

6

Non-Aligned Movement

Meaning

Non-alignment does not mean "isolation" or "neutrality". It is an independent movement stressing that nations should follow their own policies without joining any of the power blocs and falling under their influence. At the same time they were free to be friendly with both the power blocs. It is not a bloc but constituted a group of like-minded nations having similar aims and objectives. A non-aligned nation judges each issue on its merits. In other words, non-alignment upholds the rights of all states to freedom of choice and action in the international field. One of the fundamental aspects of non-alignment is its antipathy to military alliances and opposition to any form of imperialism.

Jawaharlal Nehru who coined the word 'Non-aligned' said, "Non-alignment does not mean passivity of mind or action. It does not mean submission to what we consider evil. It is a positive and dynamic approach to such problems that confront us."

Features of Non-Aligned Movement

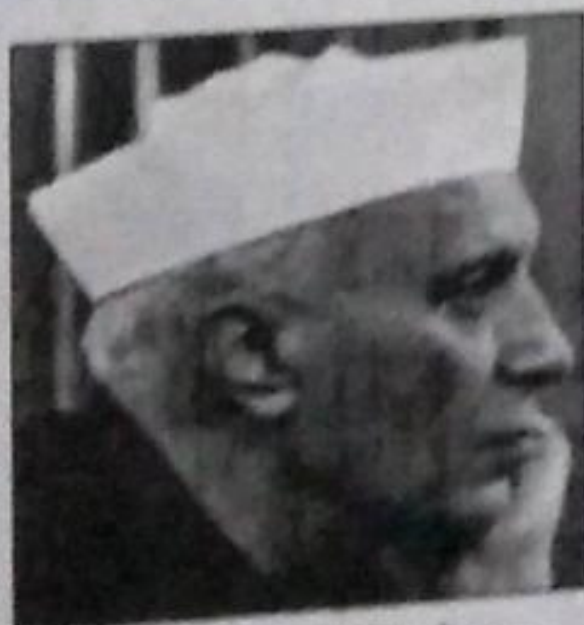
- (i) It does not support power blocs.
- (ii) It was against the cold war.
- (iii) Member nations judged each issue on merit.

Architects of Non-Aligned Movement



Nasser

Gamal-Abdul Nasser was the second President of Egypt. He played a major role in founding the Non-Aligned Movement.



Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India. He pioneered the policy of non-alignment and cofounded the Non-Aligned Movement.



Tito

Josip Broz Tito was the leader of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He was one of the founders and promoters of the Non-Aligned Movement.

1. Formation and growth of the Non-Aligned Movement :

The Asian Relations Conference : It took place in New Delhi in March-April 1947. It was hosted by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who then headed a provisional government that was preparing for India's Independence, which came on 15th August, 1947. The Asian Relations Conference brought together many leaders of the independence movements in Asia, and represented a first attempt to assert the Asian unity. The objectives of the Conference were 'to bring together the leading men and women of Asia on a common platform to study the problems of common concern to the people of the continent, to focus attention on social, economic and cultural problems of the different countries of Asia, and to foster mutual contact and understanding.'

At this Conference, Nehru declared : ' ... Asia is again finding herself...one of the notable consequences of the European domination of Asia has been the isolation of the countries of Asia from one another...Today this isolation is breaking down because of many reasons, political and otherwise... this Conference is significant as an expression of that deeper urge of the mind and spirit of Asia which has persisted...In this Conference and in this work, there are no leaders and no followers. All the countries of Asia have to meet together in a common task.

2. Panchsheel :

In 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru (India) and Chou-En-Lai (China) signed an agreement containing five principles of peaceful co-existence. These principles collectively known as 'Panchsheel' became the guidelines for the Non-Aligned Movement to evolve. These five principles were :

- (i) Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs ;
- (ii) Mutual non-aggression;
- (iii) Equality and mutual benefit;
- (iv) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; and
- (v) Peaceful co-existence.

These five principles or **Panchsheel** were given a practical shape at a conference held at Bandung (Indonesia) in April 1955.

Bandung Conference : The First large-scale Afro-Asian Conference – also known as the **Bandung Conference** took place in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. The Conference's stated aims were to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation and to oppose colonialism or neo-colonialism by the United States, the Soviet Union, or any other "imperialistic" nation.

The Founding Fathers : The founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement, apart from Nehru of India, Sukarno of Indonesia and Tito of former Yugoslavia, were Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. Their actions were known as 'The Initiative of Five'.

Among the other founder members of the NAM were Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus, Unu of Burma, Emperor Haile Sellasie of Ethiopia and King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal.



The founding leaders of the Non-Aligned states met in New York in October 1960. From left: Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt, Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of former Yugoslavia.

Belgrade Conference (1961) : The first Summit of Non-Aligned Nations was held from September 1 to 6, in 1961 at Belgrade in former Yugoslavia. It was attended by leaders of twenty-five Non-Aligned nations and observers from three other countries.

27-Point Declaration : The Conference adopted a **27-Point Declaration**. The Declaration contained an appeal to the superpowers to maintain peace and security in the world. It condemned all forms of colonialism. The

Declaration called for complete disarmament. It condemned the policy of racial segregation being practised in South Africa and in other parts of the world.

Within a few years Non-alignment became a major force in the world, with over a hundred countries adhering to it.

Nehru's role in Non-Alignment Movement :

1. Nehru's Role in the Belgrade Conference, 1961 : The first formal **NAM Summit/Conference** was held, from September 1 to 6 in 1961 at Belgrade in Yugoslavia, in which 25 nations participated. This Conference adopted a **27-Point Declaration**. Nehru is said to have played a crucial role. He laid emphasis on the following principles :

- (i) Negotiation for peace,
- (ii) Disarmament,
- (iii) Ending colonialism and imperialism in all its forms,
- (iv) Condemnation of racial discrimination (apartheid policy) being practised in South Africa or elsewhere,
- (v) Stress on socio-economic development of Afro-Asian nations on the basis of mutual benefit and equality.

The **Belgrade Summit** also made an appeal to the Superpowers to help in maintaining peace and security in the world. The Conference also invited other Afro-Asian and Latin American nations to join the NAM.

2. During the Korean Crisis of 1950, when North Korea attacked South Korea, India under the leadership of Nehru strongly condemned it, without favour or frown. Because of her non-aligned stand, she was offered the Chairmanship of the International Control Commission sponsored by the UN in Indo-China.

3. Likewise, when Soviet Russian forces and tanks appeared in the streets of Budapest (Hungary) in 1956, India condemned the Soviet action in equivocal terms, in spite of its friendly relations with the Soviet Union. This was due to India's faith in NAM, and Nehru's leadership.

4. In Indo-China crisis of 1956, India under Nehru stood by the democratic Republic of Ho-Chi-Minh, who was the popular mass leader. Vietnam was finally merged into one country in 1975.

5. In 1957, India condemned the Anglo-French attack on Egypt over the Suez Canal Issue. Nehru made efforts to find a solution to this problem.

6. Similarly in the Cuban Crisis of 1962, India supported the popular leader, Fidel Castro to set up people's government there, in place of a brutal rightist dictator Fulgencio Batista, although U.S.A. supported him (Batista).

7. Nehru had always condemned the aggressive policies of Israel (a U.S. Satellite), and insisted upon the vacation of Arab territories occupied by Israel.

8. Nehru was the champion of Human Rights and people's cause under the colonial rule. He worked for the independence of Indonesia (from Holland), Turkey, Ghana, Tunis and the termination of the French rule in Morocco.

9. India supervised the **repatriation** of prisoners of war in Korea, sent the largest national unit in Congo and helped in bringing crisis in Katanga to an end.

10. Nehru strongly advocated the principles of democratic socialism.

Objectives of NAM

1. Abolition of imperialism and colonialism : The member countries of NAM are against *imperialism and colonialism*. The NAM believed in *self-determination, natural equality and freedom of all nations*.

2. International Peace : The main objective of the NAM is to eliminate the causes and horrors of war and, in particular, the elimination of nuclear weapons.

3. An end to Racism : The Non-Aligned Movement is against all forms of racial discrimination. Most of the summits of NAM condemned the policy of *racial segregation* being practised in South Africa and in other parts of the world.

4. Disarmament : The NAM favoured disarmament and in particular opposed the possession and the use of nuclear weapons. The criteria of Non-alignment determined as early as 1961 was that a country should not be a member of any of the military alliances.

5. To strengthen the role of UNO : The NAM countries are in favour of strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations.

6. Creation of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) : Most the developing countries did

not benefit from the fast growth, the Western economies experienced in the 1950s and 1960s. Since 1970s, the developing states have been craving for the creation of a New International Economic Order based on equity and justice. They are demanding reforms in areas such as international monetary matters (IMF and World Bank), technology transfer and foreign investment to boost their economies.

7. Protection of Environment : The NAM called for global cooperation to protect the Environment.

8. Cultural Equality : The NAM stressed the need for *cultural equality* through restructuring the existing information order.

9. Enforcement of Human Rights : Enforcement of Human rights is one of the major objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement.

NAM promotes equality among individuals and nations. It saves new nations from falling prey to the supremacy of the superpowers and promotes freedom to pursue a *free domestic and foreign policy*.

Answer the following :

1. What is meant by the Non-Aligned Movement?
2. State any two features of the Non-Alignment.
3. Name the three prominent leaders who spearheaded the Non-Aligned Movement.
4. With reference to the Non-Aligned Movement, answer the following :
 - a) Principles of the Panchsheel.
 - b) Objectives of NAM.
 - c) Role played by Nehru.