
CBSE Test Paper 04
Class 12 - Political Science (B-2 Ch-6 Crisis of the Democratic Order)

1. Sachchar committee is related with _____.
 - a. Bringing reform in the socio-economic condition of OBC category
 - b. Bringing reform in the socio-economic condition of Muslim community.
 - c. Bringing reform in the socio-economic condition of Dalits society
 - d. Bringing reform in the socio-economic condition of women.
2. What do you mean by Preventive Detention?
3. What was the main demand of the railway men during the railway strike led by George Fernandes in 1974?
4. Who introduced Twenty Point Programme and Why?
5. What were the main causes for students unrest in Gujarat and Bihar in 1974?
6. Describe outcomes of the Naxalite movements.
7. Identify the reason responsible for the people's disliking of the National Emergency imposed in 1975.
8. What reasons, do you think, were responsible for the declaration of emergency in 1975? Examine reasons.
9. How did emergency of 1975 benefit the Indian democratic set up?
10. 'Emergency was a Blackmark in Indian History'. Comment.
11. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions:

There were many acts of dissent and resistance to the Emergency. Many political workers who were not arrested in the first wave, went 'underground' and organised protests against the government. Newspapers like the Indian Express and the Statesman protested against censorship by leaving blank spaces where news items had been censored. Magazines like the Seminar and the Mainstream chose to close down rather than submit to censorship. Many journalists were arrested for writing

against the Emergency. Many underground newsletters and leaflets were published to bypass censorship. Kannada writer Shivarama Karanth, awarded with Padma Bhushan, and Hindi writer Fanishwarnath Renu, awarded with Padma Shri, returned their awards in protest against the suspension of democracy. By and large, though, such open acts of defiance and resistance were rare.

Questions

- i. Why did people began to protest against government?
- ii. How did newspapers protest against censorship?
- iii. How did writers protest against the emergency?
- iv. Which magazines protested against censorship?

12. Study the picture given below and answer the questions that follow:



Questions

- i. What situation does the picture refer to?
- ii. Which Commission is represented into the cartoon?
- iii. Mention some points of this Commission's report?

13. Explain the findings of Shah Commission constituted after the end of emergency of 1975.

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Answer

1. b. Bringing reform in the socio-economic condition of Muslim community.
Explanation: Sachchar committee was formed in 2005 on the status of Muslim community.
2. In Preventive Detention Act, people are arrested and detained not because they have committed any offence, but on the apprehension that they may commit an offence. Using preventive detention acts, the government made large scale arrests under this act during the emergency.
3. The main demand of the railwaymen during the railway strike led by George Fernandes in 1974 was for bonus and service condition for the railway employees.
4. >The government led by Indira Gandhi announced a 'Twenty Point Programme' and declared its determination to implement this programme. It included law and order and restored efficiency including land reforms, eradication of bonded labour, land redistribution, workers participation in management, etc.
5. The main causes for the students unrest in Gujarat and Bihar in 1974 were :
 - Rising prices.
 - Food scarcity.
 - Unemployment.
 - Corruption.
6. Outcomes of the Naxalite movements were:
 - i. Naxalite movement, particularly in West Bengal under the leadership of the local cadres of Communist Party of India. The peasant movement spread to the different parts of India. Nine states had been affected by the activities.
 - ii. Human right activist alleged government for using violence and harsh measures against them and criticised the government for violating the Constitution.
 - iii. They snatched land from the rich landowners and gave it to the poor and the landless.
7. The reasons responsible for the people's disliking of the National Emergency imposed in 1975 were due:
 - i. National Emergency violated fundamental rights (Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression) of the people and suspended the citizens to move Court.

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- ii. Under extensive use of Preventive detention, around one Lakh people from top political leaders to ordinary people were detained without trial.
8. The circumstances which led to the proclamation of emergency were:
- i. Bihar and Gujarat's movement created an unrest in the country. Students were protesting against the price rise, food scarcity, unemployment, corruption and against the established government in these states. Congress as ruling party failed to handle these protests. Leadership by influential leaders further gave them a momentum against government.
 - ii. Increases in Naxalite activities against government and violent nature troubled the government. Naxalite had an anti government view. Even harsh measures by government could not stop them. The Naxalite movement has used force to snatch land from the rich landowners and give it to the poor and the landless.
 - iii. The National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's struggle led by George Fernandes gave a call for nationwide strike by all employees of the Railways for pressing their demands related to bonus and service conditions. Their demands were suppressed by the government. Shut down of such a big institution created havoc in the country.
 - iv. Declaration of Indira Gandhi's 1971 election invalid was a last straw. Jayaprakash Narayan organised a massive demonstration demanding her resignation. The situation was tense and emergency was declared on 25th June, 1975.
 - v. Call of complete revolution by Jayaprakash Narayan and unexpected people movement in Delhi.
 - vi. Jayaprakash Narayan announced a nationwide satyagraha for Indira Gandhi's resignation and asked the army, the police and government employees not to obey 'illegal and immoral orders'. This too threatened to bring the activities of the government to standstill. The political mood of the country had turned against the Congress.
9. The Emergency of 1975 benefited the Indian democratic set up were:
- i. The elections between 1977 and 1980, Congress identified itself with particulars ideology, claiming to be only socialist and pro-poor party.
 - ii. The concept of non-Congress was created among opposition parties.
 - iii. In an indirect manner, the issue of welfare of the backward castes also began to dominate since 1977. The Northern states elected non-Congress government in

which the leaders of the backward castes played an important role.

- iv. The emergency clearly a tension between institution based democracy and democracy based on spontaneous popular participation for which party system was to be blamed.

10. Emergency was Blackmark in Indian history due to:

- i. The response of the government was to declare a state of Emergency. On 25 June 1975, the government declared that there was a threat of internal disturbances and therefore, it invoked Article 352 of the constitution.
- ii. The Prime Minister Indira Gandhi recommended the imposition of Emergency to President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad.
- iii. Emergency was one of the most controversial episodes which possessed different virus regarding impose emergency.
- iv. Emergency practically suspended the democratic functioning.
- v. The 'Shah Commission' exposed many 'excesses' committed during the emergency.
- vi. Emergency highlighted some hidden matters over the constitutional battle between the parliament and judiciary.
- vii. There was tensions or conflicts between institution-based democracy and democracy based on spontaneous popular participation of people.

11. i. People began to protest against government imposition of emergency.

- ii. Newspaper like the Indian Express and the Statesman protested against censorship by leaving blank spaces where news items had been censored.
- iii. Several writers such as Kannada writer Shivarama Karanth, awarded with Padma Bhushan, and Hindi writer Fanishwarnath Renu, awarded with Padma Shri returned their awards in protest against suspension of democracy. By and large, though, such open acts of defiance and resistance were rare.
- iv. The magazines like the 'Seminar' and the 'Mainstream' chose to close down rather than submit to censorship. Many journalists were arrested for writing against the Emergency.

12. i. The picture refers to a situation when Mrs. Gandhi's confrontation with the Shah Commission. Indira Gandhi appeared before the Commission but refused to answer any questions.

- ii. Shah Commission's report about the emergency is represented into the cartoon.
- iii. Some points of the Commission report were as:

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- a. There were many 'excesses' committed during the emergency.
 - b. Several restrictions were put on the press sometimes without legal sanction.
 - c. Many people were arrested and detained under preventive detention law.
 - d. Even general manager of Delhi Power Supply Corporation received verbal orders from the officers of Lt. Governor of Delhi to cut electricity to all newspaper presses at 2 a.m. on 26 June 1975.

13. In May 1977, the Janata Party Government appointed Shah Commission of inquiry headed by justice JC Shah, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India.

It was appointed to look into the misuse of authority by government and unethical practices like the demolition of Jhuggis, forced sterilisation etc which were conducted during emergency. The commission gathered various evidences and witnesses to give testimonies.

The findings of Shah Commission were:

- i. It found out that preventive detention was widely used by the government. Around one lakh eleven thousand arbitrary arrests were made by the government.
- ii. Newspapers were asked to get permission before publishing of any matter.
- iii. In Delhi, Lieutenant Governor ordered General Manager of Delhi power supply to cut off the power supply of news press till they establish censorship apparatus.
- iv. Jhuggi Jhopri were forcefully relocated in the barren area of Delhi, people were forcefully sterilised.
- v. The Commission report mentions that General Manager of the Delhi Power Supply corporation received verbal orders from the office of the Lt. Governor of Delhi to cut electricity to all newspaper presses.
- vi. The younger son of Prime Minister did not hold any official position at the time. Yet, he gained control over the administration and allegedly interfered in the functioning of the government.