

Topic - The Discovery of India is a presentation of the past glory of India

- ⇒ Jawaharlal Nehru wrote the book 'The discovery of India', during his imprisonment at Ahmednagar fort for participating in the Quit India Movement (1942-1946).
- ⇒ The book was written during Nehru's four years of confinement to solitude in prison and is his way of paying an homage to his beloved country and its rich culture. The television series Bharat Ek Khoj which was released in 1988 was based on this book.
- ⇒ Jawaharlal Nehru has obliged the world literature by penning down 'The discovery of India' which proves to be the testimonial to his capacity as a writer of historical as well as autobiographical book.
- ⇒ Nehru's treatise 'The Discovery of India' was written over five months when he was imprisoned. He used this time of monotony and boredom of jail life to write down his thoughts and learning about India's past for he believed that the past which shapes the present, is an integral part of life.
- ⇒ The first chapter narrates the imprisoned life of Nehru in Ahmednagar fort, his complete detachment from the outside world and his concerns for the country.
- ⇒ The second chapter extensively covers his personal life i.e. the story of his relationship with his wife Kamla, her illness and death and his own philosophical

Speculations about death.

⇒ The third Chapter 'The Quest' is considered to be the real beginning of 'The discovery of India'. The Panorama of India's past, India's strength and weakness, the search for India.

⇒ The Coming of Aryans —: The Aryans migration are supposed to have taken place about a thousand years after the Indus Valley Civilization. Nehru mentions that the Aryans were the first to invade India who poured into the Country in successive waves from the north-west in about a thousand years.

⇒ They merged with the native tribes. Nehru says that out of this cultural synthesis and fusion of the Aryans with the Dravidians, the Indian races and here basic culture grew out. Later on other races like Iranians, Greeks, Turkish and Mongals etc also came to India and were absorbed.

⇒ 'The discovery of India' is Nehru's sincere effort to outline the historical events. He explained the term 'Hinduism' in detail which means "all things to all men" and its quintessence is to live and let live.

⇒ He also tells us about the earlier records, scripture, and mythology which display his own readings of Vedas, Atharvaveda, Upanishads, and Indian epics. The growth of new religions and religious sects such as Buddhism and Jainism as well as the changing social structure and the beginning of the Caste System is explained in detail.

⇒ The discovery of India also pens detailed picture of the dawn of the Medieval period and the golden era of the Gupta.

⇒ Here Nehru also gives a good sight of India's foreign relationship with people of China, Iran and Greece as well as Indian's foreign trade which was wide spread and the Merchants of India dominated many foreign markets.

⇒ The discovery of India is an account of the journey of Nehru to discover India for himself. It was in a real sense 'the discovery of Nehru's charge, a Comprehensive and Catholic self - the self that has weaved widely, thought deeply and lost itself through love in the lives of the oppressed millions of India. During the course of his journey, he discovered what India was and envisaged what she would be. Nehru discovers India in the followings words;

India is a geographical and economic entity, a cultural unity amidst diversity, a bundle of contradictions held together by strong but invisible threads...