



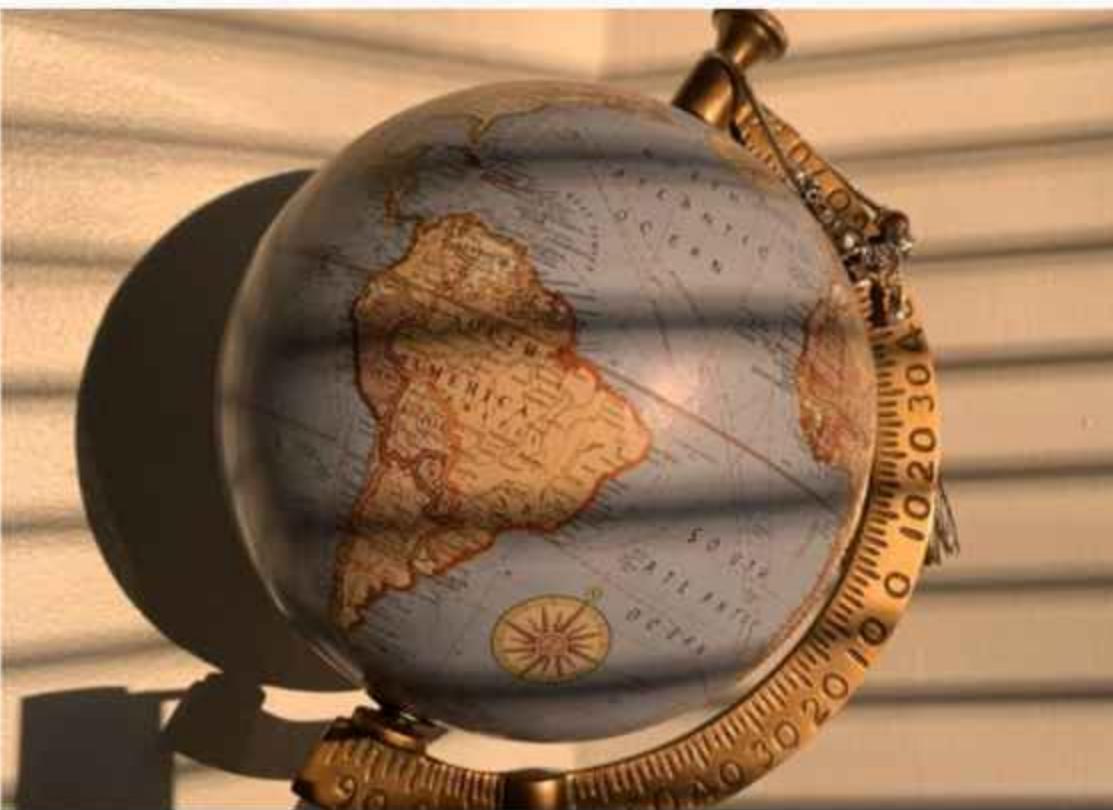
# International Relations Lokesh Saini

# Define International Relations



- International Relations is the study and practice of political, economic, security, and cultural interactions among sovereign states and other actors in the international system.
- It involves analyzing how countries pursue their national interests through diplomacy, negotiations, conflict, cooperation, and global institutions.

## Define National interest



- National Interest refers to the strategic goals and core values a nation seeks to achieve and protect in the international arena to ensure its sovereignty, security, economic well-being, and global influence.

## Key Components

- Sovereignty and territorial integrity
- National security – both internal and external
- Economic growth and resource access
- Preservation of cultural identity and values
- Enhancing international influence and soft power

# Define Foreign Policy.



Foreign Policy is a set of strategic decisions, principles, and actions adopted by a state to achieve its national interests in the international system through diplomatic, economic, military, and cultural engagement with other countries.

# Key Features

- Guided by National Interest
- Implemented through diplomacy, treaties, and negotiations
- Dynamic and adaptive to global events and power shifts
- Backed by institutions like MEA, embassies, strategic think tanks

# KEY CONCEPTS



- Sovereignty: The principle that states have the ultimate authority within their borders and are not subject to external interference.
- Power: The ability of states to influence and shape international outcomes through various means, such as military, economic, or diplomatic.
- Diplomacy: The practice of negotiation and dialogue between states to resolve conflicts and pursue their interests peacefully.
- Multilateralism: Cooperation between multiple states or international organizations to address global issues.
- Globalization: The increasing interconnectedness of economies, cultures, and societies across borders

# Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

India's foreign policy is influenced by a diverse set of factors—geographical, historical, political, economic, and global. These determinants evolve with time, shaping India's interaction with the rest of the world.

## 1. Geographical Factors

- India's central location in South Asia gives it a strategic advantage in both continental and maritime geopolitics.
- The Himalayan range forms a natural border and influences relations with Nepal, Bhutan, China.
- Post-1962 war, China's presence shapes India's strategic policies.
- Proximity to the Indian Ocean makes maritime control vital for India's energy trade and security.
- Key Policies:
  - Neighbourhood First
  - Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)
  - Act East Policy

# Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

## 2. Demographics & Population

- India is the world's most populous country with a large youth population.
- Acts as both:
- A consumer market (attracting global investors)
- A labour-exporting economy
- Population size creates:
  - Demand for energy, food, and jobs
  - Global partnerships for trade, education, and technology
  - Influences positions in WTO negotiations, especially on agriculture and subsidies.

## 3. Political System

- As the largest democracy, India advocates:
  - Democratic values
  - Peaceful coexistence
  - Rule-based international order
- Federal structure allows state-level influence:
  - Tamil Nadu influenced India's approach to Sri Lankan Tamil issue.
  - Coalition governments affected Indo-US Nuclear Deal (2005).
- Public opinion, parliamentary debates, and elections also impact policy consistency.

# Determinants of India's Foreign Policy.

## 4. Economic Development

- Post-1991 economic reforms boosted India's integration into the global economy.
- Foreign policy supports:
- FDI inflow, technology transfers, market access
- Energy security: partnerships with Russia, Iran, Turkmenistan
- Trade imbalance with countries like China forces strategic recalibration.
- Key Economic Diplomacy Tools:
- FTAs (e.g., with ASEAN)
- Energy corridors (e.g., TAPI Pipeline)
- International financial institutions (e.g., AIIB, BRICS Bank)

# Determinants of India's Foreign Policy.

## 5. Historical and Cultural Legacy.

- Influenced by principles of:
  - Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)
  - Opposition to colonialism and imperialism
  - Nuclear disarmament
- Thinkers like:
  - Kautilya – Realpolitik and strategic depth
  - Gandhi and Buddha – Non-violence and moral diplomacy
- India's soft power:
  - Yoga, Bollywood, diaspora outreach, spiritual tourism
  - Promotes cultural ties in Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia

# Determinants of India's Foreign Policy.



## 6. Regional Environment

- Pakistan: Relations shaped by Kashmir, terrorism, and cross-border tensions.
- China: Strategic rivalry, border issues, and infrastructure race (e.g., BRI vs India's Chabahar).
- India's increasing engagement with ASEAN through:
  - Act East Policy
  - BIMSTEC, BBIN, and Indo-Pacific Outreach
- Helps stabilize the region and counter Chinese expansionism.

# Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

## 7. Global Environment

- Shaped by:
  - Globalization
  - Rise of multipolarity
  - US-China competition
- India is part of:
  - QUAD, BRICS, G20, SCO
- Pushes for:
  - UNSC reforms
  - Climate justice (e.g., International Solar Alliance)
  - Strategic autonomy while balancing partnerships with USA, Russia, EU
- Opposes global protectionism and unilateralism

## 8. Military & Strategic Capabilities

- India is among the world's top military powers:
  - Strong army, navy, air force
  - Nuclear triad and space capabilities
- Enhances deterrence posture and strategic outreach.
- Strategic partnerships in defence:
  - With USA (COMCASA, BECA)
  - With France, Israel, Russia
- Expanding presence in Indo-Pacific and focus on blue-water navy

# Phases of Indian Foreign Policy

Indian foreign policy can be understood by dividing it into seven broad phases:

- 1.The Power of Ideas (1947-1962)**
- 2.The Fractured Years (1962-1970)**
- 3.The Idea of Power (1970-1989)**
- 4.The Years of Reflection (1990-1998)**
- 5.The Reality of Power (1998-2011)**
- 6.Back to the Future (2011-2014)**
- 7.Enlightened National Interest (2014)**



# POWER OF IDEAS (1947 - 1962).

1. Nehru shaped India's foreign policy with principles of Non-Alignment and peaceful coexistence (Panchsheel).
2. India avoided Cold War alliances, emphasizing peace, disarmament, and decolonization.
3. India emerged as a leader of third-world nations, promoting Afro-Asian unity.
4. Western intervention complicated the Kashmir dispute at the UN.
5. The Sino-Indian War of 1962 strained relations with China, a former ally.



# THE FRACTURED YEARS (1962-1970).

1. After Nehru's death, Lal Bahadur Shastri's leadership lacked global influence, impacting India's foreign policy.
2. The 1965 Indo-Pak war erupted after Pakistan's attack, further straining India's resources.
3. US food sanctions, in response to India's stance on Vietnam, intensified the challenges.
4. Indira Gandhi's leadership brought modernization to the Indian military and sparked strategic thinking.
5. US sanctions led to the Green Revolution, securing India's food supply and shaping future policies.



Indian troops set up the tricolour atop Haji Pir Pass, carried by assault on 28 August 1965.

The Uri-Punch road was open after almost 18 years.

# THE IDEA OF POWER (1971-1989)

1. By 1971, Indira Gandhi established a centralized, authoritarian leadership in India.
2. Indian foreign policy shifted towards power-based strategies, influenced by Kautilyan principles.
3. The 1971 Indo-Pak war showcased India's military strength and diplomatic success, leading to the creation of Bangladesh.
4. India resisted US pressure by signing a friendship treaty with the USSR and conducted its first nuclear test in 1974.
5. Growing ties with the Soviet Union weakened non-alignment, while socialist policies led to economic stagnation, culminating in the 1991 economic crisis.



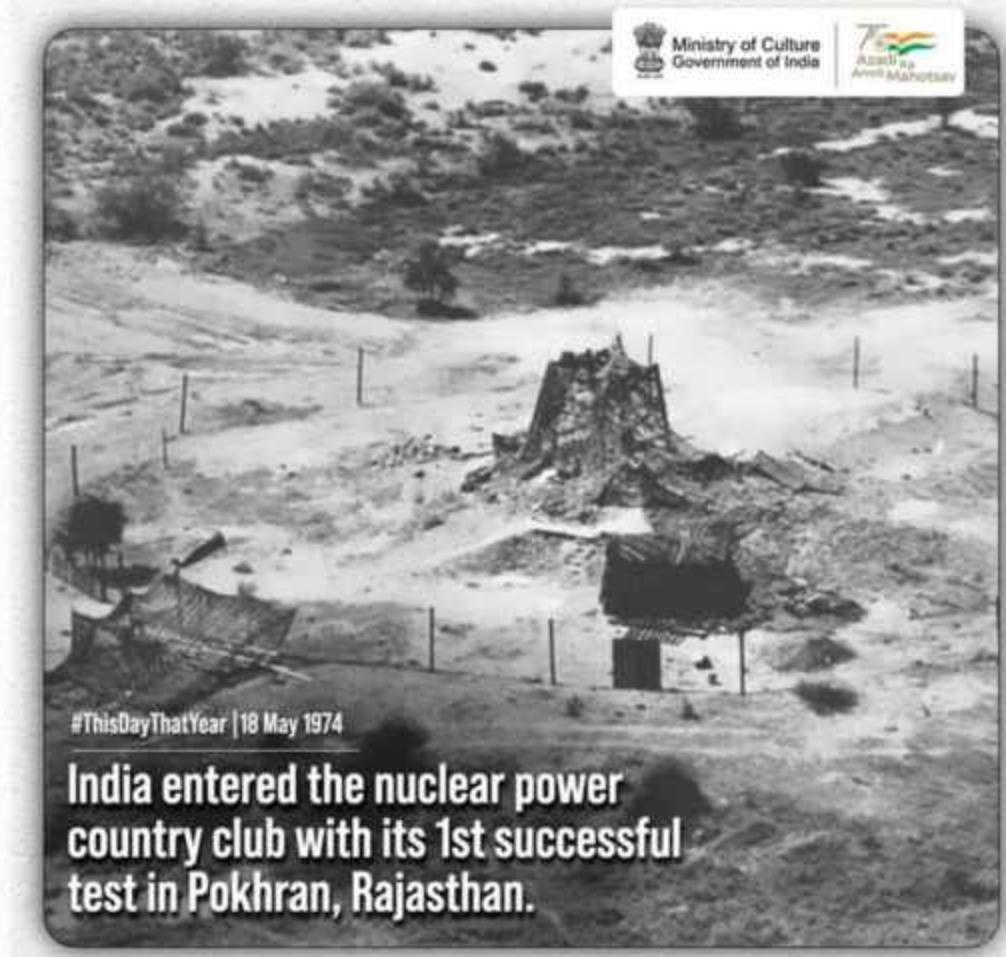
# THE YEARS OF REFLECTION(1990-1998)

1. In the early 1990s, India faced a foreign exchange crisis due to poor economic management.
2. Internal unrest occurred in the North East, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir, while the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving India diplomatically isolated.
3. The crisis led to economic reforms focused on globalisation, privatisation, and liberalisation.
4. India initiated closer ties with the US to strengthen its international position.
5. A strong economic performance in the following years drove the next phase of India's foreign policy despite domestic political instability.



# REALITY OF POWER (1998-2011)

1. India's 1998 Pokhran nuclear test solidified its status as a nuclear-weapon state, marking a shift in foreign policy.
2. Despite initial US sanctions, India's growing economy and democratic status led to improved US-India relations through the Talbott-Jaswant Singh negotiations.
3. India's economy grew at around 8% annually, with a rising middle class and an IT revolution boosting its global influence.
4. India strengthened ties with the US, pursued a Look East Policy, and improved relations with China.
5. The 2008 US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement marked a significant diplomatic achievement, supported by the prosperous Indian diaspora in the US.



#ThisDayThatYear | 18 May 1974

India entered the nuclear power country club with its 1st successful test in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

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# BACK TO THE FUTURE (2011-2014).

- In 2011, a group of thinkers published the NAM 2.0 paper.  
This emphasized the need for strategic autonomy to underpin Indian foreign policy.
- Strategic autonomy has continued to be an important factor in guiding India's foreign policy, despite criticism that it focused too heavily on the now-outdated Non-Alignment idea.



# ENLIGHTENED NATIONAL INTEREST (2014)

1. Narendra Modi, regarded as India's most powerful Prime Minister since Indira Gandhi, brought a shift in foreign policy after his 2014 election victory.
2. India's foreign policy is now based on "Enlightened National Interest," promoting global collaboration beyond narrow national interests.
3. This approach aligns with the concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), balancing self-interest with a shared global vision.
4. The Gujral Doctrine has been updated to prioritize soft power and "neighbourhood first," with a confident multi-alignment strategy.
5. Initial attempts to engage Pakistan have stalled due to ongoing concerns about terrorism sponsorship.



# PANCHSHEEL AGREEMENT

The Panchsheel Agreement, signed in 1954 between India and China, is a significant agreement in the diplomatic history of both countries. It laid down a framework for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between the two neighbors.

## Signing of the Agreement:

The Panchsheel Agreement was signed on April 29, 1954, in Beijing by the Indian Ambassador to China, N. Raghavan, and the Chinese Premier, Zhou Enlai. The agreement initially pertained to trade between the Tibet region of China and India, but it soon became a broader framework for bilateral relations.



# Introduction

**Historical Context:** In the early 1950s, the world was recovering from the World War II, and the Cold War was beginning to shape international relations. India had gained independence from British rule in 1947, while China had established the People's Republic of China in 1949 after a prolonged civil war. Both nations were looking to redefine their foreign policies and build strong, independent identities on the global stage.

**Purpose of the Agreement:** The Panchsheel Agreement was aimed at promoting a spirit of peaceful coexistence and cooperation between India and China. It sought to establish a foundation for bilateral relations based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

# Core Principles of Panchsheel Agreement

## The Five Principles

The Panchsheel Agreement is based on five core principles, which are often referred to as the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

### 1. Mutual Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity

- Each country would respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other.
- This principle implies that neither country would interfere in the internal affairs of the other.

### 2. Mutual Non-Aggression

- Both countries would refrain from using force against each other.
- This principle emphasizes peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts.

# **Core Principles of Panchsheel Agreement**

## **3. Mutual Non-Interference in Internal Affairs**

- India and China would not interfere in each other's domestic matters.
- This principle is crucial for maintaining national sovereignty and independence.

## **4. Equality and Mutual Benefit**

- Relations between the two countries would be based on equality and mutual benefit.
- This principle ensures that both countries gain from their cooperation and do not exploit each other.

## **5. Peaceful Coexistence**

- Both countries would strive to live together peacefully.
- This principle is the overarching theme of the Panchsheel Agreement, promoting harmony and stability.

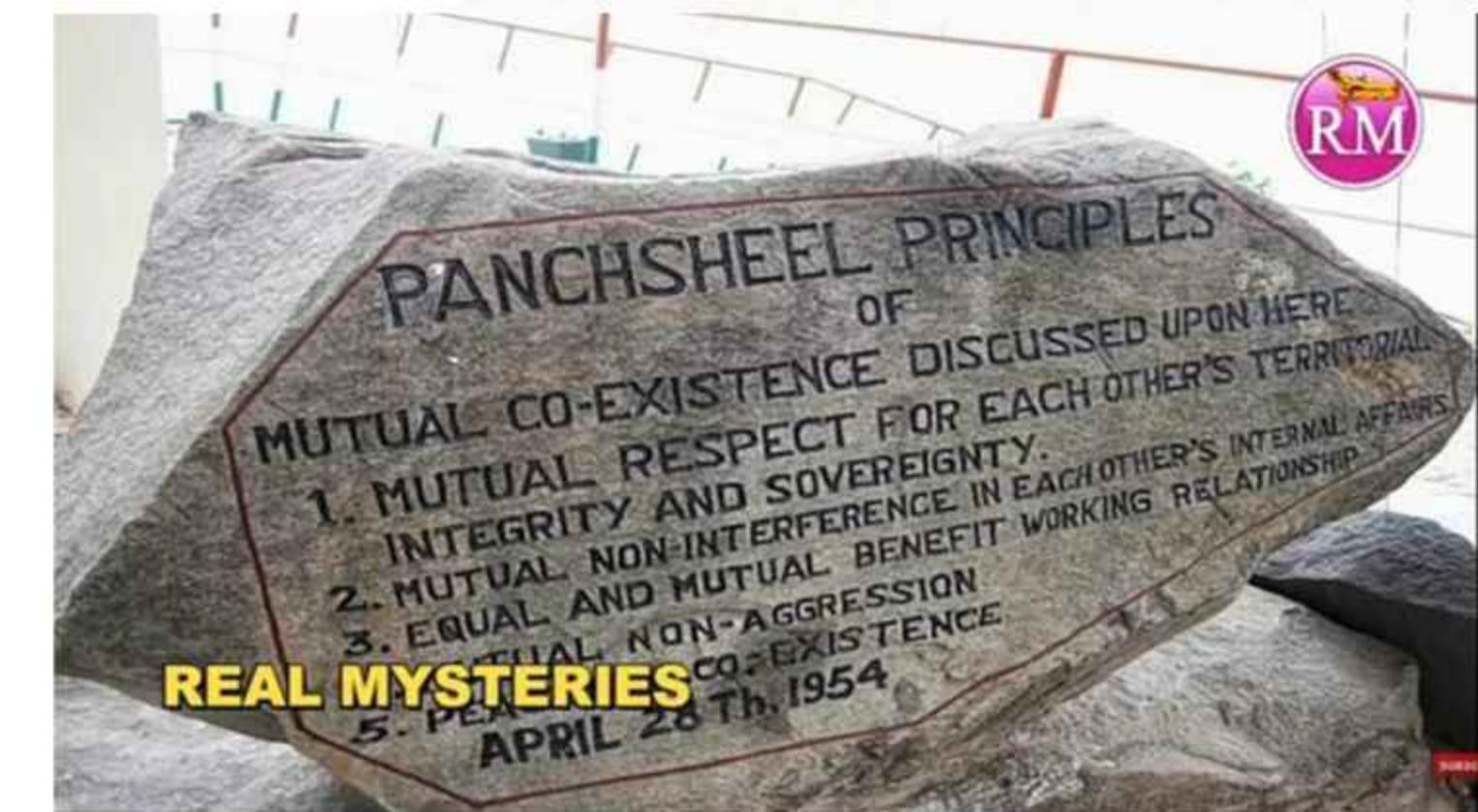
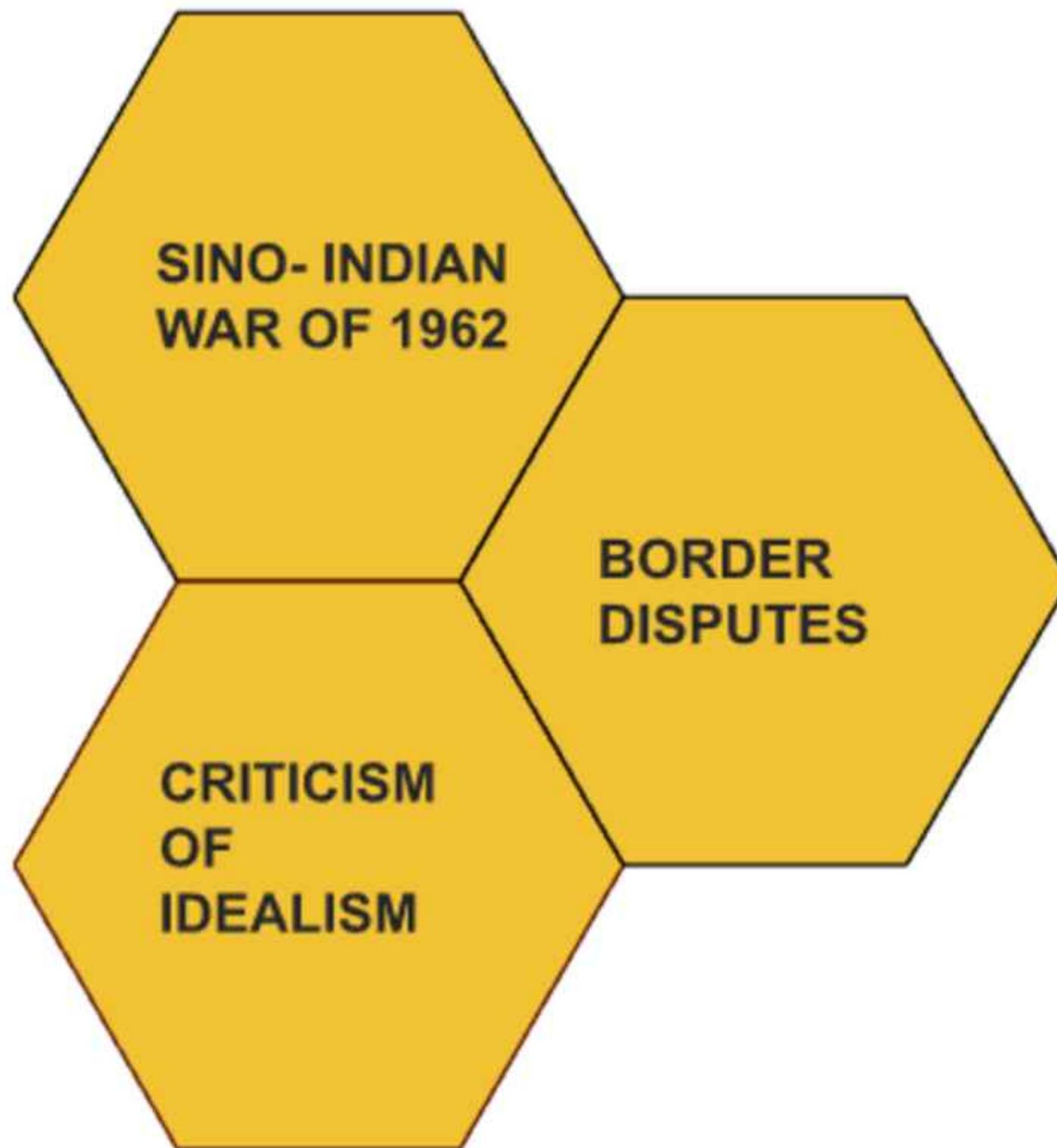
# Significance of Panchsheel Agreement

**Diplomatic Relations:** The Panchsheel Agreement marked the beginning of a new era in Sino-Indian relations. It was seen as a progressive step towards building a peaceful and cooperative relationship between the two largest countries in Asia.

**Influence on Global Politics:** The principles of the Panchsheel Agreement resonated with many newly independent countries in Asia and Africa. They provided a model for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect that could be emulated by other nations striving for independence and sovereignty.

**Basis for Non-Aligned Movement:** The Panchsheel principles influenced the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a group of states that sought to remain independent of the major power blocs during the Cold War. India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, played a important role in the establishment of NAM, and the Panchsheel principles were integral to its ideology.

# Panchsheel Agreement Challenges



# Panchsheel Agreement Challenges

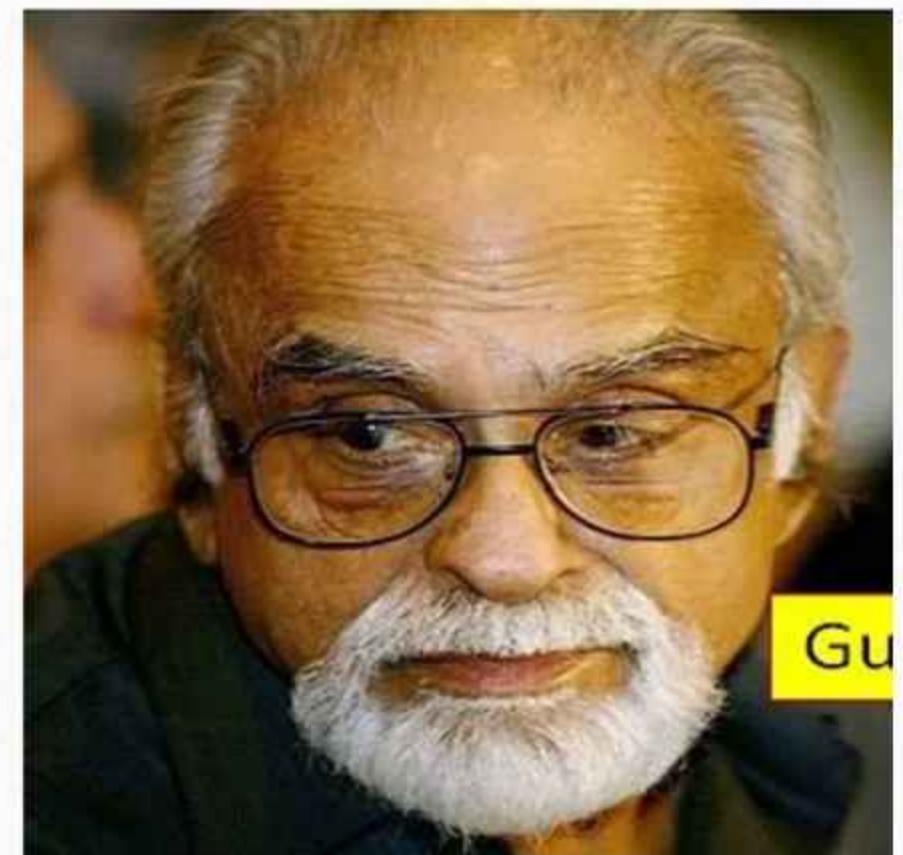
**Sino-Indian War of 1962:** Despite the lofty ideals of the Panchsheel Agreement, the relationship between India and China deteriorated, leading to the Sino-Indian War in 1962. The war was a significant setback to the principles of Panchsheel, as it demonstrated the limitations of diplomatic agreements in resolving deep-rooted territorial disputes.

**Border Disputes:** The primary cause of the 1962 conflict was the border dispute between India and China, particularly in the regions of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh. The Panchsheel Agreement did not address these contentious issues in detail, leading to misunderstandings and conflict.

**Criticisms of Idealism:** Critics argue that the Panchsheel Agreement was overly idealistic and did not take into account the complex realities of international relations. They believe that the agreement's emphasis on moral principles was insufficient to prevent conflict and ensure lasting peace.

# What is Gujral Doctrine?

The Gujral Doctrine is a foreign policy doctrine that was formulated by former Indian Prime Minister I. K. Gujral in 1997. The PM Gujral doctrine is based on the principles of mutual respect, non-interference, and cooperation. It aims to build trust and confidence between India and its neighbors.



# Gujral Doctrine Principles

The Gujral Doctrine comprises five principles for managing relations with India's neighboring countries. Similarities exist between the Panchsheel or Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, part of the Sino-Indian Agreement of 1954, and the Gujral Doctrine.

<b>PRINCIPLE 1</b>	With the neighbours like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka, India does not ask for reciprocity but gives all that it can in good faith and trust.
<b>PRINCIPLE 2</b>	No South Asian country will allow its territory to be used against the interest of another country of the region.
<b>PRINCIPLE 3</b>	None will interfere in the internal affairs of another
<b>PRINCIPLE 4</b>	All South Asian countries must respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
<b>PRINCIPLE 5</b>	The countries will settle all their disputes through peaceful bilateral negotiations

# Gujral Doctrine Principles

Key principles of the Gujral Doctrine are as follows:

- Respect the geographical integrity and sovereignty of each South Asian nation.  
(First Panchsheel principle: Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.)
- Prohibit the use of a nation's territory to harm another in the region. (Second Panchsheel principle: Mutual non-aggression.)
- Forbid interference in the internal affairs of other nations. (Third Panchsheel principle: Mutual non-interference in internal matters.)
- Resolve differences through friendly bilateral discussions. (Fourth and fifth Panchsheel principles: Equality, mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.)
- India practices giving accommodations in good faith to neighbors like Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, fostering trust.

# Applicability of Gujral Doctrine

- India–Pakistan: Promoted people-to-people contact to build trust; 1997 talks identified 8 key areas, laying the foundation for composite dialogue.
- Bangladesh: 1996 Ganga Water Treaty ensured fair water sharing, improving bilateral ties.
- China: Signed 1996 Confidence-Building Measures to ease border tensions and promote peaceful coexistence.
- Nepal: Mahakali Treaty enabled joint hydropower generation, deepening development cooperation.
- Sri Lanka: Focused on collaborative development, infrastructure, and post-conflict engagement.

# **Relevancy of the Gujral Doctrine**

- India's size and power can intimidate neighbors; thus, India must take a non-reciprocal approach.
- Promotes trust through unilateral concessions to smaller neighbors (excluding Pakistan).
- Aligns with India's current Neighbourhood First Policy.
- Helps manage issues with:
  - Pakistan: Kashmir conflict, history of wars.
  - Bangladesh: Illegal migration, water sharing.
  - Nepal: Political tensions, border disputes.
  - Sri Lanka: Ethnic Tamil issue, regional mistrust.
- Encourages government-level cooperation against terrorism and drug trafficking.
- Supports regional socio-economic development through peace and connectivity.

# **Major Achievements of the Gujral Doctrine**

- Reduced tensions with neighbors after decades.
- Resolved Ganga water-sharing dispute with Bangladesh (1996–97).
- Facilitated Mahakali River project with Nepal.
- Allowed Nepal transit access via Chittagong Port.
- Strengthened ties with Sri Lanka through development cooperation.
- Initiated unilateral confidence-building measures with Pakistan.
- Promoted mutual respect and regional cooperation.
- Became a key principle of post–Cold War Indian foreign policy.

# Challenges in the Gujral Doctrine

- Low Regional Integration: South Asia accounts for less than 5% of intra-regional trade (World Bank), reflecting weak economic cooperation.
- Rising Chinese Influence: China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has deepened its presence in India's neighborhood, limiting India's strategic space.
- Economic Constraints: India's economic slowdown affects its ability and willingness to offer market access and financial support to neighbors.
- Security Threats: Cross-border terrorism, drug trafficking, and illegal trade undermine trust and regional stability.
- Implementation Delays: Key connectivity projects (e.g., Kaladan Multimodal) suffer due to limited resources and bureaucratic delays.
- Hostile Neighbors: Events like the 2008 Mumbai attacks highlight the limitations of unilateral goodwill with adversarial states.
- Strategic Limitations: The doctrine's soft-power approach has been criticized for weakening India's covert and deterrent capabilities against non-state threats.

# **Way Forward for the Gujral Doctrine**

- Strengthen Economic Engagement: Deepen trade, investment, and infrastructure ties with neighbors to build interdependence and goodwill.
- Sustained Dialogue & Diplomacy: Engage in regular, high-level communication to peacefully resolve disputes and foster mutual trust.
- Promote Regional Platforms: Revitalize multilateral cooperation through forums like SAARC and BIMSTEC to address shared challenges.
- Respect Sovereignty: Uphold a non-interventionist approach, ensuring respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all neighboring countries.

# NUCLEAR DOCTRINE POLICY

- India's Nuclear Doctrine outlines the country's official stance on the use, development, and control of nuclear weapons. Rooted in India's commitment to global nuclear disarmament, the doctrine aims to maintain credible deterrence while ensuring strategic restraint and responsibility.
- India formally released its nuclear doctrine in January 2003, following the nuclear tests of 1998 (Pokhran-II).
- On January 4, 2003 ,the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved and publicly released the official version of India's nuclear doctrine, which had been under discussion since the 1999
- Draft Nuclear Doctrine prepared by the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).





## Evolution (Key milestones)

**1974**

- » Operation Smiling Buddha (Pokhran I) was India's first peaceful nuclear explosion.
- » India became the 1st nation apart from the P5 countries to conduct the nuclear test.

**1998**

- » India conducted a series of nuclear tests again in Pokhran by the code-named Operation Shakti (Pokhran II)
- » Laid the foundation for India's nuclear doctrine wherein India aimed to be recognized as a responsible nuclear power.

**1999**

- » National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) released its Draft Nuclear Doctrine (DND) under the chairmanship of nuclear strategist K Subrahmanyam

**2003**

- » India released and operationalized its official nuclear doctrine.

# Core Tenets of India's Nuclear Doctrine

## **1. No First Use (NFU):**

- India will not initiate a nuclear strike but will respond massively if attacked with nuclear weapons. This reflects India's defensive posture.

## **2. Massive Retaliation:**

- In the event of a nuclear attack on Indian territory or forces anywhere, India shall respond with massive nuclear retaliation to inflict unacceptable damage.

## **3. Credible Minimum Deterrence:**

- India maintains minimum nuclear forces necessary for deterrence, rather than engaging in a nuclear arms race. The deterrent must be credible, i.e., survivable and operationally ready.

## **4. Civilian Control:**

Nuclear weapons will be under the control of the civilian leadership – specifically, the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

# **Core Tenets of India's Nuclear Doctrine**

## **5. Nuclear Command Authority (NCA):**

- Divided into:
- Political Council (headed by the Prime Minister): Authorizes nuclear use.
- Executive Council (headed by National Security Advisor): Offers inputs.

## **6. Second-Strike Capability:**

- India must have the capacity to respond to a nuclear strike with a survivable retaliatory strike, ensuring deterrence.

## **7. Non-Use Against Non-Nuclear States:**

- India commits to not using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, aligning with its global disarmament ethos.

## **8. Disarmament Commitment:**

- India advocates for a nuclear weapon-free world, calling for universal, verifiable disarmament.

# Significance of India's Nuclear Doctrine

## 1. Strengthens National Security

- Acts as a deterrent against nuclear attacks, especially from neighbors like Pakistan and China.
- Ensures India has a survivable second-strike capability, making enemies think twice before attacking.

## 2. Shows India as a Responsible Nuclear Power

- Through policies like No First Use (NFU) and minimum deterrence, India avoids aggressive posturing.
- Gains global respect and trust as a stable, mature nuclear state.

## 3. Balances Security and Restraint

- Avoids arms race by keeping nuclear arsenal to the minimum needed.
- Maintains strategic stability while avoiding unnecessary provocation.

## 4. Supports Global Disarmament Goals

- India's doctrine aligns with its long-standing support for a nuclear weapon-free world.
- Shows that even nuclear-armed states can promote peaceful disarmament.

# Significance of India's Nuclear Doctrine

## ⑤ Provides Policy Clarity and Transparency

- The doctrine gives clear rules for nuclear use, enhancing predictability and reducing chances of miscalculation.
- Builds confidence among international and regional actors.

## ⑥ Helps in Diplomatic Engagements

- India's principled nuclear stance has helped it secure nuclear cooperation agreements (e.g., with the US in 2008).
- Aids India's entry into global nuclear regimes like the NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group).

## ⑦ Acts as a Framework for Future Nuclear Planning

- Guides the development of delivery systems, command-and-control structure, and overall nuclear strategy.
- Ensures civilian supremacy through the Nuclear Command Authority.

# INS ARIHANT



MYADVO

# Strategic Rationale Behind India's Doctrine

## 1. Security from Nuclear Neighbours:

- India's doctrine is shaped by threats from Pakistan and China, both nuclear states.

## 2. Avoidance of Arms Race:

- By maintaining "minimum deterrence," India avoids unnecessary stockpiling.

## 3. Responsible Global Image:

- The NFU and civilian control enhance India's reputation as a responsible nuclear power.

## 4. Stability and Deterrence:

- Ensures strategic stability by reducing chances of pre-emptive strikes.



# Recent Developments

## 1. Operationalization of Nuclear Triad:

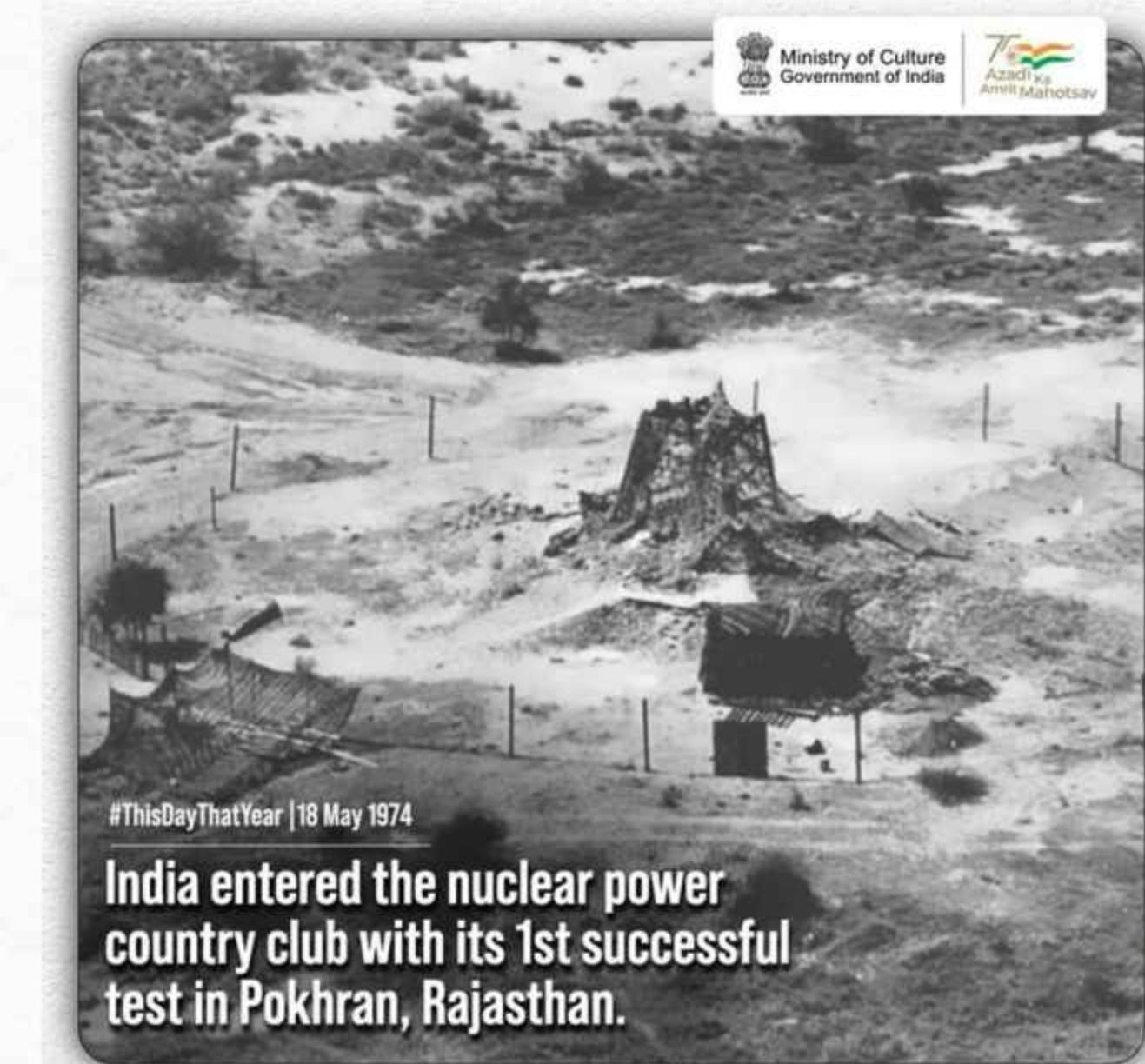
- With INS Arihant (SSBN), India has achieved sea-based second-strike capability.

## 2. Strategic Forces Command (SFC):

- Responsible for managing nuclear arsenal and delivery systems.

## 3. Doctrinal Reassessments:

- Discussions have emerged post-2016 surgical strikes and Balakot airstrike about flexibility in doctrine.



# **CHALLENGES**

## **1. No First Use Under Debate:**

- Some analysts argue India should keep ambiguity in its doctrine.
- Former Defence Minister (Rajnath Singh) and ex-NSA (Shivshankar Menon) hinted that NFU is not absolute.
- Critics argue a rigid NFU limits flexibility, especially in case of biological/chemical attacks or nuclear use by proxies.

## **2. Massive Retaliation Doctrine – Credibility Issues:**

- The threat of massive retaliation may lack credibility in limited nuclear war scenarios, such as tactical nuclear use by Pakistan.

## **3. Modernization Delays:**

- Delays in the development of nuclear triad (land, air, sea) and command and control systems may impact credibility.

# **WAY FORWARD**

## **1. Periodic Review:**

- Strategic environment is evolving. The doctrine should be reviewed periodically for relevance and adaptability.

## **2. Enhance Second-Strike Capability:**

- Invest in survivable platforms, especially SSBN fleet and secure communications.

## **3. Doctrinal Clarity vs Ambiguity:**

- Balance between doctrinal transparency (for deterrence) and operational secrecy (for flexibility).

## **4. Strengthen Deterrence against Non-State Actors:**

- India's doctrine must address threats of nuclear terrorism or use of tactical nukes by proxies.

# Look East Policy.

- India's "Look East Policy" is a foreign policy initiative that aims to strengthen economic, strategic, and diplomatic ties with countries in East and Southeast Asia.
- The policy reflects its growing engagement with East and Southeast Asia, aimed at enhancing economic, strategic, and cultural ties. It plays a vital role in India's foreign policy in the dynamic Indo-Pacific region.



# Objectives of Look East Policy

- Economic Integration: Foster economic cooperation and integration with East and Southeast Asian nations to tap into their vibrant markets.
- Strategic Partnerships: Strengthen strategic partnerships to address security challenges and promote regional stability.
- Cultural Exchanges: Promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges to enhance mutual understanding.
- Connectivity: Enhance physical and digital connectivity through infrastructure development.



# Key Feature of Look East Policy

- ASEAN Focus: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plays a central role in the policy, with India becoming a sectoral dialogue partner in 1992.
- Bilateral Relations: Develop strong bilateral relationships with countries like Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Infrastructure Development: Invest in projects like the India Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi- Modal Transit Transport Project to improve connectivity. Maritime Security: Collaborate on maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region



# Significance of Look East Policy

- Economic Growth: Enhancing trade and investment with East Asian nations has contributed to India's economic growth.
- Counterbalance China: The policy serves as a diplomatic and strategic counterbalance to China's influence in the region.
- Regional Integration: It promotes regional integration and cooperation in areas such as trade, security, and cultural exchanges

# Challenges of Look East Policy.

- Infrastructure Gap: Developing adequate infrastructure to facilitate trade and connectivity remains a challenge.
- Security Concerns: Ensuring maritime security and managing regional disputes is complex.
- Competition: India faces competition from other major powers, including China, in the region.



# Act East Policy

- India's Act East Policy is a foreign policy initiative.
- It aims to strengthen India's economic and strategic ties with countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia.
- The policy launched in 2014 focuses on building partnerships with other countries.
- The countries include Japan, South Korea, and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- It aims to promote economic integration and security cooperation in the region.

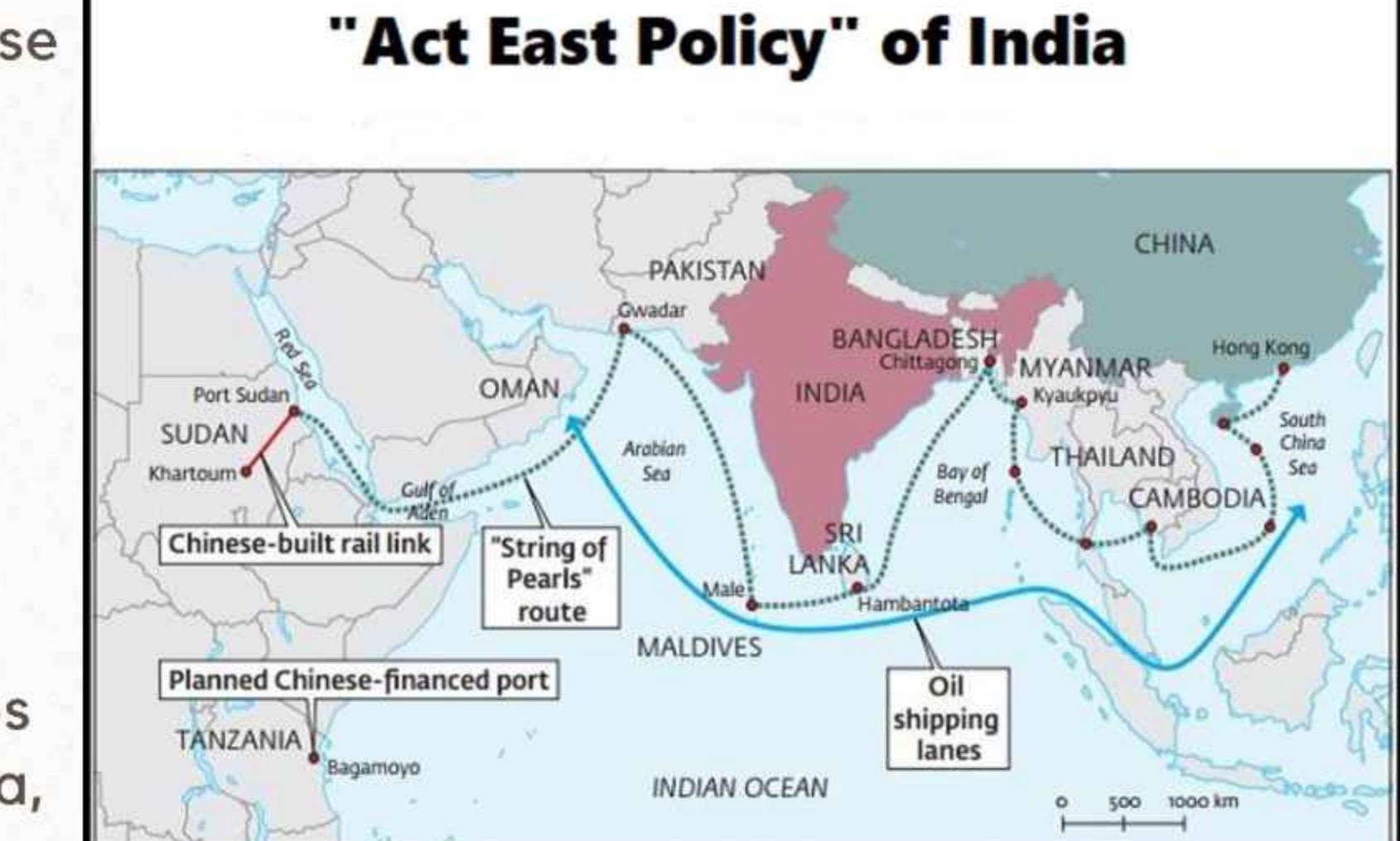


# Objectives of Act East Policy.

- The Act East Policy aims to enhance connectivity between Northeastern states, including Arunachal Pradesh, and neighboring nations.
- It was initially an economic policy but has evolved to include cultural, political, and strategic components.
- Institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation were established under this policy.
- The policy focuses on India-ASEAN cooperation in domestic initiatives. This includes infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, and smart cities.
- Major projects under the policy include:
  - the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project,
  - Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project,
  - Rhi-Tiddim Road Project, and
  - Border Haats.

# Key Features of the Policy.

- Proactive Engagement: Unlike the Look East Policy, the Act East Policy emphasizes active participation in regional affairs, including defense and strategic dialogues.
- Comprehensive Connectivity: It promotes physical, economic, and cultural connectivity through various infrastructure projects.
- Multilateral Diplomacy: India engages with regional groups like ASEAN, EAS, and ASEAN Regional Forum to enhance its diplomatic footprint.
- Security Cooperation: Strengthened security ties with countries such as Japan, Vietnam, Australia, and the USA to counter regional security challenges.



# Significance of Act East policy

- The Act East Policy is bolstered due to China's increasing influence in the Southeast Asian and Indian Ocean regions.
  - The policy can help secure freedom of navigation and the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India's engagement with QUAD is an extension of its efforts to enhance security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The end of the Cold War and China's growing power have changed the nature of Indo-ASEAN relations. However, economic connections and security cooperation are expected to further strengthen these relations.
- India's Act East Policy aims to achieve its long-term developmental goals for the Northeastern region.
  - It provides an additional path to accelerate economic development, countering China's rising aggression in South Asia.



# Three pillars of Act East Policy

These pillars collectively aim to establish India as a key strategic and economic player in the Indo-Pacific. Here are the three pillar of Act East Policy:

- Political-Security Pillar: It involves strategic partnerships and military cooperation with key Indo-Pacific nations. It focuses on strengthening defense and security ties to ensure regional stability.
- Economic Pillar: It aims at enhancing trade, investment, and economic integration with global supply chains in Southeast and East Asia. It promotes economic growth and development through regional cooperation.
- Socio-Cultural Pillar: Encourages cultural exchanges and people-to-people interactions to deepen social ties and mutual understanding across the Indo-Pacific region.

# Major Projects under Act East Policy.



Agartala-Akhaura  
Rail Link between  
India and Bangladesh



Intermodal transport  
linkages and inland  
waterways through  
Bangladesh



Kaladan Multimodal  
Transit Transport  
Project and the Trilateral  
Highway Project to  
connect the North East  
with Myanmar and  
Thailand



Road and bridge projects  
and modernization of  
hydro-electric power  
project undertaken under  
India-Japan Act East  
Forum

(Source: Ministry of Development of North-East Region)

# Challenges of Act East policy

- **Rising Chinese Influence:** China's assertive diplomacy, infrastructure investments (via BRI), and naval presence in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia dilute India's strategic space.
- **Widening Trade Deficit with ASEAN:** India's trade deficit with ASEAN rose significantly (from 7% to 12% of total deficit between 2009–2019), weakening the economic balance of ties.
- **RCEP Withdrawal:** India's exit from RCEP highlights limited success in regional trade negotiations, reducing India's integration with East Asian economies.
- **Weak Economic Engagement:** Despite stronger defense and strategic cooperation, India has signed few major economic or trade agreements with East Asian countries.

# Way Forward

- Fast-track connectivity projects  
Complete India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan project.
- Strengthen ties with ASEAN  
Deepen trade, digital partnerships, and regional value chains.
- Enhance North-East integration  
Develop NE as a hub for Act East with better infrastructure and economic zones.
- Boost maritime cooperation  
Expand naval exercises, maritime security, and Indo-Pacific partnerships.
- Cultural and academic diplomacy  
Promote Buddhism, education exchange, and tourism links.
- Strategic and defense engagement  
More joint military drills, defense exports, and technology partnerships.
- Leverage regional forums  
Engage actively in ASEAN, BIMSTEC, IORA, and QUAD.
- Counter China's influence  
Offer transparent, inclusive alternatives to BRI.

# Look East Policy vs Act East Policy.

**Look East Policy vs Act East Policy**

Aspect	Look East Policy	Act East Policy
Focus Area	Economic Integration	Economic, Strategic, and Cultural Ties
Geographical Scope	Southeast Asia	Indo-Pacific, including East Asia
Approach	Passive Engagement	Active and Proactive Diplomacy
Security Dimension	Limited	Strong Defense and Security Cooperation



# Look West Policy

India's Look West Policy is a strategy adopted by India to strengthen its relations with Arab nations, Iran, and Israel. It aims to promote economic, political, and cultural ties with these countries.

## OBJECTIVES

- Energy Security: Secure energy resources such as oil and natural gas to fuel India's growing economy.
- Diplomatic Engagement: Strengthen diplomatic ties and cooperation in areas like counterterrorism, security, and trade.
- Counter Radicalism: Address issues related to terrorism and radicalism, which have regional implications.
- Economic Opportunities: Explore economic opportunities, including trade and investments, in the resource-rich Middle East



# Key Features of Look West Policy.

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): India has deepened its engagement with GCC countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, etc.) and is a significant trading partner.
- Energy Partnerships: Secure energy resources through long-term contracts with oil-producing nations in the region.
- Counterterrorism Cooperation: Collaborate on counterterrorism efforts, given the presence of extremist groups in the region.
- Diaspora Influence: Leverage the Indian diaspora's economic and cultural influence in the Middle East.

# Challenges Of Look West Policy.

- Security Concerns: The region is prone to conflicts, which can affect India's interests.
- Regional Rivalries: Navigating the complex regional rivalries and conflicts, such as those in the Persian Gulf, requires diplomatic finesse.
- Diaspora Issues: Protecting the rights and interests of the Indian diaspora in the region can be challenging





# NON ALIGNED MOMENT (NAM).

## INTRODUCTION

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a group of states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- It has been established based on the principles agreed at the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung (Indonesia) in 1955, (known as the "Ten Principles of Bandung").
- It was founded in 1961, in Belgrade, Serbia, as a movement opposed to the East-West ideological confrontation of the Cold War.
- Founding fathers of the movement: Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia, and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia.



# OBJECTIVES OF NAM

- To ensure "the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries" in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation.
- At present, the NAM consists of 120 member countries that account for about 60% of the United Nations' overall membership.
- NAM is without any formal administrative structures and without a budget.

## NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



# **Ten Principles of Bandung**

1. Respect of fundamental human rights and of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality among all races and the equality among all nations, both large and small.
4. Non-intervention or non-interference in the internal affairs of another -country.
5. Respect for the right of every nation to defend itself, either individually or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. (a) Non-use of collective defense pacts to benefit the specific interests of any of the great powers.
  - a. Non-use of pressures by any country against other countries.
7. Refraining from carrying out or threatening to carry out aggression, or from using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Peaceful solution of all international conflicts in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

# NAM in a Multi-Polar World

- Evolution: Non-alignment has evolved, with developing countries now opting for issue-based alignments instead of strict non-alignment.
- Flexible Security Arrangements: Countries balance risks (dependency) and rewards (defense support) by seeking security support from great powers while avoiding close. Flexible partnerships typically carry fewer risks.
- Formal Alliances: Characterised by institutionalized defense ties and mutual defense responsibilities (like NATO). These involve formal treaties and legislative assessment.
- Informal Alliances: These are developed based on common ground and collaboration without formal laws (the US-Israel relationship since 1967, the Sino-Vietnamese alliance during the Vietnam War).
- Issue-Based or Multi-Alignment Partnerships: These involve fewer obligations and less binding arrangements (arms sales). These do not guarantee military support in crises (American relations with Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia multi-alignment partnerships).

# Evolution and Relevance of NAM in Global South

- The commitment to NAM has been inconsistent with many Global South countries maintaining military ties with external powers, like French bases in Francophone countries and Soviet support for Angola and Ethiopia during the Cold War.
- High external debt (particularly from Western sources) acts as a hindrance to non-alignment principles. For example, Africa's total external debt was US\$824bn in 2021.
- During the Cold War, non-aligned nations leveraged the US-USSR rivalry. Today, modern non-alignment is endured. For example, Africa's stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The Global South is evolving from colonialism and Cold/proxy wars to active diplomacy and multiple alliances.
- Countries adopt strategic autonomy and multi-alignment to protect their interests and avoid conflicts. For example, Ethiopia's memberships in BRICS and partnerships with the US.
- The popularity of NAM has increased. For example, All African countries except South Sudan are NAM members.
- Alliances are now based on economic or military convenience rather than ideological affinity.
- Dismantling of foreign military sites is a prerequisite for any new non-alignment to work in Global South.

## Importance of NAM for India

- Support for India's Candidature at UNSC.
- Safeguarding India's Strategic autonomy: India can mobilize the larger constituency of developing countries & emerging economies for support on key issues – COVID, protectionism, UN reforms, etc.
- Crucial to the rise of India's stature as the voice of the developing world or global south, facilitating south-south cooperation.
- Formation of a multipolar world with India becoming an independent pole in global affairs.
- India's Opportunity to shape post-COVID world order with support from NAM.



## Achievements of NAM

- Focus on the 4Ds (Détente, Disarmament, Decolonisation and Development of Third World).
- Independent voice to the Global South, giving them the freedom to pursue their own agenda. E.g. it condemned racial discrimination and injustice and lent full support to the antiapartheid movement in South Africa and Namibia.
- The non-aligned declarations on nuclear testing and nuclear non-proliferation especially helped to concretise the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty.
- It also helped create several nuclear-weapon-free zones as well as formulate the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.
- The tradition of 'non-use of nuclear weapons', or the 'nuclear taboo', was strengthened partially due to activism by the non-aligned countries at the UN.
- It has ended the monopoly of Western agencies over news dissemination services with the setting up of a non-aligned Newspool.
- NAM's role in establishing world peace by solving various political conflicts such as the Korean War and the problems of Kampuchea, Vietnam, Congo, Iran, Iraq, Namibia, the Middle East, etc.

## Failures of NAM

- Lack of collective action and collective self-reliance, and the non-establishment of an equitable international economic or information order.
- Inability in resolving the Arab-Israel conflict.
- Inability to halt the arms race, regional conflicts (Iran-Pakistan, Russia-Ukraine), etc.



# Is NAM losing its relevance in current times?



## Arguments in Favour

- NAM's relevance was diluted with the end of Cold War and rise of a Multipolar world.
- Benign neglect: Even as NAM has continued to maintain its schedule of periodic meetings, there is a diminishing political commitment towards it.
- Perceived tilt towards big powers: Many member countries, including India, have strengthened their engagement with the developed world to secure capital, trade, technology, and markets.
- Fissures within NAM countries lead to difficulty in arriving at a consensus on various global issues leading to the raising of divisive issues, score-settling among members, etc.
- Increasing relevance of Alternative forums like G-20 and regional cooperation frameworks like BIMSTEC, ASEAN, SCO, RCEP, etc.
- NAM a mere 'talk shop': Since a majority of the members are developing nations, inability to command adequate power to enforce their decisions on resource-rich developed nations.

## Argument Against

- NAM members represent 2/3rd of the UN Membership and commands voice against any international hegemony to dominate smaller states. E.g. voice against unequal world economic order, reforms of Multilateral institutions (UN, WTO, etc.).
- Collective position: NAM members coordinate with one another during debates, giving them a huge bargaining power on various global issues such as Climate change, poverty eradication, globalisation, protecting trade interests of developing countries at WTO, etc.
- Relevance in the wake of the new 'Two Front' Cold War unfolding between US-China and US-Russia.
- Neo-colonialism: NAM still remains a strong pillar of support for developing nations fighting against racism, occupation and neo-colonialism. E.g. occupation of Palestine; 'Debt trap Diplomacy' faced by African and Asian nations at the hands of China etc.
- Reinforcing strategic autonomy: Even as developing countries have strengthened their engagements with the developed ones, the threat of 'arm twisting' is apparent. E.g. Controlling the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy, restricting access to technologies via IPR clauses, etc.
- Focus on Peace: Bandung principles on peace and development still hold relevance as Armed conflicts continue to rage in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Ukraine etc. and challenges of Terrorism, ethnic violence, refugee issues, etc. persist.

## Way Forward of NAM

- Permanent Secretariat: Establish a secretariat for greater global impact.
- Self-Sufficiency: Focus on resource control and attract investment from wealthy nations.
- Reframe Non-Alignment: Update the concept, promoting independence and avoiding power blocks.
- Regular Updates: Regularly revisit NAM's goals to address economic challenges.
- New Threats: Tackle climate change, terrorism, and pandemics.
- Tech Cooperation: Collaborate on AI and emerging tech to bridge the digital divide.
- Global Solidarity: Promote a fair, inclusive global governance system.
- Symbol and Name: Introduce a new symbol and consider renaming it (like 'Southern Solidarity Organisation').

**(NAM)** is a group of states that are **not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc**.

  Established based on the "Ten Principles of Bandung" from the **1955 Asia-Africa Conference**.

 Founded in **1961** in **Belgrade, Serbia**, as a response to East-West ideological conflict during the Cold War.

 Safeguard the independence and security of non-aligned countries from imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and foreign control.

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### Founding fathers of the movement

-  **Gamal Abdel Nasser** (Egypt)
-  **Kwame Nkrumah** (Ghana)
-  **Shri Jawaharlal Nehru** (India)
-  **Ahmed Sukarno** (Indonesia)
-  **Josip Broz Tito** (Yugoslavia)

### Achievements of NAM

- Emphasize the **4Ds: Détente, Disarmament, Decolonisation, and Development** of the Third World.
- Contributed to the **1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty** through declarations on nuclear testing and non-proliferation.
- Helped create several **nuclear-weapon-free zones** & formulate **Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty**.
- Advocated for the **Global South**, opposing racial discrimination and supporting anti-apartheid in South Africa and Namibia.

### Failures of NAM

**Lack of collective action** and collective self-reliance, and the non-establishment of an equitable international economic or information order.

Inability in resolving the **Arab-Israel conflict**.

Inability to halt the **arms race**, regional conflicts (Iran-Pakistan, Russia-Ukraine), etc.

### Importance of NAM for India

- Support for India's **Candidature at UNSC**.
- Essential to India's rise as a **voice for the developing world**, promoting **south-south cooperation**.
- India's Opportunity to shape post-COVID world order with support from NAM.

### Revitalising NAM: The Way Ahead

- Realizing the movement's enduring goals of peace, development, and economic cooperation.
- Taking on New challenges of the interconnected world such as Climate change, extremism.

### Is NAM losing its relevance in current times?

Arguments in Favour	Argument Against
NAM's relevance was diluted with the <b>end of Cold War</b> and rise of a Multipolar world.	Its members account for <b>2/3rd of UN Membership</b> and oppose <b>international hegemony</b> over smaller states.
<b>Diminishing political commitment</b> towards it.	NAM members collaborate during debates, enhancing their <b>bargaining power</b> on global issues.
Member countries like India are increasingly partnering with developed nations for capital, trade, technology, and market access, indicating a shift towards major powers.	<b>Neo-colonialism</b> is vital for developing nations combating racism & occupation, especially in Palestine.
<b>Fissures within NAM countries</b> lead to difficulty in arriving at a consensus on various global issues.	Relevance in the wake of the <b>new 'Two Front' Cold War</b> unfolding between US-China and US-Russia.
Increasing relevance of Alternative forums like G-20, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, SCO, RCEP, etc.	Reinforcing strategic autonomy includes managing peaceful nuclear energy use and restricting technology access via IPR clauses.

# INDIAN DIASPORA

The term “diaspora” is derived from the Greek word diaspeirein, which means “dispersion”. Over time, the term evolved, and now loosely refers to any person/s belonging to a particular country with a common origin or culture, but residing outside their homeland for various reasons.

It refers to people of Indian origin who live outside India and maintain ties with their Indian heritage. It is one of the largest and most diverse diaspora communities globally, estimated to be over 30 million people.



# Key Terms Related to Indian Diaspora

- ▶ **Person of Indian Origin (PIO):** A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) means a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) -
  - ▷ who at any time held an Indian passport; or
  - ▷ who or either of their parents/ grandparents/ great grandparents was born and permanently residing in India as defined in Government of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter, provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid countries (as referred above); or
  - ▷ who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a PIO
- ▶ **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):** A PIO who is a foreign national and gets registered as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 is an OCI.
- ▶ **Non-Resident Indian (NRI):** An Indian citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian passport.

# Factors Responsible For The Growth Of Diaspora

## ► Push factors

- ▷ **Economic hardships:** Poverty, lack of job opportunities, inequality, etc., can all push people to seek better economic prospects elsewhere.
  - » **For e.g.**, Contemporary Venezuelan exodus due to economic crisis.
- ▷ **Social discrimination:** Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation can motivate people to migrate in search of a more accepting society.
  - » **For e.g.**, Exodus of Rohingyas from Myanmar.
- ▷ **Conflict and persecution:** War, terrorism, ethnic or religious violence, and political oppression can force people to flee their homes.
  - » **For e.g.**, Migration of Jews from Germany during Holocaust.
- ▷ **Environmental factors:** Droughts, floods, earthquakes, and other environmental disasters can make peoples' homeland uninhabitable and lead to their displacement.
  - » **For e.g.**, Ongoing desertification in the Sahel region of Africa contributed to migration towards North Africa and Europe.

## ► Pull factors

- ▷ **Economic opportunities:** Job prospects, higher wages, and better living standards in other countries can result in increased migration.
  - » **For e.g.**, Doctors from India migrating to the US, UK, Canada, and Australia.
- ▷ **Political freedom and religious tolerance:** Countries with democratic governments and religious freedom can be appealing to people from more restrictive societies.
  - » **For e.g.**, Emigration of citizens of Hong Kong to countries like UK, Canada, etc., after implementation the National Security Law in 2020 in Hong Kong.
- ▷ **Social amenities and services:** Access to better social amenities like educational and healthcare facilities, can attract people to certain countries.
  - » **For e.g.**, Influx of retirees in countries such as Spain and Portugal, due to their favourable social security systems.
- ▷ **Family reunification:** Joining family members who have already migrated can be another reason for people to move to another country.

# Other Factors

- ▶ **Other factors**
- ▶ **Trade and globalization:** Trade routes and global economic networks can facilitate the movement of people and goods, leading to the formation of Diasporas in key commercial centres.
  - » **For e.g.** Historical migration of Indian traders and labourers to countries like Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.
- ▶ **Technological advancements:** Improved transportation and communication technologies have made it easier and faster for people to migrate and stay connected to their homelands.
- ▶ **Cultural ties:** Existing cultural connections, historical influences, and shared languages can create natural draw factors for people to migrate to specific destinations.

## Fig. 2.1. Geographical distribution of Indian Diaspora

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), there are around 32.2 million Overseas Indians, including 13.6 million Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and 18.6 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).
- As per World Migration Report, 2022, India has the **largest emigrant population** of around **18 million** people living abroad, making it the **top origin country globally**.



# Other Factors

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# **SIGNIFICANCE OF DIASPORA FOR INDIA AND DESTINATION COUNTRY**

Significance of the Indian diaspora extends both to India and their destination countries across socio-cultural, political and economic dimensions

- **Socio-cultural**
  1. **Preserving and enriching traditions:** Indian diaspora carries a multitude of traditions – languages, regional folk dances, classical music forms like Carnatic and Hindustani, and diverse cuisines.
  2. **Cross-cultural exchange:** Diaspora communities organize festivals like Diwali, introducing host communities to Indian culture and fostering understanding and appreciation of cultural pluralism, cosmopolitanism, etc.
- Diasporas also incorporate elements of their host cultures, leading to rich cultural fusions like Indo-Caribbean cuisine.

# **SIGNIFICANCE OF DIASPORA FOR INDIA AND DESTINATION COUNTRY**

- **Economic significance**

- **Remittances:** India is ranked as top recipient of global remittances by World Bank. This contributes significantly to the economic well-being of millions of Indian families, contributing to poverty reduction and development.
- Remittances are countercyclical in nature and tend to increase during economic downturns or periods of recession. This occurs because migrants often feel a stronger sense of obligation to support their families back home during difficult times.
- Remittances also help improve sovereign ratings and its ability to repay debt due to their large size relative to other sources of foreign exchange, and indirect contribution to public finances.

- **Trade and commerce:** Indian diaspora help facilitate trade between India and their host countries, by opening up new markets and opportunities. Diaspora populations consume Indian products and introduce such products to their host countries
- **Investment and entrepreneurship:** Skilled members of Indian Diasporas may invest in businesses or transfer their knowledge and expertise back to India, supporting innovation, technological advancement, and entrepreneurship within the country.

# SIGNIFICANCE OF DIASPORA FOR INDIA AND DESTINATION COUNTRY

## **Political significance**

- ▷ **Bridging the gap:** Indian diaspora acts as an **informal ambassador** to facilitate communication, build trust, and resolve issues arising between India and their host countries.
- ▷ **Advocacy and influence:** Indian diaspora actively lobby their local governments and international organizations on issues important to India. This ranges from advocating for trade agreements to raising awareness about human rights concerns.
- ▷ **Socio-political change:** The Indian diaspora can advocate for marginalized communities within India by raising awareness about human rights violations, supporting social justice movements, and lobbying for policy changes promoting equality and inclusion.
  - » **For e.g.,** Ghadar movement, spearheaded by Indian Diaspora in North America during colonial times.



## Role of Diaspora in protection and promotion of Indian culture

- **Spread of Native Language:** According to world language database Ethnologue, **Hindi was the 3rd most spoken language in the world in 2019.**
  - ▷ **Fiji** recognized **Hindi as an official language.**
- **Traditions and festivals:** Ramlila is organized in Southeastern countries like Indonesia.
- **Cultural exchange:** Spread of Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cuisines, cultural events, etc.
- **Literary writings and creative works:** Socio-cultural experiences of the Indian diaspora have been voiced by writers like **Salman Rushdie, Raja Rao, Amitav Ghosh**, among others.
  - ▷ **Female writers** of Indian diaspora like **Anita Desai, Kamla Markandaya, Bharti Mukherjee**, etc., have also delineated their striving for preserving culture and identity in their host countries.
- **Influence and awareness:** Blogging, storytelling, social-media engagement, etc., promote understanding of Indian culture, people, and society.

## 4. What are the challenges due to growth of the diaspora?

Due to growth of diaspora, several issues and challenges emerge at individual, familial, societal and national levels. Further, these challenges also vary depending upon factors such as the host country, cultural differences, and individual circumstances, among others.

### ► At individual and family level

- ▷ **Family disruption** due to migration of the breadwinner or primary caregiver can be particularly acute.
- ▷ **Separation of parents and children** may give rise to **psychosocial challenges** and increase the vulnerability of those left behind in countries of origin.
- ▷ **Loss of a sense of identity and belonging** for some individuals. Issues may also arise within families, for instance when children feel stronger attachment to a country different from that of their parents.

### ► At societal and national level

- ▷ **Brain drain:** Skilled professionals or talent leaving the country can hamper development and economic growth, particularly in sectors demanding specific skills.
- ▷ **Remittance dependence:** Overreliance on remittances from the diaspora can create economic instability if those flows fluctuate or decline.
- ▷ **Erosion of cultural heritage:** Loss of connection to traditions and language skills by those living abroad can weaken the cultural fabric of the homeland.
- ▷ **Political influence and interference:** Diasporas may exert pressure on the government of their country of origin through lobbying, financial support to political parties and shaping public opinion over social media platforms. This can potentially cause internal political tensions or fuel conflicts.
- ▷ **Loss of tax revenue:** If a significant portion of the population resides abroad, the government may face challenges in generating tax revenue for public services and infrastructure development.

### ▷ Costs of transfer of remittances and lack of financial inclusion:

Because of money laundering and financing terrorism concerns, customer due diligence procedures tend to be cumbersome for all remittance transfers.

- » High costs related to customer due diligence may end up **turning customers away from formal financial institutions**, thereby diminishing government oversight of financial transactions and potentially **driving these transactions through unregulated channels**.

### ► For destination country

- ▷ **Social integration and cohesion:** Large inflows of immigrants can strain social services and resources, potentially leading to tensions with the native population.
- ▷ **Cultural clashes and prejudice:** Differences in customs and traditions between the diaspora community and the host society can lead to misunderstandings and discrimination.
- ▷ **Security concerns:** Integration challenges and marginalization of diaspora communities can create conditions for extremism and social unrest.
- ▷ **Economic competition:** Skilled or low-skilled workers from the diaspora may be perceived as competition for jobs by the native population, creating friction in the labor market.
- ▷ **Political pressure and activism:** Diasporas may lobby for policies in their host country that benefit their country of origin, potentially conflicting with the interests of the host nation.

# Way Forward

Institutional measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Merger of Ministry of Overseas India Affairs with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2016:</b> It was aimed to bring better synergy for realizing the objectives of bringing Indian diaspora closer to India.</li><li>➤ <b>Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra:</b> Inaugurated in 2016 in New Delhi, Kendra is expected to develop into a hub of activities for sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding economic, social and cultural engagement between India and its Diaspora.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▷ Established on the recommendations of a <b>high-level committee (2002)</b> on Indian Diaspora headed by <b>L M Singhvi</b>.</li></ul></li><li>➤ <b>India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OS):</b> Set up by the Government of India in 2008, as a not-for-profit Trust to facilitate Overseas Indian philanthropy into social and development projects in India.</li></ul>
Engagement initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Overseas Citizenship of India scheme:</b> To register specified PIOs as Overseas Citizen of India.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▷ It was introduced through <b>Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005</b>.</li></ul></li><li>➤ <b>Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:</b> Union government's flagship event for Indian diaspora. It is <b>hosted every two years on January 09</b> to mark the contributions of the Indian community abroad in the development of India.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▷ <b>Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas</b> events are also organized to reach out to members unable to participate in annual PBD in India.</li></ul></li><li>➤ <b>Education and Research:</b> Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN), Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (PRABHASS), Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme, Study India Programme, etc.</li><li>➤ <b>Diaspora Welfare programmes:</b> National Pension scheme for NRIs, scholarship program for diaspora children, Indian community welfare fund, etc.</li><li>➤ <b>Socio-cultural awareness and engagement:</b> Know India Programme, Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana, Bharat ko Janiye Online quiz, etc.</li><li>➤ <b>Rewards and recognition:</b> Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award conferred by the President of India as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on NRIs, PIOs or an organization/institution established and run by them.</li></ul>
Digital Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>e-Migrate system:</b> Unique computerized system to regulate Emigration Check Process required for overseas employment of less educated blue-collar workers.</li><li>➤ <b>Students Registration Portal:</b> Provides a database of students to contact the students in the event of an emergency.</li><li>➤ <b>Online Services for overseas voters:</b> To increase political engagement of NRIs, the Election Commission of India enabled online enrolment of overseas/ NRI electors.</li><li>➤ <b>Pravasi Rishta Portal:</b> Dynamic portal to establish an effective three-way communication between the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Missions, and the Diaspora.</li></ul>



# Way Forward

<b>Economic measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>Liberalization of FDI norms:</b> Investor friendly FDI policy under which most sectors except certain strategically important sectors are open for 100% FDI under the automatic route.</li><li>▶ <b>Entrepreneurial engagement:</b> India-France Business Summit (2023), US-India Business Council, B20 India 2023, etc.</li><li>▶ <b>Financial measures:</b> Liberalized Remittances scheme, Voluntary Retention Route to motivate long-term investment by FPIs in Indian debt market, investment by NRIs in G-Secs under RBI Retail Direct, etc.</li></ul>
<b>Bilateral and multilateral arrangements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs):</b> India has signed MMPAs with several countries to ensure welfare and safety of Indian diaspora. It includes MMPAs with France, Italy, etc., EU-India Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM), among others.</li><li>▶ <b>Labour Manpower Agreements (LMA):</b> India has signed LMAs with six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, to facilitate the entry and presence of Indian manpower in these economies.</li></ul>

