



Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru: An Architect of Modern India

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Abstract: *In this paper, it has been made an effort to highlight Jawaharlal Nehru's contributions to the development of a modern, forward-thinking India. When we reflect on Jawahar Lal Nehru's personality, we see that he was an Indian devoid of any distinctions based on caste, creed, and birth. During the time of the freedom movement, Jawaharlal Nehru was one of a select group of leaders who worked not only for the nation's liberty but also had a socioeconomic vision of an independent India. After India gained independence, Nehru favoured developing an independent modern industrial economy. This was to be based primarily on domestic markets, labour, capital, and natural resources of the nation. He emphasised the need to eliminate social injustices. According to Nehru, the state has a responsibility to "bring about equality of opportunity, not absolute, but broadly speaking, and to lessen the huge inequalities which exist between diverse communities. The significance that Nehru placed on manufacturing, science, and technology—without which growth was impossible—was his greatest gift to India.*

Keywords: *Progressive, Caste, Creed liberation, independent economy, Natural resources, Inequalities, Differences, Science, Technology, Industrialization, Progress*

Introduction

On November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was born. At home, he received his early education. When he was fifteen, he moved to England. After spending two years at Harrow, he enrolled in Cambridge University's tripos Natural Sciences programme. He was later summoned from the Inner Temple to the Bar. In 1912, when he returned to India, he immediately entered politics. He was inexorably drawn into the fight for independence in India. May 27, 1964 marked his passing.

The first Prime Minister of an independent India was Jawaharlal Nehru. Pandit Nehru, one of the most prominent figures in the Indian Independence Movement, is hailed as the designer of contemporary India.

It is common knowledge that Jawaharlal Nehru combined his roles as a revolutionary, politician, historian, philosopher, and profane writer to write books like "The Discovery of India" and "Glimpses of the World History." Nehru was the one with a more expansive perspective and who cared about the survival of future generations. Nehru's attitude was one of internationalism. He always cherished the idea of a peaceful, developing world where there are no wars or nuclear threats, where there is unity and human progress.

Nehru's legacy:

Nehru was well-liked both in India and throughout the world. Gandhi's religious and traditionalist stance was in contrast to his secular political stance. The younger intellectual crowd in India was drawn to the Indian Independence movement against the British as a result of his contemporary political and economic outlook.

While preserving traditional Indian elements, Nehru led India into the contemporary era. He brought in contemporary ideas and ways of thinking, which he then modified for Indian circumstances.

He emphasised India's fundamental unity and secularism, despite its ethnic and religious diversity. He had a strong desire to lead India into the era of modern scientific and technological advancement.

Nehru wished for his people to respect democratic ideals and to be aware of and socially concerned for the underprivileged and outcasts.

He was especially pleased that the ancient Hindu Civil Code had been changed, allowing Hindu widows to finally enjoy parity with men in terms of inheritance and property rights.



He promoted and developed India's educational system by founding the country's premier universities, including as the Indian Institute of Technology, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, India's First Space Program, the National Museum, and other institutions.

When we think back on Jawaharlal Nehru's characteristics, we see that he was an Indian who was devoid of any disparities based on caste and birth. He had eliminated everything that was out of date with modern society and instead assimilated and incorporated all that was best about the composite Indian culture into his personality and character. In his book "Discovery of India," he expressed his healthy and undogmatic appreciation for his nation's past. He was astute enough to understand how it affected the present and the future: "The Past becomes something that leads up to the present, the moment of action, the future something that leads up to the present, the moment of action the future something that flows from it; Past history merged into contemporary history; it became a living reality tied up with sensations of pain and pleasure". He was enthralled by historical figures like Buddha, Ashoka, Shankaracharya, Akbar, and Sant Kabir who served as symbols of inclusion and unity and contributed philosophically to Indian history, philosophy, and culture.

Nehru was a product of modern India, which emerged from the Indian Renaissance in the 1920s as a result of movements like the Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj, and Theosophical Society. He was the intellectual heir apparent to the visionaries Raja Rammohan Roy and Mahatma Gandhi.

Nehru's Vision of Modern India:

The significance that Nehru placed on manufacturing, science, and technology—without which growth was impossible—was his greatest gift to India. He was at odds with the nation's dominant sociocultural currents. He disapproved of customs and superstitions. He thought that industrialization and economic growth were necessary for the successful adoption of secularism in the nation that was afflicted by the communalism virus. As a genuine "Renaissance leader," Nehru placed emphasis on the value of a scientific outlook. Secularism, democracy, economic planning, modernization, and socialism were the remedies for the agrarian society, communalism, and backwardness that slavery had left behind. A modern outlook on life, modern economic development methods, and independence from outside influences are all necessary for living in the modern world as a sovereign nation. In Nehru's vision of the modern India, science would rule supreme rather than super institutions, reason would prevail over blind faith, and humanism would triumph over religious bigotry.

According to him, Nehru took the following stance on the influence of religion on social life: "Religion as I saw it practiced and accepted even by thinking minds, whether it was Hinduism or Islam or Buddhism or Christianity, did not attract me. It seemed to be closely associated with superstitious practices and dogmatic beliefs and behind it lay a method of approach to life's problems which was certainly not that of science. There was an element of magic about it, an empirical credulous-ness, a reliance on the supernatural."

As a result, he grew increasingly irritated with religion and the religious way of thinking because they were enemies of clarity of thought and fixity of purpose and solely grounded in passion and emotion.

Ideal of Secularism:

Nehru's liberal cultural upbringing has improved his sense of secularism. The vast majority of individuals in Bourgeoisie, he stated, were Hindus. In Nehru's view, the majority community owed a unique duty to uphold the rights and advance the welfare of the minorities because they had made significant contributions to India's history and civilisation. This contributed to the development of the "Unity in Diversity" storyline.

State of Welfare:

According to Nehru's planned economy theory, the welfare of the most disadvantaged, marginalised, and impoverished citizens must be the goal of government policy in a nation marked by great poverty and inequality.

This idea informs the policies of succeeding governments, according to which India's poverty and inequality cannot be solved solely by the market.

It may be seen in the development of a set of rights, such as the right to work, the right to food, the right to education, and the right to just recompense for land, all of which have given the most vulnerable Indians more power. He aimed to provide the nation a solid economic foundation.



Creating Institutions of Excellence: Nehru laid the scientific foundation for India's engineering and space achievements of the present.

India has become a space power today because to the founding of the organisation that is now known as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Indians are known for being among the best engineers in the world because to the establishment of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITS) during his administration.

Additionally, he established the framework for a dual-track nuclear programme, which allowed India to become nuclear-capable.

Additionally, India was able to partially replace imports because to economic policies that protected the developing manufacturing sector and invested in heavy industries.

Foreign Policy: Nehru's solution to the bipolar divisions of the Cold War era was non-alignment (NAM).

Nehru was keen to preserve the nation's strategic independence after two centuries of British rule without sacrificing it by supporting either superpower in the cold war.

India became one of the most eminent Third Globe Solidarity leaders because to NAM strategy, which also reached out to the rest of the colonised world and created a united front against colonialism and a reimagined imperialism.

Before the concept of "soft power" even existed, Nehru was a competent practitioner of it.

His conception of India's place in the world as the voice of the underprivileged and marginalised against the prevailing hegemony was totally based on the history of its culture and its moral position.

This boosted our self-respect as we stood proudly and independently on the world arena and gave India a reputation and grandeur that lasted for years.

Nehru laid the foundations for India's transformation into a modern industrial nation, which he referred to as "the temples of modern India." The Congress Government has foolishly wasted away the assets that he established.

Nehru conceptualized secular, industrial and cosmopolitan nation.

Nehru's deep concern for World peace led him to formulate the policy of non-alignment. He believed that non-alignment was a passion. It was a passion to remove hatred, fear and suspicion among nations and also to bring peace. Non-alignment was a peaceful policy, not the policy of threat, aggression and mutual condemnation. They wanted to adopt good means for good ends. Nehru wanted to strengthen the area of peace through peaceful co-existence and international co-operation Nehru favoured the friendly relations with all countries of the world.

Democracy, socialism, unification, and secularism served as the four cornerstones of his domestic policies. These pillars were successfully incorporated into the construction of contemporary India by him.

His contributions to history, society, politics, the Indian State, and his role as the country's first prime minister should all be included when evaluating a leader's multifaceted personality. We should look at the many ideas and people that influenced his contribution to a modern India in order to understand how they moulded and formed his intellect and personality. "A complex interaction of social factors, political objectives, social ties, economic desires, nationalism, and religious convictions governs how leadership functions.

Jawaharlal Nehru was not only an active man but also a passionate individual. He was one of the world's most illustrious statesmen. In addition to being the designer of Modern India,

Nehru was also in charge of developing the policies and plans for India's gradual development. In that he cultivated political institutions and gave Parliament its quintessential reach, authority, and privileges, he was indeed a true democratic.



As the "**Architect of Modern India**," Nehru's life and work are a reflection of his secular philosophy.

Last but not least, Jawaharlal Nehru holds a colossal place in the contemporary Indian political landscape. He was a visionary leader, democratic socialist, and humanist who had a major impact on the development of "Modern India".

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