

## **Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal, MP and Founder Chairman of IAPPD**

Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal began his political career as a student. As a student leader, he represented India as the Deputy Leader of a youth delegation to a Soviet Leaders' meeting, which included the then Prime Minister, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev.

During his extensive political journey, he was elected to the Legislative Council of Punjab in 1961. Recognizing his administrative skills, he was appointed as the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs in the Punjab Government. He was later elected to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of the Indian Parliament) for three consecutive terms: 1976–1982, 1982–1988, and 1988–1994 (the third term being a nomination by the President of India). Unfortunately, he passed away in 1992 before completing his final term.

During this period, Shri Mittal developed a keen interest in global population issues. He founded the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) in 1978 and served as its Chairman. Additionally, he held several key positions, including Founder Secretary-General and Vice Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, as well as Secretary-General Emeritus of the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, among other committees and associations.

Shri Mittal was a visionary leader who addressed complex issues related to population, development, and health through political advocacy and mobilization. At a time when political leadership rarely spoke about population issues, he played a pioneering role in bringing these critical discussions to the forefront.

Under the aegis of IAPPD, he single-handedly established a dedicated research center, known as the Sat Paul Mittal Centre, with its own building to facilitate research studies and data collection on population and development-related subjects. Unique in Asia, IAPPD's Centre conducts ideological orientation courses and seminars, engaging parliamentarians and stakeholders across political affiliations.

His contributions and service were widely recognized at both national and international levels. In 1987, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, honored him with the prestigious United Nations Peace Medal for his outstanding work in the field of population and development.

Shri Mittal also organized several national and international conferences, bringing together parliamentary and spiritual leaders. He firmly believed that such leaders could influence communities and support government initiatives, particularly in family planning and population control, thereby accelerating the nation's development.

Generations will gratefully remember his remarkable contributions in providing strategic direction to the parliamentary movement on population and human survival issues. His unwavering commitment to raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of these challenges continues to inspire policymakers and advocates worldwide.