

**GS-2 International Relations 2013-24 PYQ Analysis****Neighbourhood****Afghanistan:**

Q1: 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. (2013)

Bangladesh:

Q1: The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? (2013)

Pakistan:

Q1: 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. (2015)

Q2: "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. (2016)

China:

Q1: What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. (2013)

Q2: With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affairs 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. (2014)

Q3: '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 neighbour. (2017)

Q4: 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. (2021)

Q5: 'The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategically to counter China's political and economic dominance.' Explain this statement with examples. (2024)

Indian Ocean:

Q1: Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? (2013)

Q2: In respect of India — Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. (2013)





Q3: 'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka'. Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement. (2022)

Q4: 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? (2024)

Misc:

Q1: What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. (2013)

Q2: 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. (2015)

Q3: 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 realised by forming this new organisation? (2022)

East and South East Asia

Q1: 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. (2013)

Q2: Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. (2016)

Q3: 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 (2017)

Q4: '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. (2019)

West Asia / Middle East

Q1: 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. (2017)

Q2: "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (2018)

Q3: How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics? (2022)

Central Asia

Q1: 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, 2018. (2018)

Q2: Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. what importance does it hold for India? (2021)

Q3: '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. (2023)





Q4: 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. (2024)

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	WRITE SMART	MMP+		2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS PRELIMS + MAINS (MAY 2025 - APRIL 2026)	

Diaspora

Q1: "Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries". Comment with examples. (2020)

Q2: Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (2023)

Africa

Q1: Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pro and cons. Critically Examine. (2015)

Q2: "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. (2021)

USA

Q1: In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (2018)

Q2: What introduces friction in 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. (2019)

Q3: Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is transforming itself into a trade block from the military alliance, in present times. Discuss (2020)

Q4: What is the significance of Indo-US deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (2020)

Q5: "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (2021)

Bodies





Q1: WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a 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. (2014)

Q2: Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UNSC. (2015)

Q3: "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. (2016)

Q4: What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these? (2016)

Q5: What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. (2017)

Q6: 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? (2018)

Q7: 'Too little cash, too much politics, leave 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'. (2019)

Q8: Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020)

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	WRITE SMART	MMP+		2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS PRELIMS + MAINS (MAY 2025 - APRIL 2026)	

Q9: '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. (2023)

Q10: '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. (2023)

Q11: '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. (2024)

Financial Institutions





Q1: 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. (2013)

Q2: Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and it, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (2014)

Q3: India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (2014)

Misc

Q1: The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on Information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (2014)

Q2: "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalized nations has disappeared on account of its newfound role in the emerging global order." Elaborate (2019)

Q3: '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. (2022)

