



1952: Jawaharlal Nehru's Congress party won the general election (India)

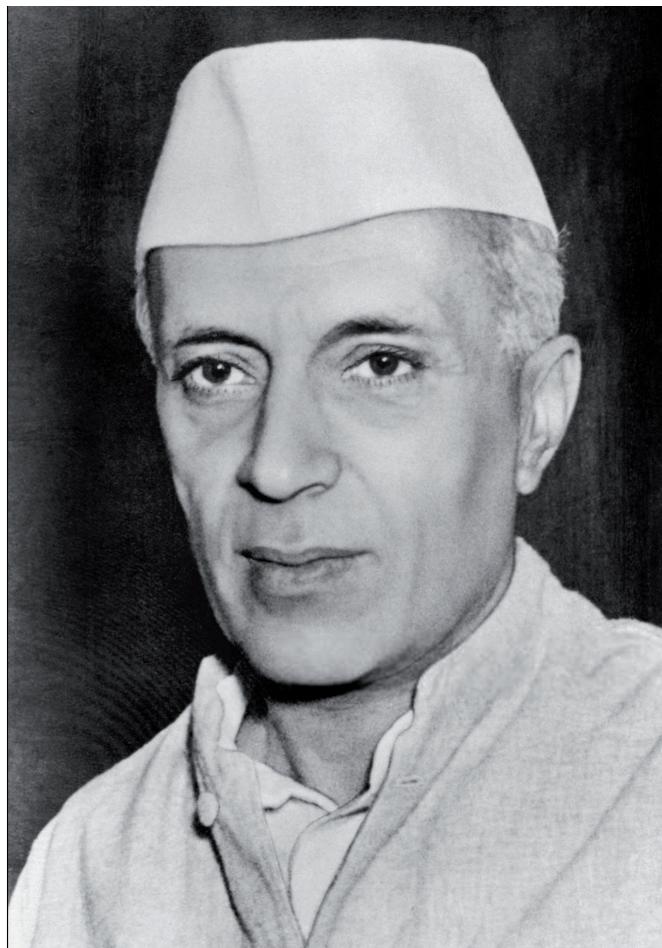
Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) was Prime Minister of India for 16 years, from 1947 to 1964, and he played an important role in India's independence. His birthday is celebrated each year on November 14 as "Children's Day".

Nehru was educated in England; he studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, trained in law, and became a qualified barrister. Back in India, he joined the Indian National Congress, became a leader of a progressive faction, and then of the Congress, and received the support of Mahatma Gandhi, who designated him as his heir.

In 1921, Nehru was jailed by the British authorities and in the 24 years leading to Indian independence, he went to jail eight more times. His longest detention lasted for three years, ending in June 1945. Indeed, he wrote his autobiography, *Toward Freedom*, in 1935 while in prison. Historians believe he survived four assassination attempts, including one in 1947 during the partition and one in 1955 by a rickshaw puller.

He was nominated eleven times for the Nobel Prize, mostly for Peace, but never won the title. When he died from a heart attack in 1964, more than 1.5 million people gathered in the streets to witness his cremation – it was depicted as one of the largest gatherings in India after Gandhi's funeral.



Teaching ideas

☆☆☆ **CYCLE 4** - Ask pupils to watch the short documentary [Jawaharlal Nehru for kids](#) on Pebbles Kids Learning. Have them write a very short article to explain what "Children's Day" is or a short text for the back cover of a new edition of Nehru's autobiography.