



Comprehensive International Relations Cheat Sheet

1. International Organizations

United Nations (UN)

Structure:

- Principal Organs: General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, ICJ, Secretariat, Trusteeship Council.
- Specialized Agencies: WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, IMF, World Bank.

Key Roles:

- Peacekeeping (e.g., UNMISS in South Sudan).
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Climate Action (UNFCCC, Paris Agreement).

India's Role:

- Founding member; advocate for UNSC reforms (G4 nations).
- Largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

- Purpose: Collective defence (Article 5), deterrence against aggression.
- Members: 32 members (Sweden joined in 2024).
- India's Stance: Not a member but engages in dialogue (e.g., counter-piracy in Gulf of Aden).

WTO (World Trade Organization)

- Functions: Regulate global trade, resolve disputes (e.g., India vs. US on solar panels).
- India's Priorities:
 - Food security (Peace Clause for MSP).
 - Opposition to fisheries subsidies harming small-scale fishers.

2. Regional Studies

South Asia

- SAARC: Stalled due to India-Pakistan tensions; replaced by BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal focus).

India's Neighbourhood First Policy:

- Maldives: Infrastructure projects (Greater Male Connectivity).
- Nepal: Cross-border rail/energy links (e.g., Arun-3 hydropower).
- Sri Lanka: Debt diplomacy, Trincomalee port development.

Middle East

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):
- India's energy security (85% oil imports from Gulf).
- I2U2 Group (India, Israel, UAE, USA) for tech and food security.
- Iran: Chabahar Port (bypass Pakistan), INSTC corridor.
- Israel: Defence ties (Barak-8 missiles), agriculture tech.

Europe

- EU-India Relations:
 - Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations since 2007.
 - Clean Energy Partnership (solar, hydrogen).
- Brexit Impact: New opportunities in UK-India trade (e.g., Migration and Mobility Partnership).

3. India's Foreign Policy

Key Principles

- Panchsheel: Peaceful coexistence (1954).
- Non-Alignment 2.0: Strategic autonomy in multipolar world.
- Gujral Doctrine: Unilateral concessions to neighbors (1996).

Major Initiatives

- Act East Policy: ASEAN integration, Indo-Pacific partnerships.
- SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region): Indian Ocean security.
- Vaccine Maitri: COVID-19 diplomacy (supplied vaccines to 100+ countries).

Strategic Relationships

- USA:
 - Quad (India, USA, Japan, Australia) for Indo-Pacific stability.
 - Defense pacts: COMCASA, BECA, LEMOA.
- Russia:
 - S-400 missile deal, Kudankulam nuclear plant.
 - Rupee-Ruble trade to bypass sanctions.
- Japan:
 - Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), bullet train project.

4. Bilateral & Multilateral Relations

Key Treaties/Agreements

- Indo-US Nuclear Deal (123 Agreement): Civil nuclear cooperation (2008).
- Shimla Agreement (1972): India-Pakistan post-1971 war.
- India-Japan Civil Nuclear Agreement (2016).

Partnerships

- Quad: Focus on maritime security, climate, tech.
- BRICS: New Development Bank (NDB), push for de-dollarization.
- SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation): Counter-terrorism (RATS), energy cooperation.

5. Military Exercises

Tri-Service Exercises

- INDRA (Russia): Joint drills in Vladivostok (2023).
- MILAN (Multilateral): Hosted by India, 50+ navies (2024 theme: "Partners Across Oceans").

Army Exercises

- Yudh Abhyas (USA): Uttarakhand (2023) – mountain warfare.
- Surya Kiran (Nepal): Focus on HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief).

Navy Exercises

- Malabar (USA, Japan, Australia): Quad naval drills in Philippine Sea (2023).
- SIMBEX (Singapore): Anti-submarine warfare in Andaman Sea.

Air Force Exercises

- Garuda (France): Jodhpur (2023) – Rafale and Sukhoi-30 sorties.
- Cope India (USA): Air combat drills in West Bengal (2023).

Key Themes for UPSC

1. Indo-Pacific Strategy: Quad vs. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. Neighborhood Challenges: China's debt-trap diplomacy (Sri Lanka, Maldives).
3. Multilateralism vs. Minilateralism: Rise of issue-based coalitions (Quad, I2U2).
4. Climate Diplomacy: International Solar Alliance (ISA), LiFE Initiative.