



*Journal of Advances and
Scholarly Researches in
Allied Education*

*Vol. X, Issue No. XIX,
July-2015, ISSN 2230-7540*

A ROLE OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MODERN INDIA

AN
INTERNATIONALLY
INDEXED PEER
REVIEWED &
REFEREED JOURNAL

A Role of Jawaharlal Nehru Modern India

Dr. Vishavjeet Singh*

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, D.A.V College, Pundri, Kaithal

Abstract – The world has been so much impressed by Nehru the world statesman and our country by Nehru the freedom fighter and builder of independent India. Sensitive to human suffering, thrilled by the sight and sound of nature in its magnificence and glory, at home in both lonely hills and among men and women, passionate in his anger against violations of human dignity and yet tolerant of human frailties, a philosopher who had to take to a life of action, a world citizen whose main concern was to build his own nation, a creative writer who had to spend the major part of his mature years in government and administration, Nehru was essentially a lonely man; and his greatest relaxation was mountains or children or writing.. His writings reflect his sensitive mind and his generous heart, with his passion for justice and love for the country giving colour and fragrance to the thoughts he sought to weave in English prose the extreme leftists attack him that he was no socialist, the extreme rightists attack him that he was not spiritually oriented”.

Keywords – Impressed, Major, Essentially, Human Suffering, Magnificence

-----X-----

Nehru's services to the making India makes him our greatest nation builder, the founder of our secularism, our socialism, and our democracy. He could not have built so enduringly but for certitude of faith and a high sense of destiny. From the beginning he invested the freedom movement with a historical sense and established the interdependence of national security and the international situation. He left a lasting impression on India's social and economic process and pushed them on to the climax of foundations of parliamentary democracy. He promoted the scientific temper and worked unceasingly for the industrial revolution. Jawaharlal Nehru dedicated his life for seeking freedom for his people. He was one of Gandhi's chief lieutenants in the fight for freedom¹. After Independence, he served in the capacity of Prime Minister of India for seventeen years. Nehru will be remembered as the architect of modern India. He imbued India with a democratic spirit, and gave it a framework of unity. He inspired a spirit of secularism and set Economic goals to help the people to do away with poverty. In international affairs, he projected the image of India as a non-aligned country.

Jawaharlal was born on 14th November, 1859 at Allahabad to a learned, prosperous, Kashmiri Brahmin father, Moti Lal Nehru and an uneducated and traditional bound mother, Swarup Rani. He was brought up in a luxurious home called Anand Bhawan. Until Nehru was 15, he was educated at home by British tutors. He also studied Hindi and Sanskrit languages from a Brahmin teacher. In 1905, his father took him to England to enroll at Harrow, a leading English Public School. In 1907, he entered Trinity College at Cambridge University. After completing his

study at Cambridge University he studied law in London, where he passed his Bar-at –Law examination in 1912. Nehru returned to India in 1912 and he started his practice at Allahabad. But the legal profession did not hold him for long². He was attracted by the Home Rule Movement started by Tilak and Annie Besant. He was called to the bar in 1912 and returned to India after spending over seven years in England. He was 'perhaps more an Englishman than an Indian.' India was politically dull.

After the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Nehru came under the powerful impact of Mahatama Gandhi and he joined the Indian National Congress along with his father Jawahar Lal also came into contact with the farmers of U.P. during the Non-co-operation Movement and came to know about the poverty of Indian farmers³. The Congress was already on the path of non-co-operation, and the natural reaction of these orders on the U.P. Congress Committee was to defy them. It aroused his deep sympathy for the under dogs in India, which later made him to think about the socialistic pattern of society. This phenomenon got strengthened during Nehru's visit to Europe in 1926-27. There, while attending the Brussels Conference, he came into contact with a number of Liberals and intellectuals, which influenced his thinking towards socialism That is why in his work ' Soviet Russia in 1928, he praised the socialistic pattern of society established in Russia. After his return from Europe, Nehru resumed his active role in politics as general secretary of the Congress. In 1929 he was elected president of the congress⁴. Gandhi said about Nehru in 1929, "By his bravery, determination and grit, he has captivated the

imagination of the youth of the land. And he has the dash and rashness of a warrior, he has also the prudence of a statesman. He is pure as crystal, he is truthful beyond suspicion. He is a Knight *sanpeur, san reproche*. The nation is safe in his hands" In his historical presidential address Nehru for the first-time demanded the 'Complete Independence' of India from the British Rule. He was against all fears and prejudices and called upon the people to come forward for this cause. To quote Nehru, "None of us can say what we can achieve and when we can achieve it. But success often comes to those who dare and act; it seldom goes to the timid who are afraid of the consequences".

Nehru actively participated in the Civil-Disobedience Movement under the leadership-Disobedience Movement under the leadership of Gandhi. When the general elections were held in 1937, he made whirlwind tour of the country and carried everywhere the message of the congress. The success of the congress in elections was very much due to his efforts. When the World War II began in Europe in 1939, the relation between congress and British Government deteriorated sharply. This time, Nehru was of the opinion that if the British made a firm promise of Independence for India at the end of war, India should give full support to the Alias. But the British Government was not ready to give such a promise and it sent Mr. Cripps with a proposal to solve the dead lock between the Government and the congress. The Cripps's proposal was rejected by the Congress due to some of the weak points in it. Now the Mahatama came forward with 'Quit India' proposal and it was Nehru, who moved the "Quit India" resolution on 8th August, 1942. He was arrested along with the other members of the CWC on 9th August and he remained in Jail till the end of the war in 1945.

Nehru played a major role in negotiation with British Government during 1945-49. He was the pivotal negotiator on behalf of his party at the time of the Simla Conference as well as that followed: the Cabinet Mission and the June 3rd plan. In September 1946, Nehru became the head of the Interim Government and Vice-President of the Governor-General's Executive Council. It has been said that he was responsible for Wavell's recall. In the last phase of India's struggle for freedom, country was rocked by the communal violence. At this time, Nehru stood like a rock in opposition to communal propaganda and in defense of the basic values of freedom struggle. During these troublesome years, he waged an incessant campaign against communalism.

India got Independence on Aug 15, 1947 and he became the first Prime Minister of free India. As Prime Minister Nehru had to face mighty problems created partly by British withdrawal from India and partly by the partition of the country. There were communal riots everywhere accompanied by unprecedented savagery. Just after the partition, nearly 9 million Hindu refugees came from Pakistan and more than 4 million Muslims migrated to Pakistan. Rehabilitation of these refugees

was handled on an emergency basis by his Government and this work was accomplished successfully under his leadership. Nehru's most positive contribution to India was his insistence that India should have a democracy wedded to secular ideas. He encouraged the growth of parliamentary form of Government. He made it work and he also made the majority of Indian Politicians in his time want to make it work. Three general elections were held smoothly and fair during his tenure. Thus, he cherished our democracy and nurtured it. Nehru was perforce left with no choice but to carry on with such tools as were available to him⁵. He believed that India could not progress without Industrialization, which can only be done through planning consequently, he set up a Planning commission for this purpose and he himself became its chairmen. Three five year plans were executed successfully. These plans aimed at raising the standard of living by modernization in general and industrialization in particular and by setting down what Nehru called "a socialistic pattern of society". The plans main emphasis was on investment for capital formation and especially for heavy industry and its subsidiaries. A large portion of capital was invested on hydroelectric projects, steel plants, factories and so on. Utmost importance was given to Science and technology. On the whole, Nehru's efforts bore fruits and he laid the foundation of modernization, foundation for faster economic development. As a part of his programme to make more progressive and modernized, Nehru attempted to root out corruption and injustice from society. The untouchability Act of 1955 provided penalties to enforce provisions of the Constitutions that outlawed the practice of untouchability.

In 1956 widows were given the right of inheritance in family property. Bigamy was forbidden. The forced marches out of poverty and social backwardness initiated by him brought out a radical change in social and economic field. Nehru was the architect of India's foreign policy. He followed a policy of non-alignment. He tried to steer clear of power blocs and refused to become a camp follower. He was anxious to help and mediate if possible. Speaking at Columbia University in United States in 1949, he explained the objectives of India's Foreign Policy in these words, "The main objectives of India's foreign policy are: the pursuit of peace, not through alignment with any major power or group of powers, but through an independent approach to each controversial or disputed issues; the liberation of subject people, the maintenance of freedom, both national and individual; the elimination of racial discrimination; and the elimination of want, disease and ignorance which affect the greater part of the world's population⁶." Nehru's foreign policy was criticized but he was criticized not so much for the policy itself as for the manner in which he was guilty of applying a dual standard of judgment that inclined more towards the communist bloc than west. His greater disappointment in the sphere of Foreign policy was in his failure to achieve peaceful co-existence with China. It is rightly said that Nehru "died on the day the Chinese crossed our frontier." Nehru made a mistake

in putting too much faith in friendship with China Nehru's image was badly dented by the Chinese aggression, but he continued to command the love and affection of the Indian masses till his death.

To conclude, Nehru was a great national leader who played an illustrious role in the fight for freedom. He was a great nation builder the founder of secularism, socialism and democracy. He left a lasting impression process and pushed them on the climax of a revolution. He prompted the scientific temper and worked unceasingly for the industrial revolution. The greatest tribute to Nehru, the architect of modern India on the occasion of his birth centenary year would be to follow his path and to realize his ideals and his dreams with devotion and dedication.

REFERENCES:

1. M. Chalapathi Rau (1967). Gandhi and Nehru, Allied Publishers, Bombay, pp. 45
2. Hans Raj Madnpotha (1993). Nehru Rediscovered, Laxmi printing press, Delhi, pp. 11.
3. Ram Gopal (1992). Trials of Jawaharlal Nehru Saraswati press, Allahabad, pp. 4.
4. Kanwar Lal (1977). Jawaharlal Nehru Promise and Performance, Kayenkay Agencies, Darya Ganj, Delhi-6, pp. 61.
5. M.O. Mathai (1978). Reminiscences of the Nehru Age, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 1978, pp. 213.
6. V. R. Krishna Lyer, Nehru and Menon (1993). Konak publishers Pvt Ltd, Vikas Marg Delhi, pp. 67

Corresponding Author

Dr. Vishavjeet Singh*

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science,
D.A.V College, Pundri, Kaithal

rana.vishavjeet@gmail.com