

## Rajiv Gandhi Era (1984-89)

- Historic victory -400 seats
- Launched 6 Technology missions on
  - Literacy
  - Drinking Water
  - Immunisation of children & Pregnant women
  - White Revolution
  - One telephone per village
  - Expanding oil production
- Key man was Sam Pitroda
- RG did not want India to miss **ICT** revolution after missing Industrial Revolution. Hence initiated Computerisation programme (\*e.g. computer labs in schools)
- Started Jawahar Rozgar Yojana that became foundation for MGNREGA later
- Operation Blackboard for basic infrastructure in schools to promote universal primary education
- New Education Policy 1986 (previous NEP was in 1968)
- Created separate Ministry for Environment
- Created a Planet Protection Fund
- Anti Defection Law
- Proposal for Constitutional recognition to Panchayats
- National Plan for Women
- @Foreign Policy-
  - Created Africa Fund
  - Spoke against Apartheid & Colonialism
  - India Nepal relations became hostile as Nepal drew closer to China
  - **Nov 1988- Operation Cactus in Maldives**
    - PLOTE was a militant organization of Tamils of Sri Lanka. It was headed by Maheswaran (LTTE Chairman 1977-80) who broke away from LTTE head Prabhakaran (\*Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam).
    - PLOTE assisted Luthfee, a businessman of Maldives, in an attempted coup against President Gayoom.
    - US & UK wanted to help but were geographically far away hence supported Maldives taking India's help.
    - Indian Military planned an operation within hours and executed it successfully further strengthening India-Maldives ties.
  - **Sri Lankan Civil War**
    - Tamils migrated since a long time but majorly during British period when 10 Lakh Tamil laborers sent to Sri Lanka to work on Plantations. Thus Tamils worked for prosperity of Sri Lanka. Tamils form 18% of population while Sinhala speakers form 74% of population.
    - When SL got independence in 1948, it passed Ceylon Citizenship Act 1948 whereby all rights of Tamils & also their Citizenship was taken away.
    - Sinhala Only Act 1956- Here Sinhala language was declared as the only official language of SL, thus threatening cultural identity & also livelihood of Tamils (\*e.g. govt exam not in Tamil)

- **1970** Ban imposed on import of Tamil Literature leading to cultural subjugation
- **1971-77: Policy of Standardization** aimed at reducing representation of Tamils (who knew English), in Universities. It gave reservation in universities in proportion to percentage in population thus benefiting majority Sinhallas. This decreased chances for socio-economic mobility of minority Tamils who earlier had good participation in Colleges.
- **1976- Emergence of LTTE** to lead freedom movement of people of Tamil Eelam/nation.
- **Buddhism was declared as State Religion by 1978** Constitution while most Tamils were Hindus.
- **1987- Operation Liberation** in Jafna (\*link 25March 1971 Op Searchlight in East Pakistan). Now Civil War began under leadership of LTTE
- Huge empathy in India especially in Tamil Nadu for Sri Lankan Tamils. Thus GOI provided supplies to people in Jafna.
- Finally, **India SL Accords 1987** between RG & Jayawardhane whereby
  - Northern and Eastern province of SL would be merged into a single province
  - Federalism i.e. substantial devolution of power to this Tamil province
  - LTTE to surrender arms and to be dissolved
  - Indian Army to aid in maintenance of Law & Order if required
- **SL passed 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to Constitution in 1987** to implement the accord. However, LTTE did not surrender arms as Prabhakaran was not properly taken into confidence and he feared repression post surrender.
- Thus India had to send Indian Peace Keeping Force and now India was fighting Indian diaspora i.e. Sri Lankan Tamils.
- Later IPKF was gradually withdrawn.
- **1991- Rajiv Gandhi was killed** in a suicide bombing by LTTE during election campaign as LTTE feared RG coming to power and acting against their interests.
- *Q- Briefly discuss reasons for ethnic insurgency in SL and to what extent India SL Accords helped to resolve it.*

#### **Kargil War (May- July 1999)**

- **1984- Operation Meghdoot** where India took over Siachen.
- **1998- Pokharan Test under Operation Shakti.** However India declared No First Use and No Use Against Non-Nuclear Weapon States and No Further Testing.
- Within some days, Pakistan also conducted Nuclear Tests.
- 1999 Lahore Agreement signed by AB Vajpayee & Nawaz Sharif.
- In winters of 1998 Indian soldiers retreated from mountain peaks and Pakistan launched **Operation Badr** whereby infiltrators captured peaks. Goal was to sever link between Kashmir and Ladakh and hence force Indian forces to withdraw from Siachen and to negotiate on Kashmir. Also Pakistan hoped that conflict will lead to international intervention in Kashmir dispute negotiations.
- India declared Operation Vijay with goal of restoring LOC.

- It was the longest Indo-Pak war and a televised war hence had huge impact on public sentiments.
- It was the only war where USA supported India. This was because in 1991 USSR disintegrated + in 1991 India moved towards capitalism by adopting LPG reforms + India moved closer to USA after USSR disintegration.
- 4 July 1999: Washington Accords between US and Pakistan where Pakistan agreed to withdraw its forces.
- India declared success of Operation Vijay.

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