



Notes

17**INDIA-HER PAST AND FUTURE**

Do thoughts about India fill Nehru's mind? Read the speech to find out his thoughts about India's past, present and future.

**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- read and understand a Speech in English;
- use antonyms;
- use the correct form of verbs;
- write summaries; and
- give directions..

17.1 SECTION I

To endeavour to understand and describe the India of today would be the task of a brave man. To describe tomorrow's India would verge on rashness. What is India? That is a question which has come back again and again to my mind. The early beginnings of our history filled me with wonder. It was the past of a virile and vigorous race with a questioning spirit and an urge for free inquiry, and even in its earliest known period giving evidence of a mature and tolerant civilization. Accepting life and its joys and burdens, it was ever searching for the ultimate and the universal.



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Gradually deterioration set in. Thought lost its freshness and became stale and the vitality and exuberance of youth gave place to crabbed age. Instead of spirit of adventure there came lifeless routine and the broad and exciting vision of the world was cabined and confined and lost in caste divisions, narrow social customs and ceremonials. Even so, India was vital enough to absorb the mass of people that flowed into her mighty ocean of humanity and she never quite forgot the thoughts that had stirred in the days of her youthful vigour.

Subsequently, India was powerfully influenced by the coming of Islam and Muslim invasions. Western colonial powers followed, bringing a new type of domination and a new colonialism and, at the same time, the impact of fresh ideas and the industrial civilization that was growing up in Europe. This period culminated after a long struggle, in independence and now we face the future with all this burden of the past upon us and the confused dreams and stirrings of the future that we seek to build.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 17.1**

1. Read the section to answer the question briefly:
 - a) What aspects of ancient India fill Nehru with pride and wonder? List four such aspects.
 - b) Did the situation in India change for the better or worse? Give three reasons to support your answer.
 - c) What saved India from complete deterioration? Give two reasons.
 - d) What negative effect have Western invasion had on our country? Did it have any positive effect too? If so, what?

17.2 SECTION II

Today, we are confused. Should we follow the lead given by the West and forget our past? Or, should we try to revive the past glory of India? Gandhi showed us the right path, says Nehru.

In the tumult and confusion of our time, we stand facing both ways, forward to the future and backwards to the past, being pulled in both directions. How can we resolve this conflict and evolve a structure for living which fulfils our material needs and at the same time, sustains our mind and spirit? What new ideals or old ideals, varied and adapted to the new world, can we place before our people, and how can we galvanize the people into wakefulness and action?

Change is essential but continuity is also necessary. The future has to be built on the foundations laid in the past and in the present. To deny the past and break with it completely is to uproot ourselves and sapless, dry up. It was the virtue of Gandhiji to keep his feet firmly planted in the rich traditions of our race and our soil and, at the same time, to function on the revolutionary plane. Above all, he laid stress on truth and peaceful means. Thus he built on old foundations, and at the same time, oriented the structure towards the future.

Living is a continual adjustment to changing conditions. The rapidity of technological change in the last half-century has made the necessity of social change greater than ever, and there is a continual maladjustment. The advance of science and technology makes it definitely possible to solve most of the economic problems of the world and, in particular, to provide the primary necessities of life to everyone all over the world. The methods adopted will have to depend upon the background and cultural development of a country or a community.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 17.2**

1. Say whether the following statements are True or False:
 - a) Nehru is making this speech in a period of stability many years after India won her independence.
 - b) There is confusion and worry in Nehru's mind about the best way forward.
 - c) Nehru is against change.
 - d) Nehru is a man of science and has faith in the powers of technology.
 - e) Nehru does not want a complete break with the rich traditions of the past.
2. Answer the following questions briefly
 - a) As the Prime Minister of the country, what are the major tasks that Nehru faces?
 - b) What makes Nehru's task difficult?
 - c) What model of change does Gandhiji provide? What are its advantages?
 - d) Is Nehru for continuity and/or change? Pick out words and phrases from the text in support of your answer.
 - e) What role does Nehru give to science and technology?

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17.3 SECTION III

Nehru is both pleased and disappointed with modern India. What pleases him and what are his fears? Let us find out.

India today presents a very mixed picture of hope and anguish of remarkable advances and at the same time of inertia; of a new spirit and also the dead hand of the past and of privileges; of an overall and growing unity and many disruptive tendencies. Withal there is a great vitality and ferment in people’s minds and activities.

It is a remarkable thing that a country and a people rooted in this remote past, who have shown so much resistance to change in the past, should now be marching forward rapidly and with resolute steps.

What will emerge from the labour and the tumults of the present generation? I cannot say what tomorrow’s India will be like, I can only express my hope and wishes. I want India to advance on the material plane – to fulfil her Five Year Plans to raise the standard of living of her vast population: I want the narrow conflicts of today in the name of religion or caste, language or province to cease, and a classless and casteless society to be built up where every individual has full opportunity to grow according to his worth and ability. In particular, I hope that the curse of caste will be ended for there is neither democracy nor socialism on the basis of caste.

-A speech by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



INTEXT QUESTIONS 17.3

- The table below presents the two opposing trends that co-exist in modern India. Re-read the section to fill in the blank spaces in the table:

Positive Trends	Negative trends
i) Hope	i) _____
ii) _____	ii) Inertia
iii) _____	iii) practise old rituals and narrow customs
iv) growing unity	iv) _____

- Answer the following questions briefly:
 - What does Nehru find most remarkable about people now?
 - What is Nehru’s vision of India in the future?
- Choose words from the list below to describe the mood of Nehru’s speech:
Light-hearted, thoughtful, sad, optimistic, angry, unconcerned, balanced



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4. What can you tell about the times in which Nehru made this speech?
5. What do we learn about Nehru from this speech?
6. Describe in about five sentences Nehru’s vision of future India.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

Opposite Words/Antonyms

In this speech by Nehru there are many pairs of opposite or nearly opposite words e.g. advance — inertia. Find the antonyms (the opposites) of the following from the speech.

Exercise 1

Improvement, fresh, weakness, timidity, forward, near, future, spiritual, cabined.

Exercise 2

In the following list, there are words and their antonyms in a jumbled order. Find the pairs and write them in a table format: persuade, work, brief, dissuade, inhuman, failure, play, human, agree, extended, disagree, success, social, bright, praise, dark, criticize, soften, antisocial, harden.

Exercise 3

Use words from above to fill in the blanks. Make necessary changes in the form of the words to make your sentences grammatically correct:

- i) Even hardened criminals can be _____ by praise; _____ only hardens them further.
- ii) The meeting began on a bright and happy note. Unfortunately, as the _____ increased, the mood became _____ and angry.
- iii) Don’t be sad because you have failed. _____ is the stepping stone to _____.
- iv) Sometimes humans behave in an _____ way. They forget all rules of social behaviour and use _____ ways.

GRAMMAR

1. Put the verb in the correct form — Present Continuous Tense or Simple Present Tense:
 - i) River Ganga _____ (flow) into the Bay of Bengal.
 - ii) Please turn the tap off. Water _____ (flow) down the drain.
 - iii) The train is never late. It always _____ (leave) on time.



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- iv) There has been an accident. The train _____ (run) late today.
 v) Can you drive? I _____ (learn). My father _____ (teach) me.

2. Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

Eg, I've bought a new house last week. **Wrong.** I bought....

- i) I've found my book. It was under the mat.
 ii) How many plays Tagore wrote?
 iii) When I got home last night, I found someone broke into the flat.
 iv) Where have you been last evening?
 v) Premchand has written many short stories.

LET'S WRITE

Making a Summary

You have learnt to make notes in earlier lessons. In this lesson, we'll discuss how you can develop notes into a summary for brief reports and presentations.

What is a summary?

Summary is the shortened form of a text. It requires selections of what is important and rejections of what is not. For making a summary it is essential to make notes. You can make notes on a paper or in your mind. Thus, note-making is the first stage of making a summary. But once the summary is made, notes are irrelevant. They could be put aside or discarded as rough work for summary. In a summary, the important points are presented in a logical order in the form of a paragraph or paragraphs. The facts are stated in a straight-forward, direct style – without any ornamentation or examples.

Let us now read the passage given below:

People in the present day civilization have become highly materialistic. Money is the only god they know. Consequently, all their efforts, and most of their waking hours, go into earning money and still more money. The life of a rich businessman, specially in the developed countries is extremely busy. Thousands have to be converted into lakhs and lakhs into crores. There is no end and no respite for him. Along with money come the demands of their social life. To keep abreast of the times, they have to throw and attend big parties, meeting powerful and influential people to serve their business ends.

One unfortunate result of their excessively busy and fast life is the total neglect of

their children. The rich can provide their children with all that money can buy: rich food; expensive clothes, cars and every other imaginable comfort and luxury. But they simply cannot give them what they need most—parental care and affection on a personal level for which there is no substitute in the whole world. These children who are brought up almost entirely by hired attendants develop a twisted personality. Their rich, busy and well-bred parents are one day shocked to find that their children have developed some of the traits of their own attendants which are, to say the least, considerably less than well-bred.

If you haven't understood the passage, read it again once or twice and then note down important points.

1. people highly materialistic in present day civilization.
2. all time and efforts go into earning money.
3. businessmen, esp. busy.
 - (i) no rest - respite
4. demands of social life
 - (i) giving and attending parties
 - (ii) meeting influential people.
5. Results
 - (i) neglect of their children
 - (ii) luxuries provided but parental love & care not given
 - (iii) children brought up by hired attendants
 - (iv) developing their traits (attendants)
 - (v) develop a twisted personality.

We can, now, develop these points into a summary.

Summary

People are highly materialistic in the present day civilization. They use all their time and effort in earning more and more money without any rest or respite. The life of businessmen, especially in developed countries is very busy. Along with money, come the demands of their social life. They have to participate in parties to keep contacts with influential and powerful people.

Being excessively busy, they neglect their children. They provide them with all possible luxuries and comforts but they cannot give them parental love and care. The children, brought up entirely by hired attendants, develop the less well-bred traits of their attendants. They develop a twisted personality.



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Exercise

Read the passage given below. Identify the main ideas and make a summary. Give it a suitable title also.

There are several distinct dimensions in which our youth must equip itself. The first is the physical. Building a great democracy and defending it from aggressors requires a young generation that is physically strong, with muscles of iron and nerves of steel and for this it must equip itself by undertaking physical training and developing physical fitness to the maximum extent possible.

The second dimension is the intellectual. We live in a highly competitive age of science and technology and can no longer afford the luxury of mediocrity if we are to forge ahead. Therefore every young man and woman studying in schools, colleges and universities must aim at academic ability of the highest order.

The third is the dimension of patriotism. I am concerned here not so much with the routine meaning of this term as with that deeper patriotism which transcends all pettiness and creates in our youth a deep urge for national unity and progress.

**LET'S TALK****Worksheet**

Listen to a conversation on tape giving directions. Then fill in the blanks given below.

- i) Mr. Singh asked a passerby for direction to the _____.
- ii) The passerby first asked Mr. Singh to go _____
- iii) Secondly, Mr. Singh was asked to take the _____
- iv) At the 'T' crossing Mr. Singh was asked to turn _____
- v) The rest house was on the _____ side of the road.

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS****Intext Questions 17.1**

1. (a) Aspects of ancient India that fill Nehru with pride are :- I) strong and energetic race; ii) eager to know; spirit of curiosity iii) mature and tolerant civilization; iv) forever searching for truth and spiritual knowledge.



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- b) In Medieval India the situation changed for the worse.
 - i) In the place of freshness and youth, old age and bad temper gained ground.
 - ii) Narrow caste divisions and customs became more important than broad minded vision, iii) India was invaded by Mughals and Islam.
- c) India was saved by her ability to adapt to the great changes and influences that came in and, India never forgot her past glories and traditions.
- d) Negative efforts of Western invasion was exploitation of people and resources by foreigners. The positive effect was the impact of fresh European ideas and knowledge. Europeans bought industrial revolution early in our country.

Intext Questions 17.2

1. a) False b) True c) False d) True e) True
2. a) Nehru’s main tasks are: a) to choose the best structure that will lead the country to prosperity and progress. (b) to stir people to take action and bring change.
 - b) Nehru’s task is made difficult by the disturbance and confusion of the times. There is also mental conflict caused by trying to retain both old values and spirit and material progress.
 - c) Gandhiji’s model uses both continuity and change. The advantages are that it uses truth and peaceful ways to bring about revolutionary changes. He uses methods that are Indian in origin.
 - d) Nehru wants both continuity and change. ‘To deny the past and break with it completely is to uproot ourselves and sapless, dry up’- This sentence shows the importance he gives to the past. His praise of Gandhiji’s revolutionary work shows the importance, Nehru gives to change.
 - e) Science and technology will be able to solve the problem of providing primary necessities of life to everyone all over the world.

Intext Questions 17.3

1. Positive trends: ii) remarkable advances, iii) adopt a new spirit
 Negative trends: i) anguish; iv) many disruptive tendencies
2. a) Nehru finds it remarkable that people who refused to change in the past are now marching forward with speed and determination.
 - b) Nehru’s vision is of a prosperous India – material progress for her vast population. He also hopes that conflicts that take place in the name of religion, caste or region should stop. He wants India to be vibrant, its democracy on a socialist pattern–He wants a classless and casteless society.
3. thoughtful, optimistic, balanced
4. They were times of confusion and conflict among Indians on the basis of caste, religion and region.



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5. Nehru has a deep knowledge of Indian history. He appears to be concerned and does not speak in a language of hatred or anger. He is a man of science and has deep faith in science and technology.
6. same answer as 5 above.

VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT**Exercise 1**

improvement – deterioration

fresh – stale

weakness – strength

timidity – rashness

spiritual – material

forward – backward

near – far

future – past

cabined – free

Exercise 2

persuade – dissuade

work – play

brief – extended

inhuman – human

criticize – praise

agree – disagree

success – failure

social – anti-social

bright – dark

soften – harden

Exercise 3

i) softened; criticism

ii) disagreement; dark

iii) failure; success

iv) inhuman, anti-social

GRAMMAR

1. i) flows ii) is flowing iii) leaves iv) is running v) am learning; is teaching
2. i) correct
ii) Wrong... did Tagore write?
iii) Wrong... had broken.
iv) Wrong. Were you...
v) Correct.