Changing Life: The Evolution of Modern India (1961–2000)

A visual chronicle of social, medical, and economic transformations.

In the 20th century, the speed of change accelerated tremendously. Ideas that were once unimaginable became reality. This deck explores the transition from ancient identities defined by hierarchy to a modern identity defined by the Constitution, science, and development.

The Architect of Social Change

In ancient and medieval periods, a person's identity was strictly defined by religion. Modernization posed a challenge to all religions—Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, and Judaism.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar brought about a "sea change" in the traditional mindset through the medium of the Indian Constitution.

- • Equality before the law.
- • Prohibition of discrimination based on religion, race, caste, gender, or place of birth.

A Constitutional Guarantee of Freedom

1. **Freedom of Speech:** The right to express opinions.

2. **Freedom of Assembly:** To assemble peacefully without arms.

3. **Freedom of Association:** To form groups and unions.

4. **Freedom of Movement:** To live and settle anywhere in Indian territory.

5. **Freedom of Occupation:** To practice any profession.

Impact: These provisions shook the foundations of the caste system, rendering the practice of hereditary family vocations obsolete.

Cultural Rights: The right for citizens to nurture their language, script, and culture.
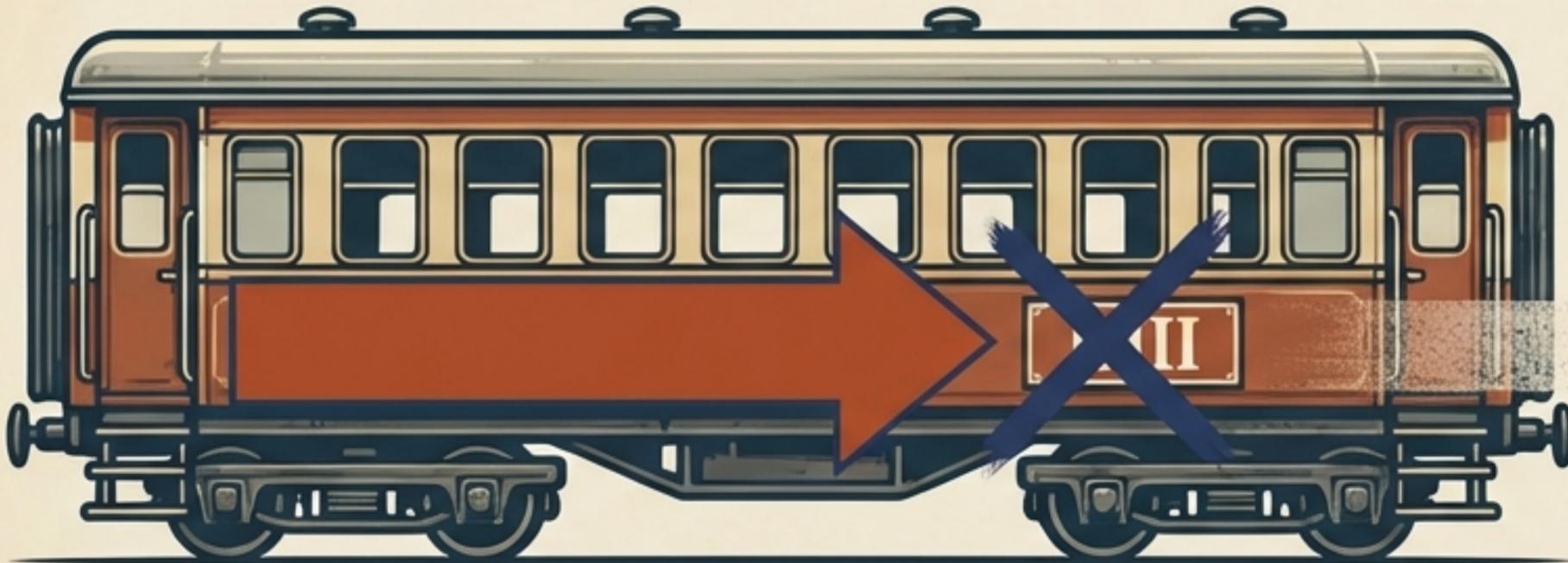
Breaking the Barriers of Caste
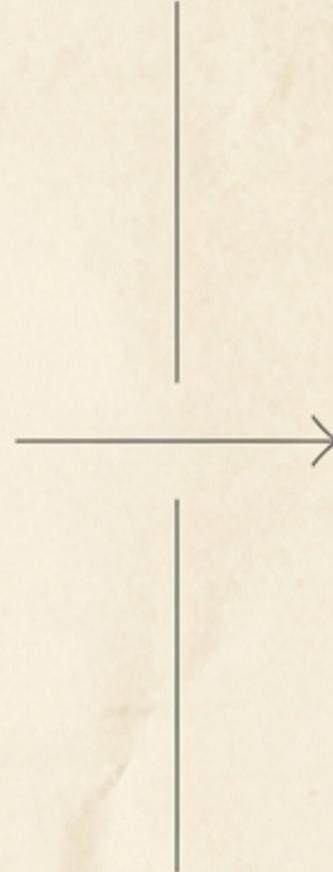
The Shift: The legal dismantling of caste hierarchy led to a series of minor and major societal changes.

Thus began a series of minor and major changes in the society.

The Railway Reform: Ending the 'Third Class'

The Turning Point:

In the 1978 Railway Budget, Madhu Dandawate abolished the Third Class system.

The Rise of Equality:

Introduction of 'Classless Trains' to promote social parity:

- Sinhagad Express (Pune–Mumbai)
- Gitanjali Express (Mumbai–Kolkata)

Historical Context:

During the British era, trains had four classes: First, Second, Inter, and Third. The 'Third Class' offered nominal facilities and symbolized a negative attitude toward the common social hierarchy.

The Right to Dissent

Pre-Independence
Inter

Severe limits on expressing opinions against political rulers.

Post-Independence
Inter

Citizens gained the right to register protest against government policies.

Mechanisms of Protest: Newspapers, speeches, and other media became tools for holding the government accountable.
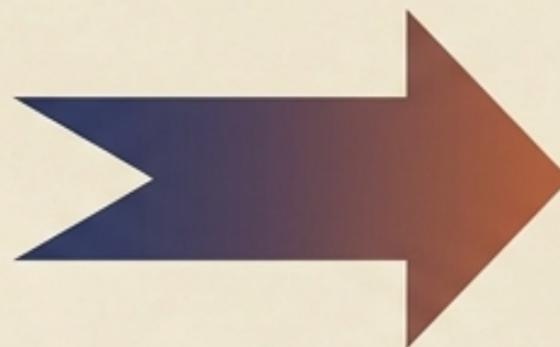
The Changing Indian Family

Archival

Joint Family System → **Nuclear Family System**

The Old Identity
India was known globally for the Joint Family system—where priority was given to the family head and the institution itself.

The New Reality
The wave of globalization gave impetus to the Nuclear Family system. Priority shifted from the family head to the individual.

The First Constitutional Welfare State

Playfair Display

India was the first country in the world to incorporate the objective of a 'Welfare State' directly into its Constitution.

→

Indian Terracotta

June 14, 1964: The Government of India constituted the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The Goal:

To provide full-time employment, health care, education, and development opportunities to all citizens.
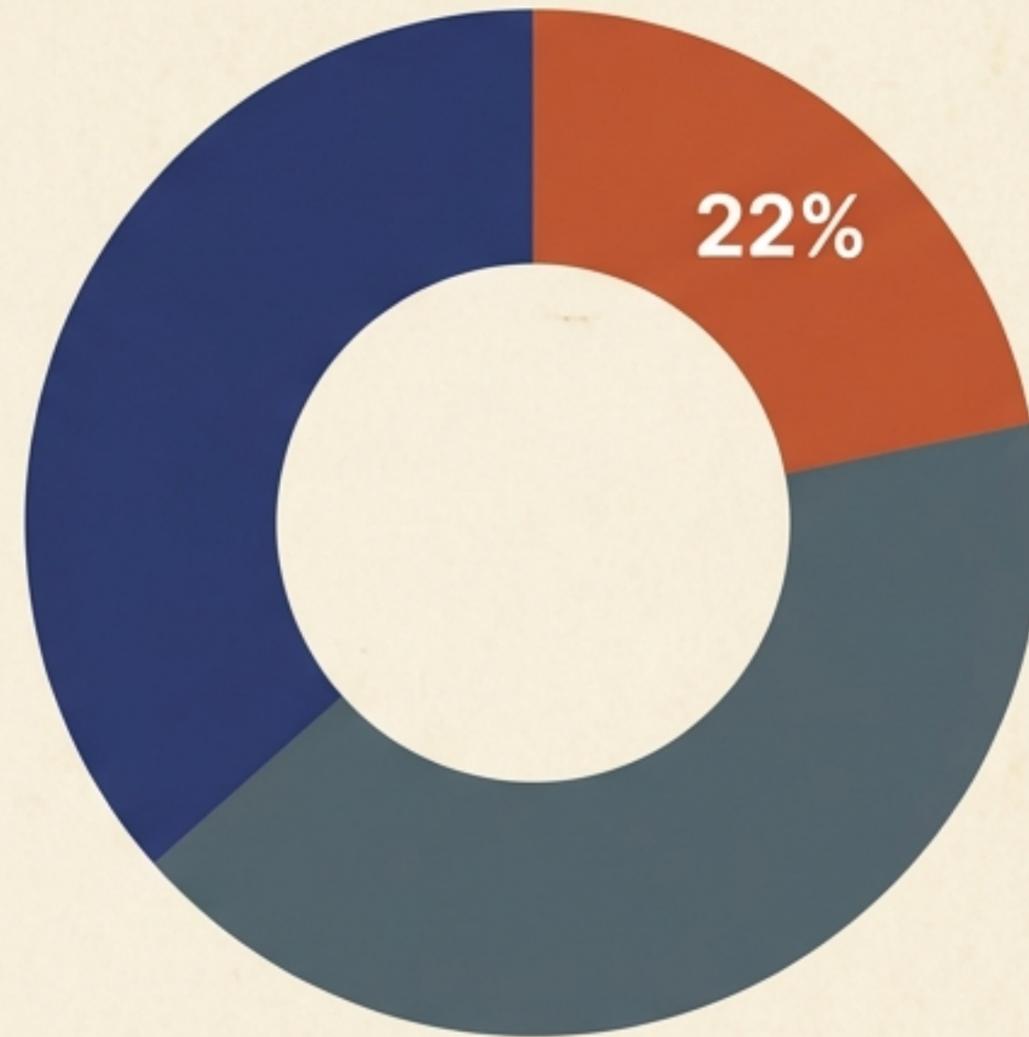
Target Areas:

Nutrition, child development, social security, and women's welfare.
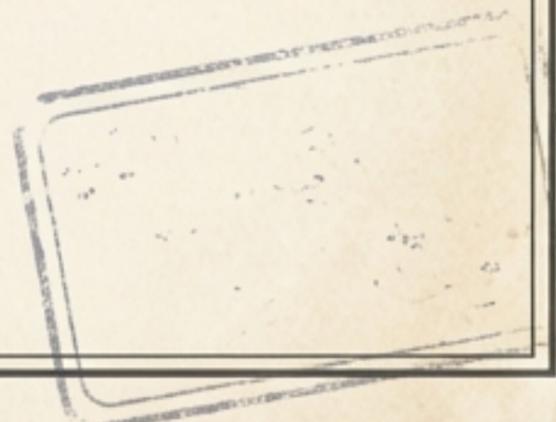
Social Justice and Representation

The Action taken to address inequality:

1. **Education:** Laws enacted for educational scholarships.
2. **Political Representation:** Representation ensured in Parliament and State Assemblies.
3. **Employment:** Seats reserved in Government services.

22%

Scheduled Castes and Tribes
(1971 Census)

RNJSJ1

Medical Self-Reliance

From going abroad for treatment to becoming a global medical hub.

Progress in the medical field made the lives of Indians relatively free of health concerns and established India as a destination for patients from underdeveloped countries. Government recognition was given to Unani, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, and Naturopathy alongside Allopathy.
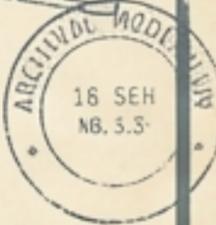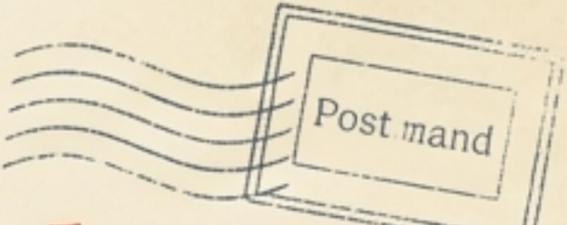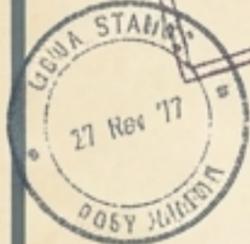
Cardiac and Renal Breakthroughs
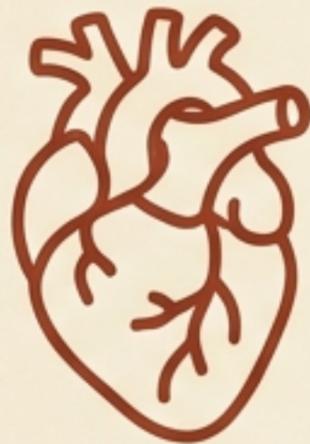
1962: First Successful Open Heart Surgery

Who: Dr. N. Gopinath
Where: Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore
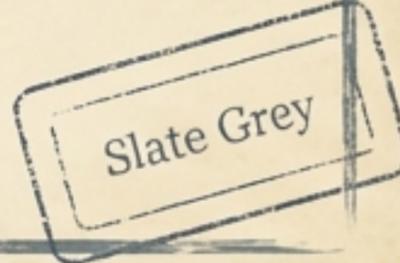**Impact:** Ended the necessity of traveling abroad for cardiac treatment.
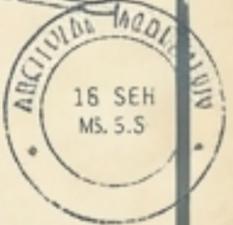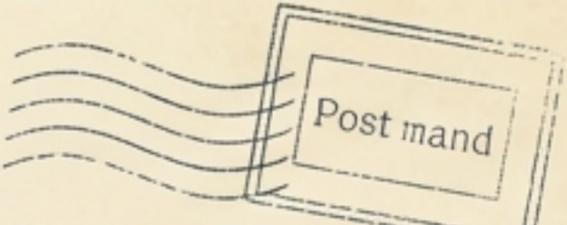
1971: Kidney Transplant from Living Donor

Who: Dr. Johny and Dr. Mohan Rao
Where: Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore
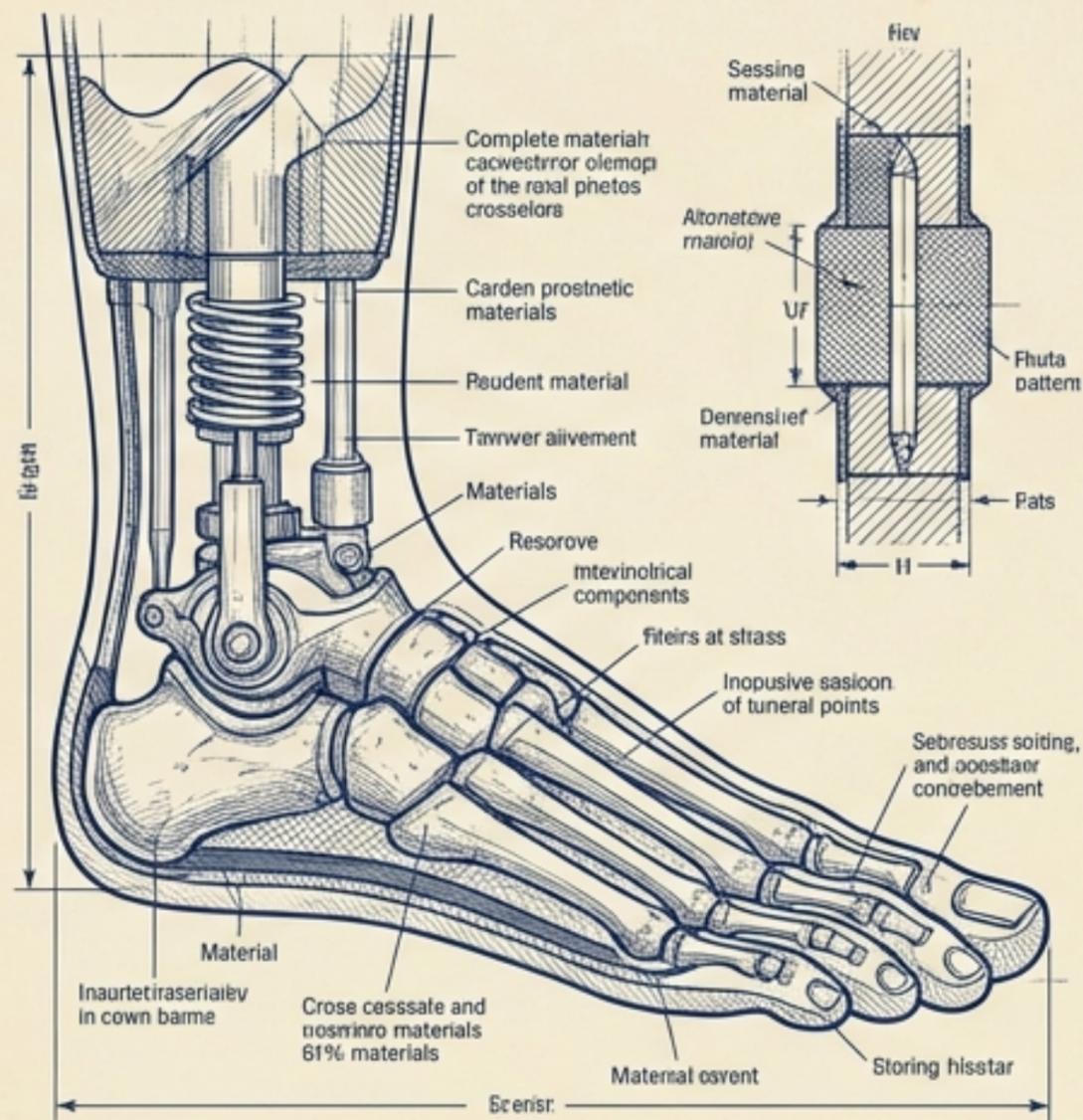**Impact:** Established India as a medical hub for developing nations.

The Jaipur Foot: Innovation for the Common Man

Indigo Dye

The Problem: Before 1968, losing a limb meant lifelong suffering.

The Inventors: Dr. Pramod Sethi and skilled craftsman Ramchandra Sharma (1968).

Design Advantages:
- Allows walking barefoot on rough surfaces.
- Enables running, cycling, and climbing trees.
- Water-resistant (suitable for working in wet fields).
- Allows sitting cross-legged.
- Cost Efficiency: No need for shoes on the artificial limb.
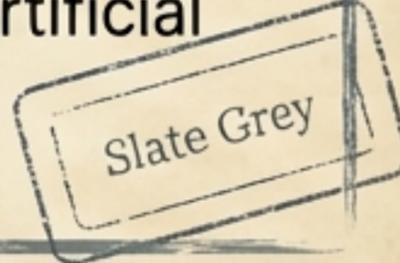
New Life and Child Survival

1978: The Test-Tube Baby

Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyaya (Kolkata) oversaw the first successful artificial conception in India.
Result: A girl named 'Durga'.
Significance: Solved problems for childless couples in a culture where having a baby is highly prioritized.

1995: Pulse Polio Immunization

Context: Before 1978, 6 out of 10 infants faced fatal health problems in their first year.

Action: A massive campaign to control Polio, alongside efforts against measles, tetanus, TB, diphtheria, and whooping cough.

The Rise of Urban India

PUSH FACTORS
(Unavailability of livelihood)

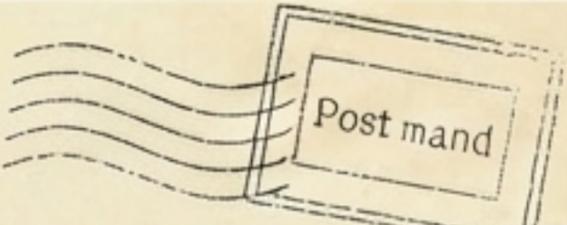**PULL FACTORS**
(Job opportunities)

Definition: The process of population concentration in cities.
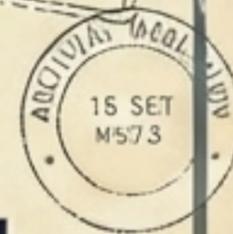
Key Drivers:
1. Reduction in mortality rates.
2. Industrialization.
3. Rural unemployment.

The Challenge: Strain on city infrastructure, necessitating a balance between village and city economic development.

Rural vs. Urban: A Study in Contrasts

| Rural Community	Urban Community
Priority to farming and ancillary vocations	Priority to non-agricultural production and services
Small in size, homogeneous in terms of language/culture	Large in size, heterogeneous in terms of languages/cultures
Elementary kinds of vocations; sending villagers to cities	Large industries; production for global consumption; accommodating outsiders
Larger proportion of vocations running in the family	Less proportion of vocations running in the family
Priority to head of family; Joint family system	Priority to individuals; Trend towards nuclear families
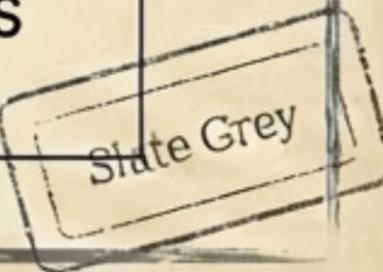
Strategy for Rural Development
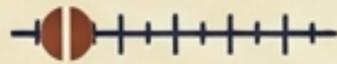
In 1961, 82% of India lived in villages. By 1971, it was 80.01%.
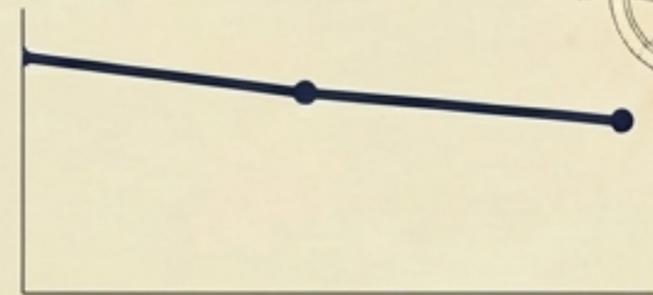
Indigo Dye
The Collective Development Scheme

- Improve farming technology and increase irrigated land.
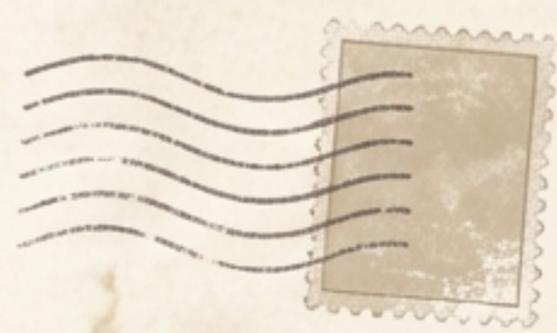- Expand transport, health services, and education.
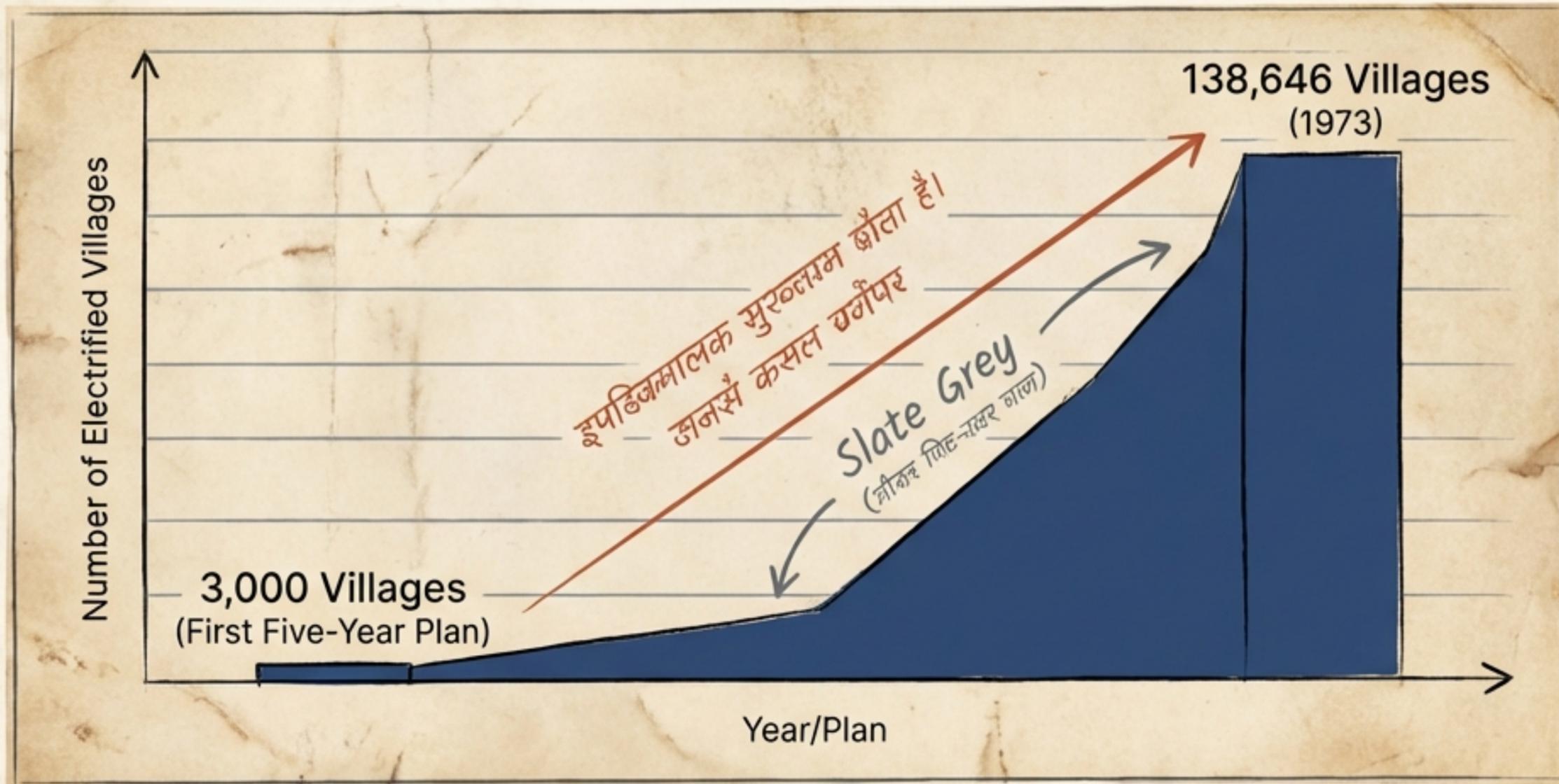
Indigo Dye
Governance

- Execution through Gram Panchayats.
- Empowerment of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zilla Parishads to include people from all castes and tribes.
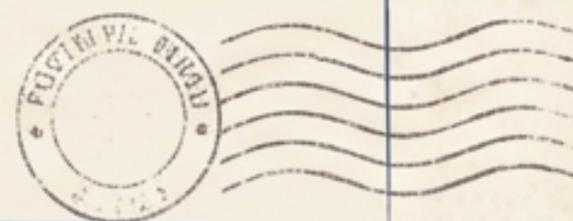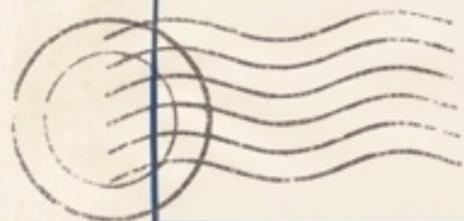
Lighting the Villages

The Need: Electricity was required not just for lights, but for automatic pumps (irrigation) and preserving perishable foods like milk, eggs, and fruits.

Institutional Support: Rural Electrification Corporation (est. 1969) and Cooperatives in AP, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and UP.

Spotlight on Maharashtra: A Model of Progress

'Indigo Dye' Playfair Display

Governance:

- Establishment of Zilla Parishads in 1962.

Health & Water:

- Nutritious Diet Scheme (1970-1971).
- Rural Water Supply Scheme (sinking wells/piped water).
- 1,677 small dams built by 1971.

Industry:

- "Village Industries Planning Committee" employed 106,000 people by 1972.

Educational Excellence in Maharashtra

Global Honor: UNESCO Literacy Prize awarded to Maharashtra in 1972.

Vidya Niketan Schools

- Residential high schools established in Satara, Aurangabad, Nasik, and Chikhaldara to provide quality education to meritorious village students living in unfavorable conditions.

Higher Education

- Agricultural Universities established in Rahuri, Akola, Parbhani, and Dapoli (per Kothari Commission recommendations).

Map labels: Rahuri, Aurangabad, Nasik, Chikhaldara, Akola, Parbhani, Dapoli, Satara

A Foundation for the Future

From 1961 to 2000, India navigated the challenges of the post-independence period by:

1. Codifying equality in the Constitution.
2. Achieving medical self-reliance.
3. Balancing rapid urbanization with rural development.

Overcoming initial obstacles, the nation successfully began its journey of development and progress.