

# HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY INDIA MODULE II-CHANGES IN THE INDIAN ECONOMY



**TOPIC: RAJIV GANDHI-TECHNOLOGICAL  
INNOVATIONS**

**REMYA MT**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**2020**



- Prime Minister from 1984 till 1989. His tenure was one full of highlights.
- Rajiv Gandhi is rightfully known as the father of information technology in India.
- As the Prime Minister of India, he established center for the development of telematics (c-dot) in 1984.
- C-dot helped developing state of the art telecommunication technology and to develop state-of-the-art telecommunication technology and meet the needs of the Indian telecommunication network.
- Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 established Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) which later became India's single largest telecom provider
- He was also the reason behind the PCO (public call office) revolution. PCO booths helped to connect even the rural areas to the world outside



- Rajiv Gandhi promoted the use of computers. He reduced import taxes and tariffs for industries to promote computer.
- Rajiv Gandhi promoted science and technology and associated industries by bringing computer and internet to India, further increasing the intelligence quotient of the country..
- He introduced computerised tickets for Indian railway.
- Being in politics from a young age, Rajiv Gandhi knew the importance of the possible benefit of giving the youth a chance to vote and take part in the electoral process.
- In 1989 he lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 through the 61st amendment act.



- He announced the National Policy on Education (NPE) in 1986 to modernize and expand higher education programmes across the country.
- The programme fostered residential schools under the central government to bring out the best of rural talent



- Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation of the Panchayati Raj institution. He had a vision to take democracy to the grassroots level.
- Even though Panchayati Raj was instituted in 1992, a year after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.
- The framework was created during the time of Rajiv Gandhi
- He believed, “India is not a stagnant country. We are progressing. We are in a state of flux. Our society, our economy, is developing. Science and technology must be the key to this development.”
- Rajiv Gandhi was the real architect of ‘Digital India’.
- Rajiv Gandhi died on May 21, 1991, at the young age of 46 years.