



# Atal Bihari Vajpayee Early Life, Political Career And Contributions To Society

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

Shri. Vajpayee was Prime Minister of India from May 16-31, 1996 and a second time from March 19, 1998 to May 13, 2004. With his swearing-in as Prime Minister, he has been the only Prime Minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to occupy the office of the Prime Minister of India through three successive mandates. Shri. Vajpayee has also been the first Prime Minister since Smt. Indira Gandhi to lead his party to victory in successive elections. Born on December 25, 1924 at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh to Shri. Krishna Bihari Vajpayee and Smt. Krishna Devi, Shri Vajpayee brings with him a long parliamentary experience spanning over four decades. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1957. He was elected to the 5th, 6th and 7th Lok Sabha and again to the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha and to Rajya Sabha in 1962 and 1986. He has again been elected to Parliament from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh for the fifth time consecutively.

**II. KEY WORDS:** Biography, Early Life, Career and Contributions to society

## III. INTRODUCTION

Atal Bihari Vajpayee (25 December 1924–16 August 2018) was an Indian politician who served three terms as the Prime Minister of India : first for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, and finally, for a full term from 1999 to 2004. A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he was the first Indian prime minister who was not a member of the Indian National Congress Party to have served a full five-year term in office. He was a member of the Indian Parliament for over four decades, having been elected to the Lok Sabha, the lower house, ten times, and twice to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house. He served as the Member of Parliament for Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh until 2009 when he retired from active politics due to health concerns. Vajpayee was among the founding members of the Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS), of which he was the president from 1968 to 1972. The BJS merged with several other parties to form the Janata Dal, which won the 1977 general election. Vajpayee became the Minister of External Affairs in the cabinet of Prime Minister Morarji Desai. He resigned in 1979, and the Janata alliance collapsed soon after. The erstwhile members of the BJS formed the BJP in 1980, with Vajpayee as its first president. During his tenure as prime minister, India carried out the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998. Vajpayee sought to improve diplomatic relations with Pakistan, travelling to Lahore by bus to meet with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. After the 1999 Kargil War with Pakistan, he sought to restore relations through engaging with President Pervez Musharraf, inviting him to India for a summit at Agra. Vajpayee remained a bachelor his entire life, preferring to serve the nation over marriage. He adopted and raised as his own child Namita Bhattacharya, the daughter of longtime friend Rajkumari Kaul and BN Kaul. His adopted family lived with him. With regard to his poetry he wrote, "My poetry is declaration of war, not an exordium to defeat. It is not defeated soldier's drumbeat of despair, but the fighting warrior's will to win. It is not the despirited voice of dejection but the stirring shout of victory. He was conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee in 2015. The administration of Narendra Modi declared in 2014 that Vajpayee's birthday, 25 December, would be marked as Good Governance Day. He died on 16 August 2018 due to age-related illness.

## IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

1. To know the Biography of Atal Bihari Vajpayee
2. To know the Career life in politics

### 3. To study the Contributions to society

## **V.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

In tune with the objectives mentioned above, a close study have been carried out by the secondary data were drawn and studied from the Govt. Publications, journals on Atal Bihari Vajpayee Early Life, Political Career And Contributions to Society including the annual reports on Atal Bihari Vajpayee Early Life, Political Career And Contributions to Society, Apart from this, different editions of daily newspapers.

## **VI.BIOGRAPHY OF ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE**

He is called the man of the masses, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who served as the Prime Minister of India for three terms, is undoubtedly a man of remarkable stature. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's date of birth is 25th December 1924. He had a commendable life that spanned over a period of over nine decades. In this Atal Bihari Vajpayee biography, we will look into some of his greatest achievements, early life, career and his role in the upliftment of the nation and more.

## **VII.CHILDHOOD AND EARLY LIFE**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's place of birth was Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He was born to Krishna Bihari Vajpayee and Krishna Devi in a Hindu Brahmin family. After finishing his schooling from Saraswati Shisu Mandir and Anglo-Vernacular Middle (AVM) School in Barnagar, Ujjain, Atal went on to attend Gwalior's Victoria College where he completed his BA in English, Sanskrit and Hindi. He then pursued and completed his postgraduate studies in Political Science from DAV College in Kanpur. He then went to pursue law but then gave it up owing to the partition riots of 1947.

## **VIII.CAREER LIFE**

Atal was an active member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, initially joining as a volunteer or Swayamseval to rising to the ranks of a 'vistarak' (a probationary full-time worker). He worked for several newspapers - Panchjanya (a weekly Hindi), Rashtra Dharma (a monthly Hindi), and the Swadesh and Veer Arjun (dailies) as a vistarak in Uttar Pradesh.

Vajpayee's first stint with national politics started as early as 1942, during the time of the Quit India Movement, which eventually brought an end to the British's colonial rule in India. He had embarked upon the career of being a journalist but was unable to pursue it further as he joined the erstwhile Bharatiya Janata Sangh, which ultimately went on to shape the present-day Bharatiya Janata Party.

He was initially appointed as the national secretary of the party and was made in charge of the northern region, which was based in Delhi. Following the demise of Deendayal Upadhyaya, Atal was made the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Sangh and became its president in the year 1968. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a man of eloquent oratorical skills, which he utilised for brilliantly defending the Sangh's policies.

In terms of his national political career, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had been elected to the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the Parliament) nine times and twice to the Rajya Sabha (or the upper house of the Parliament). He is thus regarded as a veteran Parliamentarian.

## **IX.HISTORY AS PRIME MINISTER**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's history as the Prime Minister of India is also quite remarkable. He served as the country's Prime Minister for three terms. In the year 1996, he was sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister of India. However, when the Bharatiya Janata Party failed to form a majority in the Lok Sabha, Vajpayee resigned just after a period of 16 days as it became evident that he did not have the support necessary to form a government. His second term as a Prime Minister began after the 1998 general elections that resulted in the formation of the National Democratic Alliance. This Atal Bihari Vajpayee led government lasted for a total of 13 months. The third and final term of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's lasted for the full 5-year period starting from 1999 to 2004. Since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the only candidate to have become Prime Minister of India with 2 successive mandates.

## **X.CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY**

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had made a number of remarkable contributions to the development of the country. He served not only as the Prime Minister of India but also as it Foreign Minister and Chairperson of various important Standing Committees of Parliament. He had also been an active Leader of the Opposition. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has thus played a significant role in shaping up domestic and foreign policies of independent India.

He was also a true advocate of social equality and an ardent champion of empowerment for women. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee believed in an India that is anchored in 5000 years of civilisational history but as modernising, renewing and rejuvenating itself to meet the challenges that lay ahead in the years to come.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was mainly considered a pragmatist but when criticised for testing nuclear weapons in the year 1998, he assumed a non-detering defiant posture. He also played a key role in making dedicated efforts to resolve the long running feud between Pakistan and India over the region of Kashmir. Given his inspiring leadership, India was able to achieve steady growth in the economy and soon paved the way for the nation to become a leader in the information technology sector.

## **XI.POLITICAL DISINTEGRATION**

In spite of its numerous achievements, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led government was not entirely lacking in drawbacks. The economically less viable section of the Indian society often felt left out in the path towards economic growth. The Vajpayee led government was also heavily criticised for its cumbersome response to the Gujarat riots that occurred in 2002. Starting the year 2000 his government also started the divestment of public funds from a number of industries that were run by the state. In the 2004 Parliamentary elections, the Vajpayee led coalition was defeated and he announced retirement from active politics in December 2005.

## **XII.ACHIEVEMENTS**

Besides political aspirations, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also a noted poet. He wrote poems in Hindi. Among his renowned works include, *Kaidi Kaviraj Ki Kundalian*, a collection of poems that he had composed during imprisonment at the time of 1975–77 emergency, and 'Amar aag hai'.

Recognising his selfless dedication towards the country, which he calls his first and only love, Shri

Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2014. He devoted more than 50 years of his life in service to society and the nation. He was named as the 'Best Parliamentarian' in the year 1994.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee not only proved himself to be an eminent national leader but was also an erudite politician and a devout social worker. His many skills made him a multi-faceted personality. His works echo his commitment to nationalism where he laid efforts to articulate the aspirations of the masses.

## **XIII.CONCLUSION:**

Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an Indian statesman who served three terms as the Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004. A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he was the first Indian prime minister not of the Indian National Congress to serve a full term in office. He was also noted as a poet and a writer. He was a member of the Indian Parliament for over five decades, having been elected ten times to the Lok Sabha, the lower house, and twice to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house. He served as the Member of Parliament for Lucknow, retiring from active politics in 2009 due to health concerns. He was among the founding members of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), President, Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1968-1973), leader of the Jana Sangh parliamentary party (1955-1977) and a founder-member of the Janata Party (1977-1980), Shri Vajpayee was President, BJP (1980-1986) and the leader of BJP parliamentary party during 1980-1984, 1986 and 1993-1996. He was Leader of the Opposition throughout the term of the 11th Lok Sabha.

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