



प्रधान मंत्री

Prime Minister

MESSAGE

I am truly delighted to send my best wishes to my dear friend Prof. Padma Desai on this happy occasion. My wife and I have known Jagdish and Padma for a long time and they are like family for us. We feel sorry that we are not with you in person on this celebratory occasion, but I assure you we are with you in spirit.

Prof. Padma Desai is one of our most distinguished economists who has written extensively on issues pertaining to planning and development in the context of mixed and centrally planned economics. Her book, co-authored with Jagdish, on India's industrial and trade policies had a profound impact on professional thinking and policy making in India. I recall that the book had just been published when I joined the Government in the early 1970s. It did take us a long time to translate their thinking into policy action. When in 1991, our Government undertook sweeping reforms in our industrial and trade policies we were only implementing ideas that Jagdish and Padma wrote about two decades earlier.

Prof. Padma Desai is without doubt one of the most erudite and knowledgeable commentators on Russia and on the economic and social consequences of Soviet policies. Her understanding of the role of markets and government has also helped us appreciate the nature of transition not just in Eastern Europe but also in Asia. It is a tribute to Padma's scholarship that so many political leaders and policy makers from across the world reach out to her. I have myself greatly benefited from my conversations with her over the years and more recently.

I join the many eminent and distinguished friends of Padma who are gathered to pay tribute to her and convey my own very personal tribute to her work and my appreciation of her friendship. I wish Padma and Jagdish long life and many more years of creative intellectual endeavour.


(Manmohan Singh)

New Delhi
February 26, 2007