



# Non Aligned Movement: Health Ministers' Meet

## Why in News

Recently, the **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** virtually participated in a meeting with **Ministers of Health** of the **NAM (Non-Aligned Movement)** Countries.

## Key Points

### ▪ India's Stand at the Meeting:

#### ◦ [Vaccine Maitri Initiative](#):

- Despite its own needs, during the Covid-19 pandemic, India ensured supply of medicines to 123 partner countries including 59 NAM nations.

#### ◦ **Efforts to 'Universal Health Coverage':**

- **Universal health coverage** is defined as ensuring that all people have access to needed health services (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of sufficient quality to be effective while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.
- **Ayushman Bharat** aims at providing free health assurance to over 500 million underprivileged people, making it the world's largest health assurance scheme.

#### • It adopts a **two-pronged approach**:

- **Firstly**, the creation of [health and wellness centres](#) to bring health care closer to homes.
- **Secondly**, the formulation of a [Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana \(PMJAY\)](#) to protect poor and vulnerable families against financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.
- **Full immunization coverage is increasing at a rapid pace** with a **greater emphasis on village-based micro-plans** that is aimed at **enhancing coverage to 90% in a year**.

### ▪ About Non-Aligned Movement:

#### ◦ **Background:**

- It was formed during the [Cold War](#) (1945-1991) as an organisation of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the **USA (Capitalism)** or the **Soviet Union (Socialism)** but sought to remain independent or neutral.

#### ◦ **Foundation:**

- **Six years** after the [Bandung Conference](#) in **1955**, the Movement of **Non-Aligned Countries** was founded on a wider geographical basis at the First Summit Conference of Belgrade, which was held in **September 1961**.
- It was held 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.**

- **Purpose:**
  - The purpose of the organisation 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.
- **Members and Observers:**
  - It had **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**.
  - There are **17 countries** and **10 international organisations** that are **Observers at NAM**.
- **Headquarters:**
  - **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.
- **Last Summit:**
  - **In 2020, the meeting** was convened at the initiative of **President Ilham Aliyev (present chairman until 2022) of Azerbaijan**, in his capacity as chair of the Non Aligned Movement.

**[Source: PIB](#)**

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