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**A Special Issue on
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Democratization of India**

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**Jawaharlal Nehru: The all Time Hero of India****Dr. Vitthal K. Jaybhaye**

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Abstract:

There are many stalwarts who has contributed lot to make free from the unjust British rule. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India has contributed lot to the nation than his life. As the builder of the name and fame of the nation India, his overwhelming efforts are counted by the history o the modern India. As the history of Indian freedom struggle is concern, there are various names who contributed not only the days but the life itself for the freedom of India. Nehru, the person from very rich family has contributed lot to the Indian freedom struggle as well as his contribution as the first Prime minister of India and the writer of the modern Indian writings in English. In the present research paper, the researcher going to evaluate the overall contribution of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the Indian freedom struggle, the newly formed Indian government and Indian writing in English.

Key Words: India, Freedom, Nation, Literature**Introduction:**

As the history of the modern world is concern, India has the rich heritage and culture. The nation India was awakened in last three decades of the twentieth century. There was awakening regarding the nation and freedom was outcome of the French revolution which warned the modern World regarding the freedom and human rights. It has influenced the Indian scholars who were taking education among various foreign countries. The scholars spreading their thoughts and ideas regarding Indian freedom in India. The concept of freedom and nation were the major objectives of the young learners of the British ruling India. Among such scholars, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the scholars who influenced by the thoughts of Indian freedom. When Jawaharlal Nehru was learning in Britain, he declared his intentions regarding the Indian freedom struggle and various activities of Indian National Congress. Motilal Nehru, the father of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was satisfied about the decision of Jawaharlal regarding the decision of taking part in Indian freedom struggle. Dr. Annie Besant and Mr. Brooks has developed sensitivity, imagination and understanding regarding the life and challenges from it. It was his foreign education was influenced by the names like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and "He was more impressed by Panjab leader Lala Lajpat Rai, who spoke in less extravagant manner than Pal. He also heard Gopal Krishna Gokhale, a politician of high caliber and perspicacity (Morae 44)." It was the beginning of the revolutionary life of young Jawaharlal Nehru.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the life and legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. To evaluate the contribution of Nehru to the Indian freedom struggle.
3. To revise the contribution of Nehru to built the nation.
4. To discuss the contribution of Nehru and literature.

Hypothesis: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is the all time hero for the nation India.**Research Methodology:**

The nature of this research paper is theoretical, so the data for this research paper is collected with the help of the secondary sources like the reference books, internet journals, goggle books, *Shodhganga* thesis and various online resources for the plan of research. The MLA 8 Research Methodology is used for the citation of the references in the research paper.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru-The Jewel of India:**Life and Legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:**

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India was one of the pathfinders of the Indian freedom struggle as well as the chief organizer among the first Indian independent government. As the member from the rich family, Jawaharlal Nehru was highly influenced by the teachings of his mother Sarup Rani Nehru. She told him the moral-mythological stories from *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. It has rooted the Indian atmosphere among the life of Jawaharlal Nehru. As Nehru writes, "I absorbed India first through my mother who used to be full of Indian stories (Mende and Nehru 9)." It was the beginning of the life of Jawaharlal, where he was attracted towards the native land during his





higher education in Great Britain. Nevertheless, his father advocate Motilal Nehru has towards his only son Jawaharlal. As Nehru writes himself about his father in his autobiography his noble presence in a world full of pettiness and weakness. I look round in vain for that grand manner and splendid strength that was his (Nehru 7)." It was the beginning of the noble life of Jawaharlal Nehru. His life and attitude was the outcome of his devotion towards his deep sincerity to his work. During his education days, the Indian freedom struggle and various movements from India were attracted him towards India. The contemporary leaders who fighting for the freedom of India was crucial events from the life of young Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence, he was highly influenced the various movements from India and asked permission to his father Motilal Nehru regarding came back to India. Immediately, he got the permission and Jawaharlal came back to India. It was the opening of the freedom movement life of Jawaharlal Nehru. He also joined his father's office as the junior lawyer and working with Motilal Nehru.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the Indian Freedom Struggle:

After return from Great Britain, Jawaharlal get attracted towards the Indian freedom movements as well as the important meetings from the congress party. He joined the Indian freedom struggle with the Home Rule League started by Lokmanya Tilak and Mrs. Annie Besant. During this period Nehru was introduced with Mahatma Gandhi in 1916 at Lucknow. He was fully influenced by the rock commitment of Mahatma Gandhi towards the Indian freedom. He was badly hurt by the Jallianwala Bag massacre and participated with his father in Congress conference held at Bahadurganj. He was actively participated in December 1927 Madras Congress resolution "congress declares the goal of Indian people to be complete national independence. The resolution was indeed revolutionary (Male 84)." It was the beginning of Jawaharlal Nehru's action regarding the Indian freedom struggle. He mobilized the youth and presents of nation regarding Indian freedom. Those days were very crucial where the congress has changed its role from fighting to the complete independence of India. Nehru was fully prepared for the freedom approach and moved against the unjust British rule in India. In result of this, Nehru was sent to jail many times and became important *Satyagrahi* of Indian freedom struggle. For his role in Indian freedom struggle, Bishwanarayan Shastri writes, "His background of fighting for freedom of the country, ... his insight into India's past and his vision about India's future all combined endeared him to the people of his country, whom he loved most (Mehrotra 23)." It shows the crucial contribution of Nehru to Indian freedom struggle.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Independent India:

As the freedom fighter, Jawaharlal Nehru has proved his devotion towards the nation. On August 15, 1947, India was freed from the clutch of the British rule. Nehru was elected as the first Prime Minister of India. It was great challenge before the nation India to rule it with the democratic ideals. As the first PM of nation, Nehru has to face the problems bravely and give satisfactory results to the World. There was the partition of India. Many disputes regarding the border areas of India-Pakistan. Nehru got the strong support from all the ministry of the nation. He take the proper actions regarding building India as a nation. Nizam of Hyderabad state and Raja Harising were forcefully included in Independent India with the ideas of Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel and Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar. On the evening of the freedom day, Nehru has given very crucial speech entitled *Tryst with Destiny*. He stated in his speech that, "To the people of India whose representatives we are, we make appeal to join us with faith and confidence on this great adventure. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell (Moraes 3)." This speech of Nehru is the blue print of his work regarding building the independent India. He was fully aware about the nation India. His speech at the Columbia University in 1949 and his address before the American Congress contained a excellent explanation of the bigger objectives of India's policy. 'Maintenance of Freedom both national and individual the elimination of want, disease and ignorance which afflict the greater part . of the world's population' were among the goals of India's policy. Nehru's non-alignment meant not detachment from the Western block or Soviet Union but the declaration of one's right to criticize the merits. As the first Prime Minister of India, Nehru built the nation with the tradition of secularism in public life. He was responsible to thrust national integration into modern Indian democratic polity. Looking the origin of the achievement of Jawaharlal Nehru, both as a mass and a leader of intellectuals in the multifaceted personality, Shah observes Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

He was an aesthete, a writer, a champion of modern values with a deep sympathy for the oppressed and the disinherited, and in spite of unlimited power, detached and lonely in a certain sense. Many of these qualities were also to be found in Roy. And yet the



fundamental failure of Roy in the politics of power in India shows that these qualities are not by themselves enough to earn a position of successful leadership. (Shah 13)

This observation is sufficient to explain the contribution of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the independent India. He was 'The Builder of Modern India', who controlled the Indian politics and executive prospect. He was one of the few popular leaders of India who produced during her relentless struggle for freedom against an oppressive alien rule along with Gandhi and others, Nehru fought and strived for the freedom of India. After Independence, he was bestowed with the gigantic task of nation building for a strife-torn population. He became the first Prime Minister, and was in that position for two decades till his death.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Literature:

Apart from the freedom struggle, politics Jawaharlal Nehru greatly contributed to the Indian writings in English. He was considerably known for his writings. His inherent poetic sensibility created new horizons to Indian writing in English. As Hirendranath Datta observed his literary contribution, "Nehru's politics, too, will be forgotten some day but he will still be remembered as a very gifted writer, as an inspirer of youth and above all as an artist in public life (Datta 200)." His intellectual insight as the writer focused the light on the literary aspects of the Indian writings in English. As the writer, his habit of thinking and writing was natural. His work entitled *Letters from a Father to his Daughter* is the story of the creation of the world. Another crucial works like *Glimpses of World History* and *The Discovery of India* are crucial creations regarding the growth and development of human civilization and describing the grassroots of the nation. Regarding both the creations, "It is this subjective attitude to history that gives an epical immensity to both *The Discovery of India* and *Glimpses of World History* and turns the history of India and the history of the world into a panorama of vivid scenes and interesting portraits. ()" Apart from this Nehru's autobiography entitled *An Autobiography* is the vivid picture of his painstaking life regarding sorrows, sufferings and the real events concerning the sensitive people and moments. His last literary work *Unity of India and Other Essays* is his crucial contribution regarding lifting the nation regarding the new emerging horizons of the changing World. The essays are about the vast nation India, humanity and sincerity towards the resurgent India. This is Nehru's gratitude towards the nation. He bestow himself before the nation. His enduring and the unfailing literary charm of all these works, speeches and the letters which he wrote are careful reflections of his works. Whatever the topic i.e. politics, history, economics, or geology, his observations could not be blunted. The true performer in him triumphed for all time. Nehru was a devotee of art, literature and culture. His was so flooded with the astuteness and sensitivity of the great ancestors that he could not oppose the poetic lines and literary citations .

Conclusion:

The leading freedom fighter of Indian freedom movement, the first Prime Minister of Independent India, the great visionary, thinker, socialist, democrat, educationist, poet, essayist, peace & Childe lover, writer Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or *Chacha* Nehru of India is an iconic persona for all of us. His overall contribution regarding building India as the nation is noticeable. What is Nehru for India(?) is perfectly written by Shashi Tharoor in his *Nehru: The Invention of India*, "Jawaharlal Nehru's impact on India is too great not to be re-examined periodically. His legacy is ours, whether we agree with everything he stood for or not. What we are today, both for good and for ill, we owe in great measure to one man. This is his story (Tharoor 3)." hence, we come to the hypothesis of this research article that, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is the all time hero for the nation India.

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