

# INDUS RANGERS INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

## OPERATION SHAKTI -III

### Operation Shakti – III

- ❖ The 58<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment of Indian Army's Corp of Engineers was commissioned to prepare test sites.
- ❖ **Extraordinary Measures** –
  - Very small group of senior scientists were involved in the detonation process.
  - They were required to wear army uniforms to preserve the secrecy of the tests.
  - Work was mostly done during night, the equipment was returned to the original place to give the impression that it was never moved.
  - Bomb shafts were dug under camouflage meetings.
  - The dug-out sand was shaped like dunes.
  - Cables for sensors 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 travelled to destinations other than Pokhran under pseudonyms, were transported by the army.
  - Technical staff at the least range wore military uniforms, to prevent detection in satellite images.
  - Kalam- Major General Prithvi raj
  - Chidambaram- Major General Nat raj
  - Bombs were transported in 4 Indian Army trucks under the command of Colonel Umang Kapoor.
  - All devices from BARC were relocated at on 1<sup>st</sup> May,1998.

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- From the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, the bombs were flown in an Indian Air Force's AN-32 plane to the Jaisalmer Army Base.
- They were transported to Pokhran in an army convoy of 4 trucks, and this required 3 trips.
- The timing of these tests depends on local weather conditions, with the wind being the critical factor.
- By early afternoon, the winds had died down & the test sequence was initiated.

## ❖ The Bombs

### 11<sup>th</sup> May

- Shakti I (A thermonuclear device yielding 45kt)
- Shakti II (A plutonium fission device yielding 15kt ; intended as a warhead that could be delivered by missile)
- Shakti III (An experimental linear explosion)

### 13<sup>th</sup> May

- Shakti IV (A 0.5kt experimental device)
- Shakti V (A 0.2kt experimental device)

Results Announced to the world by Vajpayee ji on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1998

## Aftermath

- ❖ India joined P5 club
- ❖ Madeline All right, the US secretary of state, famously said, "India has dug itself into a big hole which it will find difficult to climb out from"
- ❖ Multiple Sanctions on India like credit guarantees up to 1.5 Billion.