

Navin B. Chawla, Former Chief Election Commissioner, Civil Servant

Navin Chawla is a retired Indian civil servant and writer, who served as 16th Chief Election Commissioner of India. Four phases of the Indian general election to Lok Sabha were executed under his supervision in April and May 2009.

Navin B Chawla joined the prestigious Indian Administrative Service in 1969. He enjoyed a distinguished 35-year civil service career. He rose to the rank of Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. He was then appointed Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs, before taking on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2004. In 2005 he was appointed Election Commissioner. In April 2009, he was appointed an India's 16th Chief Election Commissioner. During his tenure he successfully completed, to national and international acclaim, the General Elections in April-May 2009.

He was privileged to have a 23-year long association with Mother Teresa. Although not of her faith (she a most devoted Catholic, while he is a practising Hindu), she reposed her confidence in him from the time she met him till the very end). He wrote her best-selling biography in 1992. The royalties are largely donated to the Missionaries of Charity or to The Leprosy India Trust that he set up in 2006, to look after leprosy and disability related causes.

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