

Quadrant II - Notes

Paper Code: POD 102

**Module Name: Objectives and Principles of India's
Foreign Policy**

Module No: 02

Objectives of India's Foreign Policy

- National interest has been the governing principle of India's foreign policy even at the time, of Nehru who was inspired by the idea of world peace, toleration and mutual respect among nations.
- According to Appadorai and M. S. Rajan, there are three fundamental objectives of India's Foreign policy

1. The preservation of India's territorial integrity and Independence of foreign policy.

The territorial integrity and protection of national boundaries from foreign aggression is the core interest of a nation. India had gained hard-earned independence from foreign rule after a long time..

India's effort to strengthen Afro-Asian solidarity endorsement of principles of non-interference, in the internal affairs of other nations and finally the adoption of the policy of non-alignment should be seen in this light.

2. Promoting International peace and security

India as a 'newly independent and developing country rightly realized that international peace and development are correlated. Her emphasis on disarmament and the policy of

keeping away from the military alliances is intended to promote global peace.

3. The economic development of India

Fast development of the country was the fundamental requirement of India at the time of independence. It was also required to strengthen the democracy and freedom in the country. In order to gain financial resources and technology from both blocks and to concentrate her energy on the development, India opted away from the power block politics.

4. Elimination of colonialism and racial discrimination

5. Protection of the interests of people of Indian origin abroad.

Principles of India's Foreign policy.

The principles of India's foreign policy and its objectives are closely interlinked with each other. These principles have stood the test of time and are ingrained in international law and India's foreign policy practice.

A.Panchsheel

In view of the destruction caused by two world wars. The founder of India's foreign policy, Nehru gave utmost importance to world peace in his policy planning. For him, India desired peaceful and friendly relations with all countries, particularly the big powers and the neighboring nations.

While signing a peace agreement with China; he advocated adherence to five guiding principles

Panchsheel was signed on 28 April 1954 and since then it has become a guiding principle of India's bilateral relations with other countries also.

The Five guiding principles

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Non-aggression against each other.
3. Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit.
5. Peaceful co-existence.

These principles of Panchsheel were later incorporated in the Bandung Declaration, signed in the Afro-Asian Conference held in 1955 in Indonesia. They are the core principles of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) and still guide the conduct of India's foreign policy

B) Policy of Non –alignment

It is one of the most important feature of India's Foreign policy. Its core element is to maintain independence in foreign affairs by not joining any military alliance formed by the USA and the Soviet union, which emerged as an important aspect of cold war politics after the second world war .

Non alignment should not be confused with neutrality .It was a positive and dynamic concept. It postulates taking an independent stand on international issues according to the merits of each case but at the same time not committing to coming under the influence of any military bloc.

c) The policy of Resisting Colonialism, Imperialism, Racism

India has been a victim of colonialism and racism and was as such opposed to these evils in any form. India was the first to bring the issue of Apartheid in the UN in 1946.

Due to India's consistent efforts through NAM and other international forums, 14 African countries were liberated from the yoke of colonialism in 1964. The end of racialism in South Africa in 1990 was a great success for Indian policy.

D) Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes

This principle has been included in the Constitution of India, under the Directive Principles of State Policy as well as in the Charter of the UN. India has played a leading role in the resolution of the Korean conflict and supported negotiated settlement of Palestine issue, border problems with neighboring countries, and other such disputes and problems. This principle continues to be the cornerstone of India's policy.

E) Support to UN, International Law and a Just and Equal World Order

- India has supported the cause of disarmament pursued by the UN. India stands committed to the cause of universal disarmament even today.
- India has played a key role in preserving world peace by helping in the decolonization process, and through active participation in UN peacekeeping activities.
- India is one of the claimants of permanent membership of the Security Council.

Conclusion

The principles of India's foreign policy and its objectives are closely interlinked with each other. These principles have stood the test of time and are ingrained in international law and India's foreign policy practice