

PSIR PERSONALITY TEST PYQS AND EXPECTED QS

Note for Aspirants

This document compiles actual and expected UPSC interview questions specifically relevant to candidates with Political Science and International Relations (PSIR) as their optional subject. The highlighted previously asked questions are still relevant.

It is intended to help you:

- Understand the pattern and scope of PSIR-based questions in the Personality Test
- Anticipate topical and analytical areas likely to be explored by the board
- Structure concise, balanced, and well-informed responses

Further documents in this series will build a comprehensive foundation on key themes. Follow each part of the series diligently to enhance your preparation and approach the interview with intellectual clarity and confidence.

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LAST 5 YEARS, PSIR OPTIONAL RELATED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- **What do you understand by diplomacy? Interview** 2022, Board: Bharat Bhushan Vyas
- Why is President Trump levying so many tariffs? How are other countries reacting? Why does India levy tariffs as well? (Trump praised India yesterday; why did he praise India?) – Interview 2024, Board: Preeti Sudan –
- **What is the probability (or likelihood) of a conflict in the Taiwan Straits? –2024, Board:** Sanjay Verma
- Why is China building the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)? -- Interview 2022, Board: Manoj Soni
- Is there a possibility of collapse of the Chinese regime? –Interview 2022, Board: Manoj Soni
- Should India try to induce a regime change in China? -- Interview 2022, Board: Manoj Soni
- **How is India countering China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)? – Interview 2022, Board:** Manoj Soni –
- What happened in Doklam? Did India station its troops in Bhutanese territory? – Interview 2022, Board: Manoj Soni
- What's going on in Ladakh? Has China taken any of India's territory there? – – Interview 2022, Board: Manoj Soni
- What is urban naxalism? What are its causes and how can we prevent youth from subscribing to this ideology? Should the sedition law be struck down? – Interview 2022, Board: Manoj Soni
- **What leadership initiatives has India undertaken in the South Asian region? –Interview 2022**, Board: Smita Nagraj
- Comment on the AUKUS deal and the criticism by the former Australian Prime Minister that it is not in favour of the nation or the region. – Interview 2022, Board: Smita Nagraj – ForumIAS
- **Does a nation's foreign policy change when a different political party comes to power? Explain.** – Interview 2022, Board: Smita Nagraj –
- **How do you place India geo-politically in the world? (For example, in terms of the heartland theory.) – Interview 2022, Board: Smita Nagraj –**

- Is the Ukraine war caused by geo-political concerns or by security concerns? What is your view? – Interview 2022, Board: Smita Nagraj
- Do you think there will be a World War III? Why or why not? – Interview 2022 , Board: Smita Nagraj
- What do you mean by saying India is a Vishwaguru? Do you think America is a Vishwaguru at present? – Interview 2022 , Board: Smita Nagraj
- Do you think a new country called Eastern Turkistan might come into existence in the near future? Why or why not? – Interview 2022, Board: Smita Nagraj
- Why do some Islamic countries criticize India on human rights grounds but not criticize China for its treatment of Uyghur Muslims? – Interview 2022, Board: Smita Nagraj
- What is the rules-based world order? Is it serving American interests? Should there be a rules-based order, and why? – Interview 2022 , Board: RN Choubey –
- Everyone has something bad to say about Pakistan. Can you tell us any good things about Pakistan? Should India and Pakistan merge? Would that be beneficial for India? – Interview 2022, Board: RN Choubey –
- Explain India's stand in the Ukraine-Russia war. Do you think India's position is good for our economy? How can we reduce our gas and oil import bill? – Interview 2022, Board: RN Choubey
- What should be India's response if the US and China engage in an all-out nuclear war? – Interview 2022, Board: RN Choubey
- What is comprehensive national power? – Interview 2022, Board: Bharat Bhushan Vyas –
- What do you understand by soft state, deep state? Interview 2022 , Board: Bharat Bhushan Vyas
- India banned Chinese apps etc; do you think we are giving a befitting reply to our neighbours for their wrong actions– Interview 2022, Board: Bharat Bhushan Vyas –
- By your answer it appears we should abolish armed forces. Should we abolish them? – Interview 2022, Board: Bharat Bhushan Vyas
- In the context of the Middle East, how has the scenario changed post World War I? – Interview 2023, Board: Sanjay Verma
- What is the solution to the crisis in the Middle East at present? – Interview 2023 , Board: Sanjay Verma –

- Where is the no-confidence motion mentioned in the Constitution? – Interview 2023, Board: Sanjay Verma
- What is the procedure to bring a no-confidence motion? Interview 2023 , Board: Sanjay Verma
- What are the benefits of bringing a Uniform Civil Code? – Interview 2023 (CSE 2022), Board: Sanjay Verma
- Why not go for the Special Marriage Act instead of the UCC? – Interview 2023, Board: Sanjay Verma
- Is there any pre-independence example of the Uniform Civil Code in India? – Interview 2023 (CSE 2022), Board: Sanjay Verma
- What is India's relation to Antarctica? – Interview 2023 , Board: Sanjay Verma –
- What did CJI Chandrachud say at the India Today conclave? – Interview 2022 , Board: Raj Shukla
- Do you think the judiciary is being intimidated these days? How do you see it? – Interview 2022 , Board: Raj Shukla
- Should the judiciary be indigenized? – Interview 2022 , Board: Raj Shukla
- What is your view on case pendency and what steps should be taken? – Interview 2022, Board: Raj Shukla
- Should India adopt the USA Supreme Court procedure of picking cases? – Interview 2022 , Board: Raj Shukla
- Should we curb the option for an individual to appeal to CAT and HC at the same time? – Interview 2022, Board: Raj Shukla
- What is due process of law versus procedure established by law? – Interview 2022, Board: Raj Shukla
- What is the Hobbesian theory of the formation of the state? – Interview 2022, Board: Raj Shukla
- What is the constitutional position of the Governor? – Interview 2022, Board: Raj Shukla
- What power does the Governor have with respect to a non-money bill? – Interview 2022, Board: Raj Shukla
- BRI: does it excite you as an IR enthusiast or as a civil engineer? – Interview 2021, Board: Manoj Soni

- What is hybrid war? – Interview 2024, Board: Raj Shukla
- Weaponization of energy by Russia – can we call it a hybrid war? – Interview 2024, Board: Raj Shukla
- Does India practice hybrid war? – Interview 2024, Board: Raj Shukla
- What is neoliberalism? Interview 2024, Board: Raj Shukla –
- Is India going towards neoliberalism? Interview 2024 , Board: Raj Shukla
- What is India's approach towards development? – Interview 2024 (CSE 2023), Board: Raj Shukla

EXPECTED QUESTIONS FOR UPCOMING INTERVIEWS

- Should Governors have a time limit to decide on bills?..... Is “deemed assent” against separation of powers?
- Why did the Court recently strike down tribunal reform provisions again?Do we need a National Tribunals Commission? Why?
- Is ECI led SIR good for free and fair elections?How should ECI balance inclusion and integrity?
- Is Bihar moving from identity to performance politics?
- Should the state regulate religious conversion?
- Should women’s reservation start before delimitation?..... Is the waiting period constitutional or political?
- What is the significance of the Jane Kaushik judgment?..... Should affirmative action be given to transgender persons?
- Should parties be legally forced to hold internal elections?Who should regulate parties – ECI or a new body?
- What is constitutional morality, and can it conflict with the will of the people?
- Can India cooperate with China while LAC remains troubled?..... Is dialogue working, or only buying time?
- Why is Russia still crucial for India?... Is India’s “neutral” Ukraine line sustainable?... Can India keep Russia ties without upsetting the West?
- Is Quad an alliance or a partnership?.... How does Quad serve India’s interests? Is it mainly about China?
- How should India handle Nepal’s internal politics?.....Is “Neighbourhood First” policy delivering?
- Why is Japan a key Indo-Pacific partner for India?Can India-Japan shape a multipolar Asia?
- Why is EU FTA important for India now?..... What are the toughest sticking points?.... Is this a real strategic partnership yet?
- Did India balance Israel ties and Palestine support well?Should India support a Gaza stabilization force?..... Can India play a mediator role in West Asia?
- Can BIMSTEC/BBIN replace SAARC?Is successful regionalism in South Asia possible without Pakistan? How should India lead without looking hegemonic?
- How should India deal with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan?Is Chabahar still strategically worth it?
- Can India improve Iran ties despite sanctions?.....What is India’s real goal in this region?

- What did India gain from G20 leadership?What restricts India's rise as a rule-maker?.....Is India aiming to be a "third pole"?.....What capabilities must India build for that role?
- Should India separate its judiciary entirely from the executive (for example- by an independent budget)?
- Do you think regional parties strengthen or weaken Indian democracy? Explain.
- What is 'testimonial injustice'?..... Can it occur in elections or public policy?
- What reforms are needed in India's political party funding?
- Should there be an upper limit on the number of terms a Prime Minister can serve?... Why or why not?
- How would you define nationalism? Is nationalism compatible with multiculturalism?
- Considering recent events, should India alter its policy on the Rohingya issue (Myanmar)?
- How do you assess India-US relations in view of recent defence and trade agreements?
- What steps should India take on global climate agreements (e.g. current COP)?
- What does **smart power** mean..... how can India use it in foreign policy?
- What is meant by "technopolar world"who coined it in recent times.....does it correctly define current state of geopolitics?
- Is the US-China "tech war" inevitable? Will the world split into two tech blocs?.....Is this rivalry about power or values too?.....How should India position itself here?
- What is Russia-Ukraine war telling us about global power politics?....Was NATO expansion a cause or excuse?
- Why do debt crises keep repeating in poor countries?....Is the problem domestic misgovernance or global finance rules?
- Does multipolarity reduce wars or increase them?..... How should India act in this unstable order?
- Should the world intervene in Sudan?.....Is peacekeeping useful without a peace deal?.....Why do global powers ignore such wars?
- Should the UN send a stabilization force to Gaza?.... Can intervention happen without Israel's consent?