Non Aligned Movement

1) Introduction

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was established by the newly independent States who came from the colonial system after prolonged struggle.
- NAM was formed in 1961, at the initiative of Egypt, India and Yugoslavia.
- The Movement played an important role in the support of nations which were struggling then for their independence in the Third World and showed great solidarity with the most just aspirations of humanity.
- It contributed indisputably to the triumph in the struggle for national independence and decolonization, thus gaining considerable diplomatic prestige.

2) Basic Principles of the NAM

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- Mutual non-aggression
- Mutual non-interference in each other's affairs
- Equality and mutual benefit
- Peaceful co-existence
- These principles are collectively known as Panchsheel and are the basic guidelines for the functioning the NAM

3) 17th NAM summit

- 17th Non Alignment Movement (NAM) summit was held in Margarita, Venezuela
- India pushed for a re-look at the “appropriateness” of the United Nations, to serve the needs of its growing members
- Vice-President Hamid Ansari also voiced the concern of several other developing countries and called terrorism one of the most egregious sources of human right violations today
- The Margarita declaration adopted by the members reaffirmed that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group

4) causes of erosion of its authority

- The main reason why NAM lost is authority is that the objective with which it was formed i.e. not to join rival blocs during Cold War ended with end of Cold War.
- Breakdown of USSR in 1990s led to many members losing interest in NAM and leaving the group
- NAM has failed in several key occasions to work in favour of developing countries. e.g. - could not push UN reforms or protect the interest of developing countries in WTO and IMF.
• Disputes among the Global South (India-Pak, Iran-Iraq)

• NAM failed to prevent outside attacks on its members. e.g. - US attack on Iraq in 1990 and again in 2003.

• It has not been successful in finding a solution to west Asian crisis. After the Arab springs one of its founding members Egypt withdrew from it.

• Most of its members are economically weak hence do not have any leading role in world economy or politics.

• According to the critics, NAM is no longer relevant because of the changed international environment, from Bi-polar to uni-polar.

5) Challenges

• Current Challenges facing the NAM include the necessity of protecting the principles of International law, eliminating weapons of mass destruction

• combating terrorism, defending human rights, working toward making the United Nations more effective in meeting the needs of all its member states in order to preserve International Peace, Security and Stability

• Realizing justice in the international economic system.

6) Importance of NAM

• The declaration of the Jakarta Summit conference 1992 assured, NAM has contributed to the ending of bipolar in the world and to the elimination of the cold war.

• NAM has stood steadfastly in the forefront by highlighting global economic issues that affect the developing world

• Strengthening International Peace and Security

  a) promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with the UN Resolution and international law

  b) Save future generations from the scourge of war and military conflict.

  c) Realize the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights.

• Right to Self-Determination

  a) The exercise of self-determination remains valid and essential FOR ensuring the universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

• Disarmament and International Security

  a) eliminating the threat posed to the human species the existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons
b) to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East

c) Sovereign right of countries to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes keeping in view their independence and economic development.

• **Human Rights**
  
a) promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated

b) historical significance of the adoption of the Declaration of the Right to Development thirty years ago, which was promoted by the Non-Aligned Movement

• **Unilateral Sanctions**
  
a) condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against countries of the Movement

• **Terrorism**
  
a) terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security

b) condemnation of terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestation

c) they recognized the threat posed nowadays by terrorist groups such as the Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIS (Da’esh)

• **Reform of the United Nations**
  
a) Reform of the Security Council, in order to transform it into a more democratic, effective, efficient, transparent and representative body, and in line with contemporary geo-political realities.

• **Selection and Appointment of the Secretary General of the United Nations**

• **Peacekeeping Operations**
  
a) They reaffirmed that peacekeeping operations must be carried out with strict adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter

• **Sustainable Development Goals**
  
a) work towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind

b) ending poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions

• **Promotion of Education, Science and Technology for Development**
  
a) commitment to combat illiteracy as a way to contribute to overcoming poverty and social exclusion

b) use of science and technology is essential to address the development challenges of countries of the South
c) Hence, the transfer of technology from developed countries, on favourable terms, is crucial to ensure the sustainable development

- **Climate Change**
  
  a) They expressed concern about the increased adverse impacts of climate change, particularly on developing countries, which are severely undermining their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

- **Economic Governance**
  
  a) They urged for transparent and more opened multilateral development banks and international finance organizations or agencies
  
  b) They expressed concern on the negative impact that tax havens can have on the world economy, in particular on developing countries.

- **South-South Cooperation**
  
  a) South-South Cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for the sustainable development

- **International Solidarity**
  
  a) The response of the international community to pandemics that constitute a threat to public health is an example to follow in terms of solidarity and international cooperation
  
  b) To counter and eradicate the spread of various pandemics, the Ebola, as well as for confronting the aftermath of natural disasters around the world.