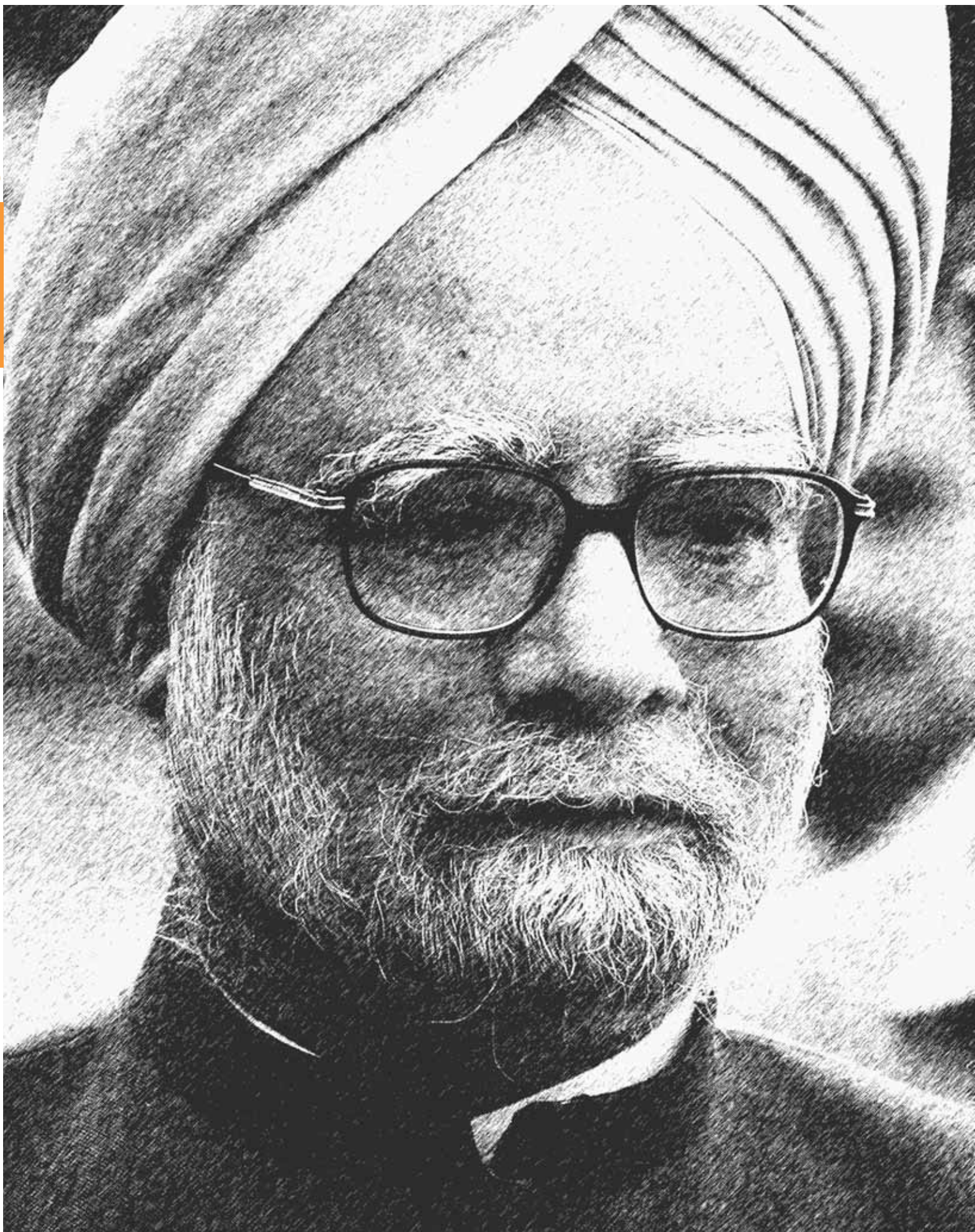




INDIA



## A Brief Biography of His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh

*Manmohan Singh (born September 26, 1932) is the 14th and current Prime Minister of the Republic of India. He is the first Indian Prime Minister since Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to return to power after completing a full five-year term. He is also the first Sikh to hold the post. Earlier, during his tenure as the Finance Minister from 1991 to 1996, Singh was widely credited for carrying out economic reforms in India in 1991 which put an end to the infamous 'License Raj system' and resulted in the opening up of the Indian economy.*

An economist by profession, Singh was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1982 to 1985, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India from 1985 to 1987 and the Finance Minister of India from 1991 to 1996. He is also a Rajya Sabha member from Assam, currently serving his fourth term.

Dr. Manmohan Singh is a graduate of Punjab University, Chandigarh, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Oxford. After serving as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India, Singh was appointed as the Union Minister of Finance in 1991 by then-Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Following the 2004 general elections, Singh was unexpectedly declared the Prime Ministerial candidate of the Indian National Congress-led United Progressive Alliance. He was sworn in as the Prime Minister on May 22, 2004, along with the First Manmohan Singh Cabinet. After the Indian National Congress won the 2009 general elections on May 22, Dr. Manmohan Singh was sworn in as the Prime Minister at the Asoka Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Singh is married to Shrimati Gurusharan Kaur with three daughters.

Manmohan Singh was born to Gurmukh Singh and Amrit Kaur in Gah, Punjab (now in Chakwal District, Pakistan), British India, into a Sikh family. He lost his mother when he was very young and was raised by his paternal grandmother, to whom he was very close. He was a hard working student

who studied by candlelight, as his village did not have electricity. After the Partition of India, he migrated to Amritsar, India. He attended Punjab University, Chandigarh, studying Economics and attaining his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in 1952 and 1954 respectively, standing first throughout his academic career. He went on to read for the Economics Tripos at Cambridge University as a member of St. John's College (In the Oxbridge tradition, holders of the BA degree with honors are entitled in due course to an MA degree). He won the Wright's Prize for distinguished performance in 1955 and 1957. He was also one of the few recipients of the Wrenbury scholarship. In 1962, Singh completed his D.Phil from the University of Oxford where he was a member of Nuffield College. The title of his doctoral thesis was India's Export Performance, 1951-1960, Export Prospects and Policy Implications, and his thesis supervisor was Dr I.M.D. Little. From this thesis, he published the book, India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-



*Prime Minister Dr. Singh with Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan.*



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1. Prime Minister Dr. Singh with US President Barack Obama in the Oval Office during his visit to the White House.

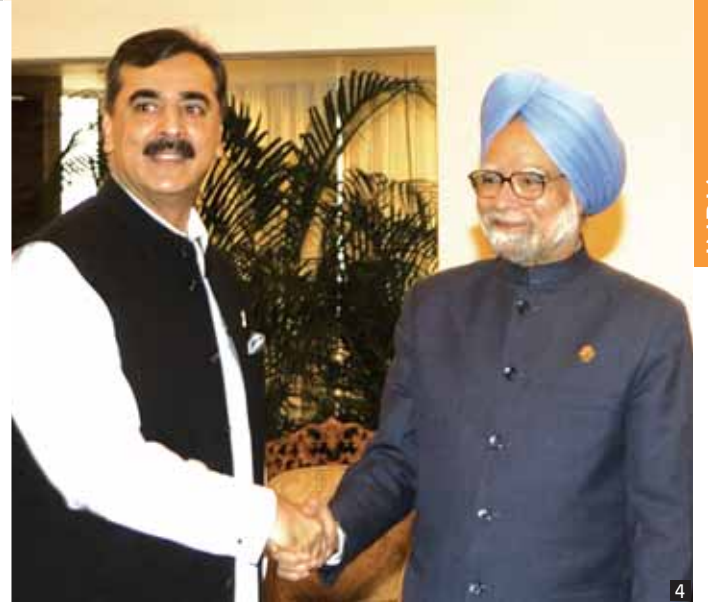
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2. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in a group photo of the Head of Delegations of the G20 Summit at Pittsburgh, USA on Sept. 25, 2009.

3. Prime Minister Dr. Singh with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

4. Prime Minister Dr. Singh with Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.





### Sustained Growth.

In 1997, the University of Alberta presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Law. The University of Oxford awarded him an honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree in June, 2006, and in October, 2006, the University of Cambridge followed with the same honor. St. John's College further honored him by naming a PhD Scholarship after him, the Dr. Manmohan Singh Scholarship.

After completing his D.Phil, Singh worked for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from 1966–1969. During the 1970s, he taught at the University of Delhi and worked for the Ministry of Foreign Trade with then Cabinet Minister for Foreign Trade, Lalit Narayan Mishra, and for the Finance Ministry of India. In 1982, he was appointed the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and held the post until 1985. He went on to become the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India from 1985 to 1987.

In 1991, India's then - Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, chose Singh to be the Finance

Minister. At the time, India was facing an economic crisis. Rao and Singh implemented policies to open up the economy and change the socialist economic system to a capitalist economy. The economic reform package included dismantling the License Raj that made it difficult for private business to exist and prosper, removal of many obstacles to foreign direct investment, and initiating the process of the privatization of public sector companies. These economic reforms are credited with bringing high levels of economic growth in India, and changing the annual 3% economic growth to an average of 8-9% in the following years. However, in spite of these reforms, Rao's government was voted out in 1996 due to non-performance of government in other areas.

Singh was first elected to the upper house of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha, in 1991 and was re-elected in 2001 and 2007. Between 1998-2004, while the Bharatiya Janata Party was in power, Singh was the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. In 1999, he ran for the Lok Sabha from South Delhi but was unable to win the seat. ■