

Chapter 13

India's External Relations

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Learning objectives: -

In this chapter you will be able to understand:

- Nehru's foreign policy
- Factors responsible for India's foreign policy
- India Sino-war of 1962
- Indo-pak war of 1965 and 1971.
- India's nuclear programme
- Shifting alliances in world politics

INTRODUCTION

Immediately after independence, India faced the two challenges of welfare and democracy. India started participating in the world affairs as an independent nation, with the overall context like the legacy of many international disputes left by British, pressures created by partition and poverty alleviation. India decided to conduct foreign relations with an aim to respect the sovereignty of other nations and to achieve security through maintenance of peace.

Nehru was the chief architect of the India's foreign policy with the objectives of preserving sovereignty of India, protection of territorial integrity and promotion of rapid economic development hence India adopted NAM to stay away from military blocks.

Foreign Policy (Definition)

Foreign policy or foreign relations refer to how a Govt. deals with other countries. We also call it foreign affairs policy. Foreign policy includes such matters as trade and defense. The Govt. chooses its foreign policy to safeguard the interests of the nation and its citizens.

Nehru's Foreign Policy

Nehru played a decisive role in the evolution of India's foreign policy. He was the main architect of India's foreign policy, with the objectives of preserving sovereignty of India, protection of territorial integrity and promotion of rapid economic development. Nehru pursued the dream of a peaceful world by advocating the policy of non-alignment.

Nehru in his speech said, "We believe that peace and freedom are indivisible and the denial of freedom anywhere must endanger freedom elsewhere and lead to conflict and war". Nehru established contacts between India and states in Asia and Africa by convening conferences on Asian relations, Indonesia freedom Struggle (1949), and decolonization process and engaged in Bandung conference in 1955 with newly independent Asian and African nations.

Objectives of Nehru's Foreign Policy

The main objectives of Nehru's foreign policy are given as under:

- To preserve the hard earned independence and sovereignty.
- To protect the territorial integrity.
- To promote rapid economic development
- To maintain and encourage international peace and security
- To have friendly relations with neighboring countries
- To solve international disputes peacefully

Major Principles of Indian Foreign Policy or Nehru's Foreign Policy

The main principles of India's foreign policy are as:

- **Non-alignment:** Non-alignment is the main characteristic of India's foreign Policy. This policy helped India to not align any of the power blocks but at the same time it helped India to participate actively in the world affairs to promote international peace, harmony and cooperation.
- **Anti-imperialism and colonialism:** India opposed imperialism and colonialism in every part of the world. India supported the movement for independence in Indonesia and other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- **Anti-Racialism :** India has been always opposed to racial discrimination, which it proved in opposing the policy of apartheid in south Africa.
- **Support for the UN:** India has activate supported the UN in promoting world peace by reducing the cold war tension, working on disarmament and participating in peace keeping operations.
- **Promotion of world peace :** India has promoted the world peace, favoured cooperation in social, cultural, scientific and economic fields and insisted on peaceful settlement of all disputes
- **Panchsheel:** the five principles of peace co-existence known as the Panchsheel treaty. They were first in an agreement accepted by china and India in 1954. These five principles are :
 - 1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
 - 2) Non aggression on each other
 - 3) Non interference in each other's internal affairs
 - 4) Peaceful settlement of disputes
 - 5) To promote world peace

Factors responsible for India's foreign Policy or Main determents of India's foreign Policy

India's foreign policy is determined by a number of factors some of the important factors which influences the foreign policy of India are classified into internal and external factors:

- **Geographical location:** the geography of India, including climate, location in relation to her land masses and water ways etc. also influences India's foreign policy. A natural frontier in the form of Himalayas in the north and Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal on the three sides has influenced its foreign policy.
- **History and culture:** the historical links with the British was responsible for India remaining in the wealth of nation. India's culture values such as peaceful co-existence, mutual respect, tolerance, neutrality are reflected in India's foreign policy.
- **Economy:** India's foreign largely depends on her economic strength. A weak nation can never have an effective foreign policy. To secure technical assistance from super powers by following the path of non-alignment. India was also able to get much needed assistance from the USSR, the US and the European countries.

- **International Issues:** India had to adjust to the constraints and compulsions of changing equations among nations on international relations. International issues like cold war, military alliances, nuclear weapons, military aid to countries etc were taken into consideration when the country's foreign policy was formulated.
- **International economic system:** A developing country like India had to depend on international monetary institutions like World Bank, IMF, and other developed nations to meet her developmental inputs.

Sino-India war of 1962 or causes of Sino-India war 1962

The primary cause of 1962 war between India and China was a serious border conflict emerged in border areas like Himalayas, Ladakh, Tibet and Thagla which were exclaimed in disputed areas. China refused to accept the sanctity of the "McMahon line" separating India from China in the east. It also claims over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh. The Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama fled Tibet and was given reception and asylum in India and also when China started deploying their troops in Aksai Chin, Indian soldiers opposed Chinese presence in the region which triggered the conflict.

Chinese troops crossed McMahon in NEFA in the eastern sector on September 8, 1962 and occupied huge part of Indian Territory. Nehru called Indian army to repulse the attack. Chinese launched a massive attack on October 20, 1962 and invaded in Ladakh and across the McMahon Line in the then North East Frontier Agency (Now Arunachal Pradesh). By 25th October Chinese were inside about 16 miles of McMahon Line. In fact Chinese by November 16 crossed Bomdila and reached the plains of Assam. The entire Ladakh region claimed by China was also captured by them. In the end China retained actual control of the Aksai Chin region. The war claimed about 2000 lives, in harsh conditions of the Karakoram Mountains, 14000 feet above the sea level. India approached US and Britain for military assistance. The Soviet Union remained neutral. Suddenly on 21 November 1962 the Chinese announced unilateral cease fire. The China war tainted India's image at home and in the international arena.

Major Disputes between India and China:

There are two major issues between India and China:

- 1) **Issue of Tibet:** In 1950 China took over control of Tibet by force. India expressed protest, but later clarified after signing the Panchsheel that it had no intention of interfering in China's internal affairs. In 1959, Tibetans revolted against the brutalities of the People's Republic of China, Dalai Lama a religious leader along with thousands of Buddhist Tibetans ran and sought Asylum in India. The grant of Asylum by India to Dalai Lama was described as an enemy like Act. But India's Position on Tibet has been that it is a part of China. However the recent trip of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh, China accused India of violating its commitment and warned that allowing Dalai Lama to go there will have negative impact.
- 2) **Border Dispute:** A road built by Akhais Chin in 1956-57 to open western Tibet to Chinese immigrants. When Chinese premier visited India in 1954, he assured Nehru of respecting the McMahon line. But in 1959, China laid claims over the thousands of miles of Indian Territory and described McMahon line as illegal. In 1959 Chinese troops came to Khurnak Fort in Ladakh and arrested an Indian patrol party in Akhais Chin and also claimed 50000 sq. miles of Indian Territory. Several steps were taken to solve the border dispute but border issue is still a major issue between the two countries.

India Pakistan war of 1965

The India Pakistan war of 1965 was a due to a series of disputes. Right from the partition there emerged several issues between India and Pakistan, but the issue of Kashmir is one of the severe issues between the two countries. The Kashmir conflict didn't allow them to work together. Both the countries fought over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. The conflict began when Pakistan launched "Operation Gibraltar" In an attempt to capture Kashmir by force. Pakistan also launched an armed attack in the Runn of Kutch of Gujarat. This lead to all out war on August 1965. India retaliated by launching a full scale military attack on "West Pakistan". At the mid-night on 06.Sep, India crossed the international border and attacked Lahore and Kasur. The attack also started in the areas of J&K. The five week war caused thousands of casualties on both the sides. The hostilities came to an end with UN intervention. In January 1966 both the countries signed the "Tashkent Agreement" by President Mohammad Ayoub Khan and PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, to settle their disputes through peaceful means.

Indian Pakistan war of 1971

During the partition in 1947, the east wing of Bengal joined the Pakistan as East Pakistan. An independence movement broke out in East Pakistan which was brutally crushed by Pakistani Forces. Thousands of Bengalis took refuge in neighboring India causing major refugee crises there. In 1971 India declared its full support for the Bengali Rebels, known as "Mukti Bahini". Finally on 4th December 1971 Pakistan waged a war against India but was defeated on all fronts. It surrendered India unconditionally on 16th December 1971. About 93000 Pakistani troops surrender along with General Niazi. The Net result of War was division of Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh. Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Z.A. Bhutto signed the Shimla Agreement in June 1972 for the restoration of Peace and order between two states.

India's Nuclear Programme

Jawaharlal Nehru the First PM had always believed in Modern Science and Technology, to build a Modern India. A part of such progress was Nuclear Programme started by "Homi Bhabha". India wanted to generate atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

India has always believed that a world free of Nuclear weapons would enhance Global security and India's own National Security. In terms of National security India was faced not only with the situation of Nuclear proliferation world over, but also its neighborhood, first in china and then in Pakistan. China attacked India in 1962 and conducted nuclear tests in 1964 and also started helping Pakistanis Nuclear Programme. In response to it, on May 18, 1974 India carried out underground nuclear experiment for peaceful purposes. In May 1998 India conducted a series of five Nuclear test explosions. However India had made it clear that these tests were conducted in the context of National security and prevailing international situation. India didn't sign NPT and CTBT as these treaties discriminate between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear States. The Nuclear Deal signed with USA in 2008, is reaffirmation of India's approach on peaceful use of Nuclear weapons and is likely to make India's position in Global affairs.

Shifting Alliances in world Politics

After the end of 2nd world war, there emerged bipolarity in which India came close to USSR. However after the collapse of USSR and emergence of unipolar world, India in search of new and sophisticated weapons and in search of new partner and supporter in international relations, tried to come close to the USA. Ruling parties have been criticized for their pro US tilt after 1990. After 1990, though Russia is an important friend of India, it has lost its strategic importance. As a result of India's foreign policy has become pro US. Further contemporary foreign policy is regulated by

economic rather than military considerations. With Pakistan, while Kashmir is the main issue between the two countries. Bus and train diplomacy between India and Pakistan didn't prevent the 1999, Kargil war between two states. Further repeal of article 370 by India deteriorated the relations between India and Pakistan further. While economically EU, ASEAN, China and Russia have emerged as important centers of Power. So the foreign policy has to keep these changes in mind while laying down the structure of relations with other states.

Shimla Agreement

The Shimla Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan on 2nd July 1972 in Shimla by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the President of Pakistan and Indira Gandhi the Prime Minister of India. It followed from the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 that led to independence of Bangladesh, which was earlier known as East Pakistan. The Agreement was result of resolve of both the countries to put an end to the conflict and confrontation.

Some of the major outcomes of Shimla Agreement are:

- 1) Both countries will settle their differences by peaceful means through bi-lateral negotiations.
- 2) Both the countries would respect each other's national unity, territorial integrity, political independence and sovereign equality.
- 3) Both the countries won't use force against each other's territorial integrity.

Tashkent Declaration :

The Tashkent declaration was a peace Agreement between India and Pakistan signed on 10th January 1966 that resolved the Indo Pakistani war of 1965. The place was Tashkent (USSR) where it was signed. The main aim was to restore economic and diplomatic relationships in the respective countries and to keep away from each other's internal and external affairs, and to work towards the progress of bilateral relations.

The McMahon Line:

The McMahon Line is a demarcation line between the Tibetan Region of China and the North East region of India proposed by British colonial Administrator McMahon at the 1914 Shimla convention signed between British and Tibetan representatives. Although its legal status is disputed. It is currently the effective boundary between China and India.

NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty)

The Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of Nuclear weapons is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of Nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy and to further the goal of the achieving Nuclear Disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The treaty was signed on 1st July 1968.

India opposes the NPT (1968), because the treaty is discriminatory. The treaty denies right to peaceful nuclear explosions by Non-Nuclear States.

CTBT (The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty)

The comprehensive test ban treaty is a multi-lateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th September 1996 but has not entered into force, as eight specific nations have not ratified the treaty. India refused to sign CTBT because it denies the right to use Nuclear Energy for peaceful purposes.

India's stand on the NPT and CTBT

India's approach to disarmament has four goals:

1. Disarmament is to apply to all countries.
2. It is to be universal.
3. It is to include all types' of weapons.
4. It has to be implemented under strict international supervision.

It was because the NPT and CTBT did not full fill the above mentioned conditions, that India did not sign the treaties. Its approach is that the NPT and CTBT are discriminatory.

Learning Outcomes:

After reading you should be able to answer the following questions:

- Describe Nehru's vision on Foreign policy?
- What was the Principles of Nehru's Foreign Policy?
- Explain the factors that determine India's Foreign Policy?
- What are the objectives of Nehru's Foreign Policy?
- Describe Sino-India war of 1962?
- What are the causes of Sino-India war 1962?
- What are the major disputes between India and China?
- Describe the Indo-pak war of 1965?
- Describe the Indo-Pak war of 1971?
- Write note on India's Nuclear Programme?
- Discuss India's shifting alliance in the world Politics?
- What is Panchsheel?
- What is shimla Agreement?
- What is Tashkent Declaration?
- Write short note NPT?
- Write short note on CTBT?
- Why has India not signed the NPT and CTBT?

Objective Questions

- Who laid the foundations of foreign policy of India?
Ans: - J.L Nehru
- Foreign policy of India was based on:
Ans: - Non Alignment
- When did Sino- India war took place:
Ans: -1962
- In which year shimla agreement took place:
Ans: - 1972
- Indo-pak war 1971 took place over the issue of:
Ans: - Bangladesh
- The 1965 war between India and Pakistan was fought on the Issue of:
Ans: - Kashmir
- When did India conducted its first nuclear test:
Ans: - 1974