

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

The Guiding Force of Indian Constitution

Born on 14 November 1889 at Anand Bhawan in Allahabad, Jawaharlal Nehru was a towering personality who shaped India's modern identity. The son of prominent lawyer Motilal Nehru and Swarup Rani, he imbibed Indian cultural values alongside progressive ideals. At 15, Nehru went to England, studying at Harrow, Trinity College, Cambridge, and the London School of Economics. His time in England sparked his intellectual growth and introduced him to Indian political movements, leaving a lasting impression on his ideals.

Returning to India in 1912, Nehru began his legal career at the Allahabad High Court. However, his involvement in the Indian National Congress soon took precedence. Influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, he actively participated in the freedom struggle. From opposing the repressive Rowlatt Act to enduring imprisonment during the Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement, Nehru dedicated himself to India's liberation. His international engagements, including the Brussels Congress (1927) and visits to Moscow, cemented his vision of socialism and self-reliance for India.

Nehru's political acumen shone at the Lahore Congress in 1929, where he advocated for complete independence, a milestone in the freedom struggle. Following independence, he became India's first Prime Minister, delivering his iconic "Tryst with Destiny" speech on 15 August 1947. Nehru skillfully navigated the Herculean task of nation-building, emphasizing democracy, secularism, and scientific progress.

A firm believer in planning for progress, Nehru established the Planning Commission and initiated Five-Year Plans to combat poverty and unemployment. His visionary leadership led to river-valley projects and community development programs, laying the foundation for India's economic development. Internationally, he championed the Non-Aligned Movement and principles of Panchsheel, advocating global peace and cooperation.

Nehru's contributions extended beyond politics. His writings, such as *Glimpses of World History* and *The Discovery of India*, reflect his intellectual depth. Affectionately called 'Chacha Nehru,' he held a special place for children, dedicating efforts to their welfare and education.

Jawaharlal Nehru passed away on 27 May 1964, leaving behind an enduring legacy. Tributes poured in from leaders worldwide, recognizing his role as a statesman, visionary, and advocate for peace and justice. Nehru's commitment to democracy and progress continues to guide India's path forward.

Excerpts of Speeches Made by Nehru in the Constituent Assembly

On the Purpose of the Constitution

"In this Constituent Assembly we are functioning on a world stage and the eyes of the world are upon us and the eyes of our entire past are upon us. Our past is witness to what we are doing here and though the future is still unborn, the future too somehow looks at us."

*"This Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution"
"We have to approach the framing of this constitution in the spirit that we have to consider it in detail, always using that Objectives Resolution as the yard measure."*

"The Constitution is after all some kind of legal body given to the ways of Governments and the Life of a people."

"A Constitution if it is out of touch with the people's life, aims and aspirations, becomes rather empty."

"There should be a certain flexibility. If you make anything rigid and permanent, you stop a Nation's growth."

On National Spirit

"Words are magic things often enough, but even the magic of words sometimes cannot convey the magic of the human spirit and of a Nation's passion."

"The time comes when we have to rise above party and think of the Nation, think sometimes of even the world at large of which our Nation is a great part."

"It tried to embody, in so far as it is possible in cold print to embody, the spirit that Lay behind the Indian people at the time."

"Freedom brings responsibility; of course there is no such thing as freedom without responsibility."

"The main thing is this great significant factor that India after a long period of being dominated over has emerged as a free sovereign democratic independent country."

"The freedom that has come to India by virtue of many things, history, tradition, resources, our geographical position, our great potential and all that, inevitably leads India an important part in world affairs."

"This ancient land attains its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind."

"The only way to influence India is through friendship and co-operation and goodwill. Any attempt at imposition, the slightest trace of patronage, is resented and will be resented."

"At such a moment this New India is taking birth – renascent, vital, fearless."

"I stand for Socialism and, I hope, India will stand for Socialism and that India will go towards the constitution of a Socialist State and I do believe that the whole world will have to go that way. What form of Socialism again is another matter for your consideration."

"It is not so much the mere act of living that counts but what one does in this brief life that is ours; it is not so much the mere existence of a nation that counts but what that nation does during the various periods of its existence."

"The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity."

Freedom and Humanity:

"There will be no full freedom in this country or in the world as long as a single human being is unfree."

"Freedom is still far off in this world and nations, all nations in greater or lesser degree are struggling for their freedom."

"We shall face all the other disagreeable things that face us in the present or may do so in the future, and we shall not flinch and we shall not falter and we shall not quit."

"India carried on its cultural tradition, not unchanging, not rigid, but always keeping its essence, always adapting itself to new developments, to new influences."

"The Constitution itself will lead us to the real freedom that we have clamoured for, and that real freedom in turn will bring food to our starving peoples, clothing for them, housing for them and all manner of opportunities of progress."

"Much more trouble will there be if there is freedom in parts of India and lack of freedom in other parts of India."

"The task of wresting freedom and ousting the foreign government was before us till now, and that task is now accomplished. But uprooting the foreign domination is not all unless and until each and every Indian breathes the air of freedom and his miseries are banished and his hard lot is improved, our task remains unfinished."

"Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India."



On Unity and Inclusivity

"India does not belong to any one party or group of people or caste. It does not belong to the followers of any particular religion. It is the country of all, of every religion and creed."

"Our freedom is to be shared equally by every Indian. All Indians shall have equal rights, and each one of them is to partake equally in that freedom."

"We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell."

"The one thing that should be obvious to all of us is this: that there is no group in India, no party, no religious community, which can prosper if India does not prosper."

"A free India will see the bursting forth of the energy of a mighty nation."

On Global Perspective and Peace

"All the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace has been said to be indivisible, so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and so also is disaster in this One World."

"We wish for peace. We do not want to fight any nation if we can help it."

"If we seek to be a free, independent, democratic republic, it is not to dissociate ourselves from other countries but rather as a free nation to cooperate in the fullest measure with other countries for peace and freedom."

