



International Journal of Arts & Education Research

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: A GREAT ARCHITECT OF GLOBAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India (1947-64), who established parliamentary government, the initiator of Non Alignment policy in foreign affairs, often referred with the epithet of Panditji, was born on Nov. 14, 1889, in Allahabad. His father, Motilal Nehru, was a barrister and a moderate nationalist leader and congressman. Jawaharlal was educated at home by tutors; most of them were English or Scottish. Under the influence of a tutor, Nehru joined the Theosophical Society at 13. For further education at the age of 15 he left for England, where he studied at Harrow and Cambridge and then for the Bar in London. His English experience reinforced his elegant and cosmopolitan tastes. As Nehru said once at Cambridge, "In my likes and dislikes I was perhaps more an Englishman than an Indian." Through out his life, Nehru advocated Fabian Socialism and a strong Public sector as the means by which economic development could be pursued by poorer nations. Jawaharlal Nehru took active part in the Non-Cooperation Movement; elected President of the Allahabad Municipal Corporation in 1924, and served for two years as the city's chief executive; Presided over Congress' annual session in Lahore in 1929 and passed a resolution demanding India's independence; elected as Congress President in 1936, 1937 and 1946; was one of the main architects of Non Aligned Movement. Jawaharlal Nehru is widely regarded as the architect of modern India. He set India on the path of democracy and nurtured its institution – Parliament, multi-party system, independent judiciary and free press. He also encouraged Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI).