

## Sonia Gandhi

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Born at the small town of Bassano, near Turin, Italy in 1946, Sonia Maino was sent to Cambridge, UK to study English where in 1965, she met Rajiv Gandhi which resulted in their marriage. It gave her the honor of becoming a part of a great Indian family. Now they started leading a happy life. Rajiv was an Indian Airlines pilot, and he was then far away from politics.

After the death of Sanjay, Rajiv joined Indian politics. Yet Sonia was at the back of it. The circumstances made Rajiv the Prime Minister of India after Indira. Sonia helped Rajiv in his job. Later in 1989 elections, Rajiv was voted out. During the next election campaigns in 1991, he was trying to make a comeback at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, when he was killed so tragically on May 21, 1991. It was really a great shock to the family.

Sonia had to start a new chapter of her life, a life without Rajiv. She has preferred to remain an Indian.

Sonia Gandhi is not only the most popular Indian woman but also she has appeared in the list of the powerful women of a world. The way by which she declined the post of the Prime Minister of India has proved her to be a true Indian. She in the course, became the first ever person to decline the post of the PM and amazed the whole world. As a true politician she claims she was always clear in her mind that she would not accept the post of PM even if it came her way.

She remained outside Congress politics till 1998. However, gradually, after 2 years of Congress primary membership, she was elected the Congress president in 1998. Her record as Congress president in the last ten years is a grand success on one hand and tension on the other. Finally, her party was in position to form her sense of sacrifice.