



90th Convocation of the
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

March 15, 2008

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*

on

Manmohan Singh

Prime Minister of India

CITATION

Dr. Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932, in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India. His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics in 1957 followed with a D. Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962. His book, "**India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth**" [Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964] was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy. Dr. Singh's academic credentials were burnished by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well, during these years. This presaged a subsequent appointment as Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.

In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry, followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972 and many other Governmental positions *viz.* Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission; Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Advisor of the Prime Minister; and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

Dr Singh, during his stint as India's Finance Minister (1991-1996), ushered a comprehensive policy of economic reforms which has become the turning point in the economic history of independent India.

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Dr. Singh in his public career, the most prominent are India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987); the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress (1995); the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993 and 1994); the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993), the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956); and the Wright's Prize for Distinguished Performance at St. John's College in Cambridge (1955). Dr. Singh is a recipient of honorary degrees from many Universities including the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

By conferring *Honoris Causa* degree of Doctor of Letters of Banaras Hindu University on Dr. Manmohan Singh, the University is recognizing an eminent economist, reformer and an outstanding scholar.

Panjab Singh
Vice-Chancellor