

# Cambridge confers PM with honorary doctorate

**P**rime Minister Manmohan Singh on October 11 returned to his alma mater five decades after his graduation to receive an honorary degree with a stirring speech outlining his vision of a more egalitarian world.

And there was no doubt that the scholar-politician conquered every single heart in the historic Senate Hall of Cambridge University where the applause that followed after Singh was formally introduced to the audience went on and on, bringing smiles on the faces of his wife Gursharan and daughter Amrit Kaur who, like everyone else, watched him in sheer admiration.

"It was one of the most generous receptions anyone has received in Cambridge," Neil Hudson, the university vice marshal, said after the hour-long ceremony where Manmohan Singh received a honorary Doctorate in Law from Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and also the chancellor.

The stirring speech by Prime Minister Singh — who passed out of St. John's College in Cambridge in 1957 — calling for a world economy that does not sacrifice the interests of the poor, brought another round of prolonged applause.

The sombre function was conducted entirely in Latin, except for Singh's speech, which was in English. The Duke of Edinburgh paid high tribute to Manmohan Singh, who in his speech described himself as a "simple young Indian". Prince Philip said, "it is very rare indeed for position of Prime Minister to be entrusted to one who is not a professional politician. Manmohan Singh is a scholar and public servant of great distinction."



**Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after receiving the honorary doctorate of Law in Cambridge University**

"Millions look to this man," Prince Philip said in his concluding remarks before conferring the degree. "They see in him someone of conspicuous integrity; he is, in the words of the Greek poet Simonides, cool and calm, well aware of the justice that serves the state, and a man of healing virtue."

The ceremony was business-like, and a large number of students gathered at Senate Hall eager to catch a glimpse of the man who is determined to make India an economic giant. He entered the hall almost at the tail of the chancellor's procession, followed by the university constables and pro-protectors. After the start of the proceedings, the orator presented Singh to the chancellor as a honorary fellow of St. John's College. ■

**(For full text of the Prime Minister's speech, visit [www.pmindia.nic.in](http://www.pmindia.nic.in))**

## PM in illustrious company

■ Manmohan Singh joined the ranks of luminaries such as Albert Einstein, Field Marshal Montgomery and Nelson Mandela by earning an honorary doctorate from Cambridge University. Others honoured by the university are scientist James Watson, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and writer V.S. Naipaul.

■ Cambridge's famous Indian alumni include Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose, K.S. Ranjitsinhji, mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, Jawaharlal Nehru, Harivanshrai Bachchan, scientists Homi Jehangir Bhabha, Subramaniam Chandrasekhar and Vikram Sarabhai, besides Amartya Sen.

# India, Britain pledge to cooperate in fight against terror

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Earlier in the day, both Manmohan Singh and Blair said India and Britain would step up cooperation in counter-terrorism measures. "Our cooperation in combating terrorism has become particularly significant," Manmohan Singh said, referring to the terror attacks in Mumbai and London. Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma later told reporters that both countries "have agreed to work together to fight this menace" of terrorism. He said security and intelligence agencies of India and Britain would share information about terror groups and planned attacks, keeping in mind the Commonwealth Games New Delhi will host in 2010 and the



**Prime Minister Manmohan and British Prime Minister Tony Blair at their joint press conference in London on October 10.**

Olympics to be held in London in 2012.

"Relations between India and Britain have

strengthened in recent years," Blair said, speaking at the business summit. "We want to strengthen this further. This is seen by me not just in the economic context but in the political also."

At the press conference, Manmohan Singh strongly came out against any further nuclearisation.

Reiterating India's "deep concern" over North Korea's surprise nuclear tests, he said: "I wish to state that the further erosion of the non-proliferation regime is not in our interests. We do not support the emergence of another nuclear weapon state. There is no parallel between India's policy and what is happening in North Korea." ■