

Shrimati Indira Gandhi

The first lady Prime Minister

After the death of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Shrimati Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India in 1966. She established her worth and emerged as the strongest Prime Minister and the President of the Congress Party. The Congress Party was divided as soon as she took reigns of the country but she overcame all hurdles and proved that the Congress was the real Congress party.

She was born on Nov. 19, 1917 at Anand Bhawan at Allahabad in U.P. Her grandparents fondly called her 'Indu' while her parents named her 'Priyadarshini'. She received her education at several places because her father Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was mostly in prison. Her primary education was completed at Allahabad. Then she was sent to A. Poona. Later on she was shifted to Oxford and after this she was sent to Switzerland, she, however, completed her education at Shanti Niketan under the able guidance of Shri Ravindra Nath Tagore.

As a student she took keen interest in Political movements in the country. She formed 'Vanar Sena' and recruited 6000 members in it at the age of 12 only. For taking part in the freedom movement she was sent to prison with thousands of others. She worked with Mahatma Gandhi and was made the President of the Congress party in 1959 due to her abilities and foresightedness. In 1964, she became the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in the Cabinet of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

In the beginning many of her supporters thought that they would influence her to get their interests fulfilled, but it was wrong to think as she took tough decisions independently and asserted her authority. During her tenure as Prime Minister, she had to face many storms in the country as well as in her party. But by dexterity she came out as triumphant in them. She imposed emergency to crush the fast growing terrorism in Punjab. She nationalized 14 Banks in the country at the end of the month as she gave her wholehearted support in its formation and sent Indian military to defeat Pakistan.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi is the first woman Prime Minister of the largest democracy of the world. She led the country to the path of peace and prosperity. She performed her duties to the satisfaction of the people. She learnt her politics at the knee of her illustrious father. She had a sharp mind, a strong will and a dedicated spirit. She was not only popular in India but in the whole world.

She was born on Nov. 19, 1917. She was brought up in a family full of political activities and love of country. So the family atmosphere had a great influence on her mind. She got her education at Allahabad, Oxford and Shanti Niketan. In 1942 she was married to Mr. Feroz Gandhi, a Parsi Youth. He died in 1960, she had two sons- Rajiv and Sanjay. Indira Gandhi was the worthy daughter of a worthy father. She was a born politician. After the death of her mother she had a very difficult time. In her early life she jumped into politics.

She had been the member of Indian National Congress. In 1959 she was elected President of National Congress. It was only after the death of her father that she became the Minister of information and Broadcasting. After the untimely death of Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966 she was elected Prime Minister of India.

She held the great office for about 17 years. During her period of reign she led the country to a place of honour. It was under her leadership in 1971, that India defeated Pakistan and broke its back for ever. She nationalized all the major banks and abolished privy purses. These were two bold steps.

In 1975, the opposition parties revolted after the historical judgement of Justice Sinha. To put all opposition down she declared a state of Internal Emergency. This brought her defeat in the general election of 1977. She was in hot water for a period of two and a half years. In the mid-term poll, held in January 1980 she won back her lost position.

Now she had to face many challenges. The demand of 'Khalistan' made her restless. The whole of the Punjab came in the grip of terrorism. These two things turned the Golden Temple into fortress. The Akalis presented a great challenge to her. As a custodian of the country's unity she had to order the army to enter into the Golden Temple. It freed the temple complex from terrorists.

On the back Wednesday morning of 31st October, 1984, at 9.18 A.M. she was shot dead at her residence by two of her own security guards named Beant Singh and Satwant Singh. She died after few hours.

She was impressed by the life of Rani Laxmi Bai of India and Joan of Arc of Europe. She became the third Prime Minister of India in 1966. She was considered only a doll by a group of Congress politicians who through themselves to be king makes.

But this doll proved herself a lioness. She was a bold and courageous woman. She never hesitated in taking the toughest decisions. She led India to victory during 1971 war with Pakistan. She ended the war in the formation of Bangladesh. She was Principles. Her 20-point programme was a bold way to bring prosperity for the poor. She was a woman of vision, courage and foresight. She was a woman of vision, courage and foresight. She was the worthy daughter of the worthy parents. She was a woman who made history to perform her duty.

Essay No. 03

Iron Lady of Indian Indira Gandhi

Except Margaret Thatcher of Britain there was no women leader taller than Indira Gandhi. During her 15 years of rule she dominated national as well as international scenario. Her creation of Bangladesh from East Pakistan after Bangladesh war, was a daring act. This act established her as a strong leader all over the world. Indira was born on 19th November, 1917 to Kamla Nehru and Jawahar Lal Nehru, first prime minister of independent India, at Anand Bhavan in Allahabad. When she was born she was named Priyadarshini. Her early education took place under the guidance of her parents and grandfather. Later on she was enrolled at Shantiniketan. But she had to leave Shantiniketan and accompany her mother to Germany for treatment of tuberculosis. When she completed her schooling, she was admitted to the Oxford University in England. On March 26, 1942 Indira Priyadarshini Nehru and Feroze Gandhi got married at Anand Bhavan in Allahabad. Her political life started when she joined the female members of the household in nursing the victims of police brutality. She constituted her first political brigade known as 'Vanar Sena' and worked as an auxiliary group to Congress Party. Politics was in Indira Gandhi's blood. She actively participated in freedom struggle throughout the pre independence era. Many times she was sent to jail. Post independence she got actively involved with her father in the resurrection of nation. Meanwhile, her relationship with Feroz Gandhi soured. She assumed the role of her father's official hostess. After the death of her father, when Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri took the reigns of the nation she was allocated Information and Broadcastinegr ministry. When Shastri died in 1966, Congress party elected h as the Prime Minister. Indira waspopular not only with the liberals but also with the minorities such as the Muslims and the Harijan.

Indira Gandhi's initial stint as prime minister was some less than brilliant. To eradicate poverty, Mrs. Gandhi pursued a forceful policy of land reform in 1969 and placed a ceiling I1 personal income, private property and corporate profits. She alsonationalised the major banks, a bold step amidst a growing rift between herself and the party elders. The Congress expelled her for 'indiscipline' on November 12, 1969, an action that split the party into two factions: the Congress

(O)—for Organisation— under Morarji Desai and the Congress (R)—for Requisition—under Indira Gandhi. She continued as the Prime Minister with support from communists, Sikhs and regional parties. She again firmly established herself at the pinnacle of power when she rode to power in general election of March 1971. Neither Gandhi's consolidation of power, nor her authoritative style of administration, not even her public speaking of radical reforms was enough to meet the deepening economic crisis generated by the massive cost of the 1971 war with Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh. Both Gandhi's office and character came under severe tests when an all-party had put No-confidence motion in Parliament and a writ had been issued by the Allahabad High Court invalidating her 1971 election and making her ineligible to occupy her seat for six years. On June 25, 1975: the President declared an Emergency and the government suspended civil rights. The Reign of Terror, as some called it, continued until January 18, 1977, when Gandhi suddenly relaxed the Emergency, announced the next General Elections in March and released her opponents from prison. With elections only two months away both J.P. Narayan and Morarji Desai reactivated the multiparty front, which campaigned as the Janata Party and rode anti-Emergency sentiment to secure a clear majority in the Lok Sabha (House of the People), the lower house of Parliament. And Morarji Desai became India's fourth Prime Minister (1977-79). But due to factionalism Janata Party government couldn't last long and general elections was held in January 1980. Gandhi and her party renamed Congress (R) as Congress (1)—I for Indira—campaigning on the slogan 'Elect a Government That Works!' and regained power. Secessionist forces in Punjab and in the northeast and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in December 1979 consumed her energy. She began to involve the armed forces in resolving violent domestic conflicts between 1980 and 1984. In May 1984, Sikh extremists occupied the Golden Temple in Amritsar, converting it into a refuge for terrorists. Gandhi responded in early June when

she launched Operation Blue Star, which killed and Wounded hundreds of soldiers, insurgents and civilians. A few months later, in October 31, 1984, two of Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards took revenge by assassinating Gandhi on the grounds of her home. Thus ended the life of the first woman prime minister of India. She emerged as the global leader. A poll by BBC News on line has voted Indira Gandhi as the greatest woman in the past 1,000 years. Mrs. Gandhi acquired a formidable international reputation as a 'Statesman'. She was referred as the Empress of India as she directed the country towards newer horizons. In fact she was a global leader during whose tenure India strove extremely well in her international relations.

Essay No. 04

Smt. Indira Gandhi

(1917- 1984)

or

The Woman Prime Minister of India

or

The Third Prime Minister of India

Indira Gandhi was one of the greatest women of India. Her childhood name was Priyadarshini. She was born at Allahabad on 19th November, 1917. She was the illustrious daughter of an illustrious father, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.

She was born with patriotic feelings, her grandfather, Motilal Nehru and father Jawaharlal Nehru both being great patriots. She was greatly impressed by Gandhiji when she visited the Sabarmati Ashram.

She got her early education at home. She did her matriculation from Pune and later joined the Shanti Niketan started by Rabindra Nath Tagore. Later she studied in Switzerland and England.

Her mother, Kamala Nehru died in 1937. It was a big shock to her. Now, she undertook looking after her father. Later, she married Feroze Gandhi, a Parsi in 1941, in the teeth of opposition from conservative Hindus.

After Jawaharlal Nehru became the Prime Minister of India as India gained Independence in 1947, her responsibility regarding taking care of his health and well-being increased. This, however, only added to her experience in politics.

After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 when Lal Bahadur Shastri became the Prime Minister, she joined his Cabinet as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. After Shastri's death in 1966, she became the first (and so far the last) woman Prime Minister of India.

She was known for her superb leadership and firm determination and became instrumental in inflicting a crushing defeat to Pakistan in 1971 and liberating East Pakistan later renamed as Bangladesh. She, however, became unpopular after she had declared internal Emergency on 26th June, 1975. As a result of it, she was defeated in the 1977 elections. She, however, was re-elected in December, 1979 but assumed office in January, 1980. On 31st October, 1984 she was assassinated by one of her bodyguards.

She will always be remembered as one of the greatest leaders of India and one of the greatest women of the world.

Essay No. 05

Indira Gandhi

India: First Women Prime Minister

Birth: 1917 Death: 1984

The name of Indira Gandhi is known throughout the world as the Prime Minister of India and as an important world statesman. Under her leadership, India became a strong country, making all-round progress. She also added new dynamism to international politics by strongly advocating the case of the poor and backward countries of the world. She was a great crusader of world peace also.

Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi was born in Allahabad (U.P.) on 19th November 1917, in a prosperous family. She was the only child of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. Indira Gandhi was educated at different places—Pune, Shanti Niketan, Switzerland and England. Both her father and grandfather were involved in the freedom struggle of India and this made a strong impression on the mind of little Indira. When she was just 13 years old, Indira organized a 'Monkey Army' which proved her intention to fight for the independence of her country. In 1942, she was married to Feroze Gandhi. Two sons were born to her—Rajiv Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi is at present the Prime Minister of India. After the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi became the third Prime Minister of India on January 24, 1966 and remained in this post up to 1977. The Prime Ministership of Indira was credited with great achievements and most noteworthy of these are nationalization of Banks, liberation of Bangla Desh, 20 Point Programme for the upliftment of the poor and the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement. In January 1980 General Elections, Indira Gandhi again returned to power with an overwhelming majority.

Mrs. Gandhi, the 'Iron Lady' of Asia, met her tragic end when she was brutally assassinated by her own guards on Wednesday, 31st October 1984. She is immortalized in the history as a forceful and capable ruler.

Essay No. 06

Indira Gandhi

Indira Gandhi was born on November 19, 1917 in her grandfather's house in Allahabad, in northern India: She was the daughter of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Her mother's name was Kamala Nehru.

In 1942 Indira and Feroze were married. In 1947 Indira became her father's hostess as he leads India. Her upbringing had taught her much about freedom and struggle.

Now, at her father's side she was to gain an education into the workings of a democracy and the realities of power. In 1959 she became congress president.

In 1964 her father died, his successor was Lal Bhadur Shastri. Mr. Shastri died after two years in office. On Shastri's death, she was elected the first woman Prime Minister of the country. She led the country for sixteen years.

In 1971, she gave crushing defeat to Pakistan. She nationalized the Banks and abolished the Privy Purse. These two steps made her the champion of the poor.

Her life was part of the story of modern India. She was killed by two of her bodyguards. She was sixty-four years old. She was a lady of rare qualities.

No one ever doubted the courage of the remarkable woman who had sometimes been called "The Devi of India" and no one ever doubted that with her death a chapter of India's history ended.

Essay No. 07

Indira Gandhi

Smt. Indira Gandhi took over as Prime Minister of India on January 24, 1966 and continued till 1977. After a lapse of nearly three years she once again emerged victorious with a thumping majority in the General Elections held in January, 1980 and was made the Prime Minister.

Smt. Indira Gandhi (Priyadarshini) was born at Allahabad on November 19, 1917. She was the granddaughter of Pt. Moti Lal Nehru and the only child of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of free India and the architect of modern India. Her illustrious father was a renowned politician and statesman, She was educated at Shanti Niketan and in Switzerland. She was a brilliant child. "Like father, like daughter.'

She was born to politics. She gained much experience in politics and statesmanship. She imbibed farsightedness, patriotism, diligence, firm

determination and courage from her father like the inborn and inherited qualities. In a way she had ingrained politics into her nature. She took an active part in all national movements and had been to jail time and again. She was married to a Parsi nationalist Feroze Gandhi in 1942. She had two sons Rajiv and Sanjay. Unfortunately, Sanjay died in an air crash on June 23, 1980 leaving behind his widow Menaka and his newly born son named Varun.

She succeeded to the post of Prime Minister after the death of Shastriji in 1966 at Tashkent (USSR). She continued to guide and shape the nation's destiny more than fifteen years. India made an all round and tremendous progress under her premiership. She nationalised banking and the coal industry and proved herself to be the saviour of the poor masses. Her 20-point economic programme aimed at the removal of economic hurdles, corruption, unemployment, exploitation and adulteration, and thereby raising the standard of the weaker section of the country. She could never compromise with the anti-social elements.

Her sound and solid role in the liberation of Bangla Desh won her international fame. She strengthened the economic and industrial fields through the IndoSoviet friendship pact. Some people started calling her a 'dictator'. The campaign launched by Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan became prominent. Therefore, Mrs Gandhi declared emergency in India. Terror reigned throughout the country. The opposition parties made a malicious propaganda against her and gave her a crushing defeat in the 1977 General Election. She was thrown out of power and she handed over the administration to the victorious Janata Party without a frown or murmur. She faced the Commissions and prosecutions boldly. The Janata Party which was a loose combination of several self-interest ed political parties caused mismanagement in the country.

The disgusted and frustrated people realised their folly and voted for her overwhelmingly to power in 1980. She staged a comeback with a bang and rode firmly in the saddle. She bore the heavy responsibility cool headedly. She restored the long lost stability, security and prosperity to India. She mended her totally shattered and paralysed economy and crushed the galloping inflation. She safeguarded the integrity of the nation in the international forums. She suppressed the fissiparous tendencies and spurt of communal riots with a heavy hand. She waged a constant war against the forces of disorder, disruption and reaction.

Her two security guards Beant Singh and Satwant Singh assassinated her on October 31, 1984. Her death sent a shock wave throughout the country. Communal violence and violation of law and order rocked the Capital and 12 other States on November 1, 1984. Curfew was imposed and orders were issued to shoot at sight. 104 world delegations attended her funeral on November 3. She ever longed to meet a martyr's death like M.K. Gandhi and feel proud of it since

every drop of her blood would lend a helping hand in developing, strengthening and mobilising the nation. She was the Central political figure of India and bred noble and lofty ideas in her bosom.

'History will stand witness to the magnitude of Indira Gandhi's contribution to a vibrant India on the march to modernity.' The Nation would miss her for ages due to her qualities of discretion, administrative efficiency, political farsightedness and ability of the nation's integration. May her soul rest in peace!