

# FOREIGN POLICY OF INDIA

***We learn about the following in this chapter:***

- *Nature of Foreign Policy of India*
- *Panchsheel Principles*
- *Policy against Racial Discrimination*
- *Non-Alignment*
- *Disarmament*

We have to study about the relations maintained by the Nations in International field. A person may lone in isolation, but it is impossible for total isolation without international relations of some kind a nation to edistion. Hence, the policy adopted by a nation while dealing with other nations is called foreign policy. At present there is need for every country to have her own foreign policy. In our World family there are about 200 nations among which some are more powerful and some are less powerful. Still every nation is having its own foreign policy. That is why the scholars say that every sovereign country has its own foreign policy. A Sovereign country is one which has both internall and externall relationship.

India also has a foreign policy right from the pre-independence period till now. India is a very influential country in the world with vast population, abundant natural resources, intellectual and technical capacity, industrial potentiality strong defence forces etc. India is one of the nations which has a strong and specific foreign policy.

***Do you know this :***

*“Whatever maybe the policy, the art of conducting foreign affair lies in finding the most useful to a nation. We can talk and think about the wellbeing of the world. We can genuinely analyse and mean peace and freedom. But ultimately every government works for the benefit of its own country. Government can not venture to do any thing which would harm the immediate and future national interests”.....*

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.**

India by securing independence in 1947 became sovereign and is pursuing her own foreign policy to have friendship with all nations of the world. The objectives of Indian foreign policy are:

- National Security
- National economic progress
- Spreading Indian cultural values in abroad
- Increasing the number of friendly nations.
- Achieving World Peace and enable every nation to co exist.

In his Radio speech on 7th September 1946, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru explained the features of Indian foreign policy. That speech has given hints about the future relationship of India with America, Russia, China etc. The First Prime Minister Pandit Nehru took charge of Foreign Affairs Ministry and discharged the duties successfully. That is why Indian foreign policy has been hailed as Nehru's Foreign Policy. Our policy has been influenced by many factors. National interest, geographical aspects, political situation, economic system, defense capability, International circumstances etc are the factors which influence the formation of our foreign policy.

### **THE FUNDAMENTAL FACTORS OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY:**

**1. Panchasheela principles:** Though the nations do belong to different social, economic, and political systems, still they adopt based on these policy of mutual cooperation. Principles we hope to have World peace Chou-en-lai, Prime Minister of China and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime minister of India agreed to adopt five principles in June 1954. Those five principles are:-

1. Mutual respect for National integrity and sovereignty.
2. Non-aggression.

#### **Discuss :**

*"This World is cruel. We wanted to raise the flag of peace everywhere. But we the innocents have been deceived." utterances of Prime Minister Nehru after Chinese Aggression.*

3. Non interference in internal affairs .
4. Mutual assistance and equality.
5. Peaceful co-existence.

These are the fundamental principles of our foreign policy.

**2. Non-Alignment :** After II World war, the entire World was divided into two blocs. Polarization took place into Democratic bloc under the leadership of the United states of America and Communist bloc under the leadership of Soviet Russia. Cold war started among these two groups. During those days India did not join any group. India got financial

assistance from the USA and defense assistance from the USSR enjoying the confidence of both. We have innovated the new independent policy of welcoming or rejection of any matter on the basis of the merit of every global issue. As such the credit goes to India for having adopted a Non-aligned policy. After Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi adopted the policy of facing the challenges with might during 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistan Wars. During Prime Ministership of Atal Bihari Vajapayee relationship with Pakistan was improved on the basic of Non-Alignment.

**3. Against Colonialism:** India advocates a foreign policy which is against Colonialism. Colonialism means the occupation of one nation by another and using the former for the selfish purpose of the latter. India fought and got freedom against colonialism and naturally as announced in Delhi and Bandung conferences of Asian countries(1949 and 1955) asserted her anti-colonial policy.

**4. Against racial discrimination:** Apartheid principle or racial discrimination means ill treating of one race by another race as un

**Know this:**

*SAARC is an association of eight countries of Asian Namely India, Srilanka, Bhutan, Maldivs, BanglaDesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It cause into existence on 8th Dec 1985. The SAARC Summon was held in 1986 in Bangalore.*

equals. This racial discrimination is inhuman and against human rights. As such, it adversely affects world peace and peaceful co-existence. India champions the cause that such racial discrimination should not exist anywhere in the world. It is to be noted that till recently, the minority white people controlled the African majority in South Africa. This has been opposed by Nelson Mandela, who was called as African Gandhi and his African National Congress. India successfully supported this movement.

**5. Disarmament:** Disarmament means eliminating all or specific arms and ammunitions gradually. There is heavy competition in manufacturing, marketing and stocking these arms and ammunitions. There is fear among many nations that third World War may take place by such competition. There is every possibility that knowingly or unintentionally by wrong notions, nations may use nuclear weapons. As a peace loving nation India champions the cause of qualitative and quantitative disarmament. Right from the time of Prime Minister Nehru, India argued for disarmament to maintain peaceful co-operation. Of course, total disarmament cannot be achieved because every nation requires her own defense forces. Still India upholds the policy of world peace and mutual co-existence.

**Activities:**

*Through internet, collect materials about the recent trends in formation of foreign policy of India.*

Article 51 of Indian Constitution directs to adopt the foreign policy which upholds international law and co-existence. Foreign Affairs Ministry plays vital role in moulding foreign policy of our country. Public opinion and national interests have to be taken note of while preparing foreign policy. Our foreign policy strengthens UNO. India wants to have good relationship with many nations through Commonwealth Of Nations and SAARC(South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation). Moreover, as a leading member of UNO, she plays a prominent role.

## EXERCISES

### I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

- 1 Foreign policy of India has been specially designed by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The policy of not joining any bloc of the world is called as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 India was under \_\_\_\_\_ colonialism, prior to independence.

### II. Discuss in group and answer the following questions.

- 1 What is meant by foreign policy ?
- 2 How foreign policy is helpful for national progress ?
- 3 What are the objectives of the foreign policy of India ?
- 4 Why is India against colonialism ?
- 5 What are the principles of Panchasheela ?
- 6 Why is India championing the cause of Disarmament as very important for the present day world? Explain.

### III. Project :

- 1 Collect the materials pertaining to foreign policy and prepare an album.
- 2 Collect the materials about Indian role during the international crisis like that of Syria, SriLanka etc.

### IV. Activity :

- 1 Debate the issue viz. "India Foreign policy adopting non alignment as conducive for national welfare".

