UPSC Syllabus

- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests,
- Indian diaspora
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate

Sub-Topic Listing

(1) INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- **Evolution and Challenges**
  - Evolution of India's foreign policy (Including NAM, Look East and Gujral Doctrine)
  - Determinants and challenges of India's Foreign Policy
- **Recent Policies**
  - Neighborhood 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?
  - Middle Power Coalition
  - Significance of PMO in foreign policy making
  - India's Strategic Connect with the World
  - Rise of Realpolitik in India's Foreign Policy in recent times
  - Indian Diaspora
- China's Belt and Road Initiative: Prospects and Pitfalls
  - Maritime Silk Road linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans
  - Why India is alarmed regarding BRI?
- India's trade deficit with China
- China's Malacca Dilemma
- 2+1 Dialogue mechanism proposed by China
- A rising China: Challenges the US primacy in Asia and role of India
- Chinese project of diverting Tibetan waters
- South China Sea: objection of China to India's presence
- China denies CPEC backing as 'debt trap' for Pakistan (Debt trap diplomacy of China)
- The Unintended Consequences of India's Policy on Citizenship for Tibetan Refugees
- China's Economic Slowdown

(2) INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

- **India-China**
  - Border dispute
  - China's string of pearls
- **India-Pakistan**
  - Indo-Pak Relations : Border Dispute and J&K issue
  - Terrorism emanating from Pakistan
  - Indus waters policy shift
  - Dispute over Gilgit-Baltistan
  - CPEC in PoK
  - Nuclear India-Pak-US
  - Indian stance regarding Baluchistan
- **India Bhutan**
  - Bhutan's significance for Indian Foreign policy
  - India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty
  - Objection of Bhutan to India's Motor vehicle agreement
  - Bhutan's rejection of China's BRI

- **India-Nepal**
  - Indo-Nepal Relations: Fluctuating ties
  - Nepal's tilt towards China
  - Nepal-China Transit Agreement: An Evaluation
  - India's concern about Nepal's new Constitution
  - The Issue of Water and Hydropower Cooperation
  - Nepal Bharat Maitri Project

- **India-Myanmar**
  - Democracy in Myanmar
  - Scope for cooperation between N-E India & Myanmar
  - Rohingya issue
  - Buddhist Chauvinism
  - Major Projects: Kaladan multi-modal corridor, India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway

- **India-Bangladesh**
  - Indo-Bangladesh Relations
  - Water Dispute: Teesta water issue & Ganges river dispute
  - Bangladesh demand to stop the construction of the Tipaimukh Hydro-Electric Power Project on the Barak River
  - Differences in approach of India and China towards Bangladesh
  - Illegal Immigration
  - Understanding Bangladesh's Unexpected Development Success

- **India-Afghanistan**
  - Instability in Afghanistan and role of India
  - India's cooperation in Afghanistan
  - Moscow Format

- **India-Maldives**
  - Geopolitical Importance of Maldives
  - Recent developments in Maldives exemplifying recalibration of ties
  - FTA Between China and Maldives - Warning for India

- **India-Sri Lanka**
  - Sino-Sri Lanka Relationship

- **Indian Ocean Region**
  - Indian Ocean region and world affairs
  - India is a "Net Security Provider" of the Indian Ocean
  - Increasing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean
  - 20 years of formation of IORA
  - Piracy in the Indian Ocean
  - Seychelles' parliament refusal to ratify an Indian naval base plan on the Assumption Island
  - Importance of Seychelles to India

- **Indo-Pacific**
  - Concept of Indo-Pacific from perspectives of different countries
  - East Asia Summit acts as a bridge for Indo-Pacific region
  - India-Pacific Regional Dialogue

- **SAARC/BIMSTEC/BBIN**
  - SAARC: Challenges and Prospects
  - Intra-low regional trade
  - BIMSTEC as an alternative to SAARC
  - Nepal withdrew from first ever BIMSTEC's military drill in India.
  - Progress of BBIN project

- **Global Issues**
  - Disarmament
  - Climate Change
  - Terrorism
  - Global Governance
  - Indian Diaspora

### (3) INDIA AND EXTENDED NEIGHBOURHOOD
- **India-Indonesia**
  - Indonesia's vision as a "Global Maritime Axis" and its significance for India

- **India-Singapore**
  - India-Singapore Bilateral Agreement for naval cooperation

- **Thailand**
  - Indo-Thai relations: Challenges & opportunities

- **India-Vietnam**
  - India-Vietnam's strategic cooperation
India-ASEAN
- Importance of ASEAN in establishing peace and stability in region
- ASEAN-India Relations: Prospects and Challenges in Economic Partnership
- India's cooperation with the ASEAN has been less than China and Japan

Central Asia
- Connect Central Asia Policy
- Importance of central Asia
- Golden Crescent
- Connectivity Projects (INSTC, Ashgabat Agreement, TAPI Pipeline)

India Mongolia
- India-Mongolia Bilateral Cooperation
- Mongolia launched construction of first strategically oil refinery, constructed by India

West Asia/Middle East
- Importance of West Asia for India
- Change in West Asian strategic thinking
- China's engagement in West Asia and challenges to India
- Reasons behind India's active strategic engagements with West Asian countries without participating in West Asian turmoil
- Shia-Sunni wedge in West Asian countries
- Importance of Saudi Arabia, Challenges in India-Saudi Arabia Relations
- Plight on Indian migrant workers.
- Relations between India and United Arab Emirates
- Middle East to India Deep water Pipeline (MEIDP)

India-Iran
- Consolidating India-Iran Cooperation
- Connectivity: Importance of Chabahar port
- Iran nuclear deal: Iran Sanctions & India's Options

India Israel:
- From 'in the closet' into a fast-developing open relationship
- strategic significance of the Indo-Israeli relationship
- De-hyphenation of Israel and Palestine

India and USA
- Brief of India-US relations
- Mutually supportive Defence cooperation relationship
- logjams in implementation of civil nuclear cooperation agreement between India and the USA
- Bilateral Social Security Agreements
- The rise of protectionist regime in USA and the challenges for the Indian
- Importance of New Security strategy (NSS) of USA for India
- Recent US extraterritorial Sanctions and their potential impacts on India
- Potential impact of US sanctions towards Russia, Iran and North Korea using CAATSA on US-India relation,
- USA pulls out of INF treaty-Its implication for India
- Pivot to the East policy of the USA
- The Arithmetic of India-U.S. Relations and the Russian Factor
- The First India-US 2+2 Dialogue: An Assessment
- Challenges in Implementing JCPOA after the US Withdrawal
- LEMA-Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
- Visa, Free Trade and WTO

India-Canada
- Uranium Deal

India-Russia
- India's increasing defence deal with USA, Israel

India-Africa
- India-Africa Trade relations: Prospects
- Contribution of Indian Diaspora in various fields in Africa.
- African co-operation in ensuring security and peace in Indian Ocean region
- India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa's hydrocarbon sector.
- Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa

India-Europe
- The first India-Nordic Summit
- What is GDPR? Its implication for India
- influx of refugees into Europe
- irritants between India-EU (FTA)
- A new European Union strategy for India
- Ukrainian Crisis has lead to resurgence of cold war
- Brief on India-UK relations
- Brief on India-France relations

India and World
- Uranium Deal

India-Russia
- Russian arms deal with Pakistan
- Stagnation between India-Russia Relations
- Russian proposal of 'Eurasian Economic Union

**India-Japan**
- Japan's funding of major projects in India
- Nuclear Pact
- Japan's Pacifism
- 13th annual India-Japan summit

**India-Australia**
- Australia's "An India Economic Strategy to 2035", a vision document
- Nuclear cooperation between India-Australia

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION AND GLOBAL ISSUES**

**United Nation and UNSC**
- UNSC Reforms: Importance and Challenges

**BRICS**
- Advantages of setting up the New Development Bank
- Prospects and Challenges of BRICS

**Commonwealth**
- Shared history of Commonwealth
- Relevance in current time and Areas of Cooperation

**Shanghai Cooperation Organization**
- Benefits and challenges of India's entry in SCO

**IMF – The International Monetary Fund:**
- Issues concerning the reforms in Bretton Wood twins and needs structural reforms to reflect post-globalization realities of the world

**NATO – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization:**
- Relevance of NATO in post USSR era

**TPP – The Trans-Pacific Partnership:**
- Will RCEP prove to be a competitor of TPP in the Asia-Pacific region

**WTO – The World Trade Organization:**
- Doha round and Singapore Agenda: Challenges in implementation
- USA-India dispute
- Need to revamp WTO

**Arctic Council:**
- Arctic is attracting global interest

**IAEA**
- India's nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards

**Sub Topic: UK Referendum – Brexit**
- Consequences of Brexit for United Kingdom and European Union,
- Effect of Brexit on China and India

**Sub Topic: Refugee problem:**
- Does the world need a new UN convention on refugees
- United Nations member states (except the U.S. and Hungary) agreed on a Global Compact for Migration to better manage international migration

**Sub Topic: Terrorism:**
- Reasons of rise of far-right wing politics in many developed and developing countries
- The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)
- UNSC's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee on Jaish-e-Mohammad Chief Masood Azhar
- Security Council Resolution 2322 to enhance the efficacy of international legal and judicial systems
- Lone-wolf attacks.

**Yemen Crisis-**
- Yemen Crisis: Reasons and impacts

**South China Sea**
- Contention over South China Sea and South China Sea Ruling
- Senkaku and Diaoyu conflict between China and Japan
- Role of India in the wake of increasing South China Sea dispute

**Other**
- World coming towards a new multi-polar order with USA as a waning superpower and China-Russia axis as an emerging challenger
- India and the International Solar Alliance
- Venezuela-Columbia Border Issue
- AIIB & The Changing World Order
- Multilateral export control regimes: Significance and challenges of India's Entry
- US-Venezuela Stand-off: Impact on Global Oil Prices
- Renaissance and Reticence in India's North-South Connectivity Platform
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves: Stocking Oil for Rainy Days
QUAD: Strategic and economic benefits
- India has been accorded associate member status by IEA; Its importance for India
- Why RIC is as important to India as JAI and BRICS?
- Rising Protectionism and Currency Wars

Indian Diaspora
- Role played by Indian Diaspora
- Issue of safety of Indians abroad
- Schemes for Welfare of Overseas Indian
- Indian Diaspora in Gulf
- Nitaqat law and Present Status

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

(1) Foreign Policy of India
- Foreign Policy of India
- Virtue of Soft Power
- Middle Power Coalition
- Terrorism
- Appendix: Global Terrorism Index 2017
- Diplomacy of Buddhism
- Indian Navy at the Front Seat of Indian Foreign Policy
- Indian Diaspora
- Indian Diaspora in Gulf

(2) Neighbours
- India’s Neighbourhood Policy
- China
- South China Sea ruling
- Water Diplomacy through Dams
- Chumbhi Valley and Doklam Plateau
- Why China is Winning over India’s Neighbours?
- India, China ink first-ever Internal Security Cooperation Agreement
- Nepal
- Rebooting India Nepal Ties
- Nepal withdrew from First Ever BIMSTEC’s military drill in India
- Pakistan
- Shift Indus Waters Treaty Policy
- Afghanistan
- Heart of Asia Conference
- Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh
- Myanmar
- Maldives
- FTA between China and Maldives - Warning

(3) Bilateral Relations
- Act East Policy
- Australia
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Iran
- Saudi Arabia
- U AE
- Slowdown in West Asia
- Return of Retrenched Workers
- Race for Resources in Central Asia
- Kazakhstan
- Mongolia
- Island Nations
- Africa
- Nigeria

(4) GLOBAL POWERS
- USA
- A new European Union strategy for India
- Germany
- Japan
- Appendix: Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)
- France
- Russia
- Decline in Indo-Russia Relations
- Why RIC is as important to India as JAI and
UPSC Syllabus

- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redraw of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization
- Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism, etc. their forms and effect on the society.

Sub-Topic Listing

(1) Industrial Revolution
- Decline of feudalism
- Beginning of Renaissance
- Pre-industrial Europe
- Factors that led to industrial revolution and its Impact

(2) French Revolution
- Causes of the revolution in France
- France under Napoleon
- Impact and Significance of revolution

(3) Nationalism in Europe
- Rise of the nation-state system
- Unification of Italy and Germany

(4) Colonialism and Imperialism
- Colonialism and its Analysis
- The age of Imperialism (1870-1914)
- Imperialism in Asia

(5) Emergence of USA
- Foundation of American Colonies
- The Independence of USA
- The American Revolutionary War and its impact
- Political Effects of the Revolution
- How did the American Revolution influence the French Revolution?
(6) World War-I
   - Causes and Course of the war
   - Consequences of World War I
   - Aftermath of World War I
   - League of Nations

(7) Russian Revolution
   - Major events in pre-revolution Russia
   - Causes and Course of revolution
   - Consequences and Aftermath of the war
   - Post-Lenin Russia

(8) Inter-War Years (1919 To 1939)
   - The Great Depression- an economic perspective
   - Rise of Fascism in Italy & Nazism in Germany
   - Soviet Union (USSR)

(9) World War- II
   - Causes & Course of the war

(10) Development In Middle East

(11) Cold War Era

(12) Post Cold-War World

(13) Communism, Socialism and Capitalism

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