

Political Science & International Relations**Crash Course & Test Series - 2023****Test 4****Time Allowed: 3 Hours****Max Marks: 250**

Name Astha Jain
Test Date 28/July
Email Address _____
UPSC Roll No 868492

Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						

For any issue related to PSIR Test Series, write only at
psirtestseries@shubhiraaranjan.com

	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

All the best for next test...!!!

Que.1 (a)

Role of Parliament in the Indian Foreign Policy making. (10 Marks)

Indian foreign policy aims to achieve "A rightful place in the comity of nation." For this various macro and micro variables play role in policy formulation.

Parliament is the central institution in India's policy making architecture. Just like it play role in domestic politics, it influence foreign policy as well in following ways -

1) Deliberations over critical government foreign decision, from the prism of national security, development and core principles.

Example, Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal

was discussed in parliament.

- 2) Control over MEA budget :- By exercising control over MEA finances, it signifies its role in ensure fiscal accountability.
- 3) Consensus Building :- It gives government stand, the legitimacy and consensus it should have.
- 4) Parliament approval necessary for key decisions - (eg) India - Bangladesh land boundary settlement.

But parliament's effectiveness is limited to its complex functioning, overburdening, MP's capacity to discuss multifaceted issues.

Parliamentary Committees should act as 'chamber of consensual foreign policy making'.

Que.1(b)

Impact of Abraham Accord on India's West Asia Policy. (10 Marks)

Abraham accords were termed as 'Deal of the century' and 'gamechanger' in the politics of west Asia. These were signed between Israel, UAE and Bahrain, to normalise relations of Arab Nations with Israel.

Its impact will be direct on India's foreign policy as Indo-Israel ties are growing and India is playing as a Key player in West Asian politics.

Abraham Accord gives maneuver to India to pursue strengthening of ties with Israel without offending

Arab Nations. As Israel and UAE will come closer, India's relation with both will see a monumental upliftment.

After Abraham accord, US brokered another pathbreaking deal, I2U2 which shows centrality of India in West Asian politics and its role as a regional balancer.

I2U2 is important for India from multiple perspective — from geo-economics (trade, investment) to geopolitical (countering Chinese influence).

Moving forward, India can take over US' place in West Asia, as US moves towards Indo Pacific.

Que.1(c)

Non-Alignment 2.0 . (10 Marks)

Non Alignment was India's signature concept in foreign geo-politics after independence. It represents independent foreign policy, away from engagement in Cold war and great power politics.

After the end of Cold war, Non Alignment as a policy was almost discarded as the government called it 'concept of particular era and particular geography'.

But in recent times, New Delhi is reinvented Non Alignment into its new avatar N.A. 2.0.

NA 2.0 is significantly different from NA 1.0 as it focus on multiple engagement rather than non-engaging. It focus on active participation in world politics, issue based partnership with different regions.

As PM Modi said, we are shifting from maintaining equal distance to creating equal partnership. It's rooted in realism and pragmatism, suited to 21st century's India.

Non Alignment 2.0 shares common ground with NA 1.0 as both focus on strategic autonomy. The end is same while the means have evolved.

Que.1(ii)

Indian ocean has become a key determinant of India's foreign policy at present. Critically examine. (10 Marks)

'one who will control Indian Ocean will control the world.'

— Mahan.

For a long time, India saw itself as a land power, focussing on land boundary issues. This led to 'strategic neglect' of Indian Ocean.

But in present time, the axis of India's foreign policy revolves around Indian ocean, as India emerge as 'Maritime power'.

India is taking various initiatives to pursue the objective of free, open

and secure Indian ocean. It is engaging neighbouring countries as well as global powers in the region.

SAGAR is the overarching concept of India's maritime diplomacy, focussing on building partnerships, disaster management, securing sea lane of communication. Other initiative include IORA, SAGARMALA, IONS.

QUAD also focus on Indian ocean as part of Indo-Pacific. India is also collaborating with France, Africa, west Asian for securing its interest in the region.

Apart from Indian Ocean, India has not lost focus on land frontier as it lunched Act East, look west.

Que.1(e)

India-Japan Relations. (10 Marks)

India-Japan ties are rooted in civilisational, historical and cultural connections. They both share democratic values, converging geopolitical interest, as Japan falls in 2nd concentric circle (Mandala Theory).

David Malone held that in the beginning, the relations were rather 'Tepid' as India was a closed economy. conducted nuclear test, which Japan opposed.

But in present days, they both have multidimensional relations - ranging from geopolitical to geoeconomics.

Japan is a source of investment in India and Japan-India bilateral trade are growing at faster pace. Japan is investing in bullet train, Smart cities (sister city of Varansi and Tokyo) etc.

Politically, they both are collaborating to counter Chinese influence. For instance, Asia-Africa Growth corridor, QUAD etc. They both aim for free and open Indo-Pacific.

Going forward, they both can work together in resolving their issues such as trade environment in India, Japan-China ties. And collaborate in emerging areas such as Space, Tech., health, defence production.

Que.2(a)

India's China policy is of profound importance for the current Indian government. What strategic goals India should pursue to protect its vital Interest? (20 Marks)

Rise of china is the most defining reality of 21st century. It's challenging not only U.S. but also India's vital interests (security and peaceful borders).

To suit the changing dynamics in Asian geopolitics, Indian policy towards china is moving on 2 simultaneous tracks — ENGAGEMENT and containment.

we are engaging wherever possible — from voicing for reforms in multilateral institutions like WTO, to trade ties. We are part of many regional organisation

like BRICS, SCO.

At the same time, India is aiming for internal and external balancing vis-a-vis China. We are engaging with US (QUAD) to counter Chinese influence. Our increasing ties with Japan, South East Asia, also shows proactive approach of India.

Our strategic goals are to ensure China's rise don't threaten our own rise, border issues are resolved amicably. PM Man Mohan Singh said, there is enough space for both India and China to rise.

Our aim is to ensure our survival in the challenging security

environment. After Galwan Clash, we are strengthening our military to counter Chinese aggression.
Eg - S400 deal with Russia.

As China is growing its footprint in India's backyard, India's traditional position in South Asia is getting challenged. China is following policy of 'String of pearls' which encircles India.

To counter it, India is engaging with neighbours and stepping up to ensure Indian ocean remains its area of hegemony. (Eg) - Recent financial help to Sri Lanka, SAGAR policy - IORA, IONS.

As geopolitical theatre is shifting towards Indo-Pacific, India is stepping up its footprint in the region. QUAD is seen by many as Anti-China grouping.

Our concerns also arise in geo-economic realm as trade deficit with China grows. Recent action of GOI to ban Chinese app, shows growing security concern vis-a-vis China.

As per Mandala theory, India-China are bound to collide. more so as China aims for China century rather than Asia century and Sino Centric world. India's policy is shifting to this new reality, based in pragmatism & realism.

Que.2(b)

Discuss India's vision of the New World Order and its approach to the changing world order. (15 Marks)

World order signifies the norms, rules and ideas that shape world. After the world war II, US established New World order in the form of Liberal world order.

Liberal world order contain the policy of free navigation, open diplomacy, free trade and building multilateral Institutions like WTO, IMF. This world order is going under significant shift in recent times.

India's vision of world order is rooted in its civilisational values from Vedic society. It's

Based on 'Vasudev Kutumbkam' (world as family) signifying cosmopolitan approach.

India's nationalism as defined by Surobindo was based on neo-Vedantism, based on humanism.

This is reflected in our vision of world order ~~base~~ as 'Lotus petal' signifying equality of all nation.

our vision is reflected in Article 51 of Constitution which advocates respect for international law, maintaining just & peaceful relations, dispute resolution by arbitration and multilateralism.

Shashi Tharoor mentions that India can be a developmental Superpower

shaping world order towards democracy
and pluralism.

Our approach to changing world order is also based on our vision. We are following Kautilya Arthashastra which teaches 'Strategic' outlook based on realism.

As the world order is challenged by China and various security threats, India is approaching with a view to safeguard its vital interest. It's pursuing internal and external balancing by engaging with multiple powers.

'Wisdom is in changing as per changing order' - Trivalluvar, India is following this mantra.

Que.2(c)

How do you look at India's current approach towards Quad? Do you think Quad is India's China containment strategy or India's own strategic outreach to position itself in emerging world order? (15 Marks)

Quad is the strategic partnership of 4 democracies — India, U.S.A, Japan and Australia. The idea was first mooted by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe and has taken significant role in current geopolitical flux.

India's foreign policy is shaping according to the changing strategic environment, reflecting both continuity and change. As India is pursuing multiple alliance, QUAD has become important pillar of India's strategic outreach.

India's approach toward QUAD is based on its hedging policy vis-a-vis China but at the same time, India is not looking at QUAD as military alliance.

India is putting energy in QUAD to position itself as a Great power and Net security provider in the region. It's part of India's Indo-Pacific outreach strategy to engage with regional powers, ensuring free & open Indo Pacific.

QUAD can also provide avenue of India's growth. Japan's tech, Australia's funds, US' strategic influence and India's talent can combine to form

mutually beneficial relations.

QAD is seen as India's China containment strategy, as China point QAD as Anti China grouping. But it's a partial truth. India did want to balance rising China but QAD's major focus is more economic & strategic.

Going forward, India has to maintain delicate balance to not let itself distracted by narratives and continue multiple alliances such as QAD.

QAD can work on a range of issues such as health, technology, security threats etc.

Que.5(a)

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. (10 Marks)

Vasudev Kutumbkam literally mean 'world as a family'. It's based on India's cultural values rooted in Vedanta philosophy of cosmopolitanism.

It signifies the fundamental oneness of humanity, how we all belong to one race, one earth and we all have one future. This was reflected by Swami Vivekanand, when he addressed Americans as brother & sister.

In recent times, India is popularising it as part of its soft power, making it theme of G20 in 2022-23.

India vision of new world order is also based on this philosophy. We represent tolerance and pluralism for fellow beings.

In International relations, this idea can be of monumental significance. As the world is grappling with numerous issues — Ukraine War, COVID crisis, civil wars and rising protectionism, this idea remind us the importance of collaborating with each other.

Vasudha Kutumbakam can counter anarchy of international politics, curb trust deficit and increase mutual cooperation to counter various emerging threats like Climate Change.



Que.5(b)

India's recent approach to Israel-Palestine conflict. (10 Marks)

Israel-Palestine conflict is termed as mother of all conflicts in West Asian region. Arab nations favor Palestine's historic rights over their land, while Israel secure it as 'Jew homeland'.

In between this conflict, India's approach shows both continuity and change. Historically, Gandhi & Nehru favored Palestinian cause.

But in recent times, starting from Narsimha Rao's to PM Modi, we are growing engagement with Israel, impacting our policy toward the conflict.

The current policy is 'De-hypernation' of Israel and Palestine and following independent approach towards both. India-Israel are cooperating on a range of areas from trade to defence, agriculture to geopolitics.

At the same time, we continue to stand for peaceful resolution of conflict and continue favoring a state solution. We criticise Israel's bombings, and give Palestine its due weightage.

The current policy reflects growing realism in India's foreign policy outlook.

Que.5(c)

International Solar Alliance. (10 Marks)

International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by India in the Paris Summit of UNFCC, 2015. It aims to create a community of nations investing in harnessing solar energy for sustainable development.

Since its launch more than 150 nations have joined it. This shows India's leadership role in climate change initiatives.

India's environment policy is based on its cultural value which respect nature. India support common but

differentiated responsibility (CBDR) as well as funds & tech. transfer from developed nations.

ISA, also, is based on collaboration between developed & developing nations, where developed countries will transfer funds to develop solar architecture in 'solar nations.'

ISA is linked with one earth one sun one grid initiatives aiming to build transnational chain of solar grids. India has taken other initiatives as well - CSRI, Life mission.

ISA is a step towards shifting to sustainable source of energy. It needs to be complimented with other initiatives to achieve Paris targets.

Que.5(d)

Atmanirbhar Bharat. (10 Marks)

Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self reliant India) is the policy launched by PM Modi's government aiming to spur manufacturing growth within India, achieving self reliance.

COVID-19 pandemic showed how important self reliance is. World witnessed broken supply chains, shortage in supply of critical material, 'weaponisation of import & exports'.

This resulted in rising protectionist policies worldwide, Atmanirbhar Bharat being a part of it. As a part of

Atmanirbhar Bharat package, GOI extended billions of rupee to various sectors.

In Infrastructure sector, GOI launched schemes like PM Gati Shakti, Bharat mala, Sagarmala etc. for Agriculture, Atmanirbhar Bharat focussed on food processing industries.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

also attempts toward self reliance.

Critics points out that India is moving back to pre LPG era with internal outlook. But Atmanirbhar Bharat aims for minimising imports, maximising exports.

It's based on promoting India's growth and build its economic power.



Que.5(e)

India's Strategic culture. (10 Marks)

Strategic culture refers to the norms, values and cultural ideas of a nation that shapes its strategic outlook towards the world.

George Tanham brought in light the discussion over India's Strategic culture, saying India lack strategic culture. India was never unified nation, so no coherent security policy, unlike China which has offensive strategic culture (Sun Tsu Ideas).

To counter Tanham ideas, Professor Morris Johns said India has rich strategic culture & Tanham is ethnocentric.

Max Muller said, no part of world have reflected upon such broad issues, with such depth as India.

Shiv Shankar Menon says tanham's view is biased as in India, political texts are not separated from religious texts, unlike west.

India strategic culture is based on Mahabharat which advocate protection of 'Dharma' at any cost. It's also shaped by Kautilya's Arthashastra which focus on geopolitics and realism

strategic culture shape India's foreign policy as we follow our ethos of 'Vasudev Kutumbkam' and pursue aim of 'Vishwaguru'



Que.7(a)

"The EU project has sometimes given the impression of being in perpetual crisis." Discuss the recent challenges to the EU Project especially in context of the Russia Ukraine crisis. (20 Marks)

European Union is the example of most successful regional organisation and tells the success story of 'functionalism,' and 'Sociological liberalism'

Both these theories focused on building 'functional linkages' and 'peace by pieces.' The attempt is to focus on 'low politics' issues first, such as trade and increase social interaction

Victor Hugo and Immanuel Kant (Perpetual peace) ideas inspired EU.

Starting from European Steel and Coal community, EU has come a long way.

EU has a parliament of its own which legislates on important regional issues. It's also a monetary union, Euro as currency of those nations who accepted it.

Schengen agreement also shows emergence of 'Security Community' with high level of Complex interdependence. EU has expanded in recent times, showing its growing power.

But at the same times, multiple challenges are breaking the EU project. Starting from 2008, Global financial



crisis, there is a rise of protectionism within EU nations. Failures in Greece economy also hurt EU's interest. Brexit shows rise of nationalist sentiment and rightist policies.

Russia-Ukraine war has cast a dark shadow over EU project as it put numerous short term to long term issues in front of it.

The foremost is energy crisis, EU faced critical shortage due to war. This is leading to rise of anti-EU sentiments. Also, Ukraine as 'Grain bowl' was important for EU's food security.

Ukraine war & inability of EU to

prevent it, shows weakness of EU
as safety valve of European nations.

Migration crisis triggered by war
will have long term impact, leading
to rise of anti-refugee sentiments,
more so in the times of economic
crisis.

Rightist parties are against EU as
it shows supranationalism. The war
can divide EU in europophobic &
europophilic nations.

But EU learns from its failures &
continue to evolve. It strengthens
after every crisis. The war can also
strengthen solidarity of Europe and
resentment against Russia.

Que. 7(b)

Enumerate the core objectives, fundamental principles and the current priorities of India's foreign policy. (15 Marks)

Foreign policy entails the core objectives, values and projected role a country takes upon itself. For any nation, foreign policy aims to exercise choices between different options, for nation's wellbeing.

Core objectives of Indian foreign policy —

1) Vital interest protection

Morgenthau classifies National interest into core and variable. India aims to protect its survival, sovereignty and stability amid current geopolitical flux.



2) 'Rightful place in the comity of Nations' (Nehru)

- India has ambition to be recognised as 'Great power'. For this we have taken initiatives like NAM, BRICS, SAARC.

3) Securing economic interest - trade, import of crude oil, minerals, etc. We are pursuing interest based partnerships.

Fundamental Principles

1) Vasudha Kutumbham (world as family) - we believe in humanism and respect for all.

2) Panchsheel :- focusing on respecting territorial integrity, non-



interference in internal matters and peaceful co-existence

- 3) free, open and inclusive world order, as also the Indo-Pacific.
- 4) Non-aggression:- As seen in our policy of 'No first use' of Nuclear weapons.

Current priorities

We currently aim to counter China's rising aggression, aligning with major powers for varied interest (QUAD), maintaining leadership role in South (NAM summit), ensuring free sea lanes of communication and increasing India's reach and footprint in the world.

Que.7(c)

"If 1971 Friendship Treaty was Indian response to the growing US-Pak-China entente, prospects of hegemonic China is a factor behind strategic engagement between US & India." Discuss. (15 Marks)

Foreign policy of any country is shaped according to prevailing geopolitical environment, necessity of its ensuring security of its vital interests.

The 1971 treaty of friendship was a result of growing UK-Pak-China entente, where India found itself at a disadvantage. India had wars with China & Pakistan, enmity with US.

To safeguard India's borders and sovereignty, India entered

into this treaty, coming out of its
'isolation and Non alignment'. It was
a right decision based on realism
and balance of power.

This treaty ensured USSR's alliance
in case anyone attack India, we
become de facto ally of USSR. We
got USSR's nuclear umbrella as
well.

Now, in recent geopolitical rivalry
between US- China and changing
world order with Chinese rise,
India is again shifting its policy
according to realities.

We are following policy of both
engagement with China as well as

Containing it by engaging with US and other powers—Japan, Australia.

US' policy of containing China look at India as a 'balancer' and a 'Swing state.' US is betting on India to counter China, projecting it as Net security provider.

India, on other hand, need to engage, to increase its economic, political and strategic leverage. US is providing India with defence tech, funds and intelligence. They both are participating in maritime exercises & multilateral foras (QUAD).

In coming times, as China became more assertive, strategic partnership of India US will see upward shift.



Que.8(a)

India has shown diplomatic resilience & leadership for forging unity in neighborhood in the war against Covid pandemic. Elucidate. What are the prospects of SAARC 2.0 in the current geopolitical environment? (20 Marks)

'We can change our friends, but we can't change our neighbours'
— Vajpayee (former PM)

This shows importance of neighbourhood for any nation. Neighbours are part of 1st concentric circle (Mandala Sidhanta), thus they are vital for nation's security.

India's relationship with neighbours has seen both ups and down, due to various factors. Historically, colonial legacy looms large over the region, and border issues act as bottleneck

for meaningful integration. Mutual mistrust further create problems.

But India follow policy of 'Neighbour-hood first'. It act as big brother for the region. In this spirit, it initiated formation of SAARC.

In present situation, India showed leadership in tackling COVID by forging units in region. It supplied 'Vaccines' under vaccine Maitri. Also, it formed COVID 19 task force in SAARC. Countries collaborated to supply critical medicines and also funds to manage economic crisis.

This created hope for resurgence of SAARC 2.0 as a medium of

continued cooperation in the region.

SAARC in its earlier avatar couldn't achieve its objectives. SAFTA didn't materialised, regional integration - on didn't happen and distrust continued. Inter regional trade was 5% only. This all due to geopolitics between India-Pak.

This legacy haunts the prospects of SAARC 2.0 as well. India-Pak relations are at their worst and India is following 'Isolate Pak' policy.

Border issues between nations are not resolved, creating tensions

and hurdles for regional integration.

China's misadventures in South Asia further challenge SAARC 2.0 as China divided countries between pro and anti India.

But at the same time, experts argue that SAARC can work based on 'Sociological liberal' approach'. If countries focus on 'geo-economic issues' (low politics), they can work for mutual benefit.

SAARC 2.0 can help in overcoming security dilemma and create security community in South Asia, by increasing complex interdependence.



Que.8(b)

Discuss the pros and cons of India's Nuclear Policy of No First Use. Do you think India should change this policy in light of Pakistan's recent terror adventurism? (15 Marks)

Nuclear weapons are termed as 'weapons of peace' by Kenneth Waltz. They form part of country's deterrence policy, by ensuring Mutually Assured destruction (MAD).

India acquired Nuclear weapons in 1998 after operation Shakti, due to prevailing geopolitical environment, the threat coming from Pak & China.

India's nuclear policy has following components —

- 1) No first use
- 2) No use against non nuclear states

- c) Credible minimum deterrence
- d) 2nd strike capability
- e) Commitment towards disarmament.

Pros of NFU

- 1) Cost effective - It allows India to reduce expenditure on building

Nuclear triad.

- 2) Peaceful use of nuclear tech - Nuclear tech can be used for creating clean energy

- 3) International image as responsible power

- 4) Civil nuclear deal with US, Japan, France, as its credibility is high.

- 5) Onus of escalation on adversaries.

In recent times, due to Pak's misadventures (Pulwama attack), experts are favouring changing NFO to deter Pak. They argue that Nuclear deterrence don't work in case of Indo-Pak.

Instability - stability paradox creates hurdle for continuation of NFO. But, changing this policy is not a wise option due to various 'pros' listed above.

NFO is crucial to ensure peace & stability in the region. To counter Pak's misadventure, India can focus on '2nd strikes' like Balakot.

Que.8(c)

"Till very recently India was seen a predominantly poor developing country with low visibility in global affairs. However, at present India seems to be writing a new dynamic future for itself." Elucidate. (15 Marks)

After Independence, India was crippled with colonial legacy of underdeveloped economy, mass poverty and low industrialisation. This impacted our weightage in the outer world.

Nehru followed the policy of non-alignment and focused on internal development through five year plans. Till 1991, India followed 'socialistic pattern' in economy.

Due to this policy, India suffered corruption, continued poverty and crisis in 1991. This led to reforms in

the form of liberalisation, privatisation & globalisation.

Since then, India is developing at a fast pace, leaving behind its tag of poor developing nation. It's carving a new future for itself.

This is visible in India's leadership of G20 this year. India hosting G20 summits, setting its agenda, show growing weightage in global affairs.

As geoeconomics dominate in India's engagement with outer world. India is engaging with Africa & Latin America, becoming a major

exporter of pharma, services etc.

India's participation in global institutions has also increased — from BRICS, SCO to QUAD, we are following 'multiple alignments'.

India is also expanding its reach in extended neighbourhood by participating in ASEAN regional forum, Act East.

India is increasingly taking part in major global issues like free & open Indo-Pacific, UN reforms, post pandemic economy.

World is realising that no meaningful solution of global issues is possible without India's participation.