

I: NEHRU ERA

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- Nehru's parents were Motilal Nehru and Swaruprani Thussu. Motilal Nehru was a prominent lawyer and a member of the Indian National Congress, and also served as its president twice.
- Nehru's family was affluent thanks to his father's legal practice. He describes his childhood as uneventful and sheltered in his autobiography. He grew up in a grand house called 'Anand Bhavan'. He had two sisters, both younger than him.
- At the age of 15, Nehru went to study at the Harrow School in England. After that, he studied natural science at Trinity College, Cambridge University, and passed out with a degree in 1910. Nehru also read books on politics, economics, literature and history.
- As a child, he read about Garibaldi, the Italian national hero, and Nehru himself was inspired and dreamed of India's freedom from British rule.
- He was influenced by the works of G B Shaw, H G Wells, Bertrand Russell, J M Keynes, Meredith Townsend and Lowes Dickinson. After acquiring a degree, Nehru studied to become a lawyer and entered the Bar in 1912.
- In 1912, Nehru returned to India and started practice at the Allahabad High Court. However, he was disinterested in this job and soon drifted towards the national cause. He attended a Congress session in 1912 in Patna and felt that the membership of the party was restricted to upper-class elites. The INC at that time was in its moderate phase.
- Nevertheless, he worked for the party. His ideas were radical. He spoke of complete independence at a time when most people were content with a few constitutional reforms.
- He advocated for non-cooperation and resigning from honorary positions. He supported more aggressive nationalists who were pressing for home rule.
- He was influenced by Annie Besant and worked for her Home Rule League.
- Nehru met Mahatma Gandhi in 1916 and was drawn to him instantly. He became his close friend, follower and associate.
- He was involved in the non-cooperation movement in 1920 and was imprisoned for the first time. When Gandhi called off the movement in the wake of the violence at Chauri Chaura, there was a split in the party and Motilal Nehru and C R Das formed the Swaraj Party. Jawaharlal Nehru, however, remained with the Congress and Gandhi.
- As a national leader, he understood the importance of having a worldview and sought relations with similar democratic movements in other nations as well. He visited several countries. He represented India at a meeting of oppressed nationalities in Brussels.
- Nehru also played his part in making the struggles of the people of the princely states align with the freedom movement in British India.
- He became the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee in September 1923. He was the party president in the Lahore session in 1929 when the declaration of complete independence as the goal of the freedom movement was passed.
- He became the president of the All India States Peoples Conference in 1935. He threw open its membership to people across the political spectrum. This organisation would play an important part in the integration of the princely states into India.
- Nehru was at the forefront in various movements like the Salt Satyagraha and the Quit India Movement and was arrested a total of nine times by the British.
- From 1946, he was elected the president of the congress party and served as its president for three more terms.

- Nehru headed the interim government of India in 1946. After India achieved independence on 15 August 1947, Nehru became the prime minister. As prime minister, he delivered his now-famous address to the nation, 'Tryst with Destiny'.
- Nehru's vision of a united India led to the speedy integration of the princely states into the Indian Dominion. He was ably supported by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and V K Krishna Menon, his aide in this matter.
- Nehru, as prime minister, advocated a mixed economy. He established heavy industries believing them to be essential to the development of a country. But there were also heavy control and regulations of the industry.
- In 1953, he appointed the States Reorganisation Commission to redraw state boundaries on linguistic lines.
- He advocated the use of Hindi as the country's official language but this met with heavy resistance from non-Hindi speakers.
- He enacted many laws to criminalise certain practices like caste-based discrimination. He also increased legal rights for women.
- Nehru was leading a newly independent country and initiated many projects like setting up the IITs, the defence academies, the nuclear energy program and so on.
- He was also keen on having cordial relations with other nations of the world.
- He was a founder and leader of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Nehru was also responsible for the liberation of Goa after years of failed negotiations with the Portuguese.
- He was a prolific author and some of his works are 'The Discovery of India' and 'Glimpses of World History'.
- Pandit Nehru died on 27 May 1964 of a heart attack. He was the Prime Minister of the country till his death and is the longest-serving prime minister to date. He was 74.
- He was succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri as the prime minister. His only daughter Indira Gandhi would become the prime minister later.
- From 1957, his birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Children's Day' in India.

II: SHAPING OF FOREIGN POLICY OF INDIA

The constitution of India lays down certain principles in Article 51 under the Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles focus on the promotion of International peace and security-

As per the principles laid down in Article 51, the state shall endeavor to-

1. Promote international peace and security.
2. Maintain just and honorable relations between nations.
3. Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organized people with one another
4. Encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration

Basic Principles Governing India's Foreign Policy

The principles have stood the test of time and are ingrained in international law and India's foreign policy practice. The principles of Indian foreign policy are as follows –

1. Panchsheel
2. The policy of Non-Alignment
3. The policy of Anti- Colonialism and Anti Racism
4. Peaceful settlement of International Disputes
5. Foreign Economic Aid – Support to UN, International Law and a Just and Equal World Order

The principles of India's Foreign Policy are discussed in detail below-

A. Panchsheel

Indian Policymakers understood the linkage between peace and development and the survival of mankind. Without global peace, social and economic development is likely to be pushed to the background. In view of the destruction caused by two world wars, they realized that for the progress of a nation a durable world peace was needed. Thus, the founder of India's foreign policy, Nehru gave utmost importance to world peace in his policy planning.

Also, read about the following –

1. World War I [1914 – 1918]
2. World War II [1939 – 1945]
3. Global impact of World War II
4. Cold War

India desired peaceful and friendly relations with all countries, particularly the big powers and the neighboring nations. While signing a peace agreement with China; he advocated adherence to five guiding principles known as Panchsheel.

Panchsheel also called the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence was signed on 28 April 1954 and since then it has become a guiding principle of India's bilateral relations with other countries.

Panchsheel includes the following five principles of foreign policy:

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Non-aggression against each other.
3. Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit.
5. Peaceful co-existence.

These principles of Panchsheel were later incorporated in the Bandung Declaration, signed in the Afro-Asian Conference held in 1955 in Indonesia. They are the core principles of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) and still guide the conduct of India's foreign policy.

B. Policy of Non-alignment

1. Non-alignment is the most important feature of India's foreign policy. Its core element is to maintain independence in foreign affairs by not joining any military alliance formed by the USA and the Soviet Union, which emerged as an important aspect of cold war politics after the Second World War.
2. Non-alignment was neither neutrality nor non-involvement nor isolationism. It was a positive and dynamic concept. It postulates taking an independent stand on international issues according to the merits of each case but at the same time not committing to coming under the influence of any military bloc. Furthermore, Non-Alignment gained popularity in developing countries. Thus, keeping away from the military alliances and superpower blocks was important for the independence of Foreign Policy.
3. India played a lead role in popularizing and consolidating the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). India, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, convened the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in 1947 to forge the idea of Asian solidarity. Read more on the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) on the given link.
4. Another Asian Relations Conference was convened by India in 1949 on the question of the independence of Indonesia as India stood firm-against the colonial rule in other countries.
 - A larger Conference, known as the Bandung Conference of 29 countries of Asia and Africa was convened in Bandung (Indonesia) in 1955 to forge the Afro-Asian unit. The Bandung Conference was a precursor to the NAM, which held its first Summit in 1961 at Belgrade. Since then, the Non-Aligned Movement has not looked back.

- The Seventh NAM Summit was hosted by India in New Delhi in 1983. In this Summit, India took up the cause of development, disarmament, and the Palestine issue.
- So far its 15 Summits have been held, the last one held at Sharm-El-Sheikh in 2009.
- The conference laid down ten fundamental principles of international relations. The leaders pledged to work together for colonial liberation, peace, cultural, economic, and political cooperation among developing countries.
- It provides all its members, regardless of their size and development, an opportunity to participate in the global decision-making process.

Continued Relevance of Non-alignment:

As NAM was a product of cold war politics and the bipolar world, many scholars have questioned the relevance of NAM after the end of the cold war and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Again, the globalization led to the change in the priorities of even its chief votaries like India, which tried to adopt neo-liberal market economy principles in order to integrate with the emerging global order. This new situation generated the impression as if NAM is sidelined and its relevance is declining. However, if we go deep in the basic features of NAM, it appears to be equally significant also in the changing context due to the following factors:

1. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the NAM can act as a check against undue dominance and hegemony of any country or block.
2. The developed (North) and developing (South) world have divergent views over several global and economic issues. The NAM may provide a forum for third world countries to engage the developed nations in a productive dialogue.
3. The NAM can prove to be a powerful mechanism to forge cooperation, which is essential for their collective self-reliance in the present market-driven global order.
4. NAM can provide an important forum for developing countries to discuss and deliberate upon various global problems, issues, and reforms including the reform of the UN and other international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF in order to make them more democratic and effective.

Aspirants preparing for the Principles of India's Foreign Policy should also go through the following relevant articles-

1. Overview of India's Foreign Policy
2. Objectives of India's Foreign Policy
3. Achievements of India's Foreign Policy
4. Foreign Policy Making in India

C. The policy of Anti – Colonialism, Racism and Imperialism

The foundations of India's foreign policy were laid during independence struggle when our leaders fought the evils of colonialism and racism. India has been a victim of colonialism and imperialism and considers these as a threat to international peace and security. It firmly believes in the equality of all human beings. Its policy is aimed at opposition to all forms of racial discrimination. It always opposed to it in any form.

1. India was the first to bring the issue of Apartheid in the UN in 1946. India raised her voice for the independence of Indonesia and organized the Asian Relations Conference for this purpose.
2. Due to India's consistent efforts through NAM and other international forums, 14 African countries were liberated from the yoke of colonialism in 1964.
3. India firmly opposed the infamous apartheid policy in South Africa. Not only India had cut off diplomatic relations with South Africa in 1949 but also used her influence in the

application of comprehensive sanctions (later) against the white minority racist Regime of South Africa.

4. At India's initiative, NAM set up the Africa Fund (Action for Resisting Imperialism, Colonialism, and Apartheid) in 1986 to help the frontline states, which were victims of aggression of South Africa and for facing the brunt of Apartheid. India made a generous contribution to this fund. The end of racialism in South Africa was a great success for Indian policy.

D. Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes

1. The unflinching faith in the peaceful settlement of international disputes is one of the core elements of India's foreign policy. This principle has been included in the Constitution of India, under the Directive Principles of State Policy as well as in the Charter of the UN.
2. India has played a leading role in the resolution of the Korean conflict and supported negotiated settlement of Palestine issue, border problems with neighboring countries, and other such disputes and problems.
3. India is always against foreign military intervention for resolving international problems. This principle continues to be the cornerstone of India's policy.
4. At present, India is in favour of the resolution of peaceful settlement of Iranian nuclear issues, the problem of the democratic upsurge in the Middle East, and so on.

E. Foreign Economic Aid – Support to UN, International Law and a Just and Equal World Order

India has a deep respect for the international law and/or the principles of sovereign equality of nations and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations as espoused by the UN.

1. India has played a key role in preserving world peace by helping in the decolonization process, and through active participation in UN peacekeeping activities.
2. India has supported the cause of disarmament pursued by the UN. In 1988, India proposed a very ambitious program of nuclear disarmament before the UN. Although the proposal was not accepted by the other members of the UN but India stands committed to the cause of universal disarmament even today.
3. In order to make the composition of the Security Council more realistic and democratic, India has proposed and supported the reform of Security Council and other UN agencies. India is one of the claimants of permanent membership of the Security Council.

III: PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission of India was an organization in the Government of India, which formulated India's Five-Year Plans, among other functions. The planning commission was charged with the service of the opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community.

The Planning Commission was reporting directly to the Prime Minister of India. It was established on 15 March 1950, with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as the chairman. The Planning Commission did not derive its creation from either the Constitution or statute but was an arm of the Central/Union Government.

The Planning Commission was set up by a Resolution of the Government of India in March 1950. The prime objectives of the Government were to propel a rapid increase in the living standard of Indians by the productive exploitation of the country's resources, raising production and securing opportunities for everyone for employment in the service of society. The Planning Commission was assigned the responsibility of assessing all the resources of the country, enhancing scarce resources, drafting plans for the most productive and balanced usage

of resources and ascertaining priorities. Pandit Nehru was the first Chairman of the Planning Commission.

The first Five-year Plan was launched in 1951 and subsequent Five-year plans were formulated till 1965 when a gap occurred due to the war with Pakistan. 2 consecutive years of drought, rupee devaluation, a general hike in prices and depletion of resources derailed the planning process and after Annual Plans from 1966 to 1969, the 4th Five-year plan was started in 1969.

The 8th Plan could not be launched in 1990 due to political situations altering and instabilities at the Centre and the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 received Annual Plans. The 8th Plan was finally kicked off in 1992 after the economic liberalization policies were started by the government. For the first 8 Plans, the focus was on an expanding public sector with massive investments in the heavy and basic industrial sector, but after the launch of the 9th Plan in 1997, the emphasis has shifted from heavy industries and moved on to the thinking that planning should largely be indicative in nature.

Get the list of five-year plans in the linked article about Economic Planning in India.

Planning Commission Functions

The 1950 resolution setting up the Planning Commission outlined its functions as the following:

- Make an evaluation of the capital, material and the human resources of the nation, including technical personnel, and study the possibilities of enhancing these resources for building up the nation;
- Draft a Plan for the most balanced and effective usage of the country's resources;
- Define the stages in which the Plan should be implemented and put forward the allocation of resources for the completion of every stage;
- Specify the factors that hamper economic development, and ascertain the conditions which, in view of the prevailing social and political situation, should be set up for the triumphant implementation of the Plan
- Determine the kind of machinery required for obtaining the successful execution of each stage of the Plan in all its aspects;
- Regularly appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of all stages of the Plan and propose the rectifications or recommendations of policy and measures that such appraisal may deem necessary;
- Make such interim or ancillary recommendations either for enabling the discharge of the duties assigned to it or on a consideration of the existing economic conditions, current policies, measures and development programme or on a study of such specific problems which the Central or State Governments can refer to it.

Composition of Planning Commission

The Prime Minister was the Chairman of the Planning Commission, which used to work under the overall guidance of the National Development Council. The Deputy Chairman and the full-time members of the Commission, as a composite body, provided advice and guidance to the subject Divisions for the formulation of Five Year Plans, Annual Plans, State Plans, Monitoring Plan Programmes, Projects and Schemes.

Members of the Planning Commission

- Chairman – Prime Minister; presided over the meetings of the Commission
- Deputy Chairman – de facto executive head (full-time functional head);
 - Was responsible for the formulation and submission of the draft Five-Year Plan to the Central cabinet.
 - Was appointed by the Central cabinet for a fixed tenure and enjoyed the rank of a cabinet minister.

- Could attend cabinet meetings without the right to vote.
- Part-time members – Some central ministers
- Ex-officio members – Finance Minister and Planning Minister

IV: NAM

The NAM is an international forum of 120 developing countries that believe in the idea of non-alignment with the major power blocs. It **was established in 1961 in Belgrade**, former Yugoslavia under the leadership of the then Indian Prime Minister **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, President of Egypt **Gamal Abdel Nasser** and the President of Yugoslavia **Josip Broz Tito**.

- In the aftermath of the Second World War and the decolonisation process, many countries in the developing world in Asia and Africa felt the need for a strong movement towards securing peace and prosperity and establishing security for all countries.
- This was when the world was divided into two power blocs, that of the USA and the Soviet Union, especially after the signing of the **NATO** and the Warsaw Pact.
- Most of these countries felt the need for mutual cooperation and coordination with respect to not formally aligned with or against any of the power blocs.
- The collapse of colonialism and the cold war led to the need for improved coordination among the Global South.
- It is interesting to note that the term ‘third world’ arose during the cold war era to denote countries that were not aligned to either of the two power blocs.

NAM Functioning

NAM does not have a permanent secretariat or a formal hierarchy.

- Its administration is rotational and non-hierarchy.
- NAM takes decisions by consensus, which need not be universal, but only requires substantial agreement.
- It has a Coordinating Bureau which is based at the UN in New York City.
- NAM meets every three years at the NAM Summit Conference of Heads of State.
- At the Summit, a chair is chosen, which is a post held for three years.
- In NAM, every member country has equal weight.
- The current chairperson of NAM is Ilham Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan. He holds the post till 2022.

NAM Member Countries

The list of NAM member countries are given in the table below:

There are currently 120 member countries in the NAM. India is a founding member of the organisation.

- Our neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Afghanistan are also members.
- China has observer status.
- All African countries except Western Sahara and South Sudan are members of NAM.
- In the Americas, many South and Central American nations are members.
- Among European countries, Azerbaijan and Belarus are members of NAM.
- There are many organisations and countries that are given observer status. Some of them are the United Nations, African Union, Arab League, Commonwealth Secretariat, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, etc.
- It is the largest inter-country organisation outside of the UN.

NAM Objectives

One of the chief objectives of NAM was “*to create an independent path in world politics that would not result in member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers.*”

- The three elements that define the approach of the organisation are:
 - Right of independent judgement
 - Struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism
 - Use of moderation in relations with all big powers
- In the current times, an objective of the organisation is restructuring the international economic order.
- NAM espouses ideals such as the right to self-determination, anti-apartheid, anti-colonialism, national independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations, anti-imperialism in all forms, non-adherence to multilateral military pacts, disarmament, against racism, against foreign occupation and domination, peaceful coexistence among all countries, strengthening the UN, no use of threat of force in international relations, socio-economic development, etc.

NAM Evolution

Most historians agree that the most important antecedent to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement was the Bandung Conference of 1955.

- - The Bandung Asian African Conference brought together 29 heads of state/government of the first post-colonial generation of leadership from Africa and Asia.
 - This gathered Nehru, Nasser, Tito, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Sukarno of Indonesia under one umbrella. They were leaders of international standing and attracted many other countries of Asia and Africa into the NAM.
 - In this conference, the Ten Principles of Bandung were adopted and these would be the guiding principles of NAM.
- The 10 Principles of Bandung are:
 - - Respect for fundamental human rights and of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
 - Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.
 - Recognition of equality among all races and of the equality among all nations, both large and small.
 - Non-interference or non-intervention into the internal affairs of another country.
 - Respect the right of every nation to defend itself, either individually or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
 - Non-use of collective defence pacts to benefit the specific interests of any of the great powers.
 - Refraining from acts or threats of aggression and use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any nation.
 - Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means.
 - Promotion of mutual interest and cooperation.
 - Respect for justice and international obligations.
- The formal establishment of NAM took place in Belgrade in Yugoslavia in 1961 with 25 developing countries. This is when the first NAM Summit Conference took place. India is a founding member.

- One of the ideas behind NAM was that the newly-independent nations, that had just come out of the yoke of colonialism, should not lose their independence by aligning with either one of the Great Powers (USA and USSR).
 - The founding fathers of NAM were keen to call it a movement and not an organisation so as to avoid the bureaucratic implications of the term 'organisation'.
 - The founding members also stressed on the fact that NAM did not mean the members were to be passive or neutral to world affairs, but rather, it affirmed the belief that all countries were free to have an independent opinion on international affairs.
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