

# CHAPTER 5

# CHALLENGES TO AND RESTORATION OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM



**27 MAY 1964**

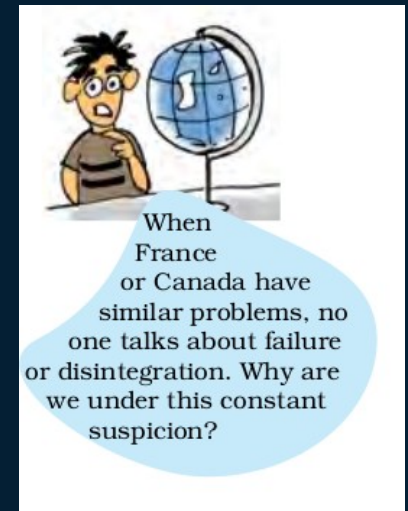
**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU  
PASSED AWAY**



# TWO SERIOUS QUESTIONS BEFORE INDIA AFTER THE DEATH OF NEHRU



**AFTER NEHRU,  
WHO?  
WHAT?**



**WHETHER INDIAN DEMOCRACY WILL  
SURVIVE AFTER NEHRU?**



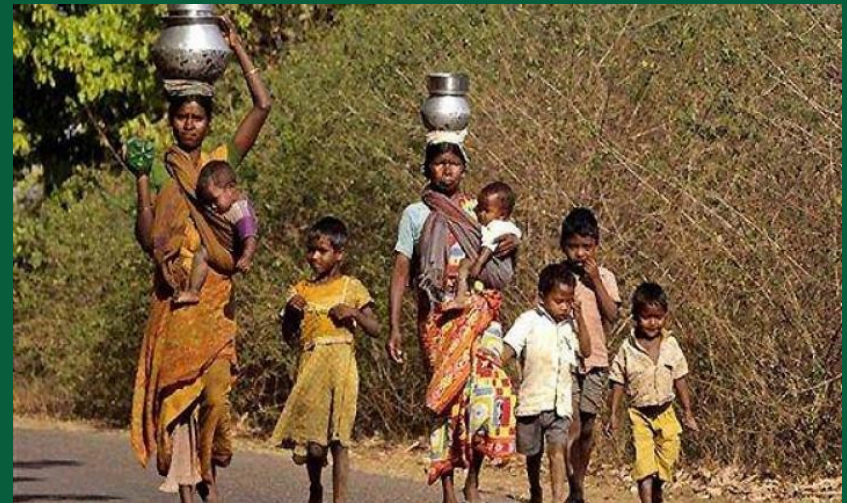
# 1960s

## DANGEROUS DECADE FOR INDIA

**POVERTY**

**INEQUALITY**

**COMMUNAL AND  
REGIONAL  
DIVISIONS**



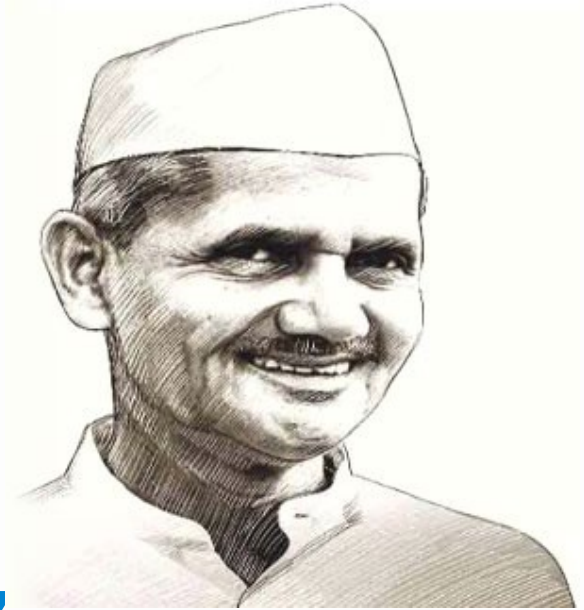
# FROM NEHRU TO SHASTRI



**CONGRESS PARTY UNANIMOUSLY  
SELECTED LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI AS  
THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA**

# SHASTRI

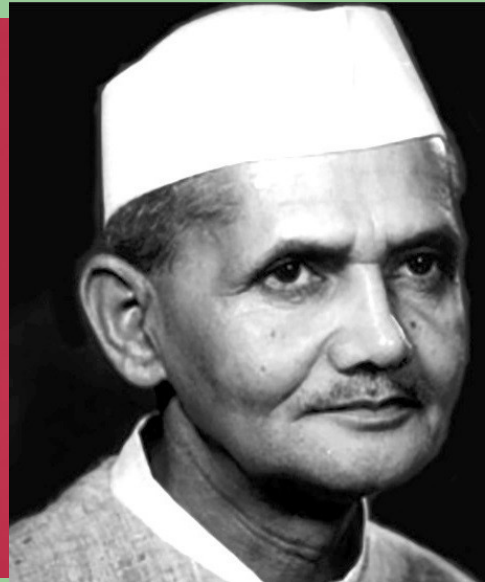
- **EXPERIENCED LEADER**
- **FAMOUS FOR SIMPLICITY**
- **PROVED MORAL COMMITMENT**



# PRIME MINISTER SHASTRI (1964-1966)



- TWO CHALLENGES
- INDO -PAK WAR
- FAILED MONSOON



**Jai Jawan  
Jai Kisan**

— Lal Bahadur Shastri  
(2 October 1904 - 11 January 1966)

[www.BeAnInspirer.com](http://www.BeAnInspirer.com)

**EXPIRED ON 10 JANUARY 1966 IN TASHKANT**



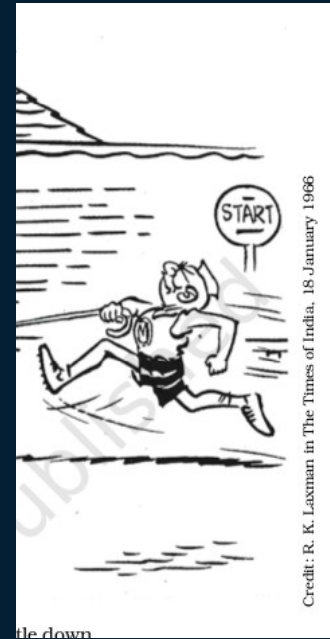
# AFTER SHASTRI ?

## INTENSE COMPETITION FOR THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER



**INDIRA GANDHI V/S  
MORARJI DESAI**

**INDIRA GANDHI  
WON BY SECURING  
2/3s MAJORITY**





# **THE SENIOR CONGRESS LEADERS SUPPORTED INDIRA GANDHI - REASONS**

**BELIEF THAT SHE MAY  
DEPEND THE SENIOR  
LEADERS DUE TO HER  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
POLITICAL INEXPERIENCE**

**DESAI WAS A STRICT  
RULER**

**LOYALTY TOWARDS  
NEHRU FAMILY**





# FOURTH GENERAL ELECTION, 1967

## LANDMARK IN THE HISTORY OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

# CONTEXT OF THE ELECTIONS

- TWO PRIME MINISTERS DIED IN QUICK SUCCESSION
- CONGRESS WITHOUT NEHRU
- INEXPERIENCED PRIME MINISTER
- ECONOMIC CRISIS
- DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL/INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
- PRICE RISE

- **RISE IN MILITARY EXPENDITURE**
- **FOOD SCARCITY**
- **UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES**
- **POPULAR UNREST**
- **HINDU-MUSLIM RIOTS**
- **NON CONGRESSISM**



# NON CONGRESSISM

**PARTIES OPPOSED TO THE CONGRESS  
REALISED THAT THE DIVISION OF THEIR  
VOTES KEPT THE CONGRESS IN POWER.**

**SO IDEOLOGICALLY  
DIFFERENT POLITICAL  
PARTIES FORMED ANTI  
CONGRESS FRONTS TO  
DEFEAT THE CONGRESS**



# NON CONGRESS PARTIES FELT THAT THE SITUATION IS FAVOURABLE FOR THEM

INEXPERIENCE OF INDIRA GANDHI

FACTIONALISM  
IN CONGRESS



# TERM BY RAM MANOHAR LOHIA

**THEORETICAL ARGUMENT  
OF RAM MANOHAR LOHIA :**

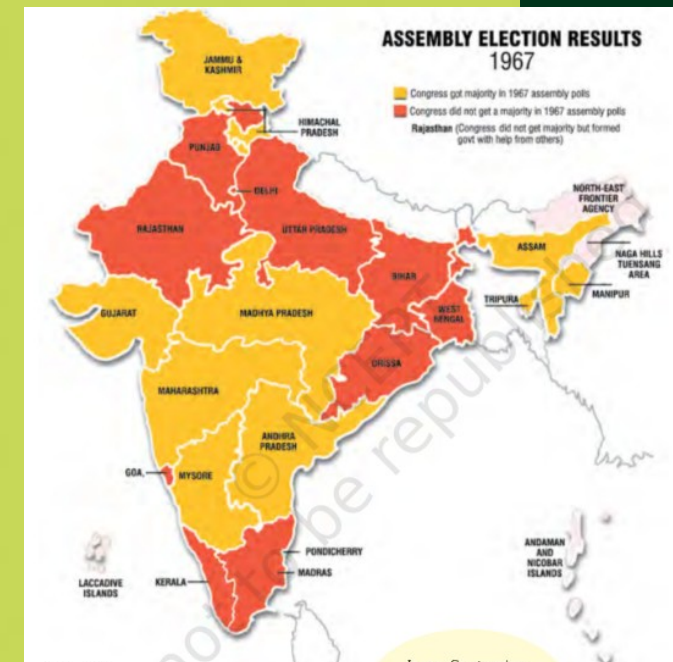
**CONGRESS RULE WAS  
UNDEMOCRATIC AND  
OPPOSED TO THE  
INTEREST OF ORDINARY  
POOR PEOPLE;**



**THEREFORE THE COMING TOGETHER OF  
THE NON CONGRESS PARTIES WAS  
NECESSARY FOR RECLAIMING DEMOCRACY  
FOR THE PEOPLE**

# 1967 ELECTORAL VERDICT

**A POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE**  
**CONGRESS GOT MAJORITY**  
**IN LOK SABHA WITH THE**  
**LOWEST SEATS SINCE 1952**  
**HALF OF THE CABINET**  
**MINISTERS WERE**  
**DEFEATED.**





# 1967 ELECTORAL VERDICT



**MANY SENIOR CONGRESS  
LEADERS WERE DEFEATED**

**CONGRESS LOST POWER  
IN NINE STATES**

**DMK, A REGIONAL POLITICAL  
PARTY WON CLEAR MAJORITY  
IN TAMIL NADU STATE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY**



# COALITIONS

**NO SINGLE PARTY GOT CLEAR MAJORITY  
IN MANY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES.**

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE PARTIES (SAMYUKT  
VIDHAYAK DAL) FORMED COALITION  
GOVERNMENTS .**

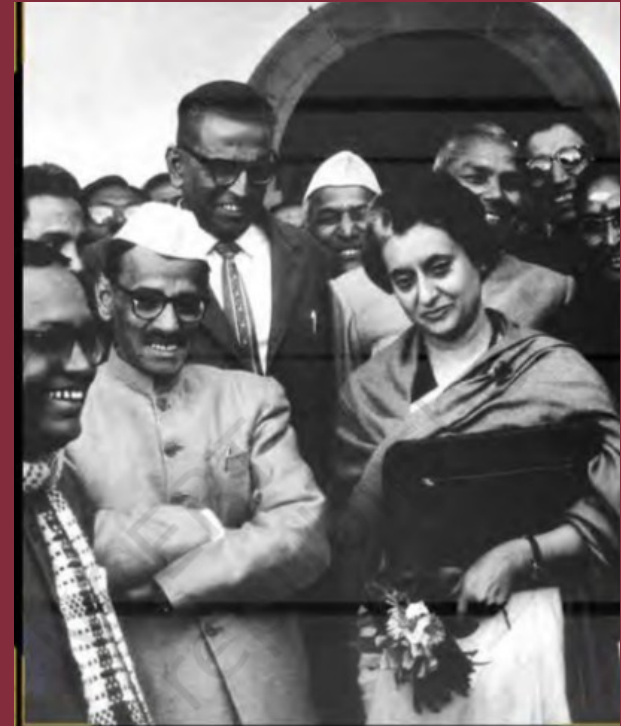
**COALITION PARTNERS WERE  
IDEOLOGICALLY  
INCONGRUENT**



A cartoonist's reading of Charan Singh's attempt to build a United Front of non-communist parties in 1974

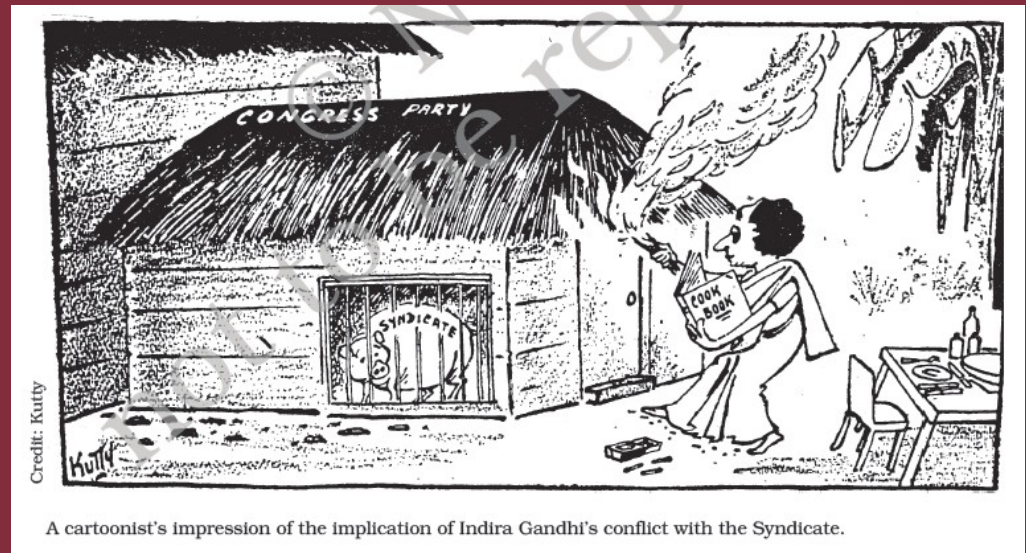
# INDIRA vs SYNDICATE

**SYNDICATE –  
A GROUP OF POWERFUL  
AND INFLUENTIAL  
LEADERS FROM  
WITHIN CONGRESS.  
LED BY K KAMARAJ  
PLAYED A VITAL ROLE  
IN INSTALLATION OF  
INDIRA AS PRIME MINISTER.**



**THE SYNDICATE EXPECTED INDIRA GANDHI TO FOLLOW THEIR ADVISE.**

**GRADUALLY INDIRA GANDHI SIDELINED THE SENIOR LEADERS AND SOUGHT ADVISE FROM OUTSIDE THE PARTY**





# **TWO CHALLENGES BEFORE INDIRA**

**1. INDEPENDENCE FROM SYNDICATE**

**2. REGAIN THE LOST STRENGTH OF  
CONGRESS**

**SHE INTRODUCED LEFT FRONT POLICIES**

**TEN POINT PROGRAMME IN MAY 1967. IT INCLUDES**

**SOCIAL CONTROL OF BANKS**

**NATIONALISATION OF GENERAL INSURANCE**

**CEILING ON URBAN PROPERTY**

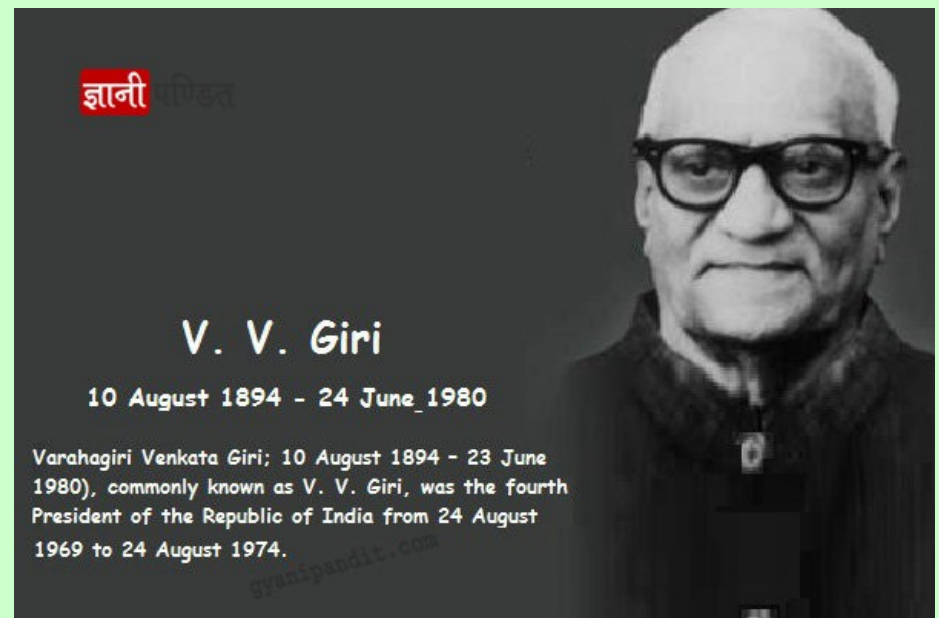
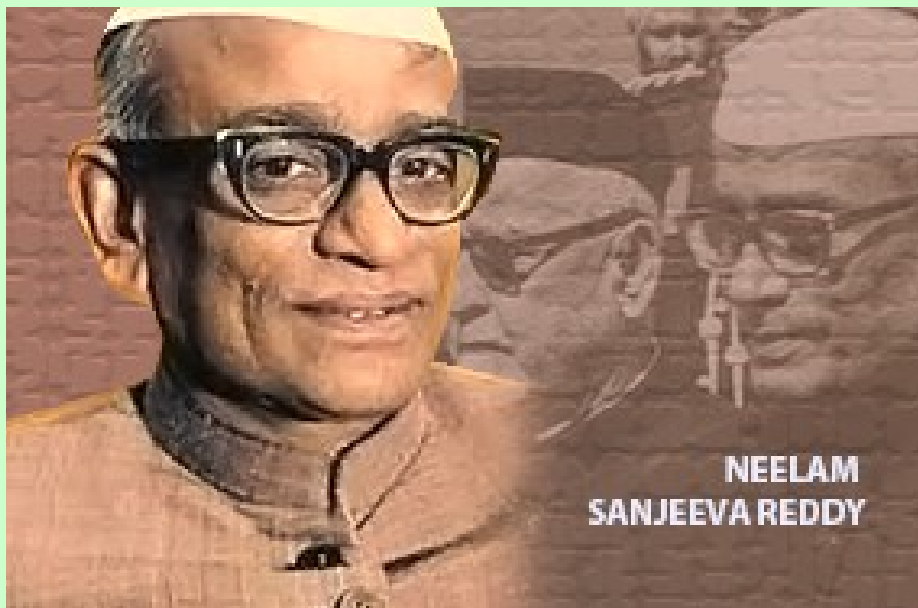
**PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD GRAINS**

**LAND REFORMS**

**PROVISION OF HOUSE SITES TO THE RURAL POOR**

# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1969

OFFICIAL CANDIDATE OF CONGRESS- N  
SANJEEVA REDDY  
INDIRA GANDHI SUPPORTED – V V GIRI



**WHIP BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT  
S NIJALINGAPPA – VOTE FOR SANJEEVA REDDY  
SUPPORTERS OF INDIRA GANDHI – REQUISITIONED  
A SPECIAL MEETING OF AICC. IT WAS REFUSED.  
INDIRA GANDHI – CONSCIENCE VOTE**

**V V GIRI WON THE ELECTION**



"The Left Hook" was published after the victory of V.V. Giri, (the boxer with the garland) over the nominee of the Syndicate, represented here by Nijalingappa (on his knees).

# SPLIT IN CONGRESS

THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT  
DISMISSED THE PRIME  
MINISTER FROM THE PARTY.

**LED TO SPLIT IN PARTY**

CONGRESS  
(ORGANISATION) LED BY  
SYNDICATE

**CONGRESS  
(REQUISITIONISTS) BY  
INDIRA GANDHI**



The Syndicate: (clockwise, from left-top) K Kamaraj, the Congress President, Sanjiva Reddy, future President of India, SK Patil, the "uncrowned king of Bombay" Atulya Ghosh, President of Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee and S.Nijalingappa, Chief Minister of Mysore (Karnataka)





# THE 1971 ELECTION

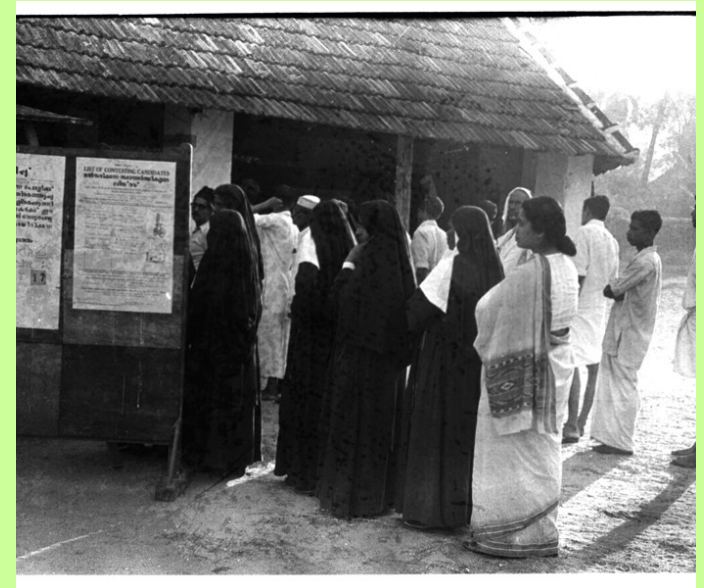


**CONGRESS (R) – ONLY A FRACTION OF AN ALREADY WEAK PARTY.**

**ALLIANCE WITH CPI**

**CONGRESS (O) – LED BY THE EXPERIENCED LEADERS**

**GRAND ALLIANCE - AN ELECTORAL ALLIANCE OF NON – CONGRESS AND NON – COMMUNIST PARTIES.**



**CONGRESS (R) - AN  
ISSUE, AN AGENDA AND  
A POSITIVE SLOGAN  
GARIBI HATAO  
(REMOVE POVERTY)**

**GRAND ALLIANCE**

**ONLY ONE COMMON  
POLITICAL PROGRAMME**

**INDIRA HATAO (REMOVE  
INDIRA)**

**GARIBI HATAO  
ATTRACTED THE POOR  
INDIANS**



**INDIRA HATAO**



# ELECTION RESULT

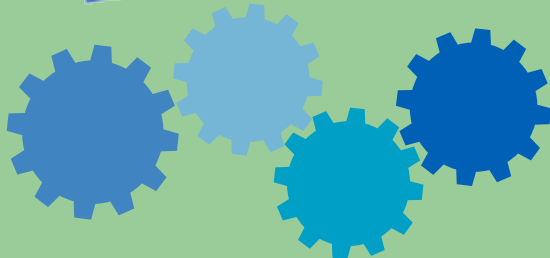
**THE CONGRESS (R) -  
CPI – 375 (352+23)**

**THE CONGRESS (O) – 16  
GRAND ALLIANCE - 40**

**CONGRESS (R)  
PROVED IT AS THE  
REAL CONGRESS**



**HSSLIVE.IN**



**PREPARED BY**  
**MATHEW JOSEPH**  
**HSST POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**KPRGS GHSS KALLIASSERY**  
**KANNUR**