

**COTEMPORARY KERALA
MODULE-1
EMERGENCY AND KERALA EXPERIENCE**

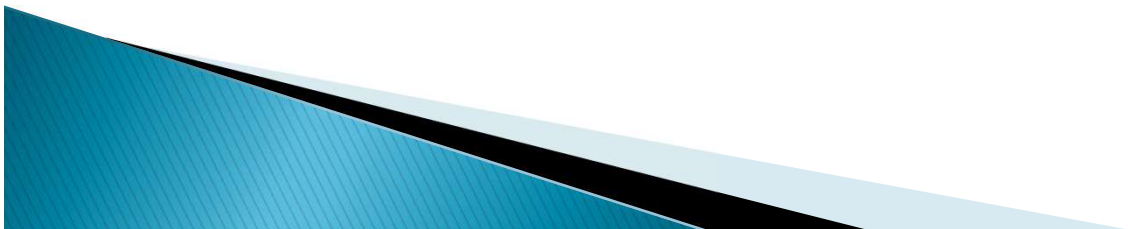
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EMERGENCY PERIOD

- ▶ Emergency period– 21 months
- ▶ 25 June 1975–21 March 1977
- ▶ Most controversial period in the history of independent India
- ▶ Internal emergency declared under Article 352
- ▶ Declared by President, on the advice of Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi
- ▶ Bestowed power to Pm by her choice



- ▶ Emergency gave power to suspend elections, democratic process, civil liberties, etc. in the country.
- ▶ Indian democracy was brought to a 'grinding halt'.
- ▶ Civil liberties were suspended, National–State level opposition leaders were arrested and put to jail.
- ▶ Strict censorship on newspapers were implemented–curtailed right to information.



- ▶ 10 lakhs of people were arrested and put behind bars without trial.
- ▶ Freedom of opinion, provided by constitution was suspended.
- ▶ Suspicion, silent threat and fear were existed.
- ▶ All are suspected except those who openly supported Indira Gandhi.
- ▶ It was a period of grim silence



- ▶ The official version of Emergency was an attempt to rescue the country from disintegration conspired by right wing reactionary forces.
- ▶ Ms. Indira Gandhi introduced 'Twenty Point Programme' to increase agricultural & industrial production, improve public services and to fight against poverty and illiteracy.
- ▶ She convinced the public that Emergency would become an engine of great social change and economic development.



- ▶ Sanjay Gandhi, her son who was not in power at that time, added five more programmes to the Twenty Points, on his own.
- ▶ He acted as her right hand and advisor during Emergency.
- ▶ Police controlled situation
- ▶ Rajan case



- ▶ The immediate provocation for the declaration of Emergency was Mrs. Gandhi's dire need to bypass the Allahabad High Court's Judgement, which declared her election to the Parliament null and void and unseated her from her Lok Sabha seat.
- ▶ The court found her guilty on the charge of misuse of govt machinery for her election campaign
- ▶ Veteran freedom fighter and socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayanan called for a 'total revolution' or 'total transformation' against the authoritarian and corrupt practices of the govt led by Mrs. Gandhi.
- ▶ This caused the declaration of emergency– basic reason was related with maintaining of power and fear of losing it by the intervention of judiciary.
- ▶ In order to cover her greed for power, Mrs. Gandhi declared that 'nation was more important than democracy'.
- ▶ Media filled the vacuum–Indira is India , and India is Indira
- ▶ The resounding state rhetoric was, 'Hold your tongue and do your work'.



- ▶ Elections for the Parliament and state Assemblies were postponed.
- ▶ Mrs. Gandhi granted herself extra ordinary powers and launched a massive crack down on civil liberties and political opposition.
- ▶ Govt used police force to arrest thousands of people.
- ▶ Jayaprakash Narayanann ,national and state level leaders were arrested and put behind bars.



- ▶ Mrs. Gandhi persuaded the President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to issue 'extra-ordinary laws' or 'ordinances' which by passed the Parliament, allowing her to rule by 'decree.'
- ▶ This time, Congress and CPI was in power in Kerala. Congress was the largest party in Kerala Assembly.
- ▶ Chief Minister– C. Achuthamenon (CPI)–Nominal CM
- ▶ Home Affairs Minister– K. Karunakaran (Congress)–acted as the 'defacto' ruler of the state during Emergency.



- ▶ Immediately after the declaration of emergency, the police in Kerala was given full freedom to implement emergency provisions in the state.
- ▶ Police camps were opened at all districts– special police camps at Kakkayam in Kozhikode.
- ▶ Hundreds of political opponents and social actives were detained in each custodial camps.
- ▶ Strict discipline and service conduct were enforced in govt offices–compelled to hold their tongue and do their work.



- ▶ Dissent and protest of any kind, orally or written were made illegal—interpreted as against national interest.
- ▶ Police had a free hand to detain any person to custody without recorded arrest.
- ▶ Gagging of free and independent individuals, ban on political organisations, setting up a number of torture camps, raiding of party offices, increased numbers of custodial deaths, false encounters, man missing cases etc.



- ▶ Rajan case– Engineering student was tortured to death at Kakkayam
- ▶ Varkala Vijayan, a political and theatre person was said to have taken by police and he never came back.
- ▶ The Emergency was withdrawn in March 1977.
- ▶ General elections to Lok Sabha declared
- ▶ In the ensuing elections to the Parliament the non-congress parties acquired majority and the 'Janatha' govt was formed at the centre. The new govt restored democracy in the country.

