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## OPERATION SHAKTI AND POKHRAN (II)

### Operation Shakti – II

- ❖ Why the need for second nuclear test?
  - The first test was a technology demonstrator.
  - Nuclear technology was not weaponised & tested.
  - Need for Thermonuclear and smaller (tactical) device for real world application if the arises.
- ❖ Efforts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> test
  - PV Narsimha Rao gave the go ahead for test in 1995
  - Test preparations detected by USA/CIA spy satellites
  - India pressurized to stop the test preparation by Clinton Administration
  - Atal Bihari Vajpayee-13 day PM term in 1996.

### Pokhran-II

- 11<sup>th</sup> May 1998
- 13<sup>th</sup> 1998
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, DRDO
- Rajagopala Chidambaram, DAE
- Anil Kakodakar, Director BARC
- ❖ Challenges:
  - CIA had been detecting Indian test preparations since 1995, therefore, the tests preparation since 1995, therefore, the tests required complete secrecy in India and also needed to avoid detection by other countries.
  - Bushes are sparse and the dunes in the Rajasthan Desert and don't provide much cover from providing satellites.
  - The 58<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment of Indian Army's Corp of Engineers were commissioned to prepare the test sites.

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## ❖ Extraordinary Measures –

- Very small group of senior satellite scientist were involved in the detonation of process.
- They were required to wear army uniform to preserve the secrecy of the tests.
- Work was mostly done during night, and equipment was returned to the original place to give the impression that it was never removed.
- Bomb shafts were dug under camouflage netting.
- The dug out sand was shaped like shaped dunes.
- Cables for sensors were covered with sand and concealed using native vegetation.
- Cricket stadium, tournaments as a diversion.
- Scientists would not depart for Pokhran in groups of 2 or 3.
- They under pseudonyms, and were then transported by the army.
- Technical staff at the test range wore military uniform, to prevent detection in satellite images.