

INDIA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS CHAPTER-4

(22)

(i) Foreign Policy: → Foreign Policy is the bundle of principles that regulates the intercourse of state with other states.

Foreign Policy is that art of government that is chiefly used with respect to foreign powers.

NEHRU'S FOREIGN POLICY

The foundations of India's foreign policy were firmly laid down by Nehru. Nehru set his principles on the following premises: -

- (i) India was to adopt a free and independent foreign policy as an autonomous nation and not merely as a satellite of another nation.
- (ii) Nehru supported the United Nations in its objective to stand for the Independence of all colonial and dependent people and their full right to self-determination.
- (iii) Nehru favoured to keep away from bloc politics & any alliances. He wanted to keep away from the two power blocs - USA & USSR - to follow a free and independent foreign policy called Non-Alignment.
- (iv) Reduction of tension in the international system.
- (v) Formation of a international economic order based on justice and fair play.
- (vi) To secure fair share for developing states.

Principles of Nehru's Foreign Policy

● The basic principles of Nehru's foreign policy are as follows: →

1. Maintenance of Sovereignty: → The national interest of any country is maintenance of its sovereignty. The Indian foreign policy-makers have tried to follow a Sovereign approach that would give a sense of pride to Indians.

2. Promotion of World Peace: → India has promoted world peace, favoured cooperation in social, cultural, scientific & economic fields and insisted on peaceful settlement of all disputes.

3. Support for Disarmament: → India supported disarmament efforts like the NPT and PTBT during Cold War period. It wants elimination of weapons but it opposed to one-sided protectionist disarmament favoured by western powers.

4. Non-Alignment: → Non-Alignment is the most important ingredients of India's foreign policy as it gives it an autonomous approach in global relations. The movement was initiated by Nehru & has, since then, been the precursor of foreign policies of developing state.

5. Panchsheel: → India believes in the five principles of Panchsheel Agreement in its foreign relations.

- (i) Mutual respect for each other's territorial sovereignty & integrity.
- (ii) Non-Aggression -
- (iii) Non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.
- (iv) Equality & mutual cooperation.
- (v) Adopting the policy of peaceful-co-existence.

NEHRU'S ROLE IN NON-ALIGNMENT

The role of Nehru, our first premier, was quite crucial. He was his own foreign minister. Thus, he exercised a profound influence on India's foreign policy b/w 1946-1964. Three major objectives of his foreign policy included:-

- (i) To preserve hard-earned sovereignty.
- (ii) To preserve India's territorial integrity.
- (iii) To promote rapid economic development.

The path of non-Alignment was adopted to achieve these objectives. Of course, there was a group which believed that India should

adopt a pro-US policy since the US bloc was democratic. Leaders who took this line was Dr. Ambedkar. Likewise parties like Bhartiya Jana Sangh and Swatantra Party were opposed to Communism & wanted to adopt a pro-US foreign policy. Nehru took the lead in formulation of foreign policy. (24)

AFRO-ASIAN UNITY: →

The Bandung Conference was convened to strengthen the Afro-Asian Unity. The Conference of Afro-Asian leaders held at Bandung in 1955 was known as the Bandung Conference. This conference gave an opportunity for common understanding of international problems.

Outcomes of Conference: → The conference was symbolic of solidarity of Asia & Africa. This conference gave an opportunity for common understanding among Asia-African countries.

- (i) Nehru, one of the leaders of this conference, touched upon the moral fibre of Non-Alignment.
- (ii) The conference was symbolic of the nascent solidarity of Asia and Africa and demonstrated the growing maturity of the Afro-Asian nations.
- (iii) The Bandung Conference therefore, represented the desire of Afro-Asian countries to play an independent and constructive role in world affairs.

TIBET ISSUE: →

- (i) Tibet the Plateau of Central Asian region is the one of the major issues that historically caused tension between India & China.
- (ii) Very often China had claimed administrative control over Tibet & from time to time, Tibet was independent too. In 1950, China took control of Tibet, A large number of the Tibetans opposed this takeover. India tried to persuade China to recognise Tibet's claim for independence. Since then Tibet has become a major issue of conflict b/w India & China.

(v) Over the last half century a large number of Tibetans have sought refuge in India & many other countries of the world. (25)

(vi) In Delhi, there are large settlements of Tibetan refugees. Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh is perhaps the largest refugee settlement of Tibetans in India.

(vii) Dalai Lama, the religious leader of Tibetans in India, has also made Dharamshala his home in India.

(viii) Besides in the 1950's & 1960s many political leaders & parties in India including the Socialist Party & the Jan Sangh supported the cause of Tibet's independence.

INDIA - CHINA (SINO - INDIAN) RELATIONS :-

1. India was the first country to recognise the communist govt in China after the Chinese Revolution in 1949.
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was worried about a possible Chinese aggression in future.
3. Nehru however, did not perceive any such attack. So far a long time the Chinese border was guarded by para-military forces and not the army.
4. The Joint declaration of Panchsheel, five principles of peaceful co-existence by the Indian Prime Minister Nehru and the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai on 29th April 1954 was a step in the direction of a stronger relationship between the two countries.
5. They visited each other's country and were greeted by large and friendly crowds.

The Chinese Invasion, 1962 :-

China claimed two areas within the Indian territory (i) Aksai-Chin area in Ladakh and NEFA (area in AP) between 1957 & 1959. Chinese occupied Aksai-Chin area and built a strategic road there. Several small clashes between the armies of the two countries took place. China launched an invasion of 1962 and the Chinese forces captured some important areas of Arunachal Pradesh (AP). While, India was busy in controlling Chinese army in the west front, they advanced near Assam in the east. Finally Chinese declared a ceasefire and its troops withdrew.

Result :- →

- (i) This war damaged India's image in India and abroad.
- (ii) India had to take help from Britain and US. The Soviet Union remained neutral during the war.
- (iii) Nehru close associate V. Krishna Menon (Def. Minister) had to resign.
- (iv) Pt. Nehru was criticised because he could not assess the Chinese intention. A no confidence motion was passed against his govt. in Lok Sabha.
- (v) The CPI (Communist Party of India) split in 1964 and the pro-USSR factions remained within CPI and pro-China formed CPI (M) (Marxist).
- (vi) This war also highlighted the weakness of the North-East region. So after the war this region was reorganised. Nagaland was granted statehood.

Indo-Pak War :-> The Indo-Pak war of 1965, 1971 was the culmination of a series of disputes between India and Pak. within the first years of Independence both the countries witnessed tension over the issue of Kashmir and refugee exchange due to partition.

A long term dispute over sharing of river water was solved when the Indo-pak Indus water Treaty was signed by Nehru and General Ayub Khan in 1960.

In April 1965, Pakistan launched armed attacks in the Rann of Kutch area of Gujarat, Lal Bahadur Shastri (the PM) ordered Indian troops to launch a counter-offensive on the Punjab border.

The War came to an end with UN intervention. Later Tashkent Agreement was signed in January 1966 by LB Shastri and Ayub Khan of Pak.

Bangladesh Crises (war of 1971) :-> The situation in Pakistan Bengali population of East Pakistan was not happy by the autocrat Aki Bhutto's domination. In the country's first general election Awami league led by Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman won popular support in East Pak. But the Pakistan ruler were not willing to accept this. Instead in 1971 the Pak army arrest Sheikh Mujib and tortured people of East Pak.

The people of East Pakistan started a struggle to liberate ('Bangladesh') from Pakistan. During this time almost 80 lakh refugees

fled East Pakistan took shelter in neighbouring areas of India, India gave support to this struggle. US and China supported Pakistan. In order to counter the USA-Pak-China axis India signed a 20 years treaty Peace and friendship with Soviet Union (SU) in Aug 1971.

Indo-Pak War (1971)

A war between India and Pak broke out in Dec 1971. India was supported by the local population and made rapid progress in East Pakistan. within ten days Indian army had surrounded Dhaka from 3 sides and Pak army of 90,000 had to surrender.

Result:->

- i) After making Bangladesh 'Free', India declared a unilateral ceasefire. Later an 'Shimla Agreement' was signed between Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on 3rd July 1972, to declare peace.
- ii) This victory was seen as a moment of glory and a sign of Indira's growing military powers.
- iii) Indira's popularity increase after this war and in the assembly election, Congress won with majority in many states.

INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY

- i) Pt. Nehru always wanted to built a modern India with the help of ~~science~~ Science and technology. He also initiated a programme in 1940s under the guidance of Homi J Bhabha.
- ii) India wanted to generate atomic energy for peaceful purp

(ii) Nehru was against nuclear weapons. So he requested the Super power to support nuclear disarmament.

(v) China conducted its nuclear tests in 1964, the 5 nuclear weapon power US, USSR, France, UK and China tried to impose NPT (1968) on rest of the world.

(vi) India called NPT as discriminatory and refused to sign it. India conducted its first nuclear test and declared it as a peaceful explosion.

(vii) India argued that it was committed to the policy of using nuclear power only for peaceful purposes.

Conclusion: → India's nuclear doctrine prefers (no first use) and reaffirms India's commitment to global verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament which would have a nuclear free world.

- Important Questions.
1. Does India's foreign policy reflect her desire to be an important regional power? Argue your case with the Bangladesh War of 1971 as an example.
 2. "Foreign Policy is always dictated by national interests." Do you agree with this view? Support your answer with any two suitable arguments.
 3. Why is the decade of Sixties labelled as dangerous decade?
 4. What was the Tibet issue? How did it cause tension b/w India & China?
 5. Explain any two reasons for the popular struggle in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) against West Pakistan during 1971.
 6. Explain any four causes of India's war with Pakistan in 1971.
 7. Describe India's relations with China from Independence to 1962.
 8. How was the 1971 war forced upon India? Explain in brief.
 9. How did India help the Tibetan migrants to settle down?