

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (T.Y.B.A.)

Subject: Political Science

Course Code: POC 110

Course Title: 'Government and Politics of Goa (Post Statehood)'

Unit: Unit 1

Module Name: 'Manohar Parrikar Ministry'

Module No:06

Name of the Presenter: Ms. Tricia Vaz e Borges

Notes:

Manohar Parrikar Ministry

Introduction:

Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar (13 December,1955 -17 March,2019). He joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh at a young age and became a Mukhya Shikshak (chief instructor) in the final years of his schooling . After graduating from IIT, he resumed RSS work and became a Pracharak of the RSS. He was the first IITian to become a Chief Minister of a State in India. He also served as the Defence Minister of India from 2014 to 2017. He was posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan.

Political Timeline:

He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Goa in 1994. He was Leader of Opposition from June 1999 to November 1999.He became the Chief Minister of Goa for the first time on 24th October 2000 and continued till 27th February 2002. On 5th June 2002 he was re-elected and served another term as Chief Minister. His government was reduced to a minority in the State Assembly after 4 BJP MLAs resigned from the house on 29th January 2005. In 2007 the Parrikar led BJP was defeated in the Goa State Assembly elections by the Congress. In 2012 State Assembly Elections, the BJP and it's allies won 24 seats and Parrikar became Chief Minister for the third time on March 10th 2012. However, on 9th November 2014 Parrikar resigned as Chief Minister as he was called to be the Defence Minister of India in the Narendra Modi government. Though the BJP lost the 2017 State Assembly Election , the BJP under Manohar Parrikar formed the government with support from the GFP, MGP and Independents ,outwitting the INC who won 17 seats .

First BJP Government in Goa : Parrikar as Chief Minister

The BJP made it to power for the first time although, through the back door in October 2000 when the Sardinha government collapsed after 11 months in office when the BJP withdrew support to it. Manohar Parrikar who never held a ministerial post before, became the Chief Minister of Goa on 24th October, 2000 with support from MGP, GPCP (Dessai faction), Congress (S. Hassan faction) and an Independent. When he realised that his government was going to be toppled, he hurriedly called for an emergency meeting of the Cabinet on 27th February 2002, which unanimously resolved to dissolve the Assembly. The Governor Mr. Mohammad Fazal obliged and dissolved the 10th Legislative Assembly under article 174-2(B) of the constitution and asked Mr. Parrikar to continue as Caretaker Chief Minister. Many cabinet colleagues of Manohar Parrikar either resigned from the cabinet or were dropped by him. The opposing members within the BJP termed Manohar Parrikar's behaviour and style of functioning as highly dictatorial.

Major decisions:

1. Keeping austerity as the government mantra, Parrikar publicly announced that his ministers would not use expensive cars as their official vehicles
2. He made a concerted bid to oust bureaucrats who were considered close to the Congress leadership and those with dubious track records. He aggressively enforced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) urging corrupt officials to avail the scheme and quit their jobs.
3. He put forth a controversial proposal to withdraw the government holiday on Gandhi Jayanti and dedicate it as 'Clean Offices' day'.
4. He started investigations into corruption scandals during the previous regime like the Ticket Gate scandal involving former deputy Chief Minister Dayanand Narvekar, Power Rebate Scam involving former Power Minister Mauvin Godinho and a bank fraud case involving Somnath Zuwarkar.
5. He started the Dayanand Social Security Scheme in memory of Goa's first Chief Minister, Dayanand Bandodkar for all senior citizens who became eligible for a pension of Rs. 500/- per month. This scheme reaped rich political dividends for the party as it helped to make inroads into the Hindu Bahujan Samaj community, which was the main MGP vote bank.

Second Parrikar Ministry:

In the State Assembly Elections of May 2002, the BJP won 17 seats while Congress got 16 seats. The BJP emerged as the single largest party for the first time in the history of Goa. The BJP led by Manohar Parrikar formed the government with the support of small political parties like UGDP and MGP and an Independent MLA on 3rd June 2002.

By June 2003 there were splits in the small parties, 2 UGDP MLA's, Babush Monserrate and Mickey Pacheco separated from the party and formed UGDP (Secular), while Pandurang Madkaikar split from the MGP to create MGP (Nationalist). By August 2003, Mr. Madkaikar and Mr. Monserrate joined the BJP raising its strength to 19.

On 3rd August ,2004 Mr. Isidore Fernandes, a Congress MLA resigned and joined the BJP. He became the first representative in India to resign after the new Anti- defection Act came into force . In October 2004 by- elections, Isidore Fernandes got elected on a BJP ticket, taking its strength in the Assembly to 20 .

The political drama in Goan politics continued and in January 2005, the UGDP(Secular) MLA, Mickey Pacheco joined the BJP raising it's strength to 21. But two days later he resigned from the BJP along with 3 more MLAs namely, Babush Monserrate, Pandurang Madkaikar and Isidore Fernandes, reducing the treasury benches to 17 legislators.

A virtual slugfest was enacted in the Assembly during the trust vote, with the Speaker Vishwas Satarkar, disqualifying Independent MLA Filipe Neri Rodrigues and ordering him out of the House, while the Opposition MLA's blocking the Assembly Marshals from escorting Rodrigues out of the House.

BJP lost majority and the Governor S C Jamir dismissed the Parrikar ministry. The worst was in store for BJP when Mr Digambar Kamat, Margao MLA and a prominent figure in the BJP government shockingly resigned from the party sending shockwaves within it. The round of political instability continued until President's rule was imposed in March 2005 and the assembly was kept in suspended animation.

By-elections were announced in the 5 constituencies where the sitting MLA's had resigned. The results of the by-elections favoured the Congress, which won 3 seats and it's ally, NCP won one seat. Pratap Singh Rane was sworn as the Congress Chief Minister on 6th June 2005 while NCP Chief Dr. Wilfred de Souza was made deputy Chief Minister. Rane remained as CM till Assembly elections were held in 2007.

Major Decisions:

1.Parrikar in his annual budget speech on 14th June 2002 ,announced the Cyberage Students Scheme .According to the scheme every class 11 student in Goa would be given a personal computer at a nominal cost of Rs. 1000 . The scheme was an instant success and around 12,000 students became eligible for the scheme.

2. In September 2002 ,Parrikar once again revived the controversial circular de- listing Gandhi Jayanti as a public holiday .He later landed into another controversy in 2003 when he decided to scrap Good Friday and Mahashivratri as public holidays , but had to withdraw the circular after widespread protests by the Christian minority.

3. He was singularly responsible for making Panaji the permanent venue of the annual film festival, IFFI in 2004. In less than a year, he worked overtime and personally inspected the construction of the infrastructure required for the festival. It attracted criticism from the Opposition, but he was unfazed

Third Parrikar Ministry:

After being in the Opposition for 7 years, the BJP led by Parrikar won 21 seats in the 2012 State Assembly Elections. The game changer of the 2012 polls was the realization that the BJP could not come to power without fielding candidates from the Catholic community. Parrikar fielded 7 Catholic candidates and backed two Independent Catholic candidates in 2012.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at SAG grounds, Panaji on 10th March, 2012. Sworn in as the 20th Chief Minister of Goa, Parrikar addressed the large gathering promising a government with zero tolerance to corruption and reduction in petrol prices. He promised to take action against those involved in the Rs. 35000 crore mining scam. A major tragedy struck the Parrikar government when his close friend and Tourism Minister Mathany Saldanha died of a heart attack on 21st March, 2012. Parrikar offered the seat to Saldanha's wife, Alina who was elected unopposed.

On 9th November 2014, Parrikar resigned as Chief Minister, as he was called to be the Defence Minister of the country by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Major Decisions:

1. In the budget, Parrikar brought down the prices of petrol by Rs. 11 by reducing the VAT on fuel to 0.1 percent.
2. He introduced the Ladli Laxmi Scheme, which helped women avail of Rs. 1 lakh to meet wedding expenses.
3. He also introduced the Griha Aadhar Scheme under which housewives would get Rs. 1000 each month to offset rising inflation.
4. A temporary closure of all operational mining leases in Goa was initiated by the Parrikar government on 10th September 2012.

Leadership Traits:

1. His strong leadership qualities and personal popularity was one of the main reasons for the success of the BJP in Goa.
2. As a workaholic he brought about a sea change in the attitude of government servants who were compelled to attend to the people and listen to their grievances.
3. He was a quick decision maker that earned him the reputation of being a good administrator.
4. As Chief minister he was adept at using official machinery, legal system and police to control his cabinet as well as the opposition MLAs. He played an important role in the infrastructure development of Goa.
5. It was under his leadership that BJP came to power and formed the government thrice.
6. Critics called his style as arrogant and dictatorial.
7. He had good communicative skills and it helped him to win over supporters.

8. Though the wellbeing of Goa and Goans was paramount in his political decision-making, the politics of coalitions had diluted his views on issues pertaining to Goa.

9. As Chief Minister, he always retained a large number of the Portfolios with him.