

## Chapter - 2

### 2004-2019 : Towards Welfare and Accountable Democracy

#### Rajiv Gandhi

Rajiv Gandhi was born on 28 August 1944. He was only three years old when India got independence and his maternal grandfather became the first Prime Minister of independent India. His father Firoz Gandhi apart from being a Member of Parliament had earned himself a name as a brave and hardworking MP. His mother, Indira Gandhi, sacrificed her life for the unity and integrity of the nation. She became Prime Minister of India after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 89 after sudden death of his mother.



Sober by nature along with modern thinking and amazing capability of making decisions, Rajiv Gandhi dreamt to build India into a complete nation by modern technologies of the world. As he repeatedly said that along with maintaining the unity of the nation one of his other main objectives was - the building of 21st Century India.

On 21st May 1991, India lost Rajiv Gandhi ahead of time. Rajiv Gandhi unfortunately died in a terrorist attack in Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu). Every year, 20th August, the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi is celebrated as Goodwill Day. It is also known as Harmony Day and Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas. This important day is celebrated in the memory of late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Only mission of Rajiv Gandhi government was to maintain Goodwill for

others. This day is celebrated to encourage communal harmony, national unity, peace, love and affection among all the religions in India. In the words of Rajiv Gandhi, “India is an old country but a young nation. And because of being young we are restless. I am young and I have a dream. I want to see India ahead of other countries in terms of power, freedom, self-dependence and in service of humanity”. Rajiv Gandhi, on the one hand, reduced the impact of licence Raj and on the other hand he made an incredible effort to reform economic policies and consolidate India’s the relations with America and Soviet Union. Rajiv Gandhi is also credited for launching communication revolution in India. During his tenure as the Prime Minister, several important works were undertaken. Some of these are mentioned below :

## **Electoral Reforms - Political Correctness**

### **Anti-defection Law**

Political parties are the most important elements in a democratic process but just few years after the independence the mandate to these political parties started being ignored. Governments started forming and collapsing due to defections of Membres of Parilaments and Member of Legislative Assemblies. It created in stability in political institutions. The trend of defections among MPs and MLAs escalated enormously. The need was felt to curb such practices. Rajiv Gandhi government in order to establish political correctness got 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985 passed and added Tenth Schedule to the Constitution which contains certain provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of parliament and state legislatures on the grounds of defection from one political party to another political party. It is also known as anti-defection law. According to the Act, member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified from being a such member if -

- He voluntarily gives up his membership of any political party.
- He votes or abstains from voting in such house contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
- He remains absent from voting contrary to the instructions issued by his political party.
- An independent member of a house joins any political party after election.
- A nominated member of a house joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the house.

The outline of the anti-defection law is drawn to curb the evils of political defections which are inspired by allurements of position or for material things or any other such temptations. Its objective is to provide strength to the democracy and to

curb non doctrinal and immoral defections. Rajiv Gandhi described it as a brave step for reforms towards public and political life. His Home Minister stated that if maturity and stability of Indian democracy is to be evaluated then it is evident in the unanimous agreement of both the Houses on 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

The anti-defection law is playing an important role in diminishing the trend of defections among the members of parliament and state legislature and is providing a great stability to political institutions. This law has greatly helped in establishing political correctness and it provided constitutional recognition to the existing political parties.

### **Lowering of voting age : the strength of youth**

The voting age in India was 21 years but the youthful Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi took initiative to provide voting rights to youth at the age of 18 years to empower them and make them more responsible towards the nation.

In 1989, the voting age was reduced from 21 years to 18 years through 61st Constitutional Amendment Act by which millions of youth elect their representatives for different elected bodies. This has led Indian democracy to take its true form consolidating it both qualitatively and quantitatively.

### **National Education Policy, 1986**

Government of India in January 1985 declared the formulation of new education policy. Contemporary situation of education was evaluated and a countrywide discussion on this subject took place. The suggestions and opinions received were contemplated and finally the National Education Policy, 1986 was declared. This policy defined the meaning and role of education.

#### **Meaning of education and its role**

From the national perspective “education for all” is basic necessity for our physical and spiritual development. Education is a medium for being cultured. It brightens our sensitivity and vision which creates a sense of national unity, increases the possibility of adopting scientific method and provides freedom of understanding and thought.

Education also helps us in achieving the goals of democracy as enshrined in our Constitution as socialism and secularism. Research and Development, which is the cornerstone of national self-reliance, is supported by education only. Overall, it will be right to say that education is a unique means of creating present and future.

When the NEP was being framed India was politically and socially going through a period when traditional values were in danger. Along with this, socialism, secularism, democracy and moral values were on the verge of being eroded.

Educated youth were not ready to live in villages due to lack of daily amenities in the countryside. Therefore, to reduce the difference between village and city there was a great need to provide diversified and comprehensive resources for employment in rural areas. The rate of population growth needed to be curbed in the coming decades. The most important factor which could prove to be effective in solving this problem was women being literate and educated. It was also necessary for the coming generations that they assimilate new ideas with continuous creativity. Deep commitment had to be established in human values and social justice in those generations. All this was possible only with good education. So to combat new challenges and societal needs, government was required to formulate a New Education Policy and implement it.

### **National Education Policy**

The core element of the National Education Policy was that every learner up to a certain level is provided with good education regardless of caste, religion, place or gender. India has always tried for peace and mutual brotherhood in various countries and has cherished the ideals of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*". According to this tradition, the effort of education system was to strengthen the global perspective in the new generation and increased spirit of international cooperation and peaceful coexistence. Education with moral values has to be made employment oriented. After independence many strong steps were taken in this direction. States have their own Government, non-government and autonomous educational institutions. Sainik Schools were opened in the year 1964 for the children of people providing national service and before that in the year 1962 the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya started.

The subject of education was included in the Concurrent List by 42nd Constitution Amendment Act 1976, which was a far-reaching step. It is embedded that in such important matter related to educational, financial and administrative point of view, a renewed partnership of responsibility should be established between the Centre and the States.

### **Education Policy (1986-1996)**

Inspired by the aim to make citizens' qualifications useful in national development, the government also changed the name of Ministry of Education, giving it a broader look and in September 1985, it was renamed as Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

Emphasis was laid on the educational development of the Scheduled Castes, so that they could be brought at par with people of non Scheduled Castes. Special attention was to be given to the convenience of Scheduled caste persons while choosing the location of school buildings and adult education centres. To expand

educational facilities for Scheduled Castes, tools of National Rural Employment Program and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program was to be used.

Priority was to be given to the work of opening primary schools in tribal areas to bring Scheduled Tribes at par with others. A large number of residential schools were opened. Anganwadis, informal education centres and adult education centres were to be opened on the basis of priority in tribal-dominated areas. Educated talented tribal youth were to be encouraged to be teachers in their own area after training.

The New Education Policy, 1986 attempted to reorganize every level and dimension of education.

### **Reorganization of Education**

**Child Care and Elementary Education-** National policy related to children gave special emphasis on this matter that adequate investment should be made on the development of children, especially those sections whose first generation is receiving education in large numbers. Special attention was to be given to infant care and education which was to be integrated with the Integrated Child Development Services Program wherever possible. Infant Care and education centres were to be completely 'child-centered'. School health program was to be strengthened.

**Child-centred approach-** Method of education at primary level was to be child-centered and based on activity. The practice of not failing children in any class at the primary level was to be kept continuous. The evaluation of the children was to be spread throughout the year. Physical punishment from the education system was removed altogether.

**Facilities in School-** Necessary facilities were to be provided in primary schools. In these at least two large rooms for being used in any season, essential toys, blackboards, maps, charts and other learning materials were included. The campaign to improve the condition of primary schools across the country was to be started, which was codenamed "Operation Black Board".

**Informal education-** A large and systematic informal education program was organized for all children who had dropped out of school or who lived in places where there was no school or those who were working and girls who could not go to day school full time. In New Education Policy, problem of drop out school children was given high priority.

### **Secondary Education**

At the level of secondary education, the students were to get knowledge of specialized role of science, humanities and social sciences. Through good education, the culture of good activity and compassionate social culture was fostered.

In the proposed restructuring of education, the program of systematic and planned vocational education was important to be implemented. This was to increase the ability of individuals to get employment. The imbalance in the demand and supply of skilled employees was to be eliminated and such students were to get an alternative path, which was currently taught in higher education without any special interest or purpose. Informal, flexible and need-based Education programs was to be conducted for newly literate people, youth who had completed primary education, school dropouts and in employment or partial employment. Special attention was to be given to women in this regard. For this steps were taken to ensure that most of the students who had passed vocational education were to be either employed or they could do their own employment.

### **Higher Education**

Higher education gives people an opportunity to understand problems faced in the social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual fields. State level high education councils were formed to coordinate education planning and higher education institutions.

Efforts were made to change the teaching methods. Use of audio-visual aids and electronic devices were started and research and development on education and educational materials of science and technology was focussed. More assistance was to be given for research in universities and steps were taken to ensure its high quality.

### **Technical and Management Education**

While restructuring technical and management education, possibilities of the situation which were likely to occur at the beginning of the new century had to be kept in mind. Continuing education in both current and emerging technology was to be encouraged. Computer-literacy programs at school level were organized on bigger scale. Many teachers were to be required for vocational education, educational technology, curriculum development etc. Programs were started to meet this demand. To make management and technology education effective, teachers had to play multi-faceted roles, such as teaching, research, preparation of teaching material and sharing of organization management. Outstanding work of institutions and individuals were to be recognized and rewarded.

**Innovation, Research and Development-** All the high-tech institutions were to readily indulge for research work. Research work for development, improvement of existing technology, devise of new indigenous technology were to be related to meeting the needs of production and productivity. Suitable arrangements were also to be made for new inventions.

**Management Activity and Change-** Professional associations were to be encouraged and enabled to play their role in the progress of technical and management education. Keeping in mind education standards and many other relevant reasons for technical and vocational education, commercialization was stopped.

### **Open University and Distance Studies**

With a view to provide more opportunities for higher education and making education democratic, the system of Open University was introduced. For these purposes, 'Indira Gandhi National Open University' established in the year 1985 was strengthened.

### **Separation of the title from the job**

Steps were proposed to be taken in some selected areas to separate the degree from the job. The scheme to remove the degree from the job was to be started in those services, in which the importance of the degree of university should not be everything, but expertise would be preferred.

### **To make education system effective**

The country had placed immense faith in the education system and people had the right to expect tangible results. The first task was to make this system active. Educational institutions and teachers needed to be given more facilities and accountability of teachers to be ensured. Good conduct of students was to be emphasized. The method of evaluating the work of educational institutions needed to be created to give a twist to the content and process of education.

In tune with modern technology, the new generation should not be left to cut from the original Indian history and culture. Hence, the curriculum of education and processes was to be enriched by inclusion of the cultural content in more forms. Upholding the cultural tradition to support, teachers and masters who teach in traditional ways were to be helped.

### **Education of values**

There was a need for such change in the education system where education was to be a powerful tool in the development of social and moral values. Our society is culturally multi-dimensional, so through education there should be development of those universal and eternal values that could lead our people towards unity.

### **Books and Libraries**

It is very important for public education to have books available at a low cost. Efforts were to be made to make books easily available to all sections of society to and provision of Library facility in every educational institution.

### **Media and Educational Technology**

Use of educational technology for useful information, training of teachers to improve quality of education and generate awareness of arts and culture and values of sustainability was to be emphasized. This technology will be used in both formal and informal education. Educational technology was used to primarily create programs that are relevant and are culturally compatible. Radio and Doordarshan programs which could be a hindrance in the achievement of objectives were closed. The campaign was carried out for the production of films useful for children.

### **Education and Environment**

The need to create awareness about the environment was emphasized. It was added as a subject of schools and colleges.

### **Maths Teaching**

Mathematics teaching was reorganized in such a way that was equipped with the tools of modern technology. Mathematics was considered as a tool that helps children think, reason, analyze and be able to express their point in a logical manner.

### **Science Education**

Science education was strengthened so that children had a sense of curiosity, creativity, objectivity, qualities and values such as courage to question and aesthetics were developed.

### **Sports and Physical Education**

Sports and physical education are integral to the learning process. Physical Education and Sports Education was made a part of the system. Playgrounds and equipments will be provided under this. Physical education teachers were appointed. Special emphasis were laid on Yoga education as a means of integrated development of body and mind.

### **Role of Youth**

Opportunities were given to youth through educational institutions and also outside them to join national and social development work. At this time, it was made compulsory for students to participate in the National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps, etc. or in any of the schemes which were going on.

### **Improvement in evaluation process and examination**

Use of examinations for qualitative improvement in education is part of a good educational policy. The examination was improved in such a way that a valid and reliable evaluation process emerged and served as a powerful tool in learning and teaching. "Grade" was used in place of marks. The emphasis on rote in education had to be removed. Teaching materials and the teaching method was improved. There



was also to be improvement in the conduct of examinations. Institutional Appraisal System was simplified and the abundance of external examinations was reduced.

### **Teacher**

It has been said that no nation can rise above the level of its teachers. Government and society should create conditions which motivate teachers to move towards creativity and innovation. Teachers should have freedom to do new experiments and by use of suitable methods of communication devise new measures according to the problems and capabilities of your community.

The system of recruiting teachers was changed in such a way that their selection is made on the basis of merit and the person was able to meet and work according to his expectations. Of teachers, Pay and service conditions were brought in line with their social and occupational responsibilities. Directive principles were made to bring individual neutrality in the transfer and deployment of teachers. Standards were set to ensure accountability of teachers. Good work was encouraged and inaction discouraged. Teachers continue to play an important role in the formulation and implementation of Educational programs.

### **Teacher Education**

Teacher education is a continuous process and its pre-service and in-service portions are no different. District Education and Training Institute were set up, in which there was a system of training of workers in primary school, informal education and adult education. Secondary teacher training colleges were upgraded so that they could act as a supplement to the State Educational Research and Training Institutes.

### **Education Management**

Reorganization of education planning and management system was given high priority. In this, to give priority to public participation in the society, to generate a sense of autonomy in educational institutions, in education management, principles of inclusion of maximum number of women and accountability in relation to the objectives given etc. was kept in mind.

“Central Education Advisory Board” at national level reviewed educational development, ensure necessary changes to improve education system and played a decisive role in supervision of implementation. An attempt was made to form Indian Education Service an All India Service. Special attention was paid to the training of educational organizers, administrators and heads of institutions.

State governments established body like 'Central Education Advisory Board' at the state level by the name 'State Education Advisory Board and District education boards at the district level.

## Resources

To the extent possible, means were mobilized in these different ways - collecting donations, buildings, taking help of local people in the maintenance and supply of everyday items, increase fees at the high education level and make better use of available resources.

Education was considered as an important area of capital for national development and revival. The investment on education was increased gradually.

## Review

The implementation of various aspects of the new education policy was reviewed every five years.

The future form of education in India is so complicated that it is not possible to make a clear outline about it. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that we will succeed in achieving our objectives.

## Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya was established by Rajiv Gandhi in 1985. This school by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India is fully residential, co-educational, and is associated with Central Board of Secondary Education. Its objective is to provide good environment for education to rural boys and girls.

## Information and Communication Revolution

Ever since man has descended on Earth, he has used various media. Man has come too far on the path of progress. There have been many such achievements in every sphere of life which provides all facilities and comfort in lives. Revolutionary steps have been taken in communication area due to which we have achieved many new sources, new resources and new facilities. Like electricity, road, water etc. telecommunication has developed as a basic facility. The message receiver or sender despite being motionless, long distance communication has become very easy.



Major means of communication of the country are Television, Radio, Press, Newspapers, Cinema, Internet, Mobile Satellite etc. The postal communication system of India is the largest system in the world. Mainly among modern communication tools are telephone, internet and mobile services.

The credit of information revolution in India goes to Rajiv Gandhi when he was the Prime Minister of India. Orissa-born Sam Pitroda after Masters in Physics went to Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago to pursue a master's degree in electrical engineering. During Sixties and Seventies, Pitroda worked towards developing technology in the area of Telecom and Communications. In the eighties, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi invited Pitroda to serve India. After returning to India, he pursued research and development in the field of telecommunications autonomously and established 'C-DOT' i.e., 'Center for Development of Telematics'. He then worked to give a new direction to telecom policy as an advisor to the Prime Minister. Sam Pitroda is considered the pioneer of the information revolution in India.

The Indian telecom sector has made good progress in the last years and India has become a country with the second largest telephone network in the world. National Telecom Policy in the year 1994, which ensured telephone on demand and availability of excellent services at appropriate rates was announced and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was established 1997. The new telecom policy was announced in the year 1999, which made telecommunications in the country to emphasize on the need to prepare a blueprint for making possible the development of a world-class infrastructure in the region and development of the region. The primary objective of National Telecom Policy, 2012 was to provide reliable and secure telecommunications and broadband facilities nationwide at affordable prices. This policy along with equality also underlined the growing role of these services in national development.

Established in August, 1984 as an autonomous organization 'C-Dot' is the telecom technology development centre of the Government of India. All rights were given to develop state-of-the-art technologies to meet the growing needs of the Indian telecom network, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam limited (MTNL) was set up in 1986 to provide high-end telecom facilities in metro cities, Delhi and Mumbai. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was founded in the year 2000 to provide services like wireless CDMA, GSM wireless, Internet, Broadband, VSAT etc. Mobile number portability has been introduced in India, under which it has been made convenient for consumers to keep their current number while taking services from one provider to another. Spectrum Management is the incorporation of administrative and technical processes that are effective for radio communication services. That is why allotment of spectrum should be done without compromising the interests, so that people at large scale benefit. The demand for competent telecom equipment is increasing day by day due to modern technologies, increasing popularity of 3G and 4G networks and broadband and wireless services. The

government and policy makers are now focused on developing the domestic production industry.

Television is a telecommunications medium used to transmit moving images with sound. Television is a widespread medium for news, entertainment and advertising. Direct-to-Home via satellite television, a new technology has changed the way of watching TV. This satellite based technology means that digitally fast and crystal less TV is sent directly to our homes and we have many options to select and run programs. Dish TV was India's first commercial DTH service.

An important means of communication is the telephone, invented by Alexander Graham Bell. With its help, the person sitting at different places can talk to each other and can exchange information. With the arrival of Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) and International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) services people could talk among themselves at home and abroad by dialling the number. For STD and ISD cities and countries in services, the numerical codes are set, which are dialled before the telephone number and call can be made directly without waiting. The invention of mobile phone services in the field of communication services has led to an important revolution. Anyone can talk directly to anyone using mobile phone services. High speed internet services through mobile services like 3G and 4G are available, through which video calling facility is available. Various mobile applications have also made communication services easy and fast and new technology being invented in these services is available day by day.

Internet means 'interconnected network' where international web of information is available to be exchanged with each other through computers. It is also called 'Information Highways'. Internet is that combination of computers in which the user of the computer connects to the local internet service provider by telephone. After that with the help of internet browser software people fill the desired server address in the computer. The information present in the server comes on the screen of the computer. The beginning of 'e-mail' in the decade of 1970 brought revolution in the world of communication. The e-mail was invented by Raymond Samuel Tomlinson. With the help of Email, any information can be sent to any corner of the world in a few seconds. By email messages can be sent to thousands of people simultaneously. Internet Conferencing and Video Conferencing can also be done, which is less expensive and saves time. Through it many people sitting in different places of the country and abroad can transact with audio-visual conversation. Pictures and movies can also be easily and quickly transferred from one place to another through the internet.

Communication technology allows people of the whole world to contact each other, access information faster and quicker, provides access and facilitates dialogue and interaction with remote areas. Information and communication technology makes a clear impact on all aspects of human life. At present, telecommunication is the main form of communication. Telecom means communication of information by electromagnetic means

In the 1990s, to increase the effectiveness, transparency and reliability of public service delivery, Central Administrative Reforms Committee recommended for the use of 'e-governance' as an interface between state and citizens. The aim of the National E-Governance Plan conceptualized by the Department and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Department is to provide speed, reliability, ease of delivery of various public services to citizens and transparency is to be increased. To make delivery of government services more effective, government processes are made simpler and efficient. Digital India program launched by the Government of India is expected to expand internet services across the country. It is expected that with the implementation of the Digital India program, people's difficulties in going to various government offices, contact with officials will be overcome. Exchange of information will be facilitated. Government of India claimed that this will bring transparency in administrative work. The distance between the administration and the people will disappear. School children will not have to be burdened with books without reason. They will be able to study through medium of mobiles, laptops and tabs. To get education through Information Technology is to provide good education throughout life. Department of Information Technology has made efforts to promote e-learning in the country. Consequently developing inexpensive technologies and tools for delivering and managing digital content has happened. The Central Government wants to provide everyday facilities to the people under Digital India. The objectives of the program are very broad. If this program succeeds, undoubtedly developing India will reach more close to developed countries.

### **Vishwanath Pratap Singh**

After the general elections of 1989, the leader of the National Front and former Congressman Vishwanath Pratap Singh became the eighth Prime Minister of the country. In his short term of 44 months, Vishwanath Pratap Singh appointed Mandal Commission and decided to implement its recommendations.

#### **Story of Mandal Commission**

At the time of independence most of the property was with the landlords and most of the landlords belonged to the upper castes. The people of the Dalit community were lagging behind. First Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 29

January 1953 formed the Backward Classes Commission under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar, who after almost two years submitted its report, on 30th March, 1955 which remained ineffective.

On December 20, 1978 the government formed under the leadership of Morarji Desai announced new commission headed by the former Chief Minister of Bihar, Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal which was called as Mandal Commission. The Commission tested all castes on social, educational and economic criteria. The Commission found that there were a total of 3,743 backward castes in the country. The Commission finalized its report on 12 December 1980 but by then Morarji Desai's government had collapsed.

### **Major recommendations of Mandal Commission**

Mandal commission report recommended 27 percent reservation in government jobs for backward classes. Apart from reservation in government jobs, the main recommendation of Mandal Commission was that Land Reform law should be implemented to end the zamindari system as it was the biggest enemy of backward classes,

The land contracted by the government should not only be given to the scheduled castes and tribes rather, other backward classes (OBCs) should also be included in it.

Separate Ministries / Departments were formed to protect the interests of Other Backward Classes in the Central and State Governments.

In scientific, technical and professional educational institutions run by the central and state governments, 27 percent reservation in admission to students belonging to other backward classes should be implemented.

For adult education centres in areas with a population of OBCs and backward class students residential schools should be opened. Employment education should be imparted to the students of other backward classes.

When V.P. Singh became Prime Minister, he implemented the Mandal Commission recommendations with some changes which were also strongly opposed. Mandal Commission notification was issued on 13 August 1990. Ujjwal Singh, Chairman of the All India Anti Reservation Front, filed a petition in the Supreme Court against implementing the recommendations of the Commission. Supreme Court heard Ujjwal Singh's petition and referred the matter to the Constitution Bench of nine judges. On November 16, 1992, the Supreme Court gave its historic verdict and upheld the decision to implement the recommendations of Mandal Commission. During the hearing of the petition, the Supreme Court raised

the maximum reservation limit to 50 percent. A few days after the Supreme Court's decision, the government notification giving 27 percent reservation to backward classes in jobs was issued.

### **Pamulapati Venkata Narasimha Rao**

Narasimha Rao was the ninth Prime Minister of India (1991-1996). He brought many economic changes in India. Under his leadership, liberalization of Indian economy was started. He together with then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh gave a new direction to shabby economy through Globalization and liberalization. This is why he is considered as the Father of financial reforms. He not only pulled back economy from 1991 economic downturn but also eliminated the license raj completely, opened doors for foreign investment and triggered



Manmohan Singh with Narasimha Rao

India's nuclear program. His policy of economic reforms continued with subsequent governments.

During this time important works were also done in the area of national security and foreign policy. Missile and nuclear program gained momentum as a result of which the Vajpayee government was successful in conducting nuclear tests in 1998. He increased the country's military strength keeping in mind Pakistan and China and terrorism in Punjab was also eliminated during his tenure. He faced incidents of terrorism effectively. Detailed information related to foreign policy will be given in the chapter of foreign policy.

### **Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization**

The concept of liberalization had begun during the reign of Rajiv Gandhi in the 1980s. At that time many restrictions on industry and trade had started to end. But, the real beginning of liberalization is believed to be from the 1990s. In this, many commendable steps to improve India's economic the structure were taken.

Liberalization is a new economic policy by which such economic environment is tried to be set in the country where business and industry of the country can develop independently. Liberalization means reducing restrictions on business and industry so that businessmen and entrepreneurs do not face any kind of obstacles in

working. Liberalization has revolutionized the business world and is highly recommended for all countries. Liberalization is the result of a new industrial policy that abolishes the 'licensing system'.

Foreign technology, capital and multinational companies were invited. The public sector was given an opportunity to cure its sickness and finances of government extended to institutions, workers and public. Imported goods were exempted, export goods were given more encouragement. These decisions led to some good results.

The policy of liberalization in Indian economy is different from mixed economy as it is developed on the basis of domestic and foreign competition, capitalist privatization.

After independence, the year of 1991 proved to be a milestone in India's economic history. Earlier the country was going through a severe economic crisis and this crisis compelled the policy makers of India to launch the new economic policy. The situation created by the crisis has led the government to formulate policies aimed at bringing monetary stabilization and structural reforms. The aim of the stabilization policies was to correct the weaknesses, leading to reduce fiscal deficit and control adverse balance of payments. Structural reforms had removed stricter rule due to which reforms were also implemented in various sectors of the Indian economy.

Liberalization has made an unprecedented contribution in every sector, be it agriculture, industry and services, be it pharmaceutical industry or petroleum and natural gas industry. Improvement in all these sectors provided more employment opportunities. If we compare before and after 1991, then this is clearly seen that liberalization has reduced poverty. While in 2005, 41.6 percent of the population was living below the poverty line (1.25 \$), the figure was 59.8 percent in 1988.

It is not wrong to say that liberalization has improved the standard of living of the people. Their per capita income has increased.

In 1991, the main motives behind launching the new economic policy by the then Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh are as follows :

- I. In keeping the Indian economy in the field of globalization, it has to be market oriented.





- II. Bring down the inflation rate and remove the Balance of payment imbalance.
- III. Increase the economic growth rate and create adequate foreign exchange reserves.
- IV. Removing all kinds of unnecessary restrictions along with achieving economic stabilization and to make an economic transition to a market-friendly economy.
- V. Removal of restrictions, permission was to be granted to international flow of goods, services, capital, human resources and technology
- VI. Private Companies had to increase participation in all sectors of the economy. This is why the government reduced number of reserved sectors to 3.

In the beginning of the middle of 1991, the Government of India introduced trade, foreign investment, exchange rates, industry, made some radical changes in our policies to sharpen the edge of the economy and to make the fiscal system effective.

The main objective of the New Economic Policy was to create the environment accompanied by an improvement in productivity and efficiency along with more competitive economy.

Following steps were taken under the New Economic Policy :

**(1) Self determination of interest rate by commercial banks-**

Under the liberalization policy, all commercial banks will be free to determine the rate of interest. They will not have any obligation to accept the rates of interest set by the Reserve Bank of India.

**(2) Increase in investment limit for Small Scale Industries (SSI) -**

Investment limit in small scale industries has been increased to Rs. 1 Crore, so that these companies can improve their efficiency with upgrading machinery.

**(3) Capital freedom to import goods-**

Indian industry will be free to buy machines and raw materials from abroad for its overall development

**(4) Freedom for expansion and production of industries-**

In this new liberalized era, the industry is now diversifying its production capacity and cost of production. Earlier the government used to set the maximum limit of production capacity. No industry could produce more than this limit. Now the industry is free to decide its own production based on needs of market.

**(5) Elimination of restricted business practices-**

According to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act-1969, all companies whose assets are worth Rs. 100 crores or more are called MRTP

companies. That is why earlier they had many restrictions, but now these companies have to take investment decisions. There is no need to get prior approval from the government.

### **Cauvery River Water Dispute**

Kaveri River is also called Ganges of South India. It originates from Brahmagiri Mountain in Western Ghats. The length is about 860 kilometres. Cauvery river delta is well cultivated. Millions of people in four states are dependent on the waters of the Cauvery River. There is dispute between states over its water sharing. Beginning of complications on Cauvery river water dispute can be traced back to year 1892 and because of the 4 agreements signed in 1924 which happened between the royal family of Mysore and Madras Presidencies.



Central Government formed the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in 1990 after Supreme Court intervention. The Tribunal in 2007 gave its verdict. In the verdict, tribunal allotted 419 TMC Ft water to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka 270 TMC Ft, 30 TMC Ft to Kerala and 7 TMC Ft Water to Puducherry.

Supreme Court in a judgment of the in February 2018, has made a provision for allocation of 404.25 TMC feet for Tamil Nadu, 284.75 TMC foot for Karnataka, 39 TMC feet for Kerala and 7 TMC feet of water for Puducherry.

### **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister of the country on 16 May 1996, but only after 13 days, the government collapsed. After that, a United Front government was formed for a short period, in which H.D. Deve Gowda and Indra Kumar Gujral became Prime Ministers. In its short duration, the Inder Kumar Gujral government could introduce only the Gujral Doctrine in the field of foreign policy, which was aimed at harmonizing relations with neighbouring countries. Vajpayee became Prime Minister again on 19 March 1998 and after winning the general elections held in 1999, he remained the Prime Minister of India till 22 March 2004. During this period of Vajpayee government, India entered a new era. During this period, India through Pokhran 2 nuclear test had made its mark before the world as a

nation rich in nuclear power, while private sectors and foreign investment was encouraged. Vajpayee government sped up comprehensive plans for national highway development and in 2001, the Golden Quadrilateral project of India was launched. For spread of education he also implemented the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. During this period concrete steps were taken to establish constructive relations with Indians settled abroad.

### **Operation Shakti**

India conducted 3 underground nuclear tests during the tenure of Vajpayee in the year 1998. There was panic all over the world due to 3 nuclear tests on 11 May 1998 and 13 May 1998. Pokhran II operation is codenamed Operation Shakti and was headed by Dr R. Chidambaram. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave the

new slogan "Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan - Jai Vigyan". The main objective of these tests was to tell the world that India is able to give a befitting reply to the strategic capabilities of neighbouring countries. To protect and defend itself, it is self-sufficient. It has been accepted in principle in India's nuclear policy that India will keep nuclear weapons for its defence, and it will not use weapons first. In India's nuclear



Atal Bihari Vajpayee at nuclear test site

policy, it was reiterated that India is committed to non-discriminatory Nuclear Disarmament applied globally, so that a world free of nuclear weapons is created.

### **Kargil war**

A war between India and Pakistan started at Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir in 1999 when Pakistani soldiers got nefarious and conspiring and to execute the plans they entered into Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. This was a very difficult situation for India when Pakistani soldiers had camped on high peaks while Indian soldiers were retaliating from lower region of the hilly area inaccessible on the Line of Control.

But passion to protect borders was such that struggling with all the difficulties,

Indian soldiers were able to dislodge their opponent and achieved victory on 26th July, 1999 under the name “Operation Vijay”. The country will always be indebted to the warriors whose valour and sacrifice secured the borders of the country. During the Kargil War, all the soldiers showed amazing valour.



The stories of valour of warriors of Kargil will keep inspiring many generations

## Exercise

### Objective Type Questions

1. Which Constitution Amendment Act is related to anti-defection law ?
  - (a) 42nd Constitution Amendment - 1976
  - (b) 44th Constitution Amendment - 1978
  - (c) 52nd Constitution Amendment - 1985
  - (d) 64th Constitution Amendment - 1989
2. What is the minimum age determined to vote in 1989 through 64th Constitutional Amendment Act-1988 ?
  - (a) 16 years
  - (b) 18 years
  - (c) 21 years
  - (d) 25 years
3. Under which Constitution Amendment Act was education included in the Concurrent list ?
  - (a) 42nd Constitution Amendment - 1976
  - (b) 44th Constitution Amendment - 1978
  - (c) 52nd Constitution Amendment - 1985
  - (d) 61st Constitution Amendment - 1989
4. When was Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) established ?
  - (a) 1980 AD
  - (b) 1985 AD
  - (c) 1990 AD
  - (d) 1995 AD

5. Who is called the forerunner of information revolution in India ?  
 (a) Sundar Pichai            (b) Satya Nadella  
 (c) Sam Pitroda            (d) George Kurien
6. When was Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) established ?  
 (a) 1994            (b) 1997  
 (c) 1999            (d) 2002
7. Who invented email ?  
 (a) Raymond Samuel Tomlinson            (b) Alexander Graham Bell  
 (c) Charles Babbage            (d) Timothy John Berners-Lee

#### **Very Short Answer Question**

1. What do you know about Operation Black Board?
2. What does informal education mean?
3. What provisions were made about sports and physical education in the National Education Policy-1986?
4. What are the duties of Central Education Advisory Board?
5. What is called 'Information Highways'?
6. What do you understand by video conferencing (VC)?
7. What is meant by E-Governance ?
8. What do you know about C-Dot ?
9. What does Pokhran-II mean?
10. When is Kargil Victory Day celebrated?

#### **Short Answer Question**

1. On what grounds is a member of a political party disqualified of membership of a House?
2. What are the provisions regarding elementary education and care of infants in the National Education Policy-1986?
3. What are the provisions regarding education content and values in National Education Policy-1986 ?
4. Under National Education Policy-1986, what are the suggestions regarding improvement in the valuation process and examination?

5. What are the provisions regarding teacher in National Education Policy-1986?
6. Explain India's 'no first use' policy in the context of nuclear weapons.
7. What do you know about liberalization?
8. Comment on the Cauvery River water dispute.

**Essay Type Question**

1. Write a summary of the key provisions of the National Education Policy-1986.
2. Explaining the objectives of the new economic policy of the year 1991, discuss the steps taken under this policy.