

**Answer:**

The **Paris Peace Conference** held after the end of WWI, established the League of Nations. The primary objectives of the League were to **promote international peace and security** by **settling international disputes** through **principle of collective security** and to seek **international cooperation for socio-economic development** across the world.

#### **Role of the League of Nations in maintaining International peace**

- **Resolution of international disputes:** The League sought to peacefully resolve territorial disputes between the members. For instance, it persuaded Greece to pay compensation to Bulgaria, when the former invaded the latter.
  - It also **solved a territorial dispute between Peru and Columbia**.
  - In 1921, when there was a **dispute regarding Upper Silesia** between Germany and Poland, the League successfully made both the parties reach a settlement and Upper Silesia was partitioned between the two.
- **Opium trade and plight of refugees:** The League also worked to combat the **international trade in opium and sexual slavery** and **helped alleviate the plight of refugees**, particularly in Turkey in the period to 1926. One of its innovations in this area was its 1922 introduction of the **Nansen passport**, which was the first internationally recognised identity card for stateless refugees.
- **Monitoring the Governance of Mandates:** The **Permanent Mandates Commission** supervised League of Nations mandates, and also **organised plebiscites in disputed territories like SAAR region of Germany**, so that residents could decide which country they would join.
- **Promotion of human welfare:** The **League's Health organization** played a key role in finding causes of different epidemics. It was especially successful in combating the Typhus epidemic in Russia which had the potential to spread to the rest of Europe.

However, **the League had certain limitations like:**

- **It had limited success in preserving international peace** as it failed to intervene in many conflicts leading up to World War II, including the **Italian invasion of Abyssinia, the Spanish Civil War, and the Second Sino-Japanese War**.
- Further, the **League was powerless and mostly silent in the face of major events leading to World War II** such as **Hitler's remilitarisation of the Rhineland, occupation of the Sudetenland** and Anschluss with Austria, which had been **forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles**.
- General weaknesses within the organization, such as **voting structure** that made ratifying resolutions difficult and incomplete representation among world nations.
- Additionally, the power of the League was limited by the **United States' refusal to join**.

Thus, though the organization managed to de-escalate some tensions between nations and contributed to the concept of international law, the League was unable to prevent member nations from starting World War II.

#### **12. What are the factors that led to the Russian Revolution of 1917? Discuss its consequences.**

**Approach:**

- Present a brief introduction about the Russian Revolution.
- Highlight the conditions which led to the Russian Revolution.
- Highlight the impact of the Russian Revolution across the globe.
- Conclude accordingly.

**Answer:**

The Russian Revolution (1917) comprises two significant revolutions/events. First, the **February Revolution** which led to the end of the rule of the Czar and the establishment of a Provisional government, and second, **the October revolution** resulted in overthrowing of the Provisional Government in a coup by Bolsheviks and the consequent establishment of a communist state in Russia.