

Chapter-17 ***India-Her Past and Future***

Summary

Nehru was proud of India's mature and tolerant culture, which used to be a powerful and energetic race. Petty caste and religious distinctions arose in mediaeval India. India could adapt to changing situations and new influences, but it never forgot its ideals and traditions. Europeans brought innovative ideas, information, and the Industrial Revolution to India, but they exploited Indian resources. Nehru wished to select the ideal structure for the country's prosperity and advancement. He wanted to figure out the best approach to go forward while preserving our rich cultural heritage.

Important points from the text:

- India has a brave and dynamic history, with a questioning spirit and a desire for freedom. It was known for having a civilisation that was mature and tolerant, as well as a strong and energetic race. People in mediaeval India were filled with curiosity and a desire to learn. Medieval India became a location for youth and freshness, but it also became a breeding ground for ill temper. According to Nehru, in medieval India, rigid caste distinctions and customs took priority over broad-minded vision.
- India was powerfully influenced by the coming of Islam, Muslim British invasions bringing a new type of domination. It changed for the worse and Europeans took advantage of Indians and their resources and we got influenced by fresh European ideals and knowledge.
- Nehru mentions that the future of our country should be built on the foundations laid in the past and in the present with truth and peaceful means.
- In the speech Nehru praises Gandhiji's revolutionary work towards freedom of the country. One should not be concerned with petty caste and religious differences, but rather adopt the finest framework for the country's prosperity and advancement.
- Science and technology contribute to economic and industrial growth and can meet the fundamental requirements of everyone on the planet. India now is a highly mixed image of hope and pain, with significant progress, rising togetherness, and several unsettling tendencies.
- The spirit of India should inspire people to act and bring about change. Nehru expects that India's material progress would increase living conditions for its huge population. He wants citizens to reduce religious or caste-related problems and to create a classless and casteless society in which every individual is given equal chance to thrive, based on his or her merit and skill.

Important words from the text:

- Virile: masculine/ somebody who has immense strength and energy
- Vigorous: strong and energetic
- Tolerant: understanding and open-minded
- Ceremonials: related to formal religious and public events.
- Rapidity: speediness/ swiftness
- Privileges: a special right, advantage or immunity

- Socialism: a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.
- Resolute: determined/ firm/ fixed

Evaluate yourself:

1. What aspects of ancient India fill Nehru with pride and wonder?
2. What are the harmful consequences of Western invasion on our country? Did it also have a good impact? If so, what is it?
3. There is confusion and worry in Nehru's mind about the best way forward. Explain this line in your own words.
4. Describe Nehru's vision of future India.

Do you know?

In 1947 Jawaharlal Nehru became the first prime minister of India and for more than 20 years he worked with Mahatma Gandhi to free India from British rule. The Indian people called him Pandit, which means "a wise man." Nehru was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, India. Nehru said that "Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. Only through right education can a better order of society be built up". He advocated children to have a fulfilled childhood and receive high education.

Extend your horizon.

What Is a Summary?

A summary is a condensed, or shortened, retelling of a longer work (this can be a movie, book, play, long poem, and so forth). Summaries are *meant* to be short and the purpose is to communicate the basic idea of the piece and relevant details. It gives a person who has not read the story or book a good idea of what the book or story is about.

How to Write a Summary

When you sit down to write to a summary, the first thing you have to do is read or watch the original. Make sure to pay attention the Six Ws:

The **who, what, when, where, why and how** have to be answered in your summary. A good summary has to also include the central idea and theme of the story.