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## JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: ARCHITECT OF MODERN INDIA

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Jawaharlal Nehru was a pioneer freedom fighter, outstanding writer, wonderful orator, historian, and architect of modern India. Nehru's thinking is basically humanist. He had full faith in the dignity and worth of man. Nehru ji had full faith in truth and non-violence. He was a great patriot and nationalist. He inspired to walk on the path of balanced restraint and ideal nationalism. Nehru was a humanist thinker, in the context of the nation, the human values that inspired him to become a nationalist, the same values also made him a supporter of internationalism to protect the interests of the entire race. Nehru ji was a great democratic person, he had full faith in the democratic process and his entire thinking was imbued with his deep devotion to the ideal of democracy. Democratic socialism was an extension of his democratic ideas. Nehru ji had full faith in the public welfare state. Poverty and backwardness had no place in the welfare state that Nehru wanted for India. Jawaharlal Nehru was a strong supporter of socialism. Socialism is necessary to make democracy successful and real. Jawaharlal Nehru studied Indian history very minutely and came to the conclusion that India had lost its ancient glory due to dissension and communalism. Nehru ji considered the state as an essential institution, he believed that the universal development of man can be possible only in the state. In democracy, man gets complete freedom for his universal development. Nehru ji was considered as the messenger of peace and the priest of peace. With the aim of promoting world peace, he propounded the principle of Panchsheel. Nehru ji always wanted that India should not come under the pressure of any country and India should have an independent identity in the world. The principle of Panchsheel was one of the main objectives of Nehru's foreign policy, which included five important peace-principles such as maintaining national sovereignty and non-interference in the affairs of other nations. Nehru promoted non-alignment in which India would not support the policies of any faction and would maintain its independent foreign policy. He always tried for world peace, for this he also presented the principle of Panchsheel. Nehru ji was a practical person, so he did not jump into the politics of Cold War after the Second World War, but kept getting help from both the countries for the development of India.

**Keywords:** Cold War, Humanist, Internationalism, Socialism, Panchsheel, Non-alignment.

## Introduction

Jawaharlal Nehru played an active and forward role in the freedom struggle as well as contributed significantly in strengthening Indian democracy. Jawaharlal Nehru is called the maker of modern India. The British had left nothing for India after independence. The condition of the country was very bad. Rebuilding a decaying and divided India was not an easy task. Nehru ji took the people of the country along with him

creation of five-year plans was the result of Pandit Nehru's vision, the benefits of which are being received by the entire country today.

After becoming the prime minister, Nehru tried to realize the dream of New India. The work done by Jawaharlal Nehru to modernize the country cannot be forgotten. Pandit Nehru is called the creator of modern India, considering the work done in the construction of modern India. He did many things from education to improving the industry. He did many things from education to improving the industry.

Nehru's thinking is basically humanistic He had full faith in the dignity and worth of man. His outlook was western and modern. At the same time, they also understand the complexities of the Indian situation. In Nehru's view, democracy, socialism and secularism are closely related. Nehru was influenced by socialist ideology even before independence. The Russian Revolution of 1917 deeply affected Nehru. Jawaharlal Nehru united the nation, trained it for democracy, created a model for economic development and led the country on the path of economic development.

Among Gandhi's followers, it was Jawaharlal Nehru who upheld their united patriotism. Like the Mahatma Gandhi, he too transcended race and religion, caste and class, gender and geographical milieu as a person and in his ideology. He was a Hindu who was friendly with Muslims, a Brahmin who did not believe in caste barriers, a North Indian who did not impose Hindi on the South, a man whose scientific thinking was trusted. In this way, after Gandhi, Nehru was the biggest hearted Indian.

Nehru ji gave a scientific explanation of Indian history . In his works India's search for world history glimpse and autobiography, an attempt has been made to explain Indian history scientifically. He also tried to see the events happening in India in the context of world conditions. From this point of view, he criticized the tendency of Indians to remain isolated and confine themselves to a narrow area.

Jawaharlal Nehru is considered the architect of modern India. With independence, India had to face many challenges. Nehru took concrete steps to solve them, his main objective was to make India prosperous in every field. For this, he started five-year plans and to promote industrialization, big factories were established, to increase production in the agriculture sector, Green Revolution, White Revolution was brought to increase milk production. The basis of the implementation of Nehru ji's foreign policy was also the overall development of India so that more and more countries of the world could play their role in the innovation of India.

Nehru's most important task as the first Prime Minister was to develop democratic values in Indian politics and life. Nehru's personality had a combination of both practicality and idealism which is a rare quality. Nehru's thoughts included western civilization and modernity. Nehru's most important task as a politician was to develop democratic values in the Indian political system and to establish democracy in India. Nehru was a strong supporter of the theory and practice of parliamentary democracy. In his view, political democracy was not an end in itself, but it was only a means to remove the miseries and poverty of millions of people of India. Nehru ji accepted the inextricable link of liberty and equality with democracy. He believed that freedom and democracy have no meaning without equality. After independence, general elections were held in India for the first time in 1952. Even after consecutive victories in the general elections in 1957 and 1962, he gave full respect to the opposition. In the Parliament, Nehru ji used to listen carefully to the words of the opposition leaders, and also used to discuss with them.

Nehru ji always wanted that India should not come under the pressure of any country and India should have an independent identity in the world. The principle of Panchsheel was one of the main objectives of Nehru's foreign policy, in which maintaining national sovereignty and not interfering in the affairs of other nations. Nehru promoted non-alignment in which India would not support the policies of any faction and would maintain its independent foreign policy.

During the British rule, the country's economy had completely collapsed, so many basic steps were taken to bring it back on track. The most important among them was the planned development of the country. For this the Planning Commission was established. Nehru himself became the chairman of the Planning Commission. At that time five year plans were applicable in other socialist countries including Soviet Union. At that time, another problem before India was to provide financial resources for basic industries. Capitalist countries were not ready to invest capital for such industries. The intention of these countries was that the economy of India and other newly independent countries like India should remain agriculture-based. Capitalist countries were not ready to join hands in India's industrialization, so Nehru ji had to ask for help from other socialist countries including Soviet Russia and socialist countries gave help openly. While giving aid, the socialist countries made it clear that they are giving this aid unconditionally. Nehru paved the way for nation building by giving priority to planning through mixed economy.

After the Second World War the world was divided into two blocs. America was leading one group and Soviet Union was leading the other group. India has decided that it will not join either of these factions. Keeping this decision in mind, we adopted the policy of non-alignment. This initiative taken by India got huge support and many newly independent countries adopted non-alignment. Due to our policy of non-alignment India's prestige increased all over the world and Jawaharlal Nehru became the most powerful leader of the non-aligned countries. Apart from making a fundamental contribution in determining foreign policy, Nehru strengthened the roots of democracy in our country and more importantly, Nehru made India a secular country with all his might. We adopted secularism, so the roots of democracy went deep in our country. Where democracy has ended in many newly-independent countries and dictatorship has been established, whereas in India, no one could make a dent in democracy.

During independence, India was caught in the clutches of communalism. Nehru realized that the fire of communalism could be doused only by secularism. Nehru argued that the leaders of the country should embrace the real meaning of secularism and go among the people so that they can leave the communal life and unite for the development of the nation. Nehru has an important contribution in incorporating secular values in the constitution and developing it as the Prime Minister. During his tenure as Prime Minister, he played an important role in the development of secularism, liberty, equality, fraternity and democratic values.

Nehru ji wanted to establish a welfare state in India through a socialist society. He believed that the establishment of true democracy is possible only in a socialist society. For the establishment of a socialist society, he emphasized on the promotion of education. Nehru thought that a secular state was necessary for the establishment of a socialist society. He also believed that the interests of minorities can be better protected in a socialist society. He advocated a mixed economy in the economic foundations of a socialist society, which would include both the public sector and the private sector. Big industries will be nationalized and proper state intervention will be accepted in the field of industries.

An important achievement of the Nehru era was the development of scientific research and technical education sector. Nehru believed that the development of science and technology was very important to solve India's problems. Nehru was of the view that caste prejudice, social disparities can be ended only by inculcating scientific thinking in our social relations and mental nature. Science is not just the search for truth, but also for the betterment of man. A science policy was adopted by the government and scientific laboratories were established across the country. Nehru's scientific outlook led to rapid expansion of institutions and laboratories.

Nehru understood the importance of atomic energy very well and was also familiar with its far-reaching effects. That's why he gave great importance to the field of atomic energy. The target of power generation through nuclear power plants was set through which the country's infrastructure could be developed. Nehru also took steps in the field of space research. Several steps were also taken for military research and development so that India could achieve self-sufficiency in the production of military equipment.

Community Development Program was started in 1952 for the development of rural areas. This program was going to be put in the village for the welfare state. The main emphasis in this program was to be on self-reliance and self-help and responsibility by the people. In 1952 and the years that followed, Nehru repeatedly referred to the Community Development Program and the National Extension Service as a new government and a great revolution. Good success was achieved through these programs, as a result of having better seeds, fertilizers etc., agriculture developed rapidly and food production increased. To remove the weaknesses of these programmes, Nehru constituted the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee in 1957. This committee supported decentralization at the local level. This decentralized system came to be known as Panchayati Raj. And it was implemented in different states from 1959. Nehru himself inaugurated Panchayati Raj in Nagaur, Rajasthan in 1959.

The federalist provisions given in the constitution were firmly established during the Nehru era. There was proper distribution of power among the states. Respecting the autonomy of the states, Nehru never imposed his decision on the state governments nor interfered in their policies.

Nehru was also very conscious of social change. The provision for the abolition of untouchability was already included in the Constitution under Article 17. Due to the active participation of women's organizations and groups in the national movement, after independence women demanded their rights in family and society, Nehru always supported these demands. Nehru was aware that education, health and awareness are most important for building a democratic society which is based on equality. The literacy rate of independent India was very low. Therefore the government spent a huge amount on developing facilities for primary, secondary, higher and technical education.

Nehru was a great internationalist. Because of this approach, he adopted the concept of non-alignment and Panchsheel as the basis of the determining element of Indian foreign policy. The concept of non-alignment is a gift given by Nehru to a world engulfed in hegemony politics, secret diplomacy, military pacts and arms race. The ideas included under this policy are- spirit of equality, mutual love, tolerance with the governance system of different nations, giving importance to geographical integrity and non-use of force etc.

India adopted the policy of non-alignment because it wanted to protect the independence of decision making. During his tenure, Nehru established friendly relations not only with neighbors but also with international superpowers. India also registered its strong presence in organizations like the United Nations. All the countries of the world adopted the policy of non-alignment. This was an important achievement of Nehru's personality and Indian foreign policy. Nehru ji always wanted that India should not come under the pressure of any country and India should have an independent identity in the world. The principle of Panchsheel was one of the main objectives of Nehru's foreign policy, which included five important peace-principles such as maintaining national sovereignty and non-interference in the affairs of other nations. Nehru promoted non-alignment in which India would not support the policies of any faction and would maintain its independent foreign policy.

Nehru ji was a great humanist, he believed in truth and non-violence. Nehru ji was true nationalist and was a strong supporter of world peace. He was a strong supporter of democracy and democratic socialism. He was a moderate nationalist but internationalist in nature. Socialism influenced him from childhood. He was a historian, he studied the history of India and the world very seriously. He had expressed his views regarding secularism only after a deep study of history. He strongly believed in the unity of different religions. He wanted to end social, economic and political disparities through democratic means. He strongly opposed imperialism and colonialism and had asked the dependent nations to make united efforts for this. He wanted to establish a welfare state in which all Indians could equally enjoy the spirit of liberty, equality, justice and fraternity. He strongly opposed imperialism and colonialism and had asked the dependent nations to make united efforts for this. He was of the opinion that the all-round development of a person is possible only in the state. He always tried for world peace, for this he also presented the principle of Panchsheel. To protect the interests of the minorities, he asked all the countries of the world to make efforts together. He accepted the existence of both public sector and private sector in the context of



achieving economic goals in his concept of democratic socialism. In a mixed economy, he laid a lot of emphasis on industrialization, with his efforts, the public and private sector together set up many industries. Nehru ji was a practical person, this was the reason that after the Second World War, he did not jump into the politics of the Cold War, but kept getting help from both the countries for the development of India.

Looking at the entire thinking of Nehru ji and the work done by him, it can be said that Nehru was the creator of modern India. Nehru's thinking is basically humanist. His outlook was western and modern. At the same time, they also understand the complexities of the Indian situation. In Nehru's view, democracy, socialism and secularism are closely related. Jawahar Lal Nehru united the nation, trained it for democracy, created a model for economic development and set the country on the path of economic development. Nehru's most important task was to develop democratic values in Indian politics and life. Nehru was a strong supporter of the theory and practice of parliamentary democracy. In his view, political democracy was not an end in itself, but it was only a means to remove the miseries and poverty of millions of people of India. Nehru ji has considered democracy as a superior system, he has accepted democracy as a dynamic system. In order to make democracy successful, it is necessary to have self-discipline, tolerance and awareness of the public along with being educated. He had full faith in the Indian nation and nationalism. Nehru ji has supported the emotional side of nationalism and has also described it as the motivating factor of the national movement. His nationalism is the symbol of world nationalism. He has emphasized the psychological and cultural side of nationalism. Nehru ji wanted to remove fear and mistrust among nations, for this he emphasized on disarmament. Supporting world peace in the international arena, he presented his views regarding Panchsheel non-alignment and disarmament. Through his behavior, intelligence and balanced thoughts, Nehru tried to make changes in various fields, due to which he was successful at both national and international levels. We can say that Nehru laid the foundation stone for the construction of India and did the work of planning for the development of every sector of the society and also edited it into action. That's why there is no exaggeration in calling Nehru the architect of modern India.

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