

Gopal Krishna Gandhi



Gopalkrishna Gandhi was born on 22 April 1945. He is the youngest grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and son of Devdas Gandhi and Laxmiben Gandhi. His maternal grandfather was Rajaji C Rajagopalachari. Gopalkrishna Gandhi is the younger brother of Rajmohan Gandhi and Dr. Rammohan Gandhi, both of whom are distinguished in their own field. Shri Gandhi is married to Tara, an ornithologist and nature conservationist. He did his Masters in English Literature from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.

Shri Gandhi joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1968 and served in different capacities in Tamil Nadu. He appointed the Secretary to the Vice President of India from 1985-1987 and Joint Secretary to the President of India from 1987-1992. Shri Gandhi took voluntary retirement from the IAS in 1992. He held the position of Minister (Culture) in the High Commission of India, U.K., and became the first Director of the Nehru Centre of the High Commission of India, London, in 1992. He was appointed as the High Commissioner of India in South Africa in 1996 and at the same time became the High Commissioner for India in Lesotho. He held the position of the Secretary to the President of India in 1997. He was appointed both as the High Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka in 2000 and the Ambassador of India in Norway in 2002. At the same time he also served as the Ambassador of India in Iceland. Shri Gandhi became the Governor of West Bengal on 14 December, 2004 which post he continues to hold. He was given the additional charge as the Governor of Bihar in 2006.

Shri Gandhi penned a novel "Refuge". This is concerned with the theme of plantation labourers of Indian Tamil origin working and living in Sri Lanka. He also wrote a play in English verse, "Dara Shukoh," on the life of Emperor Shah Jahan's eldest son. He has translated into Hindustani, Vikram Seth's "A Suitable Boy." His language-attributes cover Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil and Bengali besides English.

He was invited to deliver the 39th annual Convocation Address of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and delivered a remarkable speech entitled "Sankhyā: counting on the counted" on 18th March, 2005.

Compiled by: Sandip K. De & Sushavona Chatterjee, Library, Documentation, Information Science Division, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India.