DR. GOPALAN: THE INSTITUTION BUILDER
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It was in the sixties when I was introduced to Dr. C. Gopalan in Calcutta by my late wife Kamala Puri Sabharwal. Dr. Gopalan had come to Calcutta to preside over a function organized by the Dietetics Society of India where my wife was deeply involved. Dr. Gopalan is one of the few gifted persons who have outstanding personality and charm, clear expression and thorough all round knowledge and draws people with ease. With untiring work and outstanding contribution in the field of nutrition over seventy years and in setting up and nurturing the Nutrition Foundation of India, Dr. Gopalan has earned a name, which will go down in history.

Dr. Gopalan is recognized as the father of nutrition not only in India but globally. Even today in any major conference anywhere in the world Dr. Gopalan's name invariably figures during discussion of major nutrition problems.

Dr. Gopalan started his research career in Nutrition Research Laboratory at Coonoor, in Tamil Nadu. Within a few years, it shifted to Hyderabad where under Dr. Gopalan's stewardship it grew to become the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). Under Dr. Gopalan's leadership NIN became not only the center for nutrition research in India and for the entire South East Asian countries but also became the base for research in various nutrition related areas like food safety and, nutrition monitoring and surveillance.

After his retirement as Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research, he built up Nutrition Foundation in New Delhi as an institution for nutrition research with focus on nutrition policy research.

I am personally very indebted to Dr. Gopalan for having delivered the first of the Annual Memorial Lectures at Lady Irwin College in memory of my late wife Kamala Puri Sabharwal who was an alumnus of that
college and nutritionist of great promise. Dr. Gopalan has presided over the Memorial Function for nearly 35 years since its inception in 1974. I wish him a long and healthy life and look forward to his continued great contributions to improvement of nutritional status of Indians.