

Apartheid

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In news- Recently, Indian-origin South African anti-apartheid veteran Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim, also known as “Ebie”, who was also the former deputy minister of international relations, died at the age of 85.

What is Apartheid?

- It is the name of the **policy that governed relations between the white minority and the non white majority of South Africa** during the 20th century.
- The **apartheid name was first used in about 1948** to describe the racial segregation policies embraced by the white minority government.
- It dictated where South Africans, on the basis of their race, could live and work, the type of education they could receive, and whether they could vote.
- According to this system of **social stratification, white citizens had the highest status**, followed by Asians and Coloureds, then black Africans.
- Under the administration of the South African president F.W. de Klerk, legislation supporting **apartheid was repealed in the early 1990s**, and a new constitution—one that enfranchised blacks and other racial groups was adopted in 1993.
- **The apartheid regime of South Africa ended in 1994**, during which year democratic elections were held in the country for the first time.
- All-race national **elections held in 1994 resulted in a black majority government led by prominent anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress party.**

About Ebrahim Ismail-

- He was born in 1937 to parents of Indian origin.
- He belonged to the village of Chasa near Alipore and

adopted the surname of the family he had accompanied to South Africa, which was Ebrahim.

- He was influenced by the leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) and the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) at the age of 13.
- By 1952, during the Defiance Campaign his political involvement grew and Ebrahim joined the NIC.
- He became a member of the ANC, **spent over 15 years in the Robben Island prison along with Nelson Mandela and Ahmed Kathrada** for taking a position against the apartheid government.
- In 1952, Ebrahim joined the liberation movement as a youth activist and participated in the Congress of the People Campaign through the NIC.
- In 1961, he joined the **armed wing of the ANC called the Umkhonto We Sizwe** that was meant to carry out sabotage activities in the country.
- For his political activities, he was sent to jail for several years.