

## **18BPO64C- INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY – UNIT-1**

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### **UNIT-1 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY.**

**ANTI-COLONIALISM:** India suffered a lot under the colonial rule of the British. India knew the evils of economic exploitation under colonialism. Therefore she did not want the continuation of colonialism in any part of the world under any form. She was interested particularly in the de-colonisation of the Asian, African and Latin American countries. Hence ANTI-COLONIALISM became one of the main features of Indian foreign policy.

**ANTI-RACIALISM:** The western countries practiced racialism. They treated the Asian and African people as inferior. They did not accept the racial equality of the Asians when Japan fought for it in 1919 at the Paris peace conference. However, the rise of Japan and China put an end to their superior attitude. Gandhi fought against it in South Africa before he involved in India's freedom movement. In spite of the South African white government followed the 'Apartheid' policy against the blacks. India had raised this issue for the first time in the U.N.O. in 1946. It was due to the continuous struggle of Nelson Mandela and constant moral support of India that the Apartheid policy has been dismantled.

**NON-ALIGNMENT:** The word Non-aligned was coined by V.K.Krishna Menon. Jawaharlal Nehru made it the basic concept of India's foreign policy. After the second world war, the USA and the former Soviet Union had been engaged in cold wars. Arms-race, building of nuclear weapons and forming military blocs. The USA backed NATO and the SEATO and the Russia backed the Warsaw pact countries in the west and Communist China in the East. It created a great threat to world

security and peace. India did not want to join in any one of the blocs. She did not want to ally with any country. This is known as NON-ALIGNMENT. It does not mean neutrality. It means independent course of action in international issues.

India wanted the newly independent African and Asian countries to follow this policy. There was a good support for this policy in the Bandung conference. Countries which accepted this policy came closer. It became a movement, called the NON – ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT **(NAM)** India's Nehru, Yugoslavia's Tito, Indonesia's Sukarno and Egypt's Nasser became the chief exponents of this policy.

The first conference was held at Belgrade in Yugoslavia in 1961. The second conference was held at Cairo in Egypt in 1964. At this conference Lal Bahadur Shastri spelt out this policy's positive programme . They are (1) Nuclear Disarmament, (2) Peaceful settlement of border disputes, (3) Freedom from foreign domination , aggression, subversion and racial discrimination, (4) Speeding up of economic development through international co- operation and (5) Full support for the United Nations and it's programme for peace and development.

The Non- aligned countries acted as a third bloc in the U.N.O. the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America which supported reasonable arguments of the non-aligned countries came to be known as third world countries. About 18 summits have been conducted by NAM in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are 120 countries as members of this movement . This movement is still relevant in the multi- polarised world to protect peace and security.

The last summits of NAM was held at Baku, Azerbaijan in 2019.

**PANCH SHEEL:** India and China are neighbors in Asia. There existed historical and traditional relations between these two countries for several centuries. After China became a communist state in 1949, India moved closer with China. There was a visit of Nehru to China and China's prime minister Chou- En-Lai to India. Both countries had entered into an agreement in 1954 on the basis of five principles, called the panch sheel . They are,

- (1) Mutual respect for each others territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- (2) Mutual Non- aggression.
- (3) Mutual non-interference in each others internal matters.
- (4) Equality and mutual benefits.
- (5) Peaceful co-existence.

These principles were accepted by as many as 29 Afro-Asian countries which took part in the Bandung conference held in Indonesia in 1955 . Even now these principles are relevant in good neighbourly relations .

**ANTI-IMPERIALISM:** India was conscious of the serious consequences of imperialism by the west. Conquest, annexation and administration of a weak country by a powerful nation is called imperialism. It was one of the major causes for the first and second world wars. Since India was worst affected during these wars and got independence immediately after the second world war.

India was opposed to imperialism wherever it existed and in whatever form. The economic imperialism of the advanced countries is worst than the earlier form of imperialism. India is always opposed to any form of imperialism.

**GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY:** India always wanted to have good neighbourly relations with China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Maldives. India has entered into regional cooperation with these neighbors. I.K. Gujral, former prime minister of India, spelt out the five principles of India's 'neighbourhood' policy in 1996. They are:

- (1) Non- Reciprocal treatment,
- (2) Respect for territorial integrity.
- (3) Non- interference in the internal affairs.
- (4) No use of territory by any state against the interests of another.
- (5) Direct talks to settle disputes.

This is known as the '**GUJRAL DOCTRINE**'.

#### **REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH SAARC:**

India believes in regional cooperation. Bangladesh came forward to work with India. The south Asian countries formed an association called, the south Asian association for regional cooperation. Its first meeting was held at Dacca in Bangladesh in 1985.

Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, became its headquarters from 1986. (1) India (2) Bangladesh (3) Pakistan (4) Nepal (5) Bhutan (6) Sri Lanka (7) Maldives are the members. The aim of this association is to help each other in the social, economic and cultural fields. It has no political agenda.

**ROLE IN COMMONWEALTH:** The former colonies of England had trade and cultural contacts. They formed the commonwealth. India became a member of it. Commonwealth countries cooperate in the fields of education, science, technology, and

culture. India did not want to cut off her relations with these countries.

**ANTI-TERRORISM:** Terrorist bodies and terrorism has a threat to peace now. India is opposed to terrorism. India is always willing to cooperate with neighbors and other world countries in the fight against terrorism at global level.

( Refer books for extensive reading)