



### **BIO- DATA OF VIJAI VARDHAN**

Vijai Vardhan is a graduate and post-graduate in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. Prior to joining the Indian Police Service in 1984 he represented his college in Badminton, Squash, Boxing and Athletics.

In 1985, he joined the Indian Administrative Service and was allocated the Haryana cadre. In his distinguished career, Vijai Vardhan has held important assignments like Secretary to Governor of Haryana, Chairman, Haryana Tourism Corporation, Chairman Haryana Pollution Control Board and Principal Secretary, Departments of Higher Education, School Education, Renewable Energy and Home Secretary, Haryana.

As Administrator, Haryana Urban Development Authority, Gurgaon and Panchkula, he was instrumental in catalyzing the industrial, residential and commercial development of Gurgaon, Panchkula and various other towns of Haryana. While posted as Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad and Municipal Commissioner, Faridabad he took several initiatives in the urban development of Faridabad.

Vijai Vardhan is drawn to the mystic and has a deep and abiding interest in Sufism, Confucianism and Taoism. A keen historian, he has authored seven books till now. His book "*Kurukshetra-Timeless Sanctity*" published by the reputed publishing house "*Wisdom Tree*" is a result of six years of intense historical research and it captures the history, mysticism and spirituality of Kurukshetra from the earliest times till now. His book titled '*Pinjore- The Garden of Paradise*' is the first ever book on the 17<sup>th</sup> century Mughal gardens of Pinjore.

His collection of Sufi Haiku poems in English titled, '*Beyond the Great Beyond*' and '*Ibadat-The Breath of My Soul*' have been greatly appreciated by critics and readers alike. He has also authored three well researched monographs about the history and heritage of Haryana titled '*Buddha's Trail in Haryana*', '*The Magnificent Monuments of Narnaul*' and '*RakhiGarhi Rediscovered*'. '*Happening Haryana*' his latest book captures the history of Haryana from the Harappan age to the present.

Vijai Vardhan was chosen by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to undergo an advanced course in Urban Development and Regeneration in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. He has also attended an Advanced Course on 'Strategic Leadership' in Cambridge University, United Kingdom.

Vijai Vardhan has contributed to the preservation and propagation of our heritage by conceiving the Pinjore Heritage Festival, Kartik Utsav at Raja Nahar Singh's Palace, Ballabgarh, Faridabad and by restoring the ancient Mata Mansa Devi Temple at Panchklula (near Chandigarh) and the Mughal Gardens of Pinjore.

As a voice-over artiste, he lends his voice regularly to documentary films, theatre, social causes and poetry festivals. He gives occasional public recitals of ecstatic poetry of the world's greatest romantic, radical and Sufi traditions in Hindi, English and Urdu languages.

His music band '*Sajda*' gives live concerts of fusion of recitation of great romantic, radical and mystic poetry with live singing and accompanying instruments.

While posted as Home Secretary and Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, he navigated the State of Haryana through the extremely challenging times of the Covid Pandemic and the Farmers Agitation. He introduced and fast tracked several innovative initiatives to make the Govt. more citizen friendly and transparent in its functioning during his tenure as Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana in 2020-21.

After his retirement from Govt. service in November 2021, he joined the School of Liberal Arts and Humanities of Jindal Global University, Sonapat as a Professor of Practise.

Vijai Vardhan was sworn in on March 25, 2022 as the Chief Information Commissioner of Haryana.