



CHAPTER 15

Non-Aligned Movement

Syllabus

Non-Aligned Movement

Brief meaning; objectives; Panchsheel- only meaning, principles need to be taught only for understanding and not for testing; role of Jawaharlal Nehru; Names of the architects of NAM.

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

The concept of non-alignment emerged during the Cold War. After the Second World War, the world was divided into two power blocs — one led by the USA and the other by the erstwhile Soviet Union. It was during this period that many newly independent countries in Asia and Africa decided not to join any of the two blocs and to remain non-aligned. Thus, non-alignment was the chief characteristic of awakening in Asia and Africa.

MEANING OF NON-ALIGNMENT

Non-alignment is the international policy of a sovereign state according to which it does not align itself with any of the power blocs and at the same time actively participates in the world affairs to promote international peace,



■ Logo of XVI NAM SUMMIT

Non-Aligned Movement

harmony and cooperation. The main features of NAM are the following:

- (i) It is not aligned to any of the power blocs.
- (ii) It is opposed to any kind of military alliances like NATO, SEATO, Warsaw Pact, etc.
- (iii) It retains its freedom to take independent foreign policy decisions.
- (iv) It does not remain aloof from international problems. It actively participates in the politics among nations. So, non-alignment stands for 'action' rather than passivism.
- (v) It judges an issue on merit. It upholds the rights of all people for freedom and justice.

Thus, Non-alignment is a policy which gives freedom to decide the course of action that a country wishes to adopt in relation to world politics.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-ALIGNMENT

The following factors were responsible for the development of the Non-Aligned Movement:

(i) Global tension caused by Cold War:

Most of the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa realised that the division of the world into two power blocs was not in their larger interest; and this might endanger world peace. These nations felt that by maintaining distance from both the superpowers they would put off the danger of another war or a nuclear holocaust.

(ii) Struggle against imperialism and neo-colonisation:

The newly independent nations

opted for non-alignment because of some emotional and psychological constraints. They wanted to enjoy their newly acquired freedom and the power that had come with it without any pressure from other bigger nations.

(iii) Right of independent judgement:

The newly independent nations were able to keep their own identity by not aligning with any of the power blocs. They wanted to solve their problems themselves without any outside interference or influence.

(iv) Use of moderation in relation to all the big powers: The newly independent nations wanted to promote goodwill and cooperation among the nations of Asia and Africa and to explore and advance their mutual interests by establishing friendly relations with all the nations.

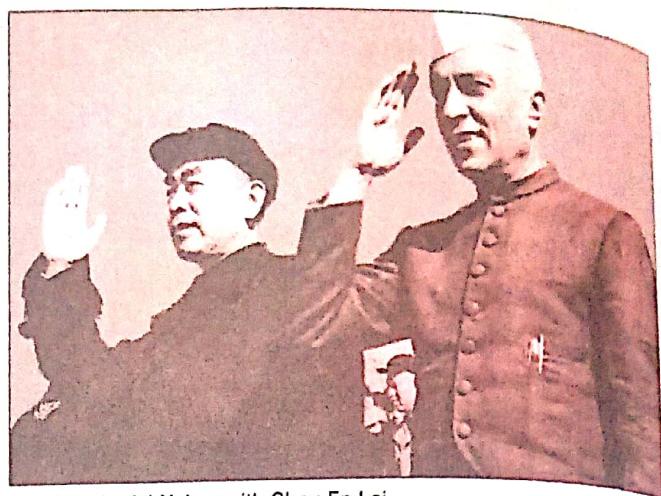
(v) Restructuring international economic order: Most of the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa were economically backward and had a low standard of living. Since they needed both capital and technical know-how to boost their economic development, they considered it worthwhile to get both the things from wherever they could without any strings attached with them.

(vi) Formation of a collective force: The newly independent nations realised that although they do not have the military and economic power to influence international affairs, they had moral force and with their collective reason they could maintain or promote world peace on their own.

PANCHSHEEL

In 1954, India and China signed an agreement containing five principles of peaceful co-existence. These principles collectively known as 'Panchsheel' became 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 for mutual benefit;



Jawaharlal Nehru with Chou En Lai

- (iv) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; and
- (v) Peaceful co-existence.

These five principles or Panchsheel were given practical shape at a conference held at Bandung (Indonesia) in April 1955. This conference was attended by 29 countries from Asia and Africa including Philippines, Turkey and South Vietnam, Communist China and North Vietnam.

The conference was presided over by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, Chinese Prime Minister Chou En Lai and Gamal Abdel Nasser, Prime Minister and later President of Egypt. The delegates at the conference condemned colonialism and emphasised the need for economic growth in the third world countries. The Bandung Conference, thus, paved the way for cooperation among newly independent nations, which later on blossomed into Non-Aligned Movement.

ARCHITECTS OF NAM

The Non-Aligned Movement was formally launched at its first summit held in September 1961 at Belgrade in Yugoslavia. It was attended by 25 Afro-Asian and one European country (Cyprus). Three Latin American countries participated as observers. The Conference was attended by Prime Minister Nehru of India, President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia and President Nasser of Egypt. These three are considered as the 'founding fathers' of NAM.



Jawaharlal Nehru, Kwame Nkrumah, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Sukarno, Josip Broz Tito

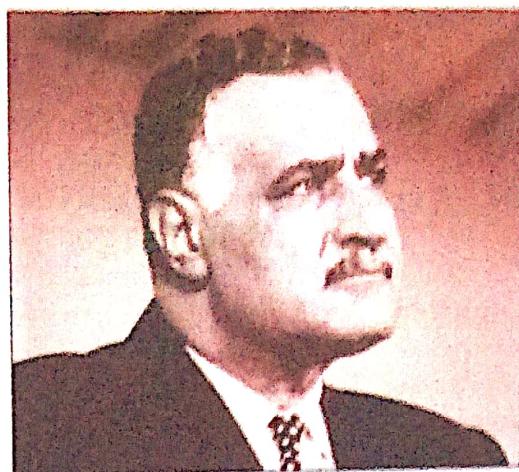
Among the other founder members of the NAM were Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus, U Nu of Burma (Myanmar), President Sukarno of Indonesia, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Emperor Haile Sellassie of Ethiopia and King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal.

Several issues concerning world peace were discussed at the first NAM Summit. These included problems of Berlin and the Congo, the question of Chinese representation in the UN and the issue of apartheid in South Africa. The summit expressed the faith of NAM in the principle of peaceful co-existence and declared that imperialism was a threat to world peace. It demanded immediate and total abolition of colonialism. It also called for complete disarmament.

Periodic NAM summits have been held after the movement was launched in 1961. Though general topics like world peace, non-alignment, disarmament, etc., were discussed at all the summits, yet they also discussed the issues and problems which now and then appeared on the international scenario.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

The main objective of NAM at the beginning was to keep away the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa from the rivalry between the superpowers and to protect and



Gamal Abdel Nasser

preserve their newly acquired independence. The other important objectives of the NAM are the following:

- (i) To eliminate all those causes which could lead to war.
- (ii) To protect the nascent freedom of the new-born independent countries of Asia and Africa from colonial domination.
- (iii) To oppose colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination.
- (iv) To advocate sovereign equality of all states.
- (v) To encourage friendly relations among countries.
- (vi) To advocate peaceful settlement of international disputes.
- (vii) To oppose the use of force and the use of nuclear weapons.
- (viii) To strengthen the United Nations as an organ of world peace.
- (ix) To protect human rights and to protect the environment.
- (x) To build a New International Economic Order (NIEO) based on equity, equality and justice.



The term 'Non-alignment' was coined by V.K. Menon, in his speech at the United Nations in 1953. It was later on popularised by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.

ROLE OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

The Non-Aligned Movement owes a lot to the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. In fact, India was the first country to initiate the policy of non-alignment, under the leadership of Nehru. Nehru had declared in the American Congress in 1949, "Where freedom is menaced, or justice is threatened, or where aggression takes place, we cannot be and shall not be neutral, our policy is not neutralist but one of active endeavour to preserve and, if possible, establish peace on firm foundations."

Pt. Nehru was a visionary. He realised that the greatest danger to the sovereignty and integrity of India and the other newly independent nations of Asia and Africa lay in their joining any of the two power blocs. He called upon these countries to keep themselves away from the politics of the two opposing camps, which had already brought about two world wars. He advocated mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. It was Nehru, who gradually led the countries of Asia and Africa towards the concept of non-alignment. He convinced these countries that they had great moral force and with their collective efforts could exert pressure on the issues of war and peace. It was in confirmation of his views that he along with Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Chou En Lai of China, Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana led the Bandung Conference. The decisions taken at the Bandung Conference were given a final shape at Belgrade in 1956.



■ Founders of NAM—Nasser, Tito, and Nehru

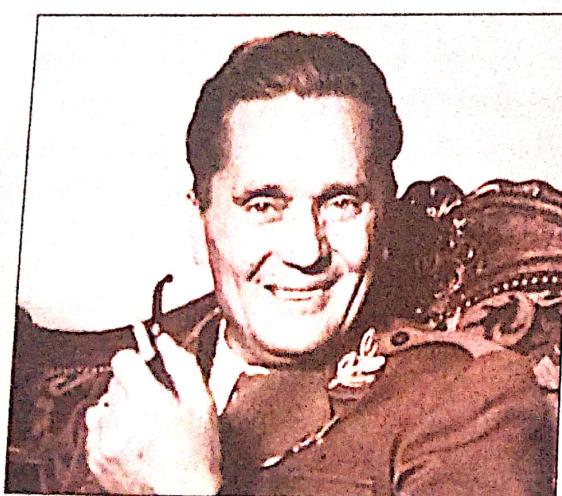
Here, it was decided to form an organisation of the newly independent countries.

Nehru was acknowledged as the greatest spokesman for neutrality of Asian and African States in the Cold War era. Opposing the policy of alignment, Nehru said, "By aligning ourselves with any one power, you surrender your opinion, give up the policy you would normally pursue because somebody else wants you to pursue another policy. I do not think that it would be a right policy for us to adopt."

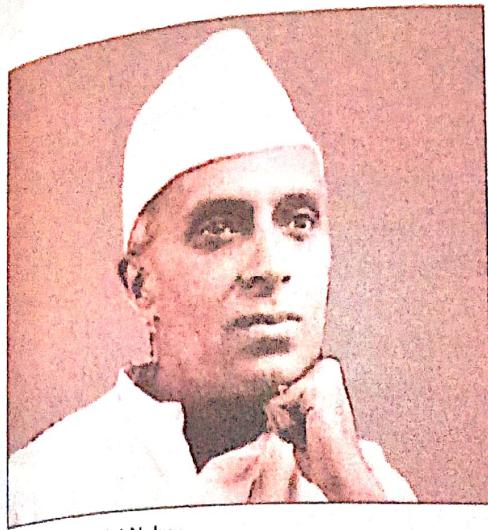
Though Nehru was committed to western concept of liberalism and democracy, he did not approve of the military or economic alliances like NATO, CENTO, SEATO, etc., initiated by the USA to contain communism or the ones promoted by the Soviet Union like the Warsaw Pact, Cominform, Comecon, etc. He opposed these alliances as he believed that they encouraged colonialism and imperialism and were likely to produce a race for armaments.

Nehru was against the philosophy advocated by the two power blocs. He rejected the communist state as "monolithic" and described Marxism as an outdated theory. He did not favour capitalism either and was influenced by socialism. He therefore, strongly advocated the principles of democratic socialism. His policy of non-alignment, however, was not meant to promote a third bloc, but to ensure freedom of decision-making of the recently decolonised states.

Thus, under the stewardship of Nehru, India played an important role in spreading the message of NAM. India promoted the cause of



■ Marshall Josip Broz Tito



Jawaharlal Nehru

freedom of many countries of Asia and Africa which were still under foreign domination. Nehru was against the policy of apartheid being followed in South Africa. That is why India sponsored a resolution in the UN in 1962, calling upon the member nations to take diplomatic and economic steps against South Africa and to force her to give up the policy of racial discrimination.

Nehru was against the mad race for armaments and called for disarmament and abolition of stockpiles of nuclear weapons. It was in pursuance of his policy of disarmament that India signed a treaty in 1963 for banning atomic tests.

More than five decades after Nehru's death, India still continues to follow the path of NAM and its objectives as preached by the founding fathers themselves.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NAM

Non-alignment has been pursued by more than half of the world for over five decades. The number of participating countries also increased each time, from 25 in 1961 to 120 in 2012. The Asian and African countries regularly attended the NAM summits. Some Latin American nations joined NAM, whereas some European countries like Austria, Finland, Sweden attended NAM summits as observers. NAM has a number of achievements to its credit. Some of these include the following:

- (i) NAM has helped in easing of tension between the two power blocs and ultimately in bringing about the end of the Cold War.

- (ii) NAM acted against the arms race of the superpowers during the Cold War years.
- (iii) NAM has supported the cause of international peace, justice and freedom.
- (iv) NAM has advocated New International Economic Order (NIEO) based on greater economic cooperation and justice. In fact, the first UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in 1964 was largely the outcome of the efforts made by the non-aligned countries.
- (v) NAM has made the developed countries realise that the continued deprivation of the third world would affect the economy of the world and their own prosperity.

FUTURE OF NAM

Today, NAM stands for a broader objective of international peace as well as independence of foreign policy of each sovereign State. Though NAM has virtually lost its political relevance, it continues to be an effective forum in many other ways. For example, it could not do anything when two of its own member states, i.e., Iran and Iraq were engaged in a prolonged conflict. Similarly, it could not do much when Afghanistan was invaded by the Soviet Union in 1979 or Iraq was invaded by the US-led coalition forces in 2003.

As the binary Cold War blocs no longer exist in the manner they existed before, the Non-alignment concept has also lost its earlier objective of not aligning to either of the two superpowers, i.e., the USA and the erstwhile USSR. Further, many member states of NAM are now part of other multilateral groups like G20, BRICS etc., and has thereby, reduced the uniqueness of NAM as the "voice of the non-aligned."

In recent years, NAM has issued strong political statements during many conflicts in the world like it issued a strong condemnation of Israel's air-strikes on Iranian territory in October 2024, calling them "a grave infringement of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity." On other occasions also it issued strong political statements but failed to convert them into concrete coordinated action.

However, NAM still remains relevant as it has 120 members, covering about two-thirds of UN member states and a large part of the



■ Cyprus 1988 Stamp commemorating NAM

Global South. This gives it moral and diplomatic weight. It still acts as a platform for development and equity issues like global vaccine access, climate justice, debt relief, etc.

With the emergence of neo-colonialism, NAM has become all the more relevant. Many small and weak countries are unable to preserve their sovereignty in the economic field because of the interference of international financial institutions like the World Bank, IMF and WTO which try to impose their decisions on them. This is a grave challenge to the process of democracy in these countries but NAM can come forward and counteract these moves. The USA has emerged as the sole superpower in the world and has been dictating its own terms by taking unilateral decisions. It is here that NAM could utilise its vast experience gained over the years to prevent the US domination. Hence, NAM still continues to be a positive, dynamic and constructive movement aimed at achieving universal peace, disarmament and development.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE ➤➤➤

Non-Aligned Movement or NAM refers to the international policy of a sovereign state on the basis of which it does not ally itself with any of the power blocs.

Main Features: (i) It is opposed to military alliances; (ii) It allows nations the freedom to take independent foreign policy decisions; (iii) It does not prevent nations from taking active part in international affairs; (iv) It upholds the rights of all people for freedom and justice.

Factors Responsible for Non-alignment: (i) The newly independent countries of Asia and Africa realised that aligning with any of the power blocs will not be in their larger interest and would endanger world peace; (ii) They wanted to enjoy their newly acquired freedom; (iii) They wanted to solve their problems without outside interference; (iv) They wanted to promote goodwill and cooperation among the nations of Asia and Africa; (v) To boost their economic development, they considered it worthwhile not to align with any power bloc so as to get economic assistance from both of them.

Evolution of Non-Aligned Movement: (i) Based on the principles of *Panchsheel* as enunciated by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru and given practical shape at a conference at Bandung (Indonesia) in April 1955, the Non-Aligned Movement was born in September 1961 with the first summit meeting of non-aligned countries at Belgrade in Yugoslavia. (ii) President Tito of Yugoslavia, Prime Minister Nehru of India and President Nasser of Egypt were the *founding fathers* of the movement.

Objectives of NAM: (i) To keep away from the superpower rivalry and to protect and preserve their independence; (ii) The other objectives of NAM are — (a) to eliminate all those causes which could lead to war; (b) to protect the freedom of the new independent nations of Asia and Africa; (c) to oppose colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination; (d) to advocate sovereign equality of all states; (e) to encourage friendly relations among countries; (f) to advocate peaceful settlement of international disputes; and (g) to oppose the use of force and to work for abolition of nuclear weapons.

Role of Jawaharlal Nehru: (i) Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India played a significant role in the founding and evolution of NAM. It was he, who along with Josip Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal

Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Chou En Lai of China, Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana advocated the policy of non-alignment. (ii) Nehru was against alignment with any of the two power blocs; he opposed military pacts, armaments, policy of racial discrimination, colonialism, imperialism, etc. Thus, non-alignment forms the basic framework of India's foreign policy.

EXERCISES

I. Multiple-Choice Questions

A. Select the correct option.

1. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Non-Aligned Movement?
 - (a) It is opposed to any kind of military alliances like NATO, SEATO etc.
 - (b) It is aligned to any of the power blocs
 - (c) It judges an issue on merit and upholds the rights of all people for freedom and justice
 - (d) It does not remain aloof from international problems.
2. Which of the following does NOT come under *Panchsheel*?
 - (a) Mutual non-interference in internal affairs
 - (b) Mutual aggression
 - (c) Equality for Mutual benefit
 - (d) Peaceful co-existence.
3. Who, among the following, is NOT considered one of the 'founding fathers' of the Non-Aligned Movement?
 - (a) President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia
 - (b) Prime Minister Nehru of India
 - (c) President Nasser of Egypt
 - (d) President Rajendra Prasad of India.
4. Which of the following is an objective of the Non-Aligned Movement?
 - (a) To oppose colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination
 - (b) To advocate non-settlement of international disputes
 - (c) To challenge the UN as an organ of world peace
 - (d) None of the above.
5. Which country amongst the following attended the NAM summits as an observer but did not join it?

(a) Latin American nations	(b) Sweden
(c) Italy	(d) Germany
6. Which of the following became the guidelines for NAM?

(a) Communist Manifesto	(b) The UN charter
(c) Panchsheel	(d) Warsaw Pact

- 7.** The Non-Aligned Movement, founded in 1961 at the height of the Cold War, has membership of 120 countries — 53 from Africa; 39 from Asia; 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean; and 2 from Europe. What does Non-alignment mean?

 - Non-membership to military blocs
 - Non-alignment to power blocs
 - Active participation in international issues
 - All of the above.

B. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (II).

1. (I) Non-alignment is a policy that allows a country the freedom to decide its own course of actions in terms of world politics.
(II) After the Second World War it was compulsory for the newly independent countries to join any one of the two power blocs.

 - (II) contradicts (I)
 - (II) is the reason for (I)
 - (I) is true but (II) is false
 - (I) and (II) are independent of each other.

2. (I) Post World War II, the newly independent countries in Asia and Africa decided to maintain a distance from the two power blocs.
(II) One of the objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement is to protect human rights and to protect the environment.

 - (II) contradicts (I)
 - (II) is the reason for (I)
 - (I) is true but (II) is false
 - (I) and (II) are independent of each other.

3. (I) The First Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Belgrade in the erstwhile Yugoslavia in 1961.
(II) President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia was one of the founding members of NAM.

 - (II) contradicts (I)
 - (II) is the reason for (I)
 - (I) is true but (II) is false
 - (I) and (II) are independent of each other.

4. (I) One of the objectives of NAM is to oppose the use of force and the use of nuclear weapons.
(II) NAM did not make any substantial efforts to prevent war between Russia and Ukraine or Israel and Palestine.

 - (II) contradicts (I)
 - (II) is the reason for (I)
 - (I) is true but (II) is false
 - (I) and (II) are independent of each other.

II. Short Answer Questions

1. When did the concept of Non-alignment emerge? Why?
 2. Mention any four objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement.
 3. What are the basic principles of Panchsheel?
 4. Where was the Non-Aligned Movement formally launched? Name three founder members of NAM.
 5. What was Pt. Nehru's view about Non-alignment? What did he do to curb the mad race for armaments?

III. Structured Questions

1. Read the excerpt given below and answer the questions that follow:

'Cruel Genocidal Act': Non-aligned Movement condemns Israel's assault on Gaza

The five-day summit of NAM member states which began on 15 January, 2024 was held in Uganda, where President Yoweri Museveni officially assumed the chairmanship of the summit and the NAM for the next three years.

The body "strongly condemn the illegal Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip, the indiscriminate attacks against Palestinian civilians, civilian objects, the forced displacement of the Palestinian population and further calls for an immediate and durable humanitarian ceasefire". It urged for the implementation of a UN Security Council resolution to allow humanitarian aid into the besieged strip.

The New Arab, January 21, 2024

- (a) With reference to the above excerpt, state the relevance of NAM at present.
- (b) Explain how Non-alignment is neither neutrality, nor isolation nor non-commitment.
- (c) Give any four objectives of NAM.
2. State the role of Jawaharlal Nehru under the following heads:
- (a) Vision in starting the NAM.
- (b) Curbing the mad race for armaments.
- (c) As the spokesman for the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa.
3. Study the picture and answer the following questions:
- (a) Identify at least three persons in the picture. Name the organisation with which these persons were associated.
- (b) Where was this organisation formed? State any three objectives of this organisation.
- (c) Has this organisation been able to achieve its objectives? Give reasons for your answer.



IV. Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

1. State any three issues which can be taken up by NAM in its forthcoming summit.
2. What role does India have to play from the NAM platform to bring peace, justice and freedom in the Indian sub-continent?
3. Compare the relevance of NAM during the Cold War with its significance in today's multipolar world. How has its role evolved? Give your views.

