



# Development of India (from Independence to Nationalisation)

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**ABSTRACT:** India is the largest democracy in the world which started a revolutionary journey of development after gaining independence from the British colonial rule in 1947. After independence, the country has made remarkable progress in various fields because now the main goal of the country is to rise above the shackles of centuries of poverty. Along with this, the aim of the government was to end many evils like illiteracy, unemployment, evils. This research paper explores the major milestones and important achievements of the country that have led India to where it is today over the years.

**KEYWORDS:** development, nationalisation, economic planning, Five-Year Plans, industrialization, agriculture, education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, rural development,

## I. INTRODUCTION

Slavery is a painful word and when the slave is not a person but a whole country, then the pain increases a lot. Well, after almost two centuries of painful slavery, India got independence in 1947. Now the main problem for the government of independent India was how to make the benefits of its schemes accessible to the common people, because about two-thirds of the country's population lived in villages and there was no such infrastructure in the villages through which the benefits of government schemes could reach the people. The Britishers not only ruled India, but also exploited its resources to the fullest and kept transferring the profits they earned to their country, as a result of which the economic condition of India worsened. The partition of India and Pakistan also divided our economic resources into two parts, despite all this, the Indian government did not give up and tried to make the country not only short-term development but also long-term development. Therefore, the National Planning Commission was established on 15th March, 1950.<sup>1</sup>

## II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the early decades, the Planning Commission played an important role in policy making and their implementation in the country, the Planning Commission is one of the earliest institutions established by India's first Prime Minister Nehru, which is still working successfully today, just changing its name to NITI Ayog. Nehru ji was neither fully a supporter of capitalism nor fully socialism, that's why he adopted mixed economy because he believed that only mixed economy would be beneficial for the development of the country. The Planning Commission started the development of India with the Five Year Plans, under which attention was given to some special areas in a planned manner. Just as the grandeur of any building depends on the strength of its foundation, similarly the way India is progressing rapidly today, the contribution goes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who took over the reins of India after independence. How visionary he was can be gauged from the national level institutions built during his tenure.<sup>2</sup>

At the time of independence, the country's dependence on agriculture was maximum, so the first five-year plan in 1951 focused on agriculture and irrigation; it was based on the Harrod-Domar model. Despite being an agricultural country, the condition of agriculture in India was extremely pathetic and worrying. After Nehru, Shastri ji paid special attention to this area and tried to make the country self-sufficient. The Green Revolution, which began in the 1960s, ushered in changes in the agricultural sector and now led to substantial increases in agricultural productivity due to the use of high-yielding seeds, improved irrigation techniques, and access to credit. This revolution not only boosted food production but also reduced poverty and laid the foundation for India's self-sufficiency in food grains. These efforts had become extremely necessary to deal with the food crisis arising out of the war with the neighbouring country. The result of all these efforts is that today India produces more food grains than it consumes.



MS Swaminathan, Norman Borlaug introduced high yielding varieties of wheat which came to be known as Green Revolution. Swaminathan supports environmentally sustainable agriculture, sustainable food security and conservation of biodiversity. He calls it the "evergreen revolution". After the success of the Green Revolution, Shastri tried to increase milk production under the leadership of Verghese Kurien. Self-sufficiency in the dairy sector was achieved entirely through the cooperative movement, which has spread to crores of dairy farmers across the country. Decades later, Amul, a brand started by cooperative farmers in Anand, continues to be a market leader.

The Second Five Year Plan (1956–61) was based on the Mahalanobis model which advocated rapid industrialization with a focus on heavy industries and capital goods. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was the chief advisor to the commission from 1955, founded the Indian Statistical Institute, and is considered the father of modern statistics in India. The Mahalanobis plan was in a way a call to the spirit of Swadeshi or self-reliance. Through industrialization and infrastructure development, India has achieved significant progress, especially in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and services.

Similarly, keeping in mind the various sectors of the economy, upcoming plans were prepared. We needed engineers for the development of infrastructure and good managers to run the institutes and for this we did not have to depend on foreigners, so institutes like IITs were formed in 1950 and IIMs in 1961. In 1961, the National Institute of Design was also established to fulfil some of these objectives. Bhilai Steel Plant was established in 1955, In 1963 Bhakra-Nangal Dam was constructed and ONGC work was started in 1956. The Atomic Energy Commission of India was formed for nuclear power. There were many such projects like Bokaro, Raulkela, Bhakra Nangal Dam which have played an important role in the development of the country and are still playing it today. The importance of all these can be gauged from the fact that Nehru called such big projects as "temples of modern India".

After independence, the biggest problem for the government was how to make the benefits of government schemes accessible to the common people, for this a strong system was needed. SBI was established in 1955 and LIC in 1956 to strengthen the banking and financial sector. Keeping proper distribution of financial services in mind, Mrs. Indira Gandhi nationalised 14 big banks of the country in 1969. After nationalisation, the branches of banks started expanding in rural areas and with this effort, now even people from remote areas could take advantage of banking facilities. Due to this, loans to agriculture and other primary sectors increased and savings of people increased.<sup>3</sup>

### **III.SOCIAL, RURAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

In the early years of independence, the government took necessary steps for the development of services like education and health. Primary education was given a priority and efforts were made to eliminate gender disparities. To promote higher education along with school education, several prestigious institutions were established, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). How successful this decision was, you can judge from the fact that the managers and engineers coming out of these institutes are offering their services not only in the country but also in foreign countries on very handsome annual packages. To expand medical facilities, India established primary health centres, community health centres and district hospitals to provide accessible health services to all areas. The development of medical education institutions such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) contributed to the training of health professionals and advanced medical research. These institutes have played a vital role in bridging the shortage of doctors and specialists. Land reform, rural electrification, employment generation schemes and poverty alleviation programs were run for the development of the deprived sections of the society as well as rural areas where development had not been done for centuries.

### **IV.CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

The development journey of India has been studied in the presented article, but still there are challenges and obstacles in the path of that development journey, due to which we could not achieve that expected development even today. Regional disparities, corruption, population growth, have alerted us so that we can learn from these experiences, which can lead to inclusive growth, sustainable development and continuous improvement.<sup>4</sup>



#### **V.CONCLUSION**

Some major findings from this research article are found in the form of a summary. From the independence of India to nationalisation, many such steps have been taken by the immediate governments which have proved to be important milestones in the development of India. As a result of all these policies, today India is proving itself as a global economic power. Many challenges have also been faced in this development journey and by overcoming those challenges, India can take further steps to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.<sup>5</sup>

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