CHAPTER - III

BRIEF LIFE SKETCH OF DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

India is motherland of many great martyr, philosopher, saints, legends, freedom fighters, politicians, economist and scientist they escalate the name and fame of their mother country at the global level. Like wise Dr. Manmohan Singh as great teacher, philosopher, politician and renown economist he played very pivotal role that made India as leader of globe in the 21st century.

One should have informed himself about the life sketch of Dr. Manmohan Singh that leads the inspiration in every mind of India which ignite the knowledge about how to convert each adversitement into advantagment. As researcher it is too difficult to explain life sketch of Dr. Manmohan Singh because each minutes of his life is a achievement itself.

Dr. Dr. Manmohan Singh was born in a undivided India on 26th September 1932 at Gah, as son of Gurmukha Singh and Amrita kaur, now it is in Chakwal District, Pakistan after partition.¹

Dr. Manmohan Singh child hood was to subject to loss of mother’s affection and love because he lost his mother Amrit Kaur at his early age that is the first tragedy occurred in his life. The gap of his mother’s affection was filled by his parental grandmother.

Dr. Manmohan Singh faced lot of problems and challenges in his early life, where he born the place Gha where he lived for 12 years of his life from birth, a village which had no electricity, no school, no hospital no pipeline of drinking water. He walked for miles every day to school and studied at night in the dim light of a kerosene lamp is totally away from all
basic amenities. The second major hindrance which is posed by partition of India as India and Pakistan have also great impact on him because he is himself eye witnessed various casualties of innocent due to partition that imprint in his mind.

However, Dr. Manmohan Singh didn’t allowed entrance of religious bigotry, communalism attitudes and hatredness towards other religion people. By ignoring all those things which are happened in his early life still he maintains his secular temper.\(^2\)

Even after these happens his incessant in interest and effort in field of education fetch him the great name and fame. The primary school of Gha village where Dr. Manmohan Singh studied from class I to IV. His admission in class Ist recorded in 1937. The date of birth date is registered as February 4, 1932 and the admission date is March 31, 1941. That time his nickname was Mohana. He had Ghulam Mohammed, Shah Wali Khan and Mohammed Ashraf as close classmates in his primary education at his birth village. After the partition of India, his Kohaly family migrated to Amritsar where he joined Hindu College and continued his student carrier again from Amritsir with the memories of childhood. Throughout his academic carrier he stood for first in his class and won many scholarships.

Dr. Manmohan Singh completed his Matriculation examinations from the Punjab University in 1948. Dr. Manmohan Singh passed the intermediate examination first class with first position in 1950 from Punjab University. He was very much interested in the subject like economics, he chose economics as major subject in his graduation study thus in 1952 he stood second class with first position in B.A. (Hons), from Punjab university, Chandigrah, also Dr. Manmohan Singh completed his M.A, in Economics in the year 1954 in first class with first position from Punjab University.
Later, he went to Cambridge and Oxford University for higher education. In 1955 he awarded Wright Prize for distinguished performance and John’s college, Cambridge, UK. Dr. Manmohan Singh also titled for Adam Smith Prize, from University of Cambridge and in 1957 he elected for Wrenbury Scholar of Cambridge University, UK in the same year he got Economic Tripos (First Class honours), after completing his studies, he returned to India and served as a senior lecturer in economics in the Punjab University, from 1957-59, then he served as Reader, in Department of Economics from 1959-63.

In 1962 Dr. Manmohan Singh did D.Phil., from Nullified College, University of Oxford, on “Indias Export trends and Prospects for Self-sustained growth” Dr. Manmohan Singh promoted as Professor in ‘International trade, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, from 1969-71 and also served as honorary professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. In 1996 to utilisation of his experience as finance minister and his economic knowledge he accepted Honorary professor, Delhi Scholl of Economics, University of Delhi.

He was a very shy and introvert student both in school and in University and he did not mix with fellow students. He once told Mark Tully, the famous BBC correspondent that throughout his stay in Cambridge he used to bathe with cold water because the moment hot water was available in the hostel all other students would come in to bathe and he felt shy and would go to at the end. It is this shy who became the darling of his Professor because of his academic brilliance and gentle nature. In 1971 he, joined the Indian Civil Service and worked as an Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce. The years from 1966-1969 are most important these years give him name and fame at the international level, he worked as advisor to Financing for Trade Section of UNCTAD. During 1970s he worked for the
Ministry of Foreign trade, when Lalit Narayana Mishra as the Minister of Foreign Trade, Lalit Narayan Mishra recognise Dr. Manmohan Singh’s potentiality as economist and appointed him his advisor at the ministry of foreign trade. Dr. Manmohan Singh enjoyed different capacities in field of Indian economy as director, Reserve Bank of India, Director Industrial Development, alternative governor of India, Board of governors, Asian Development Bank. On 15th September 1980 he became member cum Secretary of Planning commission of India he remained in office till 1982.4

The government of India in 1980 by deciding to enhancing the relation with Japan established a ‘Indo-Japan Joint Study Committee’ government appointed him as the chairman that committee he served this committee till 1983. His capacity led him to serve as Alternative Governor for India, Board of Governors, in International Monetary Fund, in this period he trying to provide due share of in this institution. He achieve a mile stone achievement in his life on 15th January 1985 be appointed as deputy chairman of planning commission of India a day after he retired as RBI Governor. He remained deputy chairman till July 1987. During this by achieving coordination with National Development Council he tried to minimise the regional imbalance and income gap at domestic level. Dr. Manmohan Singh had an opportunity to serve as Secretary general and commissioner for South Commission situated at Geneva from august 1987-Nov 1990. From December 1990 to March 1991 he served as the advisor to Prime Minister of India on Economic Affairs. Academic achievement of Dr. Manmohan singh allowed him to become Chairman of University Grant Commission but he cannot be served this commission for long time because his talent is great challenge to him to remain in office for long time because government want to utilise his knowledge every field of public life and to introduce improvement and reformation within short period he has to serve every office for short term.
When we throws light on his political life in India numerous examples of dramatic politics to prove their existence in politics, but the analytical study of Dr. Manmohan Singh had never been left any example of dramatic political game. Dr. Manmohan Singh political carrier was turbulent because neither charismatic nor traditional however he successes to rule the mind and heart of people by enjoying different positions in Indian political sphere. By nature he is soft spoken and respects all high and low. He is not a bully like many parliamentarians who make unnecessary noise, abuse, use uncivilised language, throw chairs on each other and act foul. He has never abused any one, he has never insulted any one. He is a role model of all. His name will be written in golden letters in the passage of history. P.V. Narshimha Rao introduced him to active politics in October 1991, he elected to Rajya Sabha form congress ticket first time, and re elected to Rajya Sabha from Assam again thus in 1995,2001, 2007and 2013. In 1991 when P. V. Narsimha Rao became the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan singh elected as the Finance Minister. At this time, India was facing a serious economic. Dr. Manmohan Singh brought out economic reforms that aims at enhancing the productivity and liberalization of the economy. One of the first measure that he took was to cancel the ‘License Raj’ a plan that forced business to get government approval for any changes. Hence, more power was given to private organisations that led to the privatisation of public companies thus he has brought economic stability and long-term growth to India At the end of this tenure, Dr. Mammoohan Singh was re elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2007, when India was ruled by the BJP government, from 1998 t0 2004, he was opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha. Regardless of the that he did not win the Lok Sabha seats, he contest the Lok Sabha election in 1999 from South Delhi, but he lost to Vijay Kumar Malhotra of the Baratiya Janata Party, this defeat didn’t lead any declination in his popularity. “He became popular among public for his clean and uncorrupted hand in politics”.6
Dr. Manmohan Singh stayed with the Congress Party despite continuous marginalisation and defeats in the elections of 1996, 1998 and 1999. He did not join rebels in a major split which occurred in 1991, when many major congress leader objected to Sonia Gandhi’s rise as Congress president and leader of opposition Being touted as the Congress choice for the P.M job. Dr. Manmohan Singh achievement not only confine to domestic level at verge of only economic aspect he not only directed the improvement way for economic only to India his economic knowledge made him a international economist. As international economist he led the various delegations at international level to maintain inclusive and sustainable development at the global level. From 1980-1982 he chaired the Indo-Soviet Monitoring Group Meeting and Indo-Soviet Joint Planning Group Meeting by leading this delegation with Russia he fetch lot of economic cooperation in infrastructure development and foreign direct investment by Russia in India.7

No other leader expect Dr. Manmohan Singh successed to convey the problem of north-south gap in which south represent the developing and poor states, in 1981 in Cancum Summit on North-South Issues he rise the matter of economic disparities and need of the north state assistance for south block development. Dr. Manmohan Singh point of view South-South co-operation base for the development of south developing countries, in this way in Oct 1971 he led the delegation in the Ministrial Meeting of group of 77, at Lima. The south commission began as a “group-77 poor contries who had decided to band together and negotiate with the rich, industrialised countries almost all of which happened to be located in the Northern Hemisphere. By now, there number has doubled to 133, as the membership of the UN has increased from 51 to 133 in 1946 to 185 by 1994. Dr. Manmohan Singh had extensive experience in these negotiations, as he had been one of the chief advisors in a country that had been the leader of poor nations. He worked hard at this new
job, but had till success in negotiating with rich nations. In this meeting he urged for co-operation among these poor nation and mutual tax free trade. And also he became the leader of South-South Consultation, New Delhi Conference in 1982. In 1983, Punjab University, Chandigrah awarded him Doctor of letters and in 2009 created a Dr. Manmohan Singh chair in their economic department.  

In 1987 Dr. Manmohan Singh received Padama Vibhushan award for his social service he was also titled to Euro money award, Finance Minister of the year in 1993. Dr. Manmohan Singh awarded Asia money award, finance Minister of the year for Asia 1993 and 1994.  

“The UNO by considering him as a international economist it offered many opportunities to make use of his talent at global level, appointed him as member by the Secretary –General, United Nations of a Group of Eminent Persons to advise him on Financing for Development in 2000”.  

Dr. Manmohan Singh as Prime-Minister:  
The seventy one year old Dr. Mammohan Singh, the gentle Sikh from Punjab has become the first non Hindu Prime Minister of predominantly Hindu India. Except, perhaps for Lal Bahadoor Shastri, the Indian Prime Ministerial mantle has never fallen on the shoulders of a more humble and simple man. This unassuming self effecting Saradarji is the most qualified Indian Prime Minister to attain that office. Mr. Manmohan Singh’s legacy appears particularly tragic given his glittering achievements and reputation for integrity when he took office in 2004 for the first of the congress party’s two terms.  

His moderation and simplicity seemed the best possible person to be PM till another member of the Gandhi clan wore the crown. After Sonia took charge over congress leadership, Dr. Manmohan singh had grown in her
esteem and was no longer seen as a creature of P. V. Narasihm Rao. He had no political ambition and was a trustworthy adviser to Sonia Gandhi began relying on him more than other congress seniors and political veterans.

Once Sonia decided not to become Prime Minister her choice as alternative was naturally Dr. Manmohan Singh. So came Dr. Manmohan Singh’s unexpected tryst with destiny. During his speech in parliament while presenting the budget in 1994-1995. Dr. Manmohan Singh quoted Victor Hugo. “No Power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come” Dr. Manmohan Singh was an idea whose time had come.\textsuperscript{10}

Dr. Manmohan Singh adorned the post of Prime-Minister In India after defeate of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in general election on 22\textsuperscript{nd} May in 2004 for first term. UPA led by Indian National Congress won majority of parliamentary seats in that election in 2004. He took the charge of Indian Premier Atal Behari Vajpayee. Sonia Gandhi, Indian National Congress President decided to give him charge as Prime Minister of India. He has been UPA government successfully for ten years. He showed his capabilities as Finance Minister and Prime Minister of India. He is the person who became instrumental to liberalisation in Indian economy.

He has proven his quality as student, as teacher, as author, as civil servant and also a parliamentarian before becoming the Prime Post.

He made clear on the day of his oath ceremony that he pledged to carry forward the process of social and economic change “which benefits the poorest sections of our community.”

The Independent India has had many Prime Ministers, popular, successful and unsuccessful. Most of the prime ministers had very short
tenure and only ruled India for ten years and only Pt. Nehuru and Dr. Manmohan Singh for consecutive 10 years.

Dr. Manmohan Singh the 14th Prime-Minister of India stands out amongst all of them. In every respect, call it education, honesty, devotion, dedication, commitment and gentleness, he has no match. A world renowned economist and Banker, the Highest Qualified global leader, he turned over the economic crisis of India as the finance minister and saved India from possible bankruptcy. During his tenure in 2007 India accomplished the highest gross domestic growth rate at 9.2% and become the second largest growing economy in the world when average world growth rate was -0.7%. The years from 2012 to 2014 was testimonial of his economic epitome, when the world economy in crises due to increase in fuel prices and expensive imported raw materials, the inflation rate fluctuated between 4.2 in 2004 to an average of 8.60 percent between 2012-2015. The unemployment fell from 9.4% in however he maintain domestic GDP at 8.9.\(^\text{11}\)

When he started his first term as Prime Minister, 2004-09 the congress had to form a coalition with the socialist parties of the left who oppose further economic reform, Dr. Manmohan Singh’s personality fail all efforts of left to controle him from economic reform. But at the beginning of Mr. Manmohan Singh’s second term, in 2009, the congress won enough seats in parliament that it could form the government without the support of leftist parties. This raised the hopes that Dr. Manmohan Singh, freed from the constraint of having to appease the left, would be able to undertake more reforms. In ten years of his service he brought glory and respect to India. All world powers recognised the potential of India under his tenure. His speeches were quoted by many heads of states. Barac Obam, the president of India of USA once said, “when you speak, the world listens” other said “After a long time India has an apt Economist to guide its economic affairs.”\(^\text{12}\)
David Cameron praised in his speeches as “So why is India important for Britain’s future? The most obvious reason is economic. There is still a development road to travel, but thanks to the reform process begun by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Indian tiger has been un-caged and its power can be felt around the world.” Under his leadership the National Rural Health Mission was started for the welfare rural residents. Under his governance, a strong relationship with different countries was and is being maintained. The effective efforts were made by proper utilisation of “Pragmatic Foreign Policy” which was started by P.V. Narashimha Rao to end the border disputed with China.

The intension his foreign policy is to be increase in Foreign Direct investment. FDI, unfazed by political opposition, his government announcing big bang reforms. India has marked its presence as one of the fastest growing economies of the world. It has been ranked among the top 3 attractive destinations for inbound investment, it is the biggest achievement of his life for nation.

Not withstanding pulls and pressure from allies, especially the left parties and Mamta Bannerji’s All India Trinamool Congress, Dr. Manmohan Singh displayed considerable determination to go ahead with the deal and on his success, the people of India, with joy played popular song of the times ‘Singh is king’. In layman’s terms, this deal means that the India and USA can now engage in nuclear trade and cooperate on major international security issues.13

As a economist Singh knows until rising the economic standardity of rural people economic development of nation is not possible, so he decided to provide job opportunity at the rural level to mitigate migration problems in search of job and to increase their saving capacity. His government passed
the bill of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. To provide government facilities to people at their door he has promoted information technology in several ways and IT business in India is growing despite global slow down. Now India is on the way to top internet users this credit must go to Dr. Manmohan Singh’s effort.

He is a man of zero tolerance against corruption, several efforts of his government Lokpal bill is brought but failed to provide it constitutional status. Anna Hazare’s movement was critical for him. He is fighting to bring Janlokpal bill in place of Lokpal.\textsuperscript{14}

In 2013 he introduced National Food Security Act with aims at to subsidies food grains for approximately two third of India’s 1.2 billion people. By all these efforts the economic growth figures of 10 years of his regime tell a very positive story. The growth rate remained above 8% better than many developed world economies in that period. (In the years 2005-2006-2007-2008 and 2009-2011) In earlier years it was: 1999-5.5%. 2002-4.3%.

The 15th Lok Sabha’s winter session saw extensive disruptions. Both houses were able to work for less than 30% of the their scheduled time. The session ended on a low note with a member of parliament using a pepper spray in Loksabha. Seventeen MPs were suspended by the speaker for grave disorder. Despite these gauche constrains, Dr. Manmohan Singh worked with his inherent calm and cool and his government was able to enact and pass some of most important laws to help the economy of the country.

His foreign policy made all world countries close friends of India. USA, European Union, Canada, Australia and Japan came very close to India and many important deals were signed by the business corporation between India and these countries.
“Dr. Manmohan Singh not only a economist he is also a great educationist along with a great visionary of educated and skilled India to this end Dr. Manmohan Singh become the instrument for enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, which became operative in April, 2010. This legislation has far-reaching implications for elementary education to come”.\(^{15}\)

In 2010, Newsweek Magazine recognised him as a leader who is respected by other heads of state, describing him as “the leader other leader love” Mohamed Elbaradei, who remarked that Dr. Manmohan Singh is “the model of what a political leader should be. Forbes magazine described Dr. Manmohan Singh as being “universally praised as India’s best Prime minister since Nehuru”. Australian Jouranlist Greg Shriden praised Singh “as one of the greatest statesmen in Asian history”.

In 2014 to recognition for bringing India-Japan ties of a nulear freeze Japan bestow its highest imperial honour on Dr. Manmohan Singh in Tokyo. The Grand Cordon of the order of the Paulownia flowers are conferred to Dr. Manmohan Singh at a ceremony place. In a statement Japanese Embassy said Dr. Manmohan Singh it is privilege for Japan Government to honour Dr. Manmohan Singh for his significant contributions to the enhancement of relations and the promotion of friendship between Japan and India for 35 years.\(^{16}\)

Dr. Manmohan Singh enjoyed very ideal family life, he entered in family life by married Mrs. Gurusharana kaur on September 14\(^{th}\) 1958. Mrs Singh is known in the Sikha community of Delhi for her Kirtan singing, and has also appeared on All India Radio. Mrs. Singh was born in 1937 and was educated in Guru Nanak Kanya Pathasala, the government college for women in Patiala and Khalsa Colleges, Amritsar.
Gurusharan Kaur who gave him three daughters. First daughter Upender Singh she is professor of history at Delhi University. she has written six books, including Ancient Delhi (1999) and A history of Ancient and Early Medieval India (2008). She is the reflection of her father intellectuality. Second daughter Daman Singh is a prolific writer and author of many books including “The Last Frontier: people and Forests in Majoram and a novel “Nine by Nine”. She is a graduate from Stephen’s College, Delhi and Institute of Rural Management, Anand and Gujarat. Third daughter is a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union. The last days his regime are very crucial to him. A man himself is uncorupt has to charge under different scams. Some political analyst make comment as Dr. Manmohan Singh a innocent politician with great economic knowledge. His attitudes towards farmers made him to waive off sixty five thousand crore debt own by farmers and became the saviour of farmers life when suicide rate at 8.1% per ten thousand farmers. He stated that it is my great pleasure to do some thing for farmer community and also it is a my life achievement.

Some minister in his cabinet committed corruptions, scandals and scams inspite this he maintain his calibre and stability of government with coalition partner. Even his great opponent Mr. Modi also extends is sincerity to him for his personality. Pranab Mukhajee than senior congress leader and now president of india also express his pleasure to work under his Prime Ministership.

**Position held by Dr. Manmohan Singh:**

- 1971-72: Economics advisor, Ministry of foreign trade, India
- 1972-76: Chief economic advisor, Ministry of finance, India
- 1976-80: Director, Industrial Development Bank of India;
- Director Reserve Bank of India;
• Alternate Governor for India, Board of Governors, Asian Development Bank;
• Alternate Governor for India, Board of Governors, IBRD
• November 1976- April 1980: Secretary, Ministry of finance (Department of economic affairs);
• Member, finance: Atomic energy Commission;
• Member, finance: Space Commission; April 1, 1980-September 15, 1982
• Member-secretary, Planning commission of India
• 1980-83: Chairman, India Committee of the Indo-Japan Joint Study committee
• September 16, 1982- January 14, 1985: Governor Reserve Bank of India
• 1982-85 Alternate Governor for India, Board of Governors, International Monitory Fund
• 1983-84: Member, economic Advisory council to the Prime Minister
• 1985: President, Indian economic Association
• January 15, 1985-July 31, 1987: Deputy chairman, Planning Commission of India
• August 1, 1987- November 10, 1990: secretary-General and Commissioner, South commission, Geneva
• December 10, 1990- March 14, 1991: Adviser to the Prime Minister of India on Economic affairs

Awards and Honors of Dr. Manmohan Singh:
• Adam Smith Prize, University of Cambridge, 1956
• Padma Vibhushan, 1987
• Finance Minister of the Year, 1993, Euro money Award.
• Finance Minister of the Year for Asia, 1993, Asiamoney Award.
• Finance Minister of the Year for Asia, 1993, Asiamoney Award 1994
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