

Preface

As conspicuous strategists of the 20th century Indian history, who can doubt the contributions of Gandhi and Nehru in shaping Indian's destiny! Though during the first half of the 20th century there were equally able other prominent personalities whose contributions are no less significant in India's struggle for freedom, in front of Gandhi and Jawaharlal they do not look much impressive. In fact, these two leaders like a giant colossus simply overshadowed all other contemporary bigwigs. Therefore, a systematic comparative study of Gandhi and Jawaharlal acquires special importance.

True, much has been written on Gandhi and Jawaharlal, and it is not unlikely much more might be written. Yet in spite of all that might be spoken in future it has been decided by me to write this analytical account comparing these two personalities so that the works and deeds of these two historical beings could be reviewed afresh.

It has almost become a custom with the people to praise and highlight only the good points of the leaders after their death. What attributes were not in them, what they themselves had never claimed to be in them, are attributed to them. In fact, most of writers are no exception to this tendency. However, exceptions do exist.

The differences between Gandhi and Nehru are well known, even when Gandhi was alive Nehru tried to flout much that Gandhi had stood for or professed. Sometime it seemed there was no meeting ground between these two people, yet in the past, it seems no systematic analysis of their differences have been attempted by

anybody, though there appears in the writings of a few authors a smattering of references on the comparative aspect of Gandhi and Nehru. Covering only one or the other aspect makes the entire writing lop-sided, because such writings fail to project the actual picture. Every personality is always multi – faceted, hence care must be taken to deal with almost all the aspects as far as practicable in order to be able to project a clear picture. Hence this attempt! I have tried to study the relation between Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru absolutely in a new light. In fact, my attempt here is to find out the reasons that kept these two people together despite vast differences from ideological viewpoint.

The writings and spoken works of Gandhi and Nehru are so vast that their published works, I feel, are only a tip of the iceberg, because they kept on speaking and writing all through their lives. Moreover, there are limitless literatures on them written by indigenous and foreign writers from different angles and standpoints. To name one is as good as to belittle the others, therefore, I decided to refrain from making a review of one or the other works. In fact, it is difficult also in view of their massive character. Out of curiosity, once I tried to count the names of the books written on Gandhi and Nehru on different aspects in the National Library, Kolkata for days on end taking leave from time to time from my work place but finally, I felt exhausted and gave up. Indeed it was an extremely difficult exercise. It is not unlikely because of their greatness that no writer of little repute could contain his or her temptation to try out his or her hand on this or that aspect of these two people.

While browsing Internet to search for written materials on Gandhi and Nehru under www.Google.com search gear, I found mind-boggling number of entries. Under Gandhi there are about 15,20,000

and Nehru 12,10,000 entries, and clicking on each entry, such as, 'Nehru memorial Museum and Library,' New Delhi opens floodgates of information for the researchers.

In course of my research I came across countless unpublished papers, but to select the relevant materials suitable for my work was indeed a Herculean task. Hence, it took me almost five years to produce this work. Collection of materials from Internet and elsewhere from museums and libraries consumed most of my time, however arrangement of materials chapter- wise, to cut short my time, I carried out simultaneously.

I tried my level best to base my writing on primary source, secondary source materials were too brought into use but they were used sparingly when it has become absolutely essential to substantiate certain standpoints in course of my writing.

I quoted from the speeches and writings of Gandhi and Nehru only with a view to projecting what they actually have to say on the issues in question and also to save myself from any blame of misinterpretations. They were not only great people but leaders of world class as well as eminent intellectual and scholars of repute. Therefore, as a precaution whether I wrote in favour or disfavour on any particular issue related to them I tried to corroborate my arguments quoting their own words as far as practicable. Then finally I drew up my own conclusion whenever and wherever required.

In fact, a work of this kind requires years of research. My work too began more than a decade ago in the form of collection of materials whenever I found time, though my attempt started seriously on this line sometime five years back. In course of my search for materials I received help from many quarters. To begin with, I received substantial

help from library staffs of District Library Coochbehar. On my request, they never hesitated to place before me papers and books of my need from prima facie irretrievable heaps of books and papers. Though cataloguing of all the books and papers have been done much later, in those days when I was posted in Coochbehar cataloguing works were yet to be started. Therefore, to retrieve anything of interest was a hard nut to crack. I am highly grateful to these staff members of Coochbehar District Library.

At my next posting in the district of Dakhin Dinajpur I received immense help from the District Librarian Mr. Anup Kumar Mandal. Whenever I expressed my desire for some or the other books over phone, he was always ready to reach me those books to my office in no time. I feel highly obliged to him for his benevolent attitude in terms of arrangement of books of my requirement. Never will I forget his help! Similarly, I also put on record the help I received from Professor Kamalesh Das of the Department of History of Balurghat College on many counts.

Similarly, I received a lot of help from the librarian of St. Joseph's College as well as from the Principal Loreto College, Darjeeling. The lady herself took me to the librarian and issued instructions to provide me with books of my requirement whenever I go to her with such need. I am highly grateful to her for her generous gesture.

I also express my gratitude to Mr. Haren Ale erstwhile District Library Officer, District Library, Darjeeling for his help in making available the books of my necessity.

Last but not the least I acknowledge with respect the contribution of my guide Professor (Dr.) Ratna Sanyal (nee Roy) of the

Department of History University of North Bengal for providing me guidance as well as help with books and materials from her own collection whenever I got stuck up with the need of some materials to substantiate my writings. Also I received books of my requirement which could not be had from elsewhere obtained from the library of the University of North Bengal.

Finally, I would also like to put on record the moral support I received from my family members to complete my research work.



PURAN KUMAR CHHETRI