Good morning everyone,  
Today, I stand before you to speak about one of the most controversial chapters in India’s democratic history — *The Emergency of 1975 to 1977.* It was a time when the very idea of justice and fairness was put to the test.

On June 25, 1975, Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** declared a **National Emergency**, citing internal disturbance. Overnight, fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution were suspended. The press was censored, political opponents were arrested, and civil liberties were crushed. India — a nation built on the ideals of democracy — suddenly found itself silenced.

For 21 months, the voice of the people was muted under state control. Newspapers couldn’t publish freely. Opposition leaders like **Jayaprakash Narayan** and **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** were imprisoned. Even ordinary citizens lived in fear of speaking out. The Emergency became a reminder that **power without accountability is dangerous** — and that justice cannot survive without freedom.

But history also tells us that truth and justice have a way of fighting back. In 1977, when elections were finally held, the people of India spoke loud and clear. Indira Gandhi’s government was voted out — a peaceful yet powerful act of collective justice. It was proof that democracy, though shaken, cannot be destroyed.

The Emergency left India with a lasting lesson: **Fairness isn’t just about law and order; it’s about protecting the voice of every citizen.** Justice loses meaning when fear replaces freedom.

As young citizens, it’s on us to remember this history — not as a scar, but as a signpost. It reminds us that vigilance is the price of liberty, and that true justice stands only where truth and freedom coexist.

Thank you.