Biography of
Mr. Shekhar Gupta
Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express

Shekhar Gupta is the Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express, a newspaper at the forefront of investigative and public-affairs journalism. He also heads the 78-year-old Express Group which has 13 influential publications and the nation's largest network of award-winning journalists whose work has effected change in several areas, including government policy and legislation.

Credibility and high integrity, in addition to a persistent sense of inquiry, fairness and professionalism are the hallmark of his editorial leadership. In his own writings, as well as under his editorship, Shekhar has helped build the foundation of modern Indian journalism that is fearless, fair and fiercely independent.

Born on August 26, 1957, Shekhar's 34-year record in journalism is one of uncompromising commitment to independence and credibility. He has to his credit some of the most significant newsbreaks in Indian journalism. He joined The Indian Express as a cub reporter at its Chandigarh edition in 1977. Three years later, at just 23, The Indian Express sent him to India's troubled north-east where he covered the then raging insurgencies and civil unrest. As a reporter, and then an editor, with India Today, Shekhar has always brought to readers in India a ringside view of contemporary history: From Operation Bluestar to the Olympic Games in Seoul, the student uprising in Tiananmen Square in Beijing to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the first Gulf War from Baghdad, Jerusalem and Kuwait, the first “jihad” in Afghanistan and the many twists and turns in the troubled 1983-1993 decade in Sri Lanka's Tamil North.

Shekhar uncovered LTTE training camps in India and the truth behind the falsely implicated scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation in a spy scandal. And seven years before the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, he travelled across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Germany, the US and the UK, to report extensively on the threat from pan-national fundamentalism, including its links with Osama bin Laden.

Shekhar's weekly column called National Interest is one of the most credible and influential voices in the media. It is a touchstone for new ideas in politics, governance, society, business and sports and is the subject of a forthcoming book. He also hosts an interview-based programme Walk the Talk on NDTV 24x7, now completing its eighth uninterrupted year.

A regular guest speaker at prestigious forums including the Asia Society, New York, National Defence College, Defense Services Staff College and the World Economic Forum in Davos and its India summits, Shekhar has authored *Assam: A Valley Divided* and *India Redefines Its Role*, published by the Oxford University Press by the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London, where he is a member of the Council. Over the years he has emerged as one of the pre-eminent voices from India on issues ranging from domestic politics and society to security and international affairs.

Shekhar's awards and honours, include the 1984 American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) fellowship at Tufts University and The New York Times; the 1985 Inlaks award for young journalist of the year; the G K Reddy Award for Journalism (1987): the Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Memorial Award for National Integration 2006. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2009. Under his leadership, The Indian Express has won the Vienna-based International Press Institute's Award for Outstanding Journalism in the Public Interest thrice, the first time for its coverage of the Gujarat riots of 2002, the second time for uncovering the Bihar flood relief scam of 2005 and the third time for its sustained investigation into the Malegaon and Modasa blasts of 2008 and the alleged role of Hindu extremist organizations. This is a record unmatched in the media. Shekhar is also a member of the Executive of INS, PTI Board of directors, and Co- Chairs the CII National Council on Media.

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