

**SUBJECT NAME: CONTEMPORARY INDIA (1947-2014)**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

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## **UNIT-V**

### **1.UPA-MANMOHAN SINGH**

India's fourteen Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is rightly acclaimed as a thinker and a scholar. He is well regarded for his diligence and his academic approach to work, as well as his accessibility and his unassuming demeanour.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932 in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India. Dr. Singh completed his Matriculation examinations from the Punjab University in 1948. His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics in 1957. Dr. Singh followed this with a D.Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962. His book, "India's Export Trends and Prospects for self-sustained Growth" was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy.

Dr.Singh's academic credentials were burnished by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well, during these years. This presaged a subsequent appointment as Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.

In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. Among the many Governmental positions that Dr.Singh has occupied are Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission; Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Advisor of the Prime Minister; and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

In what was to become the turning point in the economic history of independent India. Dr.Singh spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as India's Finance Minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is now recognized worldwide. In the popular view of those years in India, that period is inextricably associated with the persona of Dr. Singh.

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Dr.Singh in his public career, the most prominent are India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987); the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress (1995); the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993 and 1994); the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993), the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956); and the Wright's Prize Distinguished Performance at St.John's College in Cambridge (1955). Dr. Singh has also been honoured by a number of other associations including the Japanese Nihon Keizai Shimbun. Dr.Singh is a recipient of honorary degrees from many universities including the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

Dr.Singh has represented India at many international conferences and in several international organizations. He has led Indian delegations to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus (1993) and to the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.

In his political career, Dr.Singh has been a Member of India's Upper House of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) since 1991, where he was Leader of the Opposition between 1998 and 2004. Dr. Manmohan Singh was sworn in as Prime Minister on 22<sup>nd</sup> May after the 2004 general elections and took the oath of office for a second term on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009.

## **2.ANTI CORRUPTION MOVEMENT-2014 ELECTION-**

### **MODI GOVERNMENT**

India is the 78 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. The corruption of public servants in India has become such a menace that something drastically new had to be tried, and appointing the Lokpal at least partially meets this crying need.

There is guarded optimism in a few quarters, and considerable cynicism in others, over the likely efficacy of the Lokpal. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 is complicated. But it was badly needed for enhancing the accountability of those in high places and to demonstrate to the world that India is not second to any other nation in making its public administration clean and fair.

Moreover the appointment of Lokpal is delayed for many years and now it has been received with great excitement. Nevertheless, the working of the Act may be expected to be closely followed in the months to come, both by the polity and the legal fraternity, which is how it ought to be in a vibrant democracy.

As India has appointed its first Lokpal (Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose), initial days are going to be difficult in terms of coordination. Everything will depend on how well the Lokpal and the government cooperate and concentrate on the fundamental objective objective of striking at corruption without getting bogged down by technicalities.

### **MODI GOVERNMENT**

Narendra Modi was sworn-in as India's Prime Minister on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, marking the start of his second term in office. The first ever Prime Minister to be born after Independence, he has previously served as the Prime Minister of India from 2014 to 2019. He also has the distinction of being the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat with his term spanning from October 2001 to May 2014.

In the 2014 and 2019 Parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the Bharatiya Janata Party to record wins, securing absolute majority on both occasions. The last time that a political party secured such an absolute majority was in the elections of 1984. The Prime Minister has worked with speed and scale to realize the aim of Antyodaya, or ensuring last mile delivery of schemes and services.

Prime Minister had launched Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, that aimed at opening bank accounts for every Indian. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary, the PM launched 'Swachh Bharat Mission' a mass movement for cleanliness across the nation. The scale and impact of the movement is historic. Today, sanitation coverage has risen from 38% in 2014 to 99%. Several states and Union Territories have been declared open defecation free (ODF). Substantive measures been taken for a clean Ganga.

Under his governance, the Government of India has been working to create next-generation infrastructure be it in terms of more highways, railways, i-ways and waterways. The UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Nagrik) Scheme has made aviation sector more people-friendly and boosted connectivity. The Government of India rolled out the GST during a historic session of Parliament in 2017, which has realized the dream of 'One Nation, One Tax'.

During his tenure, special attention has been paid to India's rich history and culture. India is home to the world's largest statue, the State of Unity, a tribute to Sardar Patel. This statue was built through a special mass movement where tools of farmers and soil from all states and union territories of India were used, signifying the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

His foreign policy initiatives have realized the true potential and role of world's largest democracy. He began his first term in office in presence of all Heads of States of SAARC Nations and invited BIMSTEC leaders at the start of the second. His address to the General Assembly of United Nations was appreciated across the world. He became the first Indian Prime Minister to embark on a bilateral visit to Nepal after a long period of 17 years, to Australia after 28 years, to Fiji after 31 years and UAE as well as Seychelles after 34 years. He attended UN,

BRICS, SAARC and G-20 Summits, where India's interventions and views on a variety of global economic and political issues were widely appreciated. A total of 177 Nations across the world came together and passed the resolution to declare 21<sup>st</sup> June as the 'International Day of Yoga t the UN'.

He was born on 17 September, 1950, in a small town in Gujarat. In his initial years, he worked with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a nationalist organization devoted to nation building and later devoted himself in politics working with the Bharatiya Janata Party organization at National and State level.

### **3.PROMOTION OF ARTS AND LETTERS-**

#### **LALIT KALA ACADEMY, SANGEET NATAK ACADEMY**

##### **LALIT KALA ACADEMY**

To promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, both within and outside the country, the Government of India established Lalit Kala academy (National Academy of Arts) at New Delhi in 1954. The Academy has regional centres called Rashtriya Lalit Kala Kendars at Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Garhi in New Delhi and Bhubaneshwar with workshop facilities in painting, sculpture, print-making and ceramics.

##### **SANGEET NATAK ACADEMY**

It is the India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, may be regarded as a pioneer in the process of creation of modern India that led politically to India's freedom in 1947. The ephemeral quality of the arts, and the need for their preservation led to the adapting of a democratic system in which a common man had the opportunity to learn, practice and propagate the art. Within the first few decades of the twentieth century, public perception of responsibility for both preservation and development of the arts had started inclining towards the state.

## **4.NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA, SAHITYA ACADEMY AND ZONAL CULTURAL CENTERS**

### **NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA**

The National School of Drama (NSD) is one of the foremost theatre institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India was set up by Sangeet Natak Academy in 1959. Later in 1975, it became an autonomous organization, totally financed by Department of Culture. The objective of NSD is to train students in all aspects of theatre, including theatre history, production, scene design, costume design, lighting, make-up, etc. the training course at NSD is of three years duration. Each year, 20 students are admitted to the course. The eligible applicants for admission to the course are screened through two stages. The Diploma of NSD is recognized by the Association of Indian Universities as equivalent to M.A. Degree for appointment as teachers in colleges/universities and for purposes of registration for Ph.D.

### **SAHITYA ACADEMY**

Sahitya Academy is the Indian National academy of Letters meant to promote the cause of Indian literature through publications, translations, seminars, workshops, cultural exchange programmes and literary meets organized all over the country. The Academy was founded in March 1954 as an autonomous body fully funded by the Department of Culture. It was registered as a Society in 1956 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Academy has recognized 24 languages. It has an Advisory Board for each of the languages that suggests various programmes and publications in the concerned languages. There are four Regional Boards to promote regional interaction among the languages of the North, west, East and South. Besides its Head Office in New Delhi, it has four offices in Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai. The Academy has two Translation Centres at Bangalore and Kolkata, besides a Project Office at Shillong

for promotion of oral and tribal literature and an Archives of Indian literature in Delhi. It maintains a unique multilingual library in New Delhi and at its regional offices at Bengaluru and Kolkata, having about 1.5 lakh books in over 25 languages.

## ZONAL CULTURAL CENTRES

Ministry of Culture, Government of India has set up 7 Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) across the country. The objective of these Zonal Cultural centres is to promote and preserve the traditional folk arts of States within their respective jurisdictions. A total budget of Rs.2159 lakhs has been allocated to ZCCs under Plan during 2009-10 for implementation of their schemes.

- ❖ North Zone Cultural Centre with Patiala as its capital.
- ❖ West Zone Cultural Centre with Udaipur as its capital.
- ❖ South Zone Cultural Centre with Thanjavur as its capital.
- ❖ South Central Zone Cultural Centre with Nagpur as its capital.
- ❖ Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre with Kolkata as its capital.
- ❖ North Central Zone Cultural Centre with Allahabad as its capital.
- ❖ North East Zone Cultural Centre and its capital is Dimapur.

ZCCs are implementing the following schemes to promote the traditional folk arts of the member states:

### 1.National Cultural Exchange Programme:

With a view to present art forms of one region to another and expose the diverse cultural heritage of each region to the rest of the country, the folk/tribal artists are sent on exchange manner to participate in the programmes organized by the seven Zonal Cultural Centres.

### 2.Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme:

The scheme was introduced during the year 2003 -04 with a view to promote development of new talents in the field of music and dance, folk and tribal art forms, under the able guidance of Gurus.

### 3.Young Talented Artists Scheme:

The scheme was introduced during the year 2004-05 to recognize and encourage young talents in the various folk arts forms of different regions in the country.

### 4.Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms:

Under the scheme, documentation of various traditional folk art forms is undertaken, especially of those which are seen to be vanishing.

### 5.Shilpagram Activities:

ZCCs have set up Shilpagrams at Chandigarh, Khajuraho, Udaipur, Guwahati, Allahabad and Shantiniketan to encourage various forms of traditional folk/tribal arts from rural India. These Shilpagrams are attracting a large number of domestic as well as foreign visitors. Through these Shilpagrams, a large number of artists and artisans are benefited and a large number of people are made aware of our rich cultural heritage.

### 6.Loktarang:

National Folk Dance Festival and OCTAVE-Festival of the North East: All the ZCCs participate in these National level festivals organized every year in New Delhi and/or other places. A large number of folk/tribal artists from all corners of the country perform during these festivals to showcase the diverse folk/tribal arts of our different regions/states.

## **BOOKS FOR REFERENCE:**

1. KalimBagadur&M.C.Paul(Ed) : Contemporary India.
2. Bipin Chandra : India after Independence 1947-2000.
3. G.Venkatesan: Contemporary India 1947-2000.



