

Dear Gauri and Kaveri,

I just returned from Lisbon to see Kaveri's message about Gill Sahib's passing. My deepest condolences. This is an immeasurable loss. Even though we philosophically understand the inevitability of these moments, they are never ever easy. I only hope that the strength, grace, empathy and zest for life that have always been a hallmark of your family will stand you in good stead in this difficult moment. I also hope you take some solace from the fact that he was so immensely proud of you, in his own way. In the days when he used to call on and off, he would often talk about you with great pride --- for blazing a path of your own (which sometimes he would sheepishly say he did not fully comprehend!)

I am sorry I cannot be with you on Wednesday, due to a commitment it will be impossible for the organisers to cancel without great inconvenience to many people. But you will all be in our thoughts. Gill Sahab was such an exceptional public servant. I had the great fortune of spending time with him at Harvard where we first met, and all during the CPR years he was a source of my training into the nature of the Indian State. I shall forever remain grateful for his wisdom and his spontaneous affection.

I will call on you, if it is not too much of an imposition, after I return. In the meantime our prayers.

Pratap