

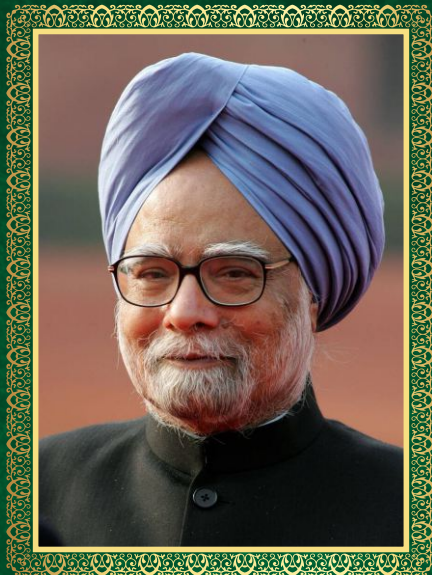


O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service



Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy
India's First Public Policy School

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH INAUGURAL MEMORIAL LECTURE



(26 SEPTEMBER 1932 – 26 DECEMBER 2024)

on the theme:

“The Policy
Agenda
we need for
Viksit Bharat”



by **DR. MONTEK SINGH
AHLUWALIA**

Former Deputy Chairman
Planning Commission of India



FRIDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

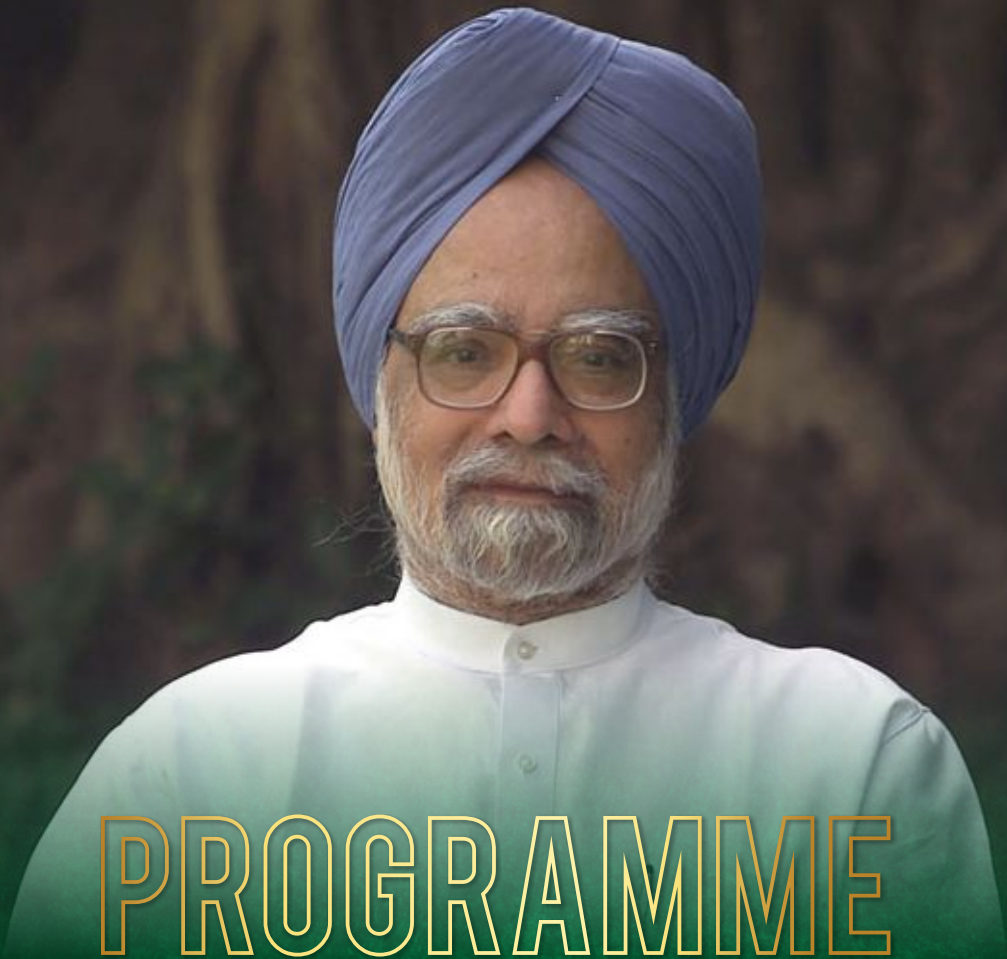


11:00 AM to
12:30 PM IST

📍 **GLOBAL AUDITORIUM**

RATAN JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK, FIRST FLOOR, O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

RSVP: Mr. Lalit Singh Nepolia, Imsnepolia@jgu.edu.in | Mr. Sameer Bhasin, sameer.bhasin@jgu.edu.in



PROGRAMME

11:00 AM - 11:05 AM

Floral Tribute and Lighting of the Lamp

11:05 AM - 11:15 AM

Welcome Remarks

Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar

Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University

11:15 AM - 11:20 AM

**Reflections on the contributions of
Dr. Manmohan Singh**

Professor (Dr.) Mrinalini Jha

Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

11:20 AM - 11:25 AM

Introducing the Speaker

Professor R. Sudarshan

Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

11:25 AM - 12:05 PM

Dr. Manmohan Singh Inaugural Memorial Lecture

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India

12:05 PM - 12:25 PM

Q&A Session

Moderated by

Professor (Dr.) Naveen J. Thomas

Vice Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

12:25 PM - 12:30 PM

Concluding Remarks

Professor Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik

Registrar, O.P. Jindal Global University

Presenter

Mr. Samvat Bharvaj

Student, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

O.P. Jindal Global University

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia

**Former Deputy Chairman
Planning Commission of India**

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia served as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India from July 2004 till May 2014. This was an appointment at Cabinet Minister level and Mr. Ahluwalia was a Special Invitee to the Cabinet and several Cabinet Committees. He has held several positions in the Government earlier (see below) and has been a key figure in India's economic reforms from the mid-1980s onwards. He was awarded the prestigious "Padma Vibhushan", India's second highest civilian honour, by President of India in 2011 for his outstanding contribution to economic policy and public service., Education Mr. Ahluwalia received a BA (Hons) degree from St. Stephens College, Delhi University. He went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and received an M.A. and an M.Phil degree in Economics from Oxford University. He has received several honorary doctorates, including the Doctor of Civil Law (Honoris Causa) from Oxford University.

He joined the World Bank in 1968 as a Young Professional and then held various positions including Chief of the Income Distribution Division. He left the World Bank in 1979 to join the Government of India in 1979 as Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, after which he held a series of positions including Special Secretary to the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Commerce Secretary, Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Finance Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Member of the Planning Commission and Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

In 2001, Mr. Ahluwalia was appointed the first Director of the newly created Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund. He resigned from that position in June 2004 to take up the position of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Government of India, which he held upto 26th May 2014 when there is a change of government.

Mr. Ahluwalia has written on various aspects of development economics, including Indian economic policy, and his articles have been published in a number of professional international journals and also in books. He co-authored "Re-distribution with Growth: An Approach to Policy", published in 1975. He also wrote 'Reforming the Global Financial Architecture', which was published in 2004 as Economic paper No.41 by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London.

Mr. Ahluwalia is an honorary fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. He is also a Member of the Governing Council of the Global Green Growth Institute, a new international organisation based in South Korea. He is a Member of the Alpbach - Laxenburg Group established by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and the Alpbach Economic Forum.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Dr. Manmohan Singh

Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's 14th Prime Minister, presided over a decade of phenomenal growth and development. Under Dr Singh's stewardship, India witnessed the highest growth rate in its history, averaging at 7.7% to become a nearly two trillion-dollar economy. India was catapulted from tenth position when Dr Singh took over into the world's third largest economy by 2014, raising the living standard of millions.

At the core of Dr. Singh's idea of India was the belief in not just high growth but inclusive growth and of a tide that would raise all boats. This belief was enshrined in the passage of bills that ensured citizens the legal Right to Food, Right to Education, Right to Work and the Right to Information. Dr. Singh's rights-based revolution created a new era in Indian politics.

This story of unprecedented growth and prosperity is the story of Dr. Singh's premiership from 2004-2014. But it began during his tenure as Finance Minister from 1991-1996 when the script first began to take shape. In July 1991, Dr Manmohan Singh ended his budget speech with the words "No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come. I suggest to this august House that the emergence of India as a major economic power in the world happens to be one such idea." This was the beginning of his idea of India.

It is this period that launched India on its path to economic superpower status and also burnished Dr. Singh's credentials as an innovative thinker and administrator. However, the foundations of Dr Singh's beliefs and his dedication to public service can be traced back to his early twenties and the very beginning of his career.

Dr. Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932 in Punjab. He received his Bachelor's and Master's in Economics from Panjab University in 1952 and 1954 respectively. He completed his Economic Tripos from Cambridge University in 1957. He followed this with a D.Phil in Economics from Oxford University in 1962.

Dr. Singh went on to teach at Punjab University and the Delhi School of Economics. He joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry in 1971. He was soon promoted to Chief Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry in 1972. After a short stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat, he was appointed Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva from 1987-1990. In addition, Dr Singh also held the positions of Secretary in the Finance Ministry, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

Dr. Singh has been a Member of the Rajya Sabha since 1991, where he was Leader of the Opposition from 1998-2004. Following, the Congress Party's historic wins in 2004 and 2009, he took the Office of Prime Minister on 22nd May, 2004 and again on 22nd May, 2009.

Dr. Singh's commitment to development and his many achievements have been recognized through the many honours that have been conferred upon him. These include the Padma Vibhushan in 1987, the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year in 1993, the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year in both 1993 and 1994 and the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress in 1995.

However, Dr. Manmohan Singh is known not only for his vision that led India to become an economic powerhouse but also for his hard-work and his humble, soft-spoken demeanor. He is a Prime Minister who will be remembered not only for the leaps and bounds by which he took India forward but also as a man of thought and of integrity.