

January 18th, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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1. Indian foreign policy debate would be less metaphysical and more pragmatic if it stops obsessing about ‘non-alignment’

- When did India declared itself as a Non aligned country?
- Why India wants to remain Non aligned country?
- Where does India stand today in the context of NAM?
- What is the way forward?

GS paper 2 (Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

C. Raja
Mohan . (2019, January , 17). Raja Mandala: Alliances and strategic autonomy. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/raja-mandala-alliances-and-strategic-autonomy-indian-foreign-policy-5538447/>

What is the context about?

- Is “non-alignment” a special attribute of Indian foreign policy? Given Delhi’s continuing preoccupation with the idea of non-alignment, you would think it is.

- ❑ More than a hundred countries are members of the so-called Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). They swear, at least formally, by the idea of non-alignment and show up at the triennial NAM summits.

When did India declared itself as a Non aligned country?

- ✓ After independence India had a choice to choose between two sides that is US and USSR which are engaged in cold war. However India decided to form a group in 1961 of third world countries called non alignment movement.

Why India wants to remain Non aligned country?

Importance of non alignment movement for India:

- 1) Non alignment would enable the countries like India to envisage sovereignty and have independence in policy making.
- 2) It would act as a group which would represent the interests of global south countries mainly in current world. For e.g.: Issues such as UNSC reforms could be brought to limelight by NAM.
- 3) Also fund transfers from developed to developing and underdeveloped countries in relation to climate change can be brought to discussion on NAM platform.
- 4) India is still recognised as a soft power and one of the main reason for this is its initiative in NAM. Any deviance from NAM would damage its credibility as a soft power.

Where does India stand today in the context of NAM?

- ❑ India recently has become a defence partner of the U.S. and a member of the “Quadrilateral”.
- ❑ Both China and Russia, which have been identified as adversaries in the U.S. world view, have their problems with India.
- ❑ Doklam and the Maldives have shown that China is in no mood for a compromise.
- ❑ In fact, China has attributed the increase of its defence budget to the formation of the Quadrilateral, which is being seen as a direct threat to China.

What is the way forward?

- ❑ An obvious way is to revive NAM by breathing new life into it and making it fit to deal with the new norm to suit current multipolar world.
- ❑ A partnership of near equals like IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) with similar interests without any ideological conflict is probably the best model to follow.
- ❑ Something on the lines of the G-15 organised by India and like-minded countries some years ago could be put together with the objective of dealing with the issues like climate change, terrorism and protectionism.
- ❑ The members may have links with the U.S., China and Russia, but should be able to work together without the undue influence of the three.

