PREFACE
INTRODUCTION:

The Indian Prime Minister occupies a position of great power and authority in the country’s political systems. The office of the Prime Minister is the focal point of national politics and policy-making, and the position one of immense influence and patronage. The hallmark of political leadership consists in the adroit use of influence and the intelligent and adept use of prerogatives. A Prime Minister is largely responsible for effecting the structures, processes, and outcomes of the nation’s political, economic, and social values and plays various roles intimately connected with important areas of Governments. Besides being the head of the Government and the Chief Executive of the national administration, he is the leader of his party and the people as well as the chief spokesman for the nation. In the performance of his role, he has to draw upon and combine all these sources of authority. The degree to which one or another of these sources is emphasized or the manner in which they are combined in particular instances reflect the conditions and imperatives of the political system. In interaction with his personality and character, they shape the 'style' of his leadership.
Failure in any of his major tasks may erode one or more of his bases of authority, the weakening of one or more of the latter may result in his inability to perform the totality of his role.

Indira Priyadarshini was born at Anand Bhawan (Abode of Happiness) in Allahabad, the ancestral home of the Nehrus and hub of the nationalist movement. The only child of Jawaharlal Nehru and Kamala Nehru, she led a lonely life as child, getting to see her parents and grandparents, especially her father, only when they were not in prison, which was not often. Although Kamala Nehru gave birth to a boy in later years, the child expired within a few days. But Indira Priyadarshini more than compensated for the loss. She proved the prophetic towards of her grandfather, when he told his wife - "This daughter of Jawahar, for all you know, may prove better than a thousand sons." Motilal had to say this when grandmother Swarup Rani exclaimed at Indira's birth: "Oh, but it should have been a boy." Motilal loved Indira from the moment she was born. She was the most precious thing to him. "I am always thinking of Indira" he wrote on March 8, 1920. The year of her birth was of historical importance and for her father wrote a
letter on her thirteenth birthday from the Naini Jail, where in he recalled that it was "One of the memorable years of history when a great leader with a heart full of love and sympathy for the poor and the suffering made his people write a noble and never-to-be-forgotten chapter of history. In the very month that you were born, Lenin started the great revolution which has changed the face of Russia and Siberia. Sarojini Naidu in a letter to Jawaharlal Nehru about the birth of the child wrote —" a kiss to new soul of India.". For Indira, her grandfather was 'Dadu' while her father was 'papu'. Her petname was 'Indu', the 'little moon'. Priyadarshini means 'Dear to behold', later known as Indira Priyadarshini Nehru Gandhi.

The story of Indira Gandhi is the story of a person of great significance. As Prime Minister of the World's largest democracy and Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Indira Gandhi was a source of global leadership. Her determined efforts to promote peace, security and economic development in South Asia and throughout the world will serve as a constant reminder of Mrs. Gandhi's commitment to protect the shared values of democratic nations.
Indira Gandhi was an extraordinary woman and she possessed natural gifts and had a varied experience. She was a phenomenon. Her multi-faceted personality and charm could, perhaps, never be captured fully either by camera or open. She lived a life of challenges.

Indira Gandhi had an alert probing, independent mind, a capacity for precise, apt and sometimes unsparing comment, criticism and characterisation and, with friends, a deep but engaging sense of humour. Her exemplary life of courage and dedication is a lesson for both present and future generations. She believed in the advice of her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, "Be brave and all the rest will follow." She was an apostle of peace and department. Above all she was a humanist. Indira has few Gandhi parallels in history.

Madam Gandhi’s 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 mingled it beautifully with the modern era.

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 and India was unbounded. She received the love and adoration of our people as no one after Gandhiji or Jawaharlalji did. Her total dedication of the Indian people was so great that she prophesised before her death: Even if I die in the service of nations, 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 of 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.

In her death, India has lost a leader, who toiled and died for the country. Her blood has cemented the nation as never before. The blood that flowed from her mortal frame on the 31st of October, 1984, will never dry up and shall continue to bind the nation for eternity with the immortal message that this nation shall never perish.

Madam Gandhi, one of the greatest Indians of the 20th century which also incorporates the stirring tale of her life, from Ananda Bhavan to Teen Murti house and No.1 Safdarjung Road in which fate decreed to be the hallowed spot of her martyrdom.
METHODOLOGY:

The study is based on primary and secondary sources. A thorough and systematic examination of the documents and the material available on the Prime Ministerial Democracy in India and the Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in particular. The information on the subject has been collected through the constitution of India, periodicals, newspapers and Directorate of Advertising visual publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and from the books available at Sri Venkateswara University Library, Tirupati.

The speeches and writings of Madam Gandhi have been thoroughly studied and analysed systematically. The progress and the achievements made by the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, have also been projected. A nation’s position is estimated by the policies, programmes and administration of the executives. As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s daughter, as President of the Congress, as Minister of Broadcasting in Shastry’s Ministry and as Prime Minister of India for 17 years, her mighty contribution to the Indian Nation has been thoroughly studied.
This study is an attempt at analysing the various nuances of the role of the Indian Prime Minister, the bases of authority with which he interacts, the style of his functioning, and his art of the management of the Government. The position and power of the Prime Minister or to this capacity to arrogate power, situations, other personalities of the time and some other factors may play a role in the exercise of power.

The approach preferred for the study is historical, and analytical. It has been influenced largely by the residence-of-power approach which assumes that regardless of law or structure, the operation of a political entity can be understood if the prime movers are identified and their interacting roles analysed.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY:

The importance of such a study is obvious in the context of the institutionalisation of the erstwhile personalised powers of the chief executives in the modern world. The concentration of powers in the hands of a single executive
has become to all the forms of Government. Changes in time and perspective have inspired the transformation of highly exceptional executive actions into routine practice. In the British parliamentary system also, the Prime Minister's predominance, attained by Churchill during the Second World War, has persisted even after him and has become a normal feature of the system. In fact, Harold Wilson is said to have acted like a U.S. President.

ORGANISATION:

The study is divided into seven chapters.

Chapter I which is an introductory chapter deals with the history of the office and the provisions of the constitution and the constitutional powers of the Prime Minister of India.

Powers are inherent in the office of the Prime Minister but there is a variance in the exercise of these powers. The Prime Minister holds the key to the vast machine which only he can operate. But the machine can be operated in different ways and styles and at different levels of skill.
There can be various approaches to understanding and assessing his power.

Chapter II deals with office of the Prime Minister in India. India has taken Cabinet Government from Great Britain. But Indians have written into their constitution some of the unwritten conventions of the British Cabinet Government as for example, the following provisions:

(i) There shall be a Council of Ministers, with the Prime Minister at the head, to aid and advise the President;

(ii) The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President, and other Ministers (whose number and designations are left unspecified) shall be appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister; and

(iii) The Council of Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President and shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) — the Lower House of Parliament.

Chapter III deals with the Indian Prime Minister's relationship with the President of India. The Indian Constitution
has left scope for controversy on a segment of the relationship of the President with the Prime Minister. Article 53 vests the executive power of the Union in the President and empowers him to exercise it directly or through officers subordinate to him. In the same vein, Article 74, contemplates a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at its head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. But on certain matters, the President is enjoined to consult the Election Commission, the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of a state. Further he is authorised to appoint the Prime Minister and, with his help, make all important appointments. All these propositions are however, construed in the context of the machines of 'limited monarchy of England where the Crown is a dignified emollient'. Pursuant to the practice of the Parliamentary Government, the President of India is expected to carry out his constitutional responsibility on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Accordingly, the term, 'President has come to be interpreted as President in consultation with the Cabinet which is responsible to parliament.'
Chapter IV  This chapter deals with Madam Gandhi's birth to till 1966 when she became Prime Minister of India.

Indira Gandhi's scholastic career started early at a kindergarten in Delhi where she spent a few months. This was followed by a brief spell at the Modern School, Allahabad. Before, she was seven, she was withdrawn from the school, to be admitted to St. Cecill's School, Allahabad, run by some Roman Catholic nuns. Her father, however, did not appreciate the fact that Indira Gandhi should start her formal education at school run by European Ladies.

Indira Gandhi was the fourth Woman to be elected President of the Indian National Congress - her predecessors being Annie Besant (1917), Sarojini Naidu (1925) and Nellie Ben Gupta (1935). Also she was the third in the Nehru family - Pandit Motilal (1919) and 1928) and Jawaharlal who was elected and re-elected as President for more terms than she could remember.

Lal Bahadur Shastri was right in that Indira Gandhi's joining the Government contributed continuity to it. The gesture was appreciated the fact that she continued her
fathers' ‘Open house’ early morning sessions at No. 1 Safdarjang Road, where to she shifted from Teen Murti House. At these meetings, which had an impromptu look, the people could freely place their problems confidentially before her, and if she could, she would place them before the right people.

Chapter V deals with Madam Gandhi's personality as Prime Minister of India. Indira Gandhi was elected leader of the Congress Party on January 19, 1946, and by virtue of that position she was sworn in as Prime Minister of India five days later. But if she had so desired, she could have occupied this position nineteen months earlier, immediately after the death of her father. It is well known that she was offered the mantle of Jawaharlal Nehru by some of the most important and influential Congress Party leaders whose sponsorship could have ensured her unanimous election. But she politely turned down the proposal, presumably because she was too preoccupied with her grief but also because she was sensitive to the possible charge that Prime Ministership was being offered to her as a kind of Nehruian inheritance.
Chapter VI deals with the policies and programmes of Madam Gandhi. Nationalisation of Banks: Any proposal for the nationalisation of an industry or activity must be subjected to two tests. Firstly, is it necessary from the point of view of enabling the public sector to attain a dominant role and occupy a key position in the economy, and secondly, does it further our social objective? The nationalisation of Banks satisfied both these tests.

20-Point Programme: This is a national programme. It is designed for the entire nation. It should not be dismissed or regarded as the Prime Minister's programme or that of a particular political party. Its only policies is that of the good of the people.

Bangladesh: The cultural and economy of India and of Bangladesh are complementary. Both countries are fortunately well endowed in human resources. There is much scope for economic, cultural and technological co-operation.

Privy Purse: Madam Gandhi abolished the privy purses to the Maharajah and the Princes which is a heavy burden on the exchequer and also on the Indian National Economy.
Chapter VII deals with the summary and conclusions drawn on the working of the Prime Ministerial Democracy in India with special reference to Madam Gandhi as Prime Minister of India.