

## **Mr. Gopal Pillai**



Mr. Gopal Pillai is the Former Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. He studied at Bishop Cotton Boys' School, Bangalore and St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, and later obtained an M.Sc. from IIT, Madras.

He joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1972 and was allotted the Kerala Cadre. In the State Government, he held various positions as District Collector, Special Secretary (Industries), Secretary (Health) and Principal Secretary to the then Chief Minister, AK Antony. At the Centre, Mr. Pillai has had stints in the Ministries of Defence, Surface Transport, Home and Commerce. He also served as Joint Secretary (North-East) in the Ministry of Home Affairs during 1996-2001. As Secretary in the Department of Commerce, during 2004-09, Mr. Pillai was the Chief Negotiator for India at the WTO. He was also instrumental in the enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005 and the setting up of over 140 Special Economic Zones in India. Mr Pillai retired from the Government in June 2011. He is the Chairman of IvyCap Ventures Private Ltd, a Venture capital fund promoted by the IIT Alumni Trust.