not related to cold war thereby not fulfilling its mandate of peacekeeping in world.

Body

Although it did help in decolonization process. Even in post-cold war era it failed in its mission as seen in Somalia and Rwanda crisis. Several organs of UNO like UNESCO and UNICEF faced charges of corruption due to which several countries withdrew their funding. So due to above issues and also due to dynamically changing polarity of world and other emerging humanitarian, environmental crisis it certainly need some reforms.

Structural reforms

- **Expansion of UNSC:** The composition no longer reflects global geopolitical realities. Indeed, the Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG) now accounts for three of the five permanent members (France, the United Kingdom, and the US). That leaves only one permanent position for the Eastern European Group (Russia), one for the Asia-Pacific Group (China), and none for Africa or Latin America.
- The rotating seats on the Security Council do not adequately restore regional balance. Even with two of the ten rotating Security Council seats, the Asia-Pacific region is still massively under-represented. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for roughly 55% of the world's population and 44% of its annual income but has just 20% (three out of 15) of the seats on the Security Council.
- Asia's inadequate representation poses a serious threat to the UN's legitimacy, which will only increase as the world's most dynamic and populous region
- Do away with **Veto** power.
- **UN Secretariat Transparency reform:** Make the UN administration (usually called the UN Secretariat or "the bureaucracy") more transparent, more accountable, and more efficient, including direct election of the Secretary-General by the people.
- Efficiency and transparency watchdog to remove corruption issues. – Funding should not be voluntary and must be based on CBDR principle.

Functional reforms

- Decisions should be as far as possible based on consensus.
- Organizations like NATO should be avoided and be replaced by UNO forces in conflicts.
- UN secretary general should not be a rubber stamp and need more powers.

Is UN losing its significance

- Failure to ensure World Peace (Inability to stop devastating war in Syria, The Iraq invasion, the Libyan toppling, etc. happened in violation of UN protocol, and with little consequences, North Korea)
- Changing world order (Emergence of global south and **G4** UNSC bid), not reflected in a UN based on PostWW2 geopolitics (thwarted by leading powers).

- Most of the debate revolves around the stale questions of new permanent members of the security council or restrictions on the use of the veto. Both are desirable but neither will happen soon – or fix the deeper problem.
- Alternate institutions have emerged dealing with most of UN functions (G2's role in eco recovery, **G8's** role in global politics, etc.) that make its relevance questionable.
- The basic problem is that the council's founding premise of a world ordered by states no longer holds. Conflicts involving **Boko Haram or Islamic state** originate from particular local circumstances but often have regional and global reach and consequence. Designed to prevent and arbitrate state-to-state conflict, the council has failed to adapt to an entirely different world.
- **New challenges** have emerged (Cyber Security, Global commons, Climate Change) that the UN lacks the institutional expertise to deal with.
- The secretariat is subjected to **micro-management** by member states through various committees of the general assembly

However, the need for a UN is acute as:

- The only credible, respected and truly global organization.
- A forum to engage in debates and discussions to resolve global issues
- The only way to ensure global(near) consensus on critical issues(E.g. UNFCCC)
- Continues to be relevant to Global security and Human rights (UNCHR role, UNPKF, etc.)
- The only way to deal with rogue or belligerent nations, without escalation fears(Sanctions against Iran, Russia, North Korea).

Conclusion

The UN thus continues to be relevant even today, and any talks of its replacement, especially minus a viable alternative, are only immature.

5. What is 'Twitter diplomacy'? How is it changing the conventional wisdom? Discuss.

Introduction

Twitter diplomacy, also "Twiplomacy" or "hashtag diplomacy", is the use of social network and microblogging website, Twitter, by heads of state, leaders of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and their diplomats to conduct diplomatic outreach and public diplomacy.

Body

Twitter has taken on diverse and occasional roles in diplomatic communications, from cordial announcements of bi-lateral cooperation to terse exchanges and diplomatic jabs, as well as more casual posts.

More than 90% of the 193 nations registered at the United Nations had established government Twitter accounts. Among the world leaders, Barack Obama has the highest number of twitter followers, followed by Donald Trump. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is third in the List.

Few Examples of Twiplomacy include by our Late Ex- MEA Smt. Sushma Swaraj, also called as Supermom of the state, used her twitter handle on countless occasions to evacuate Indians trapped in dangerous conditions abroad, rescue Indian hostages, provide emergency consular services, coordinate humanitarian aid following natural disasters, issue passports etc. She is worlds most followed female leader on Twitter.

Changes

- The Communications earlier used to be only between the leaders of engaging nations, but now through Twiplomacy, leaders are reaching out to citizens of other nations too. Ex- Benjamin Netanyahu wishing Indians on Diwali.
- Earlier, Rivalries between nations were not displayed publically. But today leaders are not hesitant to share such thoughts through twitter. Ex- Trumps tweets on Iran, 2014 #UnitedforUkraine tweets from USA & Russia.
- Leaders are earning goodwill through twitter diplomacy. Ex- Quick response from Indian Railways to troubled travellers, has earned praises for Minister and the Organization. Similarly Late Sushma Swaraj earned massive respect from all across the globe.
- It is also being used to peddle fake news and run false propaganda. Ex- Recent Pakistan's official armed forces spokesperson tweets about human rights violation in Kashmir.
- It has also been used by countries to ease tensions. Ex- Iran and US engagement via the microblogging platform in the lead up to the historic Iran and P5+1 nuclear deal in 2015, which saw sanctions against Iran lifted in exchange for a drawing down of its nuclear program.
- Countries are expressing their support to other nation's decisions/views. Ex- France supporting India's Kashmir policy as internal affairs.
- Countries are coming together for common global causes. Ex- #plasticpollution by countries to spread awareness.
- Diplomats are showing respect to other nation's culture and values. Ex-Israel Diplomats twitter posts highlighting their Holi celebrations.

Conclusion

Ultimately, Twiplomacy will continue to unfold through time-honoured practices of engagement between states. However, dismissing the role of social media as an engagement tool, particularly Twitter, means potential openings for transformative change might well pass before they can be acted upon.