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## OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

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**Rano Tuychiyeva Almamatovna,**

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Sciences, Uzbekistan state university of world languages, Department of Social Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

### ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the main goals and principles of India's foreign policy. It also discusses in detail the interests, direction and objectives that form the basis of India's foreign policy while moving through the policy of international relations.

### KEYWORDS

Foreign policy, international peace and security, non-alignment, disarmament policy

### INTRODUCTION

India's foreign policy is aimed at maintaining international peace and security, opposing imperialism and apartheid policies, resolving international disputes by peaceful and political means and promoting peaceful coexistence, non-alignment and maintaining the unity and solidarity of the third world. Important

goals of India's foreign policy include preserving national interests, achieving world peace, disarmament, and supporting the independence of Afro-Asian nations.

## MAIN PART

The main objectives that guide India's foreign policy can be seen in detail below.

### 1. To preserve the territorial integrity and independence of India's foreign policy:

- Protecting territorial integrity and national borders from foreign aggression is one of the main interests of the nation.
- India gained independence from foreign rule with difficulty after a long time. Thus, it is natural that he pays due attention to the independence of foreign policy.
- India's efforts to strengthen Afro-Asian solidarity, uphold the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations and finally adopt a policy of non-alignment should be seen in this context.
- To maintain the country's growth trajectory, India is working with its foreign partners through foreign direct investment, financial assistance and "Make in India", "Skills India", "Smart Cities", infrastructure development, is promoting "Digital India", "Clean India" and many other initiatives. It can be noted that in recent years, India has been integrating economic diplomacy with political diplomacy in its foreign policy.
- India has the largest diaspora in the world, consisting of about 20 million non-resident Indians and persons of Hindu origin spread across the globe. Therefore, attracting them and getting the maximum benefit from their stay abroad, while protecting their interests as much as possible, is one of the main goals.

In summary, the four important objectives of India's foreign policy are:

- Protecting India from conventional and non-conventional threats;
  - Creating an enabling environment for India's inclusive growth, so that the benefits of this growth reach the poorest sections of the country;
  - Ensuring that India's views are heard on global platforms and that India is able to influence world opinion on global issues such as terrorism, climate change, disarmament, reforming global governance institutions;
  - Engaging and protecting the Indian diaspora.
- ### 2. Strengthening international peace and security:
- India as a newly independent and developing country has rightly understood the interdependence of international peace and development.
  - His policy emphasis on disarmament and away from military alliances is aimed at promoting global peace.
- ### 3. Economic development of India:
- Rapid development of the country was the main demand of India at the time of independence.
  - It was also demanded to strengthen democracy and freedom in the country.
  - In order to acquire financial resources and technology from both blocs and focus its energy on development, India abandoned the power bloc policy that was a hallmark of Cold War international politics.
  - End colonialism and racial discrimination.
  - To protect the interests of Indian people abroad.
  - According to the official statement of the Ministry of External Affairs (2010), India's foreign policy seeks to protect its own interests.

- Its main objective is to foster and sustain a peaceful and stable external environment that can rapidly address the internal challenges of inclusive economic development and poverty alleviation.
- Thus, India strives for peace and strives for good neighborly relations in its vast region. India's foreign policy also recognizes that issues such as climate change, energy and food security are critical to India's transformation. Because these problems are global in nature, they require global solutions.

3. To develop respect for international law and contractual obligations in the relations of citizens with each other.
4. To promote the settlement of international disputes through arbitration.

The main principles of Indian foreign policy are discussed in detail as follows:

#### A. Panchsheel – five principles of peace

On April 29, 1954, Panchsheel, a set of five principles of peaceful coexistence, was signed and since then it has become the main principle of India's bilateral relations with other countries.

Indian politicians are well aware of the link between peace, development and human survival. Without global peace, social and economic development can be pushed back. Considering the devastation caused by two world wars, they recognize the need for lasting world peace for the development of the people. From the early days of independence, J. Nehru, the founder of India's foreign policy, attached great importance to world peace in planning his policy.

India wanted peaceful and friendly relations with all countries, particularly the major powers and neighboring countries. Even when signing a peace treaty with China, the country preferred to adhere to the five basic principles known as the Panchsheel.

Panchsheel includes the following five principles of foreign policy:

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
2. Not to attack each other.
3. Not interfering in each other's internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit.

Keeping in mind the main objectives of India's foreign policy, it has adopted and implemented certain principles for their implementation. The principles of India's foreign policy and its objectives are closely related.

The principles have stood the test of time and are embedded in the practice of international law and Indian foreign policy. The main principles governing India's foreign policy are:

1. Panchsheel
2. Opt-Out Policy
3. Policy against colonialism and racism
4. Peaceful settlement of international disputes
5. Foreign economic aid - support of the UN, international law, fair and equal world order.

The Constitution of India under Article 51 under the General Principles of Public Policy lays down certain principles aimed at promoting international peace and security:

1. Strengthening international peace and security.
2. Maintaining fair and honorable relations between peoples.

## 5. Peaceful coexistence.

These principles of Panchsheel were later included in the Bandung Declaration signed at the Afro-Asian Conference held in Indonesia in 1955. They were the guiding principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and still serve as a guiding document for India's foreign policy.

## B. Opt-Out Policy

1. The most important feature of India's foreign policy is non-alignment. Its main element is to maintain independence in foreign policy by not joining any military alliance formed by the US and the Soviet Union, which emerged as an important aspect of Cold War politics after World War II.
2. Disengagement does not mean neutrality, non-participation or isolation. It is a positive and dynamic concept. It implies taking an independent position in international affairs, depending on the nature of each situation, but at the same time not being under the influence of any military bloc. In addition, the principle of non-alignment has gained popularity in developing countries. Thus, it was important for foreign policy independence to move away from military alliances and superpower blocs.
3. India played a leading role in popularizing and strengthening the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement was a product of Cold War politics and a bipolar world, and many scholars questioned the relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, globalization has forced even a prime mover like India to change its policy priorities, with India trying to adopt the principles of a neoliberal market economy to

integrate with the emerging global order. This new situation gave the impression that the Non-Aligned Movement was being sidelined and its importance was declining. However, if we delve deeper into the main features of the Non-Aligned Movement, it appears to be equally important in a changing context due to the following factors:

1. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Non-Aligned Movement could act as a check against the excessive dominance and hegemony of any country or bloc.
2. The developed (North) and developing (South) worlds have different views on several global and economic issues. The United States can be a forum for third world countries to engage developed countries in effective dialogue.
3. The Non-Aligned Movement can be a powerful mechanism for building cooperation, which is necessary for their collective self-confidence in the current market-based global order.
4. For the United States to be an important forum for developing countries to discuss various global issues and reforms, including reforming other international financial institutions such as the UN, the World Bank, and the IMF, to make them more democratic and effective.

## C. Politics against colonialism, racism and imperialism

The foundations of India's foreign policy were laid during the struggle for independence, when leaders fought against the evils of colonialism and racism. India, being a victim of colonialism and imperialism in history, sees it as a threat to international peace and security. He firmly believes in the equal rights of all people. Its policy is to oppose all forms of racial discrimination. He always opposes it in any form.



## D. Peaceful settlement of international disputes

1. Unrelenting faith in the peaceful settlement of international disputes is one of the key elements of India's foreign policy. This principle is enshrined in the Constitution of India, the General Principles of Public Policy and also in the UN Charter.
2. India played a leading role in resolving the Korean conflict. He supported the settlement of the Palestinian issue, border problems with neighboring countries and other similar disputes and problems through negotiations.
3. India is always against foreign military intervention to solve international problems. This principle remains the basis of Indian politics.
4. At present, India is in favor of a peaceful solution to Iran's nuclear problems, the problem of democratic rise in the Middle East, etc.

## E. Foreign economic aid - supporting the UN, international law, a just and equal world order

India deeply respects the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of nations and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, as endorsed by the UN.

1. India has played an important role in maintaining world peace by helping the decolonization process and actively participating in UN peacekeeping activities.
2. India supported the UN disarmament movement. In 1988, India proposed a very large nuclear disarmament program to the UN. Although this proposal was not accepted by other UN members, India is still committed to total disarmament today.
3. In order to make the composition of the Security Council more realistic and democratic, India proposed and supported the reform of the Security

Council and other UN agencies. of the Security Council of India

Navigating the politics of international relations is like walking through a minefield, with one wrong step leading to negative consequences. Keeping India's interests in mind, its foreign policy should also ensure that it does not provoke hostile relations in the process. These orientations and objectives form the basis of India's foreign policy.

By the way, any foreign policy is not a static concept, as it changes depending on domestic and international politics. However, there are certain principles and goals that do not lend themselves to rapid change. National security is an example of one such fundamental principle. No country can compromise its national security under any circumstances. Thus, foreign policy is a means of realizing the national interests of the country. Foreign policy without national interest is an exercise in futility.

## CONCLUSION

The foreign policy of India or any country is shaped by two factors - domestic and international. Domestically, India's history, culture, geography and economy play an important role in determining the goals and principles of India's foreign policy.

The international factor, characterized by the Cold War rivalry between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the establishment of the United Nations, the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, against colonialism and imperialism, etc., also affects the priorities and goals of our foreign policy. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, paid due attention to these factors and played a leading role in shaping the country's foreign policy.

Under internal factors, the role of geographical, historical, economic and cultural conditions should be understood. Geographically, India is surrounded by the Indian Ocean, the Himalayas in the north, a large desert in the west and hills in the northeast.

The Himalayas, which used to be a natural barrier against foreign attacks, have lost their importance due to the development of the air force. A porous and open border in the Northeast creates a problem of foreign infiltration and a breeding ground for anti-Indian activities. The foundations of India's foreign policy were laid during the struggle for independence, when leaders fought against the evils of colonialism and racism. The principles of sovereign equality of all peoples, respect for all races and resistance to colonialism were expressed and developed in the struggle for freedom.

In the early period of independence, India suffered from many economic problems such as lack of capital and technology in the economic infrastructure, poverty, unemployment, hunger and poor health services. To overcome these evils, India needed foreign assistance in the form of capital and technology. Thus, rapid economic growth has become one of the main objectives of India's foreign policy as well. As a nascent democracy, India must be mindful of the fragility of its social and cultural makeup.

After India gained independence in 1947, World War II ended and a new world order was established under the leadership of two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Each superpower created its own blocs to increase its influence and goals - the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (USA) and the Warsaw Pact (Soviet Union). The UN was established with a mandate for global peace and security. However, it was difficult to stop the rivalry between

the two superpowers and the escalation of the cold war. This led to the emergence of military alliances and the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race. India could not join both blocs as it would harm its own interests. In addition, it meant a violation of his own principles of peace. Thus, he formed the Non-Aligned Movement in cooperation with like-minded countries. India's policy of non-alignment was largely influenced by the international environment that prevailed after the Second World War. In conclusion, the above domestic and international factors played an important role in the formation of India's foreign policy.

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