

MRS. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT

Mrs. Pandit was born on August 18, 1900 and is the sister of India's Prime Minister Nehru. She was educated by private tutors.

Mrs. Pandit was elected to the Municipal Board of Allahabad in 1935 and served as Chairman of the Education Committee for two years. In 1937 she was elected to the United Provinces Legislative Assembly and appointed Minister in the Cabinet with the portfolios of Local Government and Health. She was the first woman Provincial Minister and served in this capacity for two terms.

In 1945 she led the Indian Delegation to the Pacific Relations Conferences and later presented India's case unofficially at the San Francisco Conference. She has been chairman of the Indian Delegation to various sessions of the United Nations General Assembly since 1946, and is leader of the Indian Delegation at the present session. She was the first woman to head a delegation to the United Nations. In August, 1947 she was appointed Indian Ambassador to Moscow, and in May, 1949 she was named Ambassador to the United States. In 1951 Mrs. Pandit returned to India and was elected to the Parliament (House of the People), in the first general election.

Mrs. Pandit has been closely associated with the All India Women's Conference, and was elected President in 1941. During the Bengal famine she founded the All India Save the Children Association, and was its President until her appointment to the U.S.S.R.

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