



# SHUBHRA RANJAN

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## PSIR Answer Writing Module 2023

### Test 16

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Max Marks: 120

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Test Submission Date: 12.06.2023

Email Address:                     

#### Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. All questions are for **15 marks** each.
3. Word limit for each question is **200 words**.
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. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

| Q. No.       | Marks | Q. No.          | Marks |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Q1           |       | Q5              |       |
| Q2           |       | Q6              |       |
| Q3           |       | Q7              |       |
| Q4           |       | Q8              |       |
| Total Marks: |       | Evaluator Code: |       |

For any issue related to PSIR Test Series, write only at [psirtestseries@shubhrranjan.com](mailto:psirtestseries@shubhrranjan.com)


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|                            | 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,**

[illegible]



Que.1

"India-USA relation is not narrowed to bilateral gains"- S. Jaishankar. Elaborate on the diverse areas of convergences and divergences in the Indo-US relation. (200 words, 15 Marks)

PIVOT TO ASIA - Indo-US alliance will be the defining relationship of 21<sup>st</sup> century.  
- President Obama.

India and US have overcome the hesitations of past and are taking forward the relationship from estranged democracy to engaged democracy (DENNIX KUX).

Indo-US relationship has significant geopolitical aspects. With the rise of China and growing dominance in South China Sea and Indian Ocean. Collaboration with US in formation of QUAD for free, open, inclusive Indo Pacific is seen.



Economically, India, vs, western european countries and Japan have formed the supply chain resilience initiative (SCRI) for diversifying production away from china. Collaboration of US goes beyond bilateral relations in engagement at G7, G20, etc.

Strategically, India has imports from US Defence including chinook, C-17 globe master etc. US played a significant role in ensuring India's entry in MITC, Wassenaar, Australia group

convergence between the two is seen at Indo pacific, QUAD, Blue Dot Network, IPEF and freedom from high seas

Antony Blinken has praised the 2+2 dialogue as a testimony to democratic values and free citizenry



with bilateral trade crossing \$100 billion,  
the relation between two is now  
at an autopilot mode (shyam sharan)

However, divergences exist.  
In areas of agriculture and  
tariff, US is wary of Indian  
policies referring as "TARIFF KING"  
services w.r.t to foreign ownership,  
local presence, requirement and  
data localisation have issues.

WTO has also been in dead state  
since US has prevented its dispute  
resolution

India-US relationship is a mixed  
bag. While India needs to be careful  
of not being carried away by  
US Terminology (Happymon Jacob)

similarly, shyam sharan has  
highlighted that US finds it  
difficult to deal with a country  
that is neither its foe nor  
friend



Que.2

Afghanistan is an important asset for India's Connect Central Asia Policy. In light of Taliban gaining political power in the landlocked country, discuss India's opportunities and policies towards Afghanistan. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Afghanistan is a natural ally of India as per Kantaliya's Mandala Siddhant.

Due to its strategic location, Afghanistan has been a hot-bed for great power rivalry including USSR, Britain, USA and Pakistan. (GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES).

Afghanistan is a part of India's neighbourhood and a gateway to India's extended neighbourhood - critical to

connecting with West Asia (Iran, S. Arabia, Persian gulf). for strategic oil reserves, maritime choke points, economic corridors like INSTC and to contain Pakistan's expansion. (Kashmir Terrorism)



Since the takeover of Taliban in Afghanistan, India has now adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach to it. (following RICHARD CORDEN - Peace by Pieces approach).

Opportunities ~~for~~ <sup>in</sup> Afghanistan for India have been two fold:-

- a) Strategic location
- b) Mineral Resources.

India's policy has been to not to engage with Taliban officially, but engage Taliban informally.

We can address the security challenges from Afghan soil. via People-2-People exchanges <sup>which</sup> can help gain continuation of soft power in the country.

human aid extending to Afghanistan include vaccines and medicines

apart from this, India can work with regional players like SCO to connect with central Asia



India's engagement with Taliban has been in wake of rising international engagements - 14 Nations opened their mission. Apart from this, the influence of Pakistan has declined. The relationship has been mutually beneficial and there is a greater possibility of diplomatic engagement.

India's policy towards Afg-  
Delhi Declaration - towards<sup>a</sup> secure  
and stable afghanistan,  
ensure rights of its citizens,  
and ensure collective  
cooperation to end radicalisation  
and extremism.



Que.3

"India may be compelled to test again, and when it does, it's in US interest to avoid penalising it"- Ashley Tellis. Critically Examine Indian current posture on its nuclear policy. (200 words, 15 Marks)

India's official nuclear policy is towards a 'NO FIRST USE' Policy. It is rooted in a peaceful world order and India's civilisation values of Ahimsa.

India successfully tested Nuclear weapons under 1998 - operation Shakti. Back then, US imposed severe sanctions on India, but soon lifted it in line with the geopolitical compulsions.

Later, the Indo-US civil Nuclear Deal was signed in 2005, despite India being not a member of NSG.

Today, India is seen as a responsible power with its nuclear arsenal in line with credible minimum deterrence (Defensive Realism - Kenneth Waltz)



India's hostile neighbourhood compelled it to pursue deterrence by denial and not deterrence by punishment (K. Subramaniam).

Thus, the given geo-political tensions about the use of china and its muscle flexing at borders, led India pursue deterrence.

India's policy of No First use essentially means that India will not be the first attacker, but will follow with massive retaliation inflicting maximum damage.

However, there have been demands to change India's foreign policy approach. Deterrence has not prevented neighbours from conventional attacks (Mi, Galwan, Pathankot).



Further, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, highlighted that no first use is not engraved in stone.

With the emergence of low intensity warfare, the line between the conventional and nuclear weapons is blurring. Thus, needs revision.

Bharat Karnad has highlighted the limitations of NFU as a tool effective as a rhetoric yet a liability for serious war planning.

Thus, a revision is must in light of the changing realities. Yet, India is committed to a UNIVERSAL, NON DISCRIMINATORY VERIFIABLE DISARMAMENT.



Que.4

India's policy of dehyphenation of Israel and Palestine is a classic example of Balancing Act. Analyse Indian's improved relations with both the parties involved? Can India act as an mediator in the Israel-Palestine Conflict? Give reasons. (200 words, 15 Marks)

Indian foreign policy in Israel-Palestine has moved from unequivocal pro Palestine in 4 decades to tense balancing in the last three decades.

Dehyphenation, in international politics essentially refers to separating two warring factions to analyse and pursue independent relations between them.

During the 1948 Israel Palestine war and UN Mediated peace solution, India expressed deep concern over violence in Jerusalem. India expressed resumption of dialogue between Israel and Palestine.



Further, extended an unwavering support to two state solution.

PR Kumaraswamy, in his book, India's Israel Policy, highlighted the pragmatic nature of relations of pursuing National Interest than shared ideological affinities.

The Relation between 1992-2014 was a tumultuous one when the Gulf was broke in West Asia.

India was against any unilateral change in the relations.

Since 2014, India has aimed for closer and constructive engagement.

C. Raja Mohan has highlighted that the case of Indo-Abrahamic Accords is needed, given the growing importance of India in the geopolitical dynamics in West Asia.



India has been able to maintain robust relationship between the poles of West Asia including - the Arab countries of UAE and Saudi Arabia along with Israel.

India, by far has maintained strategic relations with both Israel and Palestine (Ashok Sharma)

scholars have highlighted that though there has been growing convergence of India and Israel, yet India rejected Jerusalem as capital of Israel at UN Resolutions. Thus, reflecting its firm policy that the

PALESTINE ISSUE MIGHT BE

AN ORPHAN BUT IT IS NOT OUT.



Que.5

The Coffee Club has been resisting India's permanent membership in the UNSC. Why does India demand a reformed UN? How do you think reformed multilateralism will help in uniting the Global South demands? (200 words, 15 Marks)

UNSC aims at safeguarding international peace and security, involved in international peacekeeping and sanctions and brings resolution on Member states. Currently, consists of P5, which reflects the geopolitical reality post WWII and needs serious revisions

India, has been demanding a reformed UN and its rightful place among the COMITY OF NATIONS. Further, the UNSC is not reflective of the international system after the Cold War. Overly represented by Europe, there is no representation from latin America and Africa



Further, membership of both permanent and non permanent members needs to be increased and allowing immediate re-election

India is fully aligned with G4 and L69 to abolish veto and ensure marked flexibility

India along with → Japan, Brazil, Germany (G4) are aiming for UNSC permanent seat. However, they have faced tough challenge from uniting for consensus (coffee club) comprising of Italy, Spain who oppose German inclusion, Australia, Canada and S. Korea who are opposed to the inclusion of developing countries who depend on substantial aid from them.



Similarly, Pakistan is opposed to India, just as Argentina opposes Brazil. The challenge remains at a standstill. Sanjay Baur, has highlighted that now India can't negotiate for itself alone except going for "all" principle. Reformed multilateralism is needed given the present geopolitical dynamics is in the state of flux. Herein, India sees itself as a rising power, a leader of Global South, not just a rule maker but a rule maker.

Stuenkel describes India's revisi-  
onist ambitions at the United Nations. One based on rich, varied and significant historic contribution to UN system.



Que.6

India has a long and deep tradition of contributing to the UN Peace Keeping Forces. Discuss the reforms that India has demanded in UNPKF? (200 words, 15 Marks)

India has given its whole hearted cooperation to UN peacekeeping - involved in 71+ missions and ~~sent~~<sup>sent</sup> over 2,50,000 personnel till date.

India has chaired three international commissions for supervision and control for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos as per 1954 Geneva Accords on Indo china. Apart from this, it has also been involved women contingents - including 2007 Liberia and 2022- south Sudan. They were involved in several activities including vocational training and medical assistance



India, being one of the biggest contributors to peacekeeping has suggested :-

First, Peacekeeping can't be a long term response to fundamental political problem.

second, reforms in the council are needed to help prevent the burdening of peacekeepers beyond their mandate.

Third, professionalism, humanitarian concern and gender equality has to be infused in the mandates

Fourth, given the rising crimes against peacekeepers accountability needs to be ensured.

Fifth, Institutionalisation of the system in order to promote innovation is needed

SUTAN CHINDY suggests that peacekeeping missions need to assimilate technology in their realm.



The contribution strengthens India's bid to a permanent member of UNSC. UN Ambassador, Syed Akbaruddin, highlights that India by any strategic calculations deserves a permanent seat in UNSC.

Further, he highlights that peacekeepers have to pay to valiant men and women to serve the cause of peacekeeping to incentivise change, institutionalism and best practices.



Que.7

"India has emerged as an influencing power in the new world order."  
Discuss the foreign policy approaches that India can adopt in the changing world order. (200 words, 15 Marks)

The current world order is in a state of flux. Complexity has been <sup>seen in</sup> shifting economic, political and technological global politics. In the world of change, India is increasing its efforts to rise upto the occasion.

Transition in the world order is being seen in realignment, dealignment and multialignment. Multitude of actors have restructured the relations between USA, Russia, China and Europe.

USA has adopted a protectionist attitude (tariff war, closing of economy). During the pandemic, USA was seen as a reluctant power.



There has been a shift of power from 'west to East' - the rise of China, Japan and India.

China has emerged as the 2nd largest economy, and has witnessed economic and political significance. Its ambitions are seen through actions and institutions such as BRICS, SCO, NDB, actions on IAC, in S. China Sea, growing power of Yuan

Similarly, India has been witnessing a rapid rise. Asian century will see the rise of India and China (S. Jaishankar)

Given the unprecedented complexity, with great powers, every move has been consequential. It is now necessary for India to realign it with National Interest

(Sri Nath  
Raghavan)



Sree Ram Chandra, suggests that in the choppy water of IR, India should bid for self reliance as its foreign policy which involves diversification of the basket of its strategic partners to involve multivector policy

As India's influence rises in the 'New World Order', as a leader of Global South, India no longer wishes to be seen as a passive recipient of the rules, but an active negotiator in rule making (SHYAM SARAN).



Que.8

India and China compete in the neighbourhood but cooperate in global affairs. Elucidate with suitable examples. (200 words, 15 Marks)

India and china relations can be understood as COMPLEX INTER DEPENDENCE (Robert Keohane) with disputed borders, trade deficit of \$120 billion and increasing rivalry in the Indian Ocean

Asian century will see the simultaneous rise of India and china (S. Jaishankar). However, the century has seen more disputes than cooperation.

Competition in neighbourhood in the wake of belligerent aggression at Doklam, Galwan and incursions at Arunachal Pradesh.



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Space for Rough Work



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