



Acknowledgement

This pdf is the compilation of all International Relations topics based questions extracted from interview transcripts of 2022-2023. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all the aspirants who contributed to fulfill this venture

Questions

1. What is soft power?
2. In your opinion, can movies help in promoting soft power?
3. Recently there has been an increasing popularity for regional movies. Is it diminishing the potential for soft power of the Bollywood movies?
4. Explain the need of revisiting the Indus water treaty ?
5. Explain how the present world order is evolving?
6. What is the difference in Sinocentric world order and erstwhile US led world order?
7. Should we stop imports from China? If yes, how?
8. By when we can see sinocentric world order?
9. What would you suggest to change in our import and export basket?
10. What is the reason for Russia-Ukraine war? Why did it last so long? What are the benefits and losses to India due to it? What is your view on India's stance on Russia Ukraine war?
11. When will the Ukraine war stop? Who is the real beneficiary of this war? Isn't China the beneficiary?
12. What principles are available for governing transboundary rivers internationally?
13. What are the political and economical implications on China with respect to the economic crises in Sri Lanka and Pakistan?
14. Elaborate on India China border dispute
15. What are the challenges faced by Russia due to the Russia - Ukraine war?
16. Did Russian invasion accelerate arms access to Ukraine which Ukraine anticipated fvia it's NATO entry?
17. What is the Indus water treaty? Why is it in the news?
18. Why is China very interested in Aksai chin?
19. Why are nationalistic tendencies increasing all over the world? Is there only economic or are there other reasons as well?
20. Mention 3 world leaders - apart from Indian leaders- who can mediate conflicts ike Ukraine war and others?
21. What is FIPIC?
22. Do you follow International relations? Tell me the recent news about Bangladesh?
23. Tell us about Operation Ganga?
24. Tell us about quad of Pakistan (Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, US)
25. Tell us about India-Armenia-Iran trilateral relations

26. Why is Quad important and why do we make such arrangements?
27. Why has India not signed the Refugee convention?
28. From an international relations perspective, what is happening in Pakistan? How should India view it?
29. What do you think about the Iran-Saudi rapprochement?
30. Explain the evolution of two-nation theory. Could it have been avoided? How could have it been avoided? What should have been done?
31. Why do we worry about China so much?
32. Speak about 3-4 major trends in the contemporary international relations? Is UN losing its relevance? What kind of reforms?
33. What is India trying to show the world from G-20? Why is it important?
34. What is the significance of Mongolia as a country?
35. What is the importance of Central Asia for India? Why there is so much talk about it?
36. How many countries are in G20?
37. What is the connection between SDGs and G20?
38. Discuss importance of Bangladesh for India vis a vis neighbourhood relations?
39. What is G20? Elaborate it more. How India can utilize this G20 presidency? What are our priorities' agenda? Enumerate the pressing issues faced by the world now?
40. Elaborate on China Japan conflict and Chinese hegemonic claims in South China Sea. Are you aware of the issues, your comment?
41. What are international waters? How is it defined?
42. What is UNCLOS?
43. What is the importance of maritime security? Is QUAD a security alliance?
44. Are you aware of an exercise in South China Sea being conducted these days? What was the distance from the coast for that exercise? Is it in international waters or in territorial waters?
45. How is conflicting geopolitical scenario in the neighbourhood affecting our climate action?
46. Explain the diplomatic success for India by engaging with both US and Russia. Should technocrats be made bureaucrats? Name some of them
47. Explain the major imports and exports between India and Ukraine. What are the Economic implications due to the current war? Explain India's HADR assistance to Ukraine?
48. Elaborate the China India Border issue. Should we give away some territory to china and settle the issue? What are the solutions for dealing with border conflict
49. How will you use sports in IR to build support for India in UN? Among BRICS, which sport would you suggest?
50. Why Sino India relations at low? What's wrong in having great power ambitions? What issues if border is non demarcated? Doesn't salami slicing happen at LoC?
51. Why do you think China is making incursion in India. Do you US has a role in it ? So should we come out of QUAD?
52. What do you mean by diplomacy? What should we do with pakistan? Talk? But they don't want to listen? Do you think our policy of not talking is right?
53. Who was the chief guest on republic day and which country? Why is Egypt important? Do you think Egypt has a potential to become leader of Muslim world?
54. Saudi Arabian prince has brought some reforms. What are they? What about reforms in social sphere?
55. Russia Ukraine war - do you think it could have been avoided? How do you see Zelensky-, as patriot or a person who brought ruin to Ukraine? Do you think Ukraine war has only 2 players or more?
56. What should we do with Pakistan in the economic crisis it is facing, should we engage?
57. Why is Sri Lanka in economic crisis? What is India's stance towards this situation? What is 13th amendment in Srilankan constitution? Is it implemented?
58. What is China +1 strategy?

59. Which are the different border areas of India, what threats are present in these places? What Tech India uses to secure borders?
60. India has signed FTA with two countries recently. What are those countries? What are the reasons for signing FTA?
61. UK is negotiating FTA with India? How will it benefit India and Britain? Why does Britain want to have a FTA with India?
62. India and China are fighting at borders and still the trade is booming between both the countries. Is it justified? What are the reasons for this trade?
63. Had Tibet been independent of China would our border situation have been better? What are the social problems in Assam.
64. What is G20? What are Indian priorities for G20? How is the president chosen? If India has become president on rotational basis then why so much pomp and show on it ?
65. What is Arab Spring? Was it manufactured by the West? How did terrorist groups come up in West Asia. What was the issue in Iraq? Is west misusing sanctions? What were the reasons that US came to influence Middle East.
66. Explain about the instability in Europe? Who is gaining? US has been impacted economically, so where do they make gains then?
67. Who are the Houthis? How can the issue be resolved and what are the steps taken in recent Saudi-Iran Pact? What is your take on Yemen Human rights crisis?
68. What do you understand by String of pearls? What is India doing to counter it?
69. How are Israel's relations with its neighbors? Despite Palestinian workers working in Israel, why do so many skirmishes happen?
70. What was Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal? What are the outcomes of that deal?
71. What is the difference between G7 and G77
72. Reasons for Israel Saudi rapprochement?
73. If India is exporting refined oil to USA and EU from crude sourced from Russia and USA is opposing, then what should India do?
74. How technology is interlinked with IR?
75. Is Pakistan going through a crisis good or bad for India? Why is Pakistan not asking any help from China? What big investment is China making in Pakistan?
76. What is the technology involved in Russia Ukraine war? Is technology democratising war between small and big countries?
77. What is the situation in Afghanistan after coming of Taliban?
78. What is BRICS?
79. What reform do you want in UN?
80. What is the biggest threat to India internationally in the present situation?
81. What should India's role be with respect to ""Global South"". Should we be ""leaders"" or ""partners"" or try to use the position to raise our own stature?
82. Do you think India is inherently good to other countries in diplomacy? Is India so unique in this respect? Is there no other country doing such good for other countries?
83. Some of India's neighbours complain India of behaving more like an ""Older brother"". Why has it been so? Can you give some instances where India had taken any such steps which made other countries feel like we are behaving like ""older brothers""?
84. What do you think we can do to improve relationships with our neighbours, in our foreign policy?
85. What is India's relation with Taiwan? Do we have trade ties with it?
86. What has been India's stand wrt Non Proliferation Treaty? Is that stand based on some principle or are there some other reasons for it?

87. What is black money? If you're investing black money in real estate and gold, is it not productive for economy? If I earn from an illegal activity, eg:gambling, and pay taxes on it, will it be black or white money?
88. What all are the steps that India took to address the issue of crisis in Sri Lanka recently? Why are we doing those? What more can be done?
89. What is the issue regarding Rohingyas? What India should do to handle this scenario?
90. Russia Ukraine war, Germany & Japan are increasing defence expenditure. Will the expenditure be more in platforms and weaponry or new age tech like AI, Drones?
91. What are the objectives of AUKUS? Is it anti-china?
92. What is the full form of QUAD? How is it different form AUKUS? What was its initial objective?
93. How Pakistan's economic crisis different from Sri Lanka's? Should world and India in particular be concerned since it is a nuclear power?
94. What is Bangladesh's economic situation? Brief about cattle smuggling near India-Bangladesh border?
95. Why G20 is significant to India? How is it different from other grouping?
96. What is weapons diplomacy?
97. We hear about North Korea conducting these large tests. Even recently it did one. So how does it get the technology and funding for it? Is North Korea really a threat if it has these weapons
98. Who was Shinzo Abe? What was his contributions?
99. Explain about India-Nepal relations from Independence and how is it at present?
100. If we follow atmanirbharata other countries also won't import our goods, then why ANB?
101. Is India WTO complaint? Do u know recent case which india lost at WTO?
102. What is Petro dollars?
103. Who out of Putin, Erdogan and Trump is most important for India's interest?
104. What is track 2 diplomacy?
105. Is Buddhism acting as a soft power to India? Which are the countries where Buddhism is practised?
106. How to deal with environmental refugees in the future, particularly with Bangladesh?
107. Explain about EU and its development? How many number of states are members?
108. What should be done by India to tackle China?
109. Why south America is important for India
110. We have not condemned the Russia-Ukraine war, what are India's reasons for doing it?
111. Why did Brexit happen? Is the UK developed after that? Current condition of the UK? India UK trade discussion? The UK is such a small country then why are we negotiating with such a small population country? India's export to the UK?
112. What happened during recent SCO defence ministers meet
113. Do u think what we call as rules based international order is actually western interest based order?
114. Why do we do bilateral military exercises?
115. Do you know about the Sudan conflict? What is it about? Where in Sudan is it exactly happening? Has it spread to other parts of Sudan? Are you sure?
116. Has Non Aligned Movement lost its relevance? Isn't it paradoxical that India is engaging with both the US and Russia at the same time?
117. Have you heard of India's foreign trade policy? Does it have anything to do with International Relations?
118. What is importance of Maldives to India as a maritime neighbour ?What are the environmental issues Maldives is facing?
119. Why does Taiwan have claims on South China sea even though it is far from there?
120. What is the mandate of SCO? Which country in central asia is not part of SCO ? Why didn't Turkmenistan join SCO?
121. What is Neo colonialism?
122. Tell me one positive and negative aspect of India-UK and India-Israel Relationship
123. Why do India have to create a balancing act between Israel and Palestine?

124. What is current scenario in Bangladesh? (Economic crisis) How will it affect India? Do you support to the statement that Bangladesh is surpassing India in development?
125. Chinese infrastructure is better than Indian infrastructure in North Eastern region. How should India prepare for clashes there?
126. What is beneficial for India a strong or weak Pakistan or Nepal or Myanmar?
127. Tell me about foreign policies of India with the neighbourhood countries
128. What were the outcomes of Kargil? What is meant by One Border One Force?
129. What is the difference between LoC and LAC? What is the difference between LAC and International Border?
130. What is the biggest takeaway from India's relationship with Bangladesh in recent years? What are the learnings?
131. What do you know about QUAD, I2U2 and AUKUS and how India should deal with it?
132. Do countries have any commitments as part of G20? Women led development: what program in G20 is organised for the same?
133. India have disputes with almost all its neighbours. Do you think India is always correct and neighbours are always wrong?. Give examples to prove that India is a responsible nation.
134. What do you think of diaspora as a soft power? Do Indians at top leadership position abroad act as a hard power for India?
135. Is stand of India over Rohingya issue justified while we talk about Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam?
136. What is Sri Lanka's importance to India?
137. How is India's relationship with Afghanistan?
138. What is the strength of India when compared to its neighbors?
139. Is China wrong in its aggression when West is poking it so much?
140. It's been 2 years of Taliban's takeover on Afghanistan. What does it tell about global state of affairs? Why was US not able to handle the Taliban? Can we say US has been defeated militarily? Why is the US not able to instruct Pakistan to stop training terrorists? What can India do in situation for females in Afghanistan? Isn't it a waste to allocate funds to Afghanistan?
141. Tell us some similarities and differences between India and Malaysia? Do you know any economic policy decision taken by Malaysia which should be followed by India
142. What is the relevance of Non Alignment? Give me broad contours of Indian foreign policy?
143. What do you know about Sherpa? How are they important?
144. Turkey was hit by a massive earthquake. Why is India helping Turkey? Importance of Turkey to India? India's relation with Turkey? Strategic and geographic importance of Turkey?
145. India's trade relation with Russia: How India receiving oil from Russia at present despite worldwide sanctions?
146. Considering India UK FTA where UK wants easy access for its automobiles & scotch, in return for allowing Indian textiles, should we accept these terms? What are the benefits of our textiles having access to UK market?
147. How India's image has improved in the last 10-15 years?
148. What do you know about the US human rights reports about India? Do you think it is correct? Does such a report affect our relationship?
149. Do you know about the Sweatshop of Bangladesh? Human rights issues are flagged only for the Indian textile Industry and not for Bangladesh, do you think there is some economic motive behind it?
150. Why is the US soft on India regarding Russian sanctions?
151. Why did India help turkey despite its stand on Kashmir?
152. What are the geopolitical and economic advantages that India would get if Russia - Ukraine conflict went on ?
153. Do you know anything about the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

154. What significance Sri Lanka holds for India?
155. What is Warner Agreement? Do you know about the Donbas region?
156. If Russia Ukraine war broke into 3rd world war on which side shall India join? Why?
157. Can you tell me what is ""Eagle 44""?
158. There are recent reports that China's growth is slowing and it is ageing also: Is it an opportunity for India?
How?
159. In G20, how India can use its position to its advantage?
160. What do you feel more, happy that India is better than Pakistan or sad that India not doing better than China?
161. What is BIMSTEC? Who all are members? Is BIMSTEC there to remove Pakistan from regional cooperation? What steps BIMSTEC has taken in area of customs and anti smuggling?
162. Tell me about Geneva convention
163. Everyone has something bad to say about Pakistan. Can you tell me good things about Pakistan? Do you think India and Pakistan should merge? Do you believe such merger will be beneficial for India?
164. What is the similarity between Pakistan and Sri Lanka crisis?
165. Tell us about India's neighbourhood first policy? Is China's influence in Indian Ocean increasing?
166. Why is Istanbul so significant since ancient times to date?
167. Why European nations are dependent on Russia for oil? Why can't they produce solar and wind?
168. What is the role of Nepal and Bhutan in Indo-China relation?
169. How can we revive the multilateral institutes, when nations are asserting national interests aggressively?
What is your stand on that?
170. Is India- Russia relationship transactional or emotional? How can we leverage the potential in this relationship?
171. State the differences between strategic autonomy and non alignment. Can you brief about Turkey's non aligned policy in Ukraine conflict? Why does India call situation in Ukraine as a conflict and not a war officially?
172. What is SWIFT system? What are the impacts of US sanctions on Russian economy?
173. Have you heard about 'string of pearls'? How does it matter to India that China has this policy?
174. Comment on India Bhutan relations with respect to China. What is the chicken neck? What are your views on Chinese border infrastructure development?
175. Foreign news agencies paint a grave picture of India through their pages. Should we do anything about it?
How to block fake news being published by Western media?
176. How is the performance of UN? Is it good? What reforms would you suggest to make it more relevant ?
177. Should India recognise the Taliban regime?
178. Has India recognised Myanmar's military regime and North Korea's authoritarian regime?
179. Should India join NATO?
180. What if tomorrow China goes for an all out hot war, and USA and other nations don't come to our rescue?
How will we manage without USA in case of two front war?
181. Explain about India-Vietnam joint cooperation
182. Our EAM said 'Europe should get out of the mentality that it's problems are world's problems. What is your view on this?
183. Do you think self interest is more important than principles in IR?
184. How is the G20 presidency decided? What is the importance of G20 for us?
185. Economically Stable or Unstable Pakistan, which is better and why? Should India help Pakistan? Are you optimistic about Pakistan? Will it change if they are economically stabilised?
186. What changes do you see in IR after S Jaishankar became the external affairs minister?
187. Why people are protesting in Hong Kong? Why China is trying to interference?
188. Have you heard about Uyghur? Where do they live? What is the concern about them ?

189. What is India's stand on Russia-Ukraine war? Is it right? Suppose if India and China are at war in future, then won't this stance backfire as other countries keep a distance and do not help India?
190. Which is the majority religion in Sri Lanka? Which sect of Buddhism? Why buddhist people are eating non veg food in certain countries? How they are justifying it as the religion is about peace and non violence?
191. What is holocaust? Can you recall any incident of holocaust from South Asia/South East Asia?
192. Why price of commodities in Pakistan is increasing? Why friends of Pakistan (USA and China) are exiting from it?
193. Why India has a bad image in project implementation but high soft power? What can be done to overcome this?
194. Can we use crisis in Pakistan as an opportunity to strengthen our position in Jammu and Kashmir?
195. India is a soft state. Do you agree?
196. Why is China using 5G to make police state? Why is China assertive externally and domestically? What's the change we see in China today which is different from the past?
197. Is India a great power?
198. Do you think we should ban trade with China as we are having border disputes with them?
199. Does the UN need reform?
200. In India - Nepal relationship, what are the problems? What are the good things in this relationship?
201. How is India's relationship with neighbouring countries? What are the steps taken to improve this?
202. Is there any positive impact due to Act East policy on North East? Are we successful?
203. Why China is raising claim on Arunachal? Why such incidents are happening in Arunachal Pradesh?
204. What is laws of seas?
205. Should there be negotiations for a rule based international order?
206. What is nine dash line? Why China was taken to ICJ for nine dash line?
207. What are the critical sectors for which we are dependent on China?
208. Can you compare the US and China? Does the act of shooting down of Chinese Balloon by US have any impact on US's image in the global forum?
209. There is India, Iran and Pakistan. How do you see these three countries geographically, economically, strategically?
210. Tell us about Chabahar Port. Why is it getting delayed?
211. How do you see International North South Transport Corridor in context of present conditions?
212. Do you think bilateral sanctions by countries against one another is the right way to establish a just world order? Should India deal with such sanctioned countries?
213. What is ICET? Are these agreements effective? In past also Indo-US nuclear deal was signed. Yet no effective steps were taken for technology transfer. Do you see hope in ICET?
214. List out the points of cooperation between India and Bangladesh? Which are the states sharing border with Bangladesh? How will BBIN boost infrastructure?
215. What you think is the reason for sufferings of Afghanistan and Iran? Conservatism or Geopolitics?
216. ""Strategic Autonomy is useless, it will harm us. In 1962 we went to USA with begging bowl"". So now should we align ourselves with US? Do you think our foreign policy with emphasis on strategic autonomy as a failure? What is the difference between strategic autonomy and non alignment?
217. Which international organisation has its HQ in India? What are its objectives?
218. What is NAM? When did we follow this policy? Is it still relevant? Is today's world bipolar or multipolar?
219. Tell me two positive events and two negative events which started in one part of globe and spread to other parts of the world.
220. What is India's relationship with Bhutan? What treaties we have with them? Any recent changes in those treaties?
221. What is Interpol Metaverse? What are the utilities and threats due to it? How to regulate it? Who is the owner of Metaverse?

222. What is the impact of Russia Ukraine War? Which countries were the most affected by it? How did it affect the remotest regions of the globe?
223. Do you think global cooperation in vaccines is required to deal with outbreak of epidemics? What are India's efforts regarding such vaccine cooperation? What is GAVI?
224. What is the difference between Look East and Act East policy?
225. Why was UN formed? What are the dispute resolution mechanisms of UN? Is UN relevant today?
226. At times bilateral treaties are violated and we impose sanctions. How can these sanctions be curbed or imposed well?
227. Why some countries are part of International Criminal Court and some are not? Why India is not its member? Does its jurisdiction applies everywhere?
228. Has UN failed in Russia-Ukraine war? What is the utility of UN today? How was the P5 selected? What reforms needed?
229. What's difference between peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace enforcement? What is Indian contribution for global peace keeping?
230. What is the difference between globalisation and internationalisation?
231. What are multilateral development institutions? What is the difference between IMF and WB? Which countries are asking for loan from IMF? Why IMF is not giving loan to Pakistan?
232. What are FTAs? Is India's continued trade with China a good thing? Should we be wary about annoying China? Why countries are going for bilateral trade negotiations like FTAs and not for WTO led mechanism?
233. China is expanding its bases and allies. How is it affecting our interests?
234. What is QUAD and AUKUS? How are they different?
235. In domestic sphere, we have difficult and dirty politics. Then how are we speaking morally in international sphere?
236. What is RIC grouping? What are its objectives?
237. In event of continuing tensions between India-China and Russia-Ukraine, how do you see the future of BRICS?
238. Why is G20 discussing war when it is not its mandate?
239. Why are protests happening in Israel?
240. What is US policy towards Taiwan? Is there any recent changes in its policy? What is China's response to US policy on Taiwan? What is One China Policy? Which China (PRC or RoC) is recognised by India? Why won't India recognise Taiwan?
241. What is the role of UN in peacekeeping process? What is double veto? What are the powers and authority of UNGA?
242. Why are we hosting the G20 summit? What does India stand to gain out of it?
243. Why even after having serious geopolitical tension with China, our trade with them are rising? Is the government doing anything to counter this except banning apps?
244. Should India keep its policy of 'no talks till terror with Pakistan'?
245. What are the similarities between Treaty of Versailles and present condition of Pakistan? In terms of economy of Germany of 1920s and Pakistan?
246. What is rule based global order? Are Russia and Ukraine violating the same? What is sphere of influence of a nation? Should we have it? Who is responsible for maintaining global order?
247. What is your opinion regarding China renaming Indian cities in Arunachal Pradesh? As an individual how do you see China? As a nation what should we do?
248. Is China's reaction on recent quad meeting 'over hyped' and 'too offensive'?
249. What is motto of G20? How India is living up to the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam?
250. What are Sanctions? What are the economic and humanitarian impact of sanctions? Are they backed by the UN? Why do countries follow these sanctions? Should India follow them? What is economic warfare?
251. Who should take the responsibility of Rohingyas, India or Bangladesh?

252. What is India's stand on Taliban led Afghan government? What are the issues for India in dealing with Taliban led government? Why did US pull its forces out of Afghanistan?
253. What is Extradition? Does India have any extradition law? With which of the neighboring nations does India have extradition treaty?
254. Is the ICC ruling over Putin legally enforceable? If not what is the point of such ruling? Why ICC gave such a rule and not ICJ? How is it a ruling over an individual and not on whole country? Why only the topmost leader of a country is targeted and not other officials?
255. What is BRICS? What is the reason for its formation? What is its current status?
256. Tell me about BRI. What steps India has taken to counter BRI?
257. What are the efforts done by the European commission and European countries for war refugees? What did India do for this group?
258. Is India right in maximizing oil imports from Russia?
259. Tell me about the relations between India and Africa. How do you see its development in the future?
260. What led to Iran - Saudi Arabia agreement? Is it sustainable? What are the fundamental difference between Iran and Saudi Arabia? What is Shia-Sunni conflict & how it can be resolved?
261. Since India and Israel are moving towards each other, don't you think we should distance ourselves from Palestine?
262. Since 1947, what are the major achievements of Indian foreign policy?
263. Why is there a divide between the global south and the G20? Don't you think in Russia Ukraine war, Global South should have gone with the underdog Ukraine?
264. How do you see strategic autonomy? Is it real?
265. What is the geopolitics relating to Malacca strait?
266. Which are the Arctic countries and how is the geopolitics there?
267. How does India maintain a sound relationship with opposing powers at the global level? Which global events are impacting India the most? Which border dispute must be resolved first? Why is the border dispute with China so difficult to resolve?
268. What is the wall of steel?
269. What is hot pursuit?
270. What are the measurements of soft power? What are the variances of soft power that India uses?