

SAARTHI IAS

PSIR “MAARG” _ MICRO SCHEDULE

PSIR MAARG: The 180-Day Mastery Blueprint

A comprehensive strategy for UPSC PSIR Paper-I preparation, balancing deep conceptual study with daily subjective answer writing and rigorous revision cycles for complete syllabus coverage in 180 days.

THE DAILY STUDY ENGINE

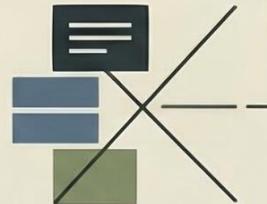


3 HOURS: CONCEPT STUDY

Dedicated focus on deep-diving into theoretical frameworks and core syllabus micro-topics.

1.5 HOURS: NOTES & PYQ INTEGRATION

Synthesizing study material with Previous Year Questions to build exam-ready content.



1.5 HOURS: PRACTICE & REVISION

Daily subjective answer writing practice (DPP) followed by a 30-minute revision session.



CORE METHODOLOGY

180-DAY SYLLABUS COMPLETION

A comprehensive coverage plan designed to master the entire Paper-I within six months.

5-6 HOURS DAILY COMMITMENT

The optimal daily investment required for PSIR Optional mastery.

Optional breakdown:

Concept Study | 3 Hours

Notes + PYQ Integration | 1.5 Hours

DPP Answer Writing | 1 Hour

Daily Revision | 30 Minutes

WEEKLY REVISION CYCLES



Structured loops to ensure long-term retention of complex political theories and concepts.

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PSIR PAPER - I

MONTH 1 – POLITICAL THEORY FOUNDATIONS

WEEK-1

Day	Topic	Micro Topics to Cover	DPP (Subjective Practice)	Revision
1	Political Theory	Meaning of political theory, nature, scope	Define political theory. Discuss relevance today .	Previous notes
2	Approaches	Normative vs empirical theory	Explain normative political theory.	Day 1
3	Approaches	Traditional approach	Discuss traditional political theory.	Day 1–2
4	Approaches	Behavioralism	Explain behavioral revolution.	Day 1–3
5	Approaches	Post behavioralism	Post behavioral critique of behavioralism.	Day 1–4
6	Approaches	Contemporary approaches	Discuss contemporary relevance.	Week review
7	Revision	Political theory approaches	Write a 15 marker on approaches.	Full revision

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WEEK-2

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
8	Theories of State	Meaning of state, evolution	Explain origin of state.	Day 1–7
9	Liberal State	Classical liberal theory	Discuss liberal state.	Day 8
10	Neo Liberal State	Minimal state, market state	Neo liberal state critique.	Day 8–9
11	Marxist State	Instrumentalist theory	Explain Marxist state.	Day 8–10
12	Marxist State	Structuralist theory	Discuss relative autonomy.	Day 8–11
13	Pluralist State	Pluralist perspective	Explain pluralist state.	Week revision
14	Post Colonial + Feminist	State critique	Discuss feminist critique of state.	Full revision

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WEEK-3

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
15	Justice	Meaning and evolution	Discuss concept of justice.	Day 1–14
16	Rawls	Original position	Explain Rawls original position.	Day 15
17	Rawls	Difference principle	Discuss Rawls justice.	Day 15–16
18	Communitarian Critique	Sandel, MacIntyre	Critique Rawls theory.	Day 15–17
19	Equality	Meaning and types	Explain equality.	Day 15–18
20	Equality	Equality vs freedom	Discuss relation.	Week review
21	Affirmative Action	Reservations debate	Affirmative action debate.	Full revision

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WEEK-4

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
22	Rights	Meaning, theories of rights	Explain natural rights.	Day 1–21
23	Rights	Legal rights vs moral rights	Discuss theories of rights.	Day 22
24	Human Rights	Evolution	Explain human rights.	Day 22–23
25	Democracy	Meaning and origins	Explain classical democracy.	Day 1–24
26	Democracy	Representative democracy	Discuss representative democracy.	Day 25
27	Democracy	Participatory democracy	Participatory model.	Week review
28	Democracy	Deliberative democracy	Explain deliberative democracy.	Full revision
29	Power	Concept of power	Define power.	Day 1–28
30	Power	Authority and legitimacy	Explain legitimacy.	Full revision

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WEEK-5

MONTH 2 – IDEOLOGIES + WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
31	Ideology	Meaning and role	Explain ideology.	Day 1–30
32	Liberalism	Core principles	Discuss liberalism.	Day 31
33	Liberalism	Modern liberalism	Explain welfare liberalism.	Day 31–32
34	Socialism	Democratic socialism	Discuss socialism.	Day 31–33
35	Marxism	Historical materialism	Explain Marxism.	Day 31–34
36	Fascism	Authoritarian ideology	Discuss fascism.	Week review
37	Feminism	Waves of feminism	Explain feminist ideology.	Full revision

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WEEK-6

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
38	Gandhism	Sarvodaya, Swaraj	Explain Gandhian ideology.	Day 31–37
39	Plato	Context, Republic	Discuss Plato justice.	Day 38
40	Plato	Philosopher king	Explain philosopher king.	Day 39
41	Plato	Education and ideal state	Critically evaluate Plato.	Day 39–40
42	Aristotle	State theory	Explain Aristotle politics.	Day 39–41
43	Aristotle	Classification of constitutions	Discuss Aristotle constitution.	Week review
44	Revision	Plato + Aristotle	Compare Plato Aristotle.	Full revision

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WEEK-7

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
45	Machiavelli	Political realism	Discuss Machiavelli.	Day 38-44
46	Hobbes	Social contract	Explain Hobbes contract.	Day 45
47	Hobbes	Absolute sovereignty	Critique Hobbes.	Day 45-46
48	Locke	Natural rights	Explain Locke.	Day 45-47
49	Locke	Limited government	Compare Hobbes Locke.	Day 45-48
50	Mill	Liberty principle	Explain Mill liberty.	Week review
51	Revision	Thinker comparison	Contract theorists.	Full revision

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WEEK-8

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
52	Marx	Historical materialism	Explain Marx theory.	Day 45-51
53	Marx	Class struggle	Discuss Marx state.	Day 52
54	Gramsci	Hegemony	Explain hegemony.	Day 52-53
55	Hannah Arendt	Power vs violence	Discuss Arendt power.	Day 52-54
56	Revision	Western thinkers	Comparative analysis.	Week review
57	Indian Political Thought Intro	Traditions	Discuss Indian traditions.	Day 1-56
58	Dharmashastra	State and dharma	Explain dharmashastra.	Day 57
59	Arthashastra	Kautilya state	Explain Arthashastra.	Day 57-58
60	Buddhist tradition	Political ethics	Discuss Buddhist politics.	Full revision

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MONTH 3 – INDIAN POLITICS

WEEK-9

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
61	Sir Syed	Modernism	Explain Sir Syed.	Day 1–60
62	Aurobindo	Spiritual nationalism	Discuss Aurobindo.	Day 61
63	Gandhi	Swaraj	Explain Gandhian politics.	Day 62
64	Gandhi	Trusteeship	Discuss trusteeship.	Day 62–63
65	Ambedkar	Caste critique	Explain Ambedkar.	Day 63–64
66	Ambedkar	Constitutionalism	Discuss Ambedkar democracy.	Week review
67	M.N. Roy	Radical humanism	Explain Roy.	Full revision

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WEEK-10

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
68	Freedom Struggle	Political strategies	Discuss constitutionalism.	Day 61–67
69	Mass movements	Non cooperation	Explain mass politics.	Day 68
70	Civil disobedience	Gandhi movements	Discuss civil disobedience.	Day 68–69
71	Revolutionary movements	Bhagat Singh etc.	Evaluate revolutionary politics.	Day 68–70
72	Peasant and workers movements	Kisan sabhas	Discuss peasant politics.	Week review
73	Perspectives	Liberal, socialist, Marxist	Explain interpretations.	Day 68–72
74	Dalit perspective	Ambedkarite interpretation	Critically analyze.	Full revision

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WEEK-11

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
75	Constitution making	British legacy	Discuss making of constitution.	Day 1-74
76	Preamble	Values	Explain Preamble.	Day 75
77	Fundamental Rights	Nature	Discuss FR.	Day 75-76
78	Directive Principles	Importance	Discuss DPSP.	Day 75-77
79	Basic Structure	Doctrine	Explain basic structure.	Week review
80	Parliamentary system	Executive	Explain parliamentary system.	Full revision

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WEEK-12

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
81	Union Institutions	President and Parliament	Discuss Parliament.	Day 1–80
82	Supreme Court	Judicial review	Explain SC.	Day 81
83	State Institutions	Governor, HC	Discuss state institutions.	Day 81–82
84	Federalism	Center state relations	Explain Indian federalism.	Day 81–83
85	Panchayati Raj	73 rd amendment	Discuss grassroots democracy.	Week review
86	Municipal governance	74 th amendment	Explain local governance.	Day 81–85
87	Constitutional bodies	EC, CAG, UPSC	Discuss constitutional bodies.	Full revision
88	Planning and Development	Nehruvian vs Gandhian	Explain planning.	Day 1–87
89	Party System	Coalition politics	Discuss party system.	Day 88
90	Social Movements	Civil liberties, women, environment	Discuss social movements.	Full revision

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PSIR PAPER – II

MONTH 4 – COMPARATIVE POLITICS FOUNDATIONS

WEEK 13 – COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP (Answer Writing)	Revision
1	Comparative Politics	Meaning, evolution, scope	Define comparative politics.	—
2	Comparative Politics	Traditional vs modern approach	Explain behavioral revolution.	Day 1
3	Approaches	Institutional approach	Discuss institutionalism.	Day 1-2
4	Approaches	Structural functional approach	Explain structural functionalism.	Day 1-3
5	Approaches	Political culture approach	Discuss political culture theory.	Day 1-4
6	Comparative Method	Advantages and limitations	Explain limitations of comparative method.	Week review
7	Revision	Comparative politics theories	Write 15 marker on approaches.	Full revision

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WEEK 14 – POLITICAL ECONOMY AND STATE

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
8	Political Economy	Meaning and importance	Explain political economy.	Day 1-7
9	Political Sociology	Social structures in politics	Discuss political sociology.	Day 8
10	State Theory	State in capitalist economies	Explain capitalist state.	Day 8-9
11	State Theory	State in socialist economies	Discuss socialist state.	Day 8-10
12	State Theory	State in advanced industrial societies	Explain advanced state.	Day 8-11
13	State Theory	State in developing societies	Discuss state in developing world.	Week review
14	Revision	Comparative state structures	Comparative analysis.	Full revision

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WEEK 15 – REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
15	Representation	Concept and theories	Explain political representation.	Day 1-14
16	Political Parties	Party systems in developed societies	Discuss party systems.	Day 15
17	Political Parties	Party systems in developing societies	Explain party structures.	Day 15-16
18	Pressure Groups	Role in advanced societies	Discuss pressure groups.	Day 15-17
19	Pressure Groups	Role in developing countries	Explain lobbying.	Day 15-18
20	Social Movements	New social movements	Discuss social movements.	Week review
21	Revision	Participation and representation	Comparative evaluation.	Full revision

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WEEK 16 – GLOBALISATION

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
22	Globalization	Meaning and evolution	Explain globalization.	Day 1-21
23	Globalization	Economic globalization	Discuss economic impact.	Day 22
24	Globalization	Political globalization	Explain governance changes.	Day 22-23
25	Globalization	Cultural globalization	Discuss cultural effects.	Day 22-24
26	Developed countries response	Western responses	Explain developed response.	Day 22-25
27	Developing countries response	Third world perspective	Discuss developing responses.	Week review
28	Revision	Globalization debate	Critically evaluate globalization.	Full revision

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MONTH 5 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND GLOBAL POLITICS

WEEK 17 – IR APPROACHES

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
29	IR Study	Nature of international relations	Explain IR discipline.	Day 1-28
30	Idealism	Core assumptions	Discuss idealist theory.	Day 29
31	Realism	Classical realism	Explain realism.	Day 29-30
32	Neo realism	Structural realism	Discuss neo realism.	Day 29-31
33	Marxist IR	Dependency theory	Explain Marxist IR.	Day 29-32
34	Functionalism	International cooperation	Discuss functionalism.	Week review
35	Systems theory	Kaplan system theory	Explain systems theory.	Full revision

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WEEK 18 – IR KEY CONCEPTS

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
36	National Interest	Concept and types	Explain national interest.	Day 29-35
37	Power	Hard power vs soft power	Discuss power in IR.	Day 36
38	Security	Traditional vs human security	Explain security concept.	Day 36-37
39	Balance of Power	Mechanisms	Discuss balance of power.	Day 36-38
40	Deterrence	Nuclear deterrence	Explain deterrence theory.	Day 36-39
41	Collective Security	League of Nations to UN	Discuss collective security.	Week review
42	Transnational Actors	MNCs NGOs	Explain transnational actors.	Full revision

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WEEK 19 – COLD WAR POLITICS

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
43	Rise of Superpowers	USA and USSR	Explain superpower politics.	Day 1-42
44	Bipolarity	Ideological rivalry	Discuss bipolarity.	Day 43
45	Arms Race	Nuclear arms race	Explain arms race.	Day 43-44
46	Cold War Crisis	Cuban missile crisis	Discuss cold war crises.	Day 43-45
47	Nuclear Threat	MAD doctrine	Explain nuclear deterrence.	Day 43-46
48	NAM	Origins	Discuss Non-Aligned Movement.	Week review
49	NAM Achievements	Success and limits	Evaluate NAM.	Full revision

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WEEK 20 – INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
50	Bretton Woods	IMF World Bank	Explain Bretton Woods.	Day 1-49
51	GATT	Trade liberalisation	Discuss GATT.	Day 50
52	WTO	Global trade governance	Explain WTO.	Day 50-51
53	CMEA	Socialist economic cooperation	Discuss CMEA.	Day 50-52
54	NIEO	Third world demand	Explain NIEO.	Day 50-53
55	Global economy	Economic globalisation	Discuss global economy.	Week review
56	Revision	Economic institutions	Comparative analysis.	Full revision

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MONTH 6 – INDIA AND WORLD POLITICS

WEEK 21– INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
57	Foreign Policy	Meaning and evolution	Explain determinants.	Day 1-56
58	Determinants	Geography economy security	Discuss determinants.	Day 57
59	Policy institutions	MEA PMO Parliament	Explain institutions.	Day 57-58
60	Continuity change	Foreign policy shifts	Discuss continuity.	Full revision

WEEK 22 – INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
61	NAM Role	India leadership	Explain India role.	Day 1-60
62	SAARC	Origin and performance	Discuss SAARC.	Day 61
63	SAFTA	Regional trade	Explain SAFTA.	Day 61-62
64	Look East Policy	Act East policy	Discuss Look East.	Day 61-63
65	Regional Issues	Migration conflicts	Explain regional issues.	Week review
66	Water disputes	India Bangladesh issues	Discuss water disputes.	Day 61-65
67	Border disputes	India Pakistan China	Explain border disputes.	Full revision

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WEEK 23 – INDIA AND GLOBAL POWERS

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
68	India Africa	South South cooperation	Explain India Africa relations.	Day 1-67
69	India Latin America	Economic diplomacy	Discuss relations.	Day 68
70	India USA	Strategic partnership	Explain India US relations.	Day 68-69
71	India EU	Trade diplomacy	Discuss EU relations.	Day 68-70
72	India China	Strategic rivalry	Explain India China relations.	Week review
73	India Russia	Defense partnership	Discuss India Russia.	Day 68-72
74	India Japan	Indo Pacific partnership	Explain India Japan.	Full revision

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WEEK 24 – GLOBAL ISSUES

Day	Topic	Micro Topics	DPP	Revision
75	India UN	Peacekeeping role	Explain UN role.	Day 1-74
76	UNSC Reform	Permanent seat debate	Discuss UNSC reform.	Day 75
77	Nuclear Policy	India nuclear doctrine	Explain nuclear policy.	Day 75-76
78	Afghanistan crisis	India position	Discuss Afghanistan policy.	Day 75-77
79	West Asia	Energy geopolitics	Explain West Asia policy.	Week review
80	India Israel	Strategic relations	Discuss India Israel.	Day 75-79
81	New World Order	India vision	Explain India world vision.	Full revision

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FINAL CONSOLIDATION DAYS

Day	Activity
82	Revision Comparative Politics
83	Revision IR theories
84	Revision Cold War
85	Revision International economy
86	Revision Indian foreign policy
87	Revision India global relations
88	Full length test Paper II
89	Answer writing practice
90	Final revision

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