

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2016 · 10 marks

Comment on India's contribution to Non-Alignment Movement and contemporary relevance.

FLOW SNAPSHOT — how the answer moves

Intro routes

R1 India not a member but an author → Belgrade 1961, **Nehru** with **Tito** and **Nasser** → contribution normative, norm outlasts forum

R2 non-alignment as India's own idea, exported into a movement → co-founding at Belgrade → India gave NAM principle, not power

Body flow

Bhattacharya's three fronts → ideological: NIEO at Algiers 1973 vs North-South imbalance → diplomatic: diverse membership held together, New Delhi summit 1983 reasserts roots → humanitarian: peacekeeping + disarmament pressure behind Partial Test Ban Treaty 1963 → Cold War's close removes the rivalry → "non-alignment with whom" → independence of judgment outlives the movement's purpose → today: Quad + BRICS + SCO at once, no binding alliance → Global South leadership, Voice of Global South Summits

Counter-view

Parthasarathy: no binding principles, coalition of convenience → charge fits the movement, not the policy

Conclusion routes

R1 freedom to judge each issue on merit still guides Indian diplomacy amid renewed great-power competition

R2 the forum needs reform, the principle already works → India's contribution survives as its own method, not as NAM's machinery

India did not merely join the NAM, it supplied much of its thinking. At Belgrade in 1961, J.L. Nehru with Josip Broz Tito and Gamal Abdel Nasser, shaped its principles.

The contribution was normative, and the norm has outlasted the forum. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya places India's role on three fronts. Ideologically, it pressed the New International Economic Order at Algiers in 1973 against North-South imbalance.

Diplomatically, it held a diverse membership together, the New Delhi summit of 1983 reasserting non-aligned roots.

Humanitarian work showed in peacekeeping and in disarmament pressure behind the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

The end of Cold war removed the rivalry behind the posture, and critics asked "non-alignment with whom?". According to G. Panthasanthu, NAM lacked binding principles & was a coalition of convenience.

India now engages the Quad, BRICS & the SCO at once without binding alliance and leads the Global South through the Voice of Global South Summits.

Therefore, India took from it the freedom to judge each issue on merit. It still guides its diplomacy amid renewed great-power competition.