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**Programme: FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED M.A. HISTORY**

**Course Title : HISTORY OF INDIA FROM INDEPENDENCE TO  
1984 C.E.**

**Course Code: CC10**

**Unit-III**

**Foreign Policy: The Nehru Era – Political Parties, 1947-  
1964: The Congress – The Opposition**

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# Foreign Policy of Nehru

# Nehru's Foreign Policy

## Determinants

- **Internal Determinants**

- Geophysical
- History and Culture
- Economy
- Political Reality
- Personality

- **External Determinants**

- Super Powers
- International Economic System
- International Issues

# Panch Sheel, 1954

## Five Principles

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- Non-aggression
- Non-interference in each others internal affairs
- Equality and mutual benefit
- Peaceful co-existence

# Policy of Non-Alignment

- Ideals and Principles
- Meaning and Nature
- Working of Non-Alignment
  - First Phase: 1947-1950
  - Second Phase: 1950-1957
  - Third Phase: 1957-1964

## **Non-Alignment Movement**

- Bandung Conference, 1955
- First summit of NAM, Belgrade, Serbia 1961

## **Relations with Super Powers**

### **• Indo-US Relations**

- Cold War Politics
- Nehru's Neutral Stand
- Stumbling Blocks

### **• Indo-Soviet Relations**

- Stalin Era
- Post-Stalin Period
- Decade of Co-operation

# Relations with Neighbouring Countries

## **Indo-China Relations**

- Indian Initiatives
- The Tibet Issue
- The Korean Conflict
- Positive Progress

## **Indo-Pakistan Relations**

- Kashmir Dispute

## **Indo-Sri Lanka Relations**

- Next-Door Neighbour
- Enduring Relations

## **India and the Commonwealth of Nations**

- Nehru's Dilemma
- Compelling Reasons
- Role of India

## **India and the United Nations Organisation (UNO)**

- Founder- Member
- Role of India





*(From left to right) Amb. N. Raghavan, Premier Zhou Enlai, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Chairman Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Liu Shaoqi and Song Qingling in Beijing, October 19, 1954*

# **Political Parties, 1947-1964**

## **Opposition**

- After Independence, Congress was transformed from a movement into a party
- Nehru's Congress Party was politically dominant
- Other political parties were:
  - Socialist Party
  - Bharatiya Jan Sangh
  - Communist Party
  - Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party

These opposition parties remained weak compared to Congress

- Percentage of non-Congress candidates in the general elections of
- 1951-1952 – 26 % Lok Sabha seats
- 1957 – 25 % Lok Sabha seats
- 1962 – 28 % Lok Sabha seats
- Though Congress party observed a certain degree of discipline, its functioning and decision-making remained democratic
- During the Nehru era, Congress remained a party of the centre with a left orientation

- As a centrist party, congress had three features:
  - Inside congress groups reflected the positions of the opposition parties
  - Congress was able to absorb the policies of the opposition parties, and pacify them through concessions
  - Opposition parties define themselves in order to prevent their followers from being absorbed by Congress

# Party vs. Government

- In 1946, Nehru joined the Interim government and resigned from the party presidentship
- Succeeding president, J.B. Kripalani demanded the party's president and Congress Working Committee should have a direct role in government policy-making
- Nehru and Patel disagreed with Kripalani
- Hence, Kripalani resigned from the party presidentship in 1947.

# Nehru and Patel

- Like Nehru, Patel supported the commitment to democracy, civil liberties, secularism, and economic development.
- Patel staunchly opponent of communalism, nepotism and corruption
- Patel stood for the abolition of landlordism but through payment of compensation
- In 1947, he argued for the incorporation of the right of property as a fundamental right

- Patel and Nehru had ideological differences regarding relations with Pakistan, and handling the 1947 riots
- But, they have mutual affection and respect for each other
- After the death of Gandhiji, Patel described Nehru as his 'leader'



# Pushottamdas Tandon vs. Nehru

- Competition between congress party's right wing and Nehru came in August 1950 during the election of Party president.
- Three candidates contested
  - Purshottamdas Tandon supported by Patel
  - J.B. Kripalani, supported by Nehru
  - Shankarrao Deo

- Nehru opposed Tandon because of his conservation political, social and economic outlook
- But, Tandon won with 1306 votes
- Hence, Kripalani resigned from the party in 1951, and formed the Kisan Mazdoor Praja party
- Then, Patel died on 15 December 1950

- On 6 August, 1951, Nehru resigned from the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and the Central Election Committee asking congressmen to choose “Tandon’s or mine”
- Instead of Nehru’s resignation, Tandon himself resigned and elected Nehru as the Congress President
- Then, Nehru graciously asked Tandon to join CWC, which Tandon accepted
- But, Nehru failed to bring Kripalani and other rebels back to the party

# Socialism in the Congress

- Nehru tried to incorporate socialists into the congress
- But, many socialists convinced that Nehru and the Congress were committed to conservative policies
- The Second and Third Five Year Plans provided commitment to the socialist pattern of society.

# Intra-Congress Rivalry

- Then, Congress gradually lost its touch with the people
- Factions, factionalism, group interests, disputes, intense rivalry emerged
- Younger people preferred to join the opposition parties

# Decline of the Congress

- Many Congressmen were no longer satisfied with party work
- Congress were drifting away from people
- People had begun to ask the questions:

After Nehru, who? And after Nehru, what?

Hence, Kamaraj, then Chief Minister of the Madras State, introduced Kamaraj Plan in August 1963.

- According to the plan, leading congressmen as Union cabinet ministers or as state chief ministers should voluntarily resign from their posts to revitalize the party
- Nearly 300 congressmen resigned
- However, Nehru died in 1964, and the plan to cleanse the party also failed.