

# The 1950s: Journeys into Postcolonial South Asia

Friday, May 13th 2022 - 2:15 pm (CEST) Online (Zoom)

Registration <https://bit.ly/37L4zuQ>

## Nehru's India? Rethinking the First Prime Minister and the Administrative Machine in Independent India, 1947-1964

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Jawaharlal Nehru is often regarded, for better and for worse, as the 'architect of independent India'. This paper challenges this assertion, providing a new interpretation of Nehru's role as Prime Minister between 1947 and 1964, and exploring how he came to be known as the architect of Independent India after his death.

The paper then critically explores the idea that Nehru and other elites 'took the reins' of the administrative machine they had inherited from the Raj and ran the Indian state without alteration.

Based on new research, this paper argues that we need to begin to rethink some of the myths that have long guided our scholarship on independent India.



*'A commemorative stamp issued on 14 November 1964, 6 months after Nehru's death'*