Jawaharlal Nehru, born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, India, was not only the first Prime Minister of independent India but also a central figure in Indian politics before and after independence. He emerged as an eminent leader of the Indian independence movement under the tutelage of Mahatma Gandhi and served India as Prime Minister from its establishment as an independent nation in 1947 until his death in 1964. Nehru was a charismatic and radical leader, advocating for a secular and socialist society, and his policies during his tenure shaped the modern nation-state of India. Educated at home by private tutors and later studying in Britain at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, Nehru was also called to the bar from the Inner Temple. His education in England played a crucial role in shaping his political and economic thinking. Despite being steeped in Western liberal traditions, Nehru was deeply influenced by Marxism and socialist ideas, which would later influence his economic policies as Prime Minister, including the establishment of a mixed economy and the creation of numerous state-led industrial and development initiatives. Nehru's relationship with Mahatma Gandhi was pivotal to his life and political career. Gandhi's influence on Nehru was profound, and he became one of Gandhi's most trusted lieutenants, often referred to as his political heir. They shared a vision for an independent India, though their ideologies diverged in certain areas. Nehru's socialist leanings contrasted with Gandhi's more traditional and rural-focused ideas, but their mutual respect and common goal of independence helped forge a strong alliance. As Prime Minister, Nehru played a significant role in the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War, positioning India as a leader among newly independent nations that sought to stay independent from the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. He advocated for policies of non-alignment, refusing to be drawn into the global tensions, and promoted peace and cooperation. This stance not only established India's reputation as a sovereign nation with a unique foreign policy but also influenced other nations' approaches to Cold War diplomacy. Nehru was a prolific writer and orator, authoring books such as 'The Discovery of India' and 'Glimpses of World History', which reflect his profound knowledge of Indian history and culture, as well as his understanding of world affairs. His writings not only provide insight into his vision for India but also serve as important texts in the study of modern Indian history and political thought. His letters to his daughter, Indira Gandhi, who would also become a Prime Minister of India, were later compiled into the book 'Letters from a Father to His Daughter'. Under Nehru's leadership, India embarked on an ambitious program of economic development, focusing on heavy industry, technology, and education. He established institutions of higher learning, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which have since become world-renowned. Nehru's vision was to build a self-reliant nation through investment in science and technology, which he saw as essential for modernization and economic growth. Nehru's tenure was not without controversy and challenges. His policy of non-alignment faced criticism both domestically and internationally. Domestically, he faced opposition from conservative elements who were wary of his socialist policies. Internationally, he was criticized for being idealistic and naive, particularly after the Sino-Indian War of 1962, where India's lack of military preparedness was starkly evident. The war also damaged his health and political legacy, as he faced criticism for his handling of the conflict. Nehru's legacy includes the establishment of a secular democracy in India, with the adoption of a democratic constitution that guarantees equal rights to all citizens irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. He was instrumental in the establishment of a parliamentary system of government and the adoption of universal adult franchise. His emphasis on secularism was a defining feature of India's identity, aiming to maintain harmony in a country with diverse religious and cultural groups. Nehru's influence extended to the arts and culture, with his support for cultural institutions and his encouragement of artistic expression. He believed that the arts could serve as a means to unite the nation and reflect its rich diversity. The National School of Drama, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and the National Gallery of Modern Art were established under his leadership, fostering cultural growth and exchange both within India and internationally. Despite his passing on May 27, 1964, Nehru's impact on India and the world remains significant. His birthday is celebrated as Children's Day in India, reflecting his love and regard for children, whom he saw as the future of the nation. He is remembered as a visionary leader who laid the foundations for modern India, and his policies and philosophy continue to influence Indian politics and society. His approach to leadership, emphasis on democracy and development, and commitment to non-alignment have left an indelible mark on the history of the 20th century.