

Press Release:

Montek Singh Ahluwalia joins CSEP as Distinguished Fellow

New Delhi – The Centre for Social and Economic Progress announced today that Montek Singh Ahluwalia would join the public policy think tank as a Distinguished Fellow from January 2021.

Montek Singh Ahluwalia is an economist, civil servant, and former Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Government of India. He joined the Government of India in 1979 as Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, after which he held a series of positions including Special Secretary to the Prime Minister; Commerce Secretary; Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs; Finance Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Member of the Planning Commission and Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. In 2001, he was appointed as the first Director of the newly created Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Ahluwalia has been a key figure in Indian economic policy. He writes on various aspects of development economics and has been published in prominent Indian and international journals and books. He co-authored *Re-distribution with Growth: An Approach to Policy*, which was a path breaking book on income distribution, published in 1975. In February 2020, he published his book, *Backstage: The Story Behind India's High Growth Years*, an insider's account of policymaking from 1985 to 2014.

For his outstanding contribution to economic policy and public service, he was conferred the prestigious 'Padma Vibhushan' in 2011. Ahluwalia graduated from Delhi University and holds an MA and an MPhil in Economics from Oxford University. "I am delighted to welcome Montek to the CSEP family. We are fortunate to have a group of globally recognised distinguished fellows who will provide guidance and thought leadership and help make CSEP a byword in excellence," said Dr Rakesh Mohan, President, CSEP.

In his time at CSEP, Mr Ahluwalia will mentor the economics research team of CSEP with the objective of establishing it as the premier think tank on specific subject areas related to economic policy. "I look forward to working with CSEP's younger researchers and helping them understand the value of evidence-based, policy-oriented research," said Mr Ahluwalia.