

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN POLITICS OF INDIA & WORLD AFFAIRS ?

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WITH **PSIR**
OPTIONAL



WHY PSIR?

Prelims Booster & Mains Companion

- 15 - 20 Questions every year for Prelims
- Helps in concept based Prelims questions from Indian Polity
- 20-30 marks in GS I, 180-200 marks in GS II, 20-30 marks in GS III, 20-30 marks in GS IV, & 125 marks in Essay



Interview Master & Life Guide

- Easy tackling of interview questions on India's Foreign Policy
- Current affairs friendly
- Provides analytical insights to your career & Life



POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF **MOHAMMED SHINAS S**



iLearn IAS

INTEGRATED LEARNING FOR CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

PSIR OPTIONAL TOPPER'S TALK..



JOHN GEORGE DCOUTHU

[AIR 428] (PSIR OPTIONAL)

My journey with PSIR was made more efficient, exciting and engaging with Shinas sir and iLearn IAS. I had found the PSIR test series and value-added sessions extremely useful. During the mains preparation I was also part of an answer-writing group which wrote and discussed PSIR answers every alternate day under the guidance of Shinas sir. This was instrumental in developing my conceptual understanding and answer writing skills. The personal mentorship, support and learning resources that I could gain access to at iLearn, in particular for PSIR, played a major role in helping me succeed in the UPSC CSE.



UTHARA MARY REJI

[AIR 217] (PSIR OPTIONAL)

Coming from a technical background, choosing PSIR as my optional was a challenge for me in the beginning. It is only with the help of Shinas Sir and Varun Sir at iLearn that I have been able to overcome it in such a rewarding manner. My success is a true testimony to their ability to identify the core areas for the exam, provide exhaustive resources and motivate candidates to stay on track during this experience. Thank you Shinas Sir and Varun Sir for making this happen!



ANANTH CHANDRASEKHAR

[AIR 145] (PSIR OPTIONAL)

PSIR has a vast syllabus that requires consistency, proper mentoring and fluidity in answer writing. It is with the help of Shinas Sir and his team that these aspects were based on and further fine tuned. Intensive and regular one on one feedback sessions, identification of core areas of exam, providing material and emotional support were provided which was a big part of this success. Thanks to the PSIR team of iLearn for this opportunity.



POLITICAL SCIENCE **AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OPTIONAL**

Political Science and International Relations is one of the most sought-after optional subject for the Civil Services Examination. Over the years, many toppers have opted for Political Science and International Relations as their optional. It helps the aspirants not only to score high marks in the optional, but also cover portions in the compulsory General Studies Papers. About 20% of GS I, 90% of GS II, 20% of GS III as well as 30% of the GS IV syllabus could be covered through this option. In addition to this, this optional also helps in securing excellent marks in Essay paper as one of the topic is generally associated with this optional.

Moreover, the aspirants with an interest in Indian Politics, International Relations and India's Foreign Policy could perform exceptionally well. The paper could be mastered by students with either science or arts background. The subject is factual as well as analytical and dynamic, giving scope for students from various backgrounds to perform well.

The optional paper consists of 2 papers of 250 marks each. First paper deals with Political Theory and Thought along with its application in India i.e., Indian Government and Politics. Second paper deals with International theories along with India's Foreign Policy. Both the papers require a contemporary approach to address the questions.

For preparing the Indian Government and Politics area, the aspirant should be able to analyse the political scenario and to take the aid of the theories in understanding them. Answer from such area should be enriched by the political theorems and thought. Similarly the aspirant should be keen to identify the latest changes in the Foreign Policy scenario of India as well as the major players around the world.

Highlights of our programme

- 3i approach- *Integrated* with GS, *Intensive* classroom sessions and *Inclusive* current affairs programme
- Exhaustive coverage of the syllabus
- Precise and comprehensive study materials
- Personal Mentorship
- Dynamic current affairs tracking
- Access to all India PSIR Mains Test Series
- Intensive Answer Writing Practice and Tests

COURSE DESIGN

- Focus on concept building and their interlinkages spanning across the syllabus
- Demystifying Answer Writing
- Focus on Previous year Questions of UPSC & Brainstorming on Expected Questions.
- Concise & well researched printed materials
- Weekly Current Affairs Discussion
- Value addition to existing syllabus as per current trends

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SYLLABUS

PAPER – I: POLITICAL THEORY AND INDIAN POLITICS

Political Theory: meaning and approaches.

Theories of the State: Liberal, Neoliberal, Marxist, Pluralist, Post-colonial and feminist.

Justice: Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawls's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.

Equality: Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.

Rights: Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; concept of Human Rights.

Democracy: Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy representative, participatory and deliberative.

Concept of power, hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.

Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism

Indian Political Thought: Dharmashastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy.

Western Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Indian Nationalism: Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle: Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; Militant and revolutionary movements, Peasant and workers' movements.

Perspectives on Indian National Movement: Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical humanist and Dalit.

Making of the Indian Constitution: Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.

Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.

Principal Organs of the Union Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.

Principal Organs of the State Government: Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.

Grassroots Democracy: Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.

Statutory Institutions/Commissions: Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.

Federalism: Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.

Planning and Economic Development : Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.

Party System: National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behavior; changing socio- economic profile of Legislators.

Social Movements: Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements.

PAPER II: COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; political economy and political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.

State in comparative perspective: Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and, advanced industrial and developing societies.

Politics of Representation and Participation: Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.

Globalisation: Responses from developed and developing societies.

Approaches to the Study of International Relations: Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.

Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalisation.

Changing International Political Order: Rise of super powers; strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and Cold War; nuclear threat; Non-aligned movement: Aims and achievements; Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; relevance of nonalignment in the contemporary world.

Evolution of the International Economic System: From Bretton-Woods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalisation of the world economy.

United Nations: Envisaged role and actual record; specialized UN agencies-aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.

Regionalisation of World Politics: EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA.

Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

Indian Foreign Policy: Determinants of foreign policy; institutions of policymaking; continuity and change.

India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement: Different phases; current role.

India and South Asia:

- Regional Co-operation: SAARC - past performance and future prospects.
- South Asia as a Free Trade Area.
- India's "Look East" policy.
- Impediments to regional co-operation: river water disputes; illegal cross-border migration; ethnic conflicts and insurgencies; border disputes.

India and the Global South: Relations with Africa and Latin America; leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations.

India and the Global Centres of Power: USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.

India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.

India and the Nuclear Question: Changing perceptions and policy.

Recent developments in Indian Foreign policy: India's position on the recent crisis in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with US and Israel; vision of a new world order.