

## STATE: THE STAND, SYSTEM, POLICIES AND RELATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

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### ABSTRACT

*A state is what its people think is an ideal. The state has its stand at various levels from domestic to international which covers many matters of concern like social, political, economic, health, education, and so on. The present article focuses on the actual system of law of the state, the state itself, and the framing of policies for various fields. This article has tried to cover both sides of the system like how it works and what exactly it meant to be worked. Also, how many of the decisions of any state at different levels work, and what are their consequences? An image of any state and its bond with the other states is decided by the principles the state follows, the role it plays at the global level either as a state, contributor, or mediator, and ideal as well as friendly relations. A state is what needs to stand firm for its people and maintain its diplomatic relations. This article has tried to differentiate between a state, country, and a nation, its roles, stand, system, policies, and international relations.*

**Keywords:** International Relations, Stand, System, Policies, State.

### INTRODUCTION

Many times country, nation, and state are used simultaneously or as synonyms for each other but there is a slight difference in the concepts. A country is a geographical territory of any particular area with defined borders. Also, indicates the part of a continent to specify the area like African Countries. The word country is used to denote or talk about many things that specifically cover or become the center of focus like the economy, government, physical or geographical state, and so on.

A nation is something where people share a common identity mostly of ideas we follow or principles, culture, and religion. No matter where you go in the whole world this common sharing or identity will not change but it can be influenced or tend towards following

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different cultures, languages, or sometimes religions. This happens due to migration or permanent settlement either for job, education, or other such reasons. People share their followings with others and over time we continue the same once we accept it. This common sharing can be prominently seen through food, clothing patterns, or way of celebration.

On the other hand, a state is a political concept that gives the right of sovereignty to any independent country and the recognition as a state by other sovereign states over the world. Unless any country becomes a state, its scope of rights at the international level is limited or none. These types of countries with no recognition as a state cannot be a part or member of international organizations.

A state is a defined territory that has its laws, government, principles, constitution, and stands and rights at the world level. The rights of the state are a complex topic to discuss. It not only includes the right to own a state but many times gives the right to another state to decide something about any other state concerning political, economic, and humanitarian stability. Many times some states impose restrictions on other states with the intention to protect its people, the human race, or the state itself. These impositions vary for purposes like health, war, or other such things. These impositions are known as diplomatic sanctions. These international sanctions can be divided into three parts: economic, diplomatic, and military sanctions.

If we talk about the sanctions, the UK sanctions on Russia come to the front. In the war between Ukraine and Russia or the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the EU, the UK, the US, and other allies have sanctioned many Russian sections targeting Russia's financial sector, aviation and shipping, defense, energy, and such sectors. Russia is now the most sanctioned country in the World.<sup>1</sup>

At present, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) which is a security-oriented intergovernmental organization are the three main authorities imposing sanctions.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> House of Commons Library, Benefit Cap, House of Commons Library, 17 July 2024, <<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9481/>>, accessed, 19 July 2024

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, International Sanctions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, <[\[www.jlrjs.com\]\(http://www.jlrjs.com\)](https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/PoliticaExterior/Paginas/SancionesInternacionales.aspx#:~:text=At%20present%20there%20are%20three,Cooperation%20in%20Europe%20(OSCE)></a>>, accessed, 19 July 2024</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Over the world many countries are respected among all, some countries are trying to get on the table while some most well-known countries are sanctioned and some are still fighting to get either independence or recognition as a state. All these scenarios are different from each other and have two opposite sides or points on the same line. It's a great wonder that we are moving forward towards the 22nd century and still, we have many of the basic issues. It is a great topic to talk about things that are lagging us behind also it is necessary to focus on the loopholes and mistakes that should be avoided.

Some states that are not recognized by the UN include Kosovo though it declared its independence in 2008 is still not a UN member state as China and Russia used veto rights and declared the independence of Kosovo illegal.

Nagorno-Karabakh declared its independence in 1991 from Azerbaijan but to date, no issue of recognizing it as a member has been revised and only their entities recognize its independence.

Other such regions or countries include South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Transnistria or the Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic, New Russia or the Union of People's Republics, The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and Taiwan or the Republic of China.<sup>3</sup>

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There are many small countries which are very famous and export valuable things around the world. One such country is Aruba, part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Aruba has full autonomy on all internal affairs. Aruba's top exports are tobacco, liquor, refined petroleum iron, and orthopedic appliances.<sup>4</sup>

The thing that matters here is no matter how small the country is and whether it is a state or not what matters is no state can run on its own. For various reasons, every country needs others where the import and export share a crucial and huge part in it.

Recognizing the countries as a state will be beneficial for itself and the other existing states. The general criteria for any country to be recognized as a state is that it must be recognized

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<sup>3</sup> Marine Mulcey, translated by Lucie Perrier, A World Tour of the States not recognized by the UN, *Le Journal International*, 9 July, 2015, <[https://www.lejournalinternational.fr/A-World-Tour-of-the-States-not-recognized-by-the-UN\\_a2998.html](https://www.lejournalinternational.fr/A-World-Tour-of-the-States-not-recognized-by-the-UN_a2998.html)>, accessed, 19 July 2024

<sup>4</sup> The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) Aruba (ABW), <<https://oec.world/en/profile/country/abw>>, accessed, 19 July 2024

by the existing states at the international level.

Whether the country has recognition as a state at the international level or not it still has to perform all of its duties towards its people. Once it is recognized by the other existing states, its responsibilities increase as it has to take and prove its stand at the domestic as well as international levels. It is not just about responsibilities but it also plays a role as a friend, and mediator and expands the scope to enter into various pacts.

## **STAND**

Stand of any state simply means how the state acts or behaves at domestic and international levels regarding various matters concerned. This covers all the things like the economy, politics, society, health and education, defense sector, and so on. Any global issues like climate change, human rights, refugees, war, and pandemics are the real challenges for any state to stand firm, and maintain its image at the global level, and the main thing here to maintain is relations with other states. If it takes any decision or step and if it violates international laws, norms, or any rules and rights then sometimes it becomes hard for that state to negotiate and sometimes leads to destroy or end friendly or business relations with that or other state.

Foreign relations of the countries also become a reason to start a new project or work on when they share common international like the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) initiative for 21 states intended to promote free trade among countries of the Pacific rim and East Asia especially.

Many times states fail to perform the basic functions of government and it becomes a fragile state. It has many reasons behind it which share a big part in mankind a state fragile such reasons are security, law, defense, taxes, and control over territory and borders.<sup>5</sup>

## **STAND AT THE DOMESTIC LEVEL**

Just like the responsibilities at the international level, a state is more responsible at the domestic level and to its people. As a rule of the government, a state has to fulfill all of its obligations and perform duties to serve the nation and its people. Though the domestic level

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<sup>5</sup> The Economist, International relations A to Z, <<https://www.economist.com/international-relations-a-to-z#R>>, accessed, 19 July 2024

seems smaller as compared to the international level all of the interest and purpose of the state lies in the domestic level. Getting stronger and uplifting the nation by investing and upgrading all the matters and fields in the nation makes the state stand firm and sears the best palace at the international level.

The system of each nation is different sharing some sort of similarities but the interest of the state is the same all over the world. Any state passes the test to stand at a global level by making the domestic better which establishes the trust in the eyes of the other states and this step opens the door for states to enter into the system of the world.

Uplifting and upgrading the domestic level is not as easy as it seems to be. It takes several years to make a complete change. The ongoing or followed system has been in progress for many decades and when any state or its people due to any reason thinks to change the system it becomes a huge challenge to do so either due to lack of support from people or government or due to criticism. Demands from people to change some part of the system or the entire system or law or opposition to any decision of the government by the public is the main reason which makes the challenge even harder for the state. A recent example of this is the replacement of all three main criminal laws in India. The old laws have been in the system since the colonial era and now in the last year, Indian Parliament passed new criminal laws as a replacement for the old ones, which shook the entire nation and many people including lawyers and Bar Associations are demanding to change some part in new criminal laws.

Handling all the issues at the domestic level is not an easy thing; it takes so much energy, effort, funds, and time plus administration of the state. Demands, criticism, needs, and changes are never-ending and over time take another mode.

On the other hand, introducing and implementing new schemes or policies sometimes becomes a headache for the state as it takes much of its funds and has to face many challenges while doing so.

Clashes between the state and people keep the state and system busy in that clashes only and the key issues get ignored. These key issues include geographical tensions, and making decisions on global issues like refugees, war, pacts, and so on.

## **VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE AND STANCE AT UNITED NATIONS**

International law is a body of rules and regulations at a global level that applies to all the sovereign states equally with some kind of changes for some states as per their stand, image, and relations with other states in international law.

International laws are mostly made up of treaties and these treaties decide the role of any two states between them and among or towards the other states. Along with the treaties International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court also share a big game part. These courts deal with matters between two or more sovereign states and the binding nature of judgment with no further appeal shows the power, importance, and nature of international law.

For governance, a general and simple definition can be the functioning of the system at the state level and its acceptance by people. Any country or state is recognized by how good its governance is and how strong and flexible the system is.

Any sovereign and recognized state that is a member of the UN has the right to have a stance at the United Nations and give an opinion. United Nations is a huge organization that consists of many states and deals with nearly every matter like hunger, poverty, refugees, education, and many more. Every program has a separate department and it also runs many programs and campaigns throughout the world to make people aware of their rights, providing support and help to them and working to uplift them. Its good thing is that it provides funds, and aids and its focus or work is shifted towards children, their education, and uplifting with principles of humanity. Many of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also share a big part in serving globally such organizations are Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and such.

### **POSITION ON GLOBAL ISSUES**

Global issues are the issues that are a threat to the entire world and humanity if ignored. These issues are at the world level and the name 'global issues' itself shows its spread or jurisdiction let's say. Some global issues are most common like climate change, poverty, hunger, refugees, economic instability, and such but some are the most pressing world problems and which are generally ignored. These issues are:

## Risks from AI

Humans are considered the most wisest animals on Earth. Today's world is covered by AI and in each field it is serving and making work easy. Governments and companies are spending billions of dollars every year on AI development and advancing its system. AI could fundamentally change everything. Though AI is beneficial for us and takes the work to ease it does not mean that it is all good. AI is developing itself and some of the risks from advanced AI could be existential in that they could cause human extinction or severe disempowerment of humanity.<sup>6</sup>

Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, Tesla, and owner of X said at the Great AI Debate seminar during the four-day Abundance Summit that by 2030 AI will be smarter than people which is why we need to be more careful. He also said that there's some chance that it will end humanity.<sup>7</sup>

## Catastrophic Pandemics

Pandemics are a risk to the existence of humanity. As per some researchers within the next 100 years, there is a greater than 1 in 10,000 chance of a biological catastrophe leading to human extinction. Spending much on biodefence and improving biosecurity including research will help greatly.<sup>8</sup>

Some other world pressing issues are Nuclear weapons, war, climate change, S-risks, artificial sentience, and so on. All the state governments and international laws need to shift their focus on these issues to save the world and humanity. Taking action is the most important step for now and if not now then never. We will miss the chance to control all these problems especially AI as it can modify itself.

## SYSTEM

The system is what is made up of the governance and how every field in the state is operated and works. Law forms the system and the system forms the law. This system shows the

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<sup>6</sup> Benjamin Hilton, Preventing an AI-related Catastrophe, 80,000 Hours, March 2024, <<https://80000hours.org/problem-profiles/artificial-intelligence/>>, accessed, 19 July 2024

<sup>7</sup> HT News Desk, Elon Musk says there's some chance AI will end humanity: 'It is like raising a child', Hindustan Times, Apr 2, 2024, <<https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/elon-musk-says-theres-some-chance-ai-will-end-humanity-it-is-like-raising-a-child-101711963110498.html>>, accessed, 20 July 2024

<sup>8</sup> The 80,000 team, Preventing Catastrophic pandemics, 80,000 Hours, December 2023, <<https://80000hours.org/problem-profiles/preventing-catastrophic-pandemics/>>, accessed, 20 July 2024

nature of any state like democracy, dictatorship, or other forms. Along with this one kind of system or type of government many institutions work as a system and its formation. There are various aspects of the system like the education system, political system, social system, judicial system, and so on.

This system does not only works at national level but it also works at the international level. The system works by forming its own rules without hurting any basic principle or rule of the constitution of any country or state.

This system is seen as the wheel that runs the country but many times on average we can say above 50% or more it gets blamed by various public groups, organizations including NGOs, and government institutions. Several loopholes in the system are not meeting the contemporary world and the needs of the states. This issue is global criticism of the system and government is the most common thing all the world. Such loopholes in the system and governance are nothing but a threat to democracy and not only to democracy but to the dictatorship also. Like people or citizens of a particular country when raising their voice they have the power to change the government and this thing is mostly done by the revolution. History has many examples of this thing of change in power. French Revolution can be seen as an example of this as many things become reasons behind the French Revolution like excessive taxation, human rights, debts, wars, economic hardship, and so on.

The system fails when it doesn't meet the needs of its people and works for the upliftment of the state in all its fields from necessities like food, infrastructure, and employment to technology. It can be said that when the authorities and people fail to perform their duties and obligations towards the state and just focus on having rights; the system fails and this makes the state lose control of all of its affairs whether internal or external.

Though the system has many loopholes and criticism still this is the only thing that protects and serves the nation and its people. Without having a system no state can survive.

As the system has many aspects like political, social, economic educational, and so on, the educational and political system matters a lot for any country. These two along with the economic factor are the pillars of any state. And what comes into the focus as the main lead of these pillars is the youth. Youth is the main asset or capital of any nation and its condition is educational and economical shows how the state is doing and on which track it is moving forward. Forward or backward? The system denotes.



Good governance becomes just a word or a concept like a fairytale when these four important pillars of the state suffer. The main duty of the state is to fulfill all of its obligations towards the state and people to uplift both and maintain its stand at the global level with its relations with other states.

The states shall invest more in uplifting and developing the education, health, and economic sectors as these sectors will take the nation to its apex positively. States shall imply new and suitable systems to these sectors and shall research these systems' pros and cons, how these systems work in other states, and what measures should we take to develop these sectors. All these points are covered under the responsibilities and duties of the state. If we talk about education, literacy rates all over the world vary depending upon the developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries. As per the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Chad has the lowest adult literacy rate. While Germany ranks first in education with 99% literacy and a 0.94 ranking.<sup>9</sup>

All these education and the image of any state are tested and considered as good governance only when they meet the necessities of the education, health, and economic sectors need over the state. If we talk about the health system, Singapore has the top ranking followed by Japan and South Korea respectively as per The Health Index Score 2023.<sup>10</sup>

And for India, it still ranks 145th out of 195 countries in the healthcare access and quality index.<sup>11</sup> All these sectors are interconnected with each other. Working on one sector will automatically uplift the other is a simple measure to solve these issues. But what it requires is quality in work and discipline. Though the country is considered as one it is always divided in many parts based on geographic or physical and political measures. To have a sole development it is a must that the last person in the state benefits from the services. The more the state serves and invests in its people, the more it flourishes.

## POLICIES

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<sup>9</sup> World Population Review, Education Rankings by Country, <<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/education-rankings-by-country>>, accessed, 21 July 2024

<sup>10</sup> Preeti Vankar, Health and health systems ranking of countries worldwide in 2023, Statista, March 5, 2024 <<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1376359/health-and-health-system-ranking-of-countries-worldwide/>>, accessed 21 July 2024

<sup>11</sup> Neetha Joy, World Health Day 2023 Importance of bringing private innovations to public healthcare in India, Moneycontrol, Apr 7, 2023, <<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/health-and-fitness/world-health-day-2023-importance-of-bringing-private-innovations-to-public-healthcare-in-india-10379671.html>>, accessed, 21 July 2024

Policies are generally made by the government to take further action regarding the matter of the policy like a systematic plan for something through which the government is looking forward to achieving some goals for example food policy, foreign policies, and so on. On the other hand, a scheme is something that is designed to achieve a particular defined goal like employment or any schemes by the government available to its citizens only.

All these policies mostly include various important sectors of the state. All these important sectors are social, economic, health and education. Though these sectors change from state to state some of these are similar and common in each state. Introducing and executing all these policies and schemes is a part of the government's responsibility towards its people.

State or local governments introduce these types of policies from time to time to support and uplift the nation and its people. All these policies are at the domestic level. If we talk about India, for every state there is a different policy introduced by the particular state government. Also, some of the policies are national and are applicable all over the india with same rules.

All these policies need a great sum of money and funds also require a high level of maintenance and administration. These domestic policies can be both beneficial or detrimental either for the state itself or its people. The state has to ensure that these policies and schemes do not create a burden on the budget. These policies are seen as a booster of economic growth as they invite foreign investors, enhance infrastructure, create jobs, and many more.

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## **FOREIGN POLICIES**

Foreign policy can be simply defined as the strategies of a country to guide, maintain, and create its friendly and business relationships with other countries. These foreign policies are influenced by domestic considerations and other plans of the state. The main goal of these policies for any country is development or we can say sustainable development. Some prominent things to consider while framing foreign policies are culture, requirements, goals, and challenges or issues both internal and external or global. Countries have to keep some things in mind while entering into foreign policies such as relations of one country with another, challenges they face, key issues they have, and their laws regarding internal and external policies.

And for India, people are taking an interest in foreign policies and issues as they matter

because they affect people's lives. The most important tool for foreign policy is diplomacy and if fails, the country generally resorts to coercion and military means.<sup>12</sup>

In the point of foreign policies, the matter of security is a top concern. Whether it be internal security or external security. All these issues at both levels make the country weak and slowly affect its performance with a high level of negativity. The most impactful issues are terrorism, climate change, Naxalism, refugees, war, and other such issues.

Some of the principles of India's foreign policies are great at meeting the committed purposes and principles of the United Nations. Some of the principles are solving conflicts by peaceful means, sovereignty, and equality for all nations. Other than the principles of India's foreign policy of No First Attack is also great at its apex.

A well-crafted foreign policy takes the nation to another level and best protects its interest by providing a larger scope to enhance and establish foreign relations also works great in the field of security. With all these things and dealing with the key issues, comes Human Rights, equality and equity india was the first country to raise the question of racial discrimination in South Africa in 1946 and also aims at eradicating colonialism.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

The important thing that matters today is how International relations are going and much more importantly how they are impacting the state and similarly on the other aspects concerning international relations. As international relations cover the interactions and behaviors that originated within the country, what matters here is how the state sets an angle towards any issue and where the decision of the state tends. There are only two possibilities of the consequences of any decision that is positive or negative. Either way, it is going to impact the international relations of those two or more states.

Alliances, treaties, and partnerships have a big role to play in the game of international relations. These things work as the prominent steps in establishing and maintaining international relations.

Economic growth, expenditure, and foreign debts are also a focus. International Monetary

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<sup>12</sup> Rajiv Sikri, India's Foreign Policy- Determinants, Issues and Challenges, Ministry of External Affairs, Feb 13, 2017, <<https://www.mea.gov.in/distinguished-lectures-detail.htm?632>>, accessed, 21 July 2024

Fund, Asian Monetary Union, and other UN organizations of all departments must not be ignored in the light of all the aspects of the economy of the states.

Having similar issues and concerns or a geographical area tends to take a great stand at establishing friendly deep-rooted relationships among the countries except some countries. Not only this, many of the countries are trying hard to leave their footprints in among the sectors from economy, and health to ocean and space and the technology too. Over the last two decades, many second-world countries have notably working in achieving great success in space and research. Along with securing the field of space, technology, and research countries at a higher level are investing in the defense sector by owning various types of weapons including nuclear weapons. The defense sector is a vast topic to talk about.

## CONCLUSION

The thing is what matters here is what we learn from the mistakes or past. If anything has happened in the past and we have celebrated that if the same thing happens in the present what comes into center or consideration is that we learn from the past and mistakes during the period of peace.

States have many powers that anything can be achieved by using them properly and wisely. After all, all the states have 50% or more similarity in all the things from humans to government and law to the state. This topic is not easy to understand and decide anything on certain things but this is the topic to study more and make flexibility in all the things which are of great concern.