

Intro

The Emergency in India (1975–77), declared by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, suspended democracy for 21 months and remains one of the most debated events in Indian history, raising the question — what is fair?

At the Time – Perspectives

- Government: Saw Emergency as *fair* — needed for national security, stability, and development.
- Citizens: Saw it as *unfair* — rights suspended, press censored, leaders jailed, forced sterilizations carried out.

How It Was Seen Then vs. Today

- Then: Mixed views — some praised efficiency, others whispered about injustice.
- Today: Largely remembered as *unfair* — a “dark chapter” of Indian democracy.
- Return of elections in 1977 viewed as a *fair restoration* of people’s rights.

Across Cultures and Contexts

- Western democracies: Criticized as *unfair authoritarian rule*.
- Some developing nations: Viewed as *fair for order and discipline*.
- Global view now: Mostly *unfair*, democracy seen as the measure of fairness.

Who Defined the Event, Whose Voices Were Left Out

- Defined by: Government, which controlled media and silenced opposition.
- Left out: Citizens, activists, journalists, political prisoners.
- Later: Their voices reshaped history’s memory of the event.

How History is Remembered Today

- Reminder that democracy can be fragile.
- Seen as unfair to people, fair only to those in power.
- Symbol of the importance of rights and free voices.

Role of AI in History

- AI can preserve hidden voices, archives, and documents.
- Can also amplify bias if trained only on dominant voices.
- Its role will decide if future memory of events is *fair or unfair*.