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The industrialist in Jamsetji was a pioneer and a visionary, possessed of a spirit of entrepreneurial adventure and acumen never seen before or since in a native of colonial India.

The nationalist in him believed unwaveringly that the fruits of his business success would enrich a country he cared deeply about.

These attributes, by themselves, would have been enough to mark him as an extraordinary figure.

But what made Jamsetji truly unique, the quality that places him in the pantheon of modern India's greatest sons, was his humaneness.

It is this characteristic from which stemmed Jamsetji's generosity of heart and his compassion for a citizenry labouring under the twin realities of oppressive foreign occupation and overwhelming poverty. The distinctive structure the Tata group came to adopt after Jamsetji's passing, with a huge part of its assets being held by trusts devoted to ploughing money into social-development initiatives, can be traced directly to the empathy embedded in the Founder's philosophy of business.