Ministry of Culture
Government of India



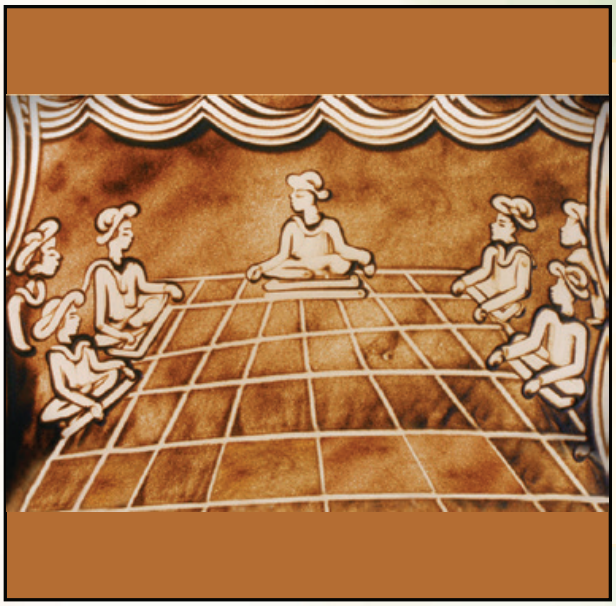
#LongLiveDemocracy

In Bharat, roots of democracy go back to ancient times



VEDA

The Rigveda and the Atharvaveda refer to participatory institutions like the Sabha, Samiti, and Sansad indicating early public participation and egalitarian governance.
"एकं सद् विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति" (Rigveda 1/164/46)
(The Supreme Reality is One, the sages call Him by various names.)



JANAPADA

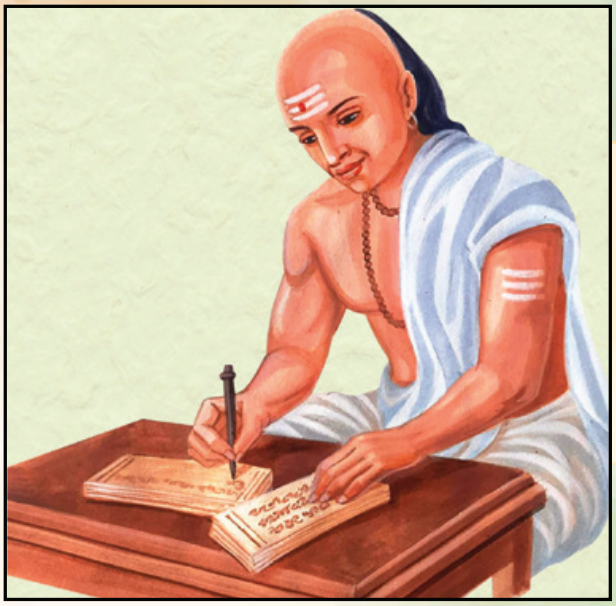
The Janapada of the 7th and 8th centuries BCE mention both Kingship and Republic as forms of governance. Republics led by elected Ganapramukhas. Here the Santhagara decided matters with public participation.
The Licchavis who ruled over the region of present-day Bihar and Nepal were known for their unique form of governance, was based on democratic principles.



BUDDHA SANGHA AND JAIN TEXTS

Historical details of Buddha Sangha and Jain texts show people's role in decision-making, showing strong Lokatantric ethos. The Vinaya-Pitaka describes voting methods, Santhagara's structure, and election of the Mahasammata.

People centric approach & public participation lay at the heart of democratic traditions



ARTHASHASTRA

Vedas emphasized public welfare, rule of law, and multi-layered decision-making in governance. Kautilya's Arthashastra expanded on these people-centric and just principles.



ASHOKAN INSCRIPTIONS

Samrat Ashoka embraced responsible, people-oriented governance around 265–238 BCE. He spread these ideas through inscriptions across Bharat.

Ethos of Loktantra in Shrenisangha

ELECTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

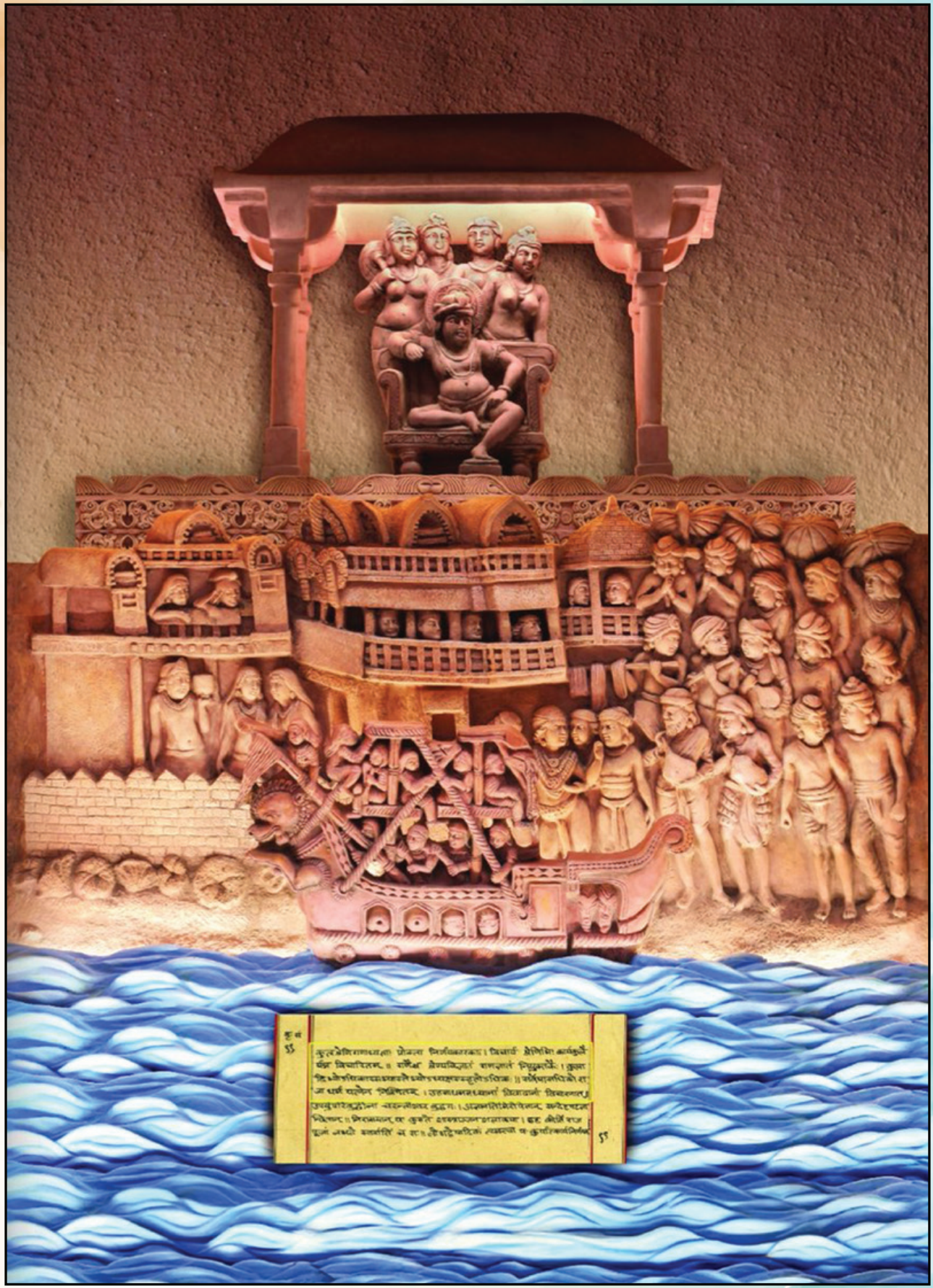
Democratic administration in India involved electing and holding accountable administrative officials, including guilds and town leaders.

MULTI LAYERED SYSTEM

Across India, this principle often manifested itself as a multi-layered system comprising merchant-guilds (Shreni Sangha), town administration (Nigam), and elected administrative officers like Jethaka (Chief) and Sreshthi (Head of an association) governing towns and villages.

TEMPLE INSCRIPTION IN GWALIOR

The Vaillabhattasvamin Temple Inscription describes how Sri-Gopagiri, Gwalior of today, was ruled by the Kottapala (chief of the Fort), Sri Bhojadeva Alla, and the commander of the fort, Tattaka. The city was administered by Vavviyaka, the merchant, and Ichchhuvaka, the trader with the support of the members of the Board.



Inscriptions from Uthiramerur provide guidelines of representation

TEMPLE IN UTHIRAMERUR

The Vaikunta Perumal Temple in Uthiramerur, a village in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu.

INSCRIPTION INDICATING PREVALENT PRACTICES

The temple is known for the inscriptions indicating the democratic practices of electing representatives for the village bodies during the regime of Parantaka Chola (907-55 CE). It enumerates the selection process for members, their qualifications, duties, responsibilities, and even the situations in which they could be dismissed from their positions.



Consultative practices and community involvement informed governance across time and place



Consultation and Freedom

Bharatiya rulers consulted people on taxation, property rights, and local-community issues.



Loktantra in Ishanya Bharat

North-East Bharat has rich traditions of local self-governance through community councils. Examples include Tiwas (Assam), Dzumsa (Sikkim), Kebang (Arunachal), Housa (Manipur).



Anubhava Mantapa

Often referred to as the first Parliament of the world this democratic platform for debates, discussions, and expression of ideas was founded by 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara. (Karnataka)

Democracy at the grassroots across rural and urban localities



Public participation: the cornerstone of democracy

Local self-governance systems, governing bodies like the Gram Sabha (village assembly), Gram Panchayat (village council), Nagar Nigam (town council), and Parishad (council) have played key roles in enabling local communities to manage their affairs.

Various systems of local governance are continuing

Notable examples are Malana village in Northern India, the Santhaal and Gond communities in Central India, and the Kollam community in Southern India. Local self-governance systems are storehouses of democratic values in India.

Indians pressurized the British to incorporate participatory demands in ‘Reforms and Acts’

Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley Minto Reforms)

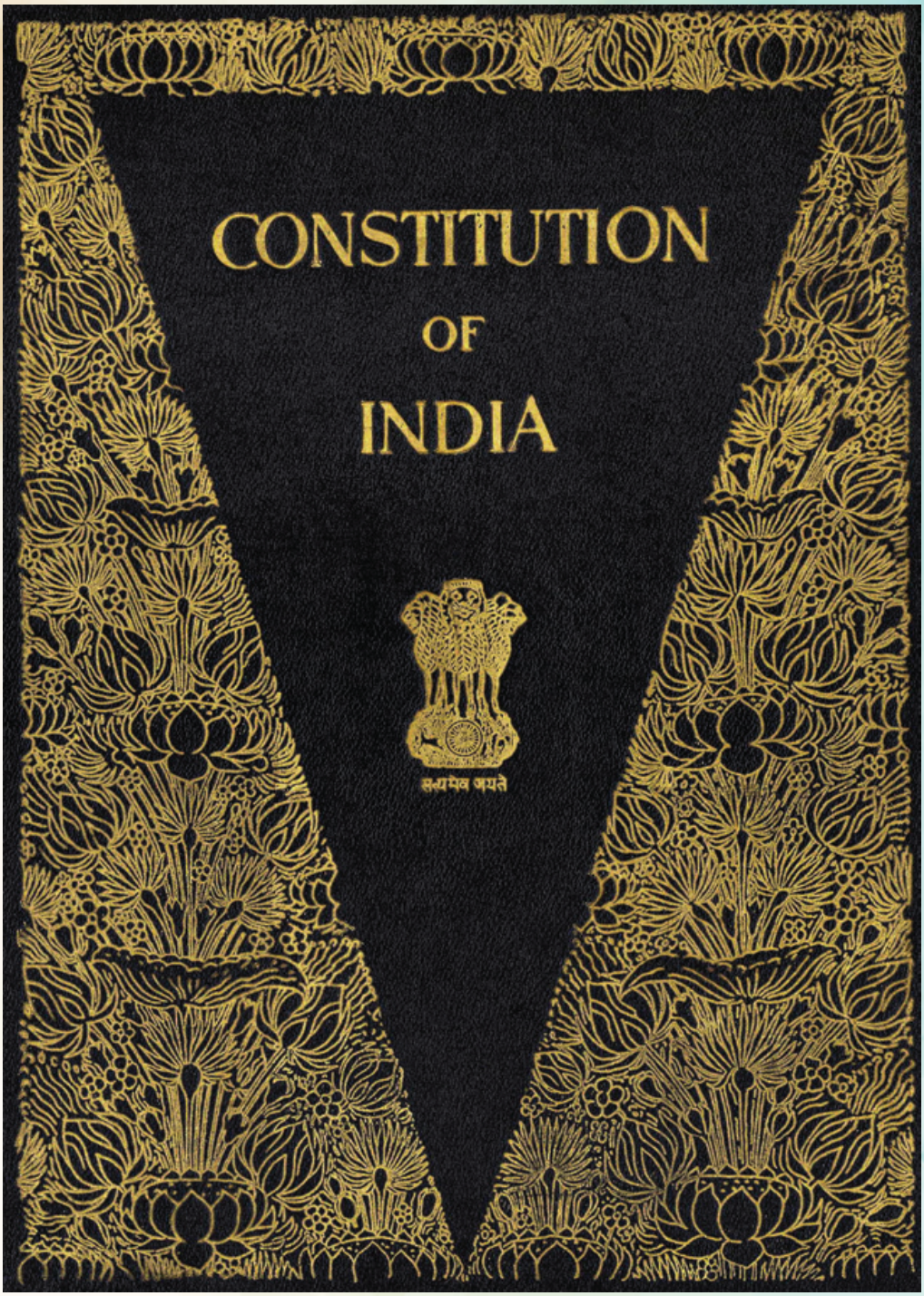
The Morley-Minto Reforms, were implemented by the British Government to address growing Indian demands for greater participation in governance and curb political unrest.

Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms)

Indian leaders like Tilak, Annie Besant and other advocated for greater autonomy and responsible government. While these reforms fell short of granting self rule it expanded Indian participation in legislatures, and some voting rights were granted to Indians. It also introduced dyarchy at the provincial level, allowing elected Indian ministers to handle subjects like education and health.

Government of India Act, 1935

Provided for provincial autonomy, with elected Indian governments in provinces exercising real power. The Act proposed an All-India Federation and expanded the electorate significantly, allowing about 10% of the population to vote.



Indian Constitution (1949)

Indian Constitution drew several structural and administrative features from the Government of India Act, 1935. It allowed both central authority and state autonomy, while enabling amendments.

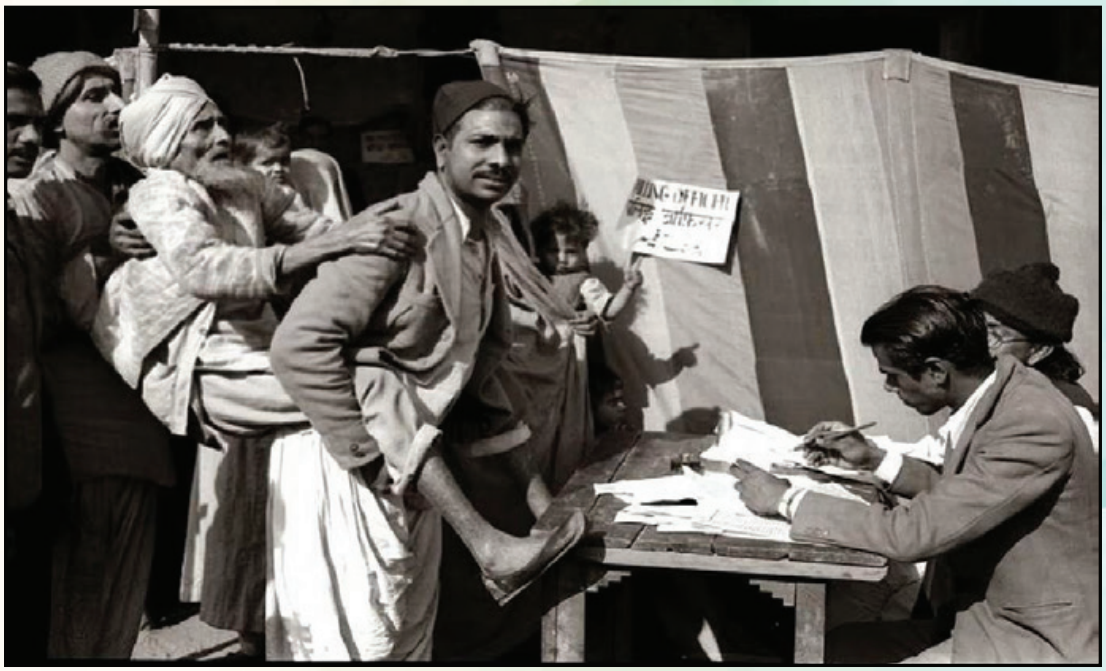
Independent India and Parliamentary System (1)

Separation of Power

Parliamentary system ensured separation of powers among the executive, legislature, and judiciary.

Independent India's first general election

Held between 25th October 1951 and 21 February 1952, with 1/6 of the world's population as potential voters, making it the largest election conducted at that time.



By 1975, India had conducted five general elections

India was the first post-colonial nation to sustain regular democratic elections.

Independent India and Parliamentary System (2)

Emergence of regional and opposition parties

From a single party-dominated landscape in the 1950s, India saw the emergence of strong regional and opposition parties.

Resilient democracy

Despite internal crises (like wars and famines), India maintained electoral credibility, with changes in state governments through ballots.

Increase in number of voters

India witnessed an increase in registered voters from 173 million in 1951-52 to 274 million in 1971.



Prelude to the Emergency (1)

1973-74: Rampant economic crisis

Rising inflation, unemployment, food shortages, and widespread strikes by railway workers, students, and farmers.

March–April 1974: Student protests

Demonstrations erupted in Gujarat under the banner of Nav Nirman Andolan against rampant government corruption and inflation, leading to the fall of the government and resignation of the then Chief Minister.



Prelude to the Emergency (2)



May 1974: Protests Intensified

1.7 million railway workers went on nationwide strike, affecting transport and economy. This was the first instance of rail-roko in independent India. The government crushed the strike.



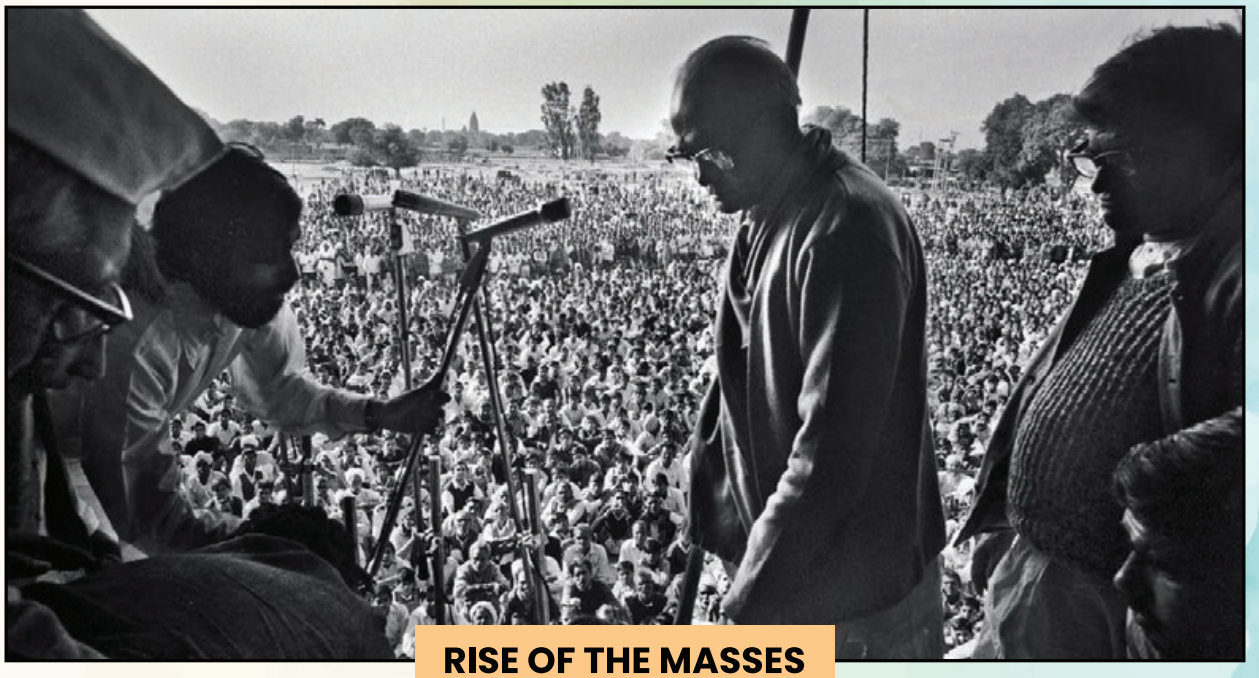
Prelude to the Emergency (3)

June 1974: Call for non-violent civil disobedience

Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan led the student's movement in the state of Bihar which gradually developed into a popular people's movement known as the Bihar movement.

Total Revolution (Purna Kranti)

In June 1974 he held a huge rally in Gandhi Maidan, Patna. It was during this movement that JP gave a call for peaceful Total Revolution.



RISE OF THE MASSES

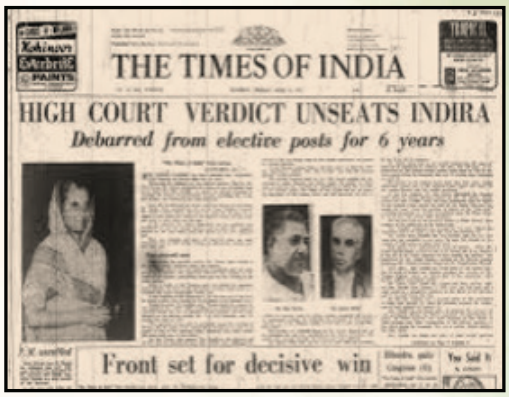
Prelude to the Emergency (4)

12 June 1975

On 12 June 1975, the Allahabad High Court found the incumbent winner Smt. Indira Gandhi from Rae Bareilly constituency seat guilty of electoral malpractice, declaring her election to the Lok Sabha in 1971 void.

A historical verdict

Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha in his verdict also barred the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi from elective posts for the next 6 years. This verdict was appealed in Supreme Court.


THE TIMES OF INDIA

HIGH COURT VERDICT UNSEATS INDIRA

Debarred from elective posts for 6 years

Front set for decisive win



Change of guard in Gujarat

On the same day, Gujarat Legislative Assembly election results came out. Janata Morcha coalition won 86 seats and formed the government.

Prelude to the Emergency (5)

Intensifying opposition

Protests by opposition parties and civil society escalated across the country and also found expression in Delhi.

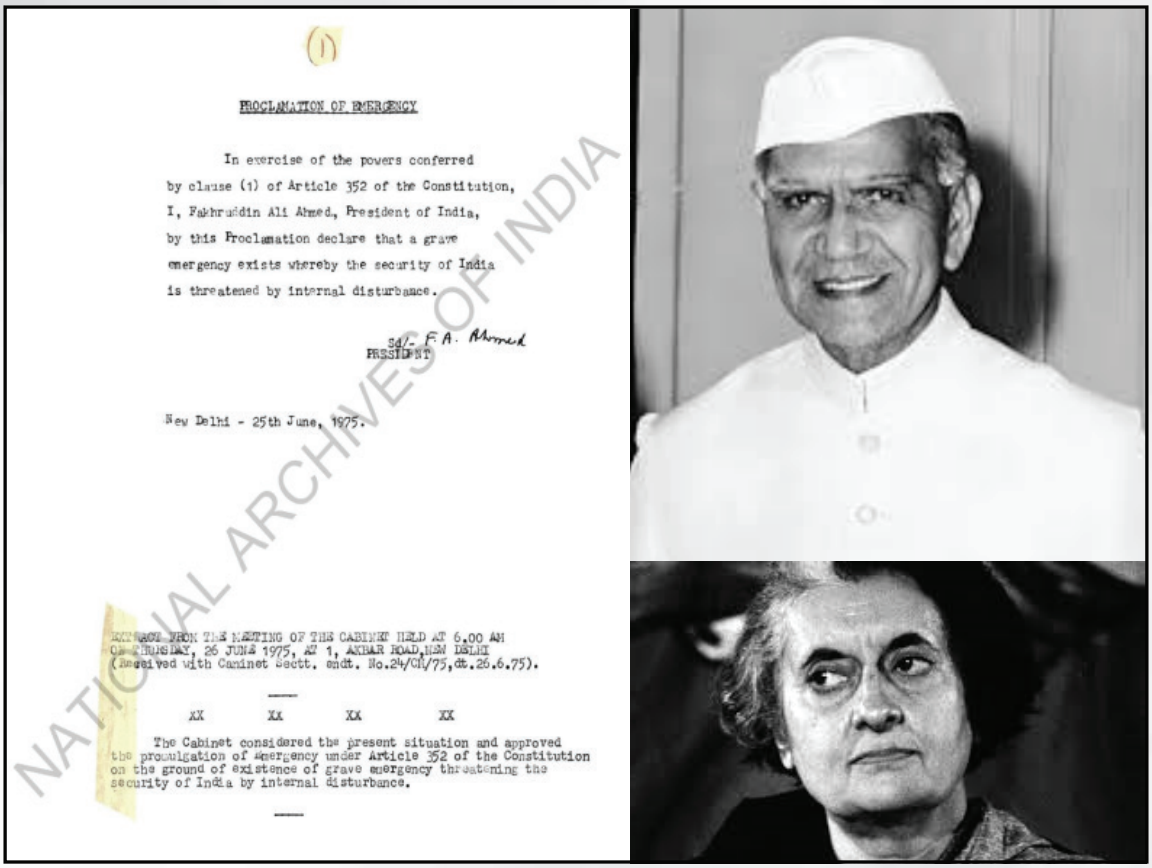


25 June 1975: Rally at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi

Jayaprakash Narayan held a massive rally at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi, calling for the military and police to disobey "illegal orders" from the government



A dark night in June 1975



(1)

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 352 of the Constitution, I, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India, by this Proclamation declare that a grave emergency exists whereby the security of India is threatened by internal disturbance.

Sd/- F.A. Ahmed
PRESIDENT

New Delhi - 25th June, 1975.

EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT 6.00 AM ON THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 1975, AT 1, AKBAR ROAD, NEW DELHI (Received with Caninet Secty. endt. No.24/CM/75, dt.26.6.75).

XX XX XX XX

The Cabinet considered the present situation and approved the proculgation of emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution on the ground of existence of grave emergency threatening the security of India by internal disturbance.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

25 June 1975, Late Night

President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signed the Emergency declaration under Article 352, citing ‘internal disturbance’.

Article 352 (1)

Article 352(1) empowered the President to declare a National Emergency if satisfied that the security of India or any part is threatened by war, external aggression, or internal disturbance (later changed to armed rebellion).

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी-(डी)-72 REGISTERED No. D-(D)-72

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उपखण्ड (i)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं० 169] नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, जून 26, 1975/आषाढ़ 5, 1897
No. 169] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1975/ASADHA 5, 1897

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 26th June 1975

G.S.R. 353(E).—The following Proclamation of Emergency by the President of India, dated the 25th June, 1975, is published for general information :—

'PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY'

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 352 of the Constitution, I, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India, by this Proclamation declare that a grave emergency exists whereby the security of India is threatened by internal disturbance.

NEW DELHI;
The 25th June, 1975.

F. A. AHMED,
President.

[No. II/16013/1/75-S&P(D.II)]

NEW DELHI;
The 26th June, 1975.

S. L. KHURANA, Secy.

The next morning, 26 June 1975



THE HINDU

National Newspaper

President Proclaims National Emergency

"Security of India Threatened by Internal Disturbances"

Preventive Arrests: Press Censorship Imposed

PM Explains Action

People woke up to headlines of declaration of Emergency, Announcement on Radio

National Radio broadcast announced the Emergency at 8:00 AM, relaying the news to the people.



The Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1881

Chandigarh, Friday, June 27, 1975

20 Pages

PRESIDENT DECLARES EMERGENCY

Strengthen PM's Hands: Parmar

"Threat To Security From Internal Disorder"

Step Taken To Preserve Unity, Says Zail Singh

676 Arrested All Over Country

PACT SIGNED FOR SALE OF IRON ORE TO IRAN

Emergency in Action
Rights Suspended



Suspended Fundamental Rights

The emergency powers mentioned in the constitution, during this time, were further extended to include the phrase "internal disturbance," leading to the suspension of fundamental rights and curtailment of other constitutional guarantees.

Article 14: Right to equality before the law

Article 19: Freedom of speech, expression, assembly, etc

Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty

Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA)

More than one lakh political activists, journalists, and dissenters arrested.

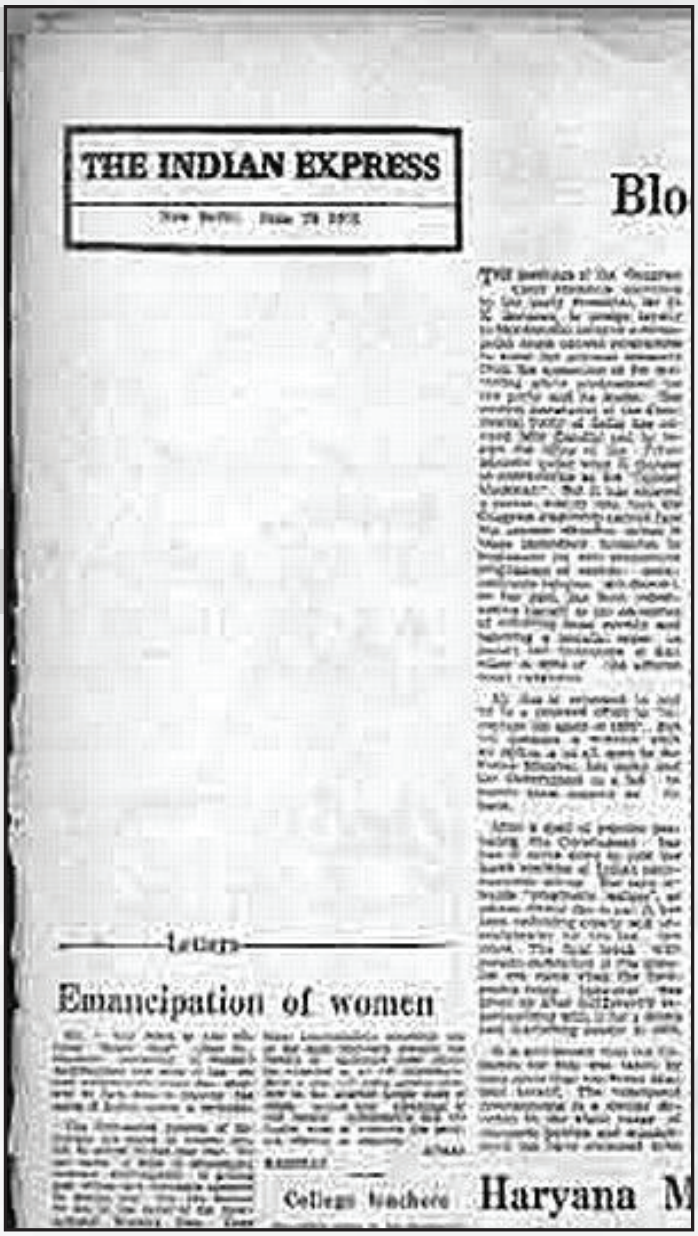
Power supply to major newspaper outlets was cut off

Censorship of content

Once restored, the newspapers were put under heavy censorship and disallowed to publish any news without passing it through government approved censors.

Protests via blank editorials





No Habeas, No Hope
Courts in Crisis



LUXMI
Manufacturers: C. R. ALUCK & SONS LTD. LDH
Distributors: RATTAN SINGH BHATIA & CO.
6-Near Guru Shankar Mandir, Ch. Chowk, Delhi 6
PHONE: 260308

INDIAN EXPRESS

Largest combined net sales among all daily newspapers in India

Vol. XLIII No. 347 — New Delhi: Tuesday December 16 1975 — 30 p

Phillips
INTERLOCK & FINE
FAIRY SILKING
FAIRY KNITTING IND. DELHI-6

Parliament session from January 5

Govt order cannot be challenged during emergency, says De

By Our Legal Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec 15.

A special bench of the Supreme Court today began hearings on the issue of right of citizens to move High Courts for writs of habeas corpus.

B. Shiva Rao dead

President, PM pay tributes

Bangladesh keen on strengthening ties with India: Sayem

Tabarak Hussain for Moscow

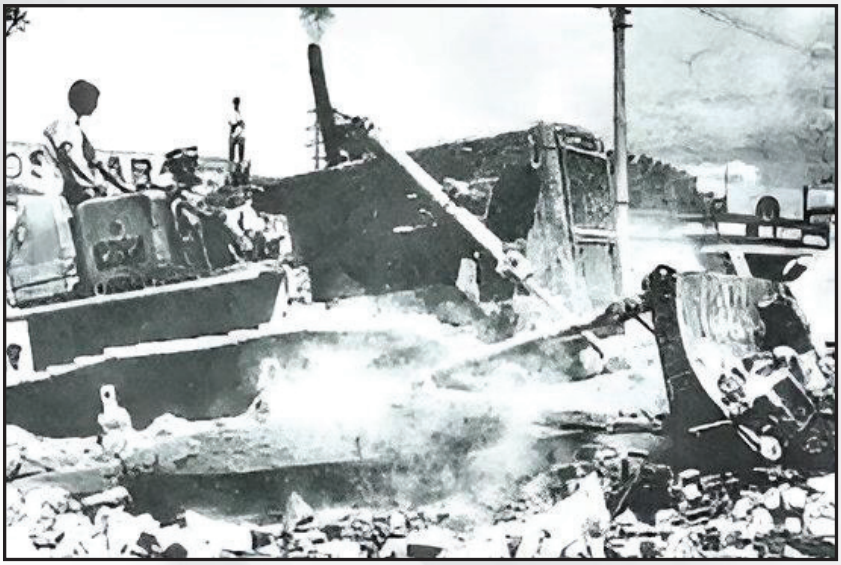
Kenya and Zambia call for truce

UNITA-FNLA troops capture key town

Forced Sterilisation, Climate of Fear



Mass sterilization campaign and resettlement drives at Turkman Gate (1976)



Crackdown on Slums in Old Delhi

In April–May 1976, government ordered a crackdown on slums in Old Delhi-including Turkman Gate- with mass sterilization campaign and resettlement drives. Bulldozers removed homes, and police forcibly removed residents; local communities resisted but were suppressed.



Forced Evictions, Fatal Force



18 April 1976

Police opened fire on residents protesting the demolitions at Turkman Gate. While the government admitted to six deaths, other accounts suggest the toll was higher with independent researchers estimating around 12 fatalities.

Local Media blocked from accessing the location

Local media was blocked from reporting the incident; only foreign outlets like the BBC covered it. A 1978 inquiry found the demolitions politically motivated, and the Shah Commission later called them "illegal" and "callous."

Key changes to the Constitution of India made during Emergency period

Introduction of 42nd Amendment Act (1976)

Also termed as “Mini Constitution”, it was introduced in Lok Sabha on 1st September 1976 by H.R. Gokhale, the then Law Minister. This act extended Parliament's term from 5 to 6 years


SUNDAY STANDARD

MEHRA SONS

Swaran panel wants concept of socialism clearly put in statute

TODAY

Doccaleader Stern measures to curb smuggling

Directive Principles

It made Directive Principles superior to Fundamental Rights (Article 14 and 19) and added terms "socialist" and "secular" to Preamble.

Deployment of Armed Forces

Article 257A (inserted) allowed the Centre to deploy armed forces in any state for “maintenance of public order.”

Political Dissent during the period of Emergency

Opposition suppressed

Surveillance on political opponents intensified, with restrictions on public meetings and publications. Many opposition leaders were picked up from their homes and sent to jail.

Ban on Protests and Political Activity

Political rallies, strikes, and public gatherings were outlawed. The organizational machinery of opposition parties was dismantled, and grassroots workers faced intimidation or imprisonment.



Diary of Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan



Prison Diary : 1975

July 21

My world lies in a shambles all round me. I am afraid I shall not see it put together again in my life-time. Maybe my nephews and nieces will see that. May be.

Solitary Confinement

Jayaprakash Narayan spent 130 days in solitary confinement during the Emergency, with no real human contact apart from guarded medical visits.

Decline in Health

His health declined during his extended stay in jail, and he expressed deep despair in his diary.

July 25

Did not feel like writing the last two days. Every nail driven deeper into the coffin of Indian democracy is like a nail driven into my heart. I have searched my heart and I can say truly

Former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was jailed in Bangalore.

Poetry in jail

He wrote poems frequently while incarcerated at Bangalore Central jail. His collection of poems highlighting the pain of incarceration and injustice was collectively published under **"Kaidi Kavirai Ki Kundaliyaan".**

He also wrote a poem highlighting the one- year anniversary of Emergency

एक बरस बीत गया

झुलसाता जेठ मास, शरद चांदनी उदास
सिसकी भरते सावन का, अन्तर्घट रीत गया
एक बरस बीत गया।

सींकचों में सिमटा जग, किंतु विकल प्राण विहग
धरती से अंबर तक, गूंज मुक्ति गीत गया
एक बरस बीत गया।

पथ निहारते नयन, गिनते दिन पल छिन
लौट कभी आएगा, मन का जो मीत गया
एक बरस बीत गया।

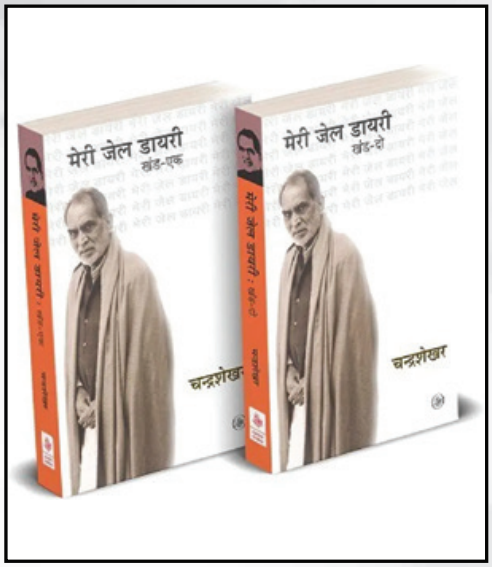
~ अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी



Post release from jail speaking at Ramlila Maidan

बाद मुद्दत के मिले हैं दीवाने., कहने सुनने को बहुत हैं अफसाने. 'खुली हवा में जरा सांस तो ले लें, कब तक रहेगी आजादी भला कौन जाने.'

Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and political leader Advani Ji also arrested during Emergency

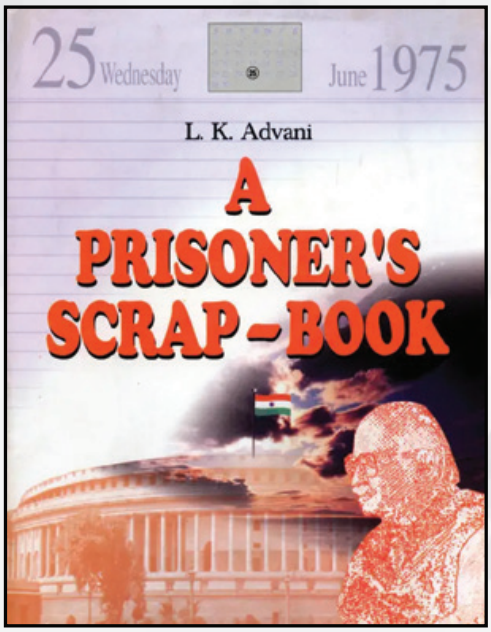


"This gave me peace of mind. It was not possible for me to agree with all that was happening around me. How could one claim that the country's future rested on one single individual? So much of sycophancy and such slavishness are beyond me."

~ Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on his arrest

"June 26, 1975, may well prove the last day in the history of Indian democracy as we have understood it. Hope this fear will be proved unfounded."

~ L.K. Advani in his diary about emergency



George Fernandes and others were arrested on June 10, 1976, in Kolkata and tried in the infamous Baroda Dynamite case.



'The chains that we bear are symbols of the entire nation which has been chained and fettered.'

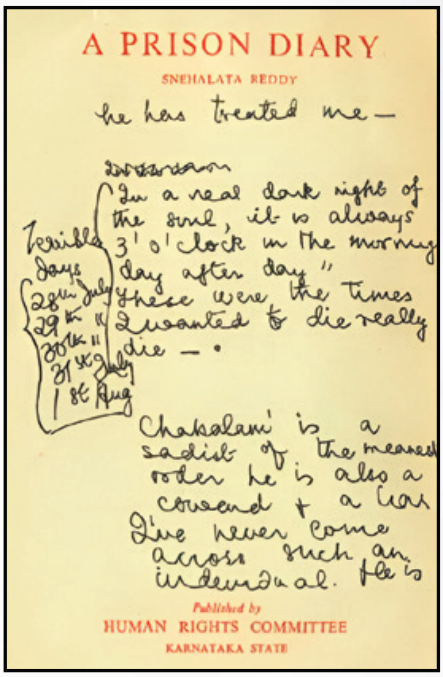
“I will die here slowly, like a forgotten song.”

~ Snehalata Reddy

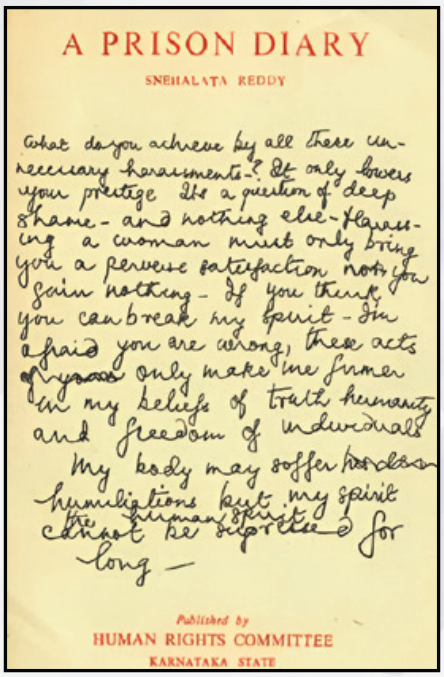
Actress Snehalata Reddy (known for Kanndada films like ‘Samskara’ and ‘Chanda Marutha’) was arrested on 2 May 1976 and jailed under MISA for refusing to name her associates.

In prison, her health worsened due to neglect, asthma, and harsh conditions-she wrote, “I will die here slowly, like a forgotten song.”

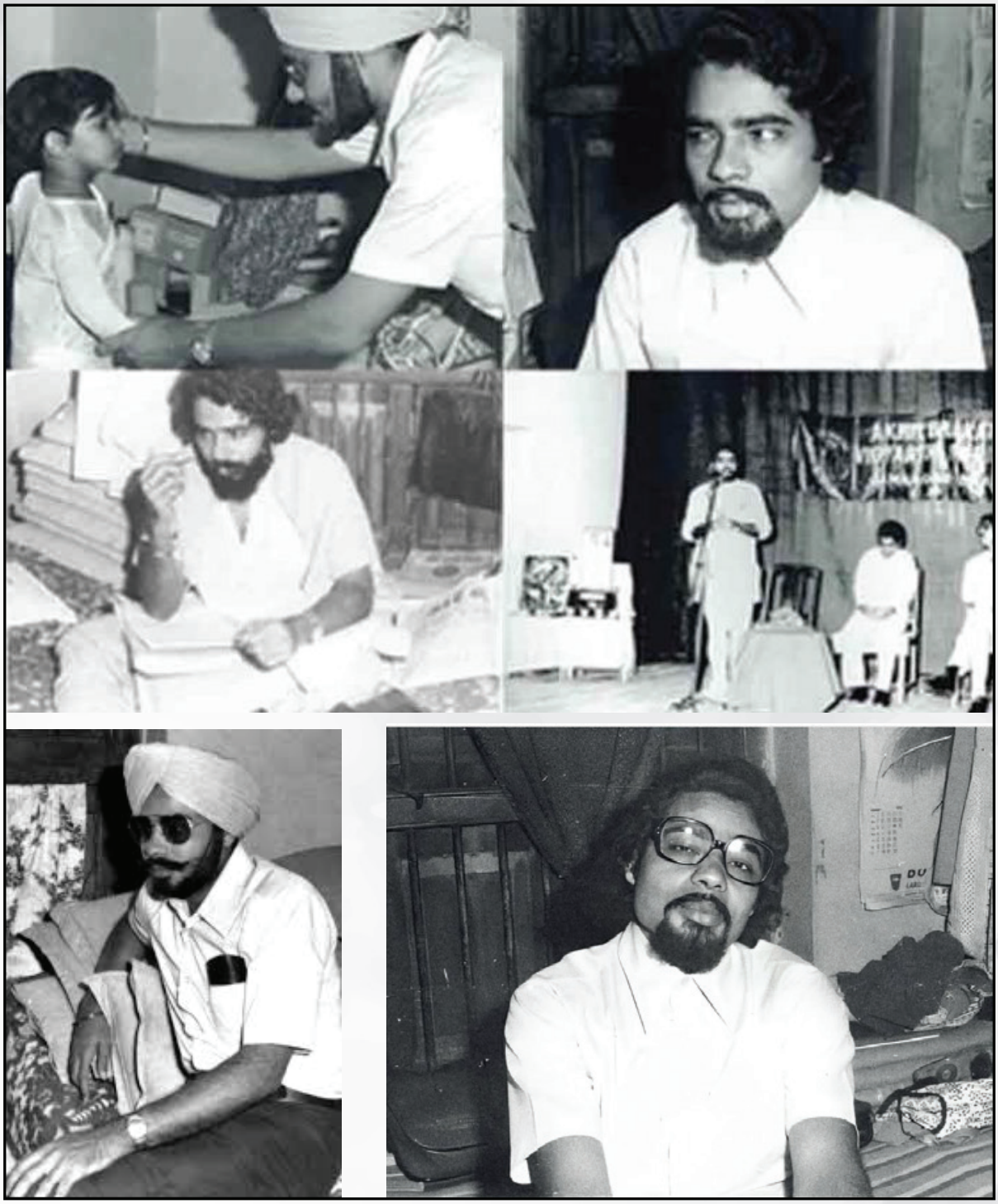
Denied proper treatment, she was finally released on parole in December and died weeks later on 20 January 1977.







Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, then a young activist, actively participated in the movement (1)



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, then a young activist, actively participated in the movement (2)

Organized meetings and distributed literature

Despite peak censorship, he and other volunteers organized meetings and disseminated underground literature. He loaded materials related to the Constitution and the then government's excesses onto trains, ensuring messages reached remote places with less risk of detection.

Wrote articles and reached out to international community

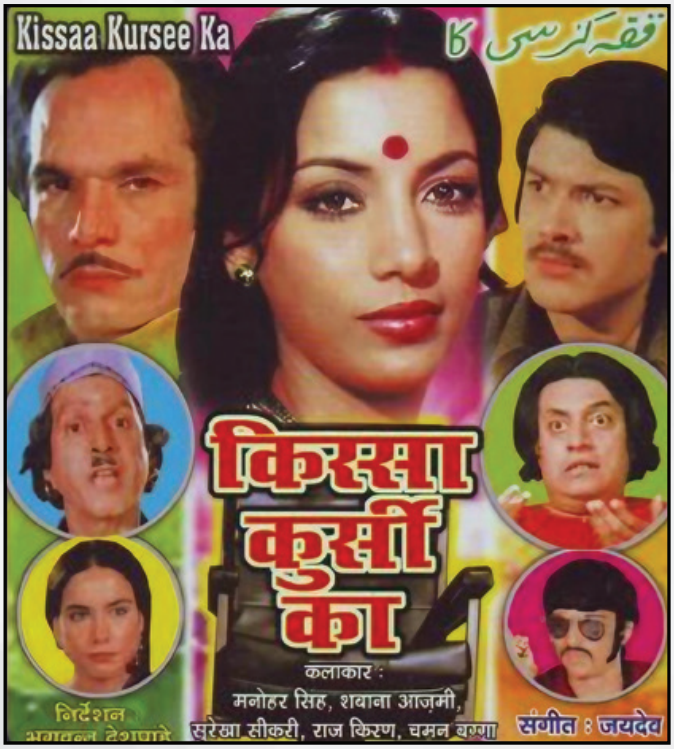
His articles and correspondence were crucial in sustaining the revolt against the Congress government, even as key movement leaders were arrested under the MISA Act. He also reached out internationally, sending underground publications to amplify global resistance.

Adopted disguise

To avoid detection, Narendra Modi adopted various disguises, sometimes as a Swamiji or a Sikh, effectively evading recognition.

Creativity muzzled, Ban on films





During the Emergency, a few voices from the Hindi film industry spoke out publicly against government overreach.

They described facing censorship, arbitrary taxes, and even threats of imprisonment.

Two films were banned

These were perceived as direct or symbolic critiques of the then government and leaders.

Underground Movement and the Voices of Resistance



R.K. Laxman in Satyavani

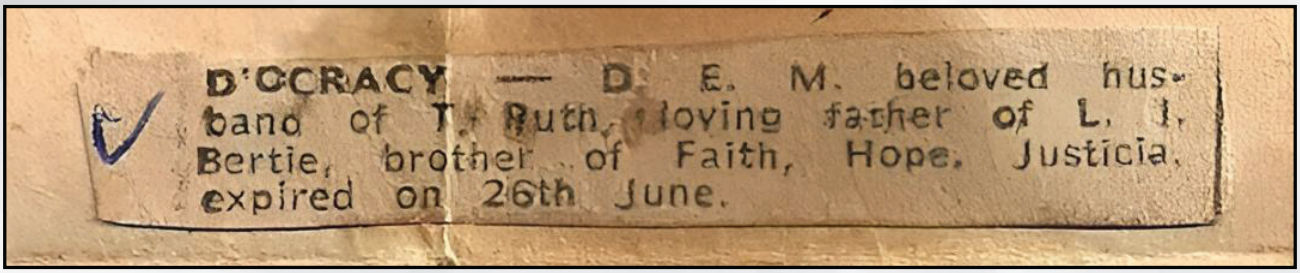


'Rannbheri' – A weekly digest

While the mainstream media, newspapers, and leading names in publishing were put under censor, an underground movement was taking people's voice across the globe.

Many publications had to go underground and were forced to distribute limited editions printed on cyclostyle. Some publications chose to display overt dissent; some chose a satirical route not easily captured by censors.

A ‘classified’ protest by journalist Ashok Mahadevan


D'OCRACY — D. E. M. beloved husband of T. Ruth, loving father of L. I. Bertie, brother of Faith, Hope, Justicia, expired on 26th June.

A classified ad published by Journalist Ashok Mahadevan in Times of India on 28th June 1976, taking a dig at Emergency through clever wordplay which hoodwinked the censors.

The text of the classified

D’OCRACY --- D. E. M. beloved husband of T Ruth, loving father of L. I. Bertie, brother of Faith Hope, Justice expired on 26 June.

Declaration of the end of Emergency on 21 March, 1977. A change of Government followed soon after ...

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी-(डी)-72

REGISTERED No. D-(D)-72

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उपखण्ड (i)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं० 80] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, मार्च 21, 1977/फाल्गुन 30, 1898

No. 80] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1977/PHALGUNA 30, 1898

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।

Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi the 21st March 1977

G.S.R 117(E).—The following Proclamation made by the Vice President acting as President of India is published for general information –

PROCLAMATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 352 of the Constitution, I Basappa Danappa Jatti Vice President acting as President of India hereby revoke the Proclamation of Emergency issued under clause (1) of that article on the 25th June 1975, and published with the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs No GSR 353(E) dated the 26th June 1975

New Delhi
The 21st March 1977

B D JATTI
Vice President acting as President

[No II/16013/1/75-S&P(D II)]

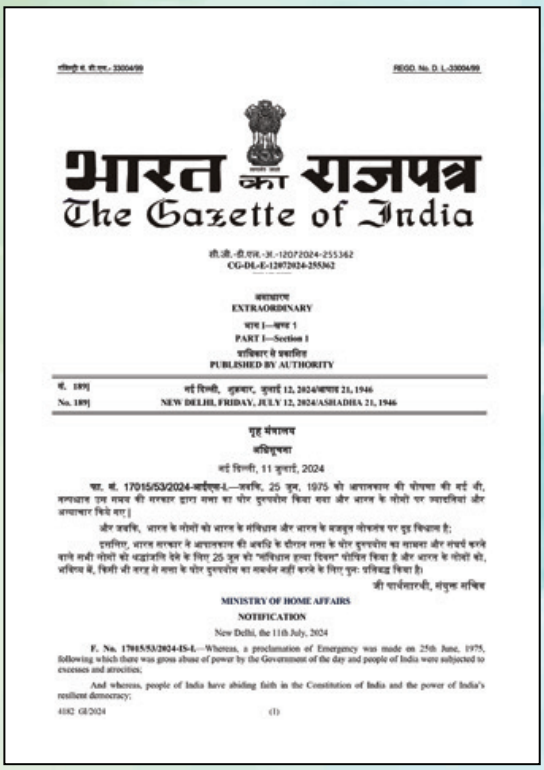
S L KHURANA Secy

Declaration of Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas

"Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas serves as a reminder of what happens when the Constitution of India was trampled over. It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a dark phase of Indian history."

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister





रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.-33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-12072024-255362
CG-DL-E-12072024-255362

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग I—खण्ड 1
PART I—Section 1
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 189] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, जुलाई 12, 2024/आषाढ़ 21, 1946
No. 189] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024/ASHADHA 21, 1946

गृह मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 11 जुलाई, 2024

फा. सं. 17015/53/2024-आईएस-I.—जबकि, 25 जून, 1975 को आपातकाल की घोषणा की गई थी, जनसाधारण उस समय की सरकार द्वारा सत्ता का घोर दुरुपयोग किया गया और भारत के लोगों पर ज्यादतियों और अत्याचार किये गए;

और जबकि, भारत के लोगों को भारत के संविधान और भारत के मजबूत लोकतंत्र पर दृढ़ विश्वास है;

इसलिए, भारत सरकार ने आपातकाल की अवधि के दौरान सत्ता के घोर दुरुपयोग का सामना और संघर्ष करने वाले सभी लोगों को श्रद्धांजलि देने के लिए 25 जून को "संविधान हत्या दिवस" घोषित किया है और भारत के लोगों को, भविष्य में, किसी भी सरकार से सत्ता के घोर दुरुपयोग का सामर्थन नहीं करने के लिए पुनः प्रतिबद्ध किया है।

जी पार्थसारथी, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 11th July, 2024

F. No. 17015/53/2024-IS-I.—Whereas, a proclamation of Emergency was made on 25th June, 1975, following which there was gross abuse of power by the Government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities;

And whereas, people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution of India and the power of India's resilient democracy;

4182 GI/2024 (1)

Post Emergency Revocation : Constitutional reawakening to safeguard democracy

Key Reforms of the 44th Amendment

It restored civil liberties, made Article 21 (life and liberty) non-suspendable even during Emergency, and reduced the Lok Sabha term from 6 to 5 years.

It also replaced "internal disturbance" (used vaguely in 1975) with the more specific term "armed rebellion" as a valid ground for declaring a National Emergency under Article 352.

President to act only on written advice of the Cabinet, not the Prime Minister alone, to declare Emergency.

Duration of Emergency to be approved by Parliament within 1 month and renewed every 6 months.

Good Governance initiatives promoting inclusion, access and efficiency



Jan Dhan Yojana

enabled financial inclusion and Direct Benefit Transfers; MUDRA loans (₹25 lakh crore) supported small entrepreneurs, especially women and rural youth.

Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card (e-EPIC)

initiatives and platforms to improve digital access.



The Aspirational Districts Programme

uses data-driven governance to uplift backward regions. Schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission and Panchayati Raj strengthen Gram Swaraj by decentralizing service delivery.



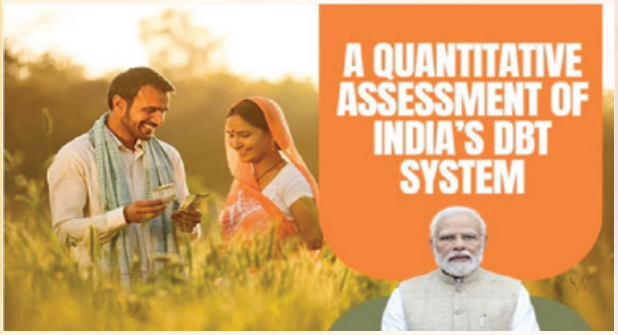
One Nation, One Election

proposed by NITI Aayog, aims to reduce electoral fatigue and enhance administrative efficiency.

Focus on outcomes and direct citizen-centric initiatives

OUTPUT-OUTCOME MONITORING FRAMEWORK

NITI Aayog's OOMF uses performance indicators to track schemes and promote competitive federalism.



Citizen Centric Delivery via Direct Benefit Transfer. INR 3.48 lakh crore saved by reducing leakage.

PRAGATI, led by the Prime Minister, integrates grievance redressal and project monitoring, improving responsiveness.

Online grievance portals enable real-time complaint tracking and quicker response from authorities.

Government of India has taken various steps to popularize the understanding of the Constitution and Legal Rights

Citizens' Duties Awareness Programme (CDAP)

Reached over 486 million citizens
Engaging multiple ministries, states, and judiciary
CSC-based digital villages campaign
2,409 sessions across 310 districts reaching 4,84,000 villagers

DISHA Scheme : Legal Literacy (from 2021)

Focuses on 'holistic access to justice' through webinars and community outreach

So far, reached
2.10 crore beneficiaries till February, 2025

NALSA's (National Legal Services Authority) Outreach

Legal Awareness & Outreach Campaign
Covered 6,70,000 villages, 4,100 towns
1,623 Legal Mega Camps held benefiting 7.56 million people

Empowerment of Citizens Campaign
Extended reach into prisons and childcare institutions

In 2023–24, 30,043 legal camps organized,
impacting 1.146 million citizens

More transparency and accountability enforced in electoral processes

Technology Enabled Processes

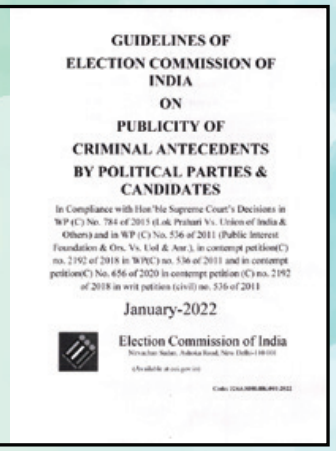
EVMs with VVPATs are now used nationwide with mandatory verification of 5 VVPATs per constituency since 2019, ensuring auditability

Webcasting from polling stations, started in 2014, now widely used (Tripura 2019, West Bengal 2024), with 100% coverage planned for Bihar 2025

Mandatory Declaration, Stricter Enforcement

To ensure more electoral transparency criminal records of candidates, are now published. Stricter enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and social media regulations reduces misinformation and unfair practices





GUIDELINES OF
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
ON
PUBLICITY OF
CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS
BY POLITICAL PARTIES &
CANDIDATES

January-2022

Election Commission of India

Strengthening Democracy: More inclusion of women in electoral process

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

Historic 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' passed by the Parliament to ensure greater participation of women in policy making at National and State level

Women and third-gender voter turnout has increased; the women's voter ratio rose from 928/1000 (2019) to 948/1000 (2024), with women out voting men in 19 states

The Women's Reservation Bill (2024) ensures 33% seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, effective post-delimitation in 2029







Historic Election and Massive Turnout in Jammu and Kashmir: CELEBRATION OF DEMOCRACY

A record voter turnout, the highest in decades:
A powerful reaffirmation of faith in democratic processes

Democratic resurgence visible in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

This turnout, particularly in the Kashmir Valley, reflects how constitutional integration has empowered citizens to participate in shaping their future

Post revocation of Article-370, institutional participation surged especially in the Valley

69.69% voting in Phase-3,
percentage of women turnout higher than men



India is the Mother of Democracy



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister's address at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly
September 25, 2021

"I am representing a country which has the distinction of being named as the 'Mother of Democracy'.

We have had a great tradition of democracy for thousands of years. Our diversity is the hallmark of our strong democracy.

A country that has dozens of languages, hundreds of dialects, different lifestyles, cuisines. This is the best example of a 'Vibrant Democracy"

Ministry of Culture
Government of India



#LongLiveDemocracy