



A COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

THE UNVEILING OF THE  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU BUST AND MARKER  
ON 20 NOVEMBER 2011

*Jawaharlal Nehru*



## ABOUT THE NEHRU MARKER

The first Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, was a leader who earned the love of his countrymen and championed peace and solidarity in an era divided by ideology and the Cold War. Having visited Singapore three times, Pandit Nehru had expressed his appreciation for Singapore as “a great cosmopolitan city where the various peoples of Asia are all represented”.

The marker commemorating Pandit Nehru will be erected along the Singapore River, just outside the Asian Civilisations Museum. Part of the marker is a bronze bust of Pandit Nehru, sculpted by Indian sculptor and painter, Professor Biman Bihari Das. This marker is a reminder of the growing relationship between Singapore and India, and it represents the belief in the strengthening of this friendship in the years to come.

“LONG YEARS AGO  
WE MADE A TRYST  
WITH DESTINY, AND  
NOW THE TIME COMES  
WHEN WE SHALL  
REDEEM  
OUR PLEDGE ... ”

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU  
(1889-1964)



MESSAGE  
BY HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA,  
TO SINGAPORE

The High Commission deeply appreciates the decision of the National Heritage Board to install a Marker in honour of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and we feel privileged to be associated with this initiative.

The noted sculptor Professor Biman Bihari Das was commissioned by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations to execute the bust to accompany the marker. To commemorate this occasion the NHB and the High Commission brought out a pictorial booklet commemorating Jawaharlal Nehru's three visits to Singapore. In India, the Photo Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, have assisted us in providing the photographs of his visits.

We are honoured that the bust and the Marker is being unveiled in the presence of our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Mr. Goh Chok Tong.

T.C.A. RAGHAVAN  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA

MESSAGE  
BY CHAIRMAN,  
NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

The National Heritage Board's "Friends to Our Shores" series of markers was first launched in 2004 and commemorates eminent personalities from abroad who had a connection to Singapore. The first marker was dedicated to the Polish-English writer Joseph Conrad (2004). Since then, we have commemorated the Father of modern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh (2008), Filipino revolutionary leader Jose Rizal (2008) and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping (2010). The Nehru marker will be the fifth in this series. These markers also highlight Singapore's unique and significant role in regional as well as world history.

In the history of modern India, few leaders have had the profound influence on the Indian people as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Pandit Nehru visited Singapore thrice officially. Each visit was one of significance and had contributed to the growing friendship between our two countries. As such, it gives NHB great pleasure to name Pandit Nehru as "a friend to our shores" with this commemorative statue and marker. We are deeply honoured that the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, together with Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, will be unveiling the Marker.

The Board would also like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the High Commission of India, Singapore, for their involvement in this project, especially for their contributions of the photographs in this booklet. The High Commission has always been a great supporter of NHB's efforts, from facilitating loans from India to our museums, to providing valuable contact information to aid our research and publications.

We hope that with this Marker, the long-standing friendship between our two nations and our heritage institutions will continue to grow from strength to strength.

MR ONG YEW HUAT  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

# JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

(1889-1964)

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*“We have to labour and to work, and work hard, to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart.”*

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The first Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a leader who was loved and respected by all Indians and admired by the world for his ideals and statesmanship.

Nehru was born on 14 November 1889 in Allahabad, India, to Swarup Rani and Motilal Nehru, a lawyer active in India's national movement. At fifteen, Nehru went to England to study at Harrow School and later, at Trinity College, Cambridge. He returned home in 1912 to begin a career in law. In 1916, he married Kamala Kaul. Their daughter and only child, Indira Priyadarshini (1917-1984), later served as India's Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977 and 1980 to 1984.

Nehru abandoned his legal practice to join the Indian National Congress (founded in 1885) in its campaign for the end of British rule. Outraged by the Amritsar Massacre of 1919 and inspired by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948), the Father of the Nation, Nehru immersed himself in the

nationalist cause. He campaigned tirelessly to mobilise the people of India against British rule. He was imprisoned by the British on many occasions for his non-violent activities in the cause of India's independence.

## PRIME MINISTER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY

After the Second World War, Nehru renewed the call for an India free from British rule. As President of the Indian National Congress, he led an interim government through tumultuous negotiations for full independence. He and Gandhi tried to prevent the partition of India, but failed. On 15 August 1947, India became independent. On the eve of that historic occasion, Nehru declared:

“At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance.”

As Prime Minister, Nehru drove the transformation of a largely agrarian economy into a modern industrial power. Paving the way for India's long-term strength in science and technology, his government established many institutes of higher learning. Children were a source of personal joy to ‘Chacha’ or Uncle Nehru, who worked hard to improve the health, welfare and future

of his country's youth. To this day, Nehru's birthday is celebrated as Children's Day in India. Wishing to avoid entanglement in the Cold War, Nehru was a founder of the Non-Aligned Movement. He believed in Asian solidarity and convened the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi, in 1947. He was a strong and eloquent champion of the right of peoples to self determination. He supported Asian-African solidarity and played a leadership role at the Bandung Conference.

Nehru died in office on 27 May 1964. His death was mourned by India and the world. His legacy to India is a secular democracy. His legacy is his dream of building a more just and equal world.

#### “WHERE ASIAN UNITY IS FORGED”

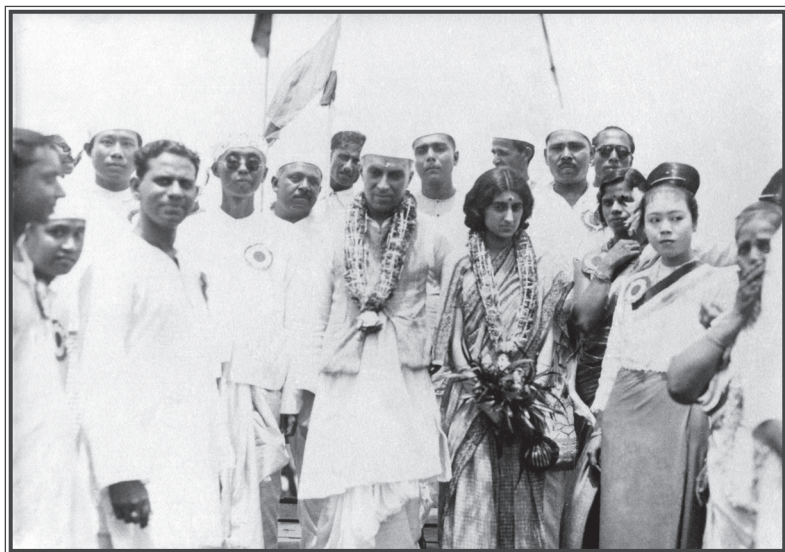
Nehru was a good friend of Singapore. A keen traveller, he first visited Singapore on 26 and 27 May 1937 as part of a pan-Malayan tour. During this trip, he spoke to a gathering at Farrer Park and to the Indian Chamber of Commerce, urging the local Indian community to be united and pay more attention to education.

Nehru's second visit to Singapore on 18 March 1946 at the start of an eight day tour of Malaya, came amid preparations for India's independence. Invited by Lord Louis Mountbatten, then Supreme Allied Commander of South East Asia and later the last British Viceroy of India, Nehru succeeded in persuading Mountbatten to repatriate the

members of the Indian National Army under British internment back to India. Nehru briefly visited the former Indian National Army memorial at the Esplanade (where a plaque now stands) and in a press interview, stated:

“Singapore has attracted me for long as a great cosmo-politan city where the various peoples of Asia are all represented... Singapore will become the place where Asian unity is forged. In the future, the peoples of Asia must hold together for their own good as well as the good and freedom of the world.”

Nehru's final visit to Singapore was a State visit from 17 to 19 June 1950, during which he laid the foundation stones for the Singapore Indian Association's head-quarters at Balestier Road, as well as the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hall at Race Course Lane. He also opened a new dormitory at the Ramakrishna Mission at Bartley Road. Nehru then spoke at the Jalan Besar Stadium, calling for peace and conciliation in a region where decolonisation was in progress. It was here, that thousands led by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, gathered on 30 May 1964 for a condolence service to honour the memory of “a staunch friend” who led India to freedom and won the hearts of millions to his vision of harmony and justice in a post-colonial world.



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND HIS DAUGHTER,  
INDIRA, DURING HIS FIRST VISIT TO  
SINGAPORE, IN 1937

BY COURTESY OF NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
AND LIBRARY (NMML), NEW DELHI





JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ARRIVES IN SINGAPORE,  
18 MARCH 1946. PANDIT NEHRU STOPPED OVER  
IN SINGAPORE, AT THE INVITATION OF LORD  
LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, THEN SUPREME ALLIED  
COMMANDER OF SOUTH EAST ASIA AND LATER  
THE LAST BRITISH VICEROY OF INDIA.

BY COURTESY OF NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
AND LIBRARY (NMML), NEW DELHI



PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S THIRD VISIT  
TO SINGAPORE WAS IN JUNE 1950 ON HIS  
RETURN JOURNEY FROM INDONESIA. HE IS  
SEEN HERE LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE  
OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION, SINGAPORE  
ON 17 JUNE, 1950

BY COURTESY OF PHOTO DIVISION, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



DURING THIS THIRD VISIT, PANDIT NEHRU  
INAUGURATED A NEW DORMITORY AT THE  
RAMAKRISHNA MISSION. HE IS SEEN HERE  
WITH SMT. INDIRA GANDHI LOOKING AT  
THE EXHIBITS WHICH WERE ARRANGED  
INSIDE THE DORMITORY.

BY COURTESY OF PHOTO DIVISION, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



PANDIT NEHRU ON HIS THIRD VISIT TO  
SINGAPORE ADDRESSING A PUBLIC MEETING AT  
THE JALAN BESAR STADIUM ON 17 JUNE, 1950  
IN HIS SPEECH, PANDIT NEHRU CALLED FOR  
PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE REGION.

BY COURTESY OF PHOTO DIVISION, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
AND BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW SPEAKING  
AT THE CONDOLENCE SERVICE OF THE LATE  
INDIAN PRIME MINISTER, JAWAHARLAL  
NEHRU IN JALAN BESAR STADIUM,  
30 MAY 1964

MICA COLLECTION, COURTESY OF  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE

FRONT COVER:

Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at the Kallang Airport. Pandit Nehru made a stopover in Singapore enroute to Jakarta for the Conference of Colombo Pact Nations, 27 December 1954

MICA COLLECTION, COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE

BACK COVER:

Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter, Indira, (later to become Prime Minister of India) in Singapore, in 1937. The visit was part of a Pan-Malayan tour.

BY COURTESY OF NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY (NMML), NEW DELHI

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