

# **SOMP Key Idea Approach for Mains Mentorship 2023**

**INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

## **SOMP KEY IDEA APPROACH**

Often when students write answers, despite knowing content and all nit-picks of answer writing they find themselves ranging in average and sometimes even below average marks. The answer writing is not just about writing the right content but also **about writing it in the right manner**. Now the question arises what is the right manner that SOMP speak off?

Students write with the knowledge that they acquire over hour readings and learning and try to produce it in their own language in answer sheets. But is writing in general language sufficient to **fetch that 1 marks extra**? Then how are you making our answer subject specific, by using the same words in every subject. That definitely doesn't seem right and surely is questionable. Therefore, it is essential to understand that while following norms of answer writing, its structure or presentation is essential, use of appropriate language which is subject specific is equally needed.

This study material prepared by SOMP is to fulfill this demand of answers and make them specific from general. It gives valuable key ideas which can be readily included in answers at suitable places to acquire specificity. Not only this, after going through this material an aspirant can quickly revise the key terminologies used to express critical ideas. While substituting them for a larger sentence will make answers enriched as well as well composed, sentencing the quotes in answers has the possibility of fetching more marks in this tug of war.

The purpose of the document is to provide key words used in every sub section of the syllabus of UPSC CSE and help **SOMP Mains Mentorship 2023 students** to understand their importance and use. To fulfill this objective the material contains Theme areas, Key ideas associated with it, Context of these key ideas and a statement which provides a glimpse of its use. Alongside it also consist of quotes related to themes which are general in nature and can be quoted in answers. The material also guides you about various specific areas in which these materials can be utilized to replace general casual words.

SOMP hopes to help and ensure that our students get through their tough journey and our support in this process eventually makes them realize it. So we hope that you will utilize this study material well and enrich your answers in the exam hall. All the best.

## **THEME: INDIA & NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Quotes:**

1. India does not believe in exporting democracy, rather helps in promoting democracy (Myanmar).
2. **Kautilya** suggests it is important to monitor and contain the activities of the state's "enemy" and its diplomacy through engagement and cooperation rather than war.
3. **S. Jaishankar**: COVID Takeaway-an argument for shorter supply chains, more national capacities.
4. **Harshvardhan Shringla(FS)**- Globalization begins with our neighborhood.
5. **SAARC**: PM- If we are sensitive towards each other's security and lives of people, we will deepen friendships, spur cooperation and advance stability in region
6. **"Where Goods don't enter soldiers does"**. It is being said in the context of China and pakistan.( Check detail in the neighborhood relations)
7. **Strategic autonomy** has been cornerstone of India's foreign policy: CDS anil Chauhan
8. "Checkbook diplomacy does not replace the need for systemic changes"
9. **China plus one**: "I think India's opportunity currently is to cash in on the 'China plus one' opportunity. This opportunity won't stay open for 10 years," Banga
10. **Brother Enemy ( Pakistan)**- Mr Shashi Tharoor in his book pax indica used this term for pakistan
11. **Henry Kissinger** definition of foreign policy "the art of establishing priorities".

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### SUB THEME: SOFT POWER

#### Key Idea: Active development partner, constructive engagement

**Context:** India investing in neighborhood for development and actively participating in constructive support to countries e.g. Hydroelectric project, Nuclear projects, Infrastructure projects

**Statement:** India has been acting as active development partner in Bangladesh through Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link Project

#### Key Idea: High impact community development projects

**Context:** Tourism, low cost housing projects, Bazaar and Border Haats, Education, Medical Colleges

**Statement:** India has been engaged in high impact community development projects in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal etc. eg. Library in Afghanistan, Housing project in SL, Medical college in Maldives

### SUB THEME: NUCLEAR/GEOPOLITICAL TENSION/ SECURITY

#### Key Idea: “Where goods doesn’t enter soldiers does”

**Context** - it is being said in the context of Pakistan and China. Since 1962 there has not been a major war between India and china. One of the key factors was rising trade relations between New Delhi and Beijing . Bilateral trade between India and China stands at USD 135 billion .

Whereas in the case of Pakistan, many wars were being fought and one of the solutions suggested by experts is increasing the bilateral trade between India and Pakistan. Currently bilateral trade stands at USD 1.35 billion. Whereas due to geographical proximity the potential of trade is more than USD 10 billion.

**Statement** - “Where goods don’t enter soldiers does” defines the reality of India and Pakistan relations.

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### Key Idea: Nuclear Flashpoint

- **Context:** Nuclear tension between India-Pakistan, Ind-China, an incident could escalate militarily to the point of nuclear weapons being used in a conflict.
- **Statement:** The military escalation between powerful countries should not create a Nuclear Flashpoint in South East Asia.

### Key Idea: (1) String of Pearl (china) and (2) Pivot to Asia (USA)

- **Context: 1.** China is creating military bases around Indian geography to encircle and enclose its rise as a regional power. Using countries as bases by leasing their ports, airports etc. to contain and control power in the South East region.
- **2.** Growing interest of the USA in South East Asia to contain China to replace its position as super power. USA-IND growing ties for mutual benefits.
- **Statement:** String of Pearls (China) and Pivot to Asia (USA) have made the Indian Ocean a theater of conflict and differences.

### Key Idea: SAARC minus one approach

- **Context:** Pak-Indo Relation, roadblocks in it.. The idea of neighborhood first policy need not include any irritant like Pakistan which can be dealt separately. There are other institutional mechanisms such as BIMSTEC, Mekong Ganga cooperation, etc. where India can engage with its neighbors multilaterally. Even within SAARC, India must work on a SAARC minus one approach.
- **Statements:** India currently is following SAARC minus 1 approach, by implementing BBIN corridor etc.

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### Key Idea: Strategic Backyard

- **Context:** Chinese intervention- Geopolitical Intervention in Indian ocean, Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea
- **Statement:** Intervention of Chinese in Indian Ocean is concerning for India as it considers it as its strategic Backyard.

### Key Idea: Maritime resurgence

- **Context:** Increasing focus of India towards its maritime boundaries, its challenges and its importance. E.g. Andaman and Nicobar terminal project, Port in SL.
- **Statement:** Due to increasing focus on development of islands in Bay of Bengal, we are seeing Maritime Resurgence of India.

### Key Idea: Weaponization of Interdependence

- **Context:** Chinese trying to use trade relations to pressurize countries in their interest. Also blocking, manipulating, extorting dependence of countries to act on behalf of them. Similarly, the USA blocked semiconductors to Chinese companies to curb their growth in the semiconductors industry.
- **Statement:** China plus one strategy is formulated to reduce weaponization of interdependence in supply chains.

### Key Idea: Chinese Salami Slicing Tactic

- **Context:** The term salami slicing is described as a strategy that involves the divide and conquer process of threats and alliances to overcome opposition and acquire new territories.
- The territorial expansion by China is referred to as salami slicing, a term which is a modification of phrase, salami tactics. Salami slicing is also known as 'cabbage strategy' in military parlance. In the context of China, salami slicing denotes its strategy of territorial expansion in the South China Sea and the Himalayan regions. Many believe that the Doklam standoff was the result of China's salami slicing tactics in the Himalayas.
- **Statement:** The territorial expansion aims of the Chinese regime is part of their Salami Slicing Tactic.

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### Key Idea: Cheque Book Diplomacy

- **Context:** Using different methods like long term loans, grants, investments, humanitarian assistance, food supply and aid to make a country dependent on china and ultimately become debt ridden
- **Statement:** Chinese Checkbook diplomacy in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh etc.

### Key Idea: Strategic Patience

- **Context:** the wait and watch technique. When any incident is unfolding in global affairs, countries usually wait and watch to see their alignment before getting directly engaged.
- **Statement:** India maintained its strategic patience in Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan

### Key Idea: Strategic Uncertainty

- **Context :** when the outcome of an event is unknown or not certain for a long period of time. Ex:- Russia - Ukraine war

### Key Idea: China plus one

- **Context:** After COVID supply chain breakdown, wake up call on overdependence on china led to diversify the manufacturing destination in global supply chain. The strategy used is creating alternate sources apart from china.
- **Statement:** China +1 strategy used by developed countries are bringing ample investment in India

### Key Idea: Strategic Autonomy

- **Context:** Maintaining autonomy in foreign policy and relations to keep national interest as priority. Not taking any favors or fervor but working in the interest of the nation and its people.
- **Statement:** India maintained strategic autonomy in the Russia-Ukraine war.

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### Key Idea: De-Risking than De-Coupling

- **Context:** Post pandemic countries are trying to look inward in terms of trade and creating barriers for outside people. India is focusing on ANB but philosophy is making oneself risk averse rather than de coupled with the global economy.
- **Statement:** India's focus with its economy through ANB is De-Risking than De-Coupling with global world order

### Key Idea: 3-S Strategy

- **Context:** 3 S's – **Space** for Strategic Autonomy, **Stability** – Both Within and in the Neighborhood, **Strength** – Economic, Military, and Soft Power to Protect and Advance Indian Interests – have been mentioned by many specialists as the best way to summarize the objectives of Indian Foreign Policy.
- **Statement:**

### Key Idea: 4 Ds of India's Diplomacy

- **Context:** 4 Ds – **Democracy, Demography and Demand (Demand of Indian people) and Diaspora**, Policy priorities of Indian growth
- **Statement:** India is currently following a path of 4D.

### Key Idea: 3G- GeoPolitical, GeoStrategic, GeoEconomic

- **Context:**
- **GeoPolitical-** Politics around interest of different nations and tussle to stay as world power. E.g. USA-China, Ind-China. Global domination and control over narrative to world affairs
- **Geostrategic:** Alignment in key spheres having strategic importance to different nation-states including defense ties, energy partnerships, Security pacts etc.
- **Geo-Economic:** Global trade affairs, nations using economic ties to create interdependence, Economic relations between nations.
- **Statement:** The 3G of world affairs has kept world order in equilibrium.



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### Key Idea: Free and Open Indo-Pacific

- **Context:** Freedom of Navigation, promotion of trade and tranquil relation in Indo-Pacific, Confronting Chinese aggression in pacific
- **Statement:** QUAD is one of the agencies promoting Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

### Key Idea: Brother Enemy

- **Context:** Born from single entity but arc-nemesis, similar for Palestine-Israel, can't get rid of them so need to handle them wisely
- **Statement:** Pakistan and India has been acting as brother enemy and the resolution only can come through dialogue

### Key Idea: Two Front War

- **Context:** Aggressive china in east and Nuisance Pakistan in west. Threat on the other side hence chances of declaration of war on both front at same time.
- **Statement:** No one who fought 2-front war has ever won' — former Army chief Naravane on importance of diplomacy

## **DIPLOMATIC POLICIES**

### **Gujral Doctrine**

- **Context:** It recognizes the supreme importance of friendly, cordial relations with neighbors.
- The resolution of the water-sharing dispute with Bangladesh in just three months in 1996-97. This almost coincided with the treaty with Nepal for taming the Mahakali River for the generation of hydel power. It was followed by agreements with Sri Lanka for expanding development cooperation. Also, it led to the starting of composite dialogue with Pakistan. The composite dialogue was based on the principle that while entire spectrums of relationships came under sincere problem-solving dialogues. Cooperation must begin on agreed terms in agreed areas (trade, travel, culture etc.) even as certain disputes remain unresolved (Kashmir, terrorism).
- **Statement:** Gujral Doctrine can be a way forward in enhancing our relationship with neighbors

### **Panchsheel Doctrine**

- **Context:** Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, which stated, in its preamble, that the two Governments “have resolved to enter into the present Agreement based on the following principles: - i. Mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, ii. Mutual non-aggression, iii. Mutual non-interference, iv. Equality and mutual benefit, and v. Peaceful co-existence.
- **Statement:** The principle of Panchsheel has been our guiding lighting in turbulent times of foreign affairs in geopolitics.

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**Key Idea: Neighborhood First Policy: The policy to put neighbors at forefront of policies in terms of aids, grants, developmental assistance.**

- **Context:** Support to Sri Lanka in economic crisis, support to Nepal during earthquake, Maldives line of credit. Nepal access to its citizens.
- **Statement:** India has kept Neighborhood first policy at its forefront to maintain stable and friendly relations with neighbors.

### Key Idea: India First Policy

- **Context:** Keeping national interest at utmost priority keeping leaning towards any geopolitical blocks aside e.g. Purchasing oil during R-U ware from Russia.
- **Statement:** India's first policy has been keeping Indian diplomacy stable during such turbulent times.

### Key Idea: Act East Policy

- **Context:** This policy focuses on far eastern neighbors like ASEAN countries and Australia, Papua New Guinea and alignment of growth in North-East in India. Recent visits to these countries are part of this diplomacy front. Importance is also to counterbalance Chinese influence in Indo-Pacific
- **Statement:** With Act East in sight India has been trying to gain a foothold in the sphere of ASEAN.

## SUB- HEADING: DIASPORA

### Key Idea: Diaspora diplomacy

- **Context:** Using overseas diaspora to tilt policies in favor of oneself. India using its NRI, OIC to lobby in different countries to create pressure and dialogue for favorable terms in policies and development
- **Statement:** The diaspora diplomacy is mainly channeled to utilize the presence of Diaspora in different countries

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### Key Idea: Cultural extension

- **Context:** PIO or NRIs or OIC preserving Indian Culture and promoting values acting as extension of Indian culture. Enabling people to people contact, cultural ties and hence promoting harmonious relation between two countries
- **Statement:** Overseas Indians act as Cultural Extension of Indian culture and keep its presence alive at distant places

### Key Idea: Tracing the Roots

- **Context:** A program by India Govt, helping overseas Indians to trace their origin in India through birth records or Death records of their ancestors.
- **Statement:** The program of Tracing the roots facilitate OICs to find their origin in India

### Key Idea: Diaspora and development dynamic

- **Context:** Heavy remittances, Investment, grants and philanthropy by overseas Indian in india, promoting growth and development
- **Statement:** Diaspora and Development dynamic has been playing a major role in exponential growth of India.

## SUB- HEADING: GLOBAL BODIES

### Key Idea: Decentralized globalization

- **Context:** counterpoint to globalization, Decentralization brings decision-making back to the sub-national levels, providing space for policies decision keeping in mind both parochial and universal benefit
- **Statement:** India and Africa must strive together for "decentralized globalization" to enhance capacities and overcome challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### Key Idea: Constructive reforms

- **Context:** Reforms in institutions to bring positive change in structure and global affairs, change for good and positive impact.
- **Statement:** Demand of India to reform UNSC is to bring constructive reforms in multilateral institutions

### Key Idea: Rule based order(RBO)

- **Context:** “This means a shared commitment by all countries to conduct their activities in accordance with agreed rules that evolve over time, such as international law, regional security arrangements, trade agreements, immigration protocols, and cultural arrangements. “UN
- **Wherever conflict arises between two states and instead of following set procedures states try to take sides then RBO comes into debate. Ex: Syria, Ukraine - Russia war.**
- **Statement:** As demonstrated since the formation of the United Nations following the Second World War, a rules-based international order is the only alternative to international coercion by competing great powers, spheres of influence, client states and terrorist organizations.
- **Statement:** The Quad joint statement has committed its members to promoting ‘a free, open rules-based order (RBO), rooted in international law’
- **Thought:** “The problem is that there is ambiguity on which rules and whose rules”.

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### Key Idea: Mini lateralism

- **Context :** India's Turn to Mini lateralism in West Asian Context
- Mini-laterals, where a small number of states with better understanding of each other's needs and strengths, collaborate to find practical solutions to their shared challenges first and foremost emerge from strong bilateral partnerships and convergences between states. **Ex: I2U2** culminated from India's deepening strategic partnerships with the UAE, the US, and Israel.
- **Secondly**, the US-brokered 2020 Abraham Accords, which normalized ties between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain and several other Arab countries, opened the space for US-led regional initiatives with participation from Israel. To allay fears among its regional allies about the US

### Key Idea: Reformed multilateralism

- **Context:** Demand of India to reform the UN, IMF, WTO etc. to reflect current global order. Permanent seat in UNSC, Equitable representation in WTO and change in stringent policies of IMF
- **Statement:** The solution to globalization is decentralization and the solution to multilateralism is reformed multilateralism, not a 1945-version of multilateralism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

### Key Idea: Institutional Fault lines

- **Context:** Failure of UN in stopping Russia from invading Ukraine, annexing crimea, Fight between Armenia-Azerbaijan, Crack lines in institutional framework e.g. Russia used veto against all proposals of sanction in UNSC against it.
- **Statement:** Manipulation of institutional fault lines are widening the trust deficit between nation resulting in geopolitical tension and conflict

### Key Idea: 5 S Samman (respect), Samvad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti(Peace) Samriddhi(Prosperity)

- **Context:** Approach of Indian Diplomacy in International Affairs
- **Statement:** The advocacy of peace and tranquility in world affairs can be gilded through India's 5S approach.

**Sub- Heading: Defense strategic partnership**

**Key Idea: Horizon 2047**

- 25th Anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Towards A Century of India-France Relations' — lays out a roadmap for the bilateral relationship till 2047.


**Key Idea: Global Common**

- **Context:** In geopolitics the global commons are areas – and their potential economic resources – that lie beyond national jurisdiction: the atmosphere, the high seas, Antarctica and outer space.

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