

Chapter - 11

Foreign Relations

Foreign Policy of India: From Past to Present

In India, there has been an old glorious convention in regard to Global relations. India has always tried its best, to develop a bridge with other nations for the attainment of good relations, right from its independence till today and this kind of step has been supported by the whole world. In the course of its freedom movement even, India has repeated its priorities of having better relations with other countries, from various stages. In regard to, International Relations, India has its clear stand that there should be peace in the world. India has always supported the concepts of the freedom and right to decide by oneself, of other countries of the world. India has also supported the Principle of co-existence and the International organization, meant for the protection of the rights of all the countries. India has always opposed the concept of Imperialism. And in this way, even before Independence India has explained the objectives and ideals of its nature of Foreign Policy.

The Aim of India's Foreign Policy

The Principles of Peace, Friendly Relations, and Equality, have been preferred in Indian Foreign Policy. India has always adopted a clear cut strong stand, while keeping the co-operation and good faith with other countries. The main three base pillar, of Indian Foreign Policy are- 'Peace, Friendship & Equality'.

In the objectives of Foreign Policy, the protection of National Interests, is the most

important element. India has always tried to co-adjust, the National Interests, with the interests of International World.

Our best ideals based on Humanity and the best values of life, are becoming the main basis of long existed Foreign Policy. This kind of well cultured thought has given the continuity to Foreign Policy in every period. In the Article 51 of Indian Constitution, under the subject of Directive Principles of the state, the basic elements of Indian Foreign Policy has been incorporated.

The main objectives of Indian Foreign Policy are as under :-

1. Efforts for International Peace and Security.
2. To solve the International Disputes, through Mediators.
3. To develop cordial relations with all the countries.
4. Trust in International Laws
5. To keep away from Military agreements and groups.
6. To oppose Imperialism and Colonialism.
7. To oppose discrimination and helping the Nations, who are struggling for their Freedom.
8. Facilitating trade, industry and financial relations Transfer of Technology between countries.
9. To help, in solving the problems, and challenges, before present International

Community.

10. In South Asia, making the position of India, on the basis of Friendly Relations and Mutual co-operation.

The Determinants India's Foreign Policy :-

There were some challenges and special circumstances before India, at the time of getting Freedom, in the year 1947. So in deciding the Foreign Policy's basic, the following elements possessed important place in the then period:-

1. The whole world was divided into two groups, at the time, when India got Freedom, so India decided not to join any group politics, and kept away from groupism. Means, it can be said that India remained 'Neutral'. It was the utmost priority of India to develop fully in the economical field, and for the attainment of this goal, India needed help from all the countries of the world. This scene gave birth to the concept of Neutral Foreign Policy, leaving aside, both the Leaders of Big groups of Nations.
2. To strengthen the security arrangement along with the objective to maintain unity and integrity of India.
3. The Geographical reasons also played important role in determination of the nature of Foreign Policy. To protect our territory had been the top priority on the one hand. In East India is nearly situated in Russia and communist, and on the other hand, in the South is China. East part and the South West part, is surrounded with Sea. The main interest of India vests in the self security, peace and mutual friendships.
4. The Ancient culture has also affected the determination of Indian Foreign Policy. The worldly Brotherhood, Humanism & Peace, had been the inspiring factors of our way of life from the Ancient period.

Chief characteristics of India's Foreign Policy:-

1. Policy of Non Alignment :

Due to compelling circumstances, the world was divided into two groups. One group was in the leadership of capitalistic America, and the other group was in the influence of communist Soviet Russia. India decided to have distance and to keep away from both the groups, being affected by Ideology and National Interests both India followed this path and centralised on its development, this policy was called as Policy of Non Alignment, in due course of time this policy centralised, the Principle of Judicious and Independent approach towards the problems of the world. From this point of view, this policy is of constructive and positive nature.

In the situation of Non Alignment, any country may have friendly and balanced relations with the Nations of both groups, and can achieve the objectives of one's Economical Development.

Non Alignment disagrees to keep any Military Treaty with any one group. This Non Alignment Movement opened a new way of development for the Nations, which could get the freedom in a short time, along with India who was also liberated from the slavery of British Rule. A new third stage got opened for taking correct or incorrect decisions, in regard to International Disputes.

In the field of making a Movement to the policy of Non-Alignment, the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, The President of Yugoslavia, Marshal Tito, The President of Egypt, Nasir and the President of Indonesia Sukarno, played very important role. In fifth decade this non alignment movement took the proper shape in World Political Arena.

A summit in the year 1961, was called, which is known as 'Belgrade Summit', in which the issue of Disarmament and World Peace, were heavily pressed. The 16th Summit, was held in the capital of Iran, i.e. Tehsan, in the month of August 2012.

About 120 countries participated and issues like Disarmament, Human Rights, and Regional Subjects, were discussed in detail.

The question, regarding the utility and relevance of the non alignment movement, arose from time to time, after the end of cold war and deorganisation of Soveit Russia, but it can be told, today also, that, in reference to new challenges and International issues, for finding out solutions, through this kind of stage, is still important and useful. This non alignment movement has proved its utility in the recent years; in the field of solving and helping, of the issues like- New Colonialism, Human Rights, Environemnt, Economic and Regional, Social critical issues.

2. Panchsheel :

Panchsheel is the word defining, the meaning of 5 preachings of lifestyle, told by Gotam Budha, in Buddh religion, which is propounded by him. Panchsheel denotes the five Principles of the way for the Human life. The principle of Panchsheel, has been used first time, in the field of Foreign Policy, on 29th April 1954, applied in one agreement with China, made by India, in relation to Tibbet. Almost all the Nations of Asia, have adopted the Principles of Panchsheel; in the latter period, this principle of 'Panchsheel' got International identitiy and recognition. These 5 principles are as under:-

1. Policy of non attacking
2. Respect of higher authority and regional unity of one another
3. Equality and mutual gain
4. Not to interfere in the internal matters of each other country
5. Peaceful co-existence

The principles of Panchsheel, is the symbol of moral power. Pandit Nehru told once, that “if the maximum nations of the world give recognition to these principles, than a big part of the International problems will be solved easily”.

In the beginning, the 'Panchsheel’ was known, as the basic character of Indian Foreign Policy in the world, but after the attack by China, is the year 1962, proved that this principle is nothing but a confusion only. This attack proved a big shot to the failure of Foreign Policy and hurt the International Prestige of India also. The critics feel, that the attack by China, is a political failure of India. Though the faith in Panchsheel still continues, in the Foreign Policy of India, but in the International field, there is lack of attribution to moral values and peaceful thinking, so the possibility of success of Panchshella, in International field, seems to be very much limited.

3. Peaceful co-existence :

In Indian Philosophy, the Principle that “The whole world is our Family” has been incorporated since beginning. This denotes about the feeling that people and countries, having different religious and different social values, may live peacefully all together in the world. India has undergone the maximum friendly treaties and commercial agreements. India, through its Foreign Policy, has tried to give the message that though the contradictory ideology and different views of nations, they may co-exist peacefully. This policy is the foundation of constructive development. India, from the beginning had been against the war and supporter of Disarmament and of world peace.

India has played the role of mediator on so many occasions, whenever the possibility of war came, into being. At present, in the world, a number of Nations are having Nuclear Power. For the progress and development of backward and developing countries, the environment of 'peace' is highly necessary or compulsory even. Really speaking, the peaceful co-existence make the International Relations very strong and healthy, and provide the practical ways of keeping mutual relations.

4. Opposition of Imperialism and partheid :

India itself had been a victim of Imperialism. It

could realise the worst results of Imperialism. That is why India always opposes, any kind of Imperialism at any place, in the world. After Independence, India supported all such countries of Asia & Africa who were struggling for getting Independence from the clutches of Imperialistic Nation. India always stood to support such Nations, who want to decide the goal themselves by self determination. India believes that the Imperialism and colonialism are the instruments of exploitation. To oppose the concept of Imperialism and Colonialism is the elementary ideals of Indian Foreign Policy, by which, India continued to encourage the moral strength of such nations, who were fighting against exploitation.

Likewise, to oppose Racial Discrimination and Apartheid also had been the main features of Indian Foreign Policy. India had been supporter of equality for all Human Races and species. The concept of differentiating on the basis of species is against the principle of equality. The discrimination based on species, is against the concept of equality and it pollutes the International environment. In the past period, India discontinued diplomatic relations from South Africa, only because to show the opposition towards Discrimination based on Apartheid.

India also supported openly, the Africans of America and African people of Rodeyshiya who were opposing the discrimination based on Apartheid. India also, co-operated such countries, who imposed restrictions on such countries, where the discrimination based on Racial base and based on Apartheid. India also provided strength to its voice on such issues, through the stage of U.N.O. also.

5. To Support United Nations Organization:

India, has been a supporter of United Nations organisation since its beginning, right from that time and till today. India continuously supported the policies and functions of this International Institution. The United Nations Organization is established at International level, who maintain peace in the world and is busy to perform its various

works, related to many walks of life of Human Beings. India has always obeyed its orders, paid honour to International Laws also.

On the issue of India- Pakistan, India always followed the decisions quickly taken by U.N.O. from time to time. This establishes the commitment and loyalty towards U.N.O. So many Indians occupied important posts in U.N.O. and increased the glory of India. Whenever, it was needed, India provided its peace Army to U.N.O. for the maintenance of Peace in the world. At present, India is continuously trying to become permanent member by security council of U.N.O., but China and sometimes America also do not support India's stand.

6. The Nuclear Policy of India:

After 1960, India started to decide the nature of Nuclear. It became necessary, in the interest of Nation, that a clear cut policy should be adopted. At this, under the garb of disarmament, the countries, (which were having atomic power with them), Like China, America and Russia wanted to weaken India.

The former President of India, Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, is known as the Path finder of Nuclear Power Programmes of India. He used to tell that 'India is situated, between two Nuclear Power oriented countries. The insecurity of India's integrity and borders, started becoming visible gradually. So it became essential to become self dependent, in the field of Atomic Power, Nuclear Weapons, and competency in the field of Missiles.

India has been a peaceful country since beginning and it always stood for applying Disarmament, but India was compelled to become self dependent in the field of Nuclear Power and Missiles, due to fast changing world scenario and discriminatory Nuclear Power Programmes. The conditions related to the treaties of Nuclear disarmament and Nuclear non Proliferation were discriminatory, so it was not acceptable to India. In the field of Nuclear experiments, India is following

the basic policy, keeping in mind the Principle of Peace in the world.

India performed its first Nuclear test during the Prime Ministership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the year 1974. After the gap of 24 years, the Second Nuclear Experiment was done in 1998. The Former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee took this courageous decision, leaving aside all International Pressures. All the five countries, already having Nuclear Power, reacted fast on the policy of India. India has made it clear, time and again, that India is committed to the concept of Nuclearless world. But, till the other countries and not destroy their Arms, till that time India will also possess the minimum Nuclear Arms. The wider Nuclear non Proliferation Treaty is not made without discrimination by that time India will not sign such Treaty in near future also.

7. SAARC:

The full name of 'SAARC' is 'South Asia Association for regional co-operation'. The seven countries of South Asia organised this forum jointly. These countries are- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldiv. The 'SAARC' was organised in December 1985. This organisation is meant for mutual co-operation between 7 countries of South Asia. This organisation insist on mutual co-operation, increasing mutual good faith and to reduce tension. In these countries, there is a big possibility of mutual co-operation, in the field of poverty, illiteracy, development and malnutrition etc.

Leaving aside, Maldiv, rest of the all countries are part and parcel of Indian subcontinent. Due to these reasons, their cultural and historical inheritance is more or less similar. 'SAARC' has done large functions in the field of Agriculture, Health, Education, Environment basic subjects.

India, occupies an important place in South Asia Region and posses influence position. All 'SAARC'; countries are having the borders at that

places, which are co-joined with the Border Areas of India. All rivers of SAARC, countries, flow and move, through and inside the area of India. So, it is just natural, that in all such fields, the 'SAARC' countries look at India, for betterment. The 14th Summit was held in Delhi, in the April 2007. In this conference, Afghanistan was made the 08th member of 'SAARC', and along with this, the representatives of other countries also participated in the Summit, which indicate the interest of such countries with 'SAARC'. The 18th Summit took place in Nepal, in November 2014.

8. The Problem of Terrorism:

Today, the entire humanity is suffering from terrorism. Backward and developing Nations are in the grip of terrorism, but the developed, powerful and prosperous countries, are also affected by the danger of Terrorism. To start violent activities against the lawfully established governments and to terrorize their people, is "Terrorism". The threat of violence, individual violent activities, and to terrorize the people of any state, is terrorism. The South Asia's countries, including India, are suffering from the violence of Terrorism, but America is also not untouched.

Terrorism is a serious challenge to India. In India, at present, about 31 terrorist organizations are active, out of them, some organizations are having their Head Quarters in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and in Afghanistan. Excluding these places, in the other countries of world at various places they have offices, with the objective to terrorise the governments from time to time.

In Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts country, the disruptive incidents are being done by the groups of Terrorists. In December 2001, the Parliament of India, was attacked by the terrorists belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lasker-atoiyba Terrorist organisations.

The 'Shadow War', being sponsored by the Foreign Terrorist organisations, is a very big

problem for India. The terrorism is the offspring of poisonous character and ill mentality existing in the state governments. This sponsored terrorism is having a very frightful format. A large number of countries, in the world, are giving shelter to terrorist organisation, only for fulfilment of their malafide interests. These organisations have sophisticated weapons, explosives, finance and other resources of a bigger volume.

In spite of discussing the terrorist problems, in various, uncountable talks, conferences, the problem is still in its full force. In the countries, being affected by terrorism, the mutual faith between the countries have been lessened and economic resources are also damaged. Let us hope, that in coming time, the world will be free from Terrorism and they may be moved towards using to economic funds and resources, in the development and progress of people.

The Evaluation of Foreign Policy of India

Indian Foreign Policy has been capable of protecting its National Interests. It is based on the higher values of Humanity and due to this, it has added to the glory of India. Though, sometimes, it has been criticised to some extent, taking into consideration of Military and Economic areas, yet it can be issued that the Indian Foreign Policy could have changes also, keeping in mind the changing scenario and demand of time. This is the reason, the elements of continuity and dynamism are visible in the Foreign Policy.

India, has now started to centralise itself on the Economic Aspect, India is really very serious, in regard to commerce and business in International field. The process of improving relations between India & America has been started. The trips of American President Barak Obama to India in 2010 and again in 2015, have given the indications of improving relations between the two countries. The rate of India in South Asian countries and

developing countries, to lead them, also indicate the positive changes in Indian Foreign Policy. The nuclear experiments, made by India, has broken the monopoly of China & Western countries. Thus, it proves that the Indian Foreign Policy supports the cause of peace, and good faith on one hand and is capable of protecting its National Interests, on the other hand. The Indian Foreign Policy has also established a cultural identity in International World.

The Indian style, food, dresses, culture etc. have got recognition in International field. Really, in the previous Decades, India has developed economically and technically also. Due to Dynamic Foreign Policy, India has got a new role, in world politics.

Important Points

1. The Foreign Policy of India expresses the glorious traditions, right from past to present time. The basic Pillars, of this policy have been the best ideals like world peace, friendship, universal brotherhood and co-operation.
2. The main aim of Indian Foreign Policy is to harmonise itself as well as international interests.
3. The main decisive elements, India's Foreign Policy are contemporary situation geographical elements and influence of ideologies.
4. The non alignment, is the chief feature of Indian Foreign Policy. It means to keep away from both the groups and to stand in a neutral manner and to centralise on the the development of the country.
5. India propounded the "The Principle of 'Panchsheel' which includes the aspects like, to follow the policy of non-attacking, honour of regional unity. Equality, the policy of non interference and peaceful co-existence.

6. India considers it bad to distinguish on the basis of colour and race. India opposes it.
7. India supports United Nations organisation, to maintain world peace and brotherhood.
8. India gave a new look to its nuclear policy, keeping in mind, the changing scenario of the world and oppose the discriminative policy of Nuclear Empowered nations with the other countries including India also.
9. The 'SAARC' was established in the month of December 1985, by the combined attempts of seven countries, from the South Asia Region.
10. The problem of terrorism, is a serious challenge for India.
11. India has taken some new strong actions, clarifying the opinion but no solution is visible in near future.

Objective Type Questions

1. In which year was the Belgrade conference of non alignment held?
(a) 1963 (b) 1961
(c) 1953 (d) 1958
2. The five principles of Panchsheel, are based on the Philosophy of -
(a) Mahaveer Swami
(b) Swami Vivekanand
(c) Swami Dayanand
(d) Gautam Buddha
3. In which year the Panchsheel Indo China pact was done?
(a) 1950 (b) 1954
(c) 1955 (d) 1960
4. Where the 18th SAARC conference was held?
(a) India (b) Pakistan

(c) Nepal (d) Bhutan

5. India perform its first nuclear test, In which year?
(a) 1984 (b) 1974
(c) 1975 (d) 1980

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What are the main basic Pillars of Indian Foreign Policy?
2. What is the most important element among the basic elements of Indian Foreign Policy?
3. In which Article of Indian constitution, are the main elements of foreign policy included?
4. Which leaders played an important role, in providing the form of 'Non Alignment' movement?
5. Write full name of 'SAARC'.
6. Who are thread-holders of the India's Nuclear Policy?
7. Which international organisation does India support for world peace?

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the main ideals of India's foreign policy.
2. What do you mean by non-alignment policy?
3. How do the geographical elements affect India's foreign policy.
4. After the end of cold war, throw light on utility of non-alignment.
5. Describe the principal of Panchsheel.
6. What do you mean by peaceful co-existence?
7. Write a short note on the problem of terrorism in India.
8. Describe India's role regarding the U.N.

Essay Type Questions

1. Describe the main aims of Indian Foreign Policy.
2. Describe the decisive elements of India's foreign policy.
3. What are the main characteristics of Indian Foreign Policy.
4. Discuss the Nuclear Policy of India.
5. Evaluate the Foreign Policy of India.

Answers to objective type questions

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| 1 (B) | 2 (E) | 3 (B) |
| 4 (C) | 5 (B) | |