Modern History · GS - I

Discuss how the study of Nehru’s ‘Tryst with Destiny’ speech helps in understanding the intellectual foundations of India’s post-independence nation-building. (150 words)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 06/10/2026	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

- **Constitutionalism; democracy; secularism; social justice; planned development; sovereignty; scientific temper; national integration; historical context.**
- **Connect the speech's ideals with institutions and policies after 1947; also mention implementation challenges.**

Model Answer

Jawaharlal Nehru’s ‘Tryst with Destiny’ speech is significant not merely as an Independence-era address but as a statement of the normative direction of the new Indian state. It linked political freedom with the eradication of poverty, ignorance and inequality, thereby giving independence a substantive social purpose.

Its emphasis on service to India’s people resonates with constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The speech also reflected commitments to democratic institutions, national unity, secular citizenship and peaceful international engagement. These ideas informed post-independence nation-building through parliamentary democracy, institution-building, planned economic development, expansion of education and scientific research, and efforts at social reform.

At the same time, the subsequent period revealed gaps between ideals and outcomes, including persistent poverty, social inequality, regional disparities and challenges to institutional accountability. Therefore, the speech

should be read as both a historical document and a continuing benchmark for evaluating governance.

Its enduring relevance lies in reminding the state that political independence acquires meaning only when translated into dignity, opportunity and justice for citizens.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP