

THE CURRENT MAP · PHASE 2

# PSIR Dynamics 2026

## *Phase 2 — The Teaching*

The complete current map for Political Science & International Relations — now taught in full.

Twelve to thirteen live sessions across both papers. Thirty-four current-affairs chapters, mapped to the syllabus and the previous-year trend, turned into answer-ready arguments for Mains 2026.

■ VERY HIGH

■ HIGH

□ MEDIUM

□ CAPSULE

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## WHAT PHASE 2 IS

# Phase 1 set the map.

## *Phase 2 teaches it.*

The companion gave you the territory — thirty-four chapters, both papers, ranked by what the examiner rewards. Phase 2 is the classroom that walks you through every inch of it.

Across **twelve to thirteen live sessions**, each chapter is taught in full: the development as it actually unfolded, the syllabus concept and thinker it connects to, and the debate it sits inside. Nothing is left to self-study, and nothing is reduced to a bullet list of facts.

Every chapter is built to end at the exam. You leave each session knowing the **argument** the question wants, the **counter-view** that earns the second half of the marks, and the **conclusion** that lands — the same source-faithful, contemporary-affairs-anchored writing this programme is built on.

Every theme here earns its place for **this year's paper**. And the map stays live — if a new event's trajectory develops before the exam, it joins the list.

17

VERY HIGH

14

HIGH

2

MEDIUM

1

CAPSULE

## WHAT YOU GET

01

**Twelve to thirteen live sessions**

The entire current map, taught chapter by chapter — nothing left to self-study.

02

**Both papers, fully covered**

Indian Government & Politics and International Relations & Foreign Policy in one arc.

03

**Theory met with the event**

Every development carried back to the syllabus concept, the thinker, and the debate it belongs to.

04

**Ranked by yield, not by date**

Chapters ordered Very High → Capsule, so your 17 highest-impact themes come first.

05

**Answer-ready treatment**

Each chapter ends at the exam: the argument, the counter-view, and the line that scores.

06

**On your ForumIAS portal**

Delivered through the student portal — free or half-price inside your PSIR programme.

## THE SYLLABUS, CHARTED

# The complete current map

Every chapter carries a yield band drawn from a ten-year reading of the papers, and a stamp flags the themes the paper has tested most recently.

■ VERY HIGH

■ HIGH

□ MEDIUM

□ CAPSULE

## PART I

## Indian Government & Politics

14 chapters

- |           |  |                               |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>01</b> | <b>Census 2027 and Caste Enumeration</b><br>The first caste-enumerated census since 1931 reopens the politics of representation, the 50% reservation ceiling, and data-driven social justice.  | VERY HIGH<br>ASKED 2025 · P-I |
| <b>02</b> | <b>Delimitation and Women's Reservation</b><br>Census 2027 unlocks both the long-frozen delimitation exercise and the women's reservation rollout — the decade's defining question on federal balance and democratic equality.                           | VERY HIGH                     |
| <b>03</b> | <b>Constitutional Morality and the Electoral Bonds Verdict</b><br>The 2024 striking-down of electoral bonds gives a fresh, concrete vehicle for the recurring constitutional-morality theme — transparency, RTI, and electoral integrity.                | HIGH                          |
| <b>04</b> | <b>The Governor: Article 200, Article 142 and the Presidential Reference</b><br>The Tamil Nadu Governor judgment and the 2025 Presidential Reference together form the single most consequential constitutional-law development of the period.           | VERY HIGH                     |
| <b>05</b> | <b>Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner</b><br>The 2023 appointments law and the Anoop Baranwal judgment place the independence of the Election Commission squarely in debate.   | VERY HIGH<br>ASKED 2025 · P-I |
| <b>06</b> | <b>The Sixteenth Finance Commission</b><br>With its award cycle running 2026–31 and a 41% devolution recommendation, this is the live anchor for every fiscal-federalism and Centre–State resources question.  | VERY HIGH                     |
| <b>07</b> | <b>Jammu and Kashmir After 2019 and the 2024 Assembly Election</b><br>The restoration of an elected government tests asymmetric federalism, autonomy, and democratic legitimacy — and frames internal security in border states.                         | VERY HIGH<br>ASKED 2025 · P-I |
| <b>08</b> | <b>Reservation Doctrine: Davinder Singh and Bilkis Bano</b><br>Two landmark 2024 rulings — permitting sub-classification within Scheduled Castes and limiting remission powers — rewrite the doctrine of affirmative action and substantive equality.    | VERY HIGH                     |
| <b>09</b> | <b>Judicial Accountability, Corruption and Independence</b><br>The cash-discovery case and removal proceedings against a sitting High Court judge mark the most significant judicial-accountability episode in fifteen years — reviving the NJAC debate. | VERY HIGH                     |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Digital Rights, AI Governance and the Democratic State</b><br>Data-protection rules, the national AI mission and the Paris AI Summit open a frontier where liberty, privacy, state capacity and power intersect — an emerging examiner favourite.     | HIGH                          |

- 11

**One Nation, One Election: The Constitutional Architecture**

The simultaneous-elections Bill and its parliamentary scrutiny raise core questions of federalism, democratic accountability and the basic structure.

HIGH
- 12

**The Waqf (Amendment) Act and the Religion-State Question**

The Act and its interim judicial stay provide the newest benchmark on Indian secularism, principled distance, minority rights and state regulation of religion.

HIGH
- 13

**Manipur, Article 356 and Ethnic Federalism**

President's Rule and its revocation enacted the entire S.R. Bommai cycle in real time — joining federalism, ethnic conflict and weak-state governance.

HIGH
- 14

**State Elections 2025-26 and the Party System**

Bihar's mandate, the rise of TVK in Tamil Nadu and the run-up to fresh polls illustrate coalitional consolidation and personality-driven mobilisation as live features of Indian democracy.

HIGH

**PART II**

## International Relations & Foreign Policy

19 chapters

- 15

**Operation Sindoor and the New Indian Doctrine**

India's response to the Pahalgam attack marks a doctrinal shift from strategic restraint to deterrence by punishment — the most discussed security event of the cycle.

VERY HIGH  
ASKED 2025 · P-II
- 16

**India-Pakistan and the Indus Waters Treaty After Sindoor**

The Treaty held in abeyance and suspended bilateral channels raise sharp questions of international law, coercive diplomacy and the future India-Pakistan equation.

VERY HIGH
- 17

**India-China: Disengagement, Kazan, Tianjin and the Triangle**

Border disengagement and renewed high-level contact, read alongside managed US-China competition, frame India's positioning in an emerging triangular order.

VERY HIGH
- 18

**Trump 2.0 and India-US: Tariffs, Repair and the Hemispheric Turn**

The tariff crisis and its partial resolution test India's strategic autonomy, while a revived Monroe Doctrine and US retrenchment reshape the global order India must navigate.

VERY HIGH  
LINKED 2025 · P-II
- 19

**India-Russia: The 2025 Annual Summit**

Putin's Delhi visit — defence deliveries, energy ties and a renewed partnership framing — is a clear contemporary angle for the strategic-autonomy debate.

VERY HIGH
- 20

**India-EU and the India-UK Trade Agreement**

The concluded UK agreement and the advancing EU negotiations represent India's own hedging response to a turbulent trade order.

VERY HIGH  
ASKED 2025 · P-II
- 21

**India-Bangladesh After Hasina: Verdict and Extradition**

Regime change in Dhaka, the tribunal verdict and the extradition request put India's Neighbourhood First doctrine under its sharpest stress test.

VERY HIGH  
ASKED 2025 · P-II
- 22

**West Asia: The Twelve-Day War and Israel-Lebanon**

The Iran-Israel war and the Lebanon ceasefire test India's calibrated multi-alignment, while the genocide case at the ICJ anchors the international-law dimension.

HIGH
- 23

**Russia-Ukraine and the New START Vacuum**

The lapse of the last US-Russia arms-control treaty — for the first time since 1972 — alongside fragile ceasefire diplomacy, defines the rules-based-order question.

VERY HIGH

- 24

**BRICS, the SCO and Multipolarity**

Expansion, the Rio and Tianjin summits and India's incoming BRICS chair make this the most-cited cluster for Global South diplomacy and a multipolar order.

VERY HIGH
- 25

**UN Reform, the ICJ and Global Governance**

The Pact for the Future, provisional measures at the ICJ and arrest warrants at the ICC offer rich material on institutional reform, international law and their limits.

HIGH
- 26

**COP29, Climate Finance and Climate Diplomacy**

The new climate-finance goal at Baku — and India's sharp response — keeps the politics of common-but-differentiated responsibility and climate justice firmly in play.

HIGH
- 27

**The Indo-Pacific, the Quad and Maritime Security**

Quad dynamics, maritime initiatives and the Voice of Global South summits sustain this as a reliable, high-yield arena of security and economic statecraft.

HIGH
- 28

**The Neighbourhood After 2024: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives**

A new government in Colombo, the Maldives reset and continuing churn in Kathmandu provide live test cases for Neighbourhood First and Indian Ocean strategy.

HIGH
- 29

**India–Africa Partnership and the Global South**

The African Union's permanent G20 seat, critical-minerals diplomacy and the revived India–Africa Forum make Africa a high-probability question.

MEDIUM
- 30

**Democratic Backsliding and the Far Right in Europe**

Electoral and judicial upheavals across France, Germany and the Netherlands give comparative-politics depth to the global debate on populism and democratic erosion.

HIGH
ASKED 2025 · P-II
- 31

**WHO Withdrawal and the Pandemic Treaty**

The US exit from the WHO and the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement frame the contemporary debate on global health governance and multilateral retreat.

HIGH
ASKED 2025 · P-II
- 32

**Digital Sovereignty: Data Protection, AI and Digital Currency**

Data-protection rules, AI governance and the digital-rupee experiment connect the rights debate of Paper I with the technology-governance debate of Paper II.

HIGH
- 33

**Deglobalisation, Tariff Wars and the WTO Crisis**

Reciprocal tariffs, the USMCA review and middle-power diversification expose the structural strain on the multilateral trading order — the backdrop to India's trade diplomacy.

MEDIUM

**CROSS-PAPER**

## The Capsule

1 chapter

- 34

**Federalism of Criminal Justice (Bilkis Bano Capsule)**

A short capsule on remission powers, Article 142 and the criminal-justice dimension of federalism — a compact companion to the Governor and reservation chapters.

CAPSULE

The list stays live until the exam: if an event's trajectory develops into a standalone topic any time up to two weeks before Mains, it is added here as well.

## ENROLMENT

# Two ways in.

Phase 2 runs as a standalone course — and comes free or half-price inside the PSIR programmes for Mains 2026.

## JOIN PHASE 2

## ₹5,000

 / full course

### The standalone course

All 34 chapters across both papers, taught live over 12–13 sessions and available on your ForumIAS portal. For the aspirant who has the static base and now needs the dynamic half — organised, current, and answer-ready.

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## HOW TO ACCESS

Enrolled students: open your ForumIAS portal — Phase 2 appears there at your programme's price (free, or 50% off for O-AWFG and ATS). New to the programme: subscribe to Phase 2 for ₹5,000 and follow the channel below for the session schedule and updates.

## FACULTY

**Amit Pratap Singh**  
PSIR Optional, ForumIAS

## MENTORSHIP &amp; GUIDANCE

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## EXAMINATION

UPSC CSE Mains 2026  
**Paper date: 21 August 2026**

PSIR Dynamics 2026 · Phase 2 — the current map for Political Science & International Relations, taught in full. Source-faithful, contemporary, answer-ready.