

The Cold War Era

1. Countries outside the two blocs known as NAM (Non-Aligned Movement), joined by decolonised countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, played a crucial role in reducing cold war conflicts to maintain peace and stability all over the world.

2. Five founder members of NAM were Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito, India's JL Nehru, Egypt's leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah.

3. The majority of NAM members was categorised as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which initiated economic development under the head of New International Economic Order (NIEO).

4. The United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought out a report in 1972 to propose to give the LDCs control over their natural resources, to make western market available to them to reduce cost of

technology and to provide greater role in international economic institutions.

- 5. India responded to growth of Cold War into two fold. First, it stayed away from alliances and secondary, it raised voice against newly decolonised countries becoming part of either the alliance.**
- 6. NAM served India's interests also to participate in international decisions and maintained balance between two superpowers.**
- 7. India's policy was criticised on grounds of possessing contradictory postures i.e. signed treaty of friendship with the USSR in August 1971 for 20 years and developed good relations with the US during Bangladesh crisis.**
- 8. It is said that NAM has lost its relevance after disintegration of USSR and end of cold war in 1991.**
- 9. NAM is based on a resolve to democratise international system to redress existing inequities that poor and very small countries need not to follow any of the big powers instead they can pursue an independent foreign policy also.**
- 10. These core values make NAM relevant even in today's scenario as it has stood of adverse circumstances and served an**

important purpose of protecting the interests of third world countries.