**Manmohan Singh** born 26 September 1932) is an Indian politician, economist and statesman who served as the 13th [prime minister of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_minister_of_India) from 2004 to 2014. He is also the third longest-serving prime minister after [Jawaharlal Nehru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jawaharlal_Nehru) and [Indira Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indira_Gandhi). A member of the [Indian National Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_National_Congress), Singh was the first [Sikh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikh) prime minister of India. He was also the first prime minister since [Jawaharlal Nehru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jawaharlal_Nehru) to be re-elected after completing a full five-year term.

Born in [Gah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gah,_Pakistan" \o "Gah, Pakistan), [West Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab_(region)), in what is today [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan), Singh's family migrated to India during [its partition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_India) in 1947. After obtaining his doctorate in economics from [Oxford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuffield_College,_Oxford), Singh worked for the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) during 1966–1969. He subsequently began his bureaucratic career when [Lalit Narayan Mishra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalit_Narayan_Mishra) hired him as an advisor in the [Ministry of Commerce and Industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Commerce_and_Industry_(India)). During the 1970s and 1980s, Singh held several key posts in the [Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India), such as [Chief Economic Advisor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Economic_Advisor_to_the_Government_of_India) (1972–1976), governor of the [Reserve Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reserve_Bank_of_India) (1982–1985) and head of the [Planning Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planning_Commission_(India)) (1985–1987).

In 1991, as India faced a [severe economic crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_Indian_economic_crisis), the newly elected prime minister, [P. V. Narasimha Rao](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._V._Narasimha_Rao), surprisingly inducted the apolitical Singh into his cabinet as [finance minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minister_of_Finance_(India)). Over the next few years, despite strong opposition, he carried out several structural reforms that [liberalised India's economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_liberalisation_in_India). Although these measures proved successful in averting the crisis, and enhanced Singh's reputation globally as a leading reform-minded economist, the incumbent Congress Party fared poorly in the [1996 general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_Indian_general_election). Subsequently, Singh was [leader of the opposition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leader_of_the_Opposition_(India)) in the [Rajya Sabha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajya_Sabha) (the upper house of the [Parliament of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_India)) during the [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atal_Bihari_Vajpayee) government of 1998–2004.

In 2004, when the Congress-led [United Progressive Alliance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Progressive_Alliance) (UPA) came to power, its chairperson [Sonia Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonia_Gandhi) unexpectedly relinquished the prime ministership to Singh. His [first ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Manmohan_Singh_ministry) executed several key legislations and projects, including the [National Rural Health Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Rural_Health_Mission), [Unique Identification Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unique_Identification_Authority_of_India), [Rural Employment Guarantee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi_National_Rural_Employment_Guarantee_Act) scheme and [Right to Information Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_to_Information_Act). In 2008, opposition to a historic [civil nuclear agreement with the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S.%E2%80%93India_Civil_Nuclear_Agreement) nearly caused Singh's government to fall after [Left Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left_Front_(West_Bengal)) parties withdrew their support. Although India's economy grew rapidly under UPA, its security was threatened by several terrorist incidents (including the [2008 Mumbai attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Mumbai_attacks)) and the continuing [Maoist insurgency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maoist_insurgency).

The [2009 general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Indian_general_election) saw the UPA return with an increased mandate, with Singh retaining the office of Prime Minister. Over the next few years, Singh's [second ministry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Manmohan_Singh_ministry) government faced a number of corruption charges over the organisation of the [2010 Commonwealth Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Commonwealth_Games), the [2G spectrum allocation case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2G_spectrum_allocation_case) and the [allocation of coal blocks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_coal_allocation_scam). After his term ended in 2014 he opted out from the race for the office of the [Prime Minister of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_India) during the [2014 Indian general election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Indian_general_election).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manmohan_Singh#cite_note-2) Singh was never a [member of the Lok Sabha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Member_of_Parliament,_Lok_Sabha) but has served as a member of the [Rajya Sabha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajya_Sabha), representing the state of [Assam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam) from 1991 to 2019 and [Rajasthan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajasthan) since 2019. Chided for his low-profile demeanour as prime minister, his popularity has improved since he left office.