

## **Non-Alignedment:**

### MEANING OF NON-ALIGNMENT - SHORTCUT

It 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, harmony and cooperation.

### FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-ALIGNMENT - SHORTCUT

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

- i) Global tension caused by Cold war
- ii) Struggle against imperialism and neo-colonisation
- iii) Right of independent judgement
- iv) Use of moderation in relation to all big powers
- v) Restructuring international economic order
- vi) Formation of a collective force

### EVOLUTION OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT - SHORTCUT

The origin of the NAM can be traced back to the Asian Relations Conference held in New Delhi in March 1947 in which Nehru highlighted the dangers posed by the hostility between the two power blocs. In 1949, another convention for Asian unity was held at New Delhi to discuss the Indonesian problem which called upon the Dutch troops to withdraw from the areas under the control of Indonesia. In 1954, The five principles of 'Panchasheel' were given practical shape at a conference held in Bandung in April 1955 which was attended by 29 Afro-Asian countries. The delegates at the conference condemned colonialism and emphasised the need for economic growth in the third world countries. The conference paved the way for cooperation among newly independent nations which later blossomed into the Non-Aligned Movement.

### THE FIRST NAM SUMMIT - SHORTCUT

The NAM was formally launched at its first summit held in September 1961 at Belgrade in Yugoslavia. It was attended by 23 Afro-Asian and one European country. Pandit Nehru, Joseph Tito and Nasser are considered as 'founding fathers' of NAM. Several problems such as problems of Berlin and Congo, question of Chinese representation in the UN and the issue of apartheid in South Africa were discussed. The summit demanded immediate and total abolition of colonialism and called for complete disarmament.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT - SHORTCUT

The important objectives of the NAM are the following:

- i) Eliminate causes which could lead to war.
- ii) To protect the emerging freedom of the new born independent countries of Asia and Africa from colonial domination.
- iii) To protect human rights and the environment.
- iv) Advocate sovereign equality of all states.
- v) Advocate peaceful settlement of international issues.
- vi) Oppose colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination.
- vii) Encourage friendly relations among countries.

#### ROLE OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT - SHORTCUT

India was the first country to initiate the policy of non-alignment under the leadership of Nehru. He called upon the Afro-Asian countries to keep themselves away from the politics of the two opposing camps ( USA and the Soviet Union), which had already brought about two world wars. Nehru led the Afro-Asian countries towards the concept of non-alignment. He led the Bandung conference along with Joseph Tito, Nasser, Kwame Nkrumah and many others. Nehru was acknowledged as the greatest spokesman for the neutrality of Afro-Asian states in the Cold War era. He did not approve of military and economic alliances of SEATO, NATO, the Warsaw Pact, Cominform, etc. Nehru was against the philosophy advocated by the two power blocs. He was against the policy of apartheid being followed in South Africa. Nehru also called for disarmament and abolition of stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NAM - SHORTCUT

Non-Alignment has been pursued by more than half of the world over five decades. Some of its achievements are as follows:

- i) NAM helped in ending the Cold War by easing tensions between the two power blocs.
- ii) NAM acted against the arms race during the Cold War.
- iii) NAM stood against injustice, be it the Suez Canal crisis, aggressive policies of Israel, etc.
- iv) It advocated New International Economic Order based on greater economic cooperation and justice.
- v) NAM made the developed countries realise that deprivation of the third world would affect world economy and their own prosperity.

#### FUTURE OF NAM - SHORTCUT

Today NAM stands for a broader objective of international peace as well as independence of foreign

policy of each sovereign State. It continues to be an effective forum for seeking economic justice. With the emergence of neo-colonialism, NAM has become all the more relevant. Since many small and weak countries are unable to preserve their sovereignty in the economic field due to the interference of international financial institutions like World Bank, IMF, etc. the NAM can come forward and counteract these moves. The USA has emerged as a superpower dictating its own terms. In such a situation the NAM could try and prevent the US domination. It still continues to be dynamic, positive and a constructive movement aimed at achieving universal peace, disarmament and development.