

Class Notes**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 2020 PART 1: BASIC**

Syllabus: International Relations : Neighbours, Non Neighbours, Institutions, Agreements

50 Marks: 800-1000 words

Pattern 1 : 800 words Generally 4 questions (150 W/ 10 M + 150 W /10M+ 250 W/ 15M+ 250 W/ 15M)

Pattern 1: 1000 words Generally 4 questions 250 Words * 4 = 12.5 Marks each

Upsc Question in Mains:**Type- Institutions :**

1. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15)

2. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?

Note : McBride report was about democratization and responsibility of global media.

3. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'

.(10) UPSC 2019

Type Agreement/ policy / Negotiations:

1 .A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 10 MARKS

2. The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.

3 "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self- esteem and ambitions" Explain with suitable examples.(15) UPSC 2019

Type Non Neighbours :

1. In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (15)

2. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post Cold War international scenario.

3. The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment.(10) UPSC 2019

Type: Neighbours:

1. 'China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia', In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbor. (150 words)

2. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.

3. "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order"

Elaborate(15)UPSC2019

UPSC 2018

1. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (10 MARKS)

2. A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 10 MARKS

3. In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (15)

4. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15)

UPSC 2017

1. 1. 'China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia', In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbor. (150 words)

2. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. (150 words)

3 The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian Countries. (250 words)

4 Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South- East Asia in this context (250 words)

UPSC 2016 12.5 marks each 250 words

1. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.

2. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post Cold War international scenario.

3. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.

4. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?

- Note : McBride report was about democratization and responsibility of global media.

UPSC 2015

1. Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pro and cons. Critically Examine.
2. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UNSC.
3. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of Indian government to improve relationship with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss
4. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India – Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchange could help generate goodwill between the two countries. Discuss with suitable examples.

UPSC 2014

1 With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.

2 . The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact should such agreements have on India's interests?

3. Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. 8.

4. India has recently signed to become founding a New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) .How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the significance of these two Banks for India.

5 . WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.

Upsc 2013

1. The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests.

2. What do you understand by The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the step taken by India to counter this.

3. . Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth.

4. Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India?

5. In respect of India - Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy.

6. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss.

7. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate(explain making something clear)

UPSC 2012:

1. What are India's stakes in the South China Sea?
2. Compare the significance of IBSA and BRICS in the context of India's multilateral diplomacy.
3. How have the US sanctions against Iran affected India's bilateral relations with Iran?
4. Does Putin's return as President of Russia mark a shift to a confrontationist stance in international diplomacy towards the West?

5. Do you think that China's emergence as one of the largest trading partners of India had adversely affected the settlement of the outstanding border problem?
6. Discuss the contentious issues that have caused the prolonged constitutional logjam in Nepal.
7. The situation today is far different to that prevalent fifty years back when the Indus Water Treaty was signed." Highlight the complexity of the current challenges on both sides of the border in this regard. Do you think that a review of the Treaty is in India's best interests?

UPSC 2011

1. List the Central Asian Republics and identify those of particular strategic and economic importance to India. Examine the opportunities and bottlenecks in enhancing relations with these countries.
2. Critically examine the security and strategic implications of the so-called 'string of pearls' theory for India.
3. "Compared to the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area (BIMSTEC FTA) seems to be more promising." Critically evaluate
4. Measures taken by the Indian government to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean
5. Trace the progress of India's efforts for a joint counter-terrorism strategy with China. What are the likely implications of the recent Xinjiang violence on these efforts?
6. What are the salient features of the political and economic relationship between India and South Africa?
7. "As regards the increasing rates of melting of Arctic Sea ice, the interests of the Arctic Council nations may not coincide with those of the wider world." Explain.
8. Is there still a role for the concept of balance of power in contemporary international politics? Discuss.

According to India Constitution:

Article 51 in The Constitution Of India

Promotion of international peace and security The State shall endeavour to

- (a) promote international peace and security;
- (b) maintain just and honourable relations between nations;
- (c) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another; and encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration

According to Chanakya, if the neighbouring country is not our friend then his neighbor can be our friend. Such policy is adopted here. Ex Iran and Afghanistan relations with India checking Pakistan

The primary objective of the foreign policy:

- is the defence of the nation, So

well- equipped defence system is necessary for

- not going through war, to remain safe from attacks and to create the obstacle for attacks.
- But , It is essential to keep the enemy under pressure.

Next , In Foreign Policy .. the element of economical ability is important for the world politics.

- ♣ The actual power of a nation is in economical elements. Therefore, it is essential for India to do his economical growth in the fast speed. It is essential to have foreign investment, industry, use of technology. Creation of employment for economic development.

Next, the foreign policy went on changing according to the changes in government.

Ex: Therefore, the foreign policies of each Prime Minister is separately seen from Pandit Nehru to Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Morarji Desai, P. V. Narasimha Rao, I. K. Gujral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and now Narendra Modi.

The foreign policy is decided upon the political leaders' assumptions about the objectives of welfare of that nation. The Prime Minister of India have been playing very important role in deciding foreign policies of India

Sr. No	Name	Duration
1	Jawaharlal Nehru	15 th August 1947 – 27 th May 1964
2	Gulzari Lal Nanda	27 th May 1964 – 09 th June 1964
		11 January 1964 – 24 January 1964
3	Lal Bahadur Shastri	09 th June 1964 – 11 January 1966
4	Smt. Indira Gandhi	24 January 1966 – 24 March 1977
		14 th January 1980 – 31 st October 1984
5	Shri Morarji Desai	24 March 1977 – 28 July 1979
6	Shri Charan Singh	28 July 1979 – 14 January 1980
7	Shri Rajiv Gandhi	31 st October 1984 – 02 nd December 1989
8	Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh	02 December 1989 – 10 November 1990
9	Shri Chandra Shekhar	10 th November 1990 – 21 st June 1991
10	Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao	21 st June 1991 – 16 th May 1996
11	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	16 th May 1996 – 01 st June 1996
		19 March 1998 – 22 May 2004
12	Shri H. D. Deve Gowda	01 st June 1996 – 21 st April 1997
13	Shri Inder Kumar Gujral	21 st April 1997 – 19 th March 1998
14	Dr. Manmohan Singh	22 nd May 2004 – 26 May 2014
15	Shri Narendra Modi	26 th May 2014 – till Date

Next, India's foreign policy went through evolution. Initially it was careful about preserving its national interests independence of choice. But after awakening from the slumber of colonial exploitation, India did need the support of either western capitalistic bloc lead by the USA or the socialist bloc lead the Soviet Union. Therefore, to overcome the abject poverty in the country, India to take support of both the blocs and proceed towards the economic industrial development. In result, India has accepted a policy of mixed economy. Today, India has emerged as a major third world country which wants to play role of supporter of world-peace. She also supports the settlement of international disputes through peaceful ways.

Determinants of Foreign Policy: divided into 'Internal Factors' and 'External Factors'.

Internal factors which influence a country's foreign policy:

- 1. Size of the Territory :** The population and size of a country greatly influence the foreign policy of a country. The vastness of territory and big population results into high expectations from external affairs. On the other hand, small countries do not carry such burden.
- 2. Geographical Structure :** A country's wealth is also in the form of resources available. These resources are in the form of climate, location, fertility of available land, water related businesses and the connected masses. Availability or non-availability of such elements determine the self-sufficiency of a country and hence affect the foreign policy.
- 3. Historical and Cultural Background :** The historical and cultural uniformity or diversity certainly affect a country's foreign policy. Uniformity in historical and cultural background usually results into effective foreign policy while diversity in such factors may lead to not-so-effective foreign policy.
- 4. Economic Development:** The economic development of a country is usually based on its import and export of the goods and technology. Therefore, to maintain the economic stability and vested interests, a country has to modify foreign policy. In result, economic development becomes one of the most crucial factors affecting the foreign policy.
- 5. Technological Advancement :** This factor is important for military and economic strength of a country. The advanced countries are generally advanced 'technologically'. This also influences the other nations which indirectly influences the foreign policy of the advanced country.
- 6. Ability :** The military preparedness, economic progress and technical advancements easily influence, a nation foreign policy. Ability of a nation is defined through above mentioned advancement.

7. Building of the Society: If the society in the nation is free from divisive factors like caste, religion, sect, language, wealth or at least not rigid about it, it can result into a homogenous group of society having a strong emotion of national integrity. The emotion of nationalism also springs out from it. In this way social structure or

social construction also plays a vital role in deciding a nation's foreign policy.

8. Role of Media : Media conveys information to the citizens of a nation. Such information shapes the mindset and attitude of the people in that country. Many times international news is also provided to them which result into their understanding of current international affairs, their place on global platform. A nation's foreign policy is also conveyed to the citizens through media in the form of press, new channels, social networking sites, etc.

9. Political Organization of the Country : Foreign policy of country is greatly shaped by its political organization. Wherever the authoritarian system exists, the operationalisation of the foreign policy may suffer from discrepancy. Due to its centrality of decision, the trickling down of the information from superiors to subordinates can result into altogether different implementation. But in the democratic system, the difference in political structure makes impact on a nation's foreign policy. In parliamentary democracy, the foreign policy gets affected by co-ordination between the legislature and the executive wings. On the other hand, in presidential democracy, because of separation of powers, the relation between the two wings are mostly strained and it results into affecting ambiguity or continuity of foreign policy.

10. Political Accountability : A country's foreign policy is influenced by the nature of political accountability prevailing in the system. Due to the openness in the political system, the shaping of country's foreign policy gets affected by demands of citizen and cultural or political or economical groups.

11. Nature of the Public : This is also an important determinant of a nation's foreign policy. Nature of a public is shaped by the foreign policy and foreign policy is also shaped by nature of the people in a country. Determination of a country's foreign policy is the result of the mood, nature and requirements of public in that country.

12. Leadership : Leadership is an obvious factor which affects the formulation of a country's foreign policy.

External factors which influence a country's foreign policy :

External factors are important in formulation of a country's foreign policy. Today the world has come so close that the events in one country certainly influence (positively or negatively) to the other country. For example, the events of nationalization of oil-company-sector in the Middle East, the increasing closeness of India with Japan, etc events economically and politically affect other countries.

The following external factors do affect the formulation of external affairs/ foreign policy of a country:

1. International organizations are crucially influencing factor in formulation of foreign policy of country. A country has to consider the international laws made by such organizations as well as treaties and agreements signed while formulating her foreign policy. A country cannot threaten these elements for her own interests.

2. International Interests : This factor plays a crucial role because a country cannot pursue her own interest in isolation or by ignoring or by threatening interests of all the world. The narrow national interests may result into a foreign policy which may invoke a strong reaction from the countries which are adversely affected by the policy.

3. Power Structure : The constitution of the power structure prevailing across the globe greatly influences the foreign policy of a country. A country has to formulate her foreign policy according to her status in the global power-structure. If the country is a great power, it formulates the relations of balance of power in its policy. Sometimes it has to act according to the needs of bipolar or multipolar global power structures. All such conditions influence the forming of a nation's foreign policy.

4. **Global Opinion** : This factor may affect the forming of foreign policy in many ways. The opinion of the global citizens, their attitude towards the country results into inclusion or exclusion of certain clauses in the foreign policy. But the factor is also dependent on occasional issues.

5. **Alliance** : Forming alliance with other countries affects a country's foreign policy deeply. A country has to respond to the request and demands of its allies and avoid forming foreign policy which may harm them socially, economically and politically.

Salient Features of Indian Foreign Policy :

1. **Middle Path' /Principle of non-alignment** : The first upholder of the principle of non-alignment is India. It means the aloofness from military alliances and trust in solving problems of conflicts through co-operation and discussion. India adopted the policy for the sake of global – peace.

This kept India secure from getting entangled by any ideological or military alliances. Nehru was a determined supporter of the principle of non-alignment.

critique : In reality, the chief aim of non – alignment was to keep India secure from the politics of the cold war. But not keeping India's military vested interest suffered damage.

eX: India's geographical consideration also needs the favour for nonalignment policy. Because of the geographical proximity to two communist powers (China and Soviet Union), it would be unfriendly to them to act friendly with western alliance. While alliance with communist countries is not possible today because of complex Indian tradition which do not approve of the revolutionary ideology of communism. Non-alignment does not mean the rejection of friendly co-operation with other countries or pure neutrality. India's principle of nonalignment is not a policy

of neutrality because India has been vocal about various international issues. The instances of India's expressions over various non-India related issues are found in the history since independence.

2. **Stance Against Imperialism and Colonialism** : India has been constantly standing against the colonial and imperial powers and protected the causes of the exploited nations. India actually reacted against the colonialism and imperialism which can be seen through the examples of the Dutch attempt to reestablish colonial rule in Indonesia which was opposed by India. India also supported the independence of Libya and opposed south Africa. Tunisian and Algerian freedoms were supported, too.

3. **Support to Racial Equality : Support to Racial Equality** : India has been a great supporter of the racial equality and has condemned the racial discrimination. Pandit Nehru was a firm believer in everybody's claim for equal and honourable treatment. He claimed that we repudiate the Nazi doctrine of racialism wherever and in whatever form it may be practiced. India has reacted against the racial discrimination followed towards Indian in South Africa, supported the course of Negroes in the United States. The UN General Assembly Condemned the Union of South Africa for its Apartheid Policy.

4. **Panchasheel** : means 'Five Principles' which are incorporated in an agreement between India and China. These five principles are listed below:

1. Respect of each other for regarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Principle of non aggression
3. No involvement in each other's internal matters
4. Equality and benefit of each other
5. Peaceful co-existence

These are the important principles in India's foreign policy.

5. **Support to United Nations** : India has a firm belief in United Nations and supports UN for peaceful settlement of international disputes. Therefore, the issue of Kashmir is also taken to the UN. The examples of

India's role about Korea and Indo-China are the best example of India's faith in UN. India has been supplying necessary personnel to the UN in its endeavors.

6. sympathetic towards Partition- suffering Countries: Due to her own experience of partition and its consequences, India's foreign policy sympathizes for the countries suffering from divisions or partitions. Indo- Pakistan partition was a delirium for India and it caused India the instances of sufferings. In result, India has tried to establish unity among the partition-favoured parts of countries like Korea and Vietnam. India has also supported German unification.

7. Support to Commonwealth : Commonwealth was joined by India through a treaty on the onset of independence. At that time India needed British naval support as well as economic benefits coming to it from the Commonwealth. It

had also created a dispute as Commonwealth, initially, supported Pakistan. But taking into consideration that the Commonwealth was mostly composed of Asian and African countries, India remained its member. As there are many likeminded nations in the Commonwealth, India supports Commonwealth in his foreign policy.

Note: Commonwealth:

- is a political association of [54 member states](#), nearly all former [territories](#) of the [British Empire](#).
- Headquarter :London and India is its member since 1947.

Next Topic:

- Geopolitics of Ocean Diplomacy and Indian Ocean Region.
- Evolution of India's Foreign Policy
- Bilateral Relations: Zone wise/ Country wise.