

NEHRUVIAN SOCIALISM

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Nehru's Ideas on socialism:

- His ideas on socialism is very much influenced by the Fabian socialism, when he was a student in London.
- His socialism is different from that of the Owen and St Simon.
- He considered socialism as the only key to the solution of the world's and India's problems.
- He saw no way of ending poverty, unemployment and the degradation and subjection of the Indian people, except through socialism.
- Hence he was an ardent supporter of the socialist cause within the Congress party.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism:

1. Nehru believed in ethical socialism.
 - He regarded socialism as a philosophy of life and not just as a formula for economic reconstruction.
2. He was not a utopian socialist but for him socialism meant the liberation of the masses from the economic exploitations.
3. To him socialism meant the ending of private property except in a restricted sense.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism....

4. Socialistic pattern indicated social ownership or control of the means of production and the equitable distribution of wealth of the nation.
5. Nehru did not make any distinction between socialism and socialistic pattern of society. To him, socialistic pattern of society meant removal of disparities and living a good life.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism.....

6. To him, socialism meant the notion of individual dignity and democracy along with the ideology of social justice.
7. He accepted that socialism can be realized through national planning.
8. Nehru adhered to the principle of nationalization of big industries and increasing production with the use of science technology as a part of his socialistic strategy.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism....

9. Nehru's socialism was to be implemented through the practice of mixed economy wherein both public and private sector existed in the economy.
10. Nehru's socialism included political freedom without which there can be no social and economic freedom. Thus Nehru's ideas on socialism included human rights and moral values.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism.....

11. Nehru wanted to establish a welfare state in India based on the socialistic pattern of society which was to be founded on consent not by force.
12. Nehru considered socialism as a system in which would bring about the control of the means of production, distribution and exchange by the state. In other words, he considered socialism as a revolutionary change in the social structure.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism.....

13. Socialism is more than an economic doctrine to Nehru. He saw it as a means to end poverty, the vast unemployment, the sufferings of the people in India and abroad.
14. His socialism was a democratic socialism as he believed in peaceful changes and not through violence in achieving the socio-economic development of the country.

Highlights of Nehru's ideas on socialism....

- Thus, a love for the ideals of socialism and to build the India of his dreams on a socialistic basis formed the foundation of his socialist thought.
- Socialism appealed to him as a philosophy of life to end India's problems and also of the world.
- He was convinced that socialism is the only way through which rapid growth of Indian economy is possible.

Conclusion:

- Nehru's understanding of secularism is thus rooted in his emphasis on political and social equality and also of religious freedom and tolerance.
- Nehru was secular in his heart and mind.
- He made both secularism and democracy as a part of India's heritage.
- His understanding of socialism was not of a dogmatic kind.

Conclusion...

- He perceived socialism as a means to individual development and not as an end in itself.
- He considered it as a process of change for the overall development of mankind.
- Thus, Nehru's overall ideas on socialism and secularism have had great impact in the creation of the modern Indian state.