

Non Aligned Movement

After World War II, 120 developing countries formed the Non-Alignment Movement. These countries were not formally against or aligned with any of the major power blocs in the world. The United Nations is the largest block of countries worldwide.

NAM was established in Belgrade in 1961 under the leadership of the Prime Minister of India (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru), the President of Egypt (Gamal Abdel Nasser), and the President of Yugoslavia (Josip Broz Tito).

Origin of Non Aligned Movement

After independence, India followed the Non Aligned Movement path and became one of this block's founding members. Because of much orientation of Nehru towards the soviet era, it followed the path of NAM.

- Although in reality, many of the members of the Non Aligned Movement were closely aligned with the superpowers, which somehow served their interests.
- NAM became less relevant by following the same path in the later years after Nehru.
- Due to the changing geopolitics, India followed the path of globalization and collaborated with superpowers from time to time.
- This approach of India not only leaves the country negligent towards Non Aligned Movement but in the time frame, the importance of this bloc diminishes for India.

Non Aligned Movement Functioning

Non Aligned Movement doesn't possess a formal hierarchy or permanent secretariat. The functioning of the NAM is explained as follows-

- The administration of the Non Aligned Movement is non-hierarchy and rotational.
- It has a Coordinating Bureau established at the UN, New York City.
- The NAM member countries meets at the NAM Summit Conference of the Heads of the States every three years.
- NAM takes a universal decision by consensus. However, it requires a substantial agreement as well.
- A post of the chair is chosen at the Summit for three years.
- Every member country of the Non Aligned Movement has equal weight.

NAM Member Countries

Non Aligned Movement is the largest inter-country organization outside the United Nations. Currently, there are 120 NAM Member countries. India is the organization's founding member. The details of the NAM Member Countries are as follows-

- Along with India, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan are also NAM Members.
- Observer status is given to China.
- Except for South Sudan and Western Sahara, all African countries are NAM Members.
- Along with China, various other countries and organizations are given observer status. Some of these countries and organizations are the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Arab League, the African Union, the United Nations, etc.

- Among European countries, members of NAM are Belarus and Azerbaijan.

Objectives of NAM

Non Aligned Movement were formed with the prime objective of creating an independent path in the world's politics. It encourages the threat of the use of force in international relations. The fulfilment of these objectives will maintain tranquillity, peace, and harmony in the global order. These elements define the approach of the organization-

- Struggle against neo-colonialism and imperialism.
- Right to independent judgement.
- Using relations moderately with big powers of the world.
- It also focuses on the struggle against colonialism domination, disarmament, foreign occupation, racism, and neocolonialism. It supports the peaceful co-existence of all the nations and non-interference in the States' internal affairs.
- NAM targets non-adherence of opposition to multilateral military pacts and NAM members' independence to block influences and rivalries.
- It promotes strengthening the United Nations, international cooperation on an equal footing, and the democratization of international relations.

Non Aligned Movement Evolution

Historians believe the Bandung Conference of 1955 is the most important antecedent to the Non Aligned Movement formation. Twenty-nine heads of different governments from Africa and Asia's first post-colonial generation of leaders attended the conference. It included Sukarno of Indonesia, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Tito, Nasser, and Nehru. They adopted 10 guiding principles, and these are-

- Respect for international obligations and justice.
- Promotion of cooperation and mutual interest.
- Settlement of global disputes peacefully.
- Prohibit the use of collective defence pacts. It will enhance the interest of the great powers.
- Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the nations.
- Respect for the objectives and principles of the UN charter and an individual's fundamental rights.
- Non-interference or non-intervention in the internal affairs of another country.
- In conformity with the UN's Charter, respect the right of a nation to defend itself collectively or individually.
- Refraining from all sorts of threats or acts of aggression along with the use of force against the political independence or territorial integrity of any nation.
- Recognition of equality among all nations, be it large or small, and equality among all races.

NAM was formally established with 25 developing countries in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1961 during the first NAM Summit Conference. India was the founding member of the NAM. At first, the founders of the Non Aligned Movement were interested in calling it an organization.

Relevance of NAM

Presently, there are 120 permanent members of the Non Aligned Movement, and India is at the stage where it can emerge as the leader of the group concerning the democratic value, economy, and demographic size of the country. Also, India, one of the Movement's founding members, is valued more.

- Recently, Prime Minister Modi addressed a virtual summit of the non-aligned nations that has given the global order an edge to rethink India's role in NAM. This also signifies India's stakes in the so-called "Global South", so NAM can be used as a climbing ladder. In this way, Non Aligned Movement still exists as a critical diplomatic forum for India in the pursuit of India's international interests.
- It is always believed that NAM is an organization formed at the time Cold War and has worked according to the needs of that time. Now also, the world is feeling that a new Cold War can begin between the two superpowers of the world: the US and China.
- In this situation, India has every reason to try and preserve some political space between the two. In the last few years, India has been devoting time to many diplomatic forums like BRICS.
- These forums concluded profits only for Russian and Chinese leadership; that's why India needs NAM to mobilize support on issues of interest to Delhi.

Global Pandemic Crisis and Aftermath Leadership role of NAM

Modi must check his nationalist image and authority in the international arena from a strategic point of view. If he became a leader of the world's largest multipolar organization, he would gain a significantly different position from leaders like Trump and other such leaders who actively postponed multilateralism.

- Further, the Nehruvian template of foreign policy is redeemed by the NAM. This foreign policy was accepted in the Middle East and the West, and Modi has received maximum pushback from these two regions for a year.
- A new global order's emergence was expected by the world for a new international order in COVID-19's aftermath.
- Thus, developing middle powers like India are ready to perform an essential role in what India has identified during its NAM intervention, which acknowledged the existing international system's limitations and suggested a "new globalization template, based on humanity, equality, and fairness. This forum can achieve that."
- It can also be said that along with economic growth, international institutions should promote human welfare. Also, India's initiatives of International Yoga Day, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the International Solar Alliance are highlighted.