



Virtual NAM Summit

Why in News

The virtual [Non-Aligned Movement \(NAM\)](#) Contact Group Summit on “United against Covid-19” through video conferencing was held recently.

- The meeting was **convened at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as chair** of the Non Aligned Movement.
- Moreover 30 Heads of State and other leaders had joined the Summit. The Summit was also addressed by the UN General Assembly president and [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) chief.
- It was the first time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a NAM Summit since he assumed the office in 2014.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi **became the first Indian Prime Minister to skip the [NAM Summit](#) in 2016 and in 2019.**

Key Points

- **Adoption of the Declaration:**
 - The Summit adopted a Declaration underlining the **importance of international solidarity in the fight against [Covid-19](#).**
- **Creation of Task Force:**
 - It also announced the creation of a ‘Task Force’ to identify needs and requirements of member States.
 - A common database reflecting countries’ basic medical, social and humanitarian needs in the fight against Covid-19 will be created.

India’s Stand at the Summit

- **India’s Role in Fight Against Covid-19:**
 - India is regarded as the pharmacy of the world especially for affordable medicines.
 - Despite its own needs during Covid-19 pandemic, it has ensured supply of medicines to 123 partner countries including 59 NAM members.
 - India is also active in global efforts to develop remedies and vaccines for Covid-19.
- **Need for the New Template of Globalisation:**
 - India stated that Covid-19 has shown limitations of the existing international system. The world needs more representative international institutions and thus world order should be more representative.
 - Thus, in the post-Covid world, a new template of globalisation, based on fairness, equality, and humanity is needed.
- **International Cooperation:**
 - NAM should call upon the international community and the WHO to focus on building health-

capacity in developing countries.

- World needs to ensure equitable, affordable and timely access to health products and technologies for all.

▪ **Other Issues:**

- India also flagged the issues of “terrorism” and “fake news”, calling them “deadly viruses” at a time when the world fights the novel coronavirus.
- The above issues divide communities and countries creating difficult situations.

Non-Aligned Movement

- The Non-Aligned Movement was formed **during the Cold War** as an organization of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union, but sought **to remain independent or neutral**.
- The basic concept for the group originated in **1955** during discussions that took place at the **Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia**.
- The Non-Aligned Movement was founded and held its **first conference (the Belgrade Conference) in 1961** under the leadership of **Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sukarno of Indonesia**.
- NAM **does not have a formal constitution or permanent secretariat**, and its administration is non-hierarchical and rotational. Decisions are made by consensus, which requires substantial agreement, but not unanimity.
- It has 120 members as of April 2018 comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan). There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM.
- The purpose of the organization was enumerated in the **Havana Declaration of 1979** to ensure "the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries" in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation.

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