

Challenges to and Restoration of Congress System

Introduction:

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru died in May 1964. The 1960s were branded as a 'dangerous decade' due to some unresolved issues such as poverty, inequality, religious and territorial divisions, which led to the failure of the democratic project or the disintegration of the country. During the reign of Lal Bahadur Shastri from 1964 to 1966, India faced two major challenges, namely the 'Economic Crisis' caused by the Indo-China War of 1962 and the Indo-Pak War of 1965 and the failed monsoons, famine, and food crisis. 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' was the slogan for the solution of the problems. After the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Congress party faced a political legacy challenge for the second time, with intense competition between Congress MPs Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi by secret ballot. Indira Gandhi defeated Morarji Desai and coming to power peacefully was seen as a 'symbol of the maturity of Indian democracy'.

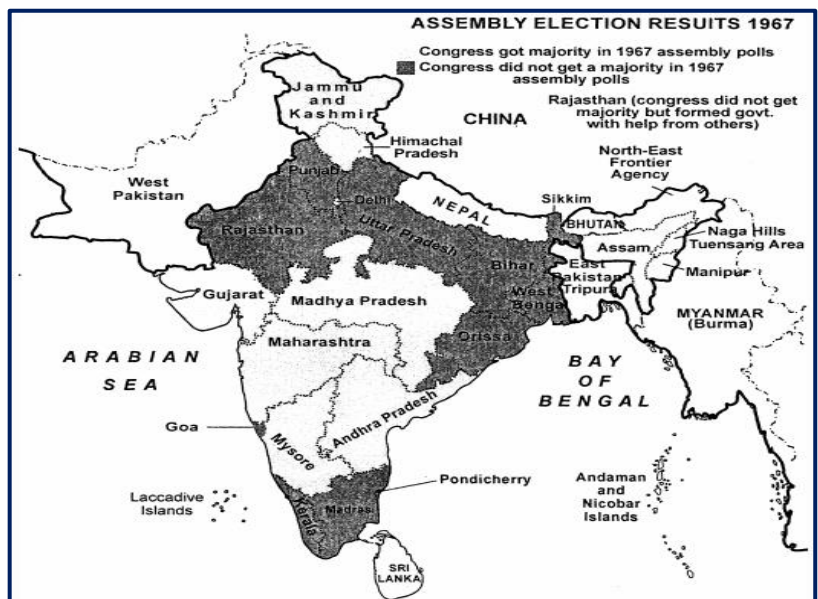
1. Religious Histories: Bhakti-Sufi Traditions

Nehru's death in 1964 led to many speculations on the question of inheritance. The 1960s were described as a 'dangerous decade' due to many challenges and unresolved issues. After Nehru's death, Lal Bahadur Shastri was unanimously elected as the leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party and became the next Prime Minister of India. During the Shastri regime from 1964 to 1966, the country faced two major challenges, the severe food crisis and the 1965 war with Pakistan. Shastri's famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' is a symbol of the nation's determination to face these two challenges. After the sudden death of Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966, there was a fierce rivalry between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi for the inheritance. Indira Gandhi had the support of senior party leaders.



2. Fourth General Election, 1967

After 1967, Indira Gandhi faced two challenges to achieve independence from the 'Syndicate' and regain the seat lost by Congress in the 1967 elections. Indira Gandhi followed a very bold strategy because she turned it into an ideological struggle, launched several programs, and in 1967 asked the Congress Working Committee to adopt the 'Ten Point Program', which included the social regulation of banks and the nationalization of general insurance. There are limits on the city's urban boundaries. Property and income, public distribution of food grains, land reforms, etc. K. Kamaraj, S.K. E.g. Syndicate is the unofficial name given to a group of Congress leaders. Patil, N. Sanjeeva Reddy, and Atulya Ghosh controlled the party in an institutional



form within the Congress. Indira Gandhi was the first cabinet and syndicate to have a major impact on policy formulation and implementation. After partition, the Congress (O) and the Indira-led Congress (R) formed and became popular after 1971. Indira Gandhi did not revive the old Congress party but re-launched the party by forming a completely separate popular party to cater to certain social groups, the poor, women, Dalits, tribals, and minorities. Thus Indira Gandhi changed the face of the Congress system and revived the Congress system. The year 1967 is considered as a milestone in the political and electoral history of India. In the current political climate, the economic situation has prompted a rise in prices. People started protesting against the rise in prices of essential commodities, food shortages and so on. Communist and socialist parties began to fight for great equality. There have also been some deadly Hindu-Muslim riots since independence in the 1960s.



Non-Congress

Opposition parties have stated they will not run in the by-elections. The Opposition felt that Indira Gandhi's inexperience and infighting within the Congress had given them an opportunity to oust the Congress. Socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia called the strategy Tian-Congressism.



Election Decision

The fourth general election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies was held in February 1967. The results shocked Congress nationally and statewide, calling it a "political earthquake".

Alliance

The 1967 elections brought to the fore the Coalition phenomenon. With no single party gaining a majority, the various non-Congress parties came together to form the United Legislative Party (known as the United Legislature Party in Hindi), which supported non-Congress governments.



Beyond

Defection means that the elected representative leaves the elected party on whose mark and joins another party. The constant change and change in political allegiance during this period led to the expression 'Aya Ram, Gayaram'.

DO YOU KNOW?

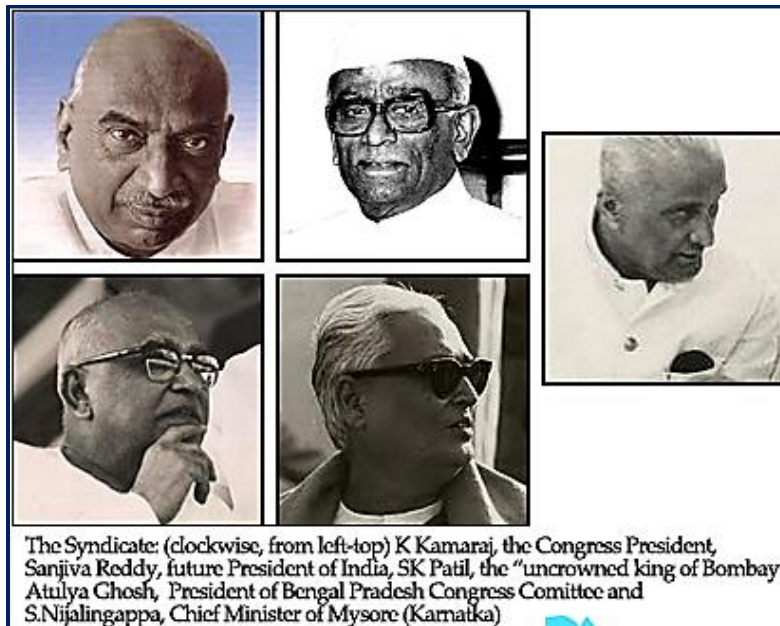
- Deviation:** The elected representative leaves the party at whose mark and joins another party.
- Non-Congress:** Non-Congress parties have formed an anti-Congress front with various programs and ideologies.
- Congress (O):** The Syndicate-led Congress is also known as the Old Congress, meaning the Congress (organization).
- Congress (R):** It was led by Indira Gandhi and is known as the new Congress, i.e. Congress (essentialism).

Split in Congress



After the 1967 elections, the Congress split due to various differences.

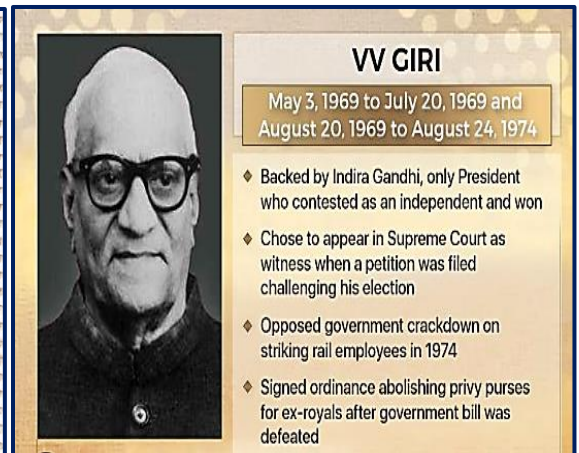
3. Indira Vs 'Syndicate'



The Syndicate is a group of powerful and influential leaders in Congress. Indira Gandhi faced two challenges from the Syndicate, building her independence from the Syndicate and working to regain the Congress soil she lost in the 1967 elections.

4. Presidential Election, 1969

The class rivalry between the syndicate and Indira Gandhi became apparent when the post of President of India felt vacant after the death of Zakir Hussain in 1969. Syndicate-backed Congress official candidate N. Sanjeeva Reddy, on the other hand, is Indira Gandhi's presidential candidate. Support VV Giri. Indira Gandhi announced the nationalization of fourteen major private banks and the abolition of the 'private purse', which resolved the differences between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi. The defeat of the ruling Congress candidate formalized the split in that party.



DO YOU KNOW?

Mahagathbandhan:	The main electoral alliance formed by the major parties like SSP, PSP, Bhartiya Jana Sangh, Swatantra Party, and Bhartiya Kranti Dal to form the United Front.
Syndicate:	A group of powerful and influential leaders in Congress.
Ten-point program:	Adopted by Indira Gandhi in 1967 to reclaim land for Congress, including social control of banks, land reforms, etc.
Depreciation:	Reducing the rate at which money is exchanged for foreign currency.

5. 1971-Elections and the Revival of Congress



The Indira Gandhi government recommended the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in December 1970 and the fifth general election to the Lok Sabha was held in February 1971.

Competition

In the 1971 elections, all major non-communist, non-Congress opposition parties formed an electoral alliance known as the Grand Alliance. Indira Gandhi said that the Opposition Alliance had only a coupon program called Indira Hatao, on the contrary she had put forward a positive program bound under the popular slogan of Garibi Hatao. This slogan and subsequent events were part of Indira Gandhi's political strategy to create an independent nationwide political support base.

Results and After Effects

The results of the 1971 Lok Sabha elections were dramatic as the Congress (R) -CPI alliance won more seats and votes than the Congress in the first four general elections. He won 375 seats in the Lok Sabha with 48.4 per cent of the vote. The Indira Gandhi Congress (R) won 352 seats on its own with 44 per cent of the vote. The grand coalition of the opposition was severely defeated. Their total number of seats is less than 40.

6. Restoration

Indira Gandhi relaunched the party in many ways. Now a new Congress has emerged. When the Congress consolidated its position and Indira Gandhi assumed unprecedented political power, the space for a democratic expression of the aspirations of the people actually diminished. Popular unrest and mobilization around the issues of development and economic deprivation continue to grow.

SUMMARY

The Indira Gandhi government decided to devalue the Indian rupee to check the 1967 financial crisis. As a result, the US dollar can be bought for less than 5 rupees after devaluation, which is more than 7 rupees, which led to an increase. Prices and people protested against the rise in prices of essential commodities and unemployment. It was fought for great equality by the Socialist and Communist parties. The decision to devalue the Congress party led to a non-Congress concept, creating an anti-Congress front with different programs and ideologies. Stated that it was necessary for democratic purposes. The fourth general election was held in 1967, which was not in favor of the Congress. Politicians like Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu, S.K. Patil in Maharashtra, Atulya Ghosh in West Bengal, and K.B. Sahai lost in Bihar and lost a majority in other states as well, for the first time a non-Congress party won a majority, including a coalition government of various non-Congress parties, known as the 'political earthquake'. The 1967 elections brought about a coalition phenomenon, which was formed by the joint legislative parties known as the SVD, also known as the United Legislature Party. The SVD in Bihar has two socialist parties — the SSP and the PSP — as well as the CPI on the left and the Jan Sangh on the right. In Punjab, it was known as the United Front and at that time had two rival Akali forces.

Questions For Practice

1. Which of the following statements about the 1971 Alliance is correct? Great Alliance_
 - (a) Formed by non-Communist-Congress parties.
 - (b) There is a pure political and ideological program.
 - (c) Formed by all non-Congress parties
 - (d) a and b Both
2. Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru passes away?
 - (a) January 1964 (b) May 1965
 - (c) March 1964 (d) May 1964
3. When Pandit. Jawaharlal Nehru died, was he the Congress president at that time?
 - (a) K Kamaraj
 - (b) Lai Bahadur Shastri
 - (c) S.K. Patil
 - (d) Morarji Desai.
4. Who is the founder of the Congress Socialist Party?
 - (a) C Natarajan Madurai
 - (b) K Kamaraj
 - (c) Ram Manohar Lohia
 - (d) S. Nijalingappa.
5. Mrs. Indira Gandhi did not participate in government policy activities?
 - (a) Cancellation of Privy Purse.
 - (b) Nationalization of banks.
 - (c) Nuclear test.
 - (d) Prohibition on nuclear testing.
6. The famous motto of Lal Bahadur Shastri?
 - (a) Eliminate the poor.
 - (b) Jai Jawan Jai Kisan.
 - (c) Aya Ram, Gaya Ram.
 - (d) Remove Indira.
7. Founded the Congress Socialist Party?
 - (a) B R Ambedkar
 - (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (c) Indira Gandhi.
 - (d) Ram Manohar Lohia
8. After Shastri's death, there was a fierce rivalry between Indira Gandhi
 - (a) Ram Manohar Lohia
 - (b) K Kamaraj.
 - (c) Morarji Desai.
 - (d) Karpuri Thakur.
9. The slogan 'Garibi Hatao' was first used?
 - (a) 1952 elections.
 - (b) 1967 elections.
 - (c) 1971 elections.
 - (d) 1977 elections
10. The use of the English language was strongly opposed?
 - (a) Gulzari Lal Nanda.
 - (b) JL Nehru
 - (c) Charan Singh
 - (d) Karpuri Thakur.
11. Mrs. Indira Gandhi did not participate in government policy activities?
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 - (a) C. Natarajan Madurai
 - (b) K. Kamaraj
 - (c) Ram Manohar Lohia
 - (d) S. Nijalingappa
13. The era of coalition government began in India?
 - (a) 1971. (b) 2004.
 - (c) 1989. (d) 1967.
14. Prime Minister Pandit. Jawaharlal Nehru passes away?
 - (a) January 1964 (b) May 1965
 - (c) March 1964 (d) May 1964
15. The socialist leader who provided the 'non-Congress' strategy?
 - (a) Giani Zail Singh
 - (b) V.V. Kernel
 - (c) Ram Manohar Lohia
 - (d) V.P. Singh
16. When Pandit. Jawaharlal Nehru died, was he the Congress president at that time?
 - (a) K. Kamaraj
 - (b) Lai Bahadur Shastri
 - (c) S.K. Patil
 - (d) Morarji Desai
17. Chairman of the Constituent Assembly Drafting Committee
 - (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri.
 - (b) Indira Gandhi.
 - (c) Jawaharlal Nehru.
 - (d) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
18. Which of the following statements about the 1971 Alliance is correct? Great Alliance_
 - (a) Formed by non-Communist-Congress parties.
 - (b) There is a pure political and ideological program.
 - (c) Formed by all non-Congress parties
 - (d) all of the above
19. The factionalism between the Syndicate and Indira Gandhi came to the fore
 - (a) Presidential Election, 1969
 - (b) Parliamentary Elections, 1969
 - (c) State Elections, 1969
 - (d) None of the above
20. Prime Minister Pandit. Jawaharlal Nehru passes away?
 - (a) January 1964 (b) May 1965
 - (c) March 1964 (d) May 1964
21. The Indian leader who gave the slogan "Garibi Hatao"?
 - (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri.
 - (b) Indira Gandhi.
 - (c) Jawaharlal Nehru.
 - (d) B.R. Ambedkar.
22. Where did the Prime Minister of India come from?
 - (a) From 1962 to 1965
 - (b) From 1964 to 1966
 - (c) From 1962 to 1967
 - (d) From 1964 to 1969
23. The fifth general election to the Lok Sabha was held?
 - (a) October 1970
 - (b) November 1970
 - (c) January 1971
 - (d) February 1971
24. The class struggle between Syndicate and Indira Gandhi came to the force?
 - (a) Presidential Election, 1969
 - (b) Parliamentary Elections, 1969
 - (c) State Elections, 1969
 - (d) None of the above
25. Mrs. Indira Gandhi did not participate in government policy activities?
 - (a) Cancellation of Privy Purse.
 - (b) Nationalization of banks.
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 - (d) Prohibition on nuclear testing.

26. When Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru died, was he the Congress president at that time?
 (a) K. Kamaraj
 (b) Lai Bahadur Shastri
 (c) S.K. Patil
 (d) Morarji Desai.
27. After Shastri's death, there was a fierce rivalry between Indira Gandhi
 (a) Ram Manohar Lohia
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 (c) Morarji Desai
 (d) Karpuri Thakur
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29. The slogan 'Garibi Hatao' was first used
 (a) 1952 elections
 (b) 1967 elections
 (c) 1971 elections
 (d) 1977 elections
30. The use of the English language is strongly opposed
 (a) Gulzari Lal Nanda.
 (b) J.L. Nehru.
 (c) Charan Singh.
 (d) Karpuri Thakur.
31. Which candidate did Mrs. Indira Gandhi support in the 1969 Presidential Election?
 (a) K. Kamaraj
 (b) Lai Bahadur Shastri
 (c) S.K. Patil
 (d) V.V. Giri
32. Prime Minister Pt. Place of death of Jawaharlal Nehru?
 (a) January 1964 (b) May 1965
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 (a) Ram Manohar Lohia
 (b) K. Kamaraj.
 (c) Morarji Desai.
 (d) Karpuri Thakur.
39. Who was vehemently opposed to the use of the English language?
 (a) Gulzari Lal Nanda.
 (b) J. L. Nehru
 (c) Charan Singh
 (d) Karpuri Thakur.
40. Indira Gandhi asked the Congress Working Committee to follow the ten-point program in ____.
 (a) April 1967 (b) May 1967
 (c) June 1967 (d) July 1967

Solutions

1. (a)	5. (d)	9. (c)	13. (c)	17. (d)	21. (b)	25. (d)	29. (c)	33. (a)	37. (d)
2. (d)	6. (b)	10. (d)	14. (d)	18. (a)	22. (b)	26. (a)	30. (d)	34. (c)	38. (c)
3. (a)	7. (d)	11. (d)	15. (c)	19. (a)	23. (d)	27. (c)	31. (d)	35. (d)	39. (d)
4. (c)	8. (c)	12. (c)	16. (a)	20. (d)	24. (a)	28. (c)	32. (d)	36. (b)	40. (b)

