

Chapter-17
INDIA-HER PAST AND FUTURE

Worksheet

1) "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?"

Read the statement carefully and give your views on the above lines in about 50-80 words.

2) Read the extract carefully and answer the following questions:

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.

- What was Gandhiji's idea about change?
- What aspects of ancient India fill Nehru with pride and wonder?
- What negative effect have Western invasion had on our country?

3) "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." Do you agree? Give your opinion in about 50-80 words.

4) "They were times of confusion and conflict among Indians on the basis of caste, religion and region." What are Nehru's views about change?

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." What is Nehru's take on India's future?

6) What are the aspects of ancient India that fill Nehru with pride? Give your answer in about 50-80 words.

7) Read the extract carefully and answer the following question:

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. There is confusion and worry in Nehru's mind about the best way forward.

- As the Prime Minister of the country, what are the major tasks that Nehru faces?
- What according to you is the best way for India to move forward?

8) Read the extract carefully and answer the following question:

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.

- What does Nehru find most remarkable about people now?
- What is Nehru's vision of India in the future?
- What does Nehru mean by the Five-year plan?

9) Match the opposites from column A to B with the following antonyms

A	B
future	free
improvement	material
fresh	past
forward	far
weakness	rashness
near	strength
timidity	deterioration
spiritual	stale
cabined	backward

10) Imagine you are the prime minister of India. Write an essay about what will you do for the youth of the country? Write your answer in about 100-150 words.