CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION AND INFERENCES
CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

There have been occasional differences between the Presidents and Prime Ministers of India in our history. During the tenure of the First President Rajendra Prasad, serious constitutional questions on the relative powers of the President and the Prime Minister were raised. However, Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajendra Prasad, managed to resolve their differences of opinion through correspondence without creating any crisis or complication in the working of the Constitution. Later Presidents had occasional differences with their Prime Ministers but no direct confrontation between the President and the Prime Minister occurred.

DISCRETIONARY POWER OF THE PRESIDENT:

While the entire Union executive power is vested in the President, according to Article 74, the President has to act in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers in the exercise of his functions. The real problem arises in interpreting the term 'in the exercise of his functions'. The Constitution is clear on this point that there shall always be a council of Ministers to aid and advice the President. In other words, the Constitution
does not envisage a situation in which he can exercise any power without a Council of Ministers to aid and advise (during the President's rule). But it is obvious that the appointment of the Prime Minister under Article 75 cannot be done on the advice of a Council of Ministers. There are well-established conventions which govern the manner of such appointment and dissolution of the Lower House of Parliament. An argument that has been recently advanced is that the Indian President cannot dismiss the Prime Minister. The interpretation is ridiculous and funny, considering the fact that many Chief Ministers have been dismissed by Governors during the last 57 years. It can be safely asserted that if a Prime Minister who has lost the confidence of the majority in the House of the people refuses to resign voluntarily, he has to be dismissed by the President unless the President accepts the advice of the Prime Minister, and immediately dissolves the Lok Sabha. But the question whether a Prime Minister who still enjoys the confidence of the majority in the House of the people can ever be dismissed by the President required careful analysis. A view has been expressed that if a President has reason to believe that a prima facie criminal case has been
established against the Prime Minister, he can dismiss the Prime Minister. A similar view holds that if the Prime Minister refuses to abide by the Constitution and clearly violates and provision of the Constitution, the President is bound to dismiss the Prime Minister since an obligation is cast on him to this effect by the oath of office which he subscribes to. If the discretion of President is not involved in deciding on this vital question whether the Prime Minister has violated clearly any provision of the Constitution, there can be no sense in the President's subscribing an oath to this effect. Indeed, it is difficult to delineate the discretionary power and the constitutional power of the President according to the Indian Constitution since constitutional fiction and constitutional reality are so completely interwoven in the context of the different Articles of the Constitution.

PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES:

A careful understanding of the Indian Constitution will reveal that the constitution has very clearly demarcated the roles of the President and the Prime Minister (including Council of Ministers) in the several
articles dealing with them. The only matter left out relates to the President's discretion, as discussed above. The manner of presenting the relative positions of the President and the Prime Minister in the Indian Constitution is described as Constitutional fiction. There is an important and easy key to unravel the complications and to clear the doubts in the interpretation of these Articles. It has to be noted that only in Articles 71, 75 and 79 the President and the Prime Minister (or the Council of Ministers) are discussed together. These articles indicate clearly the relative role and function to be performed by the President, the Prime Minister as separate individuals. In several Articles which relate to some functions to be performed by the President, 'President' means the Prime Minister (or Council of Ministers). In other words, in all matters in which the President has to perform some function, he has to do it according to the Prime Minister's advice. This construction will not normally apply to all those provisions, referring to the President, wherein he does not perform any function, e.g., Article 53. There shall be a President of India. This Article cannot be
interpreted to mean that the President shall be there only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

**Article 53:**

Article 53 (1) says that the Union exclusive power shall be vested in the President but shall be exercised by him directly or through officers. But it is clear that he can exercise this power only on the advice of the Ministers (since exercise of power is a function performed by the President). Similarly Article 53 (2) should be understood to mean that the supreme command of the defence forces is vested in the President but will be exercised by the Ministry. The constitution does not describe the President as the Supreme Commander of the defence forces as is stated by some commentators.

**Article 60:**

It is important to understand the significance of Article 60 which deals with oath or affirmation by the President. It is clear that the President, or anybody else, for that matter, can and has to subscribe an oath or affirmation only in his personal capacity. The oath of the
President contains two important parts—(i) to execute the office i.e., discharge the function and (ii) preserve, protect, and defend of the Constitution and the law. With regard to protecting and defending the Constitution, it cannot be said that the President’s obligation is simply that of the Prime Minister (or Cabinet). According to the common understanding of oath, an individual cannot make an oath on behalf of what will be done by another person. It does not make sense that the President commits himself personally (with being a personal commitment) for what will be done by another person (the Prime Minister or the cabinet). In other words, the President is only bound to protect the Constitution. This interpretation is equally justified on another ground also. In the case of the breakdown of the constitutional machinery at the Centre, the President is expected to act in his personal capacity, within the parameters of the constitutional provision, to ensure that the Union Government is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. He can do so by dismissing the present Prime Minister and simultaneously appointing another. The question is what happens if the Union Government or the Prime Minister
explicitly refuses to abide by the Constitution? What can be done if the government of the Union cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution? The Constitution makers were wise enough not to state such an eventuality explicitly but should have envisaged that the Prime Minister and the Parliament (in which he enjoys the majority support) shall not be allowed to overthrow or thwart the Constitution by providing that the President shall be there to defend it. Thus, the oath under Article 60 is not an empty provision. It is the most important safeguard inserted into the Constitution to thwart the attempt of any over-ambitious Prime Minister from turning into a dictator using his majority support in the Lok Sabha. In fact, the President is bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers only for the discharge of his functions. He is not bound by the advice of the Ministry or the Prime Minister with regard to defending the Constitution and the law against the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers. This does not mean that the President can dismiss a Prime Minister at the slightest violation of any provision of the Constitution, but in an extreme emergency when the Prime Minister is bent upon
destroying the Constitution, the President should act as per his oath.

**Article 61**

This Article discusses impeachment of the President. Obviously impeachment of the President is not a function performed by him and so the reference to the President in this Article cannot be construed as a reference to the Prime Minister. In other words, it is only the President, in his personal capacity, who can be impeached not the Prime Minister. The Article states emphatically that a President can be impeached only for violation of the Constitution. If a Prime Minister, who enjoys the majority support in the Parliament is unjustifiably dismissed, the Parliament will be able to impeach the President successfully since the charge against the President i.e., the violation of the Constitution will be sustained after the investigation. On the other hand, if the dismissal of the former Prime Minister and appointment of another Prime Minister are justifiable acts of the President, the impeachment proceedings will fail. An incisive analysis will reveal that in the case of a real tussle between the President and the Prime Minister the
people will ultimately become the referee. A Prime Minister who is dismissed by the President male fide will be able to retain his majority support in the Lok Sabha (with or without a General Election immediately thereafter) and may succeed in impeaching the President. During the impeachment proceedings, the President will have the personal right to defend himself against the charges. This right of defending himself can be exercised by him in his personal capacity, not on the advice of the Ministry. Articles 60 and 61 together lead us to the conclusion that if, in an extreme case, the President dismisses the Prime Minister wrongfully, it is for the Parliament (either the existing Lok Sabha or the next one) to impeach the President for violation of the Constitution.

Article 74:

This article discusses the essential nature of relations between the President and the Prime Minister. Art.74 (i) says that the President shall, in the exercise of his functions, act according to the advice of the Prime Minister. The binding nature of the advice is an essential feature of the Cabinet system of Government and had been
upheld in several court rulings. But the Government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, not being satisfied with the original recital of this article, introduced an amendment, through the 44th Amendment of 1976, to state explicitly that the President shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. It is interesting to note that a similar Article (Article 165) dealing with the relations between the Governor and his council of Ministers was not amended along the same lines. But the provision inserted by the 44th Amendment says that "the President may require the Cabinet to reconsider such advice tendered by a Minister, or Prime Minister or the Cabinet. As stated above, in all those constitutional Articles where the President and the Prime Minister are mentioned together, "the President" means 'President in his personal capacity'.

Thus, it is open to the President, according to his discretion, to ask for reconsideration of any advice of the ministry. It is in this context that we have to understand that the President Zail Singh had a right and properly exercised that right, by asking for clarification and reconsideration before assenting to the Maiti interpolation Bill. Article 71 (2) prohibits the Courts from
inquiring into the confidential communication between the Ministers and the President. This bar can not be extended to the Parliament or to the public. The confidentiality of communication between the President and the Government is a matter governed by official secrets Act and will normally not be divulged for a period of 35 years. But it is open to the President or the Prime Minister, in his discretion, to release such communication to the public. There is nothing in the constitution which prohibits it. But the Head of State and Head of Government are expected to have mutual trust and understanding so as to sort out any issues between them through private communication. There is absolutely no harm in either of them bringing to public notice any controversial issue or difference of opinion between them. Since the President has no right to send any message to the Parliament, in his personal capacity. Zail Singh rightly asked the Prime Minister to share the contents of his letter of 9 March 1987 with the members of Parliament. It was left to the discretion of the Prime Minister to oblige the President or not. Both the President and the Prime Minister denied responsibility for the leakage of the letter to the press.
Article 75

Article 75 is crucial in defining the relation between the President and the Prime Minister. The appointment of the Prime Minister by the President is governed by constitutional conventions. It cannot be said that the appointment of the Prime Minister is a matter of discretion of the President. The proper interpretation of Article 75(2) will be that Ministers other than the Prime Minister hold office during the pleasure of the President, i.e., the Prime Minister. To interpret this clause to mean that the Prime Minister holds office only during the pleasure of the President is not warranted. The Prime Minister does not depend on the pleasure of the President to continue in office; in fact, he is responsible only to the House of the people. It is in this context it may be said that the President cannot dismiss the Prime Minister so long as he enjoys the majority support in the Lok Sabha. One may ask: What will happen if there are charges of corruption against the Prime Minister. The law provides that for trying a case against any public servant in a court of law for corruption, the President’s or Governor’s permission is required. It should be clearly understand
that, even in granting this permission the President or the Governor has to act on the advice of the Ministry. One may wonder whether a Prime Minister will give permission for his own prosecution on a charge of corruption. If the Prime Minister's involvement in a corruption scandal appears well established in the eyes of the people, it is for the Parliament and the people to react. It is expected that once a corruption charge against the Prime Minister is clearly visible (not necessarily through the court) he will have the minimum political decency to step down. If he is not of that type, it is expected of the members of his party in Parliament to withdraw their support to him. If the ruling party are immoral or spineless or not to withdraw their support to a corrupt Prime Minister and to elect another leader, probably the country will have to suffer till the next general election replaces the Government. If the people are also indifferent to the corruption indulged in by a Prime Minister, then nobody can save the situation. The people get the Government they deserve. In Western democracies, once a Prime Minister or Minister is seen by the people, the person concerned resigns automatically.
Article 78:

"It shall be the duty of the Prime Minister:

(a) to communicate to the President all decisions of the council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation;

(b) to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation as the President may call for; and

(c) if the President so requires, to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the Council."

The relation between the President and the Prime Minister with regard to communication information etc., is laid down in the clearest possible language in this Article, since the President, Prime Minister and Ministry are all mentioned together in this Article, there cannot be any doubt regarding what 'the President' in this context means. Clearly Article 78 refers to the President in his personal capacity i.e. according to his discretion. In the Parliamentary debate in March 1937, some of the ruling
party members have made fun of this Article by saying that the Prime Minister cannot be expected to give to the President 'whatever information on whatever subject he wants'. The Article clearly says that the information will relate to the administration of the Union Government and proposal for legislation. So it is stupid to talk of the impracticability of the President's calling for any information on any subject from the Prime Minister. According to Article 78 (a), it is duty of the Prime Minister to indicate to the President all decisions of the Cabinet relating to Union Administration and legislation. So, clearly the decisions of the individual Ministries and discussions in the Cabinet regarding political affairs, party affairs etc., are outside the scope of this automatic communication. So far, the convention has been to send to the President's office a copy of all Cabinet proceedings. Similarly Article 78 (b) says that the Prime Minister is duty-bound to furnish such information relating to Union administration and legislation as the President may call for. There is no exception whatsoever, provided in the scope of this clause. So the Prime Minister cannot claim the right of secrecy and confidentiality with regard to the
President. All Government documents, including secret, reports, classified information etc., should be open to the President. Clause 78 (c) also confers discretionary power to the President to ask the Prime Minister to refer to the Cabinet for decision a matter on which a decision has been made by a single Minister.

It is interesting to note that although the President is made one of the wings of the Parliament, any reference to the President in Chapter II of Part V of the Constitution should be construed as a reference to the Prime Minister (Cabinet) without exception. In other words, the President will be mere a rubber stamp and will perform the ceremonial role required of him, while the decisions will be made by the Prime Minister so it is wrong to say that the President can send message, on his own, to the Parliament. The President cannot address the Parliament according to his own liking. He has to assent to the bills presented to him except when the Government wants him to withhold assent. Similarly, the summoning and proroguing of the Houses of Parliament have to be done by the President on the advice of the Cabinet.
PRIME MINISTER

According to the Constitution, the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and shall hold office during his pleasure. The other Ministers are appointed only on the advice of the Prime Minister. Although they also hold office during the pleasure of the President, in their case the pleasure of the President is exercised by the Prime Minister in his individual capacity and not as part of the Council of Ministers. The Constitution holds that there should be a Prime Minister all the time since there cannot be a Council of Ministers without the Prime Minister at the head. The Constitution does not prescribe that the Prime Minister should be a member of the House of the people, though this is a convention. However, the provision that a Minister should become a member of the either House of Parliament within six months of appointment applies to the Prime Minister as well. In other words, at the time of being selected by the legislature party to be the Prime Minister and appointed by the President, a person need not be a member of either House.
The constitution does not say much about the Prime Minister. The only special reference to the Prime Minister in the Constitution is in the context of the duties of the Prime Minister vis-a-vis the President. The Prime Minister is duly bound to communicate all decisions of the Council of Ministers to the President. He has to furnish such information relating to the Union Government as the President may call for. If the President so requires, the Prime Minister has to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any decision made by a single minister.

THE ROLE OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN INDIA

The Parliamentary system of government, which India has, is based on the principle of leadership of the Prime Minister. Although described as first among equals (Primus inter pares) the Prime Minister holds a unique position in the country. Since he is the real executive, all the executive powers and functions are really vested in him. As the head of the Council of Ministers, he leads the Ministry or the Cabinet; more important, it is he who appoints each Minister. In other words, a person not
wanted by the Prime Minister cannot become or continue as a
Minister. As the leader of the Cabinet it is the Prime
Minister who decides more or less for the entire Cabinet.
The Prime Minister allocates portfolios to different
Ministers at his discretion.

As the leader of the majority legislature party in the
Parliament, the Prime Minister generally controls the
Parliamentary affairs. The Constitutional fiction that it
is the parliament which controls the executive is
effectively reversed in reality. The Prime Minister
decided on the most important bills to be introduced in the
parliament and guides major discussions therein. The
successive Prime Ministers in India have tried hard to
ensure the supremacy of the parliament on the one hand and
subordination of the Parliament on the other. On the other
hand, erosion in the importance assigned to the Parliament
by the Government in general, and by the Prime Minister in
particular, is clearly visible. In the first two decades,
the Prime Minister used to take part in the proceedings of
the Parliament to the maximum extent possible; nowadays the
Prime Minister is seen in the Parliament only on occasions.
Even in the passing of bills, we find a difference. Earlier bills used to be passed after reasonable discussions; nowadays even constitutional amendments are rushed through without much of a discussion, in the Houses. The tendency to make the parliament 'Captive' is gradually increasing.

The Prime Minister's role with reference to the bureaucracy has changed over the years. The higher civil service is today an important instrument of power in the hands of the Prime Minister. All the top and sensitive posts in the government and public sector undertakings are filled with men who are known for their personal loyalty to the Prime Minister and other Ministers. Gradually the Prime Ministers have come to repose more confidence in the civil servants than in their Ministerial colleagues. Getting reports directly from officials at different levels, particularly from the intelligence agencies, to collected information and to make decisions is becoming the order of the day.

Lastly, the role of the Prime Minister as the leader of the ruling party is very important. In fact, nowadays Prime Ministers of India also happen to be the Presidents of their parties and hence unite in themselves the role of
the party President and the role of the Prime Minister. Much of the time of the Prime Minister is spent on party affairs. Besides, since the Prime Minister generally wants to dominate party organisation as much as the government organisation, he has to be concerned with the developments in the party at the local and state levels as well. Choice of Chief Ministers, State Ministers and even MLA's is nowadays made at the Prime Minister's Office.

UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

According to the Indian Constitution, the real executive at the Union level is the Union Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head. Even though Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister and shall hold office effectively during the pleasure of the Prime Minister, the Constitution vests no other special power in the Prime Minister. It is the Council of the Ministers which is collectively responsible to the House of the people and which aids and advises the President in the exercise of his functions. Each Minister, including the Prime Minister shall subscribe oaths of office and of secrecy in the presence of the President.
They shall draw salaries and allowances as may be fixed by
the Parliament by law. Each Minister should become a
member of either House within a period of six months if he
is not already a member. In other words, a person cannot
continue as a Minister for a period exceeding six months
without being a member. The nature of the advice tendered
by the Prime Minister to the President shall not be
inquired into in any court.

The Constitution originally did not mention the term
'Cabinet' at all. Only the 44th Amendment Act has made a
reference to the Union Cabinet in the context of advice to
the President on imposition of Emergency. Union Cabinet
comprises the Prime Minister and Union Ministers of Cabinet
rank. In the Council of Ministers there can be other
Ministers—Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers. Even
though the Constitution always refers to the Union Council
of Ministers, in practice all the Ministers rarely meet.
It is the Cabinet which periodically meets and make all
decisions which are attributed to the Council of Ministers.
PRINCIPLES OF THE CABINET SYSTEM:

The Cabinet system of Government is based on the cardinal principle of collective responsibility of the Cabinet to the legislature. The two components of this system are: collective responsibility of the Cabinet and responsibility of the Cabinet to the legislature. A corollary of collective responsibility is intra-Cabinet responsibility. The role of the Ministers in the Government departments is expressed by the Principle of Political responsibility.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY:

The Constitution says that the Union Council of Ministers shall function collectively. Since, in practice, Cabinet has supplanted the Council of Ministers, the implication is that the Cabinet should function collectively. This means that no Minister, including the Prime Minister, however powerful, shall arrogate to himself the right to function independent of others in the Cabinet. The very term 'Cabinet' implies and requires the presence of more than one Minister. In other words, a Prime Minister cannot function all alone at any time. Collective
responsibility means that the Cabinet or Ministry comes into power and goes out of power as a team. In practice, a Ministry is identified with the Prime Minister. Only when the Prime Minister changes, there is said to be a new Ministry. Addition or deletion of other Ministers is not considered a change of Ministry. A vote of no confidence against one Minister amounts to lack of confidence in the entire Ministry. The Cabinet is responsible for all public acts of Commission and omission of each Minister. Reciprocally, each Minister is responsible for acts bound by the decisions of the Cabinet.

INTRA-CABINET RESPONSIBILITY:

This principle which is a corollary of collective responsibility expresses the solidarity of the Cabinet. Portfolios are allotted to individual Ministers by the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister. A Minister is expected to look after and make decisions in his department. Yet he is not expected to function in isolation. Every Minister has a right to take interest in the whole functioning of the Government and may hold and express his view, at the proper forums, relating to all
departments. However, whatever be the differences of opinion, within the Cabinet and whatever be the views of a Minister or any Government business, transacted by the Cabinet or another Minister, the differences of opinion are not to be publicized. In other words, a minister cannot speak in public against the decision made by the Cabinet or any of his colleagues; much less can he vote against policy decisions of the Government in the Parliament. A minister who does not want to accept a policy decision of the Cabinet or of his colleague, on whatever ground, may resign from office; if he speaks against it, the Prime Minister has the right to demand his resignation or to recommend his dismissal. A minister whose conduct comes in for severe criticism before the public or in the Parliament may resign in order to save embarrassment to the Cabinet; alternatively, he may be dismissed or asked to resign by the Prime Minister in order to salvage the image of the Government.

Responsibility of the Cabinet to the Legislature:

In India, the operation of the parliamentary system requires that the Union Ministry should command the
confidence of the majority in the Lok Sabha. Normally, no vote of confidence is sought by the Cabinet. However, any expression of no confidence should result in the resignation of the Ministry or its dismissal by the President. A Ministry is supposed to have lost the confidence of the House of the People if any Government Bill is not passed in that House or if a no-confidence motion or censure motion is passed in the House. Generally, passing of an adjournment motion or cut motion is considered equivalent to a no-confidence motion. The Union Ministry is not responsible to the Council of States, i.e., need not command the majority support in that House.

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY:

This Principle makes a Minister wholly responsible for all the decisions and happenings in the departments under his charge. As the political head of a department, the Minister is responsible to the Parliament for all the errors committed in his department. If a serious policy lapse occurs in the department, the Minister is expected to own responsibility in case he has not been able to take the
necessary punitive or corrective action against the officials in his department.

INDIRA GANDHI:

Being the beloved leader of the Indian people and the
faithful and outstanding successor of the cause of Mahatma
Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi has
made a great contribution to the cause for safeguarding
independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity,
developing the national economy, raising the people's
living standard and making India an important factor of peace in
Asia and the rest of the world.

Many people, however, regarded her as a woman with a
man's job. There have been weighing queens in history
from the queen of Sheba and Cleopatra to Queen Elizabeth-II
but a woman who rose to a position of political power in a
democratic set-up, and through a democratic process, is
still a rarity in this man-made world.

Lalit Narain Jha: Selected Thoughts of Indira Gandhi (Mittal
Publications, Delhi, 1986) p.19
The story of Indira Gandhi not in the vacuum of her personal destiny but in the context of the series of revolutionary developments in India and the world, the events that influenced her, educated her, moulded her personality and her thinking is also the story of Jawaharlal Nehru, her father and, literally, her 'friend, philosopher and guide'. He decisively influenced the thoughts and actions of millions of young and Indians and above all others, of his daughter. It is the story of Indira Gandhi and the story of India.

Indira Priyadarshini Nehru Gandhi, the Prime Minister of World's largest democracy, born at Allahabad on 19 November 1917, was the daughter of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Kamala Nehru. She was influenced in her childhood by Mahatma Gandhi, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamala Nehru and other great leaders of the Indian freedom movement.

In the late twenties, she had her schooling in Europe. In 1934, she enrolled in Rabindranath Tagore's Visva- Bharati, but had to leave after a few months to accompany her ailing mother to Europe. Kamala Nehru passed away at
Lawrence, Switzerland, in 1926. The following year Indira Gandhi went to Somerville College, Oxford University. Jawaharlal Nehru's correspondence with her from jail was the formative intellectual influence in her life. His letters, later published as Letters from a Father to a Daughter and Glimpses of World History, stimulated her curiosity and helped mould a questioning and questing spirit, her early training of world civilization, but firmly rooted in Indian culture.

From her early years she was active in the national liberation struggle. During the 1930 movement, she formed the "Vunan Sena", a children's brigade to help freedom fighters. In 1938, she became a member of the Indian National Congress. In March, 1941, she plunged into political activity. On March 26, 1942, she married Feroze Gandhi, who was himself a valiant freedom fighter and known to the family for many years. She attended the session of the All India Congress Committee in August, 1942 which adopted the famous "Quit India" resolution. Soon thereafter she was arrested and imprisoned until her release in May 1947. In August 1944, her first son Rajiv was born. Her second son Sanjay was born in December, 1945.
With India's Independence in 1947, she took over the responsibility of running the Prime Minister's House. Besides, she was deeply involved in social and child welfare work. The Congress drew her into leading political roles, first as member of the Congress Working Committee in 1955 and later as member of the Central Parliamentary Board in 1959. In 1959, she was elected President of the Indian National Congress. In September 1960, Morarji Desai passed away.

In 1964, after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi was persuaded by Lal Bahadur Shastri to join his Cabinet as Minister of Information and Broadcasting. On the outbreak of widespread language riots in Tamil Nadu in 1965, Indira Gandhi rushed to the state and by her tact, understanding and statesmanship assuaged the feelings of the people and brought the situation under control.

On January 19, 1966 after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, she was elected leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party and sworn in as Prime Minister on January 24, 1966. She led the nation in that capacity until March 1977. Having steered her party to success in
the general election of 1967, she undertook a series of
countervailing interests produced sharp ideological conflicts
leading to the Congress split of 1969. The overwhelming
majority of Congressmen and women rallied round her. In
the General election of 1971 she returned to power with a
decisive majority—a clear vindication of people's approval
of her decisions.

In June 1975, she was compelled to declare an internal
emergency to meet the threat of subversion of constituted
authority. Early in 1977, she called for elections to the
Lok Sabha in which the Congress Party was defeated. During
1977-78, when she was out of power, people witnessed her
indomitable courage in the face of systematic campaign of
persecution and vilification. In 1978 she had to face
another split in her party because of her steadfast
adherence to the basic principles and pro-people ideology
of the Congress. In the general election held in January
1980, the people recalled her to power with a landslide
majority.
In the eventful years of Indira Gandhi's leadership, Indian society underwent profound changes. While maintaining continuity of the basic strategies and policies of the Jawaharlal Nehru period, she transformed the structure of politics by placing the issue of poverty in the forefront of national debate. Her commitment to a just social order was manifested in a series of historic measures beginning with the nationalisation of banks and the abolition of privy purses. This process culminated in the formulation and implementation of the 26-point programme with focus on ameliorating the condition of the poor masses.

She was unswerving in her endeavour for the unity and solidarity of the nation. A staunch defender of the secular ideals of the Constitution, she worked tirelessly for the social and economic advancement of the minorities. Her abiding concern for their welfare was reflected in the special measures taken by Government for guarding their religious, cultural and educational rights and for
expanding their employment opportunities. She worked unstintingly for eradicating communal violence which she called a stain on the fair name of India.

Her vision of a modern, self-reliant and dynamic economy found concrete expression in the rapid strides made by Indian agriculture, industry and science. The technological transformation of our agriculture has made her country self-sufficient in foodgrains, an achievement few thought was in the realm of possibility. The wide base of our industrial structure and the strength and resilience of the infrastructure, especially of the energy sector, are in no small measure due to the strong impulse of modernisation she transmitted to the planning process.

In her scheme of things, the welfare of Kisans and workers had high priority. Far-reaching reforms were adopted to give land to the tiller and to improve the lot of agricultural labour. Programmes for small and marginal farmers have yielded substantial benefits in terms of higher productivity and incomes production. The working class has developed as a major social force, thanks to her
strategy of vigorous industrialisation. Under her inspiration, the public sector has come to occupy the commanding heights of the economy, and the workers have been a major beneficiary of her socially progressive approach to their problems.

The Indian economy has exhibited stability and strength to develop on the basis of its own resources. That India has come through the severest global crisis since the Great Depression with an impressive record of growth and without the disruptions imposed by the worldwide process of adjustment is the measure of her leadership. She gave substance to our striving for self-reliance and created a strong basis for rapid advance.

Her unflinching commitment to the cause of India's Science and technology has been responsible for the remarkable spurt of creativity shown by our scientists and technologists. In every sphere of modern science, and specially in the sophisticated areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and space, India has emerged as a force capable of closing the technological gap. Her constant
encouragement to scientists to reach new frontiers made possible a number of advances. The growth of ocean development within a short time and the expedition to Antarctica mark the distance we have travelled since Indira Gandhi assumed leadership of the nation. For her, science and technology were the means for the betterment of the masses.

She was among the few international figures to have emphasised the supreme importance of environment in our thinking for the future of humanity. Like a sage she drew on the wisdom and insight of our ancient culture to point out, in her moving address at the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm in 1972, the danger posed by the plunder of nature to the future of humanity and pleaded for a pattern of development in which man will live in harmony with nature. We owe to her the consciousness of the need to protect our forests, rivers, lakes, air and wild life for a truly human existence.

There was no creative activity, political, economic, scientific, or cultural, in which she did not take interest and which she did not enrich. Her commitment to the
heritage of the country and its cultural value was profound. With it came support to all aspects of art, craft, theatre, dance and music. For her enduring contribution in the intellectual sphere she received doctoral degrees and awards from a large number of universities and scientific academies in this country and abroad. For her outstanding work in the field of family planning she was given the UN Population Award in 1985.

She was a tireless crusader for the uplift of the underprivileged. She initiated concrete and lasting programmes for the economic and social betterment of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the backward classes and other weaker sections. She aroused the conscience of the community for upholding the rights of women and their social and economic advancement. She instituted several programmes for the blind and the physically disabled. Her sympathy with the hill people and their distinctive pattern of life lay behind the special programmes devised for hill development. She accorded concrete recognition to the sterling services rendered to the country by the freedom fighters. She devoted a great deal of time and energy to youth welfare. She was keen
that Indian youth should excel in sports. Honoring her commitment to host the Asian Games in India, she gave to India the most modern stadium and other facilities which are the envy of many a capital city. The constant encouragement and guidance given by her to the development of sports was fittingly recognized by the conferment on her of the Gold Order of the International Olympic Council in 1983.

She was acutely conscious of the need for modernization of our defence forces to deal with the new challenges posed by the deterioration in our security environment. She provided a vigorous thrust to the indigenous effort to make India self-reliant in this sensitive and vital sphere. She went beyond the machines to the men who use them for the defence forces she initiated wide-ranging policies to improve their service conditions and morale. Her personal concern for the problems of ex-servicemen is reflected in a series of measures taken by Government to improve their employment terms.

Indira Gandhi epitomised the aspirations of the entire human race. She was dedicated to the ideals of the United
He was one of the world's foremost champions of peace and total disarmament. She stood for an international order in which power was tempered by cooperation, and knowledge and capability were at the service of humanity. She was unstinting in her support for the liberation of dependent countries. She was against all forms of exploitation and considered political and military blocs as impediments to world peace. She was also the foremost voice advocating a lessening of economic disparities among nations. She was in the front rank of the Non-Aligned Movement in which she provided content, dynamism and cohesion. She was elected Chairperson of that Movement at the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit which met in New Delhi in March 1976.

She never flinched in the face of dangers and challenges. In times of extreme crises, personal or national, she showed undaunted courage and fortitude. She moved among the millions giving them courage and drawing sustenance from them. In a stewardship of many achievements, particularly memorable was the courage and outstanding statesmanship which she showed in dealing with the Bangladesh crisis in 1971.
As a mark of esteem in which she was held by hundreds of millions of her countrymen and women, the nation conferred its highest award 'Bharat Ratna' on her in 1972.

In spite of her total involvement in the cause of the nation at home and peace and progress for the entire human family, Indira Gandhi was always full of vibrant vitality and joy, taking interest in all that was beautiful in nature. But this magnificent life of radiance and charm was brutally and heinously cut short on October 31, 1984 by a distortedly and irrevocably act perpetrated in her own residence by two of those who were charged with her security.

To Indira Gandhi the preservation of the unity and integrity of the country was a sacred mission to which everything else had to be subordinated. For defending the unity of the country she fought boldly and vigorously against communism, obscurantism, revivalism and religious fundamentalism of all types. She repeatedly warned the nation that communism and obscurantism were the tools employed by the forces of destabilisation.
She became a martyr in the cause of the values for which she had dedicated her whole life. She laid down her life in defence of the ideals on which the unity and integrity of the Republic are founded. The martyrdom of Indira Gandhi for upholding the unity of India will reverberate across the centuries. Rarely in history has one single individual come to be identified so totally with the fortunes of a country. She became the indomitable symbol of India's self-respect and self-confidence. Death came to her when she was at her peak, when her stature and influence were acclaimed the world over.

The entire world went into mourning. In her death the world has lost a great statesman, Indira Gandhi, a peerless leader of the masses, and the entire humanity has lost a human being par excellence. We have lost a leader of unswerving dedication and consistent brilliance at a crucial moment of political and economic development. The nation owes a great debt of gratitude to this decisive, radiant and compassionate personality. She had loved India and cared for all its people. The world has lost a harbinger of peace who was undoubtedly the greatest woman
leader mankind has ever produced. She was the symbol of the hope and aspirations of millions of Indians and millions and millions people of India will have abiding affection and respect for the memory of the weaker sections who served them till her last breath. Only a day before her death she said: Even if I die for the service of the nation I shall be proud of it. Every drop of my blood I have ever will contribute to the growth of this nation and make it strong and dynamic. (20 October 1984)

the last cause of blood in her is gone for Indian unity. She has become an immortal in the cause of Indian unity. Her last tribute we can pay to her is to keep her memory strong and marching forward. I have always considered myself a mere servant of the nation and what I have regarded myself as the first servant of the nation, I also consider myself a servant of the party and of the great people of this country. (19 January 1966)

On January 26, 1986 the President of India, Shri Zail Singh, conferred on her posthumously the 1984 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. The award was received by her son, Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.
Born in the illustrious Jawaharlal Nehru family, Indira Gandhi became a legend in her lifetime. Her life was characterised by fearlessness and dedication to the cause of India's millions. She was brave in battle and forgiving in victory. She always fought for the right cause and never shirked her duty, however difficult the task might have been. Her hope and faith in India never waned. Challenges and crises made her more determined in the pursuit of her path. Her approach to the problems of life was non-doctrinaire and pragmatic.

She had the rare gift of an open mind, which allowed her to grow constantly in maturity and wisdom. Her speeches were conspicuous for their precision and richness. They displayed a rare combination of foresight, wisdom and intellectual integrity. She drew her inspiration from our ancient past and blended it beautifully with the modern.

She stood for perennial values for peace and friendship between nations, love and brotherhood in international relations, and socialism, secularism and democracy in our domestic life.
She led our country at a most critical period of its political, economic, and social development. Her love for the people of India was unbounded. She received the love and adulation of our people as no one after Gandhiji or Jawaharlal did. Her total dedication of the Indian people was so great that she prophesied before her death, "Even if I die in the service of nation, I will be proud of it. Every drop of my blood, I am sure, will contribute to the growth of this nation and to make it strong and dynamic."

She was deeply committed to the building of a strong, united, and prosperous India which would ensure social and economic justice to all without discrimination on the grounds of caste, creed, or faith. While she worked for the material advancement of India's millions, she never lost sight of the need to maintain our spiritual and historical values.

She was a great leader of the non-aligned world. In her, the deprived people of the developing world found a true leader to voice their demand for a new international order based on justice and equality. She had learnt from
her father the need to set our national problems in the international perspective for she believed that, in an interdependent world, no problem can be solved on a narrow or regional basis.

Indira Gandhi is dead but she will live for ever in the hearts and minds of the Indian People and her admirers all over the world.

'One of the greatest Indians of the 20th Century' was the eulogy used for Indira Gandhi in the resolution by both the Houses of Indian Parliament. Summing up the 'magnitude and splendour of Indira Gandhi's achievements', the resolution noted: 'Her vision and tireless energy brought India into the era of self-reliance. She breathed new life into the concept of a united, modern India.'

Enumerating her worthy legacy that today, we walk upright with pride and confidence, pride in what Indira is and confidence in what we shall become; the resolution added.

Indira Gandhi did not belong to India alone; she belonged to the entire suffering humanity. Her voice was the voice of the hungry, the weak, the anguished, the maimed and the disabled. She laboured so that bitterness and strife may cease and justice prevail among nations. She fought relentlessly against all forms of oppression. With
characteristic devotion, she espoused the cause of disarmament and a just international economic order. The masses of India adored Indira Gandhi because in her and through her their dreams and hopes of India's great future took concrete shape. In turn, she filled them with unconquerable strength of her vision of India. Indira Gandhi loved India and the Indian people with a passion so intense that it will live among us for long ages. She has joined the ranks of the immortals of history. We pay our humble tribute to her memory and pledge ourselves to complete her noble mission.

Speaker, Balram Jethalal, who had moved the resolution read out a message by Indira Gandhi, in which she had spelled out her legacy—the India of her dreams, to be attained "with courage and determination". The message read: "Our sons and daughters of the soil, be you workers of the shop, businessmen or industrialists, teachers or students, writers or artists, you are all inhabitants of this country. Through your veins runs the blood of heroes and great men. Let diffidence give way to confidence. Let despair give way to hope. We will then be able to build a
would our nation, we will then be able to raise the structure of a beautiful Bharat. We are capable of doing so. We have embarked on an exciting venture. We shall face every difficulty... with courage and determination.

"It will be very difficult to come across such a leader like Indira. Her versatility and universality mark her as one of the most outstanding leaders of humanity." The quote is from former President Zail Singh in a special interview. Having his reminiscences of the late Prime Minister, the President recalled that when he was Home Minister, he "always found her sympathetic and understanding." He had not done any canvassing, he added, when the question of naming the candidates for the office of President arose in 1982. "It was Indira who proposed my name and got it approved by the Parliamentary Board. This was the greatest honour I could get in my life." Asked what was the key to Indira Gandhi's success as a dynamic leader, President Zail Singh said: "I feel that her word dynamism stands for Indira. Being dynamic she..."

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Interview given by Amar Media's National Herald (New Delhi) Bhurel Moho "Special Number: November 19, 1984."
used to inspire others with the same spirit, as witnessed many times in recent years at the time of the ASIAN in 1957, and during the NAM Summit and CSCEM in 1963... India's deep humanity and transparent sincerity are the two outstanding qualities which impressed me throughout..."

India Gandhi's greatest contribution was building up the country's independent personality, for which the foundation had been laid by Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India. To maintain the democratic set-up in what is literally a state against state, a veritable subcontinent of 700 million people, with 25 states and 7 union territories, in the face of the big problems posed by regionalism, communalism, casteism and so many disquieted inside and outside forces, bent on weakening India, was no mean achievement.

It was not realised by all hands that Indira Gandhi had a long innings during which she bestrode the Indian political scene. And, like her distinguished father, she was always the hero in the drama. For the first seventeen years, she was the official hostess at Teen Murti House, in her father, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and the next sixteen years, she was the Prime Minister of the
Republic of India with a brief holiday from office. This is saying a lot for a country, not too conspicuous for physical longevity, or a lengthy tenure of personal prestige, which in the case of too many notables is predictably short.

It was Indira Gandhi's gift of identification with the masses, particularly the women, which accounted for her charm and that proved remarkably durable. As a woman writer put it, Indira Gandhi was not a woman Prime Minister but a woman's Prime Minister. Another woman writer, who had been her noted biographer, twice over, had this to say about Indira Gandhi in a feeling tribute: "Towards the end she was all pervasive at home, in politics, in the arts, in her work for society, in her great pride as an Indian, in her advocacy of peace and equality abroad, as chairperson of 175 non-aligned countries and stern protector of India's independent stance."

Attaining a semblance of the superhuman to her qualities, tangible and intangible, these took Indira

Gandhi to high peaks of power and adulation. Never spoiled by success or triumph, or burned by mishap or misfortune, she remained firmly rooted to the ground. Pragmatic and sagacious as ever, she was 'not only one of the greatest Indian leaders of the present century' but 'undoubtedly an outstanding statesperson of all times', in the words of President Zail Singh, broadcasting to the nation on the eve of the 36th Republic Day, on January 25, 1995.

Though Indira Gandhi has left a rich, many-sided legacy, India will never be the same without her. During her and eventful, direct stewardship of nearly sixteen years, the country underwent a process of transformation, historic by any standard. The country made speedy, unprecedented progress in diverse fields. Self-sufficiency was attained in agriculture. Five to six per cent growth in industry was complemented by considerable increase in export earnings and foreign exchange reserves.

In terms of politics, of working within the democratic framework, India—under the regis of Indira Gandhi, continuing the great tradition set by Jawaharlal Nehru—attained a maturity in democratic functioning which
surprises the people of the world, causing, in the process, envy of some powers who would have seen India destabilised and fragmented. The big strides that India took in the all-important fields of science and technology also elicited the praise of Third World countries and envy, if not jealousy, of its neighbours.

The legacy that Indira Gandhi left was that of a can-do, non-conventional, motivated to take the country to the level of the developed countries by the end of the century. India took a giant leap forward in high technology areas, space and nuclear energy during her 16 year regime as Prime Minister. Indira Gandhi, fittingly described as 'the Queen of Indian Science' by a leading US weekly, science was in charge of the Departments of science and technology, space, atomic Energy, Electronics and Environment during her Prime Ministership. In fact, the Department of Space and the Space Commission were created by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1975, soon after her victory in the 1971 general election.

The first successful nuclear explosion atPokhran for peaceful purposes, development of indigenous satellite
system and launching of satellites, commissioning of a totally indigenous atomic power plant at Tarapur, the three expeditions to Antarctica and establishment of a permanent station there, and sending the first Indian into space aboard a Soviet spacecraft, were the high points of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's science and technology policy aimed at total self-reliance.

All this constituted stupendous achievement. And, in a sense, most of these wished-for national goals were realised by Indira Gandhi, unaided by her party or Cabinet or other colleagues. Hence, the growing feeling of loneliness which she candidly confessed to sometimes. However, in fact, a huge gap between Indira Gandhi and her partymen, many of whom could not share with her, in full, her vision of a self-reliant and unassailable India, the best part of her legacy, now shuddered by Prime Minister Ranajit Guh, is that India must march into the 21st century, without honor or loss of time or effort. At the same time, India should attain high intellectual and artistic creativity, while retaining its cultural heritage and traditions.
Thus it was thanks to the vision of Indira Gandhi that India towards the end of 1984 was the only stable democracy in the Third world, resting on an economic base which was not exclusively dependent on the international Monetary Fund and the West. It was her bold vision, compounded by her tremendous energy, which enabled her to write a new chapter in the Indian development story, that had brought to India an era of self-reliance.

A complex person, whose charisma increased over the years in the country and abroad, Indira Gandhi possessed enormous inner reserves, defying her frail frame. People close to her marveled at her stupendous energy and vitality. "Indira possessed Shaakti Bhava," said the eldest living sadhu of Ramakrishna Mission at Belur Math near Calcutta, Bharat Maharaj, after Indira Gandhi's assassination. Bharat Maharaj, 91, told a correspondent that Indira at that time studying at Shantiniketan with her mother, Kamala Nehru used to visit Belur Math. "A visit to Shriji Maharaj brought Indira in contact with the realities of life and some sort of inner power."

(Bharat Maharaj interviewed by Arul Paul for the National Herald, New Delhi) Bharat Maharaj "Spec. Supplement" Nov. 19, 1984
of Indian religious life — the compulsions of poverty and the case with which one can dispense with luxuries and take in a simple, austere way of life", recorded the reporter who interviewed the Savarkar. "She also acquired a toughness of spirit and stubbornness of mind from Bharat Hriday which persisted till her death."

Bharat Mahalaxmi told the correspondent that he had been telephoned by Jawaharlal Nehru when Fatima Jinnah died and "Indira sighed with grief, was not eating or drinking water even." He came to Teen Murti House and Indira drank the glass of orange juice he offered her. She listened to him. He told her, 'Rani, stand up. You have some treasure inside your heart and soul. If you bestow them on the world, you can bring solace to many people.' True enough, Indira Gandhi had lived up to that expectation. A former person that she could have broken like a weed after the personal tragedies she had suffered from her lonely childhood, the demise of her grandfather, mother, grandmother, husband, father and her son out of these, her husband. and Sanjay's death, she had been very sadly premature. Armed with Shakti Bhav, Indira Gandhi used sorrow as a source of strength, instead of allowing it to become an
instrument of weakness. And, onto the last, that Shakti bhuvana was wait, purge on her calm vigil as her bullet-ridden body lay in state at the teen Martin House. And each of the sixteen bullets that pierced her weak mortal frame sealed her to eternity, ensuring that her message and legacy will live forever. After the creation of

People close to her admired all along her immense vitality and the manner in which she found time for every chore and duty. Two days before she died, Indira Gandhi had written 'an enthusiastic note' to Pupul Jayakar, a family friend, about an Irish poet who was coming, and another of the need to organise a seminar on spiritual values. Analysing the spiritual side of Indira Gandhi, a scholar from Dayanand Ashram, Vadodara, observed:ـ 'The Woman, Indira Gandhi's seven years in power (India Book Company, Delhi, 1975), p. 74.'

Today the noted Indira Gandhi’s concern that the great advance of science and technology should not prod the roots of our traditions which she considered a very important part of the Indian ethos. Govind Narain Singh said in his tribute, "She did meditate which can be inferred from her statement, "I had the best moments of the highest mystic while meditating in front of Anand Nil Val."

He added, "My Bidri is no more. May God bless Chiranjeev Rajiv Gandhi with strength to accomplish the unfulfilled task that I lost by birth in spirit he is the successor. Anda Sant Jivan Pathah. The legacy is both temporal and spiritual to Rajiv Gandhi and to the people.

To perpetuate the cherished memory of Indira Gandhi, a number of trusts, memorials, and institutions are being set up in India and abroad. It has been decided to set up Indira Gandhi National Fund as a trust to promote the ideals for which she lived and died. The steering committee, presided over by Vice President R. Venkataraman, has formed a national committee to coordinate the establishment of the trust and scrutinise proposals for its National Herald, New Delhi. November 19, 1984.
memorials in the name of the late Prime Minister in different parts of the country.

Shaktivana, the cremation site of Mrs. Indira Gandhi near Rajiv, will be developed as a samadhi. The design and landscaping of the samadhi will be in conformity with the general development of the area. The International airport in Delhi, at present under construction, will be called Priyadarshini Air Port.

Indraprastha Stadium, built during the Asian Games, with which the Prime Minister was closely associated, is being renamed as Indira Gandhi Stadium. It is also proposed to set up Indira Gandhi Centre of Art in the Capital. This would have a separate section for folk arts. It has also been decided to put up a statue of the Late Prime Minister at a suitable location in the Capital. The design of the statue and its location, is being decided by the experts. It has also been decided to institute Indira Gandhi International Peace Prize to be given to outstanding international personalities working for the cause of peace.

12. Satish C. Aggarwal & Adish C. Aggarwal: "Legacy of Indira Gandhi" (Socialist Age Publications, New Delhi, 1985) p. 6
A giant statue of Indira Gandhi, similar to the Statue of Liberty in New York, is to be erected on the high seas off Nariman Point in Bombay. Funds are being raised for the monument which will cost Rs. 10 crore. Similar memorials, to commemorate the magnitude of Indira Gandhi's contribution to a vibrant India on the march to modernity, are coming up in other metropolitan cities and towns.

Prof. Nenad Banjan Bose, Vice-Chancellor of Vishwa Bharati, has proposed to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi the setting up of an Indira Gandhi Centre for Studies in National Integration at Santiniketan. Intended to be a national memorial to Indira Gandhi, who had a life-long association with Vishwa Bharati, the new centre would be developed into an inter-disciplinary institute engaged in thematic studies and filed investigation. It is proposed that the Centre should be set up by October 31, 1985, the first anniversary of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's death. The foundation of the Centre would coincide with the Centenary celebrations of the Indian National Congress.

The philosophy of Indira Gandhi, among other leaders of India, formed the subject during a National Youth Week
January 12 to 19, 1985 organised countrywide by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

Highly esteemed and respected in many countries, Indira Gandhi’s memory is being perpetuated abroad. A number of memorials to consecrate the memory of the departed leader have been announced. Many more are bound to follow.

Appreciating Indira Gandhi’s outstanding services in the cause of strengthening universal peace and international security, as well as friendship and cooperation between the USSR and India, the Soviet Government adopted a decision to perpetuate her memory in the Soviet Union. It was decided to give Indira Gandhi’s name to a square street and school in Moscow, a Palace of Culture in Tashkent, a library in Dushambe, a medical school in Ashkhabad, and to a new sea-going ship, to create a documentary film about Indira Gandhi, issue a postage stamp and publish a collection of her articles and speeches. It may be recalled that Muscovites had named a square in Moscow after Jawaharlal Nehru, and the
rechristening ceremony had been performed by Indira Gandhi during her visit to Moscow in September 1982.

A 77-carat diamond, found at Yakutalnne, factory in the north-east of the Soviet Union, was named after Indira Gandhi. In a spontaneous gesture, the factory workers named the outside diamond "to commemorate the greatest daughter of the Indian people". The precious find will be sent to the diamond fund of the USSR at the Kremlin.

Mauritius—a country Indira Gandhi had visited three times—and where hers was a household name—will erect a monument in her memory in the Gymkhana club in Port Louis. A road, a Government building, a college and a school will be named after the late Indian Prime Minister in the country.

Italy has named a prominent square in Rome after Indira Gandhi. B.B.C. paid its tribute to Indira Gandhi via a documentary interview-based film, which was to be put out before the election in India, but that was not to be. The 30-minute documentary, produced by John Watkins for B.B.C., is shot in colour, and is important as an audio-visual memorabilia of Indira Gandhi, as she has expressed her personal attitude to life and her political philosophy as Prime Minister.