

NON-ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT

NAM as a Foreign Policy:

- According to MS Rajan, NAM was a **tool of foreign policy** too. It stood for an **independent and autonomous** foreign policy.
- The founding fathers of NAM were **Jawaharlal Nehru, Nasser from Egypt, Tito from Yugoslavia, Sukarno from Indonesia.**
- NAM means **not joining any military alliance** which existed during the Cold War. So it was a policy of keeping **India out of Cold War politics** and allow it to follow its own independent and autonomous foreign policy.
- They did not want to become **mere satellites of major powers.** They neither followed USA nor USSR.
- They were not opposed to these countries rather they were opposed to joining military blocks.

CONDITIONS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NAM

- Members will stick to an independent foreign policy.
- They will oppose imperialism and colonialism.
- They should not join any military bloc.
- They should not allow their territory to be used for setting up of military base.

NAM as a Movement

- NAM was a movement against **colonialism, imperialism,** and the **policy of racial apartheid.**
- Moreover, it was a movement **against arms race.** A movement **against polarisation of the world.** Movement for **world peace.**
- It was a **collective voice** of the newly independent **Afro-Asian countries.** Stood against power politics of great powers and provided an **alternative for third world countries.**
- NAM stood for **Block-less world.** It did not try to create a third block. Nehru reiterated that NAM is a **bloc of peace.**

Actual Meaning of NAM

- NAM **does not mean “neutrality”** from world politics and moreover it also **does not mean isolation** from the world politics like the Munroe Doctrine.
- But NAM was **“actively participating”** in world politics. This active participation was directed towards **maintaining peace and justice in the world.**
- It means **expressing views and ideas** over every issue of merit and **not staying neutral and unresponsive to world.**

DEVELOPMENT OF NAM

- Informally, the foundation of NAM was laid down in the “**Asian Relations Conference**” held in **1948** in **New Delhi**. The objective of this conference was phasing out colonialism and imperialism.
- In **1955**, the “**Afro-Asian Summit**” was held in Indonesia in the city of **Bandung**.
- Formally, NAM was setup in **1961**. the first summit of NAM was held in **Belgrade** in Yugoslavia.
- The second and third summit were held in the African continent in **Cairo** and **Lusaka**.
- **NAM strengthened the UN** as the ideals of NAM and UN were very much similar like **peace** and **nuclear disarmament**.

SECOND PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT (1973 Onwards)

- In the second phase, the **economic issues became primary**.
- In **1974**, NAM members raised the demand of **New International Economic Order (NIEO)** which was initiated by the **ALGIAS Summit of 1973**.
- NAM members have also emphasized over the **setting up of a bank** for the developing countries. Also they demanded for a **New Information Order**.
- USA claimed NAM to be an **extension of the Socialist Bloc**. In NAM Summit in Havana (Cuba) in 1979, Cuba propounded the notion of **Natural Ally**
- However, India refused to accept the slogan of natural ally. The NAM Summit was **held in India** for the first time in **New Delhi in 1983**.

RELEVANCE OF NAM

- **NAM 2.0** is a book which proves relevance of NAM as a foreign policy. It is **strategic autonomy** in foreign policy.
- After the disintegration of USSR in 1991, the world became unipolar from bipolar. There was disintegration of the socialist economy and with it the military block of USSR. So it was raised that with the dismantling of WARSAW military alliance and end of cold war, NAM which was the child of cold war politics automatically becomes irrelevant.
- The issues like colonialism and imperialism were now rejected all over the world. There was widespread support for these issues amongst the colonial countries of the West themselves. Also UN had emerged as a popular supporter of this issue.
- Members of NAM like Egypt wanted it to be merged with G-77. These logics supported the irrelevance of NAM theory.