

Part of GS

- Paper III: General Studies II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations)

Total Marks: 50 Marks (4 Question minimum: 800-1000 words)

- Pattern 1 : 800 words Generally 4 questions (150 W/ 10 M + 150 W /10M+ 250 W/ 15M+ 250 W/ 15M)
- Pattern 2 : 1000 words Generally 4 questions 250 Words * 4 = 12.5 Marks each

BROAD TOPICS:

1. India and its Neighbourhood: Bilateral Relations; Regional Groupings; Connectivity Projects

2. Bilateral Relations with Major Global Powers and Important Countries

3. International Organizations, Agencies, Regional and Global Groupings; Economic Organizations

4. Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's Interests:

- Geopolitics: Impact of global geopolitical shifts, major power rivalries (e.g., US-China rivalry), and regional conflicts (e.g., Ukraine war, Middle East conflicts) on India.
- Trade Wars and Protectionism: Effects of global trade disputes and protectionist tendencies on India's economy and trade policy.
- Climate Change and Environment Diplomacy: India's stance and role in international climate change negotiations (e.g., COP summits), International Solar Alliance (ISA), and environmental agreements.
- Technological Developments: Impact of emerging technologies (e.g., AI, cybersecurity, space) on international relations and India's foreign policy.
- The role and influence of the Indian diaspora in the politics, economy, and society of host countries, and their contributions to India.

5 Global Issues and Challenges:

- Terrorism: India's efforts in counter-terrorism, international cooperation, and specific issues like cross-border terrorism.
- Cyber Security: Global challenges and cooperation in cybersecurity.
- Nuclear Proliferation: India's nuclear policy and its stand on non-proliferation treaties.
- Refugee Crisis/Migration: Global trends and India's approach to refugee and migration issues.
- Maritime Security: Importance of the Indo-Pacific, freedom of navigation, and India's role in maritime security.

Prelims

- These questions are based on India's foreign policy, international organizations, global events, and their impact on India.

Trend Analysis of IR in UPSC Prelims Over the Years	
Year	Number of IR Questions
2025	10
2024	12
2023	12
2022	14
2021	4
2020	2
2019	4
2018	6
2017	5

Domain Includes:

Part A

- Understanding International Relations
- Why Study International Relations
- Key Concepts: State System, Power , National Interest , Security
- Indian Foreign Policy : Importance , and its evolution
- Determinants and challenges of India's Foreign Policy

Recent Policies like:

- Neighbourhood first policy
- Act east policy
- Link west policy
- Indian ocean outreach
- Soft Power and Hard Power diplomacy
- Defence and Nuclear Diplomacy
- Space diplomacy
- Para diplomacy-A New Way for Indian Foreign Policy?
- Significance of PMO in foreign policymaking

part B

India and Its Neighbours

- India - Afghanistan
- India - China
- India - Nepal
- India - Bhutan
- India -Srilanka
- India- Maldives

PART C

INDIA AND EXTENDED NEIGHBOURHOOD

- India and Indonesia, Singapore , Thailand , Vietnam, ASEAN
- India and Central Asia
- India and West Asia and East Asia
- India and Europe
- India and the World

Part D International Organisation and Global Issues

Part E Indian Diaspora

2025: 10 Prelims Question Are:

Types of Questions	Concept-based, Pair-based, Current Affairs-linked
Static vs. Dynamic Balance	Predominantly Dynamic with conceptual underpinnings

Q) Consider the following countries:

- I. Austria
- II. Bulgaria
- III. Croatia
- IV. Serbia
- V. Sweden
- VI. North Macedonia

How many of the above are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

- (a) Only three
- (b) Only four
- (c) Only five
- (d) All the six

Q) India is one of the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transportation corridor, which will connect:

- (a) India to Central Asia to Europe via Iran
- (b) India to Central Asia via China
- (c) India to South-East Asia through Bangladesh and Myanmar
- (d) India to Europe through Azerbaijan

Q) Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Of the two major ethanol producers in the world, i.e., Brazil and the United States of America, the former produces more ethanol than the latter.

Statement II: Unlike in the United States of America where corn is the principal feedstock for ethanol production, sugarcane is the principal feedstock for ethanol production in Brazil.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Q) The World Bank warned that India could become one of the first places where wet-bulb temperatures routinely exceed 35 °C. Which of the following statements best reflect(s) the implication of the above-said report?

I. Peninsular India will most likely suffer from flooding, tropical cyclones and droughts.

II. The survival of animals including humans will be affected as shedding of their body heat through perspiration becomes difficult.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Q) Consider the following statements in respect of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):

I. It provides loans and guarantees to middle income countries.

II. It works single-handedly to help developing countries to reduce poverty.

III. It was established to help Europe rebuild after World War II.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Q) Consider the following countries:

I. United Arab Emirates

II. France

III. Germany

IV. Singapore

V. Bangladesh

How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the five

Q) Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC:

I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.

II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.

III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.

IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and IV
- (d) I only

Q) Consider the following statements regarding AI Action Summit held in Grand Palais, Paris in February 2025:

I. Co-chaired by India, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley Park Summit held in 2023 and the Seoul Summit held in 2024.

II. Along with other countries, the US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I only

(b) II only

(c) Both I and II

(d) Neither I nor II

Q) Consider the following pairs:

I. International Year of the Woman Farmer : 2026

II. International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism : 2027

III. International Year of Peace and Trust : 2025

IV. International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence : 2029

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All the four

Q) Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS:

I. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the Chairship of Russia in Kazan.

II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.

III. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II

(b) II and III

(c) I and III

(d) I only

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 2024

1 .Consider the Following Statements:

1. There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel Region.

2. There have been military takeover/coups d'etat in several countries of the Sahel Region in the recent past.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a) Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 explains statement 1.

b) Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 does not explain statement 1 .

c) Statement 1 is correct , but Statement 2 is incorrect .

d) Statement 1 is incorrect , but Statement 2 is correct .



Ans A EXP

Geographical Location : The Sahel region of Africa is a 3,860-kilometre arc-like land mass lying to the immediate south of the Sahara Desert and stretching east-west across the breadth of the African continent.

Countries Included : Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea.

In News :

- Over the last three years, the African Sahel region has witnessed a wave of coups d'état in seven countries that extend from Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean to Sudan on the Red Sea.
- Five military coups succeeded in five countries, in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger, and Gabon, while three other nations—Tunisia, Chad, and Sudan—had constitutional coups.
- During approximately the same period, coup attempts were thwarted in Gambia, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, and the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Context : The region's coups can be classified into two general types: military coups and constitutional coups.

These are defined as coups to change the regime or government in an unconstitutional manner, regardless of the party implementing them. This type of coup usually leads to the removal of the legitimate government or other legitimate institutions and their replacement with an illegal authority, bypassing the popular will and the approval of democratic institutions

Ruling Regime accused of :

- corruption,
- economic mismanagement, and
- failure to confront armed separatist and jihadi movements that constitute a serious challenge to the region's states.

Future Pattern Question

Que 2 Consider the following paragraph :

The Sahel region remains a changing and volatile area in political and security affairs, and its future democratic transition is uncertain in light of the escalation of international competition that has become the primary driver in shaping the region's future.

What could be the key challenge according to above paragraph ?

- The challenge to maintain stability in the region without achieving sustainable development
- The challenge remains to maintain military and constitutional coups and maintains influence in the interest of Western Countries
- The challenge to maintain the political, social and economic stability with less focus on extremists organisation and more focus on negotiations and deal.
- The challenge remains in trying to reconcile the geopolitical interests of global powers and the aspirations of the region's peoples for stability, development, and democracy

Q3 : Consider the following Statements:

Statement 1: The European Parliament approved the Net Zero Industry Act recently.

Statement 2 : The European Union intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and therefore aims to develop all of its own clean technology by that time.

Which one of the following is correct in respect to the above statements?

- Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 explains statement 1.
- Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 does not explain statement 1 .
- Statement 1 is correct , but Statement 2 is incorrect .
- Statement 1 is incorrect , but Statement 2 is correct .

Ans C

- European Parliament approved Net Zero Industry Act to bolster EU production technologies needed for industrial decarbonisations
- The EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050 – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions
- The creation of Net-Zero Acceleration Valleys will further facilitate the establishment of clusters of net-zero industrial activity in the EU.

Que 4 Future pattern :

Consider the Paragraph ?

Recently in the News, the European Parliament approved Net Zero Industry Act and Aims to be Climate Neutral by 2050 – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions

What will be the Key Assumptions of the above paragraph ?

- will strengthen its domestic manufacturing capacities of key clean technologies

- b) will increase the competitiveness and resilience of the EU's industrial base and support quality jobs creation and a skilled workforce
- c) will reduce the risk that we replace fossil fuel dependencies by technology dependencies on external actors
- d) All of the above

Que 5 Consider the following Statements :

Statement 1: Recently, Venezuela has achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis and succeeded in preventing its people from fleeing /migrating to other countries.

Statement 2: Venezuela has the World's largest Oil Reserves

Which one of the following is correct in respect to the above statements?

- a) Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 explains statement 1.
- b) Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 does not explain statement 1 .
- c) Statement 1 is correct , but Statement 2 is incorrect .
- d) Statement 1 is incorrect , but Statement 2 is correct .

Ans D

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The ongoing socioeconomic and political crisis in Venezuela is marked by hyperinflation, escalating starvation, disease, crime and mortality rates.
- This has resulted in massive emigration from the country. Triggering the largest external displacement crisis in Latin America's recent history.
- The situation is believed to be by far the worst economic crisis in Venezuela's history.
- According to the national Living Conditions Survey (ENCOVI), by 2021-94.5% of the population was living in poverty based on income. Out of this 76.6% lived in extreme poverty.
- Since 2015, more than 5.4 million people have had to leave their country as a result of the economic, social and political crisis facing Venezuela. Around 85% went to another country in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- More than 6.1 million refugees and migrants have left Venezuela as a result of the political turmoil, socio-economic instability and the ongoing humanitarian crisis.
- Thousands of Venezuelans cross various South American countries on foot. Many flee without knowing their final destination.
- Refugees and migrants compelled to leave Venezuela use diverse routes to reach their destination including by land, plane and sea, sometimes putting their lives at risk. More people are taking sea routes than in years prior too – taking short maritime routes toward neighbouring Caribbean islands.

Top Countries in Oil Reserves

- Venezuela
- Saudi Arabia
- Iran
- Iraq
- UAE
- Kuwait
- Russia
- USA
- Libya

Q6 Who of the following is the author of the books : The Indian way" and Why Bharat Matters"

- a) Bhupendra Yadav
- b) Nalin Mehta
- c) Shashi Tharoor
- d) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Two Books of Jaishankar, S.

- The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World: 2020
- [Why Bharat Matters](#): 2024

Key Themes:

1. Strategic Autonomy: Jaishankar emphasizes India's need to maintain its independence in decision-making, balancing relationships with major powers like the US, China, and Russia.
2. Historical Context: The book delves into India's rich civilizational heritage and how its history shapes contemporary policies.
3. Global Challenges: From climate change to terrorism, the book addresses how India confronts global issues pragmatically and calculatedly.
4. Diplomatic Flexibility: Jaishankar advocates for a flexible, multi-aligned foreign policy, rather than being tethered to any single bloc.

The Indian Way" offers a rare insider's perspective on the strategic thought process behind India's foreign policy. For anyone keen on understanding how India plans to assert itself on the global stage, this book is an invaluable resource.

Consider the following pairs :

	Country	Reason for being in the news
1.	Argentina	Worst economic crisis
2.	Sudan	War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces
3.	Turkey	Rescinded its membership of NATO

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- ✓ (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

Ans B

- Argentina has struggled with political dysfunction and financial crises for decades. with prolonged financial crisis, massive debt, and triple-digit inflation.
- Despite its wealth of economic resources, Argentina has defaulted on its sovereign debt nine times. It has often leaned on funding from international institutions and more recently from China

Sudan : At least 185 people have been killed and 1,800 more, including combatants, have been wounded in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, since fierce fighting broke out between the country's army and paramilitary forces

Turkey is currently the member of NATO and has not rescinded its membership.

Withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is the legal and political process The formal process is stated in [article 13](#) of the Treaty. This says that any country that wants to leave must send the [United States](#) (as the [depository](#) state) a "[notice of denunciation](#)", which the U.S. would then pass on to the other Allies. After a one-year waiting period, the country that wants to leave would be out.

As of 2024, no member state has rescinded their membership





Since the 2016 [attempted coup d'état](#), the [2019 Turkish Offensive into North-Eastern Syria](#), the deterioration of relations between [Turkey and the United States](#), the deterioration of relations between [Greece and Turkey](#), warming [relations between Turkey and Russia](#), and opposition towards [Finland](#) and [Sweden](#) in their membership bids in 2022 which led to delays in joining the alliance, there have been calls for Turkey to leave or be thrown out of NATO

NATO is an [intergovernmental military alliance](#) of 32 [member states](#)—30 European and 2 North American.

The process of joining the alliance is governed by Article 10 of the [North Atlantic Treaty](#), which allows for the invitation of "other European States" only and by subsequent agreements

Formed 1949 [NATO's main headquarters](#) are located in [Brussels](#), Belgium

The 32 NATO members are:

-  Albania
-  Belgium
-  Bulgaria
-  Canada

-  Croatia
-  Czech Republic
-  Denmark
-  Estonia
-  Finland
-  France
-  Germany
-  Greece
-  Hungary
-  Iceland
-  Italy
-  Latvia
-  Lithuania
-  Luxembourg
-  Montenegro
-  Netherlands
-  North Macedonia
-  Norway
-  Poland
-  Portugal
-  Romania
-  Slovakia
-  Slovenia
-  Spain
-  Sweden
-  Turkey
-  United Kingdom
-  United States

Finland and Sweden are the newest members, joining on 4 April 2023 and 7 March 2024 respectively, spurred on by [Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)

Consider the following statements :

Statement-I :
Sumed pipeline is a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe.

Statement-II :
Sumed pipeline connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I

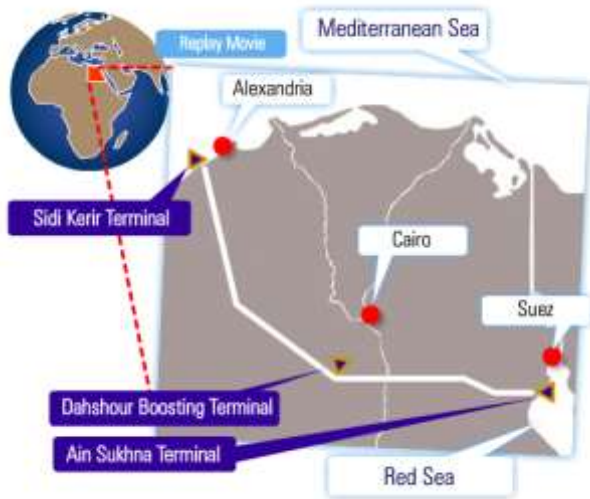
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does **not** explain Statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Ans B

Sumed Pipeline : *Suez-Mediterranean Pipeline*



- is a 320 km [oil pipeline](#) in [Egypt](#), running from the [Ain Sokhna](#) terminal in the [Gulf of Suez](#), the northernmost terminus of the [Red Sea](#), to offshore Sidi Kerir port, [Alexandria](#) in the [Mediterranean Sea](#).
- It provides an alternative to the [Suez Canal](#) for transporting oil from the [Persian Gulf](#) region to the Mediterranean.
- It serves as a major route for transporting crude oil from the Middle East to Europe and beyond
- The pipeline is owned by the Arab Petroleum Pipeline Company/Sumed Company, a joint venture of [EGPC](#) (50%, Egypt), [Saudi Aramco](#) (15%, [Saudi Arabia](#)), [IPIC](#) (15%, the [United Arab Emirates](#)), three [Kuwaiti](#) companies (each of 5%), and [QatarEnergy](#) (5%, [Qatar](#)).

Proposed Extension : An extension of the Sumed is being considered. The proposed extension would traverse the Red Sea from Ain Sukhna to the Saudi coast near Sharm al Sheikh, and from there to the terminal of Saudi Arabia's main [east-west pipeline](#) in Yanbu.

Statement I is correct. The SUMED pipeline is strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe and North America.

Statement II is correct and is the correct explanation of statement-I. SUMED pipeline is located in Egypt and connect the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea which works as a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe and North America.

Que: Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing of their basic needs is called:

- Operation Sankalp
- Operation Maitri
- Operation Sadbhavana
- Operation Madad

Answer: C

Operation Sadbhavana, also referred to as Operation Goodwill, was launched in [Jammu and Kashmir](#) by the [Indian Army](#) under their Military Civic Action programmes aimed at "[Winning the Hearts and Minds](#)" (WHAM) of the people in the region.

Welfare initiatives under Operation Sadbhavana include infrastructure development, medical care, women and youth empowerment, educational tours and sports tournaments among other initiatives

Operation Madad is the name of rescue operations conducted by [Indian Navy](#) in various occasions within [India](#). Operation Madad (Indian Navy), a disaster relief operation undertaken by the Indian Armed Forces in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. On August 9, 2023 Indian Navy's Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi launched Operation 'Madad' for assisting state government. In the flood where Kerala lost around 450 people, Indian Navy was one of the first responders.

Operation Sankalp is the [Indian Navy](#)'s initiative aimed at ensuring the security of the regional maritime domain. The term *Sankalp* originates from [Sanskrit](#) and signifies the concept of "Commitment". It aligns with the Indian Navy's objective of safeguarding India's shipping interests and trade routes. Operation :14 December 2023 – present (6 months and 3 days)

Location	Red Sea , Gulf of Aden , Arabian Sea , Indian Ocean
	Operation Maitri (Operation Amity) was a rescue and relief operation in Nepal by the government of India and Indian armed forces in the aftermath of the April 2015 Nepal earthquake .

Consider the following countries:

1. Italy
2. Japan
3. Nigeri
4. South Korea
5. South Africa

Which of the above countries are frequently mentioned in the media for their low birth rates, or ageing population or declining population?

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 1, 3 and 5
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 3 and 5 only

Answer: A

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct. Births in Italy dropped to a new historic low below 400,000 in 2022, as per the national statistics bureau as the population continued to shrink. Last year Italy recorded more than 12 deaths for every seven births and the resident population fell by 179,000 to 58.85 million, ISTAT said in its annual demographic report

Option 2 is correct. The number of babies born in Japan fell for an eighth straight year to a fresh record low in 2023, preliminary government data showed on Tuesday, underscoring the daunting task the country faces in trying to stem depopulation.

The number of births fell 5.1% from a year earlier to 758,631, while the number of marriages slid 5.9% to 489,281 — the first time in 90 years the number fell below 500,000 — foreboding a further decline in the population as out-of-wedlock births are rare in Japan

Option 3 is incorrect. Nigeria is not facing the low population problem. On the contrary, Nigeria's population is projected to grow from more than 186 million people in 2016 to 392 million in 2050, becoming the world's fourth most populous country.

Option 4 is correct. South Korea's fertility rate, already the world's lowest, continued its dramatic decline in 2023, as women concerned about their career advancement and the financial cost of raising children decided to delay childbirth or to not have babies.

The average number of expected babies for a South Korean woman during her reproductive life fell to a record low of 0.72 from 0.78 in 2022, data from Statistics Korea showed

Option 5 is incorrect. The population of South Africa will increase from 59 million in 2020 to 66 million in 2030 and 80 million in 2080.

Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the International Grains Council.
2. A country needs to be a member of the International Grains Council for exporting or importing rice and wheat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The International Grains Council (IGC) is an intergovernmental organization which oversees the Grains Trade Convention and seeks to promote cooperation in the global grain trade. India is one of the members of IGC.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Currently, only 30 countries are members of the IGC. There is no such mandate under the council for a country to be a member of IGC to export or import rice and wheat. Countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Afghanistan, etc. are not the members of the IGC and yet they actively do import export of the grains

Consider the following statements regarding World Toilet Organization:

1. It is one of the agencies of the United Nations.
2. World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day and World Toilet College are the initiatives of this organization, to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
3. The main focus of its function is to grant funds to the least developed countries and developing countries and developing countries to achieve the end of open defecation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 2 and 3

Answer: A

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

World Toilet Organization (WTO) is a global non-profit organisation committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The World Toilet Organization is not one of the agencies of the United Nations.

Statement 2 is correct. The World Toilet Organization is the organizer of the World Toilet Summit and initiated the United Nations World Toilet Day. WTO established World Toilet Day and the World Toilet Summit in 2001; this was followed by the World Toilet College in 2005.

Statement 3 is incorrect. WTO provides an international platform for toilet associations, governments, academic institutions, foundations, UN agencies and corporate stakeholders to exchange knowledge and leverage media and corporate support in an effort to promote clean sanitation and public health policies.

Which one of the following is the correct description of 100 Million Farmers?

- a) It is a platform for accelerating the transition towards food and water systems that are net-zero (carbon), nature-positive and that aims to increase farmer resilience.
- b) It is an international alliance and a network of individuals and farming organisations interested in supporting and strengthening the development of the organic animal husbandry.
- c) It is a digital platform fully integrated with service providers and built on blockchain that lets buyers, sellers and third parties trade fertilizers quickly and securely.
- d) It is a platform with the mission of encouraging the farmers to form Farmer Product Organisations or Agribusiness Consortiums, thus facilitating the access to global open markets to sell their products.

Answer: A

World Economic Forum Initiative: 100 Million Farmers

Building farmer resilience for food security, in support of a transition to net-zero and nature positive food and water systems by 2030

Aspects	Description
About	The “100 Million Farmers” initiative is a multistakeholder platform aimed at transitioning to net-zero, nature-positive food systems by 2030.
Initiated by	World Economic Forum
Mission	It supports private and public leaders to position food and farmers as central pillars of the global climate and nature agenda. It also accelerates collective action to scale climate- and nature-friendly agricultural practices.
Objective	It has bold objectives for accelerating the transition towards food and water systems that are net-zero, nature-positive, and that increase farmer resilience.
Focus Points	It focuses on: i) Positioning food and farmers as central pillars in the global climate and nature agenda. ii) Scaling climate- and nature-friendly agricultural practices. iii) Incentivizing farmers and empowering consumers to prioritize climate, nature, and resilience in the food

economy.

iv) Developing regional and national projects to transform local farming practices.

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

100 Million Farmers is an initiative of World Economic Forum. The WEF's 100 Million Farmers Platform is developing regional coalitions of public and private sector organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions. It aims to accelerate the transition towards net-zero, nature-positive and farmer resilient food systems. It aims to position food and farmers as central pillars on the global climate and nature agenda, and accelerate collective action to scale climate-and nature-friendly agricultural practices.

Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world?

- a) Algeria and Morocco
- b) Botswana and Namibia
- c) Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana
- d) Madagascar and Mozambique

Answer: C

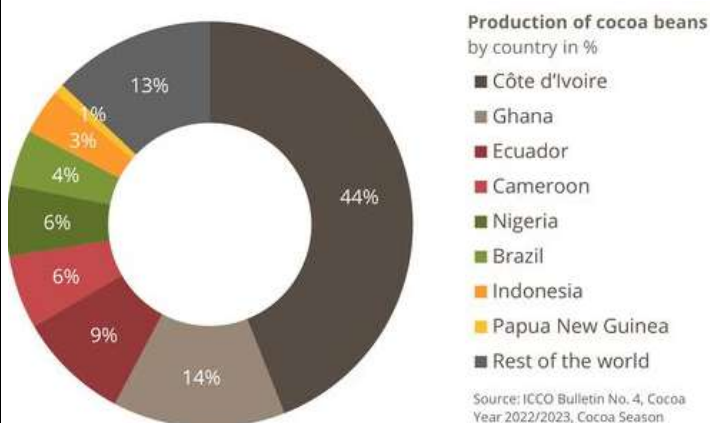
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Cocoa is a commercial plantation crop. The seeds of cocoa fruit, yield flavored cocoa powder on fermentation. Cocoa is hardly grown as a mono-crop. The major area of cocoa cultivation in India are Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Cocoa trees are native to the [Amazon rainforest](#). Cocoa trees grow in hot, rainy tropical areas within 20° of [latitude](#) from the [Equator](#).

Cocoa, the key ingredient in chocolate production, holds significant economic importance for countries around the world.

Worldwide cocoa production is predominantly centered in Africa, encompassing 60% of global output. Key factors influencing production include climate, soil type, and weather conditions in these regions.



Côte d'Ivoire, with the annual cocoa production of 22,00,000 tons, stands as the largest cocoa producer in the world, followed by Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria and Ecuador.

Country
 Ivory Coast
 Ghana
 Indonesia
 Nigeria
 Ecuador
 Cameroon
 Brazil

Consider the following countries:

1. Finland
2. Germany
3. Norway
4. Russia

How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: B

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option b is correct: The North Sea is the sea surrounded Norway, Scotland, England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark. (Finland and Russia do not share borders with North Sea).



UPSC MAINS 2024 (GENERAL STUDIES PAPER II - IR QUESTIONS):

- 1 'The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance.' Explain this statement with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)
- 2 Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. (150 words, 10 marks)
- 3 'Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (250 words, 15 marks)
- 4 Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India, with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further, also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition? (250 words, 15 marks)

UPSC MAINS 2023 (GENERAL STUDIES PAPER II - IR QUESTIONS):

1. 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'. In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems. (150 words, 10 marks)
2. Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (150 words, 10 marks)
- 3 The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. (250 words, 15 marks)
- 4 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos.' Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (250 words, 15 marks)

UPSC MAINS 2022 (GENERAL STUDIES PAPER II - IR QUESTIONS):

1. India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka. Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. (150 words, 10 marks)

2. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (250 words, 15 marks)
3. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics? (250 words, 15 marks)
4. 'Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics. (250 words, 15 marks)

UPSC Mains 2021

1. "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years. (150 words, 10 marks)
2. "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (150 words, 10 marks)
3. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? (250 words, 15 marks)
4. The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. (250 words, 15 marks)

UPSC MAINS 2020

1. Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic. (150 words, 10 marks)
2. 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples. (150 words, 10 marks)
3. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)
4. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (250 words, 15 marks)

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

About :Ministry of External Affairs

- Formed : 1946
- Headed by :Foreign Minister/Minister of External Affairs
- Responsibility : Formulating and Implementing Foreign Policy
- Current Minister : The current Minister of External Affairs is Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (30th [Minister of External Affairs](#))since 2019 succeeding Sushma Swaraj (2014 to 2019)
- He is the second diplomat to be appointed India's External Affairs minister, after Natwar Singh
- Longest Foreign Minister of India : J . M . Nehru time period 1947 to 1964 ie 16 Years
- India Perspectives is the flagship publication of the Ministry of External Affairs. A bi-monthly magazine
- Diplomatic Missions: It operates over 200 diplomatic missions (embassies, high commissions, consulates) around the world.

Feature	Embassy	High Commission	Consulate (or Consulate General)	Permanent Mission
Relationship	Between sovereign nations (non-Commonwealth)	Between Commonwealth member states	Extension of an Embassy/High Commission	To a major international organization
Location	Always in the capital city of the host country	Always in the capital city of the host country	Usually in major cities (other than the capital)	At the headquarters of the international organization (e.g., New York for UN, Geneva for UNOG)
Head of Mission	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	High Commissioner	Consul or Consul General	Permanent Representative (often with Ambassadorial rank)
Jurisdiction	Covers the entire host country	Covers the entire host country	Covers a specific region or city within the host country	Focuses on the scope of the international organization
Legal Basis	Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)	Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) (though historical Commonwealth practice differs in nomenclature)	Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963)	Specific agreements with the international organization (e.g., UN Headquarters Agreement)

Note : The Vienna Convention On Diplomatic Relations (VCDR), Adopted In 1961 And Entered Into Force In 1964, Is A Cornerstone Of Modern International Law

Purpose:

- Codification of Customary Law
- Facilitating Diplomatic Relations
- Ensuring Efficient Functioning
- Exemption from Jurisdiction

What is Diplomatic immunity :

- means that a diplomat (and in many cases, their family and certain staff) cannot be arrested, detained, or prosecuted under the criminal, civil, or administrative laws of the country where they are stationed.
- The modern framework for diplomatic immunity is primarily codified in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) of 1961
- diplomatic immunity is a necessary tool for maintaining stable international relations, allowing diplomats to perform their crucial functions without fear.

1. The Devyani Khobragade Case (2013-2014): Devyani Khobragade, then India's Deputy Consul General in New York, was arrested and charged by U.S. authorities with visa fraud and making false statements regarding the salary paid to her Indian domestic worker, Sangeeta Richard.

Impact: The case caused a major diplomatic crisis between India and the U.S., leading to reciprocal measures (e.g., India removing security barriers outside the U.S. Embassy in Delhi, reviewing privileges for U.S. diplomats).

2. The Italian Marines Case (Enrica Lexie Case, 2012-2020):

• Background: Two Italian marines, Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, aboard the Italian-flagged commercial oil tanker MV Enrica Lexie, allegedly shot and killed two Indian fishermen off the coast of Kerala, mistaking them for pirates.

· Diplomatic Immunity Aspect:

- Italy argued that the marines, being on official duty as part of an anti-piracy detail on an Italian vessel in international waters, were state officials entitled to "functional immunity" (immunity for acts performed in an official capacity) and that India lacked jurisdiction.
- India maintained that the incident occurred within its contiguous zone, giving it jurisdiction, and that the marines' actions were not covered by immunity under the specific circumstances.

Outcome: The case became a protracted legal and diplomatic dispute. India arrested and detained the marines. The matter eventually went to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In 2020, the arbitral tribunal ruled that the marines enjoyed functional immunity as they were engaged in an official mission on behalf of Italy. It concluded that India was obliged to cease its criminal proceedings against them. However, the tribunal also ruled that Italy had violated India's freedom of navigation and ordered Italy to compensate India for the deaths and damages. The marines returned to Italy to face trial, which eventually acquitted them.

· Impact: This case tested the limits of jurisdiction in international waters, the application of functional immunity for state agents (who are not necessarily diplomats), and strained India-Italy relations for years.

3. The Kulbhushan Jadhav Case (from 2016 onwards):

- Background: Kulbhushan Jadhav, an Indian national, was arrested in Pakistan in 2016, accused of espionage and terrorism. Pakistan claimed he was an Indian naval officer working as a spy, while India maintained he was a retired naval officer engaged in business and was abducted from Iran.
- The core of India's argument at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was Pakistan's repeated denial of consular access to Jadhav, a right guaranteed under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR).
- Outcome: In 2019, the ICJ ruled overwhelmingly in India's favor, confirming that Pakistan had violated its obligations under the VCCR by denying consular access. The ICJ ordered Pakistan to grant consular access and to review and reconsider Jadhav's conviction and sentence. While Pakistan has granted limited consular access, the case remains ongoing with India pressing for full implementation of the ICJ's judgment.

Chief Responsibility of Foreign Secretary:

- is to represent India and its government in the international community.
- plays an important role in determining [Indian foreign policy](#)
- The [Foreign Secretary](#), an [Indian Foreign Service](#) officer, is the most senior civil servant who is the head of the Department of Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Secretary Of India :
- The [Foreign Secretary](#), an [Indian Foreign Service](#) officer, is the most senior civil servant who is the head of the Department of Foreign Affairs
- is the top diplomat of India and administrative head of the [Ministry of External Affairs](#). This post is held by an [Indian foreign service officer](#) of the rank of [secretary to the government of India](#).
- India's first Foreign Secretary : [K. P. S. Menon Sr.](#) : Kumara Padmanabha Sivasankara Menon Sr. usually known as K. P. S. Menon. He was appointed independent India's first Foreign Secretary, serving from 1948 to 1952
- Current Foreign Secretary : [Vikram Misri](#) is the foreign secretary since July 2024, succeeding Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

The Indian Foreign Service (IFS)

- is the [diplomatic arm](#) of the [Government of India](#) under Group 'A' [Central Civil Services](#)
- IFS is not An All India Service
- The [Ministry of External Affairs](#) is its cadre controlling authority

Where this Diplomats Served:

- serving in more than 195 [Indian diplomatic missions](#) and international organizations around the world.
- they serve at the [President's Secretariat](#), the [Prime Minister's Office](#) and at the headquarters of MEA in New Delhi
- They also head Regional Passport Offices throughout the country and hold positions in several ministries on deputation.

Training Ground : [Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi](#).

Fresh recruits to the Indian Foreign Service are trained at Sushma Swaraj Foreign Service Institute after a brief foundation course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. (foundational course 15 weeks)

According to IR in 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 .

Article 253: Legislation for giving effect to international agreements: Parliament has power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries or any decision made at any international conference, association or other body.

Ex Environment Protection Act, 1986 Act of the Parliament of India. In the wake of the Bhopal gas Tragedy or Bhopal Disaster, the [Government of India] enacted the Environment Protection Act of 1986 under Article 253 of the Constitution.

CHAPTER 2

Define: International Relations:

- is an academic and a public policy field, it analyses and formulates the foreign policy of a given state
- it is struggle for power
- power is the means through which nations promote their national interest
- International Relations (IR), is closely related with several disciplines. These include History, Political Science, Law, Economics, and Geography

Foreign Policy

- is the set of strategies, objectives, and actions that a sovereign state employs to guide its interactions with other states and non-state actors in the international system

Is an instrument available to a country to

- To protect and promote its National Interest
- To defend the country National Security
- To maximize economic benefits for its citizen's from International trade and commerce
- And to enhance the effectiveness of its Soft Power through Propagation of its Core Cultural assets.
 - ❖ Democracy and Development are Twin Instrument of IFP.
 - ❖ Three Pillars of IFP: Commerce, Culture and Connectivity.

IFP Goals

- Security and Protection of its Borders with Land and Maritime Boundaries
- Promotion of defence and security cooperation
- Promotion of trade, encouraging Inward and outward investment
- Ensuring energy security and Environmental security
- Ensuring Freedom of operation in Sea Lanes and Protecting SLOC.
- Securing Information and cyber Tech and exploring outerspace
- Forging enhanced people to people contact, and use of soft power
- Participating in Joint efforts aimed at combating International terrorism, Cyber Terr., Piracy and drug crime.

Two Types of Actor in IR

1. State Actor

—
"The state actor as a person of international law should possess the following qualifications:

a) a permanent population;

b) a defined territory;

c) government; and

d) capacity to enter into relations with the other states"



2. Non State Actors are Non Sovereign entities that exercise Significant Economic, Political, Social, Power and Influence at national and International level

Besides, many non-state actors such as multinational corporations and transnational bodies like terrorist groups have been influencing international relations in a big way

Types: of Non State Actors:

1. Business Magnates: Influence National and International affairs, Ex Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos- Amazon

2. Corporation MNC: Apple, Toyota, Sony, Hyundai, Google,

3. International Media Agencies: BBC, CNN, Reuters- London and Associated Press- NewYork, PTI.

4. NGO- Amnesty International, GreenPeace, WWF, Red Cross

5. Religion Group: ISIS, Taliban, Al Qaeda

6. Transnational Community: Israeli Diaspora, Indian Diaspora

7. International Org: UN, UNESCO, WTO, EU,

Discuss the 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

2. Geographical Structure

3. Historical and Cultural Background

4. Economic Development

5. Technological Advancement

6. Military Ability

7. Building of the Society

8. Role of Media

9. Political Organization of the Country

10. Political Accountability

11. Nature of the Public

12. Leadership

External factors which influence a country's foreign policy :

1. International Organization

2. International Interests

3. Power Structure

4. Global Opinion

5. Alliance

Explanation : 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 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. 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.



Discuss the Salient Features of Indian Foreign Policy :

Indian foreign policy, from its inception, has been shaped by a unique blend of idealism, pragmatism, and a commitment to its national interests. While it has evolved significantly over different phases, certain salient features have consistently defined its approach on the global stage:

1. Strategic Autonomy (Evolution from Non-Alignment):
 - Historical Roots (Non-Alignment): In the Cold War era, India's most defining feature was Non-Alignment. Led by Jawaharlal Nehru, India refused to align with either the US-led or Soviet-led power blocs. This was not neutrality but an assertion of independence to judge issues on their merits and maintain freedom of action.
 - Contemporary Relevance: While the Cold War ended, the spirit of non-alignment has evolved into Strategic Autonomy. India aims to maintain its independence in decision-making and avoid becoming a part of any single power bloc. This allows India to engage with multiple partners (e.g., the US, Russia, Europe, Japan, Middle East) based on its national interests, often referred to as "multi-alignment" or "all-alignment."
2. Panchsheel (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence):
 - Enunciated in 1954 as principles to govern India-China relations, Panchsheel became a foundational ethos for India's broader foreign policy.
 - Principles: Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; Mutual non-aggression; Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs; Equality and mutual benefit; and Peaceful coexistence.
 - Significance: It reflects India's deep-rooted belief in peace, cooperation, and the avoidance of conflict as a means to global order.
3. Commitment to Multilateralism and International Law:
 - India has consistently championed the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and multilateral institutions.

- Active Participation in UN: India has been a strong advocate for UN reforms (especially UNSC expansion), a leading contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, and an active participant in various UN bodies and specialized agencies.
 - Global Governance: India seeks to strengthen global governance structures and actively participates in various international fora like G20, BRICS, SCO, WTO, to address common challenges like climate change, terrorism, and economic stability.
4. Neighborhood First Policy:
- Recognizing the critical importance of its immediate geographical vicinity, India prioritizes friendly and cooperative relations with its South Asian neighbors.
 - Focus: Enhancing connectivity (physical, digital, people-to-people), economic cooperation, development assistance, and addressing security concerns jointly.
 - Challenges: Despite the policy, historical issues, internal political dynamics in neighboring countries, and the influence of external powers continue to pose challenges.
5. Act East Policy (Evolution from Look East Policy):
- Initiated as "Look East" in the early 1990s to integrate with the dynamic economies of Southeast and East Asia, it was upgraded to "Act East" in 2014.
 - Shift: From a primarily economic focus to a broader strategic dimension encompassing political, security, and cultural aspects.
 - Engagement: Deepening ties with ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, particularly in areas of trade, investment, connectivity, maritime security, and regional architecture (e.g., East Asia Summit, Quad).
6. Economic Diplomacy:
- With economic liberalization, foreign policy increasingly became an instrument for national economic development.
 - Focus: Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), promoting exports, securing energy resources, collaborating on technology, and engaging in multilateral trade negotiations.
 - Initiatives like "Make in India," "Digital India," and "Self-Reliant India" (Atmanirbhar Bharat) have strong foreign policy linkages.
7. Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power:
- India leverages its rich cultural heritage (Yoga, Ayurveda, Bollywood, spiritual traditions) to enhance its global influence and foster people-to-people connections.
 - Initiatives: Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), cultural festivals abroad, yoga diplomacy, promotion of Indian languages.
 - Diaspora Engagement: The vast Indian diaspora is seen as a significant asset, contributing to economic ties and advocating for India's interests abroad. The Ministry of External Affairs' integration of Overseas Indian Affairs underscores this importance.
8. Proactive Stance on Global Issues:
- Climate Change: India has emerged as a responsible actor in global climate negotiations, advocating for climate justice, common but differentiated responsibilities, and promoting initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - Counter-Terrorism: India has consistently advocated for a comprehensive global convention on international terrorism and robust international cooperation against terror financing and cross-border terrorism.
 - Disarmament: Historically a proponent of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, India continues to advocate for a world free of nuclear weapons while maintaining a credible minimum deterrence.
9. Pragmatism and Adaptability:
- Despite core principles, Indian foreign policy has shown remarkable pragmatism and adaptability to changing global dynamics. This is evident in its evolving relationships with major powers, its willingness to join new groupings (e.g., Quad, I2U2), and its flexible approach to global challenges.
 - Intervention vs. Non-Interference: While traditionally adhering to non-interference, India has shown willingness to intervene (e.g., humanitarian assistance, regional stability efforts) when its vital national interests or regional security are directly impacted.

In conclusion, Indian foreign policy is a complex tapestry woven with threads of historical principles, national aspirations, and pragmatic responses to contemporary global realities. It seeks to balance strategic autonomy with multi-alignment, economic growth with security concerns, and idealism with realism, all aimed at securing India's place as a responsible and influential global power.

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.

FIVE ARCS AND THREE RINGS.

India's Foreign Policy is related with Five Arcs and Three Rings.

Three Rings : India as emerging Power has three Security rings. These rings constitute India's Immediate, Extended and Strategic Neighbourhood respectively.

Innermost ring/ Immediate ring: is from the approx 800 km Hindukush mountain range stretches from Afghan Pakistan Border from Central Afghanistan to North Pakistan. It divides the valley of Amu Darya (ancient Oxus) to North from Indus river valley to south.

So Innermost Ring is from Hindukush through Himalaya to the Irrawaddy river.

Second Ring/ Extended Ring is from Strait of Aden and Hormuz to the Malacca Strait, the choke point of the Indian Ocean in the West and East.

Outermost Ring / Strategic Neighbourhood: From the Suez Canal to Pacific Ocean Rim, the extremities of the Indian Ocean.

Five Arcs: India strategically located at crossroads of Asia where Five arcs intersect. These are

1. Arc of Growth, Prosperity and Stability expanding from India. Andaman Nicobar Islands to South East Asia and East Asia.
2. Arc of Instability: and Turbulence to India West extending from Pakistan to Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf and the Arab World.. An "arc of instability" was stretching across Africa's Sahara and Sahel region.
3. Arc of Energy extending from Persian Gulf through Caspian Sea to Russia Siberian Region and Arctic Region.
4. Arc of Communication comprising the trade and energy sea lines/ lanes of Communication in North Indian Ocean Region.
5. Arc of Uncertainty- North of India encompassing Nepal, Tibet, Xinjiang region and Central Asia Countries.

BASIC : ANSWER WRITING PATTERN OF IR

Strategy of Writing , Mains IR Question concerning Two Countries:

- Make your Answer writing Analytical and Deep
- Focus on Keywords
- Read the question carefully and break into parts as per the things asked.
- Break answer into sub-headings and bullet points
- Give a conclusion/way forward at the end of your answer
- Stick to the word limit and overall time limit.
- Answer Should be in Affirmative Sense
- Historical + Geostrategic + Geopolitical and Geoeconomic angle+ Import and export goods and its implications + Developmental Assistance + Defence and Technical Cooperation + Humanitarian Assistance like Capacity Building and Trainings + Culture+ Diaspora

MODAL ANSWER OF IR

Que 1 Write a brief note on India's Interest in West Asia.

Answer :

West Asia is a part of India's Extended Neighborhood.. India's relations with the West Asian countries are historical since the independence. India has interests in economic, political, security and strategic fields with the West Asian nations. So Look West Policy is major driver of India Foreign Policy which focus on Nineteen West Asia Countries .

In Year 2005 The Look West Policy, enacted which Focuses on Three Main Areas:

- 1) The Arab Gulf countries: Arab Gulf states (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the UAE)
- 2) Israel and
- 3) Iran.

Along with, Updated its Foreign Policy approach against multiple rivalries of the region- Like Saudi Arabia and Iran, Qatar and Saudi/ UAE and Israel and Palestine .

West Asia Region is surrounded by Major Sea like the [Aegean Sea](#), the [Black Sea](#), the [Caspian Sea](#), the [Persian Gulf](#), the [Arabian Sea](#), the [Gulf of Aden](#), the [Red Sea](#), and the [Mediterranean Sea](#). All these Sea are Important for Physical Connectivity and Regional Integration/ Development.

Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea have abundant hydrocarbon resources, which are critical for India's energy security, and the region hosts over Eight Million Indians Diaspora, which is a major source of remittances from Indian workers employed there.

India's increasingly multidimensional relations with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) again enhance India Energy Security.

In addition, India has wide-ranging institutional relations with every country in West Asia, encompassing cooperation in various fields, including counter-terrorism . Also, this region important for Investment in India.

In Culture Sphere, A large number of Indians have an emotional engagement with the region, which hosts the two holy mosques and a number of holy places associated with Christianity and Islam.

. In Contrast, Internal Security situation in West Asia Countries is worse due to involvement of extra regional players - USA, China, Russia; GCC and Iran rivalry, Shia- Sunni Conflict, Terrorism. All these Issues make a deep Impact on India Interest in West Asia . So, Continued Peace and Stability in the region is of vital strategic interest to India.

Main Features Of India's Foreign Policy

Objectives And Principles Of India's Foreign Policy

National interest has been the governing principle of India's foreign policy from Nehru to Modi Leadership .

Key objectives of India's Foreign policy

- The preservation of India's territorial integrity and independence of foreign policy
- Promoting international peace and security and emphasis on disarmament and the policy of keeping away from the military alliances is intended to promote global peace
- Economic development of India
- Elimination of colonialism and racial discrimination
- Protection of the interests of people of Indian origin abroad

Key Principles of India's Foreign policy

- Some of these principles are given in Article 51 under the Directive Principles of Policy in the Constitution Of India.
- These principles are: promotion of international peace and security; friendly relations with other countries; respect for international law and international organizations like the UN; and finally the peaceful settlement of international disputes.
- The principles of India's foreign policy and its objectives are closely interlinked with each other.

A. Panchsheel: was signed on 28 April, 1954 and since then it has become a guiding principle of India's bilateral relations with countries also.

Panchsheel includes the following five principles of foreign policy:

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Non-aggression against each other.
3. Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit.
5. Peaceful co-existence.

These principles of Panchsheel were later incorporated in the Bandung Declaration, signed in the Afro-Asian Conference held in 1955 in Indonesia. They are the core principles of Non-alignment and still guide the conduct of India's foreign policy

B. Policy of Non-alignment: Non-alignment is the most important feature of India's foreign policy. Its core element is to maintain independence in foreign affairs by not joining any military alliance formed by the USA and Soviet Union, which emerged as an important aspect of cold war politics after the Second World War. Non-alignment should not be confused with neutrality or non-involvement in international affairs or isolationism. It was a positive and dynamic concept. It postulates taking an independent stand on international issues according to the merits of each case but at the same time not committing to coming under the influence of any military bloc. Thus, keeping away from the military alliances and super power blocs was

a necessary condition for the independence of foreign policy. India's policy of nonalignment got many supporters in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America as it provided them opportunity for protecting their foreign policy independence amidst the cold war pressures and tensions

basic features of NAM, it appears to be equally significant also in the changing context due to the following factors:

- 1 As the world faces greater threat from a unipolar world led by US after the disintegration of Soviet Union, the NAM can act as a check against undue dominance and hegemony of any country or block.
2. The developed (North) and developing (South) world have divergent views over several global and economic issues. The NAM may provide a forum for third world countries to engage the developed nations in a productive dialogue.
3. The NAM can prove to be a powerful mechanism to forge South-South cooperation, which is essential for their collective self reliance in the present market driven global order.
4. NAM can provide an important forum for developing countries to discuss and deliberate upon various global problems, issues and reforms including the reform of UN and other international financial institutions like World Bank and IMF in order to make them more democratic and effective.

C. Policy of Resisting Colonialism, Imperialism, Racism:

. 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.

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 wheresover 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.

D. Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes and Support to UN, International Law and a Just and Equal World Order
The main and first and foremost objective of India's Foreign Policy –like that of any other country-is to secure its national interests.

it includes for instance: securing our borders to protect territorial integrity, countering cross-border terrorism, energy security, food security, cyber security, creation of world class infrastructure, non-discriminatory global trade practices, equitable global responsibility for the protection of environment, reform of institutions of global governance to reflect the contemporary realities, disarmament, regional stability, international peace and so on.

Achievement Of India's Foreign Policy:

1. Non-alignment: India's foreign policy of non-alignment has been a key achievement, allowing the country to maintain its independence and neutrality in global affairs.
2. Regional leadership: India has emerged as a key player in regional organizations like SAARC and BIMSTEC, asserting its influence in South Asia and beyond.
3. Strategic partnerships: India has built strong strategic partnerships with countries like Russia, USA, Japan, and Israel, enhancing its security and economic interests.
4. Economic diplomacy: India has successfully leveraged its economic growth and market potential to strengthen its influence in global affairs and attract foreign investment.
5. Multilateral engagement: India has actively engaged in multilateral forums like the UN, WTO, and G20, promoting its interests and contributing to global governance issues.
6. Soft power: India has effectively used its soft power, including cultural diplomacy, yoga diplomacy, and Bollywood, to enhance its image and influence abroad.
7. Diaspora engagement: India has leveraged its large diaspora community around the world to build economic, cultural, and political ties with other countries.
8. Climate change leadership: India has played a key role in global climate change negotiations, advocating for the interests of developing countries and promoting sustainable development.
9. Counterterrorism cooperation: India has actively pursued counterterrorism cooperation with countries around the world, enhancing global security and stability.
10. Humanitarian assistance: India has provided humanitarian assistance to countries in need, showcasing its commitment to global peace and development.