LOTUSARISE IAS

PRELIMS 2026 EDITION

FREE SAMPLE

UPSC CSE PRELIMS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS PAPER 1

Prelims Research 2014–2026

Every International Relations question of UPSC Prelims from 2014 to 2026, year-wise with the latest paper first: the correct answer, an explanation of every option, and notes on the topic.

Compiled by Arvind KrS

98	13	54	2026
Questions explained	Years of papers	Maps and figures	Latest paper included

IN THIS BOOK

01 Prelims 2022–2026

02 Prelims 2017–2021

03 Prelims 2013–2016

LOTUSARISE IAS

International Relations Prelims Research 2014–2026

Year-wise UPSC Prelims International Relations questions with answers and explanations

Prelims 2026 Edition · Compiled November 2026

© 2026 LotusArise IAS. All rights reserved. This PDF is licensed to the purchaser for personal study only. Copying, sharing, reselling or uploading it to any website, drive or group, in whole or in part, is not permitted.

Questions or corrections: support@lotusarise.com

This is a free sample of the book. You may share it freely, as long as it is not changed.

Contents

UNIT 01 **Prelims 2022–2026** 4

01 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2026 ..... IN THIS SAMPLE 5

02 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2025 26

03 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2024 42

04 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2023 55

05 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2022 64

UNIT 02 **Prelims 2017–2021** 76

06 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2021 77

07 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2020 82

08 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2019 86

09 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2018 ..... IN THIS SAMPLE 88

10 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2017 94

UNIT 03 **Prelims 2013–2016** 98

11 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2016 99

12 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2015 106

13 UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2014 115

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

UNIT 01 | 5 CHAPTERS

Prelims 2022–2026

5 years · newest paper first

CHAPTERS

01	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2026	5
02	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2025	26
03	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2024	42
04	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2023	55
05	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2022	64

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

PRELIMS RESEARCH | GS PAPER 1 | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2026

All 18 International Relations questions of UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026, General Studies Paper 1, with the correct answer and an explanation of every option.

1. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India:

1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.

2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.

3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

> **Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3**

Mission Sudarshan Chakra

- Announced by the Prime Minister in his **79th Independence Day address (15 August 2025)**, and named after the discus of **Lord Krishna**, the mission aims to build a **multi-layered national security shield** by **2035**, developed and made **in India**.
- **Statement 1 is correct.** The mission is planned as an **integrated air and missile defence** grid that also strikes back: it should **detect, track and neutralise** threats such as fighter aircraft, **ballistic and hypersonic missiles**, cruise missiles, drones and loitering munitions, and give India the capacity to **respond offensively**. It is described as both a **shield and a sword**.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- **Statement 2 is correct.** The government describes it as a system for **rapid, precise and powerful responses**, built on indigenous research and manufacturing, which strengthens **strategic autonomy** (independence from foreign suppliers).
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The official highlights of the speech (PIB) state that **"all public places will be covered by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035"**. The Prime Minister listed strategic sites as well as civilian places such as **hospitals, railways and places of faith**.

Building Blocks

- Existing layers: **S-400 Triumf** (called **Sudarshan Chakra** by the IAF), **Akash** and **MRSAM**, the two-tier **Ballistic Missile Defence** programme of DRDO, and the **Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS)**.
- In **August 2025**, DRDO tested the **Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)** off Odisha, combining **QRSAM**, **VSHORADS** missiles and a **laser-based Directed Energy Weapon**.
- Comparable systems: Israel's **Iron Dome** and the USA's planned **Golden Dome**.

---

2. Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries:

1. 'Maitri Setu', built over Feni river, connects Ramgarh in India with Sabroom in Bangladesh.

2. Jhulaghat suspension bridge connects India with Myanmar.

3. Mechi bridge and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 only
(d) 3 only

> **Answer: (d) 3 only**

Cross-Border River Bridges

- **Statement 1 is incorrect. Maitri Setu** (about **1.9 km**), built by India's **NHIDCL** over the **Feni river**, connects **Sabroom in South Tripura (India)** with **Ramgarh in Khagrachari district (Bangladesh)**. The places are reversed in the statement. Inaugurated in **March 2021**, it gives Tripura road access to **Chittagong port**, about 80 km away.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The **Jhulaghat suspension bridge** is over the **Mahakali (Kali) river** and links **Jhulaghat in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand** with **Baitadi district of Nepal**. The Mahakali forms the India–Nepal border in this region; it does not touch Myanmar.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The new **Mechi bridge**, over the **Mechi river** on the India–Nepal border, connects the **Panitanki bypass** (Darjeeling district, West Bengal) with **Kakarvitta (Kakarbhitta)** in Nepal's Koshi Province. It is built by India's **NHIDCL** under the Asian Development Bank-backed **SASEC** road connectivity programme and strengthens the Asian Highway route through the **Siliguri corridor**.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›



River bridges on India's borders with Nepal and Bangladesh

Bridge	River	India	Neighbour
Maitri Setu	Feni	Sabroom (Tripura)	Ramgarh (Bangladesh)
Jhulaghat bridge	Mahakali	Jhulaghat (Uttarakhand)	Baitadi (Nepal)
Mechi bridge	Mechi	Panitanki (West Bengal)	Kakarvitta (Nepal)

3. With reference to the organisations under the Government of India, consider the following details:

Sl. No.	Organisation	Function	Controlling Union Ministry
1.	Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)	To coordinate between various law enforcement agencies	Ministry of Home Affairs
2.	Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	To investigate complex corporate frauds	Ministry of Finance
3.	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

In how many of the above rows are the given details correctly matched?

(a) 1
(b) 2

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

(c) 3
(d) None

Answer: (a) 1

The Three Agencies

- **Row 1 is incorrect.** The **Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)**, set up in **1985**, is under the **Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)**, not Home Affairs. It is the nodal agency for **economic intelligence** and **coordinates** among enforcement agencies such as the **DRI, ED and Income Tax**. It also administers the **COFEPOSA Act, 1974** (preventive detention of smugglers).
- **Row 2 is incorrect.** The **Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)**, set up in **2003** on the recommendation of the **Naresh Chandra Committee**, does investigate complex **corporate frauds**, but it is under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, not Finance. It received **statutory status** under **Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Row 3 is correct.** The **CBI** works under the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Its stated vision includes to **"preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy"**, through its anti-corruption, economic-offences and special-crimes work.
  - It was set up in **1963** by a Home Ministry resolution, following the **Santhanam Committee** on prevention of corruption. It is **not a statutory body**; its powers come from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**.
  - The **Director** is appointed on the recommendation of a committee of the **Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition (or of the largest opposition party) and the Chief Justice of India** (or a judge nominated by the CJI).

---

4. Which of the following international conventions have not been ratified by India?

1. Employment Policy Convention

2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention

3. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

4. Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War

5. Convention on Reduction of Statelessness

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 2 and 4
(b) 1 and 2

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

(c) 3 and 4
(d) 3, 4 and 5

> **Answer: (d) 3, 4 and 5 (closest option; strictly, only 3 and 5 are unratified)**

India's Ratification Status

- On the facts, India has **not ratified only conventions 3 and 5**. No option gives exactly "3 and 5". Option **(d)** contains both of them and is therefore the **closest choice**, but it wrongly includes the Fourth Geneva Convention, which India has ratified.

Convention	Year	India
Employment Policy Convention (ILO C122)	1964	Ratified, 1998
Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (ILO C105)	1957	Ratified, 2000
Migrant Workers Convention (UN)	1990	Not signed or ratified
Fourth Geneva Convention (civilians in war)	1949	Ratified, 1950
Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	1961	Not ratified

- **1. Employment Policy Convention (C122): ratified.** It asks states to pursue an active policy for **full, productive and freely chosen employment**. It is one of the ILO's **governance (priority) conventions**.
- **2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (C105): ratified.** It bans forced labour used as political coercion, labour discipline, punishment for strikes or discrimination. India has ratified both ILO forced-labour conventions (**C29 and C105**) and both child-labour conventions (**C138 and C182**), and the Constitution's **Article 23** prohibits begar and forced labour.
- **3. Migrant Workers Convention (1990): not ratified.** It protects the rights of migrant workers and their families. Mostly **countries of origin** have joined it; major destination countries and India have not.
- **4. Fourth Geneva Convention: ratified.** India ratified all **four Geneva Conventions of 1949** in **1950** and gave them effect through the **Geneva Conventions Act, 1960**. India has **not** ratified the **Additional Protocols I and II (1977)**.
- **5. Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961): not ratified.** India is also not a party to the **1954 Statelessness Convention** or the **1951 Refugee Convention** and its 1967 Protocol.

---

5. Consider the following statements with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi:

1. The Summit's intellectual framework was structured around three foundational Sutras: People, Planning, and Progress.

2. The Preamble of the Summit stresses the Charter for Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation ecosystems and strengthen resilient AI while respecting national laws.

3. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI.

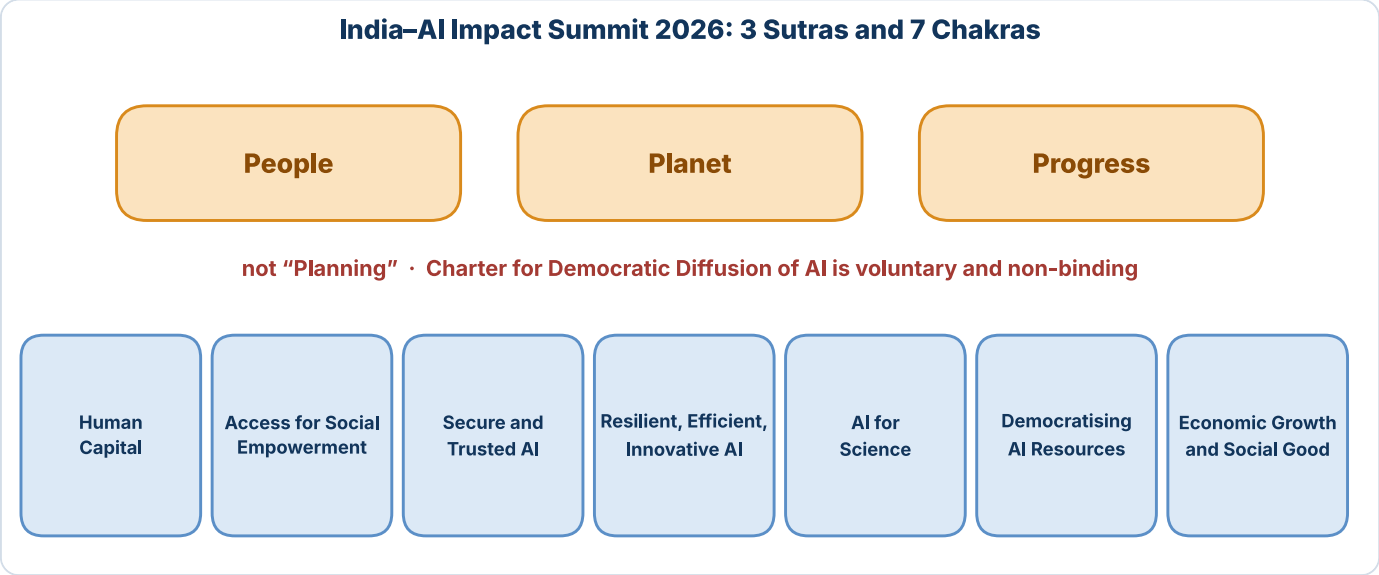
FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

Answer: (d) 3 only

India–AI Impact Summit 2026



The three Sutras and seven Chakras of the AI Impact Summit

- Held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi in February 2026**, it was the **first global AI summit hosted in the Global South**, following the UK (Bletchley Park, 2023), South Korea (Seoul, 2024) and France (Paris AI Action Summit, 2025). It ended with the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, endorsed by **92 countries and international organisations**, under the guiding idea **"Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya"** (welfare for all, happiness for all).
- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The three **Sutras** were **People, Planet and Progress**, not "Planning".
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Declaration takes note of the **Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI** as a **voluntary and non-binding** framework, meant to widen affordable access to foundational AI resources and support local innovation while respecting national laws. It is **not binding**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Declaration rests on **seven Chakras (pillars)**, each with a deliverable:

Chakra	Main deliverable
Democratising AI Resources	Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI
Economic Growth and Social Good	Global AI Impact Commons
Secure and Trusted AI	Trusted AI Commons
AI for Science	International Network of AI for Science Institutions
Access for Social Empowerment	AI for Social Empowerment Platform
Human Capital	AI Workforce Development Playbook

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

6. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries?

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

2. IMT Trilateral Highway

3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 2 only

> **Answer: (a) 1 and 2**

India's Eastern Connectivity Projects

- **1. Kaladan project: correct.** It links India with **Myanmar**, an ASEAN member: **Kolkata to Sittwe port** by sea, **Sittwe to Paletwa** along the **Kaladan river**, and then by road from Paletwa to **Zorinpui in Mizoram**. It offers the North-East an alternative to the narrow **Siliguri corridor**. Sittwe port began operations in **2023**.
- **2. India–Myanmar–Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway: correct.** It runs about **1,360 km** from **Moreh (Manipur)** through **Tamu, Mandalay and Bagan** to **Mae Sot (Thailand)**, linking India with two ASEAN members. It is a key part of the **Act East Policy** and may later be extended to **Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam**.
- **3. Agartala–Akhaura rail line: incorrect.** This **12.24 km** line (inaugurated **November 2023**) links **Agartala (Tripura)** with **Akhaura in Bangladesh**. Bangladesh is a **SAARC and BIMSTEC** member, **not an ASEAN** member, so this is India–Bangladesh cooperation.
- **ASEAN** has **11 members** after **Timor-Leste** joined in **October 2025**. India and ASEAN have a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** (2022).

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›



Kaladan project and the IMT Trilateral Highway

7. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I (Project Supported by India)	List II (Country)
A. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project	1. Maldives
B. Restoration of Stor Palace	2. Afghanistan
C. District Hospital at Dickoya	3. Bhutan
D. Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies	4. Sri Lanka

Code:

(a) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3

(b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

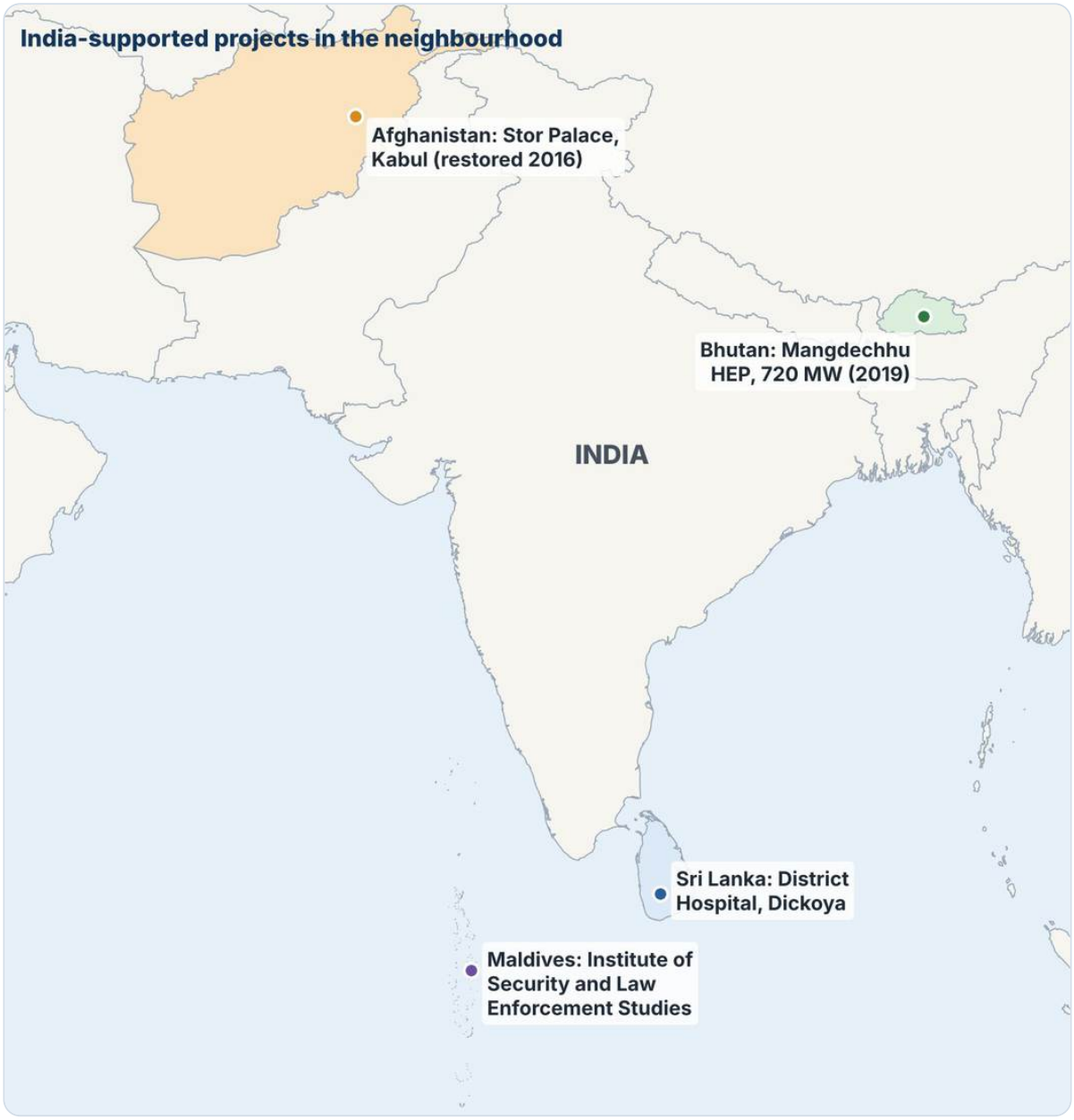
(c) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
(d) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

Answer: (b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

India's Development Partnership Projects

- **A. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project – Bhutan (3).** A **720 MW** run-of-the-river project on the **Mangdechhu river** in **Trongsa district**, built with Indian grant and loan support and commissioned in **2019**. India buys the surplus power, which is Bhutan's largest export. Other India-built projects: **Chukha, Kurichhu, Tala** and **Punatsangchhu**.
- **B. Restoration of Stor Palace – Afghanistan (2).** The 19th-century **Stor Palace** in **Kabul**, once the seat of Afghanistan's Foreign Office, was restored with Indian funding (with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture) and reopened in **2016**. Other projects: the **Afghan Parliament building**, the **Salma Dam (Afghan–India Friendship Dam)** and the **Zaranj–Delaram highway**.
- **C. District Hospital at Dickoya – Sri Lanka (4).** A hospital at **Dickoya (Hatton) in Nuwara Eliya district**, in the central hill country, built with Indian grant assistance and serving mainly the **Indian-origin plantation community**.
- **D. Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) – Maldives (1).** Built with Indian assistance, it trains Maldivian police and law-enforcement personnel. Other projects: the **Greater Malé Connectivity Project** (bridge-causeway) and **Hanimaadhoo airport**.
- Note: in the official paper, **List I gives the projects** and **List II the countries**, as shown above.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›



India-supported projects in the neighbourhood

8. Which of the following items of defence hardware is/are manufactured in India?

1. Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets

2. T-90 MK-III Tanks

3. Akula Class Submarine

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

(c) 1 only
(d) 2 only

> **Answer: (a) 1 and 2**

Licence-Built and Imported Platforms

- **1. Su-30 MKI: made in India.** This twin-engine, multi-role fighter of Russian (Sukhoi) design is built under licence by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at Nashik**, with its **AL-31FP engines** made at HAL **Koraput**. It is the **backbone of the IAF** fleet; HAL received an order for **12 more** in 2024.
- **2. T-90 tanks: made in India.** The **T-90S 'Bhishma'** main battle tank, also of Russian design, is licence-produced at the **Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi (Chennai)**, now under **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)**. The **Mk-III** is an upgraded version with better fire control, night-fighting and protection.
- **3. Akula-class submarine: not made in India.** The **Akula class** is a Russian **nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN)**. India **leased** one as **INS Chakra** (2012–2021) and has signed for a second on lease (**Chakra III**). India's own nuclear submarines are the **Arihant class (SSBN)**, built at **Visakhapatnam**: **INS Arihant** and **INS Arighaat**.

---

9. Consider the following statements about platforms for multilateral co-operation:

1. The 'Colombo Process' is a regional consultative process in which member states take binding decisions by consensus.

2. The 'Abu Dhabi Dialogue' is a voluntary non-binding consultative process among Asian countries of labour origin and destination to facilitate regional cooperation on contractual labour mobility.

3. The 'Global Forum for Migration and Development', created upon the proposal of a former UN Secretary General, is a voluntary forum whose decisions are non-binding in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

> **Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only**

Forums on Labour Migration

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The **Colombo Process** (2003) is a **Regional Consultative Process** on overseas employment and contractual labour for **12 Asian countries of origin**, including **India**, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Vietnam. It is **state-led, voluntary and non-binding**; members share good practices but take **no binding decisions**. The **IOM** provides its secretariat.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The **Abu Dhabi Dialogue** (2008) brings the Colombo Process **origin countries** together with **destination countries** of the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** and Malaysia. It is a

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

voluntary, non-binding forum on **temporary contractual labour mobility**: recruitment, skills, wage protection and the use of technology. India is a member.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** was proposed by **UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan** at the **2006 UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**. Its first meeting was held in **Brussels in 2007**. It is a **state-led, informal, voluntary and non-binding** forum, outside the UN system but linked to it.
- Related: the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018)**, also non-binding, which India supports.

---

10. Consider the following UN organisations/agencies:

1. World Food Programme

2. United Nations Children's Fund

3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

4. International Labour Organisation

How many of the above has/have been awarded the Nobel Prize twice?

(a) 1
(b) 2
(c) 3
(d) 4

> **Answer: (a) 1**

UN Bodies and the Nobel Peace Prize

Organisation	Nobel Peace Prize
World Food Programme (WFP)	2020 (once)
UNICEF	1965 (once)
UNHCR	1954 and 1981 (twice)
International Labour Organization (ILO)	1969 (once)

- **UNHCR (only one, twice):** first in **1954** for its work for refugees in post-war Europe, and again in **1981** for its help to refugees from Vietnam, Afghanistan and Africa. It was set up in **1950** and is headquartered in **Geneva**.
- **WFP (once, 2020):** for combating hunger and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war. Based in **Rome**.
- **UNICEF (once, 1965):** for promoting brotherhood among nations through its work for children. Based in **New York**.
- **ILO (once, 1969):** on its **50th anniversary**, for improving brotherhood and peace among nations and promoting social justice. Founded in **1919** under the Treaty of Versailles, it became the **first specialised agency of the UN** in 1946 and has a unique **tripartite** structure (governments, employers, workers).

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- Other UN laureates: **UN Peacekeeping Forces (1988)**, the **UN and Kofi Annan (2001)**, **IAEA (2005)**, **IPCC (2007)**, **OPCW (2013)**. The **International Committee of the Red Cross** won **three** times (1917, 1944, 1963), but it is **not a UN body**.

---

11. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I (UN Peacekeeping Operation)	List II (Period of Operation)
A. UNMIL	1. 2007-2010
B. MINURCAT	2. 2002-2005
C. MINUSTAH	3. 2003-2018
D. UNMISET	4. 2004-2017

Code:

(a) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
(b) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2
(c) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
(d) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

Answer: (b) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

The Four Missions

Mission	Country	Period
UNMIL	Liberia	2003–2018
MINURCAT	Central African Republic and Chad	2007–2010
MINUSTAH	Haiti	2004–2017
UNMISET	Timor-Leste (East Timor)	2002–2005

- **UNMIL (UN Mission in Liberia), 2003–2018:** set up after Liberia's second civil war to oversee the ceasefire, disarmament and elections. India sent the **world's first all-women Formed Police Unit** of the UN to Liberia in **2007**.
- **MINURCAT (Central African Republic and Chad), 2007–2010:** protected civilians and refugees affected by the **Darfur** crisis spilling across the borders.
- **MINUSTAH (Stabilisation Mission in Haiti), 2004–2017:** deployed after the fall of President Aristide; it also assisted after the **2010 earthquake**. Indian police units served there.
- **UNMISET (Mission of Support in East Timor), 2002–2005:** helped the newly independent **Timor-Leste**, which became independent in **May 2002**.
- India is among the **largest troop contributors** to UN peacekeeping, with over **2.9 lakh personnel** deployed since 1950 in more than 50 missions.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

12. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I (BIMSTEC Centre/Establishment)	List II (Location)
A. BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory	1. NOIDA
B. BIMSTEC Energy Centre	2. Bengaluru
C. BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate	3. Colombo
D. BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility	4. Thimphu

Code:

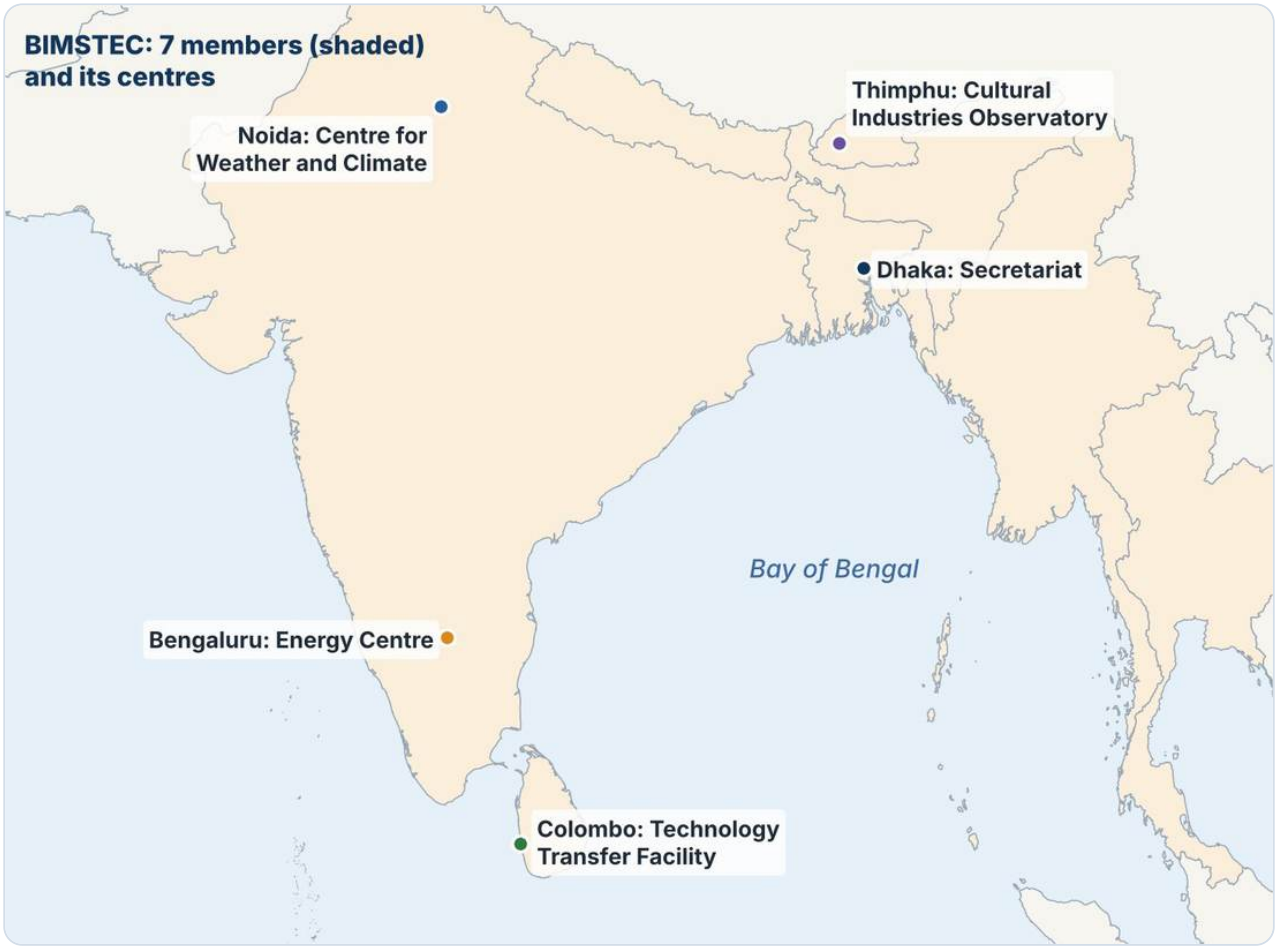
(a) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4
(b) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
(c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3
(d) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

Answer: (c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

BIMSTEC and Its Centres

- **A. Cultural Industries Observatory – Thimphu, Bhutan (4):** promotes cultural industries and creative economy of the region.
- **B. Energy Centre – Bengaluru, India (2):** cooperation in power trade, grid interconnection and renewable energy.
- **C. Centre for Weather and Climate – Noida, India (1):** hosted at the **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**; provides weather and climate forecasts and early warnings to member states.
- **D. Technology Transfer Facility – Colombo, Sri Lanka (3):** helps transfer technology among members; Sri Lanka leads the science, technology and innovation sector.
- **About BIMSTEC:** the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**, formed by the **Bangkok Declaration of 1997**. Members (7): **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**. Secretariat: **Dhaka**. Its **Charter**, adopted at the **Colombo summit (2022)**, came into force in **2024**. The **6th summit** was held in **Bangkok (April 2025)**.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›



BIMSTEC members and the location of its centres

13. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

Indian Army Corps	Headquarters
(a) 3 Corps	Dimapur
(b) 4 Corps	Tezpur
(c) 14 Corps	Leh
(d) 33 Corps	Srinagar

(a) 3 Corps : Dimapur
(b) 4 Corps : Tezpur
(c) 14 Corps : Leh
(d) 33 Corps : Srinagar

> **Answer: (d) 33 Corps : Srinagar**

Army Corps and Their Headquarters

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›



Headquarters of selected Indian Army corps

- **(a) 3 Corps (Spear Corps): correctly matched.** Headquartered at **Rangapahar, near Dimapur (Nagaland)**, under **Eastern Command**; responsible for Nagaland, Manipur and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **(b) 4 Corps (Gajraj Corps): correctly matched.** At **Tezpur, Assam**, under Eastern Command; covers western and central Arunachal Pradesh, including **Tawang**.
- **(c) 14 Corps (Fire and Fury Corps): correctly matched.** At **Leh, Ladakh**, under **Northern Command**; guards the **Line of Actual Control** in eastern Ladakh and the **Siachen Glacier**.
- **(d) 33 Corps (Trishakti Corps): not correctly matched.** It is headquartered at **Sukna, near Siliguri (West Bengal)**, under Eastern Command, and guards **Sikkim** and the **Siliguri corridor**. The corps at **Srinagar** is **15 Corps (Chinar Corps)**.

Corps	Name	Headquarters
3 Corps	Spear	Rangapahar (Dimapur)
4 Corps	Gajraj	Tezpur
14 Corps	Fire and Fury	Leh
15 Corps	Chinar	Srinagar
16 Corps	White Knight	Nagrota
33 Corps	Trishakti	Sukna

14. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union?

1. Belarus

2. Poland

3. Germany

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

4. Switzerland

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 4 only

> **Answer: (c) 2 and 3**

European Union Membership

- **1. Belarus: not a member.** It is closely tied to Russia through the **Union State** and the **Eurasian Economic Union**, and the EU has placed sanctions on it.
- **2. Poland: member** since the big **2004 enlargement**, when ten countries, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe, joined.
- **3. Germany: member.** A **founding member** of the European Economic Community under the **Treaty of Rome (1957)**.
- **4. Switzerland: not a member.** It is in the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** and the **Schengen Area**, and has many bilateral agreements with the EU, but it rejected joining the European Economic Area in a **1992 referendum**.
- The EU has **27 members** since the **United Kingdom left (Brexit) on 31 January 2020**. **Croatia** was the last to join (2013).

---

15. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I (INTERPOL Notice)	List II (Description)
A. Silver Notice	1. To seek information on unidentified bodies
B. Blue Notice	2. To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation
C. Black Notice	3. To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is to be considered a possible threat to public safety
D. Green Notice	4. To identify and trace criminal assets

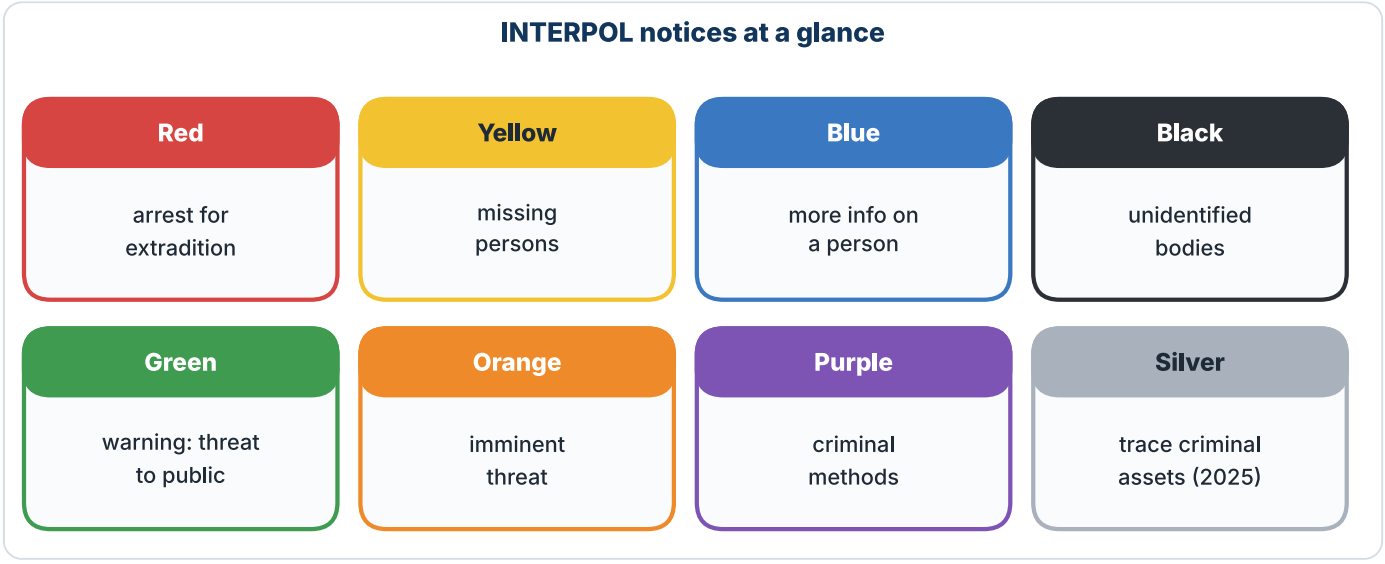
Code:

(a) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
(b) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4
(c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3
(d) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

> **Answer: (c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3**

INTERPOL's Colour-Coded Notices

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›



INTERPOL's colour-coded notices

Notice	Purpose
Red	Locate and provisionally arrest a person for extradition
Yellow	Locate missing persons, often minors
Blue	Collect more information about a person's identity, location or activities
Black	Seek information on unidentified bodies
Green	Warn about a person's criminal activities (possible threat to public safety)
Orange	Warn of an imminent threat from an event, object or person
Purple	Seek or share information on criminal methods (modus operandi)
Silver	Identify and trace criminal assets
UNSC Special	Individuals and entities under UN Security Council sanctions

- **Silver Notice** is the newest, launched as a **pilot in January 2025** with **52 countries including India**, to trace assets linked to fraud, corruption, drug trafficking and other serious crime.
- **INTERPOL** (founded **1923**, headquarters **Lyon, France**) has **196 member countries**. In India, the **CBI** is the **National Central Bureau** for INTERPOL. In **January 2025** India launched the **BHARATPOL** portal for faster coordination of international police assistance.

---

16. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany visited India in January, 2026. Which of the following is/are not correct in terms of outcomes of this visit?

1. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and the University of Hamburg

2. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Hockey Development between Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation

3. Establishment of a bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific

4. Opening of an Honorary Consul of Germany in Lucknow

Select the answer using the code given below :

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

(a) 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 4
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 1 only

> **Answer: (b) 1 and 4**

Chancellor Merz's Visit (12–13 January 2026)

- Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** visited **Ahmedabad and Bengaluru** on his first official visit to India. The MEA listed **27 outcomes** (19 agreements and 8 announcements).
- **1. Not correct.** The Ayurveda MoU was between the **All India Institute of Ayurveda** and **Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin**, not the University of Hamburg.
- **2. Correct outcome.** An MoU on **Youth Hockey Development** was signed between **Hockey India** and the **German Hockey Federation (Deutscher Hockey-Bund)**, along with a Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in **sport**.
- **3. Correct outcome.** The two sides announced a **bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific**, and a **Track 1.5 Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue**.
- **4. Not correct.** Germany opened an **Honorary Consul in Ahmedabad**, not Lucknow.
- Other key outcomes: Joint Declarations on **defence industrial cooperation**, **semiconductors**, **critical minerals** and **telecommunications**; **visa-free transit** through Germany for Indian passport holders; **EUR 1.24 billion** in new funding under the **Green and Sustainable Development Partnership**; and an MoU for the **National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal**. India and Germany marked **25 years of Strategic Partnership** (since 2000).

---

17. Which of the following statements with regard to the Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments is/are correct?

1. The tournaments have a shared governance structure establishing the partnership among the four Grand Slam tournaments.

2. They are open for entry to all internationally ranked tennis players above the age of 14.

3. There is a limitation on the number of 'Wild Cards' a player may receive to compete in a Grand Slam Tournament.

Select the answer using the code given below :

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

> **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

The Grand Slams

Tournament	City	Surface	Month
Australian Open	Melbourne	Hard court	January
French Open (Roland-Garros)	Paris	Clay (red)	May–June
Wimbledon	London	Grass	June–July
US Open	New York	Hard court	August–September

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The four tournaments are run through a **shared governance structure**, the **Grand Slam Board** (the four chairs and their chief executives), with the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)**. It sets common rules, the **Grand Slam Rulebook**, the code of conduct and anti-corruption and anti-doping arrangements.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Under the Grand Slam Rulebook, entry is open to players on the basis of their **international (ATP/WTA) ranking**, with lower-ranked players entering through **qualifying rounds**. Players **under 14 years** of age are **not eligible**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Each tournament awards its **own wild cards** (usually 8 each in men's and women's singles main draws), often to home players or returning stars. The Grand Slam rules place **no limit on the number of wild cards a player may receive**; the caps on wild cards for young players come from **WTA and ATP tour rules**, not the Grand Slam rules.

---

18. Consider the following statements with regard to the film 'Boong':

1. The film has recently won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award in the Children's and Family Film category.

2. The film is directed by Lakshmipriya Devi.

3. This is the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 3 only

> **Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3**

Boong (Manipuri film)

- **Statement 1 is correct. Boong** won **Best Children's and Family Film** at the **79th BAFTA Film Awards** in **London (February 2026)**, beating films such as **Zootopia 2**, **Lilo & Stitch** and the French film **Arco**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It is the debut feature of director **Lakshmipriya Devi**, from **Manipur**. It is a **Manipuri-language** coming-of-age story of a young boy, Boong, who sets out to find his missing father and bring his family together, set near the India–Myanmar border.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- **Statement 3 is correct.** It is the **first Indian film** to win a BAFTA in this category. The film premiered at the **Toronto International Film Festival (2024)**.
- **About BAFTA:** the **British Academy of Film and Television Arts**, an independent charity founded in **1947**, gives the UK's leading awards for film, television and games.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

UNIT 02 | 5 CHAPTERS

Prelims 2017–2021

5 years · newest paper first

CHAPTERS

06	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2021	77
07	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2020	82
08	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2019	86
09	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2018	88
10	UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2017	94

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

PRELIMS RESEARCH | GS PAPER 1 | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UPSC Prelims Research: International Relations 2018

All 5 International Relations questions of UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2018, General Studies Paper 1, with the correct answer and an explanation of every option.

Q. The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

(a) China

(b) Israel

(c) Iraq

(d) Yemen

Answer: (b) Israel

Notes:

- The **Two-State Solution** is used in the context of the **Israel Palestine issue**.
- It envisages an **independent State of Palestine** alongside the **State of Israel west of the Jordan River.**
- UNSC Resolution 1397 agreed in 2000 with **support from the USA** and became the **first UNSC resolution** to agree on a two-state solution.

Reasons for the Iran–Israel Conflict?

- **Historical Context**: Iran and Israel have had a tumultuous relationship since the **Iranian Revolution** of 1979, which transformed Iran from a close ally of Israel under the rule of the Shah to an Islamic Republic openly hostile towards Israel.
- **Religious and Ideological Differences**: Iran is an Islamic republic governed by Shia Islam, while **Israel** is a predominantly Jewish state.
  - The religious and ideological differences between the two countries have contributed to mutual suspicion and animosity.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**: Iran has been a staunch supporter of **Palestinian** causes, including backing militant groups like **Hamas** and **Hezbollah**, which are considered terrorist organisations by Israel.
  - Iran's support for these groups and its calls for the destruction of Israel have heightened tensions.
- **Geopolitical Rivalry:** Iran and Israel are regional rivals vying for influence in the Middle East. They have conflicting interests in various regional conflicts, including the civil wars in Syria and Yemen.
  - Where Iran supports the Assad regime and **Houthi rebels**, respectively, while Israel opposes Iranian influence in these countries.
- **Nuclear Program:** Israel views Iran's nuclear program with great concern, fearing that Iran may develop nuclear weapons that could pose an existential threat to Israel's security.
  - Israel has been a vocal critic of the Iran nuclear deal (**Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action)** and has taken measures, including covert operations, to disrupt Iran's nuclear activities.
- **Proxy Conflicts**: Iran and Israel have engaged in proxy conflicts through their support for opposing factions in neighbouring countries.
  - For example, Iran's support for **Hezbollah** in **Lebanon** and for Shia militias in Iraq has been perceived as a threat by Israel.
- **Regional Power Dynamics:** The balance of power in the **Middle East** is shaped by the competition between Iran and its allies on one side and Israel and its allies on the other.
- This competition has contributed to a cycle of tensions and conflicts in the region.

Efforts Taken to bring Peace between Israel and Its Neighbours

- **Oslo Accords:** The **Oslo Accords** in 1993, facilitated by the US, were a significant milestone in Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, although the peace process has since stalled.
- **Abraham Accord:** The **Abraham Accord** was signed in 2020 between **Israel, the United Arab Emirates** and Bahrain and was **mediated by the US.**
- **I2U2**: **I2U2** stands for **India, Israel, USA and the UAE**. It was formed in October 2021 following the **Abraham Accords** between Israel and the UAE, to deal with issues concerning **maritime security,** infrastructure and transport in the region.
- **United Nations**: The United Nations has been actively involved in efforts to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict through its various agencies, including the **UN Security Council** and the **UN General Assembly.**
  - The UN has repeatedly called for a **two-state solution** based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.
- **Arab Peace Initiative**: Arab states have also played a role in peace efforts, particularly through the **Arab Peace Initiative**.
  - This initiative, first proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002 and later endorsed by the **Arab League**, offers Israel normalised relations with Arab states in exchange for a full withdrawal from the occupied territories and a just resolution to the Palestinian refugee issue.
- **India's Role:**
  - **Diplomatic Relation**: India has historically maintained diplomatic relations with both Israel and various Arab states including Palestine.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- **Two-State Solution: India has consistently advocated for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,** which envisions the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, based on the pre-1967 borders with **East Jerusalem** as the capital of Palestine.
  - India's support for this solution aligns with the consensus view of many global leaders and organisations.
- India has participated in multilateral forums addressing Middle East issues, such as the **United Nations General Assembly** and the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).**
  - Within these forums, India has voiced its support for peaceful resolution of conflicts in the region, including the **Israeli-Palestinian** conflict, and has called for dialogue and negotiations to achieve lasting peace.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** India has provided humanitarian assistance to Palestinians through various channels, including contributions to **UN agencies** and support for development projects in Palestinian territories.
  - This assistance aims to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of Palestinians and contribute to stability in the region.

Q. International Labour Organization's Conventions 138 and 182 are related to

(a) Child labour

(b) Adaptation of agriculture practices to global climate change

(c) Regulation of food prices and food security

(d) Gender parity at the workplace

> **Answer: (a) Child labour**

Notes:

- **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is the only **tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919.**
  - It brings together **governments, employers and workers of 187 member States,** to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- **Core Conventions of the ILO:**
  - The eight fundamental conventions form an integral part of the **United Nations Human Rights Framework,** and their ratification is an important sign of member States' commitment to human rights.
  - Overall, 135 member States have ratified all eight fundamental conventions. Unfortunately, 48 member states (out of 183 member States), including member states with the highest populations, have yet to complete ratification of all eight conventions.
  - The **eight-core conventions of the ILO** are:
    - Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
    - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105)
    - Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No. 111)
- **Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)**
- **Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)**
- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No. 98)

Q. In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'?

(a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.

(b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA

(c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

(d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

> **Answer: (a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.**

Notes:

- The Additional Protocol is not a stand-alone agreement, but rather a **protocol to a safeguards agreement that provides additional tools for verification.**
- In particular, it significantly increases the **IAEA's ability to verify the peaceful use of all nuclear material** in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements.
- India signed the Additional Protocol (AP) to the IAEA safeguards agreement on May 15, 2009.
- An Additional Protocol (AP) to the **Safeguards Agreement** between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to **Civilian Nuclear Facilities** entered into force on 25 July 2014.
- The ratification of additional protocol will ensure the collection of data of India's nuclear exports, to guarantee that the **material is not diverted for unauthorised use**.

Q. Consider the following countries:

1. Australia
2. **Canada**
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. **USA**

Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN ?

(a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(b) 3, 4, 5 and 6

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5
(d) 2, 3, 4 and 6

Answer: (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5

Notes:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that aims to promote economic and security cooperation among its **ten members**: **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.**
- **Establishment**: It was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- **Aim**: The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- **Secretariat**: ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **ASEAN countries have a total population of 662 million people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of $3.2 trillion as of 2022.**
- It has free trade agreements (FTAs) with a number of countries like **India, Japan, New Zealand, China, South Korea**, etc.
- **Free-trade agreements (FTAs)**
  - ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area
  - ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreements
  - ASEAN-India Free Trade Area
  - ASEAN – Japan Free Trade Area
  - ASEAN-Republic of Korea Free Trade Area
  - ASEAN – Hong Kong, China Free Trade Area
  - Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Q. "Rule of Law Index" is released by which of the following ?

(a) Amnesty International

(b) International Court of Justice

(c) The Office of UN Commissioner for Human Rights

(d) World Justice Project

Answer: (d) World Justice Project

Notes:

- The **Rule of Law Index (ROLI)** is released by the **World Justice Project (WJP)**, a US-based civil society group.

FREE SAMPLE Complete book at store.lotusarise.com ›

- It rates countries based on **accountability of executives and respect for fundamental rights of people.**
- The index is prepared by e**xamining these four principles through eight factors:** constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

LOTUSARISE IAS

PRELIMS 2026 EDITION

FREE SAMPLE

LIKED THE SAMPLE?

Get the complete book International Relations · 2014–2026

You have read 2 of 13 year-wise papers. The full PDF has every question from 2014 to 2026 with the correct answer, an explanation of every option and notes on the topic.

98	13	54	118
Questions explained	Years of papers	Maps and figures	Pages

Inside the complete book

01	International Relations 2026	IN THIS SAMPLE	08	International Relations 2019
02	International Relations 2025		09	International Relations 2018 IN THIS SAMPLE
03	International Relations 2024		10	International Relations 2017
04	International Relations 2023		11	International Relations 2016
05	International Relations 2022		12	International Relations 2015
06	International Relations 2021		13	International Relations 2014
07	International Relations 2020			



₹59

Get the full book ›

One-time payment, instant PDF download
store.lotusarise.com

Preparing every GS subject? The **Complete Package** has all 9 Prelims Research books (2013–2026) for ₹590 ~~₹826~~.