

MA Political Science First Year

Paper: Indian Foreign Policy

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Unit 1

- Indian struggle for Independence influenced decisively the origin and evolution of Indian Foreign Policy
- Indian leadership always articulated noble values like Equality, Freedom, Justice, Friendship and Sovereignty in international domain
- India had actively participated in the historic Brussels Congress in 1927 to oppose exploitation and marginalization in international domain
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Major Features of Indian Foreign Policy

- The salient features include
 1. Anti-Imperialism and Colonialism
 2. Anti-Racism
 3. Non Alignment
 4. Moral Diplomacy
 5. Support to international organizations like the United Nations
 6. Support to World Trade Organization
 7. Protection of Environment
 8. PanchSheel Principles
 9. Gujral Doctrine
 - 10.Look East Policy

1. Anti-Imperialism and Colonialism

- India had shown empathy and sympathy towards countries of Asia and Africa that are victims of Imperialism and Colonialism
- India spearheaded a nonviolent freedom struggle to achieve freedom from British Colonialism
- India had extended her voice and strength to the nations in Asia and Africa to achieve decolonization in 1940s and 1950s
- India had shown its commitment towards decolonization in international, continental, regional, bilateral and internal organizations and platforms

2. Anti-Racism

- India suffered greatly under racism during colonialism
- The racial superiority of the rulers inflicted tremendous damage on the economic, Political, cultural and psychological aspects of Indian nation and civilization.
- Social Reformers and Political leaders fought a protracted battle against racism.
- India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations
- Indian Constitution seeks to eradicate racism
- India had provided voice to the people and countries of Africa to liberate them from the unjust rule of racism

3. Non Alignment

- After the destructive second world war the international politics witnessed the emergence of a new war- Cold War
- It is an ideology driven war. The western liberal democratic bloc was led by the United States and the eastern communist bloc was led by Union of Soviet Socialist Republic.
- It is a war minus shooting. The leading protagonists left no choice to the other countries of the world. You are either with us or with them.
- Numerous nations especially in Asia, Africa and South America became independent after centuries of colonial subjugation. They achieved independence after a protracted struggle of sacrifice and dedication. They did not want to participate in the new war of the world, Cold war. For them freedom and national development are first and foremost priorities.

- India took the lead and conducted the Non-alignment movement from 1950s and 1960s.
- India was a pioneer, founder. Leader and host of the Nonaligned Movement. It provided real and moral leadership

4. Moral Diplomacy

- Indian diplomacy in international politics contributes significantly to the moral enrichment
- India believes in the principle **Means Justify Ends** and not the other way around
- India had contributed enormously to the world in the sphere of morality historically right from the ancient period as seen in the spread of Buddhism
- India had never invaded any country in history
- Justice, Fairness and Brotherhood guide Indian diplomacy

5. Support to the United Nations

- India has been a staunch member of the United Nations
- Indian had contributed to the Un in diverse ways. It is one of the largest contributors to the United Nations Peace keeping Operations. Indian soldiers have sacrificed their life and limbs in the peace keeping operations of the UN in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Indian had signed most of the international agreements and accords to promote international peace and stability
- India had positively contributed to the debates and discussions in different fora of the UN like the General Assembly, Security Council and Specialized Agencies like WHO
- Indian had discharged her responsibilities commendably when she was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations

6. Indian and World Trade Organization

- Indian had participated in many rounds of negotiations conducted by **General agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT)**

- India is a founder member of the World Trade Organization when it was established in 1995
- India had contributed positively to the negotiations of the WTO in its Ministerial Meetings and other for a
- Indian had come forward many times to sacrifice her own trade and commerce interests for the sake of WTO and barrier free trade

7. International environment

- Indian had proactively participated in international for a for preserving environment.
- It is associated with United Nations Environment Program. It was an active participant in Multilateral Conferences on Environment held in Stockholm, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg and Durban
- India articulates that climate change hazard must be tackled fast. Fairness, Justice and Poverty Eradication should be incorporated in any carbon reduction international scheme
- Per capita Emissions must be the basis of international talks on carbon emissions
- The international community must understand the difference between Developmental Emissions or Subsistence Emissions and Luxury Emissions while fixing quantitative emission reduction targets

8. PanchSheel Principles

- India advocated PanchSheel Principles or Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in 1950s
- The policy aimed to foster closer cooperation between India and China.
- It contained five features and therefore was called PanchSheel Principles
- The five principles are
 - a) Peaceful co-existence
 - b) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
 - c) Mutual non-interference
 - d) Mutual non-aggression
 - d) Equality and mutual benefit

- But China betrayed India by ignoring the above principles and inflicting the Indo-Chinese War

9. Gujral Doctrine

-WHEN I.K.Gujral was the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of India in late 1990s he propounded the Gujral Doctrine of Non-Reciprocity

- it is an innovative doctrine adopted by India towards her neighbors in South Asia
- India is the mammoth country in South Asian subcontinent and in terms of geography, military, economy, demography no other nation can come closer to India.
- To assure the neighbors that India is not a big brother in the region Gujral Doctrine was brought out
- The doctrine promised non reciprocity towards the neighbors. India would not insist on reciprocal attitude from the smaller neighbors.
- Indian would provide unilateral concessions in trade and commerce towards the neighbors
- India seeks only their goodwill and friendship
- Gujral Doctrine of Non Reciprocity was applicable only in commerce and trade and not in issues concerning national interests and sovereignty.
- Moreover, the non-reciprocity was extended only to the smaller neighbors
- The doctrine was not applicable in India Pakistan relations as Pakistan exports cross border terrorism to destabilize Indian unity and sovereignty

10)Look East Policy

- The new concept was adopted by India in the Post Liberalization era from 1990s
- After independence India had displayed preponderant attention to its relations with the Western World in economy, diplomacy etc

- In 1990s India realized that it should rearrange its priorities and focus on its relations with the countries in South East Asia and East Asia
- These countries have achieved commendable levels of economic development and closer relationship will be symbiotic.
- Moreover India shares a long. Many centuries old cultural relationship with them
- As a result of this concept India became closely associated with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)
- It has become a Sectoral Partner of ASEAN in 1992, a Dialogue Partner in 1996 and a Summit-level Partner in 2002.
- Later on India developed this concept and a new one called “**Act East Policy**” emerged
- Act East Policy is more proactive in its approach in fostering increasing and mutually beneficial cooperation between India and the nations in the east of India

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