50 Years of Emergency: Retracing its Impact and Defiance in Tamil Nadu

A retrospective analysis highlights the historical impact, political defiance, and state repression in Tamil Nadu during the 1975 National Emergency.

A historical review of the 21-month National Emergency declared in India and its specific socio-political repercussions on Tamil Nadu's administration and leaders.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- On the night of **June 25, 1975**, Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** declared a state of National Emergency across India.
- The Emergency led to the suspension of fundamental **civil liberties**, strict censorship of the press, and the arrest of political dissidents.
- In Tamil Nadu, the ruling **DMK** party actively opposed the Emergency, leading to severe political repression and mass detentions.
- Numerous political leaders and activists in the state were detained under preventive custody without trial during this **21-month** period.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The National Emergency of 1975 was proclaimed by President **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed** under **Article 352** of the Indian Constitution.

During the Emergency, the DMK government in Tamil Nadu led by Chief Minister **M. Karunanidhi** was dismissed on **January 31, 1976**, under **Article 356**.

The controversial Maintenance of Internal Security Act (**MISA**) of **1971** was extensively used to arrest opposition leaders in Tamil Nadu.

Prominent leaders arrested under MISA in Tamil Nadu included M.K. Stalin, Murasoli Maran, and Madras Mayor **Chittibabu**, who died in prison in **January 1977**.

The **Shah Commission** was appointed by the Union Government in **1977** to inquire into the excesses committed during the Emergency.

The **44th Constitutional Amendment Act** of 1978 substituted the term 'internal disturbance' with '**armed rebellion**' to prevent future misuse of Article 352.

REVISION FLASHCARD

The 1975 Emergency led to the dismissal of Tamil Nadu's DMK government under Article 356 on January 31, 1976.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 8 (Socio-Political Movements in TN) and Unit 5 (Indian Polity - Emergency Provisions).

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