

Nehruvian Vision: Building a Strong and United India through Secularism, Democracy, and Development

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ABSTRACT

Emphasizing modern ways of thinking, Jawaharlal Nehru led the nation-building of India. He kept promoting rational thinking in every field to boost the country's welfare. Especially, he valued a person's national citizenship above their religion or religious community. It meant that he gave importance to keeping politics and religion different and apart. Furthermore, all people, no matter their colour, caste or community, were supposed to respect the nation. So, the differences between castes, communities and religious groups started causing difficulties for India's new states once the country became independent. For this reason, strong leadership acknowledged these shortcomings and took ways to complete the process of nation building. Jawaharlal Nehru stood at the forefront in this regard. He stood for India's independence and remained at the helm of the nation until he died.

This title clearly demonstrates Nehru's method of building the nation by highlighting his devotion to democracy, secularism and growth. It points out that in Gandhi's view, these beliefs were required for India to remain strong and united. "Nehruvian Vision" is used to explain the ideas and policies that Nehru introduced during his time as Prime Minister of India. Through the title, you can see the primary ideas in Nehru's philosophy such as democracy, secularism and development. All in all, the chosen title reflects accurately how Nehru's views helped India throughout the development of the nation.

Keywords: Jawaharlal Nehru, Nation building, India, Secularism, Democracy, Socialism, Industrialization, Education, Science and technology

1. Introduction

Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, nation-building ideas were firmly

developed in the country. Nehru chose to base India on democratic, secular, socialist and internationalist principles. He felt that having so much variety and

being open to everyone helped India thrive, so he believed the nation had to remain united for change to happen.

A great inspiration, Jawaharlal Nehru guided India's future throughout its modern history. Nehru, as India's first prime minister, dreamt of an empowered India and his way of leading made it possible for his nation to move ahead under one identity. Nehru worked hard to ensure that secularism, democracy and development were the main features of India and he accomplished this throughout his life.

The aim of this article is to outline Nehru's goals for India and how his leadership played a role in the development of current Indian society. The beginning of the article addresses Nehru's approach to secularism which focused on including different religions and respecting them. It will discuss how Nehru's commitment to secularism led different Indian ethnic groups to unite and helped create a democratically progressive India.

The upcoming part of the article will highlight the steps Nehru took to introduce democracy in India. Nehru devoted himself to forming a system of democracy that could accommodate all the different identities present in India since he believed it was vital for the nation's development.

We will also consider Nehru's economic policies which aimed to modernize India and make it self-sufficient by following a planned approach. It will go into how Nehru's plans helped India build its strong economy and become a contemporary industry leader. The purpose of this article is to show readers how Nehru's plans for India and his actions as leader helped shape India's modern history. It will look into what Jawaharlal Nehru stood for and if his ideas are still relevant in India today.

NEHRU'S IDEA OF NATION-BUILDING

A number of scholars point to Jawaharlal Nehru as someone whose ideas strongly guided India to become a nation-state. Applying rational thinking to the idea of nationalism, he was fully initiated in politics by Mahatma Gandhi. At that time, the leaders of

Congress still thought the dominion status was adequate up to the Calcutta session in 1928. Even so, Nehru and his associates argued strongly for their cause and settled the debate in favor of accepting full freedom and independence instead of the dominion status in 1929 during the Lahore Congress. Nehru had a scientific mind and opposed some of the Congress leaders. When India gained freedom, Nehru was appointed the country's first prime minister and set up a social system with socialist goals mixed with a kind of capitalism adopted after British rule. It can therefore be said that Jawaharlal Nehru remained respected after the colonial period and his political ideas have been revisited by experts during this time (Chakrabarty, 2006).

Democracy, social justice and economic prosperity were the main ideas upon which Nehru planned the development of India. He believed that a strong democratic structure was needed to enable the Indian people to be involved in country's decisions. Secularism guided him and he felt all religious beliefs should be treated equally. Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to build a nation where everyone could reach equal success and would not face oppression or prejudice.

He was dedicated to boosting economic growth too. He considered industrialization necessary for the country to both gain economic independence and enjoy growth. Keynes encouraged a system where the government plays a part in guiding and overseeing the economy to benefit people.

Nehru viewed India to be larger than what is shown today. Krishna Menon was convinced about India's role in guiding international developments. He was key in starting the Non-Aligned Movement, whose purpose was to resist the dominance of the superior nations and help raise the standing of the world's less-developed countries.

People found issues with Nehru's strategy for founding the country. India's society experienced serious separation due to cultural and religious differences. A number of people opposed what Nehru

believed, mainly because of his support for socialism and secularism.

Nehru's original goals for India have remained even after these troubles. India's dedication to respecting many religions and beliefs has strengthened its democracy. India is recognized for its achievements in education, healthcare and developing its economy on the international level.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND STATE BUILDING POST- INDEPENDENCE

After India gained independence, Jawaharlal Nehru had a major role in setting up the nation. The separation of India and the absorption of the princely kingdoms into the country were tough challenges for the newly elected Prime Minister.

Many believe that one of Nehru's biggest achievements is creating India's constitution. Through his leadership, India was able to establish itself as a federal democratic republic because he led the writing of the national constitution.

Apart from working on infrastructure, Nehru emphasised boosting the nation's social and economic situations. To help fight poverty and create more economic opportunities, he introduced land reforms, brought an end to zamindari and promoted the establishment of big industries.

Since Nehru thought education was very important, he spent a great amount on building schools and colleges. Only the Indian Institutes of Technology and Management highlight the RSS's vast education system which includes more universities and institutions.

Nehru's efforts in foreign policy made it easier to shape the country. Nehru supported India's interests worldwide and was a strong supporter of the Non-Aligned Movement. As well as promoting justice and equality around the world, he had a key role in the establishment of the United Nations.

Nehru had to deal with many obstacles as he tried to create India's state structure. While the region was being united, some of the princely kingdoms such as Kashmir, had disputes. The process of creating a state

was made more difficult because of the huge refugee movement after the split.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the article on Nehruvian Vision: Building a Strong and United India through Secularism, Democracy and Development is to explain Jawaharlal Nehru's view for India and how his actions and guidance formed India's recent history.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The reason studying Nehru's approach to state-building matters is because his ideas affected the political, economic and social aspects of India. Jawaharlal Nehru made a major difference in shaping India's future after independence by dreaming of a nation that was secular, democratic and well-developed. Examining Nehru's way of governing can give an insight into the problems and opportunities involved in forming a state in a country with various cultures and diverse populations like India. Besides, this research can provide guidance for leaders and policy experts who are looking to create inclusive and sustainable development in their home nations. Knowing both what worked and what didn't in Nehru's way of governing India can improve our methods of governance and help us grow in the future.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

We will look into Nehru's thoughts and actions for nation building after independence and how they affected India's progress.

- This work by P. Roy (2021) explores his understanding of state-building and looks at how it affected political changes in India. The author studies how Jawaharlal Nehru supported secularism, democracy and development as the main ideas for India's modern state.
- In their edited volume, B.Chakrabarti and S.Basu outline Jawaharlal Nehru's state-building approach and its results on modern India (in 2019). Some of the topics in the book are Nehru's foreign policy, his economic plans and his views

on democracy and secularism, with notable academics writing about them.

- This book by Nayantara Sahgal explores Nehru's role in forming the modern nation of India and his views on governing the country. Experts in their fields wrote essays for the book that address how Nehru dealt with international events, his economy and his opinions on secularism and democracy.
- This book by M. Singh focuses on critically examining how Nehru shaped India's foreign policy and how this affected the country's politics. The author looks at how Nehru focused on non-alignment, planned for a fair society and guided India's connections with its neighbors and the globe. 5. State Building was important to Nehru for the growth of India. It was clear to him that a strong government helps make reforms that can help the whole community. He wanted changes to federal systems and encouraged growth in each state so that all regions were equally helped (Kumaraswami, Kapcia, & Nehru, M. 2017).
- Nehru contributed greatly to the creation of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). He believed the IAS was vital for carrying out the government's affairs and achieving his plans. In order to prepare the IAS for the country's many needs, Nehru's policies valued merit when selecting and educating people for the service (Potter, 1989).
- Nehru aimed to build India by focusing on national development. He considered it the government's role to ensure that all citizens get access to things such as housing, schooling and health care. Rural development, investment in infrastructure and more opportunities for employment were the main targets of Nehru's initiatives (Parekh, 1991).

3. PROMINENCE OF SCIENTIFIC CULTURE IN STATE BUILDING

Building a strong scientific culture played a big role in helping many countries set up stable governments. They help advance the economy, make public health and education better and address problems in society. Following WWII, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan made use of science to strengthen their countries. Improvements in science and technology powered the growth and changes in society of these countries. They made significant investments in research and development, constructed great educational and research facilities and urged people to come up with original ideas for businesses.

The development of science in India has helped the country build its state. The inquiries of Egyptian and Mesopotamian scientists began the history of science in the country. Once India became independent, it encountered several major issues, like general poverty and poor infrastructure.

Jawaharlal Nehru and his fellow Indian leaders thought that scientific progress and new inventions could turn their economy around and help the everyday citizen. According to a popular quote by Nehru, only science can solve hunger and poverty.

Because of this, since India became independent, the country has invested greatly in science and technology. The country is home to many universities and research centres and the Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management are just a small number of them. India's space programme is developed enough for satellite launches to be possible and enabled research from earth orbit.

In the past few years, India's IT business has advanced so much that it now provides jobs for millions and earns the country billions.

So, this shows that scientific culture has helped drive progress in states everywhere, for example, in India. Therefore, countries have been able to increase their economic growth, improve healthcare and school systems and solve major social problems. Thus, it will

keep playing a significant role in many countries' growth.

4. FEATURES OF NATION BUILDING

The below are the core elements of nation-building highlighted by Nehru:

- According to Nehru, having democracy was vital for a powerful and united country. The purpose of building a democratic government, in his mind, was to boost the rule of law and help the people take part in decisions.
- He respected secularism for helping unite such a diverse country as India. He did not care about race or religion when fighting for a government that respected the rights of every citizen.
- Nehru knew that strong and prosperous nations come from economic development. He promoted changes to boost infrastructural progress, industrial development and modernization.
- According to Nehru, it is impossible to make a modern, enlightened society if education is not present. He encouraged actions that widened educational possibilities and encouraged people to read more.
- Nehru valued science and technology a lot and believed they were key to making the country prosperous. He tried to support research activities and to form institutions that would do scientific research and invention.
- Nehru placed great importance on India working with other nations. The President tried to develop positive relationships with other countries and boost cooperation on matters like peace, the economy and human rights.
- In Nehru's view, social justice is important for ensuring that the country stays united and strong. He urged policies that would reduce gaps between the rich and poor and allow every person to prosper.
- Nehru thought that development of the country depended on the strength of the state. He pointed out that a government needs to be strong and

effective so it can distribute services, manage markets and encourage growth in the country's economy. A powerful state was a main focus of Nehru's method of building the nation.

- Democracy, secularism, economic growth, education, science and technology, internationalism and social justice were part of what Nehru wanted India to become. Such characteristics remain important factors in building India's nation.

5. BUILDING A STRONG AND UNITED INDIA THROUGH SECULARISM, DEMOCRACY, AND DEVELOPMENT

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND SECULARISM (FIRST ASPECTS)

During the process of forming countries, secularism was important for creating national unity. After imperial troops entered India, there was a major impact on India's diversity of communities, religions and ethnicities. Being influenced by Reformation and Renaissance ideas, Jawaharlal Nehru emphasized the role of secularism when handling India's growth and development from different aspects.

Through a reenactment, the event showed that Hindus and Muslims moved from India to Pakistan and India, respectively, during the time following Partition. Sikhs and Christians came to India in large groups along with the Hindus. Securing secularism by having religion and society mix together was impossible. It was only possible to do this by reaching out to people from various cultures, religions, races, etc.

Therefore, Nehru stated that the Indian Constitution serves to guard the identity of secularism and the fundamental rights of all which are listed in Part III. As India's prime minister, Nehru was strong in his opposition to sectarian groups.

DEMOCRACY: SECOND ASPECT OF NEHRU'S VISION

Democratic ideas played a key role in Jawaharlal Nehru's plans for India. Plato believed that democracy

was best because it respected every person's rights and tried to better the community. Nehru considered democracy the most effective method for people to join in and hold the government responsible.

Jawaharlal Nehru fought for democracy, since he believed strongly in equality and equality for all. He hoped that by having democracy, India would become a place where everyone could enjoy peace and prosperity.

Nehru was sure that democracy was the answer to boosting India's economic and social growth. For Nehru, democracy was the best tool to help Indians use their ideas and abilities to help advance their nation. Nehru believed that democracy would let all cultures and beliefs prosper in India.

All in all, Nehru considered democracy an important foundation for his vision of India. He believed democracy was the perfect form of government since it secured everyone's rights and helped make society better. Nehru was sure that allowing people to vote was the best means for them to express their views and hold those in charge accountable. He believed that under democracy, everyone would have the chance to enjoy peace and prosperity.

DEVELOPMENT: THIRD KEY ASPECT OF NEHRU'S VISION

In his view, education, science and technology had the biggest role in India's development. According to him, development was necessary for boosting the economy, reducing poverty and inequality and raising everybody's living standards.

Progress and growth were major themes of the policies made during Nehru's tenure as prime minister. Since he thought industrialisation would help India prosper, he led the country in making several positive changes towards development. Just two of the notable projects Nehru launched were the IITs and IIMs which are considered prestigious institutes of learning and research.

Nehru expressed that the goal of progress should be to improve people's lives and society as well as the economy. He started the community development

programme to improve rural areas and also took part in other projects assisting those living in poverty.

Nehru also cared about developing nations beyond his own home of India. He thought India should help other developing countries by supporting their efforts to modernize their economies. He contributed greatly to the Non-Aligned Movement, an organisation formed to help developing nations and create a fair world order.

It was Nehru's development vision that contributed greatly to the advancement of India. Thanks to his dedication to these fields, India is now a top leader in social welfare and education, technology and has made life better for many people.

6. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Secularism, democracy and development which were key parts of the Nehruvian Vision, contributed greatly to the creation of modern India. Nehru worked all his life to keep India secular and accepting, as he felt that social peace and national unity depended on secularism. His attempts to promote fairness among all religions, improve Hindu marriage and inheritance laws and safeguard the rights of minorities demonstrate his believe in secularism.

He believed that democracy would give the people a fair chance and would help them achieve social justice, equality and the rights every human deserves. The way Nehru worked for a parliamentary government, held fair elections and motivated the Indian public to get involved in politics showed his commitment to democracy.

Nehru underlined that India could only progress and become economically and socially advanced if there was growth. As a means of strengthening India and making it affluent, Nehru placed importance on science, technology, education and other sectors. Examples of Nehru's support for growth are the Atomic Energy Commission, Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management.

Nehru's thoughts and efforts made a big difference in shaping India's growth, especially when it came to

technology, science and education. The policies set by Nehru led to economic improvement and industrial growth that helped India. Rural development and helping the poor were some of the areas where Nehru's vision did not succeed. Many people said that Nehru's priorities in planning mostly focused on growing cities and not the issues affecting the rural population.

Because of Nehruvian thoughts, India was rebuilt and many people, whether in India or elsewhere, continue to look up to his ideas. The focus Nehru had on secularism, democracy and development is still important now and guides people trying to build a stronger and united country.

7. CONCLUSION

All in all, Nehru's idea of developing the country was built around democracy, social justice and economic development. He thought that India's diversity made it strong and was essential for the nation to be united and inviting for progress. India's sense of identity has been guided by Nehru's vision which has also allowed India to deal with various problems. People still feel inspired by his achievements to improve India.

Creating a unified and strong India under Jawaharlal Nehru was mostly based on his focus on secularism, democracy and progress. The principles he believed in and his visionary role influenced the progress India saw in its past and the prosperity it will achieve in the future.

Nehru made sure that people of any faith or culture could live peacefully in India because of his belief in secularism. Because of his commitment to democracy, India developed a strong and open political system that allowed everyone to speak freely and join in making important decisions. Because of his commitment to growth in education, science and technology, India made great progress and became well recognized globally.

While Nehru's achievements are sometimes questioned, his ambition to create a united India by supporting democratic, secular and developmental

policies is still appreciated nowadays. The plans and views of Nehru have provided a strong base for India's growth and progress in the face of new opportunities and obstacles.

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