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# The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination By D R Kaarthikeyan

*He was their Next Big Hope, after the  
first one had been dashed to the*

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*ground...’ When Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister in 1984 it was for him a baptism of fire. The tumultuous years that followed witnessed the beginnings of economic reform and the stemming of regional insurgency on the one hand, and the*

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*drama of the Shah Bano case and the Bofors scandal on the other – events that sent tremors through the country and its political establishment. As a journalist covering politics from the time of Indira Gandhi's reign, Ashwini Bhatnagar observed at close*

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*quarters the consequences of the transition from iron-handed rule to one of earnest naivety, the calculations of the country's foremost political players, dramatic election campaigns and the unwieldy workings of dynastic politics. In The Lotus*

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*Years, Ashwini draws from his field notes to weave a remarkable chronicle that brings together the life of a reluctant prime minister, the inner dynamics of his powerful family and the story of a maturing democratic nation, laying bare the*

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*intricacies and dissonances of  
political life in India.*

*This Book Unmasks The Conspiracy  
Behind The Assassination Of The  
Former Prime Minister. It Is A Blunt  
And Straightforward Account Of  
What Led To The Conspiracy And*

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*Who Were The Individuals And  
Agencies Behind The Human Bomb  
That Blasted Rajiv Gandhi On 21  
May, 1991 In Sriperumbudur,  
Tamilnadu.*

*The depth of the ethnic crisis in Sri  
Lanka and its repercussions in India*

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*are illuminated in this account of the investigation, pursuit, and trial of the daring suicide operatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who assassinated the young, dynamic Indian leader Rajiv Gandhi. The meticulous inquiry into a special*



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*investigation team's efforts to uncover clues is followed by an account of the breathless search for the killers. The obstacles prosecutors overcame to try and convict the criminals reveal the legal challenges inherent in trying assassination cases. This enthralling*

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*history offers a critical testimony to how, even in a democracy, minority grievances must be confronted to curtail, or prevent, such violent acts. Assassination of Indira Gandhi and After  
Conspiracy to Kill Rajiv Gandhi*

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*Triumph of Truth*

*The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi*

*(Penguin Petit)*

*Rajiv Gandhi*

"For twenty-three years a myth has  
been perpetuated that former Prime  
Minister Rajiv Gandhi was

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assassinated by the LTTE because it feared his return to power in 1991. But if this basic premise is disputed and the alternate scenario is shown, that the Congress which returned to power in 1991, fell short of a simple majority, even after Rajiv's death, then

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the entire bottom of this thesis is knocked off and the theory falls flat on its nose. This book is also about conspiracies and intrigue, but it also has attempted to explode this myth and seeks to find why Rajiv was killed if he was not likely to return to power

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in the 1991 mid-term  
elections?" --Back cover.

Rajeev Gandhi, the former prime  
minister of India, is brutally  
assassinated by a LTTE human bomb.  
The culprits are on the run, trying to  
escape the clutches of SIT whose

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noose is tightening with ever passing day, and the main suspect, Sivrasan, is about to be caught. Krishan is on his way to Jaffna when he gets the blow of his life. The LTTE has declared him a traitor. And then...unfolds a chilling saga of human persistence, macabre

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political games and heinous  
international conspiracies.

The article "Eelam and Sinhala" tells  
the story of Eelam Tamils struggling  
for their rights against the Sinhalese  
majority. In a nutshell, Eelam-Sinhala  
politics resembles Aryan-Dravidian



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politics.

Rajiv Gandhi's Assassination

Ballot

From Abraham Lincoln to Rajiv  
Gandhi

Ten Episodes that have Shaped  
India ' s Democracy

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Indo-Pak Nuclear War

Khaki in Dust Storm

Rajiv Gandhi S Assassination

Remains The Most Mysterious

Political Murder In The History Of

Independent India. Was It The

Handiwork Of Group Of Fall

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Guys Who Executed The  
Conspiracy Without Knowing  
Who Their General Was? It  
Seems To Be The Case. It Is  
Just Not The Ltte Which Did It.  
Offcourse, The Ltte Was  
Involved. But There Was Forces

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Beyond The Tigers. A Jet-Setting  
Tantrik, A Clique Of  
Unscrupulous Politicians Hand In  
Glove With International Arm  
Dealers And Terrorists, Obliging  
Foreign Secret Agencies And  
Above All An Overly Ambitious

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Late Sri Lankan President R. Premadasa- These Could Have An Important Bearing On Rajiv S Slaying. A Gripping Account, Which Keeps Your Sitting On Your Chair S Edge, Seeks To Probe These Questions.

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Contents Part I: The Hurly Burly;  
Prologue, The Night Of The  
Tigers; Part Ii: Cat And Mouse;  
The Investigation, The Manhunt;  
Part Iii: Base 14; The Main In  
The Iron Mask, The Making Of A  
Suicide Bomber, Sins Of

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Omission, What The Spies Said,  
The Conspiracy Probe; Part Iv:  
Wheels Within Wheels; The  
Foreign Hand, The Dark Areas,  
Epilogue.

This elegantly written book by  
the renowned author Ved Mehta

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is a chronicle of a tumultuous dozen years of recent Indian history—from the unsettled conditions that preceded the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the Hindu revival that followed the



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assassination of her son Rajiv.  
As Mehta explores the impulses  
that brought about the political  
and economic changes between  
1982 and 1994, he also reveals  
what life is like in modern India,  
giving us a memorable portrait of

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an enigmatic land. Mehta begins by describing the politics that swirled around Indira Gandhi during the last two years of her life—in particular, the growing hostility among Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims. He tells of the

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Sikhs ' demand for special status, their uprising against the Hindus in the Punjab, the government ' s retaliation, the murder of Mrs. Gandhi by two of her Sikh bodyguards, and the anti-Sikh rioting that followed. He goes on

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to reconstruct the circumstances surrounding Rajiv ' s election as his mother ' s successor; the change in atmosphere from optimism to disenchantment as Rajiv ' s government became mired in a kickback scandal;

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Rajiv ' s loss of office to V. P. Singh in the 1989 election; and his murder by a secessionist Tamil group from Sri Lanka in 1991. Throughout, Mehta provides vivid details of aspects of Indian history and culture,

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such as the impact of the  
accident at the Union Carbide  
plant in Bhopal, the debate  
between the judiciary and  
Muslim clerics over economic  
support of divorced Muslim  
women, the peculiarities of the

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Indian telephone system, and the effect of television and movies on Hindu revivalism. His lucid and incisive book is mandatory reading for those who wish to understand India today.

At the height of the Soviet

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occupation of Afghanistan, a complex multinational diplomacy had proposed setting up a coalition government in Kabul as a solution to the 'Afghan problem'. Even as all sides worked on the coalition, the US



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took steps that India considered a 'stab in the back'. With the help of the official papers collected by US ambassador John Gunther Dean and conversations with Ronen Sen, Rajiv Gandhi's diplomatic aide during those

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crucial years, the author  
recreates the falling apart of the  
India-US cooperation and the  
catastrophic effect it had on  
South Asian history.

Rajiv

Sri Lankan History  
*Page 34/114*

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The Investigation

Sonia Gandhi

The First Human Bomb

From CBI Files

Rajiv, authored by Sonia Gandhi  
in 1992, the year after her  
husband's assassination, was a

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portrait of him in the full current of his life. This book is a portrait of him too - but with a difference. It is one of which in a sense he is the author, since it is entirely composed of his photographs. Rajiv Gandhi, India's youngest-

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ever Prime Minister, was known world-wide for his qualities of leadership and his personal charisma. However, until the publication of Rajiv, in which some of his photographs appeared for the first time, few were aware

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that he was also an accomplished photographer. In this volume, Sonia Gandhi offers a wider selection of his photographs. Her brief but informative introduction explains his photography in context and discloses the

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significance it held for him. The photographs in the book, most of which have never been published before, span almost four decades, from his childhood to his last year in office. They have been grouped under the broad themes of family,

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nature and people. Within these categories are presented entrancing landscapes, minutely observed particulars of nature, abstract studies and fascinating family vignettes.

India's former prime minister



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Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated 21 years ago. He was known as Nation's Best Prime Minister after Indira Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during an unplanned election campaign at Sriperumbudur. Agreeing to the

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court verdict, 7 convicts are still in jail in connection with the LTTE, which killed Rajiv. Normally, only Advocates, Writers, and Retired Investigation Officers would write books about events like the assassination of

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Rajiv and some more. But here as a journalist, I'm composing this book considering the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi with the help of contacts I had during 2016.

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The Khalistan Conspiracy  
The Murderer, The Monarch and  
The Fakir  
Assassination of Mahatma - Indira  
- Rajiv Gandhis'

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On the Brink of Death

The Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi

Vaira Mookuthi

*The author, a former Special  
Secretary of India's external  
intelligence agency, the Research  
and Analysis Wing (R&AW),  
examines a series of*

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*interconnected events that led to the rise of the Khalistan movement, Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 and the anti-Sikh violence unleashed thereafter. With a timeline that moves from seven*

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*years before to a decade after 1984, the book strives to answer critical questions that continue to linger till today. The narrative moves from Punjab to Canada, the US, Europe and Delhi, looking to sift the truth from the political obfuscation and*



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*opportunism, examining the role that the ruling party allegedly played, and the heart-rending violence that devoured thousands of innocent lives in its aftermath. Who Killed Rajiv Gandhi? Why? How? An infamous murder. It was 10:20 pm on 21 May. The*

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*year was 1991. A woman bowed respectfully. Her arm reached out to touch his feet. Suddenly there was an explosion. The deafening sound, the clouds of smoke, the shattered bodies, the blood and gore. Who put together the pieces? Who saw through the*

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*foul play? Follow the trail. Follow the trial. Follow the story to know the truth. This book unfolds the gripping story - at once fascinating and grim - of perhaps the first case of assassination of a world-class leader by a human bomb. There was a general*

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*demand for explanation and action. The totally blind case with enormous ramifications needed skilled, dexterous and professional investigation. D. R. Kaarthikeyan was called upon by the Government of India to unravel the mystery. This*

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*assassination profoundly  
influenced political developments  
in India and altered the course of  
contemporary history in India  
and Sri Lanka.*

*At 10.20 p.m. on 21 May 1991, a  
young woman bowed before Rajiv  
Gandhi at an election rally in*

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*Sriperumbudur, 42 km north of Chennai. And then there was an explosion. This book is the definitive account of one of the most controversial crimes in contemporary India. It unravels the complex plot hatched by the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil*

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*Eelam) to ensure that Rajiv Gandhi did not return to power in the 1991 general elections.*

*Ninety Days provides a blow-by-blow account of how the Special Investigation Team of the CBI cracked the assassination plot, identified the assassins and*

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*chased the mastermind,  
Sivarasan, to his final hideout.  
The deaths from cyanide  
consumption of the members of  
the hit squad left several  
unanswered questions in their  
wake, which this book explores.  
Rajiv Gandhi and Rama's*



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Kingdom

*News Diffusion of Rajiv Gandhi's  
Assassination Among Indians and  
Non-Indians in Athens, Ohio, and  
Editors of Afternoon Newspapers  
Assassin*

*Assassination of Another Gandhi  
Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi*

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*Tracking Rajiv Gandhi's  
Assassination*

The Rajiv Gandhi

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InvestigationSterling Publishers

Pvt. Ltd

The Murderer, the Monarch and

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the Fakir is a fresh account of one of the most controversial political assassinations in contemporary history-that of Mahatma Gandhi. Based on previously unseen intelligence reports and police records, this

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book recreates the circumstances of his murder, the events leading up to it and the investigation afterwards. In doing so, it unearths a conspiracy that runs far deeper than a hate crime and

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challenges the popular narrative about the assassination that has persisted for the past seventy years. The Murderer, the Monarch and the Fakir examines the potential role of princely states, hypermasculinity and a

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militant right-wing in the context of a nation that had just won her independence. It relies on investigative journalism and new evidence set in a strong academic framework to unpack the significance of this

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tumultuous event.

On 21 May 1991, journalist Neena Gopal had finished just one part of an interview with Rajiv Gandhi—the last of his life—when his car reached the election rally at Sriperumbudur.

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Moments later, Rajiv Gandhi was dead, blown up by suicide bomber Dhanu, irrevocably changing the course of Indian politics, as Neena Gopal, just yards behind him, watched in horror. In this gripping,



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definitive book, Gopal  
reconstructs the chain of events  
in India and at the LTTE ' s  
headquarters in Sri Lanka where  
the assassination plot was  
hatched, and follows the trail of  
investigation that led to the

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assassins being brought to justice. Drawing on extensive interviews, research and her own vast experience as a journalist, she deftly establishes the background—the shortsightedness of India ' s Sri

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Lanka policy; the friction between the intelligence agencies and between the agencies and the external affairs ministry; the many warnings that went unheeded; and the implacable hatred that LTTE

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supremo Prabhakaran felt for  
Rajiv Gandhi. Bringing all these  
complex threads together,  
Gopal takes us step by step to  
Sriperumbudur as Rajiv Gandhi  
walked inexorably to his death  
on that tragic May evening

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twenty-five years ago.

Beyond the Tigers

The True Story of the Hunt for

Rajiv Gandhi's Assassins

Stranger than Fiction: The Rajiv

Gandhi Assassination

The Great Game in Afghanistan

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The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination  
Communal Colours and Political  
Assassinations (1980–1991)  
Police Diaries Book 1

30th January 1948; 31st October 1984;  
21st May 1991. These three days bear  
significant importance in the history of

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independent India. The nation witnessed the assassination of the Father of the Nation, the Prime Minister of India and an ex-Prime Minister of India respectively. It is even more startling because it was the first instance where a mother and her son were robbed of their lives because of political and religious reasons.

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Assassination of Mahatma – Indira – Rajiv Gandhis' by K. Ragothaman is an attempt to shed light on these occurrences and what led to their gruesome deaths. It is also a commentary on the functioning of the law enforcement agencies and the Executive. As the Chief Investigating Officer in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination



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case, Mr Ragothaman is in a unique position to discuss the intricacies of three of the most significant occurrences in the history of 20th century India. The events leading up to these dates have been reconstructed to give the reader a holistic picture and how these three seemingly individual tragedies are connected.

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This compilation provides South Asia analysts with easy access to press items and commentaries relating to the October 31, 1984 assassination of Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi. Also included are articles dealing with the violent aftermath of the assassination and challenges that the new government of Rajiv Gandhi had to

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face.

Khaki in Dust Storm is a gripping story of immersive investigations led by the celebrated police officer Amod K. Kanth who found himself at the vortex of India's tumultuous period of the 1980s and early 1990s. An era of dramatic crime, assassinations and terrorism, this period

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witnessed the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984 and the horrific riots that followed; the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi; the murder of Lalit Maken and General Vaidya; public attacks by terrorists and bloodbaths at the peak of the Khalistani militancy; India's first-ever organised mass explosions through

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improvised electronic device in 1985, popularly known as 'transistor bombs'; and the growing influence of drug abuse and financial frauds. Leading into the minefield of these most sensational crime investigations that rocked India, he reveals in this book facts, stories and anecdotes that have hitherto remained outside the

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public discourse. He pieces together the details, narrates behind-the-scene manoeuvres, and carefully constructs the psyche of the perpetrators and the backdrop, weaving together a fantastic and powerful tale. This is also a story of a cathartic evolution of a police officer who, after landing in the coveted Indian Police

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Service, finds his dreams challenged and confined to the restricted role in the face of India's myopic conventional policing. This resulted in his eventual metamorphosis, overwhelmed by the need to search for a wider and transformative perspective in policing that could lay the groundwork for more expanded and

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gratifying interactions between the police  
and the community.

Assassination of Mahatma - Indira - Rajiv  
Gandhis'

the implications for India and South Asia

The Gandhi Assassination: World Press

Coverage

Blind Men of Hindoostan



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Rajiv Gandhihis Mind and Ideology

A Blow to Democracy

*Rajiv Gandhi, Former Prime Minister of India, was assassinated on May 21st 1991 in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. A special investigation team was formed by the CBI to investigate the case. The*

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*SIT version is that the conspiracy was hatched by Prabhakaran in connivance with Pottu Amman and Akila. Hence the whole act was committed by the LTTE alone. However, both the Verma Commission, which was set up to probe the security lapses leading to the*

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*assassination, and the Jain  
Commission, which was set up to probe  
the wider conspiracy, have raised  
enough questions to warrant a  
suspicion that there is a wider  
conspiracy and many of the culprits  
have been left untouched. This book*

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*investigates whether the LTTE did it alone. Who could have been involved in the conspiracy other than the LTTE? It asks questions that have been asked and questions that have not been asked too. The author has also provided answers but only based on evidence,*

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*circumstantial and otherwise. Based on the evidence, the dots can be connected and the question of who the larger culprits are in the assassination can be ascertained.*

*This book is a portrait of Rajiv Gandhi by the person who knew him best: his*

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*wife Sonia. It is in four parts, the first and last being in the nature of meditations - one in words, the other in images. In the first, Sonia Gandhi reveals Rajiv through recollections and reflections, delicate and restrained in tone but powerful in resonance. In the*

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*last, Rajiv discloses the essence of himself in a gallery of his own photographs. The biographical narrative in between progresses through pictures and extended captions, interweaving Rajiv's personal history with the milieu in which it*

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*unfolded.*

*Rajiv Gandhi was reluctant to enter politics. He was accustomed to a 'high flying' routine as he used to fly aeroplanes in the lofty skies as a pilot. But by quirk of fate he was compelled to occupy the 'cockpit' of Indian*



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*politics and steer the destiny of India, where he could reach still higher realms of eminence. Through his dedication and sincerity he hoisted India on the path of progress. He attained the pinnacles of glory in the service of his motherland and brought*

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*rare honour and fame to the country.  
He used to say that he always  
cherished a dream which he wanted all  
Indians to cherish with him to make  
India a land of prosperity and  
excellence through the dedicated and  
selfless work of each Indian, in every*

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*aspect of life and profession.*

*Rajiv Gandhi, General Zia and the  
Unending War*

*Ninety Days*

*The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination, the  
Investigation*

*An Inside Job?*

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*The Lotus Years*

543 Lok Sabha seats. More than 4,000 state constituencies. Over 800 million voters. The world's largest democracy . . . From

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the time of its inception,  
democracy in India has been  
dubbed 'miraculous' by the  
world's media, and its  
elections as a spectacular  
exercise in human  
management. In Ballot,

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Rasheed Kidwai takes us through his pick of seminal elections that have shaped Indian democracy both at the centre and in select states. Highlighting the unique challenges faced by a

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country that adopted  
universal adult franchise at  
the very outset, profiling  
personalities who have  
triggered ground-shifts, and  
analysing the causes and  
consequences of key

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electoral episodes, he traces the very evolution of India's democratic process.

Combining insightful commentary and colourful anecdotes, Ballot provides a brief, incisive examination of



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India's most momentous  
elections.

Sonia Gandhi's story  
represents the greatest  
transformational journey  
made by any world leader in  
the last four decades.

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Circumstance and tragedy,  
rather than ambition, paved  
her path to power. Born into  
a traditional, middle-class  
Italian family, Sonia met and  
fell in love with Rajiv  
Gandhi, son of future Indian

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prime minister Indira  
Gandhi and grandson of  
Jawaharlal Nehru, while  
studying English in  
Cambridge. Cruelly tested  
by the assassinations of her  
mother-in-law and of her

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husband, Sonia grew into a strong, authoritative but always private figure, now president of a coalition ruling over a billion people in the world's largest democracy. Through

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exclusive interviews with  
members of Sonia's party,  
political opponents and  
family friends, Rani Singh  
casts new light on Sonia. In  
the first mainstream  
biography of this

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inspirational figure, the author's compelling narrative retraces the path of the brave and beautiful Sonia Gandhi, examining what her life and legacy mean for India.

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30th January 1948; 31st  
October 1984; 21st May  
1991. These three days bear  
significant importance in the  
history of independent India.  
The nation witnessed the  
assassination of the Father

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of the Nation, the Prime Minister of India and an ex-Prime Minister of India respectively. It is even more startling because it was the first instance where a mother and her son were



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robbed of their lives because of political and religious reasons. Assassination of Mahatma - Indira - Rajiv Gandhis' by K. Ragothaman is an attempt to shed light on these occurrences and

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what led to their gruesome deaths. It is also a commentary on the functioning of the law enforcement agencies and the Executive. As the Chief Investigating Officer in the

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Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Mr Ragothaman is in a unique position to discuss the intricacies of three of the most significant occurrences in the history of 20th century India. The

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events leading up to these dates have been reconstructed to give the reader a holistic picture and how these three seemingly individual tragedies are connected.

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Rajiv's World

Unanswered Questions and  
Unmasked Queries

The Mystery Unfolds

Resurgence of Rajiv Gandhi

An Extraordinary Life, An

Indian Destiny

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Kaarthikeyan

Political Life in India in the  
Time of Rajiv Gandhi

*Traces the life and  
political career of the  
youngest member of the  
Nehru-Gandhi dynasty to  
rule India, examining*

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*his successes, his  
failures, and the facts  
surrounding the scandal  
that contributed to his  
fall from power in 1989  
A Former RAW Officer  
Unravels The Path To*

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1984

*How Three Newspapers  
Covered the Killing of  
Rajiv Gandhi and Its  
Aftermath  
A New Investigation of  
Mahatma Gandhi's*

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*Assassination*

*Son of a Dynasty*

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