

# GREAT INDIANS

of the 20th Century





# Great Indians of the 20th Century

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Organised by Mobius Foundation, New Delhi, India

Edition: March 2024

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ISBN Number : 978-93-340-5741-6

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## **FOREWORD**

We started a wisdom hour every week in Mobius Foundation to make employees aware of Indians who contributed towards building up of what India is today. A prize was awarded for the best presentation on each of the personalities. We picked individuals from all walks of life, Politicians, Artists, Writers, Sportsmen, Scientists and those who contributed in other areas.

This continued for 52 weeks and we decided to publish a book which would be handed out to schools to make children aware of some of the leading personalities of the 20th Century.

I hope this book will serve to enlighten young children about our history and learn more about some citizens who have made a difference to our lives.

I thank all the employees of Mobius Foundation who have contributed for the content.

**Pradip Burman**  
**Chairman**

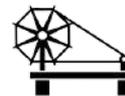


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# MAHATMA GANDHI 'FATHER OF THE NATION'

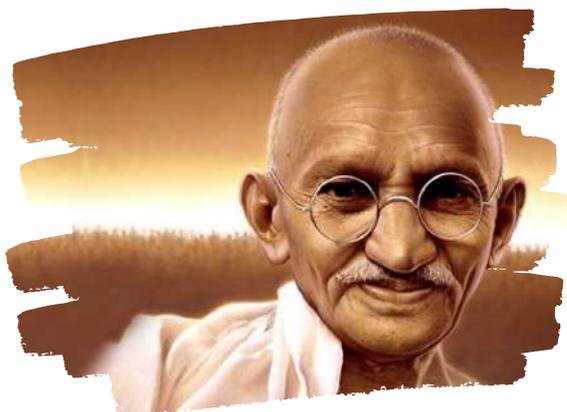
Born: 2nd October, 1869  
Died: 30th January, 1948

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

*M.K. Gandhi*

There are five great contributions that Mahatma Gandhi gave to the world:

- A new spirit and technique - Satyagraha.
- The emphasis that the moral universe is one and that the morals of individuals, groups, and nations must be the same.
- His insistence that the means and the ends must be consistent.
- The fact that he held no ideals he did not embody or was not in the process of embodying.
- A willingness to suffer and die for his principles.



*Munia, Babu, Mahatma, freedom Activist, Environmentalist, Indian Lawyer.*

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a renowned freedom activist known as the "Father of the Nation," was a powerful voice for peace during a very volatile time in India's history. His famous hunger strikes and message of nonviolence helped unite the country. Gandhi's actions sparked global attention and ultimately led to India's independence from the British on August 15, 1947. Albert Einstein once said, "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth." A deceptively simple man, Gandhi overturned the greatest empire the world has ever seen.

Gandhi fought for much more than independence. His causes included civil rights for women, the abolition of the caste system, and the fair treatment of all people





regardless of religion. he referred to the untouchables as Harijans, which means ' children of God.In 1918, Gandhi began a campaign to empower poor villagers to stand up against British rule in India. It was during this time that he became known as Mahatma, which means "Great Soul." In 1930, Gandhi led a 248-mile march to the sea as a protest against a tax on salt. Thousands joined him in making their own salt. Eventually, the British government was forced to negotiate with Gandhi, and they agreed to release political prisoners if he stopped his campaign of non-cooperation. Gandhi's impact and role were indelible in various historical events such as World War I, Champaran agitations, Kheda agitations, Khilafat movement, Non-cooperation, Salt Satyagraha, Round Table Conferences, World War II, Quit India movement, Partition, and Independence.



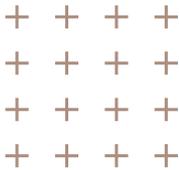
**BELIEFS**

Gandhiji adhered to several beliefs, which included:

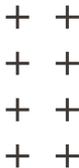
- Non-violence,.
- Truth
- Brahmacharya
- Non-avarice
- Religious harmony
- Fearlessness
- Swadeshi

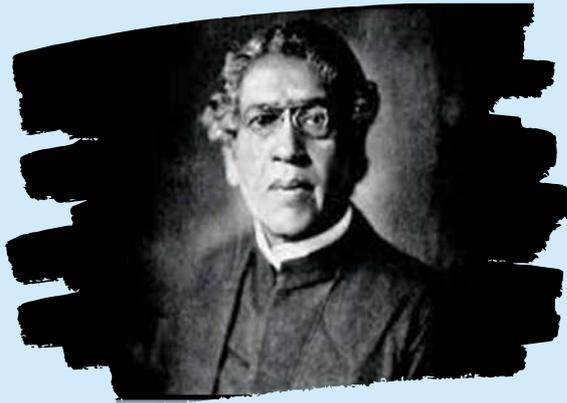
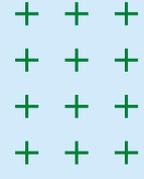
**FACTS**

- Gandhi ji established three football clubs in South Africa, all known as Passive Resisters.
- His birthday, 2 October, is a national holiday in India known as Gandhi Jayanti.
- His image appears on paper currency of all denominations by RBI, except for the one rupee note.
- His date of death, 30 January, is commemorated as Martyrs' Day in India.
- There are 53 major roads (excluding the smaller ones) in India and 48 roads outside India named after him.



“Some men changed their times...One man changed the World for all times”





## SIR J C BOSE 'FATHER OF RADIO SCIENCE'

Born: 30th November, 1858  
Died: 23rd November, 1937

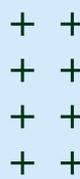
"If there was been any success in my life that was built on the unshakable foundation of failure...".

*Physicist, Biologist, Indian Polymath, Archaeologist, Biophysicist, & writer of science fiction.*

Jagdish Chandra Bose, a multifaceted Indian scientist and inventor, left an indelible mark in various fields, including physics, biology, and communication.

The work and legacy of Jagdish Chandra Bose cannot be categorized in any one discipline. He was a scientist, author of non-fiction, institution builder, and much more. An eminent Indian scientist, Bose was the first to prove that plants and metals also have feelings. He conducted groundbreaking experiments demonstrating that plants are sensitive to heat, cold, light, noise, and various other external stimuli. Bose's remarkable contribution included the invention of the Crescograph, a sophisticated instrument capable of recording and observing the minute responses of plants to external stimulants. Continuing his

Rabindranath Tagore, an avid supporter of Bose's research and discoveries, found in his works an essence of the Indian scientific spirit—a reflection of Indian national culture, pride, and heritage. In a poem dedicated to Bose, published in Kalpana, Tagore expressed his admiration: *"From the Temple of Science in the West, far across the Indus, oh, my friend, you have brought the garland of victory, decorated the humbled head of the poor Mother ... Today, the mother has sent blessings in words of tears, of this unknown poet. Amidst the great Scholars of the West, brother, these words will reach only your ears."*





scientific endeavors, Bose ventured into the realm of radio waves. Starting in 1894, he conducted pioneering experiments on Hertzian waves in India and successfully created the shortest radio waves measuring 5mm.

His scientific paper on the polarization of electric rays by double reflecting crystals was presented before the Asiatic Society of Bengal in May 1895 and later published by the Royal Society of London in 1896. Bose's contributions were acknowledged globally when he met Guglielmo Marconi, who was also working on wireless signaling experiments. In 1899, Bose developed the "iron-mercury-iron coherer" with a telephone detector, which he presented at the Royal Society. Remarkably, Bose never sought a patent for this invention.

## RECOGNITION

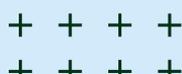
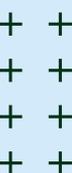
- Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) – 1903 .
- Companion of the Order of the Star of India (CSI) – 1912
- Knight Bachelor in 1917.
- Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS, 1920)
- The J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, named in his honour.
- In 2004, Bose was ranked number 7 in BBC's poll of the Greatest Bengali of all time.

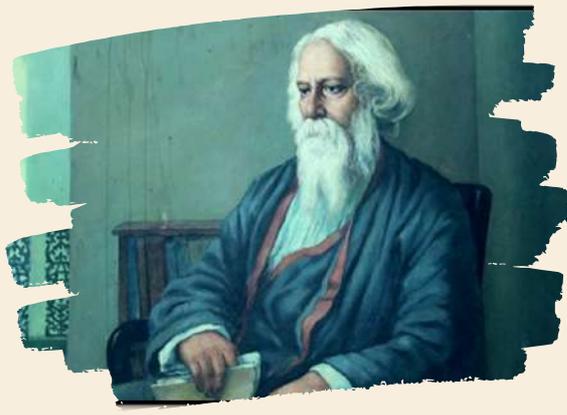


## FACTS

- He can rightly be called the inventor of wireless telegraphy. In 1896, Guglielmo Marconi secured his first patent on wireless telegraphy. But one year before that, Bose had first demonstrated its functioning in public, in 1895.
- On Moon, a crater has been named after Jagdish Chandra Bose in his honor. The crater is known as Bose Crater. It is 91 kilometers wide and is located on far side of the Moon.
- Bose was not just a brilliant scientist. He was also a great and one of the most influential teachers of all time

Jagdish Chandra Bose's contributions not only revolutionized scientific understanding but also inspired generations of researchers and innovators.





# RABINDRANATH TAGORE

## 'FIRST INDIAN NOBEL PRIZE WINNER'

Born: 7th May, 1861  
Died: 7th August, 1941

"Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it..."

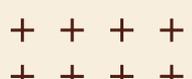
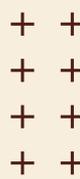
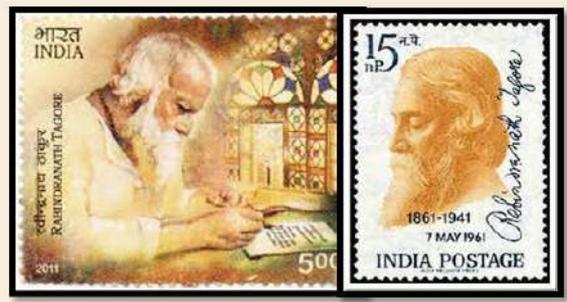
*Kabiguru, Poet, Short-story writer, Lyricist, Novelist, Playwright, Essayist, Philosopher, aesthetician, music composer, choreographer & Painter*



Rabindranath Tagore, known as Kabiguru, was a polymath and the first Indian to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He left an indelible mark in the fields of poetry, literature, music, and art. Tagore's profound thoughts and creative expressions continue to inspire and resonate with people across generations and cultures.

Born as the youngest of 13 children in a family deeply rooted in Hindu philosophy, Tagore's upbringing shaped his intellectual and artistic sensibilities. At a young age, he embarked on a journey across India with his father, where he immersed himself in the works of renowned writers. These experiences kindled his poetic spirit, leading to the composition of celebrated poems such as "Nirjharer Swapnabhanga" in

Tagore utilized his Nobel Prize money to establish the "Visva-Bharati" school in Shantiniketan. This institution, following the Shantiniketan Education System, nurtured numerous notable personalities, including Amartya Sen, Satyajit Ray, and Indira Gandhi. Tagore's artistic genius also extended to music, where he composed 2,230 songs known as "Rabindra Sangeeth." His compositions, often referred to as Gurudev's musical legacy, inspired three national anthems: "Amar Shonar Bangla" (Bangladesh), "Sri Lanka Matha" (Sri Lanka), and "Jana Gana Mana" (India).





1882. Tagore's poems, stories, songs, and novels provide an insight into the society rife with religious and social tenets and infested with ill-practices, such as child marriage. He also condemned the idea of a patriarchal society.

Among Tagore's vast literary achievements, his collection of poems titled "Gitanjali" stands as a pinnacle of poetic expression. Comprising 157 poems in the traditional Bengali dialect, "Gitanjali" explores themes of nature, spirituality, and the intricacies of human emotions and pathos. Furthermore, Tagore's artistic talent extended to painting, with over 2,000 images created between 1928 and 1940. His unique color schemes and aesthetics revealed his unconventional approach and the realization that he was red-green color blind.

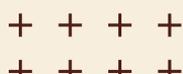
## RECOGNITION

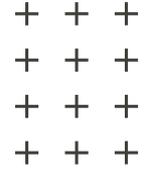
- 1913 : Nobel Prize in Literature
- 1915 : Knighthood by the British Crown in 1915 (renounced after the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre)
- Also referred to as Gurudev, Kabiguru, and Biswakabi

## FACTS

- Tagore's emergence as a painter began at the age of 67, during which he created more than 2,000 paintings without giving them titles.
- His unconventional use of colors reflected his red-green color blindness.
- Tagore composed nearly 2,230 songs known as "Rabindrasangit," deeply influenced by the thumri style of Hindustani music.
- In 1901, Tagore moved to Santiniketan, where he founded "The Mandir," an experimental school surrounded by trees, gardens, and a library.

Rabindranath Tagore's profound literary and artistic contributions have transcended borders, influencing generations of writers and artists worldwide.





# SIR. M VISVESVARAYA 'THE FATHER OF ENGINEERING'

Born: 15th September, 1861  
Died: 14th April, 1962

*"To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money"*

*M. Visvesvaraya*

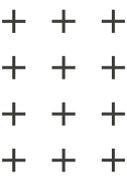
*Eminent Engineer, Statesman, Scholar, Father of modern Mysore state*

Sir M Visvesvaraya, often regarded as the "Father of Engineering," was an exceptional engineer, statesman, and scholar. His groundbreaking contributions and visionary leadership played a pivotal role in shaping modern India. Known for his unwavering dedication to public service, Visvesvaraya believed in the value of adding intangible qualities beyond monetary measures in order to provide true service to society.

Considered one of India's foremost nation builders, Sir M Visvesvaraya's innovative engineering solutions laid the foundation for the country's progress. He invented the Block System for dams, introducing automated doors that would shut during overflow, ensuring safety and preventing disasters. One of his most remarkable achievements was the

Visvesvaraya's commitment to education led to the founding of the Government Engineering College in Bangalore in 1917, which was later renamed the Visvesvaraya College of Engineering in his honor. Recognizing his immense contributions to society, Visvesvaraya was knighted as the Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE) by the British in 1915. Throughout his life, he exemplified discipline, efficient time management, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge through extensive reading, writing books, attending seminars, and delivering speeches on various subjects. Despite being a man of few words, his actions spoke volumes.





construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Lake and dam in 1924. This monumental project not only provided vital irrigation water to the surrounding areas but also served as a significant source of drinking water for multiple cities.

In 1909, as a Special Consulting Engineer, he supervised engineering works in Hyderabad, mitigating the risk of floods. Countless stories attest to the impeccable honesty, integrity, and character of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. His unwavering dedication to the nation and his pivotal role in numerous engineering projects make him a true visionary and a man of action. A dreamer and a thinker, he constantly looked to the future and dedicated his life to turning his dreams into reality, not for personal gain but for the betterment of India and its people.

## RECOGNITION

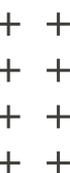
- 1955: Bharat Ratna for his relentless work in the fields of engineering and education.
- Recipient of several honorary doctoral degrees from eight universities in India.
- Engineers Day celebrated on September 15 in his loving memory.
- 1912 : Dewan of Mysore for six years.

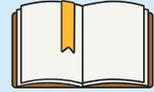
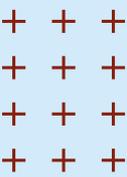


## FACTS

- Sir M Visvesvaraya valued cleanliness and maintained impeccable attire even in his later years.
- Noteworthy contributions in the field of engineering include the Krishnarajasagara dam across the Kaveri river, the Bangalore-Mysore railroad, the Shrivasthi Hydro-electric project at Jog falls near Shimoga, the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant at Bhadravati, automated flood gates, and the Bhatkal harbour.

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya's legacy extends beyond his role as a civil engineer, statesman, and the 19th Diwan of Mysore. His profound impact on engineering, education, and nation-building continues to inspire generations. He remains an embodiment of integrity, vision, and unwavering dedication to public service.





## SWAMI VIVEKANAND 'AN ABIDING INSPIRATION'

Born: 12th January, 1863  
Died: 4th July, 1902

"Take up one idea, make that one idea your life, think of it, dream of it, let the brain, muscle, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success."

*Swami Vivekananda*

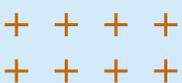
Beyond his spiritual pursuits, Swami Vivekananda possessed an insatiable thirst for knowledge. During his time in the United States, he demonstrated his intellectual prowess by borrowing an astonishing number of books from libraries. His claim to have studied them all in-depth was put to the test by a librarian who quizzed him on a random page of one of the books. Vivekananda's instant and accurate responses, including quoting passages, left the librarian astounded and attested to his profound erudition.

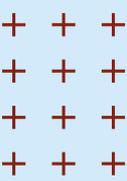


*Prolific thinker, Great Orator, Passionate patriot, Shruti Dhar and student of Philosophy, History, Art and Literature.*

Narendranath Datta, famously known as Swami Vivekananda, remains an iconic figure in India's spiritual and social history. As a Hindu monk and an influential spiritual leader, he not only preserved the profound teachings of his guru, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, but also ushered them into a new era of enlightenment. Vivekananda was a tireless servant of society, dedicating his life to uplifting the poor and needy and leaving an indelible mark on the Indian landscape. Through his efforts, he played a pivotal role in the resurgence of Hindu spiritualism and elevated Hinduism to global recognition.

Vivekananda for whom free India's first Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote "rooted in the past, full of





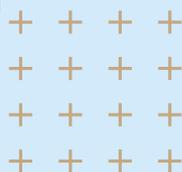
pride in India’s prestige, Vivekananda was yet modern in his approach of life’s problems, and was a kind of bridge between the past of India and her present ... he came as a tonic to the depressed and demoralized Hindu mind and gave it self-reliance and some roots in the past”.

His momentous address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, which began with the words, "My brothers and sisters of America," was a watershed moment . It introduced Hinduism and the spiritual wisdom of India to the Western world and marked the initiation of his mission to promote interfaith dialogue and global harmony. His speech was met with a standing ovation, earning accolades from both the audience and the American media.



## RECOGNITION

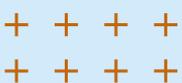
- Continues to be an enduring source of inspiration, earning the title of a youth icon.
- Referred to as the "Prince among men" by Western admirers.
- Epitomized the principles he taught, leading by example and living a life true to his philosophy.
- His letters are considered of great literary and spiritual value



## FACTS

- He was a gifted singer and poet, known for composing songs, including "Kali, the Mother."
- Despite his ascetic lifestyle, he had a passion for cooking and a fondness for tea. Surprisingly, he was not a vegetarian.
- Demonstrated unconditional love for his guru and his motherland.

Swami Vivekananda: A timeless visionary who shaped the modern world.

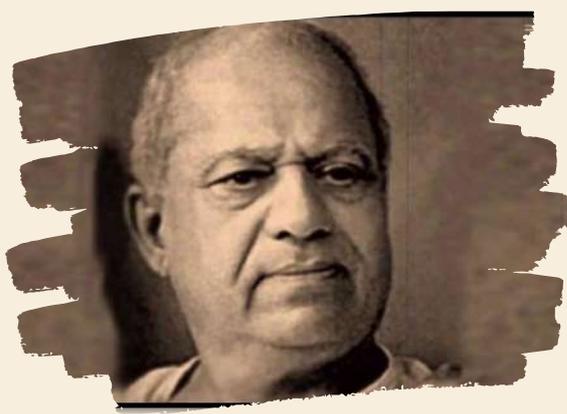




# DADASAHEB PHALKE 'FATHER OF INDIAN CINEMA'

Born: 30th April, 1870  
Died: 16th February, 1944

"I have to keep making films in my country so that it gets established as an industry at home."

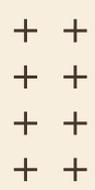
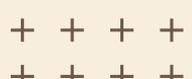
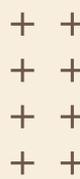


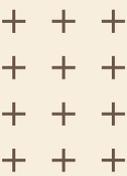
*Indian producer, Director, Screen writer, specialized in lithography and oleograph.*

Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, widely known as Dadasaheb Phalke, is the visionary who introduced the people of India to the mesmerizing world of cinema, laying the foundation for one of the largest entertainment industries globally. With a career spanning over two decades, he created a remarkable 121 movies, including 26 short films.

Phalke initially began his career as a small-town photographer in Godhra. However, after the tragic loss of his first wife and child during a bubonic plague outbreak, he left photography behind. He encountered a turning point when he accidentally watched the film "The Life of Christ." Despite people's fear of live pictures, Phalke became captivated by the movie, even to the extent of temporarily losing his vision from watching it continuously

As time progressed, Phalke faced the very challenge he had championed—the relentless march of technology. With the advent of sound in movies, he struggled to adapt, and the image explosion rendered him inert and paralyzed. The medium he had fathered haunted him, leaving him mute and fleeing into fragmented memories of his pre-cinema days with magic lanterns. Unaware of the tragedy in their father's life, his children were excited by the promise of the future and enthralled by the adventures of the new silver screen god.





day and night. Motivated by this experience, he set up a studio in his own house. Phalke assembled his entire crew, lived, worked, and even provided them with food in his own house. In 1913, he released India's first silent film, "Raja Harishchandra," a monumental milestone in Indian cinematic history. In 1914, his film "Bhamasur Mohini" introduced the first female actor in a leading role. In 1920, he wrote a play called "Rangbhoomi." Despite offers to work abroad, such as from Hepworth, Phalke declined and remained dedicated to making films in India. In 1938, he produced his last film, "Gangavtaran," which became the only talking movie directed by Phalke.

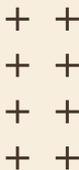
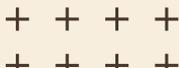
**RECOGNITION**

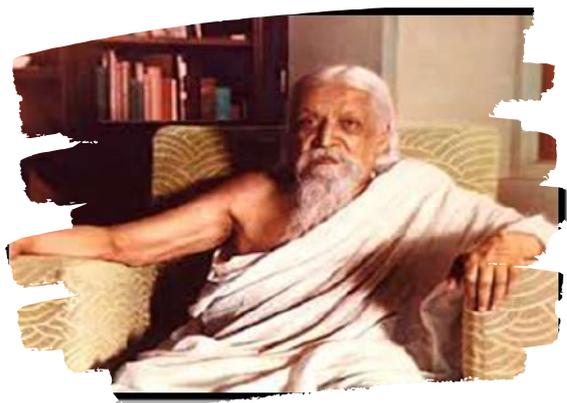
**FACTS**

- Dadasaheb Phalke Award: Commemorates Phalke's significant contributions to contemporary Indian cinema since 1969.
- In 1971, India Post released a postage stamp bearing Phalke's face to honor his legacy.
- The 2009 Marathi movie "Harishchandrachi Factory," depicting the struggles of Dadasaheb while making India's first feature film, was selected for the Oscars.
- On April 30, 2018, Google honored the illustrious pioneer of Indian cinema on the occasion of his 148th birth anniversary.

- Phalke's unconventional attempts and passion for cinema led his family and friends to consider him mad or crazy. There were concerns that he might even be arrested by the British rulers for his unusual endeavors.
- He named his business as a "Factory" to facilitate acceptance within society.
- Phalke trained his wife to handle the camera and editing to make him concentrate on other activities of film making.
- Devika Rani a first lady of Indian Cinema was the first recipient of Dadasaheb Phalke award

In our country where cinema is considered a Religion, Dadasaheb Phalke is the God who created life on Screen.





# SRI AUROBINDO

## 'THE REVOLUTIONARY RISHI'



Born: 15th August, 1872  
Died: 5th December, 1950

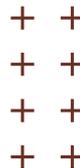
"In order to see, you have to stop being in the middle of the picture"

*A staunch nationalist who turned into a philosopher, Yogi, Poet, Scholar, Philosopher, Spiritual Master.*

Aurobindo Ghose, a prominent scholar of Indian origin, was not only dedicated to India's freedom from British rule but actively participated in the Indian National Movement. Later in his life, he underwent a profound transformation and devoted himself to spiritual evolution, ultimately becoming a revered spiritual leader. Having mastered Greek, French, and Latin under the guidance of Drewett, Aurobindo became a polyglot scholar.

During his twelve-year tenure as a teacher and secretary to the Maharaja of Gaekwad, he witnessed the detrimental effects of British rule on the country. Subsequently, he began writing for the newspaper "Indu Prakash." The editors, fearing repercussions, urged him to shift his focus from politics to cultural topics. In 1907, he

In Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo established an ashram called Auroville in 1926. Here, he emerged as a prominent spiritual philosopher, poet, and spiritual master. The ashram deviated from the traditional Guru-disciple model and encouraged freedom in sadhana (spiritual practice) without obligatory practices, rituals, or compulsory meditations. Auroville has become a national symbol and exemplifies India's commitment to world peace, harmony, and the oneness of life.





started a newspaper called "Bande Mataram" and published transformation, transitioning from an extremist political ideology to a spiritual path. "Karmayogin" in English and "Dharma" in Bengali. Eventually, Aurobindo migrated to Pondicherry.

Aurobindo underwent a profound transformation, transitioning from an extremist politician ideology to a spiritual path. He envisioned a future with five core aspects: the realization of a free and independent India, the resurgence of Asia, the establishment of a world union, the spiritual gift of India to the world, and a step in human evolution toward higher consciousness.

## RECOGNITION

- Sri Aurobindo was nominated twice for the Nobel prize without it being awarded, in 1943 for the Nobel award in Literature and in 1950 for the Nobel award in Peace.
- Sri Aurobindo was twice nominated for the Nobel Prize for his contributions to spirituality and philosophical literature.

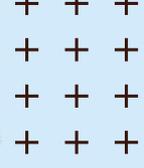


## FACTS

- Sri Aurobindo composed the epic poem "Savitri," consisting of over 24,000 lines and spanning 724 pages.
- His main literary works include "The Life Divine," which explores the theoretical aspects of Integral Yoga, and "Synthesis of Yoga," which provides practical guidance on Integral Yoga.
- He introduced a new path of spirituality known as "integral yoga."

Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, who propagated a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution, remains an influential figure in the realms of nationalism, philosophy, and spirituality.





# SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

## 'IRON MAN OF INDIA'

Born: 31st October, 1875  
Died: 15th December, 1950

"The negligence of a few could easily send a ship to the bottom, but if it has the whole-hearted cooperation of all on board it can be safely brought to port."

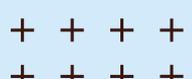
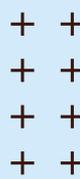
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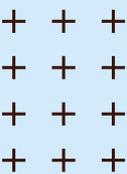
*Indian Barrister, Politician, Unifier of India, Patron Saint & Bismark of India.*

Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, known as the 'Iron Man' of India, played a crucial role in India's independence struggle and the integration of over 500 princely states into the Union of India. He successfully dealt with leaders like the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Nawab of Junagarh, who initially resisted joining India.

In 1946, during the Congress elections, 13 out of 16 states chose Sardar Patel as their president. He was widely popular and could have become the first Prime Minister of independent India, but at Gandhi's request, he stepped aside, allowing Jawaharlal Nehru to assume the role. Many experts believe that the trajectory of independent India would have been significantly different had Sardar Patel become the Prime Minister instead of Nehru. Patel played a major

In 1928, Patel led a successful agitation of the Zamindars of Bardoli against increased taxes. As a result of his effective leadership, the women of Bardoli bestowed upon him the title of "Sardar," meaning "Leader." He also served as the sanitation commissioner of Ahmedabad in 1917 and was elected as the Municipal President in 1922, 1924, and 1927. Under his leadership, Ahmedabad witnessed improvements in electricity supply and educational reforms.

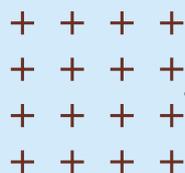




role in the creation of the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), which replaced the Indian Civil Services Code (ICS) established by the British for their own interests. This earned him the title of 'Patron Saint' for his efforts in establishing modern All India Services. When Pakistan initiated the invasion of Kashmir in 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru struggled to make decisive decisions. It was Sardar Patel's intervention that facilitated the timely deployment of the Indian Army, which successfully repelled the invaders. Despite his personal affinity for Western clothing and fashion, Patel's devotion to Gandhi led him to burn all his English-style clothes and adopt khadi (homespun cloth) completely. Gandhi once remarked that without Vallabhbhai by his side, Satyagraha (nonviolent resistance) would not have been successful. Patel's rare combination of rebelliousness and political acumen contributed to his success.

## RECOGNITION

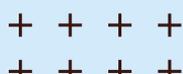
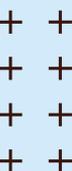
- He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1991.
- The "Statue of Unity," dedicated to him, is situated in the Narmada district of Gujarat. Standing at a height of 597 feet (182 meters), it is currently the tallest statue in the world.
- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is celebrated on October 31st, his birthday.
- The airport in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is named after him.



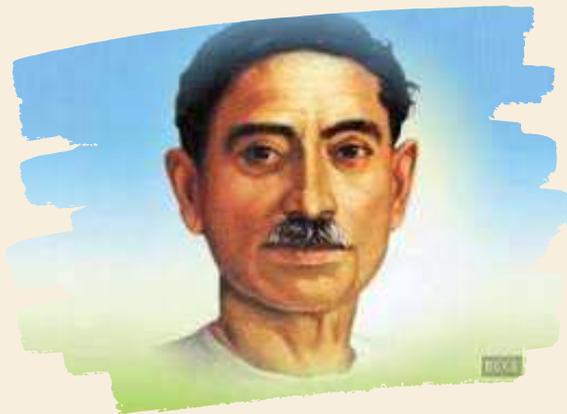
## FACTS

- Patel completed his 36-month barrister course in just 30 months, emerging as one of the most successful barristers in the country at the age of 36.
- Upon receiving the news of his wife's death, who was suffering from cancer, he finished cross-examining his witness in the courtroom, won the case, and then mourned.
- Vallabhbhai Patel sacrificed his opportunity to study in England and sent his brother Vithalbai Patel in his place.
- He joined the freedom struggle at the age of 42.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect, builder, and consolidator of the new India, left an indelible mark as a stalwart leader, unifier, and visionary.



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# MUNSHI PREM CHAND



'कलम का जादूगर'

Born: 31st July, 1880  
Died: 8th October, 1936

"अपनी भूल अपने ही हाथों से सुधर जाए तो यह उससे कहीं अच्छा है कि कोई दूसरा उसे सुधारे।"

*Dhanpad Rai Srivastav,  
Nawab Rai, Upanyas Samrat  
(Emperor among Novelists),  
Father of Hindi fiction*

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Dhanpat Rai Srivastava, popularly known as Munshi Premchand, glorified the Hindi language through his influential writings. He transformed the language and gave it a modern form, making significant contributions to Hindi literature.

Premchand's literary career began with the publication of his first story, "Sansar ka Sabse Anmol Ratna" (The Most Invaluable Gem of the World), in Jamana in 1901. He wrote his first book on the life of his uncle, but it was never published. His first short novel, "Asrar-e-Ma'abid" ("Secrets of God's Abode," titled "Devasthan Rahasya" in Hindi), shed light on corruption among temple priests and their exploitation of poor women. Premchand is regarded as the first Indian Hindi novelist to depict real-

novels and short stories, including "Kaya Kalpa," "Nirmala," "Pratigya," "Seva Sadan," "Premashram," "Rang Bhumi," "Karma Bhumi," and "Mansarover," which spans eight volumes. In 1906, Premchand remarried a child widow named Shivarani Devi, who was the daughter of a landlord from a village near Fatehpur. This step was considered revolutionary at the time, and Premchand faced social opposition. After his death, Shivarani Devi wrote a book about him titled "Premchand Ghar Mein" (Premchand at Home).



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life experiences in his work. One of his notable works, "Godan" (The Gift of a Cow), was published by Premchand himself through his press called 'Sarawati Press.' It explores socio-economic deprivation and the exploitation faced by the rural poor. Throughout his three-decade-long literary career, Premchand authored numerous In one of his interviews, Premchand stated, "We will have to raise the standard of our literature so that it can serve the society more effectively... Our literature will discuss and assess every aspect of life, and we will no longer be satisfied with consuming the leftovers of other languages and literatures. We will ourselves increase the wealth of our literature."

### **RECOGNITION**

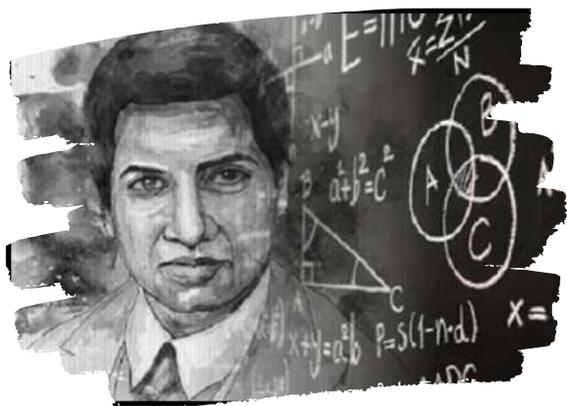
### **FACTS**

- 1936 : Munshi Premchand became the first president of the Progressive Writers' Association in Lucknow.
- On October 8, 2019, a postage stamp was issued in memory of Munshi Premchand.
- His novel "Godan" is considered one of the greatest Hindi novels of modern Indian literature.
- The book was later translated into English and adapted into a Hindi film in 1963.

- Munshi Premchand's first job was as a sales boy in a bookshop, where he eagerly seized the opportunity to read as many books as possible.
- As a true patriot, he quit his government job as part of the non-cooperation movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi, even though he had significant responsibilities for his growing family.
- A document from Benaras Bank shows that just 14 days before his death, Premchand had Rs. 4,471 in his account, demonstrating that he was not poor but rather a middle-class individual who consistently fought for his own upliftment.

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Munshi Premchand, through his powerful writings, he left an indelible mark on Hindi literature and continues to be celebrated as a literary icon.



# RAMANUJAN

**'LEADING MATHEMATICIAN'**

Born: 22nd December, 1887  
Died: 26th April, 1920

"An equation means nothing to me unless it expresses a thought of God."

*S. Ramanujan*

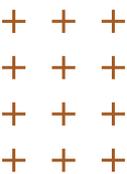
*Mathematic Genius, mathematical wizard.*

Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan, widely known as Ramanujan, was a mathematical genius and a wizard in the field of mathematics. Despite having no formal training in mathematics, he made extraordinary contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions. He possessed an exceptional talent for trigonometry at the age of 12 and discovered theorems of his own. Ramanujan lived for only 32 years but left behind approximately 4000 formulae and theorems that continue to remain unfathomable even in the present age of supercomputers.

Ramanujan independently compiled nearly 3900 results, recording his work in four notebooks of loose-leaf paper. His results were often written without derivation. One of his most remarkable findings was

Ramanujan's personal life was as mysterious as his theorems and formulae. He was invited to England by renowned mathematicians G.H. Hardy and J.E. Littlewood to further develop his work. Hardy and Ramanujan had contrasting personalities, with Hardy being an atheist who believed in mathematical proof and analysis, while Ramanujan was deeply religious and trusted his intuitive abilities. Ramanujan's final writings, theories, and developments are credited for the significant advancements made in 20th-century mathematics.





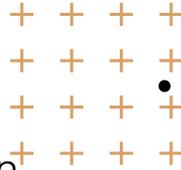
his infinite series for pi, which forms the basis of algorithms used today. G H Hardy was highly impressed by Ramanujan's work, stating that the solutions were "arrived at by a process of mingled argument, intuition, and induction, of which he was entirely unable to give any coherent account. "Ramanujan became the first elected mathematician from India to the London Mathematical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society. However, his health deteriorated in England due to the lack of vegetarian meals, neglecting food while being engrossed in calculations , and the cold and damp climate. Diagnosed with tuberculosis and vitamin deficiency, Ramanujan returned to India in 1919 and passed away soon after at the age of 32.

## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

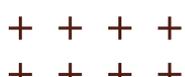


- National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year on December 22nd across the nation to recognize and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The government released a stamp in Ramanujan's honor in 1962.
- December 22nd is celebrated as Ramanujan Day at the Government Arts College in Kumbakonam.
- Ramanujan was youngest Fellow of the Royal Society London and the second Indian admitted, after Ardaseer Cursetjee in 1841.
- He was awarded a BA degree by research (later called a PhD) in March 1916.



- A play titled "First Class Man" revolves around Ramanujan's life.
- The biography "The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan" by Robert Kanigel is dedicated to him.
- "A Disappearing Number," a show by British Stage Production, depicts Ramanujan and Hardy's relationship.
- There is a museum in Chennai dedicated to telling Ramanujan's life story, showcasing photographs of his home, family, and letters exchanged with friends and relatives.

His extraordinary genius and the profound impact of his work continue to inspire mathematicians and mathematic enthusiasts worldwide.





# DR. SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN 'PHILOSOPHER'



Born: 5th September, 1888  
Died: 17th April, 1975

"A life of joy and happiness is possible only on the basis of knowledge and science"

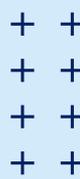
*S. Radhakrishnan*

*Academician, Diplomat, Spiritual leader, & Great thinker.*

Dr. Radhakrishnan's role as the first vice president of India and chairman of Rajya Sabha involved being the custodian of the house where MPs embarked on their historic tasks. He successfully shaped the functioning of Rajya Sabha during his tenure, fulfilling the expectations placed upon him.

Prior to his political career, Dr. Radhakrishnan served as the vice chancellor of Banaras Hindu University and later became the chairman of the University Education Commission in 1948. He authored the commission's report in 1949, providing a roadmap for university education in newly independent India. Globally acclaimed for his philosophical work, he introduced the teachings of Western idealist philosophers to India. With a deep understanding of Hindu

During a meeting with Stalin in Russia, Dr. Radhakrishnan mentioned Emperor Ashoka, who, after conquering Kalinga, realized the futility of war and renounced it to become a hermit. He told Stalin, "You have also gained victory through strength. Who knows, something like this might happen to you as well." Upon his departure from Russia, Stalin personally came to the airport to bid farewell. Dr. Radhakrishnan patted Stalin's cheek, which moved Stalin to tears, as it was the first time someone had treated him like a human being rather than a monster.





philosophy, including the Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, Brahma Sutra and commentaries by Shankara, Ramanuja, Madhava, he also possessed knowledge of Buddhist and Jain philosophies, as well as the thoughts of Western thinkers such as Plato, Plotinus, and Bergson. Dr. Radhakrishnan's philosophy bridged the gap between Indian spiritualism and Western democracy, providing legitimacy to democracy among millions of Indians who might have otherwise struggled with the individualistic system. He consistently defended Hindu culture against uninformed Western criticism, symbolizing the pride Indians felt in their own intellectual traditions.

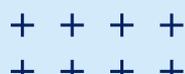
## RECOGNITION

- Knighted by King George V for his contributions to education in 1931.
- Awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1954.
- Received the German "Order pour le Merite for Arts and Science" in 1954.
- Awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in 1961.
- Honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963.
- Received the Templeton Prize for promoting the notion of a "universal reality of God that embraced love and wisdom for all people."

## FACTS

- After being knighted by George V in 1931, he chose to use his academic title of "Doctor" after India gained independence.
- Dr. Radhakrishnan founded Help Age India, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting underprivileged elderly people.
- During his presidency, he accepted only Rs. 2500 out of his Rs. 10,000 monthly salary, donating the remaining amount to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a renowned teacher from Mysore University and a beloved mentor throughout India, is the inspiration behind the celebration of Teachers' Day, a day dedicated to honoring educators for their invaluable contributions to society.





*Barrister, statesmen and a key figure in the Indian independence movement, author, and humanist & Chacha Nehru.*

Jawaharlal Nehru is widely regarded as the architect of modern India, having played a pivotal role in the nation's journey to becoming a sovereign democratic republic. His pre-independence efforts were dedicated to the cause of Indian independence, and following India's independence in 1947, he assumed the role of Prime Minister, a position he held until his passing in 1964. Nehru's leadership was instrumental in steering India through turbulent times marked by communal tensions and political disorder, while also fostering a period of remarkable social and infrastructural development. Under Nehru's stewardship, the Election Commission of India was established on 25th January 1950, in accordance with the newly adopted Indian

# JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

**'THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA'**



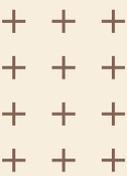
Born: 14th November, 1889  
Died: 27th May, 1964

"Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels and what one achieves"

*Jawaharlal Nehru*

Nehru's visionary approach to foreign policy had a profound impact on the region's stability. On 29th April 1954, he and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai signed the Panchsheel Treaty, which aimed to bring stability to a region ravaged by wars for independence, mass migrations, and religious conflicts. The treaty's five principles—mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference, equality, and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence—served as a framework for peaceful coexistence and diplomatic relations.

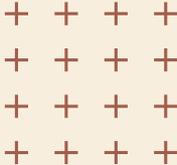




Constitution. This independent constitutional authority was entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the electoral processes in the country, laying the foundation for India's democratic framework. Nehru's tenure as Prime Minister also witnessed a significant expansion of educational and technical institutions in India. His government played a pivotal role in establishing prestigious institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), laying the groundwork for excellence in various fields. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's influence extended to shaping India's foreign policy, a role that was formerly managed under the Imperial government as the 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.'

## RECOGNITION

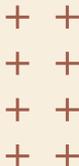
- On July 15th, 1955, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, was conferred with the Bharat Ratna.
- Jawaharlal Nehru was nominated for the Nobel Prize 11 times between 1950 and 1955, primarily for his peace efforts, though he never secured the award.
- His inaugural speech as the first Prime Minister of independent India, titled 'Tryst with Destiny,' is considered one of the greatest speeches of the 20th century.



## FACTS

- Nehru's birthday is celebrated as Children's Day throughout India in his honor.
- He popularized kite flying by promoting high-quality Indian kites.
- His grandfather, Gangadhar Pandit, served as the last Kotwal of Delhi.
- Jawaharlal Nehru attached a fresh red rose to his coat daily as a tribute to his life with his wife, Mrs. Kamala Nehru.
- Nehru spent a total of 3,259 days in imprisonment during the freedom struggle.

During his 17-year tenure as Prime Minister, Nehru staunchly championed democratic socialism, firmly believing that India had to concurrently attain democracy and socialism.



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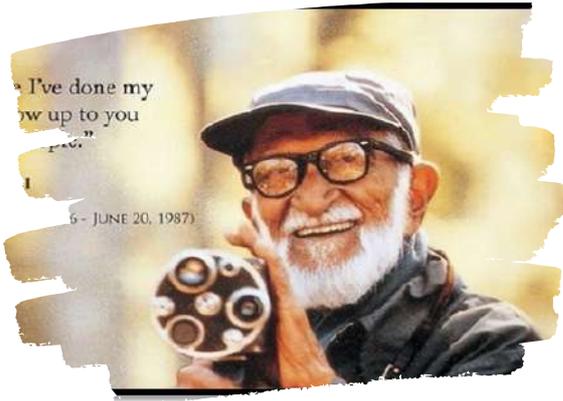


## DR. SALIM ALI 'THE BIRDMAN OF INDIA'

Born: 12th November, 1896  
Died: 20th June, 1987

"The man with no imagination  
has no wings."

*Salim Ali*



### *Indian Ornithologist and Naturalist.*

Salim Ali, a visionary figure in Indian ornithology, stands as a testament to the transformative power of a passionate curiosity. He not only pioneered systematic bird surveys across India but also penned a series of influential bird books that played a pivotal role in popularizing the study of avian life in the country. Orphaned at a tender age, he was nurtured by a maternal uncle whose passion for nature and hunting unknowingly ignited a spark within young Salim.

At the age of ten, a life-changing event occurred when Salim Ali aimed his gun at a yellow-throated sparrow. This act, seemingly trivial, served as the catalyst for his lifelong fascination with birds. His uncle, recognizing the boy's burgeoning interest, introduced him to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). There, in the

Salim Ali played a pivotal role in establishing the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (Keoladeo National Park) and safeguarding the Silent Valley National Park from destruction. The Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, nestled along the Mandovi River, is an ornithological haven boasting over 473 bird species and rare animals in dense mangrove vegetation. Recognized as a national park by the Forest Department of Goa in 1988, it stands as a testament to his conservation efforts.

Despite his fame, Salim Ali retained the ever-curious spirit of his 10-year-old self, his passion for birds undiminished.



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hallowed halls of the BNHS, the secretary unveiled the entire collection of stuffed birds, a gesture that would set in motion an extraordinary journey leading him to become one of the world's most distinguished ornithologists.

An accomplished author, Salim Ali's 'The Book of Indian Birds' remains a landmark in Indian ornithology, inspiring a deep interest in the nation's avian species. His magnum opus, 'Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan,' co-authored with S. Dillon Ripley, comprehensively covered the subcontinent's birds, detailing their appearance, habitat, breeding habits, and migration.

### RECOGNITION

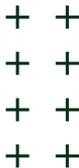
- Padma Bhushan in 1958
- Padma Vibhushan in 1976
- Gold Medal of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1967, making him the first non-British citizen to receive this honor
- Honorary doctorates from Aligarh Muslim University (1958), the University of Delhi (1973), and Andhra University (1978)



### FACTS

- Salim Ali had a lifelong fascination with motorcycles and owned various models, including Sunbeam, Harley Davidson, Douglas, Scott, New Hudson, and Zenith.
- He collaborated with Sidney Dillon Ripley on the ten-volume 'Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan,' a landmark work in ornithology, with the second edition completed posthumously.
- A rare megabat species, *Latidens salimalii*, first collected in 1948, was named in his honor. In 2016, the Himalayan Forest Thrush was also named after him: *Zoothera salimali*.

Salim Ali was a prominent environmental advocate dedicated to wildlife conservation, particularly in the field of ornithology.





# K M CARIAPPA 'FIELD MARSHAL'



Born: 28th January, 1900  
Died: 15th May, 1993

*"An Indian and to the last breath would remain an Indian. To me, there are only two stans - Hindustan (India) and Fujistan (the Army)"*

*M. Cariappa*

## Commander in Chief, Field Marshal, Kipper

Kodandera M Cariappa, a man of many "firsts," is most prominently recognized as the individual who assumed command of the Indian Army, succeeding its last British Commander in Chief, General Sir Roy Bucher. His illustrious career in the military marked numerous groundbreaking achievements.

Commissioned under the King's Commission in 1919 as part of the inaugural group of Indian cadets, he achieved another significant milestone in 1933 when he became the first Indian officer to enroll in Staff College, Quetta. In 1942, he raised the 7th Rajput Machine Gun Battalion, which is now known as the 17 Rajput. During the Indo-Pak War of 1947, General Cariappa led Indian forces on the Western Front and played a crucial role during the tumultuous period of partition, facilitating an amicable division of the army between India and Pakistan.

The 1965 war brought a personal trial for General Cariappa when his son, Nanda, was shot down over Pakistan and taken as a prisoner of war (POW). Upon learning of his son's identity through a broadcast by Radio Pakistan, General Ayub Khan, Pakistan's President, reached out to General Cariappa to assure him of his son's safety and offer immediate release. However, the valiant General, who had retired to his hometown of Mercara, sternly refused any preferential treatment for his son, demanding that Nanda be treated no differently than any other POW.





His military journey took him to regions like Iraq, Syria, Iran (1941-1942), Burma (1943-1944), and Waziristan, now part of Pakistan, where he became the first Indian Officer to command a unit in 1942. General Cariappa's legacy transcends his exemplary service in the Indian Army. He is celebrated as one of the most audacious, revolutionary, principled, and courageous officers in the Indian military. His steadfast advocacy for improved conditions for Indian soldiers during the British Army's Indianization was instrumental in reshaping the army's identity from imperial to nationalist. At the age of 94, General Cariappa peacefully concluded an extraordinary chapter in Indian history.

## RECOGNITION

- From 1953 to 1956, post-retirement, he served as India's High Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand.
- US President Harry S. Truman bestowed upon him the title "Order of the Chief" Commander of the Legion of Merit.
- On 14th January 1986, he was honored with the rank of Field Marshal by Zail Singh, the President of India.
- In recognition of his services, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in June 1945.



## FACTS

- General Cariappa was the first Indian to attend a training course at the Imperial Defence College in the UK.
- His military career, spanning three decades from 1918 to 1953, included service in Syria, Iraq, and Iran.
- Post his retirement from the Indian Army, he was expected to be appointed as a governor in one of the North Eastern states by Jawaharlal Nehru, but he was appointed as the High Commissioner instead.
- The appointment of an Indian Officer as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army is celebrated annually as Army Day.

Kodandera M Cariappa was a pivotal figure who reshaped the Indian Army, leading its transformation from an imperial institution to a symbol of Indian nationalism.





# VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT

## 'FREEDOM FIGHTER'

Born: 18th August, 1900  
Died: 1st December, 1990

"Lots of women now have done much more than I did in my time. The reason why I got publicity was because at that time women had no rights"

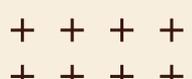
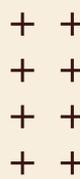
*Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit*

*Indian Politician, Activist, Ambassador & Diplomat*

Born as Swarup Kumari on August 18, 1900, in Allahabad, Vijaya Lakshmi hailed from one of India's most influential families. She was the daughter of Motilal Nehru and the sister of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Her illustrious career spanned several decades, during which she wore many hats, from an activist and minister to an ambassador and diplomat. She was among the pioneering women who broke traditional barriers, challenging the notion that nation-building was solely a male pursuit. While the statesmanship of Nehru and Patel continues to be central in these conversations, the remarkable diplomatic contributions of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit often take a backseat.

Vijaya's journey is a testament to how one can turn their passion into a fulfilling career. Her political upbringing and

Her diplomatic voyage commenced with assignments in the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom. In 1953, she achieved a historic milestone by being appointed as the President of the UN General Assembly, becoming the first woman to hold this prestigious post. Upon her return to India, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit served as the Governor of Maharashtra from 1962 to 1964 and as a minister representing the Phalpur constituency from 1964 to 1968. She resigned from the Lok Sabha in 1968 due to challenges under the administration of Indira Gandhi.

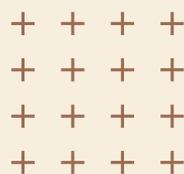




the environment she grew up in ignited her passion for diplomacy, inspiring her active involvement in India’s struggle for independence. During her fifteen-year-long diplomatic career, she left a significant mark on at least three different continents, becoming a trailblazer with a global perspective. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was indeed an exception—a woman who managed to break through the patriarchal norms of her time. Her presence in such prominent roles was not merely a result of seizing opportunities but rather a testament to the permissions granted by the men in power. Offering an astute evaluation of her career, the British diplomat Philip Noel-Baker aptly remarked, "If India could produce such women, India could most assuredly control her national affairs."

## RECOGNITION

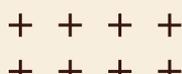
- "Prison Days" (1945)
  - "The Evolution of India" (1958)
  - "The Scope of Happiness" (1979)
  - "Great Daughters of India"
- are her famous books



## FACTS

- Undertook her first official diplomatic mission as the leader of the Indian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 1946.
- Became the United States ambassador in 1949.
- Became the first female President of the UN General Assembly in 1953.
- Served as the Indian High Commissioner in London from 1954 to 1961.
- Member of the Indian Lok Sabha (parliament) and Governor of the state of Maharashtra from 1962 to 1968.

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, an Indian political leader and diplomat, stands as one of the most prominent women in global public life during the 20th century.





People's leader, activist, theorist, socialist, and political figure

Jayaprakash Narayan, fondly referred to as JP and Lok Nayak, embodied the very essence of his name, signifying "victory to the light." Jayaprakash Narayan's journey to prominence began during the Quit India Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement, where he was incarcerated for his unwavering opposition to British colonial rule. Following his release from prison, he established the Congress Socialist Party (CSP), marking a significant step in his political career. In 1974, JP turned the spotlight on critical issues such as unemployment, inflation, and shortages of essential goods and commodities. Subsequently, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was found guilty of violating electoral laws by the Allahabad High Court, JP seized the opportunity and called for the resignations of

# JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN 'LOKNAYAK'



Born: 11th October, 1902  
Died: 8th October, 1979

"People of this country are wracked by hunger, rising prices, corruption,.. it is a total revolution we want, nothing less!"

जयप्रकाश नारायण -

JP's appeal extended to over one lakh people at New Delhi's Ramlila ground, where he recited the famous lines of poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, "दो राह, समय के रथ का घर्घर-नाद सुनो, सिंहासन खाली करो कि जनता आती है।" He emerged as a mass leader who conveyed the aspirations of the youth, who sought employment, development, and good governance, rather than being driven by ideological motives. He staunchly opposed the Congress party's dominance in Indian politics and worked towards establishing a multi-party system.



both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister. Under the banner of 'Total Revolution' , he initiated various programs to protest against the government's policies. In response, Gandhi declared a state of Emergency on June 25, 1975, resulting in the detention and arrest of numerous members of his party. JP was a dissenting force like no other, creating a movement that was a force unto itself. In retrospect, he stands as one of the most controversial and influential politicians that independent India has ever produced . The storms he stirred, particularly in the tumultuous 1970s, reverberated across every corner of the country, deeply affecting the conscience and imagination of the nation. Remarkably, all the upheaval he caused was for causes that would redefine the very essence of India.

## RECOGNITION

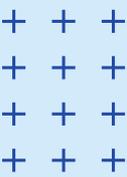
- Awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1999.
- Received the Raman Magsaysay Award in 1965.
- Honored with the Rashtra Bhushan Award by the FIE Foundation.

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+ + + +

## FACTS

- In 1922, Jayaprakash Narayan paid for his fees at the University of California, Berkeley, by working as a grape picker and washing dishes.
- He spent a year in prison in 1932 for his active involvement in the civil disobedience movement.
- He was the founder and president of the Lok Satta Party.

Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan's enduring legacy continues to inspire generations of Indians committed to upholding the values of democracy, freedom, and justice.



# J R D TATA 'LEADING INDUSTRILIST'

Born: 29th July, 1904  
Died: 29th November, 1993

"No success or achievement in material terms is worthwhile unless it serves the needs or interests of the country and its people and is achieved by fair and honest means"

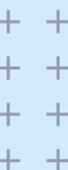
*Businessman, Aviation pioneer, Art connoisseur, Philanthropist, Skier and Letter writer*

Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata, fondly known as JRD Tata, fulfilled his profound passion for aviation by laying the foundation for Tata Aviation Service in 1932. With the remarkable distinction of being India's first pilot, he played a pivotal role in granting India its wings through the creation of Tata Airlines, eventually evolving into Air India.

JRD Tata was a visionary who recognized the significance of a dedicated human resource department in any organization. He blazed a trail in introducing 'employee welfare schemes' in India. His initiatives introduced the concepts of 8-hour working days, free medical aid, and workers' provident schemes within his organizations, many of which have now been enshrined in the law.

Beyond his contributions to aviation, JRD Tata played a

The Tata Group, which commenced its journey in 1868, has witnessed the stewardship of six chairmen over the years. Among them, JRD Tata's remarkable tenure spanned 50 years, during which he steered the company to remarkable heights. His contributions extended beyond business, as he diligently worked to uplift India's overall economy. K R Narayanan, former President of India, regarded him as the 'Father of Industrial Revolution conceptually as well as practically.' JRD Tata is unquestionably one of India's most accomplished and successful businessmen.





critical role in advancing India's steel and iron industry. He founded approximately 91 companies, thereby creating substantial employment opportunities. Furthermore, he was among the early Indian industrialists to comprehend the importance of CSR. JRD Tata's pioneering spirit extended to social initiatives. He initiated the "The Family Planning Programme" even before the Government of India officially launched it, recognizing India's challenge as an overpopulated nation. In acknowledgment of his dedicated efforts to initiate and successfully implement the family planning movement in India, JRD Tata was honored with the United Nations Population Award.

## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

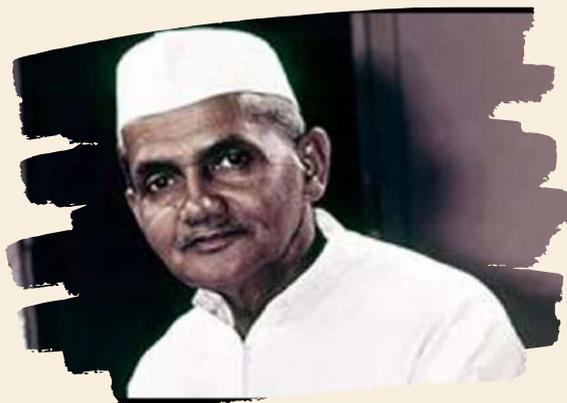
- Padma Vibhushan in 1957
- The Daniel Guggenheim Medal for aviation in 1988
- The United Nations Population Award in 1992
- Bharat Ratna in 1992
- India's first-ever commercial Pilot's license was issued to JRD Tata and numbered "1."

- Under his guidance, Asia's first cancer hospital, the Tata Memorial Centre for Cancer, Research, and Treatment, was established in Bombay in 1941.
- JRD Tata also founded institutions like the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS, 1936), the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR, 1945), and the National Centre for Performing Arts.
- He founded Tata Motors in 1945.
- JRD Tata also contributed to the country's cosmetic industry by giving rise to one of its largest brands, Lakme.



JRD Tata is often described as self-effacing, modest, wistful, and endearing - a man whose enduring legacy is etched in his pioneering contributions to business, aviation, and social welfare in India.





# LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

**'POLITICIAN, WHO LED THE COUNTRY IN DIFFICULT TIMES'**



**Born:** 2nd October, 1904  
**Died:** 11th January, 1966

*"We would prefer to live in poverty for as long as necessary but we shall not allow our freedom to be subverted."*

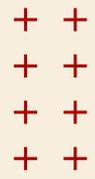
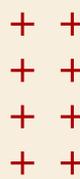
*Lal Bahadur*

*"Shastri" refers to a "scholar" or a person, adept in the "Holy Scriptures"*

Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, assumed office following the untimely passing of Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's inaugural Prime Minister. Despite his unassuming stature and soft-spoken demeanor, Shastri was a man of extraordinary willpower.

Shastri grappled with pressing issues such as food shortages, unemployment, and poverty. To address the acute food shortage, he tasked experts with crafting a long-term strategy, heralding the inception of the renowned "Green Revolution." In addition to the Green Revolution, he championed the "White Revolution," which led to the establishment of the National Dairy Development Board in 1965 during his tenure as Prime Minister. Shastri's leadership was put to the test when India faced a military

In 1965, as India found itself in a war with Pakistan and food shortages plagued the nation, Shastri made a remarkable personal sacrifice. He announced to his family, "Kal se ek hafte tak sham ko chulha nahin jalega". Only after ensuring that his own family could endure a day without a meal did he convey a nationwide message on All India Radio, urging the public to forgo one meal at least once a week. This call, known as the Shastri Vrat, resonated profoundly, with restaurants closing on Monday evenings and people enthusiastically participating.

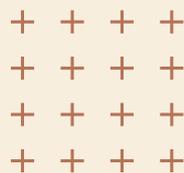




conflict with Pakistan in 1965. He firmly declared that India would not stand idly by and authorized the security forces to respond with force. During the 1965 Indo-Pak war, Shastri voluntarily ceased drawing his salary to address India's food scarcity. The Indo-Pak war concluded on September 23, 1965, following a United Nations resolution demanding a ceasefire. Russian Prime Minister Kosygin offered to mediate, and on January 10, 1966, Lal Bahadur Shastri and his Pakistani counterpart Ayub Khan signed the Tashkent Declaration. At Tashkent, Shastri, a diminutive man, stood tall, dwarfing the haughty army general Ayub Khan. When he passed away, he left behind only a dhoti-kurta and a few books as assets for his family.

## RECOGNITION

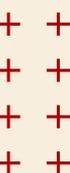
- Posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1966.
- A memorial was erected in his honor at Delhi's Vijay Ghat area.
- In 2004, on his birth centenary, the Reserve Bank of India issued a Rs. 100 coin featuring his portrait, commemorating his life.
- He was a lifelong member of the 'Servants of the People Society,' also known as the Lok Sevak Mandal, founded by Lala Lajpat Rai.



## FACTS

- Shastri discarded his surname, Srivastava, to distance himself from the caste system.
- In his school days, he would swim across the Ganges twice daily with his books balanced on his head due to a lack of ferry fare.
- For his wedding, Shastri accepted khadi cloth and a spinning wheel as part of his dowry.
- He borrowed Rs. 5,000 from Punjab National Bank to purchase a Fiat car. Tragically, he passed away shortly afterward. The bank offered to waive the loan, but his wife declined and repaid it with her pension.

Lal Bahadur Shastri was a leader defined by practical and compassionate principles, making him one of the greatest leaders of all time.





# MAJOR DHYAN CHAND 'HOCKEY WIZARD'



Born: 29th August, 1905  
Died: 3rd December, 1979

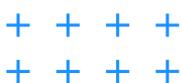
*"It is not my country's duty to push me ahead. It is my duty to push my country ahead"*

## *Dadda, Chand, Wizard*

Major Dhyan Chand, widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history of Indian Hockey, was famed for his exceptional goal-scoring prowess and dazzling dribbling skills that often left opposition defenders in awe.

Dhyan Chand's early fascination was wrestling, with little inclination toward other sports. At the age of 16, he joined the army and began taking hockey seriously, often practicing late into the night after his duty hours. His nickname "Chand" was inspired by the Hindi word for moon, as he frequently practiced under the moonlight, eagerly awaiting its appearance. His exceptional skills earned him a spot on the Indian Army Team, which toured New Zealand in 1926. Dhyan Chand played a pivotal role in securing three consecutive Olympic gold medals for India in hockey, triumphing in 1928, 1932, and

In a memorable incident during a game, Major Dhyan Chand struggled to score a goal against the opposing team. After several unsuccessful attempts, he disputed the measurements of the goalpost with the match referee. To everyone's astonishment, he was correct, as the goalpost did not meet the minimum width requirements stipulated by international rules. Dhyan Chand's ascent in Indian sports was a testament to his unwavering passion, determination, and resilience.





1936. He captained the Indian hockey team in 1934 and led the team to victory in the Berlin Olympics in 1936. A newspaper report about India's triumph said, "This is not a game of hockey, but magic. Dhyhan Chand is in fact the magician of hockey." Hitler, in an attempt to lure him, offered German citizenship, a substantial sum of money, and the position of head of the Army to play for Germany. Dhyhan Chand declined, stating he played for his country, not for financial gain. After retiring as a Major, Dhyhan Chand served as the Chief Hockey Coach at the National Institute of Sports. Over his illustrious career, he scored more than 1,000 goals, including 400 international goals. Even to this day, the nation has yet to discover a replacement of his stature.

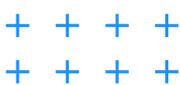
## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

- Padma Bhushan in 1956
- Secured three consecutive Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, & 1936
- His birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day in India, and prestigious awards such as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna, and Dronacharya Awards are conferred on this day.
- The Dhyhan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports, named after the hockey legend, is a national sporting honor.
- The National Stadium in New Delhi is named after him.
- He earned the moniker 'Wizard of the Game' for his extraordinary ball control.

- In Vienna, Austria, a statue with four hands and four sticks was erected in Dhyhan Chand's honor, symbolizing his exceptional ball control and mastery.
- Dutch hockey authorities once broke Dhyhan Chand's hockey stick to verify if it contained a magnet.
- In a collision with the aggressive German goalkeeper Tito Warnholtz in 1939 in Army Hockey, Dhyhan Chand lost a tooth.
- In the final match of the Berlin Olympics, Dhyhan Chand opted not to wear shoes to enhance his speed, resulting in an 8-1 victory for India.

Major Dhyhan Chand, often referred to as the "magician of hockey," left an indelible mark on the sport. His extraordinary skills and dedication brought India numerous Olympic gold medals and continue to inspire generations.





## MAHADEVI VERMA 'POET'

Born: 26th March, 1907

Died: 11th September, 1987

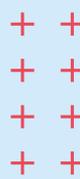
"वे मुस्काते फूल, नहीं  
जिनको आता है मुझना,  
वे तारों के दीप, नहीं  
जिनको भाता है बुझ जाना..."

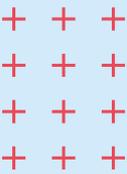
*Mahiyasi, one of the crusader of Chayawad, Hindi poet, Freedom fighter, & Educationist.*

Mahadevi Verma was a pioneering figure in Hindi literature, one of the foundational poets of the Chhayavad movement, and a prominent participant in Hindi Kavi Sammelans. She played a crucial role in shaping Hindi poetry and is recognized for her contributions to Chhayavad alongside Jaishankar Prasad, Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala,' and Sumitranandan Pant.

In her formative years, Mahadevi Verma authored "Mere Bachpan Ke Din," a biography reflecting her unique upbringing. She was fortunate to be born into a family that held progressive views at a time when daughters were often considered burdens. Her grandfather aspired to educate her, and her mother encouraged her to write poetry and nurtured her

Mahadevi Varma drew significant inspiration from Buddhism and embraced a profound sense of aesthetics. Her poetry is characterized by a constant theme of yearning and the pain of separation from her beloved. Beyond her literary achievements, she displayed a deep empathy for animals, exhibiting motherly affection for her pets. She staunchly opposed cruelty to animals and shared delightful anecdotes about her beloved pets, including Neelkanth, a peacock, Gaura, a cow gifted by her sister, and a rabbit named Durmukh.

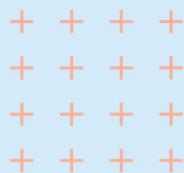




literary interests. Mahadevi Verma's writings and essays are viewed as pioneering "feminist" literature in Hindi. While she advocated for women's rights, her approach was not antagonistic. Her work, such as "Srinkhalaa kee kadiyaan," delved into the status of Indian women, the underlying causes of their plight, and potential solutions. Mahadevi Varma's life exemplified the solutions she advocated. She challenged societal norms by renouncing her child marriage, a courageous act that remains challenging for women even today. She also declined marriage proposals. She pioneered women's poet conferences in India, with the first All India Poetry Conference at Prayag Mahila Vidyapeeth in 1933, chaired by Subhadra Kumari Chauhan. Mahadevi was a social reformer and an unwavering advocate for women's rights.

## RECOGNITION

- Padma Bhushan in 1956
- Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 1979
- Jnanpith Award for her poetry collection "Yama" in 1982
- Padma Vibhushan in 1988
- Google commemorated Mahadevi Verma with a Doodle on its Indian homepage on April 27, 2018.

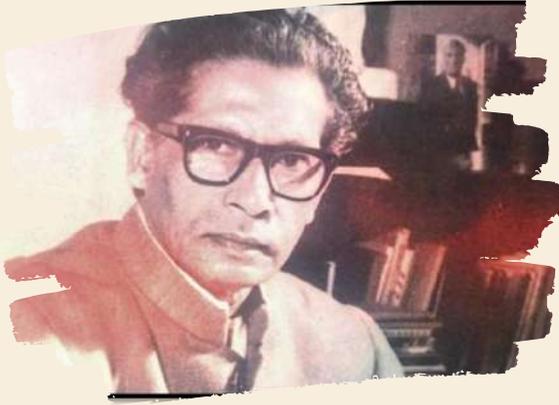


## FACTS

- She embraced the life of a Sanyasini, wearing white attire, sleeping on a wooden bed, and avoiding mirrors throughout her life.
- Under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi, she actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle.
- Her friend Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, who also taught her Khariboli, played a significant role in making her famous.

Mahadevi Varma, a social reformer and feminist writer, left an indelible mark on Hindi literature. A celebrated poet, she dedicated her life to public service and women's rights, challenging societal norms and advocating for change.





*Indian poet and writer of the Naya Kavita literary movement*

Harivansh Rai Bachchan, known for his significant contributions to Hindi literature, was a prominent poet and writer associated with the Naya Kavita literary movement of the early 20th century. Although his surname was Srivastava, he adopted the name "Bachchan," which means a little boy, during his time at Cambridge University where he conducted his doctoral research on W.B. Yeats. Notably, he was the second Indian to earn a doctorate in English literature from Cambridge.

Harivansh Rai Bachchan's most enduring work, the 142-verse lyrical poem "Madhushala," published in 1935, remains a celebrated piece of Hindi literature. Beyond his own creative works, he worked tirelessly to promote Hindi as the official language of India. He was also known for translating major

## HARIVANSH RAI BACHCHAN



**'A PIONEER OF HINDI LITERATURE CHHAYAWAD MOVEMENT'**

Born: 27th November, 1907  
Died: 18th January 2003

"मिट्टी का तन, मस्ती का मन, क्षण भर जीवन, मेरा पररचय"... , 'A body of clay, a mindful of play, a second of life- that's me'

In 1969, he embarked on a four-part autobiography series titled 'Kya bhooloon kya yaad karoon,' with subsequent parts released over the years. This series received significant acclaim and was later abridged into an English translation by Rupert Snell, titled 'In the Afternoon of Time,' considered a landmark in Hindi literature. Over a literary career spanning six decades, Bachchan composed over 30 poems, each rich in vivid imagery and reflective of the prevailing social and political landscape.



literary works into Hindi, including Macbeth, Othello, Bhagavad Gita, the writings of W B Yeats, and the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. His poetry gave voice to countless ordinary people, resonating with the socio-political atmosphere of the time. Harivansh Rai Bachchan's poetry touched upon various themes, such as the common person's quest for freedom, life, death, love, yearning, and more. He even ventured into translating Shakespeare's tragic works into Hindi, as well as a collection of Russian poems. To aptly summarize essence of the poet's journey, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep..." "गहन सघन मनमोहन वन तक मुझको आज बुलाते हैं किन्तु किये जो वादे मैंने याद मुझे आ जाते हैं, अभी कहाँ आराम बदा, यह नेह-निमंत्रण छलना है, अरे अभी सोने से पहले मुझको मीलों चलना है, अरे अभी सोने से पहले मुझको मीलों चलना है..."

## RECOGNITION

- Padma Bhushan in 1976
- Nomination to the Rajya Sabha in 1966
- Sahitya Akademi Award in 1969
- Commemorative postage stamp in 2003
- A square in Wroclaw, Poland, designated a UNESCO city of literature, was named after Harivansh Rai Bachchan, featuring a statue of the poet.
- Awards such as the Sovietland Nehru Award, the Lotus Award of the Afro-Asian Writers' Conference, and the Saraswati Samman.

## FACTS

- Harivansh Rai Bachchan learned Urdu during his time at Banaras Hindu University as a preliminary step in his legal career.
- He served at All India Radio.
- His autobiography was published in nine volumes.
- He was the husband of social activist Teji Bachchan, the father of Amitabh Bachchan and Ajitabh Bachchan, and the grandfather of Abhishek Bachchan.

Harivansh Rai Bachchan, a renowned poet and a key figure in the Naya Kavita literary movement, made enduring contributions to Hindi literature. His magnum opus, "Madhushala," remains a cornerstone of Hindi poetry.



*Poet, Essayist, Academician,  
Literary Critic*

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, a celebrated Indian poet, harnessed the profound power of his words and emotions during India's struggle for independence. Revered as the greatest Hindi poet of 'Veer Ras,' encompassing themes of heroism and valor, he was fittingly accorded the title of 'Rashtra Kavi.' As a nationalist poet, his patriotic compositions, which predated India's liberation from British colonial rule, garnered considerable attention.

Dinkar's path to becoming a prominent poet was catalyzed by a poignant incident. During one of the protests against British rule, a brutal lathi charge by the colonial authorities led to the tragic demise of Lala Lajpat Rai. The emotional turmoil stemming from these events spurred Dinkar to find his voice as a poet. In 1924, he published his

## RAMDHARI SINGH DINKAR

'RASHTRA KAVI'

Born: 23rd September, 1908

Died: 24th April, 1974

"रोटी के बाद मनुष्य की सबसे बड़ी  
कीमती चीज उसकी संस्कृति होती है।"

दिकर

In 1928, he composed a poem dedicated to the sacrifice of Jatin Das, and two more poems titled 'Birbala' and 'Meghnad-Vadh.' However, these latter two poems remain untraceable. Dinkar's journey as a poet took flight with contributions to Desh Magazine. In 1935, his first collection of poems, 'Renuka,' was published, with a copy presented to Mahatma Gandhi. Historian Dr. Kashi Prasad Jaiswal served as a mentor and guide to Dinkar. The latter expressed profound sorrow at the loss of Dr. Jaiswal in 1937, describing the world as a darker place without him.





inaugural poem in Chhatra Sahodar, a local newspaper. His verses also highlighted the struggles of the peasant Satyagraha, and these found publication in Vijay Sandesh to evade the oppressive British regime, Dinkar adopted the pen name 'Amitabh.' Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's literary inspirations encompassed the works of luminaries like Iqbal, Rabindranath Tagore, Keats, and Milton. Notable works such as 'Urvashi' depicted love and passion in a spiritually elevated context, making it a classic. 'Kurukshetra,' inspired by events during the Second World War, offered a unique take on the Mahabharata. 'Krishna Ki Chaetavani' was another work rooted in mythology. 'Rashmirathi' earned its place as one of the finest retellings of Karna's life in the epic Mahabharata.

## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

- Padma Bhushan in 1959
- Sahitya Akademi Award in 1959
- Jnanpith Award in 1972
- Postal stamp issued by the Government of India in 1999, featuring Dinkar among prominent Hindi writers in celebration of "Linguistic Harmony of India"
- A book authored by Khagendra Thakur was released by the government in 2008 to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Dinkar.
- A statue of Dinkar was unveiled at Dinkar Chowk in Patna.

- His writings resonated with the voice of the common man, with famous lines such as 'Singhasan Khali Karo Ke Janta Aati Hai.'
- 'Kurukshetra' poem based on the Santi Parva of the Mahabharata.
- 'Krishna Ki Chetavani' narrates the events leading to the Kurukshetra war in the Mahabharata.
- 'Rashmirathi' is acclaimed as one of the finest retellings of Karna's life in the Mahabharata.
- 'Urvashi' stands as an exceptional work within Dinkar's collection, exploring human relationships.

Renowned as the National Poet (Rashtra Kavi), Dinkar's profound verses continue to inspire and captivate his devoted admirers to this day.



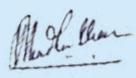


# HOMI JEHANGIR Bhabha

**'FATHER OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM'**

Born: 30th October, 1909  
Died: 24th January, 1966

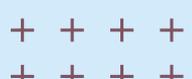
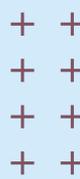
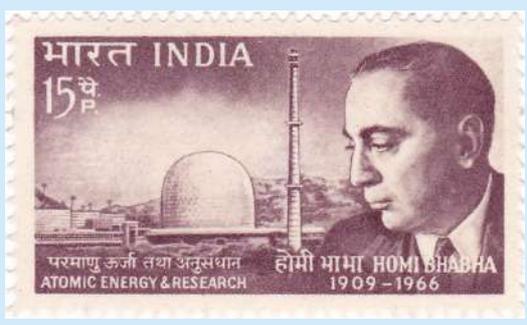
"My success will not depend on what A or B thinks of me. My success will be what I make of my work"



*Physicist, Philanthropist, Scientist, Engineer & Administrator.*

Homi Jehangir Bhabha, primarily known as the chief architect of India's nuclear program, made exceptional contributions that extended far beyond the realm of atomic energy. He established two prominent research institutions: the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and the Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay, later renamed the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) after his passing. Bhabha's role in advancing electronics in India is pivotal, and his scientific work included formulating the correct expression for the probability of positron-electron scattering, known as Bhabha scattering. A classic paper he co-authored with W. Heitler in 1937 explained the interaction of primary cosmic rays with the Earth's upper atmosphere, producing observable particles at ground level.

A visionary, Bhabha recognized the significance of a nuclear research program as early as the 1940s when India was still under British rule. He conceived a three-stage nuclear program utilizing natural uranium, thorium, and plutonium in advanced nuclear reactors, creating a closed full circle. For this visionary approach, he is honored as the "Father of India's Nuclear Power Program." His indelible imprint on Indian science and technology spans theoretical physics, mathematics, and atomic energy, leaving an enduring legacy.





In 1948, he founded the Atomic Energy Commission of India, guiding Indian scientists in developing atomic energy. The first atomic reactor in Asia commenced operation at Trombay, near Bombay, in 1956 under his stewardship. Homi Jehangir Bhabha was not just a scientific luminary but also a man of diverse talents. He possessed a profound knowledge of both Indian and Western music, had a passion for painting, and was skilled in designing dramatic productions. An architect of no mean ability, he exemplified that scientific excellence could coexist with excellence in arts and culture. His demise was a profound loss for India, science, and civilization, as aptly articulated by Lord Redcliffe-Maud.

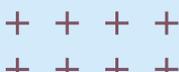
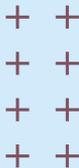
### RECOGNITION

- Fellow of the Royal Society (1941)
- Adams Prize (1948) for one of his thesis papers
- Padma Bhushan (1954)
- President, First International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy under the UN (1955)
- Honorary fellowship of Gonville, Caius College (1957), Royal Society of Edinburgh (1957), American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1959), National Academy of Sciences of the United States (1963)
- Honorary Doctoral degrees in science from universities like Patna (1944), Lucknow (1949), Banaras (1950), Agra (1952), Perth (1954), Allahabad (1958), Cambridge (1959), London (1960), and Padova (1961)

### FACTS

- Nominated for the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1951 and 1953–1956
- A passionate lover of music and dance, Bhabha possessed substantial knowledge of both Indian and Western music.
- He had a keen interest in painting and was an avid connoisseur of classical music and opera.
- Bhabha was also an amateur botanist.
- He dedicated his life to science and remained a lifelong bachelor.
- The web series "Rocket Boys" (2022) takes inspiration from the lives of Homi J. Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

Homi Jehangir Bhabha, a scientist, engineer, and visionary, not only spearheaded India's nuclear program. His legacy continues to influence India's scientific and cultural landscape.





## AMRITA SHER-GIL 'A PIONEER OF INDIAN ART'

Born: 30th January, 1913  
Died: 5th December, 1941

"Europe belongs to Picasso, Matisse, Braque and many others. India, belongs only to me"

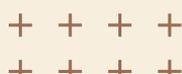
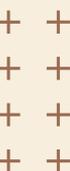
*Amrita Sher-Gil*

*Indian Frida Kahlo, Sher Gil Maria Magdalena & pioneer of modern progressive painting.*

Amrita Sher-Gil, often likened to India's Frida Kahlo, was a renowned painter celebrated for her artistic fusion of traditional and Western art forms. She stands out as a revolutionary female artist and a pioneer of modern art in India. While her early career predominantly featured Western styles and subjects, she transitioned to rediscover her roots, infusing her works with Indian themes and traditional techniques. Though the painter gradually began to rediscover herself by depicting Indian subjects using traditional methods.

Beyond her artistic prowess, Amrita Sher-Gil was a versatile talent, proficient in playing the piano and an avid reader. Her passion for art and exploration led her to travel extensively across India, France, and Turkey, where she skillfully incorporated diverse artistic influences into her creations.

Her paintings resonate with themes of identity, agency, solitude, and sorrow. She skillfully blended the principles of Western design with the vibrant colors synonymous with Indian art. These works established her as one of the most influential avant-garde women artists of the early 20th century. She delved into the emotional struggles experienced by people, particularly women in 1930s India, providing a voice and validation to their experiences. Sher-Gil's paintings mirror her personal battles with oppression and sexuality as she defied societal norms imposed on Indian women. Her evocative art earned her the title of 'the Indian Frida Kahlo,'





Throughout her career, Sher-Gil painted portraits of her friends, lovers , and numerous self-portraits, a practice that garnered criticism as being narcissistic. Amrita Sher-Gil's legacy endures through her art, which finds a home at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi and continues to inspire generations of Indian artists. Her legacy has gained renewed recognition in recent years, as she embodied the idea that the personal is political transcending boundaries between East and West, and challenging post-colonial and anti-colonial struggles of the 1930s and 40s. Her artwork also confronted the conventional portrayal of South Asian women, unsettling the refined echelons of Indian art society.

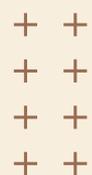
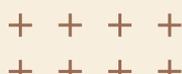
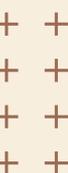
## RECOGNITION

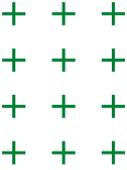
## FACTS

- The youngest person and the first Asian to win The Associate of Grand Salon
- India Post released a stamp featuring her painting 'Hill Women' in 1978
- Amrita Sher-Gil Marg, a road in Lutyen's Delhi, is named after her
- Budapest's Indian cultural center is named in her honor
- UNESCO declared the 100th anniversary of her birth (2013) as the international year of Amrita Sher-Gil
- Google celebrated her 103rd birthday with a Google Doodle on January 30, 2016

- Although friends with Jawaharlal Nehru, she declined to paint him, deeming him "too good-looking" for portraiture.
- Sher-Gil was a proficient pianist and a dedicated reader.
- In 2018, at a Sotheby's auction in Mumbai, her painting "The Little Girl in Blue" fetched a record-breaking 18.69 crores.
- A total of 172 of her paintings have been documented, with 95 held in the permanent collections of museums and institutions within India.

Amrita Sher-Gil was an artist ahead of her time, breaking boundaries with her groundbreaking art, making her one of the most captivating figures of 20th-century India.





# SAM MANEKSHAW 'FIELD MARSHAL'

Born: 3rd April, 1914

Died: 27th June, 2008

"A 'Yes man' is a dangerous man. He is a menace. He will go very far. He can become a minister, a secretary or a Field Marshall but he can never become a leader nor, ever be respected. He will be used by his superiors, disliked by his colleagues and despised by his subordinates. So discard the 'Yes Man'."

*Lawrence*

## Sam Bahadur, India's first Field Marshal

Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, affectionately known as Sam Manekshaw, is hailed as one of India's most valorous, celebrated, and decorated military officers. His illustrious career in the Indian Army spanned over four decades, marked by numerous promotions that underscore his hard work, intelligence, dedication, and unwavering confidence.

Manekshaw's remarkable service in the Indian Army encompassed 40 years and participation in five major wars. He contributed his skills and valor during World War II, the India-Pakistan war of 1947, the Sino-Indian war of 1962, the India-Pakistan war of 1965, and the momentous Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. Notably, his tenure as the Army chief left an indelible mark, steering India to victory in the Bangladesh Liberation War, while steadfastly

A repository of memorable quotes, Manekshaw is renowned for his straightforward military wit. When asked what would have occurred if he had chosen Pakistan during partition, his response was lighthearted yet profound: 'then Pakistan would have won all the wars.' Another of his well-known quotes reflects on bravery: 'If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or he is a Gorkha.'





resisting political pressure to intervene prematurely, even offering to resign. Manekshaw's candor and his resolute statement to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that the Indian Army wasn't ready for war in April 1971 are etched in memory. As a corporate leader's exemplar, Sam Manekshaw underscores the significance of plain, direct, and unadorned communication. His wit and informality allowed him to penetrate to the core of issues. Leaders are well-served by imbibing this lesson fully, as corporate discourse often becomes entangled in obfuscation and jargon. The principle of 'say what you will do and then do what you said' forms the bedrock of credibility.

## RECOGNITION

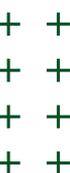
- Military Cross in 1942
- Padma Bhushan in 1968
- Padma Vibhushan in 1972
- The biopic "Sam Bahadur," starring Vicky Kaushal, portrays the life of India's first Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw.

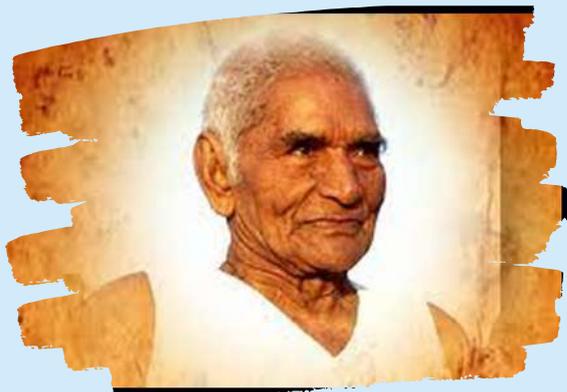
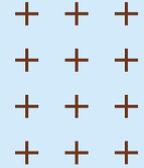
## FACTS

- Despite his remarkable service, Manekshaw received a paltry pension of Rs. 1300 per month, along with no pay or perks, not even a car. His quiet dignity persisted as he never raised the issue, until President APJ Abdul Kalam intervened to ensure he received a check for Rs. 1.3 Crores, his arrears of pay as Field Marshal for over 30 years.
- Toward the end of his career, he became embroiled in various controversies and was even labeled 'anti-national' by some.



Field Marshals never retire; they only leave an indelible mark. Sam Manekshaw, one of India's bravest military commanders, will live on eternally in public memory.





# MURLIDHAR DEVIDAS AMTE 'BABA AMTE'



Born: 26th December, 1914  
Died: 9th Feb, 2008

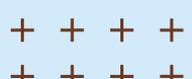
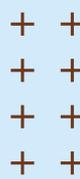
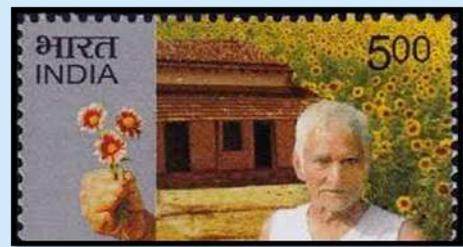
"I don't want to be a leader. I want to be one who goes around with a little oil can and offer help when I see a breakdown."

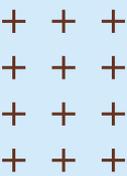
*Baba Amte*

### Social Worker & Activist

Baba Amte, an Indian social worker and activist, dedicated his life to serving the impoverished individuals afflicted by leprosy. Despite being born with a silver spoon, he heeded the call to uplift society's downtrodden. Influenced by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, he abandoned his thriving law practice to join India's struggle for independence. Similar to Gandhi, Baba Amte was deeply moved by the suffering of his nation's neglected and impoverished. In his quest to discover his true calling, he shed his ceremonial attire and worked alongside ragpickers and sweepers in the Chandrapura district. After completing a leprosy orientation course at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Baba Amte embarked on his mission, accompanied by his wife, two sons, and six leprosy patients. He established 11 weekly clinics and founded three

Baba Amte's wife, wholeheartedly participated in her husband's social endeavors. They ventured to the underprivileged district of Gadchiroli in Maharashtra to work with the Madia Gond tribe. They also established an orphanage for injured wild animals. The elder son, Vikas, and his wife, Bharati, oversee the hospital at Anandwan and coordinate operations with satellite projects. Anandwan has evolved into a self-sustaining community with over 5,000 residents. Baba Amte went on to found "Somnath" and "Ashokwan" ashrams for individuals suffering from leprosy.





ashrams for the treatment and rehabilitation of leprosy patients and those disabled by the disease. In 1949, he commenced the construction of Anandwan, an ashram dedicated to assisting leprosy patients. Baba Amte's message to the young generation resounds with wisdom: "We must grasp the transformative power of education from its very essence Only when you comprehend this phenomenon will you find the courage to embrace adventure and execute what must be done. Those who aspire to lead a creative revolution must thoroughly comprehend this fundamental principle."

## RECOGNITION

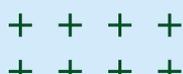
- Padma Shree in 1971
- Padma Vibhushan in 1986
- Jamnalal Bajaj Award in 1979
- Welfare of the Disabled Award in 1986
- Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1985
- Templeton Prize in 1990
- Gandhi Peace Prize in 2000, along with a cash reward of 10 million rupees, which he directed towards his projects
- United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights in 1988
- Dr. Ambedkar International Award in 1999

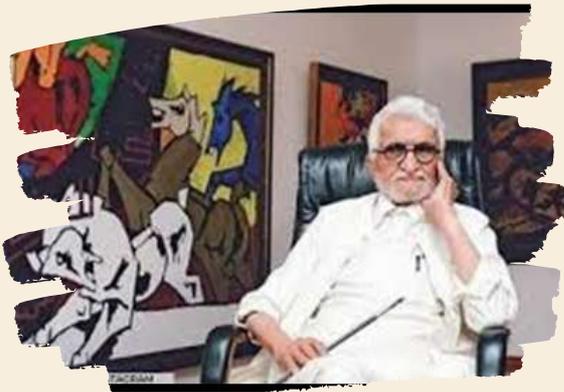
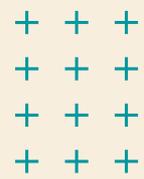


## FACTS

- He was born with a silver spoon in a wealthy family. His father used to handle district administration and revenue collection for the British government.
- The 'baba' in his name does not denote that he was a saint. Even his parents used to call him by that name
- He studied law as a main subject and was a defence lawyer by profession. During the freedom struggle, he fought for many national leaders who had participated in 'Quit India Movement'.

Baba Amte, the Indian social worker and activist, tirelessly worked to empower the impoverished individuals affected by leprosy. His life's dedication to this cause resonates as an enduring legacy.



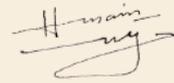


# MAQBOOL FIDA HUSAIN

'LEADING ARTIST OF INDIA'

Born: 17th September, 1915  
Died: 9th June, 2011

"They can put me in Jungle.  
Still, I can create"



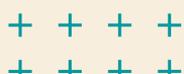
*A master painter, a colourful persona, a filmmaker with a difference.*

M.F. Husain's life is a remarkable journey from rags to riches. Maqbool Husain's creative expression transcended his paintings, encompassing his love for places and the people who played pivotal roles in his legendary status. On larger-than-life canvases adorned with distinctive motifs, Husain crafted a matching persona - a painter who embodied the essence of artistic eccentricity, unpredictability, and whimsy.

In the early 1930s, with Hindi cinema flourishing at the rate of nearly 200 films per year, the advertising industry had a growing need for high-quality painters. Husain seized this opportunity to meet his daily needs. While he enjoyed fame and respect during the initial phase of his career, a substantial part of his artistic journey was marked by controversies. In 1954, he created his iconic 'Passage of Time' piece, which signaled the beginning of his

Despite his deep attachment to the places he lived, Husain was forever drawn to new locations, seeking inspiration for his art. He considered himself a nomad, as expressed in the words, "*hamsafar chhoot gaye raahguzar aaj bhi hai, apne paaon ke muqaddar mein safar aaj bhi hai....Fellow travelers are long gone, the path continues endlessly, The destiny of my feet is to keep walking.*"

He was a man with no expiration date, much like his self-given nickname, McBull, often signed in that fashion. Even at the age of 95, Husain remained in sync with the modern world. He had always been profoundly contemporary, adapting to modern technology and techniques.





internationally acclaimed horse painting M F Husain was renowned for his bold, vibrantly colored narrative paintings, presented in a modified Cubist style. He used the video camera as a brush, synchronizing his paintings with classical music. M.F. Husain's name is virtually synonymous with modern Indian art, as no other artist has popularized Indian art, both within the country and internationally.

## RECOGNITION

- Padma Shri in 1966 by the Government of India.
- Padma Bhushan in 1973 by the Government of India.
- Padma Vibhushan in 1991 by the Government of India.
- Raja Ravi Varma Award in 2007 by the Government of Kerala.
- Honorary Doctorates from Banaras Hindu University, Jamia Millia Islamia, and the University of Mysore.
- National Art Award in 2004 by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.
- National Film Award for Best Experimental Film in 1968 for 'Through the Eyes of a Painter' in India.
- Golden Bear short film award in 1967 for his film 'Through the Eyes of a Painter' at the Berlin International Film Festival.

## FACTS

- Husain created over 40,000 paintings during his lifetime.
- He started his career with minimal earnings, receiving just a few rupees for a 6 x 10 feet canvas. In 2008, one of his paintings was sold for \$1.6 million at Christie's, making him the highest-paid painter in India at the time.
- His passion for Madhuri Dixit was so profound that he created the film 'Gajagamini' as a tribute to her.
- His first painting was of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- He was lover of the most expensive cars on earth, and often prefers to walk barefoot.

M.F. Husain's endless pursuit of his cultural roots and his fearlessly open-minded willingness to embrace diverse influences have solidified his position as one of the most iconic figures in modern Indian art.



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+ + +  
+ + +



# M S SUBBULAKSHMI

## THE QUEEN OF MUSIC

Born: 16th September, 1916  
Died: 11th December, 2004

"Indian music is oriented solely to the end of divine communication. If I have done something in this respect entirely due to the grace of the Almighty who has chosen my humble self as a tool."

*M.S. Subbulakshmi*



*Kanjumma, The Eighth Tone of Music, The Goddess of Perfect Note- "aathvaan sur", Tapaswini, Surswaralakshmi Subbulakshmi, The nightingale of India.*

Madurai Shanmukhavadiyu Subbulakshmi, affectionately known as M.S., was the "Nightingale of India" and a child prodigy who became an iconic figure in India. M.S. Subbulakshmi's name is synonymous with the world of Carnatic music. She was one of the first female musicians to be accompanied by male percussionists and violinists, challenging societal taboos and inspiring contemporary women of her time. While she is celebrated as a Carnatic music exponent, her proficiency in Hindustani classical music was equally exceptional.

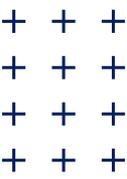
Subbulakshmi's brilliance extended far beyond being a gifted classical singer or having a meticulously crafted career in classical music. In addition to her mother tongue, Kannada,

Among her many achievements, her performance at the UN General Assembly in New York in 1966 stands out as a historic event. M.S. was the first Indian to grace the iconic UN Assembly Hall with her music. Dressed in a unique silk saree, adorned with dazzling diamonds and her signature circlet of jasmine and roses, she became a source of pride for all Indians, while exemplifying the traditional and cultural significance of the saree.



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she performed in various languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Gujarati, and Marathi, exploring a wide range of musical forms. In addition to her musical prowess, Subbulakshmi also ventured into acting, achieving significant acclaim and success in films. However, her passion for movies waned, leading her to focus on public performances and concerts, beginning in 1936. Her popular works include 'Suprabhatam' (Early Morning Hymns), 'Bhajagovindam' (a tribute to Lord Krishna), 'kuraiOnrum Illai', 'Vishnu Sahasranamam' (1000 names of Lord Vishnu), and 'Hanuman Chalisa' (a prayer dedicated to Lord Hanuman).



## RECOGNITION

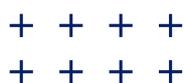
- Honorary Doctorate from Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, MP, in 1979.
- Isai Vani in 1940.
- Padma Bhushan in 1954.
- Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1956.
- Sangeetha Kalanidhi in 1968.
- The Hindu Ramon Magsaysay award in 1974.
- Padma Vibhushan in 1975.
- Sangeetha Kalasikhamani in 1975.
- Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.
- M.S. was the first Indian musician to receive the Ramon Magsaysay award, Asia's highest civilian honour, in 1974.



## FACTS

- The shade of Kancheepuram saree known as "MS Blue" is named after this legendary singer and musician.
- A commemorative postage stamp in her honor was issued on December 18, 2005, by the Indian Government.
- The prestigious awards she received brought in significant funds, which she donated for charity, performing in 200 charity concerts and raising millions of rupees.

In 1976, M.S. was invited to render the invocation at a conference where delegates from around the world were in attendance. The multilingual stage required invocations in five languages: Sanskrit, Arabic, Japanese, English, and Tamil, a testament to her versatility and universal appeal.



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# INDIRA GANDHI 'IRON LADY OF INDIA'

Born: 19th November, 1917  
Died: 31st October, 1984

"My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition..



*The first and till date only female prime minister of India.*

Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi, commonly known as Indira Gandhi, was born to India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. She later became India's first and, to this day, the only female Prime Minister. Indira Gandhi served as the second-longest-serving PM of the country, surpassed only by her father.

Initially perceived as a political and intellectual lightweight, Indira Gandhi was labeled a "Gungi Gudiya" when she was thrust into the role of Prime Minister in 1966 by a group of Congress party leaders who aimed to exert control over her. However, within five years, Indira emerged as one of India's most powerful Prime Ministers. She possessed a profound understanding of power dynamics and a mastery of its manipulation, exceeding that of most politicians. Under her leadership, India achieved

Despite the moniker "Iron Lady," Indira Gandhi met a tragic end when she was assassinated by her trusted Sikh bodyguard at her residence on October 31, 1984. This event marked the conclusion of an era and came in the aftermath of Gandhi's authorization of 'Operation Bluestar,' where she ordered the Indian Army to confront Sikh separatists who had taken refuge in Amritsar's Golden Temple.



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victory in the 1971 war against Pakistan, leading to the liberation of Bangladesh. She also spearheaded the Green Revolution, ensuring food security for India and nationalized banks, marking a significant shift in the economic landscape. Indira Gandhi's tenure as PM was marked by significant accomplishments. She safeguarded India from the worst impacts of the global recession, abolished princely states, steered India into the nuclear club, and made substantial strides in science and technology. However, her leadership also brought forth draconian laws and bureaucratic red tape, which hindered administration and the economy. For many Indians, Indira remains a progressive and idealistic figure, while for others, she is viewed as a masterful political manipulator who deviated from her promise of democratic socialism to embrace dynastic politics and suppress dissent. Loved, hated, and admired, Indira Gandhi left an enduring political legacy.

## RECOGNITION

- Bharat Ratna in 1971.
- Mexican Academy Award for Liberation of Bangladesh in 1972
- 2nd Annual Medal, FAO in 1973
- Sahitya Vachaspati (Hindi) by Nagari Pracharini Sabha in 1976
- Mothers' Award, U.S.A. in 1953 + + + +
- Isabella d'Este Award of Italy for outstanding work in diplomacy and Yale University's Howland Memorial Prize + + + +
- Diploma of Honour conferred by the Argentine Society for the Protection of Animals in 1971

## FACTS

- Indira Gandhi was the woman most admired by the French in 1967 and 1968, according to a poll by the French Institute of Public Opinion.
- According to a special Gallup Poll Survey in the U.S.A., she was the most admired person in the world in 1971.
- In 1999, Gandhi was named "Woman of the Millennium" in an online poll organized by the BBC.
- In 2020, Gandhi was named by Time magazine among the world's 100 powerful women who defined the last century.

Indira Gandhi was a woman of courage, vision, and foresight who made history as India's Prime Minister.



*Space Scientist, Physicist, Innovator, Businessman, Educationist, Art connoisseur who put India on the Global space map.*

Vikram Sarabhai, affectionately known as the father of India's space program, was more than just a scientist. Driven by his personal interest in cosmic rays, rockets, and satellites, Dr. Sarabhai believed in harnessing science and technology as tools for development. His pioneering efforts not only propelled India into space exploration but also brought television and cable television to the country. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai was the driving force behind the formation of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the conceptualization of the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, which was his brainchild. Tragically, he did not live to witness its launch.

## **DR. VIKRAM SARABHAI** **'FATHER OF SPACE PROGRAM'**



**Born:** 12th August, 1919  
**Died:** 30th December, 1971

*"Behind every creation, there's always the Creator. So, it doesn't matter, whether it is the time of Mahabharata or today's India. Never Forget God!!!"*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Sarabhai'.

Although he is most renowned for his contributions to India's space program, Vikram Sarabhai made pioneering strides in various other fields. He made significant contributions to textiles, pharmaceuticals, nuclear power, electronics, and more, continually seeking innovation until his last days. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Operations Research Group (ORG), India's first market research organization.





With support from Homi Bhabha , he also played a crucial role in establishing the Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thumba, which is now named after him. His efforts marked the inception of television in India, and he further contributed to the introduction of cable television. Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai's legacy endures through institutions like the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), founded in 1947, and the Indian National Committee for Space Research in 1962, later renamed ISRO in 1969. His collaboration with Dr. Homi Bhabha led to the creation of India's first rocket launching station in Thumba, near Thiruvananthapuram.

## RECOGNITION

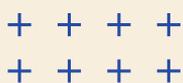
- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 1962
- Padma Bhushan in 1966
- Posthumous Padma Vibhushan in 1972
- Space Science Day observed in India every year on August 12
- A commemorative postal stamp was released by the Indian Postal Department on his first death anniversary.



## FACTS

- An International Astronomical Union crater on the moon was named in his honor in 1973.
- ISRO launched the first Indian lander-rover module to the moon in 2019, named Vikram.
- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO's lead facility for launch vehicle development, is named in his memory.

Vikram Sarabhai, the Renaissance Man of Indian Science, visualized the impossible and often made it a reality.





*Novelist, Essayist and leading 20th century poet of Punjabi language*

Amrita Pritam, celebrated for her Punjabi poetry, holds a special place in the realms of Urdu and Punjabi literature. Her timeless poem, "Rekhta," has touched the hearts of many worldwide, with an audio album, 'Amrita recited by Gulzar,' released in 2007 by the renowned lyricist and poet Gulzar. Pritam's literary prowess spanned over 100 books encompassing fiction, poetry, and essays in Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu, many of which have been translated internationally.

Among her most enduring works is "Aj Akhan Waris Shah Nu," where she vividly depicts the suffering of women during the tumultuous partition of India and Pakistan. Amrita Pritam's writings, be they novels, essays, or poems, all revolve around the central theme of women. Her early works were romantic, but she later aligned herself with the

## AMRITA PRITAM 'LEADING PUNJABI POET'



Born: 31st August, 1919

Died: 31st October, 2005

"ज़िन्दगी तुम्हारे उसी गुण का इम्तिहान लेती है, जो तुम्हारे भीतर मौजूद है मेरे अन्दर इश्क़ था।।"

Amrita Pritam was unapologetically bold about her personal life, unafraid to lay bare the taboo aspects of her experiences. She openly discussed her feelings and her unrequited love, owning her life and her choices. Her works feature resilient female characters who stand strong, regardless of their circumstances. Her renowned novel, "Pinjir" (The Skeleton), sheds light on the plight of women during the partition and its aftermath, later adapted into an award-winning film.



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progressive writers' movement, infusing her writing with a progressive and feminist outlook, yet love remained at the core of her narratives, often centered around the feelings of women. Amrita's personal life was marked by a loveless marriage at the age of 15, which led her to a deep connection with the poet Sahir Ludhianvi. However, his commitment issues left this love unrequited. Subsequently, she moved in with her friend and lover, Imroz, with whom she spent her days until her last breath. Their platonic relationship, unconventional for its time, was a testament to their deep bond, where Amrita's affection for Sahir Ludhianvi did not trouble Imroz. Their story lives on in "Amrita Imroz: A Love Story."

## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

- 1956: Sahitya Akademi Award
- 1969: Padma Shri
- 1981: Bharatiya Jnanpith
- 2004: The Padma Vibhushan
- 2004: Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest literary honour by the Akademi.
- In 1986, she was nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
- Notable books : Pinjar, Raseedi Ticket, Fifty Fragments of Inner self, Shadows of Words

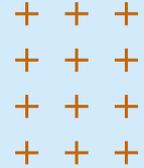
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- Pritam published her first collection of verse, "Amrit Lehry," at the age of 16.
- Over her six-decade career, she authored 28 novels, 18 prose anthologies, 5 short story collections, and 16 miscellaneous prose volumes.
- Her autobiography, "Kala Gulab," offers insights into her life.
- Pritam is best remembered for her iconic poem, "Aj Akhan Waris Shah Nu."
- She worked for All India Radio and edited the literary journal Nagmani.
- Her meeting with renowned artist and writer Imroz inspired her poem, "Shaam ka Phool."

Amrita Pritam, not just a poet but a revolutionary personified, crafted a literary legacy that celebrated women and progressive ideals.

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# PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR

**'LEADING SITARIST OF INDIA'**



Born: 7th April, 1920  
Died: 11th December, 2012

"There is no boundaries between the Music and Myself. The thin layer that separated me from it has dissolved. Now I am the music This is a time of great Joy...".



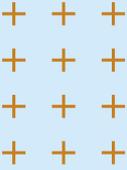
*Global Ambassador of Indian Classical Music, The sitar Maestro, best contemporary Indian Classical Music player, Artist & Musician.*

India's artistic heritage is rich and diverse, with legendary artists like Robindro Shaunkor Chowdhury well known as Pandit Ravi Shankar the the maestro of the sitar, who enriched the world of Indian classical music.

At the tender age of 10, Ravi Shankar embarked on a transformative journey to Paris with his brother, the choreographer Uday Shankar, as part of the 'Company of Hindu Dance and Music.' There, he was immersed in the music and dances of both Indian and Western cultures. The seeds sown in his youth would bear fruit in later years, earning Pandit Ravi Shankar the well-deserved title of the Global Ambassador of Indian Classical Music. His collaborations with renowned violinist Yehudi Menuhin and the tabla virtuoso Alla Rakha

Ravi Shankar was a pioneering musician who fearlessly experimented and merged Indian classical and Western music. Reflecting on his time with his brother's dance troupe, he once shared, "I keenly listened to our music and observed the reaction of audiences on hearing it. This critical analysis helped me decide what we should offer Western audiences to make them truly respect and appreciate Indian music."

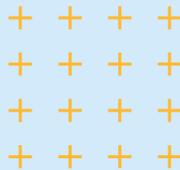




enriched the world of music. Pandit Ravi Shankar, an enduring inspiration to emerging talents in India, possessed the ability to reach deep into people's souls through his music. Ravi Shankar's musical journeys took him to numerous countries, including Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom, where he gained recognition and appreciation. Notably, he played a pivotal role in introducing traditional Indian music to Western audiences. His influence even extended to the legendary George Harrison, who learned the sitar from Ravi Shankar and played it in the Beatles' iconic track, 'Norwegian Wood.' The master of the sitar was a trailblazer who bridged the gap between Indian classical and Western music.

## RECOGNITION

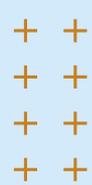
- Composed music for the 1982 Hollywood movie 'Gandhi,' earning an Academy Award nomination.
- Awarded the title of honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 2001 for services to music.
- Conferred France's highest civilian honour, Knight of the Legion of Honor.
- Won four Grammy Awards, the first of which was in 1967.
- Nominated to the Rajya Sabha by Rajiv Gandhi and served as a Member of Parliament from 1986 to 1992.



## FACTS

- Ravi Shankar recomposed music for the patriotic song 'Sare Jahan Se Achcha.'
- After the assassination of Gandhiji, he played "some mournful music without tabla accompaniment" on All India Radio.
- He created a new melodic theme drawing from the name 'Gandhi.'
- Ravi Shankar provided the score for Satyajit Ray's Apu trilogy, and upon Ray's passing, he composed 'Farewell, My Friend,' which was recorded and released.

Pandit Ravi Shankar was the maestro who introduced classical Indian music to the world and the enchanting sound of the sitar to none other than The Beatles.





# SATYAJIT RAY 'LEADING DIRECTOR OF INDIAN CINEMA'

Born: 2nd May, 1921  
Died: 23rd April, 1992

"I wouldn't mind taking a rest for three or four months, but I have to keep on making films for the sake of my crew, who just wait for the next film because they're not on a fixed salary"



*Film Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Cinematographer, Music Composer, Lyricist, Calligrapher, set designer, Illustrator & Writer*



The influence of Satyajit Ray on Indian cinema is so profound that it's divided into the pre-Ray and post-Ray eras. Ray ushered in a cinematic renaissance with his humanistic approach, making films in Bengali and Hindi that resonate universally, delving into the essence of humanity—relationships, emotions, struggles, conflicts, joys, and sorrows.

From a young age, Satyajit Ray exhibited the signs of a budding luminary in the world of entertainment. His passion for films, chess, and Western classical music was undeniable, and he soon embraced art as his profession. Over his lifetime, Ray directed more than 36 films, including feature films, documentaries, and shorts. His debut, 'Pather Panchali,' garnered 11 international

As a mere six-year-old, Ray presented Rabindranath Tagore with a notebook for an autograph. To his astonishment, the returned notebook contained not just Tagore's autograph but also a small poem: "For many a year, I have travelled many a mile, to lands far away I've gone to see the mountains, the oceans I've been to view. But I failed to see that ray. Not two steps from my home. On a sheaf of paddy grain - a glistening drop of dew." Years later, Ray emerged as one of the world's preeminent filmmakers, transcending borders and cultures.





awards and recognition. In stark contrast to the popular cinema of his time, Ray painted his characters in shades of grey, inhabiting a relatable middle ground. His mastery of craftsmanship, attention to detail, and storytelling technique are revered globally. Ray's ability to defy conventions, his compelling subjects, and his straightforward storytelling resulted in classics that set the benchmark for world cinema.

## RECOGNITION

- 32 National Film Awards and numerous international honours.
- The Golden Lion Honorary Award in 1982.
- An honorary Hommage at the 1982 Cannes Film Festival by the French film institute.
- Second-ever film personality after Chaplin to receive an honorary doctorate from Oxford University.
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1985.
- France's most prestigious award, the 'Legion of Honor,' in 1987.
- Bharat Ratna in 1992.
- Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences just days before his death.



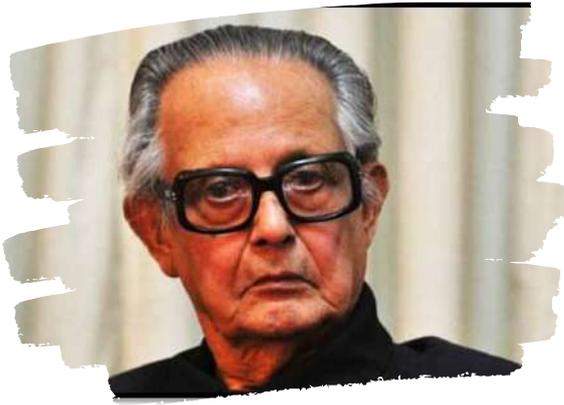
## FACTS

- Ray's 1962 film 'Kanchenjunga' is the first colored Bengali film and the first Indian anthology film.
- He had four Roman typefaces patented under his name, winning an international competition in 1971.
- Ray illustrated all his books and designed numerous book and magazine covers, including Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Discovery of India.'
- He revived the Bengali magazine 'Sandesh,' which was started by his grandfather, and served as its editor.
- In 1987, the French president flew to India to bestow the highest French civilian award upon the legendary Satyajit Ray.

Satyajit Ray didn't just create entertainment; he offered humanity a different and authentic perspective. His films were a mirror reflecting the essence of life itself.



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*Indian Cartoonist, illustrator, Humorist, Novelist & best know for his creation 'Common Man'.*

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Laxman, affectionately known as RK Laxman, graced the front pages of The Times of India for over five decades with his iconic "common man" character. These pocket cartoons resonated with the pulse of a nation in transition, offering poignant commentary on the idiosyncrasies of Indian society while reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the common man.

He also contributed cartoons for Swatantra - a local daily, work for Swarajya and also contributed for a Kannada humour magazine Koravanji. After finishing his studies Lakshman moved to Bombay and join the Free Press journal as a political cartoonist but it didn't last there for long. And in 1951 Laxman began with his illustrious career that lasted for more than 50 years with The Times of India. He created

## R K LAXMAN 'THE VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN'



Born: 24th October, 1921  
Died: 26th January, 2015

"Britishers who came to India missed Indian humour since they couldn't understand our sense of domestic humour. They thought Indians have no sense of humour!"

*R.K. Laxman*

Laxman's cartoons possessed the uncanny ability to pinpoint the real issues at hand. His pointed satire spared no politician or minister, be they high or mighty, exposing acts of impropriety and indiscretion. From Nehru to Indira to Rajeev, generations of politicians faced his razor-sharp wit. With a remarkable knack for finding humor in the gravest situations, Laxman provided India with daily lessons in humor, sarcasm, and political satire. His vast canvas spanned local, national, and global personalities, illuminating the complex currents shaping the world.



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the popular mascot for Asian Paints, Gattu, in 1954. He also authored several novels , including "The Hotel Riviera", and his cartoons found a place in Hindi films and television, such as "Mr. and Mrs. 55" and "Malgudi Days." The legacy of RK Laxman continues through adaptations like "RK Laxman ki Duniya" and "Wagle ki Duniya" on television. The Times of India paid tribute to him by dedicating the masthead to the "Uncommon Man" upon his passing, marking the end of a unique era of playful, ironic, and astute humor. RK Laxman remains the uncrowned conscience keeper of the nation.

## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

- B.D. Goenka Award by the Indian Express.
- Durga Ratan Gold Medal from Hindustan Times.
- Padma Bhushan in 1973.
- Padma Vibhushan in 2005.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts in 1984.
- Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalism from CNN IBN TV18 on 29th January 2008.

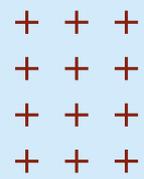
- Laxman's favorite subjects for cartoons outside politics were crows and Ganpati.
- The Indian Space Research Organization paid tribute to him with an online cartoon, "common man reaching Mars."
- He worked on an animated film based on the mythological character Narada.

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RK Laxman, the uncrowned conscience keeper of the nation, was a political cartoonist renowned for his "common man" character, which delivered astute and timeless humor.

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*Milkman of India,  
Entrepreneur, Doyen of Dairy  
cooperative movement,  
Institutional builder par  
excellence.*

Dr. Verghese Kurien's lifelong mission can be summarized in one word: "empowerment." He dedicated his life to empowering small and marginal farmers and landless laborers, transforming their lives socially, politically, and most importantly, economically. The Milk Revolution, a byproduct of his empowerment efforts through the Amul-model dairy cooperatives, remains a testament to his remarkable impact.

Vergheese Kurien stands as one of India's most enterprising and innovative personalities. Frustrated by the monopolized state of milk production, he committed himself to not only empowering the farmers who produced it but also making India the world's largest dairy producer. His revolutionary ideas gave birth to the

## DR. VERGHESE KURIEN

### 'FATHER OF WHITE REVOLUTION'

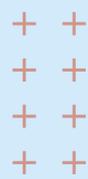
**Born:** 26th November, 1921

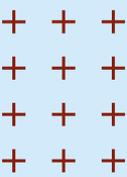
**Died:** 9th September, 2012

"My philosophy in life is to do as much good as I can to those who are less fortunate, But I would like to live my life as a common man"

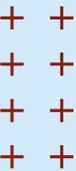
Rainer Maria Rilke's description of extraordinary individuals rings true for Dr. Kurien.

*"Again and Again in history,  
Some special people wake up,  
They have no ground in the crowd,  
They move to broader laws,  
They carry strange customs with them,  
And demand room for bold audacious actions,  
The future speaks ruthlessly through them,  
They change the world"*





immensely successful milk cooperative movement known as Operation Flood. he is one of the people who rise above the crowd, challenging existing norms, and bringing about audacious actions that change the world. The brands born from this movement, including Amul, Mother Dairy, Safal, and Dhara, remain owned by farmers rather than multinational corporations. From its humble beginnings with 2 cooperative societies and 247 liters of milk, Amul now boasts 15 million producers and 144,246 dairy cooperative societies across India. Dr. Kurien's legacy includes the founding of institutions like IRMA, GCMMF, and NDDB, which continue to shape the dairy industry.



## RECOGNITION

- Received 12 honorary degrees from universities worldwide.
- International Person of the Year Award in 1993.
- World Food Prize in 1989.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1963.
- Padma Shri in 1965.
- Padma Bhushan in 1966.
- Krishi Ratna in 1986.
- Padma Vibhushan in 1999.
- Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.
- His birthday, November 26th, is celebrated as National Milk Day.
- His success story is included in the NCERT syllabus for class 10.

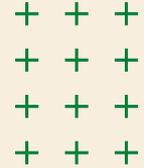


## FACTS

- Dr. Kurien's maximum monthly salary was Rs. 5,000 in the 1960s, after which he voluntarily received a token salary of Rs. 1 per month.
- He excelled in various sports, winning medals in tennis, badminton, and boxing.
- The Hindi film "Manthan," based on a story co-authored by Dr. Verghese Kurien, was made with contributions of Re. 1 from each farmer in Anand and won the Best Feature Film award.
- Dr. Kurien worked with nine Prime Ministers during his five decades of service and held strong reservations against Nestle.

Dr. Verghese Kurien will forever be remembered as the visionary who redefined milk as a potent tool for economic development, leaving an indelible mark on India's dairy industry.





# DR. M S SWAMINATHAN



## 'FATHER OF GREEN REVOLUTION IN INDIA'

Born: 7th August, 1925

Died: 28th September, 2023

*"The future belongs to nations with grains not guns. Guns you can purchase but grains you cannot purchase"*

*M. S. Swaminathan*

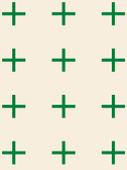
*Father of Economic Ecology, Indian agricultural scientist, plant geneticist, administrator and humanitarian.*

In the challenging years following India's independence, the nation struggled to provide for its rapidly growing population, often depending on food imports. M.S. Swaminathan, a pioneer in genetic engineering and innovation, played a pivotal role in enhancing India's agricultural capabilities, ensuring food security for the nation.

Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan approaches his work with the heart of a humanist, the inquisitive mind of a scientist, and the visionary outlook of a global citizen. His scientific endeavors for food and nutrition security go beyond research, embracing a commitment to ecological conservation, poverty alleviation, gender empowerment, social equity, and the promotion of human

M.S. Swaminathan is often hailed as the father of India's Second Green Revolution, a transformative period in 2004, also known as the Rainbow Revolution, focusing on enhancing the production of next-generation food grains. Dr. Swaminathan is celebrated for his tireless advocacy of sustainable development, particularly through ecologically friendly agriculture, sustainable food security, and the preservation of biodiversity. His contributions have earned him the esteemed recognition of being described by former United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez Cuellar as "a legend who will go into the annals of history as a world scientist of a rare distinction."





and moral values. Central to his work are Mahatma Gandhi 's principles of "sarvodaya" (universal upliftment) and "antyyodaya" (upliftment of the last person). His guiding motto is, "If the conservation of natural resources goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right." His work raised wheat crop yields from 12 million to 23 million tons in just four crop seasons, significantly enhancing India's food security. Swaminathan continues to champion the adoption of eco-friendly farming practices and promotes sustainable development. His advocacy extends to a wide range of areas, from sustainable agriculture to ensuring food availability and conserving biodiversity.



## RECOGNITION

- Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1971.
- The Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986.
- The UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Prize in 2000.
- The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award in 2007.
- Padma Shri in 1967.
- Padma Bhushan in 1972.
- Padma Vibhushan in 1989.
- Over 70 honorary PhD degrees from universities worldwide.
- First laureate of the World Food Prize in 1987, considered the Nobel Prize in Agriculture.

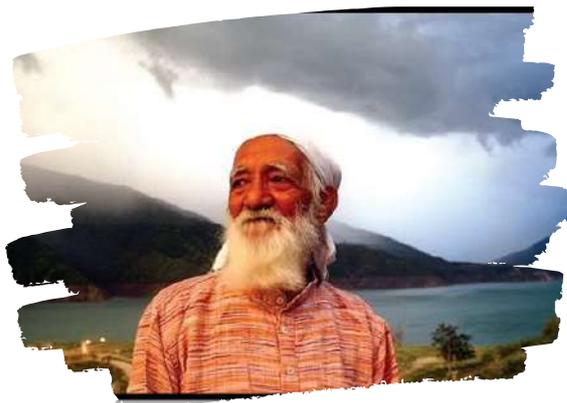


## FACTS

- He was the UNESCO - Cousteau Chair in Ecotechnology at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, India.
- He was the chairman of the National Commission on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security of India (National Commission on Farmers).
- He was spearheading a movement to bridge the Digital divide called, "Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre"

M.S. Swaminathan's visionary contributions transformed India from a nation relying on food imports to a self-sustaining "breadbasket."





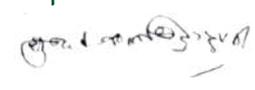
# SUNDERLAL BAHUGUNA

## 'GUARDIAN OF THE FOREST'



Born: 9th January, 1927  
Died: 21st May, 2021

"Ecology is the permanent Economy"



### Indian Environmentalist & Activist

Sunderlal Bahuguna is a global environmental activist renowned for his efforts in raising awareness about deforestation, the perils of alcohol in mountain communities, and the ecological health of the Ganges River. He is best known as a prominent figure in the Chipko movement, a leader who spoke out against the flawed decision-making process behind the Tehri Dam. In 1981, Sunderlal embarked on a hunger strike, catalyzing a 15-year ban on commercial tree felling in Uttarakhand. His unwavering commitment to environmental preservation led him on a 4,000 km march through the Himalayas two years later, aiming to draw attention to the region's escalating environmental degradation. In 1992, he took a drastic step by shaving his head and launching a hunger strike in protest of the Tehri

Sunderlal Bahuguna drew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's call for the "Strength of non-violence and fasting," considering him his hero. He also admired Sridev Suman, a staunch advocate for Tehri's independence from dynastic rule. Bahuguna's relentless activism included a 56-day hunger strike against the Tehri Dam on the Bhagirathi River, marking one of India's lengthiest post-independence fasts. His outspoken views galvanized India's youth, inciting them to take action against ecological degradation, leaving a lasting legacy as a grassroots environmental protector.





Dam's construction, a project that displaced him from his ancestral home. he also supported movements led by women to combat the liquor trade in the hills and championed the Beej Bachao Andolan, a campaign dedicated to conserving Himalayan agricultural biodiversity against the unsustainable Green Revolution. His 1981-83 trans-Himalayan march spanning 4,700 km highlighted the perils associated with mega-development projects in the Himalayan ecosystem. Sunderlal Bahuguna was a Gandhian at heart, deeply influenced by the principles of satyagraha. His contributions to environmental conservation are immeasurable and will forever be commemorated. A salute to this environmentalist, conservationist, and dedicated social worker.

## RECOGNITION

- Right Livelihood Award (Chipko Movement) in 1987.
- Jamnalal Bajaj Award for constructive work in 1986.
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Social Sciences conferred by IIT Roorkee in 1989.
- Padma Vibhushan Award by the Government of India for environmental conservation in 2009.
- Padma Shri (Refused) in 1987, as he declined the honor in protest of the Tehri Dam project despite his protests.



## FACTS

- Sunderlal Bahuguna's marriage to Vimla was contingent on living in a rural setting and establishing an ashram.
- Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, he traversed hills and forests by foot, covering 4,700 kilometers.
- He undertook hunger strikes lasting 45 and 74 days to protect Bhagirathi, the fragile Garhwal Himalayas, and the local ecology.
- In 1992, he shaved his head as a sign of protest against the Tehri Dam.

Sunderlal Bahuguna's lifelong dedication to the preservation of the environment has left an indelible mark, making him a true steward of the Earth.





*The person who helped differently abled people to walk with pride.*

Dr. Pramod Karan Sethi, a renowned Indian orthopedic surgeon, left an indelible mark on the medical field with his invention of the "Jaipur Foot," an affordable and innovative artificial leg. His pioneering work showcased not only his surgical expertise but also his remarkable skills as a scientist. After completing his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr. Sethi returned to India and assumed the role of a surgery lecturer at the SMS Medical College and Hospital in Jaipur. There, he established the Orthopedic Department and Rehabilitation Unit, playing a pivotal role in its development until his retirement in 1982.

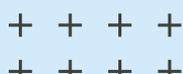
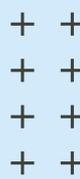
Dr. Sethi's dedication to rehabilitating amputees, particularly young people who had lost their legs in road accidents, was remarkable. He recognized the challenges they faced, often wearing ill-

## **DR. P K SETHI** **'INVENTOR OF JAIPUR FOOT'**

Born: 28th November, 1927  
Died: 6th January, 2008

*"A giver is a greater beneficiary than receiver"*

Together, Dr. Sethi and Ram chandra designed a groundbreaking prosthesis for individuals with below-knee amputations. Their creation, using vulcanized rubber hinged to a wooden limb, resulted in a below-knee prosthesis that closely mimicked the functions of a natural human leg. This prosthetic was a game-changer, boasting features such as a natural appearance, lightweight design (1.5 kg), waterproof capabilities, versatility to be worn with or without shoes, ease of walking on uneven terrain, the ability to squat, sit cross-legged, and even ride a bicycle. Dr. Sethi chose to call it the "Jaipur Foot" in honor of the city that held profound significance in his life.

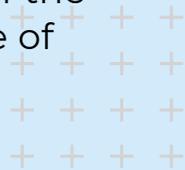




fitted, heavy prostheses or relying on crutches. His passion for helping these amputees led him to a collaboration with local craftsman Pandit Ram Chandra Sharma, known as "Masterji," who approached him with an innovative idea. He later collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, and the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, to develop low-cost, lightweight polyurethane calipers for individuals affected by polio. In 1968, Dr.PromodKaran Sethi, along with Ram Chandra Sharma, changed the lives of millions worldwide by epitomizing the "Jugaad" way of thinking, seeking smart, low-cost solutions to problems. His legacy remains a testament to Indian innovation.

## RECOGNITION

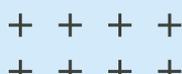
- Dr. B.C. Roy Award in 1979
- Padma Shri Award in 1981
- Magsaysay Award in 1981
- Guinness Award for Scientific Achievement in 1982
- International Red Cross Committee recognition for the Jaipur foot's extensive use in post-Afghanistan war and other countries.
- Major Rotary International award recipient
- Elected as a fellow of the British Royal College of Surgeons.

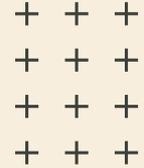


## FACTS

- The renowned dancer and actress Sudha Chandran, who lost her right leg in a car accident in 1980, continued her dance career by using the Jaipur foot.
- A model of the Jaipur limb is displayed in the Imperial War Museum, London.
- Dr. Sethi's greatest regret was not being able to pass on his idealism to the younger generation of Indian doctors.
- The Jaipur foot has positively impacted 1.45 million lives to date.

Dr. Pramod Karan Sethi made an enduring contribution to orthopedic rehabilitation through his groundbreaking invention of the Jaipur Foot, a wood and rubber ankle-foot prosthesis, transforming the lives of countless amputees.

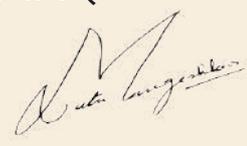




# LATA MANGESHKAR 'NIGHTINGALE OF INDIA'

Born: 28th September, 1929  
Died: 6th February, 2022

"नाम गुम जाएगा,  
चेहरा ये बदल जायेगा  
मेरी आवाज़ ही पहचान है  
गर याद रहे..."

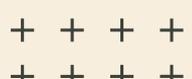
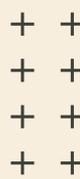


*One of the most versatile singer of Indian films Industry.*

A voice that echoes the war cries of thousands of Indians Jawans a voice that serves as the only ground of consensus amongst family members in a car, a voice that leaks sentiments aplenty, and holds a multitude of experience in every note such was the voice of our melody queen Lata Mangeshkar. Though no longer with us, her evergreen voice continues to bind us human together, as it always and will for she was not just a prolific singer, but the very soul of Indian music. Her art flowed from her heart, earning her boundless love and admiration across generations.

Lata Mangeshkar's journey of inspiration began at the tender age of five when her father initiated her musical training. Her professional musical voyage commenced at the age of 12 when, in 1942,

Early in her career, film directors initially hesitated, considering her voice too thin and unromantic for playback singing. Her songs were often edited out of movies. However, her breakthrough came in 1943 with the Hindi song "माता एक सपूत की दुनिया बदल दे तू." From that point on, she earned the title of the "Nightingale of India," collaborating with iconic music composers like the Burmans, Madan Mohan, and Laxmikant Pyarelal, while also working with contemporary talents like A.R. Rahman, making her mark on Indian cinema over several decades.



she tragically lost her father, becoming the sole breadwinner for her family. In an era dominated by legendary voices like Noor Jahan and Shamshad Begum, Lata Mangeshkar faced her own set of challenges. Lata Mangeshkar's legendary singing career was marked by numerous accomplishments and awards. She was honored with the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, recognizing her immense contribution to music. She was the first Indian to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in 1974, and throughout her career spanning over seven decades, she received numerous awards. Notably, in 1970, she generously gave up Filmfare awards to promote fresh talent.

### RECOGNITION

### FACTS

- Padma Bhushan (1969)
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1989)
- Padma Vibhushan (1999)
- Maharashtra Bhushan Award (1997)
- NTR National Award (1999)
- ANR National Award (2009)
- Bharat Ratna, India's Highest Civilian Award in 2001
- Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993
- She served as a Member of Parliament (MP) from 1999 to 2005 and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) in 1999.

- Lata Mangeshkar lent her enchanting voice to over 50,000 songs in more than 36 different languages.
- She produced four films during her career.
- Despite her monumental success, she did not receive formal education as she did not attend school.
- She refrained from listening to her own songs, fearing she might find faults in her singing.
- Her last recorded song, "Saugandh Mujhe Is Mitti Ki," paid tribute to the Indian Army and the nation.
- In the 1974 edition of the Guinness Book of Records, she was recognized as the most recorded artist, having sung around 25,000 songs.

Lata Mangeshkar's voice transcended generations and dominated the melodies of Hindi cinema, making her an icon among icons in the world of music.



# MILKHA SINGH 'THE FLYING SIKH'

Born: 20th November, 1929  
Died: 18th June, 2021

"Life is not written in the lines of palms, we too have a big part to play in our destiny"

## Indian Track and field Athlete

Milkha Singh, famously known as the Flying Sikh, embarked on a remarkable journey from orphanhood to becoming an iconic figure in Indian athletics. Raised in the small village of Govindpura, which now lies in Pakistan, his life took a harrowing turn during the 1947 partition. He witnessed the brutal murder of his parents and several siblings, with his father's last words, "Bhag Milkha Bhag" ("Run, Milkha, Run"), propelling him to escape on a train to Delhi. Living amidst thousands of refugees at a railway station and enduring a period of destitution, including working as a cleaner for a meager monthly salary of Rs. 10, Milkha's resilience shone through. He even faced imprisonment for traveling without a ticket but was released thanks to his sister's sacrifice, who sold her jewellery. The trauma led him down a perilous path before he ultimately found direction

In March 1960, Pakistan invited the Indian athletics team to Lahore for a dual championship. Initially hesitant due to his haunting partition experience, Milkha eventually agreed to compete for the pride of India, following an insistence from India's Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. In Pakistan, he defeated Abdul Khalik, the country's champion athlete, in the 200m race. This remarkable feat led to his famous nickname, the "Flying Sikh," bestowed by Ayub Khan, the then President of Pakistan. In response, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru declared a national holiday to honor Milkha Singh's achievement.

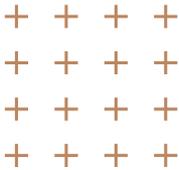




when he joined the Indian army, as suggested by his Brother. Despite facing 3 rejections in his attempts to join the army, Milkha Singh's unwavering passion and determination finally earned him acceptance on the fourth try. Milkha Singh's fame began to soar during the 1956 National Games in Patiala, and his distinctive appearance with long hair and beard at the 1960 Rome Olympics became the talk of the town. His success and his unique headgear led people to wonder if he was a saint, as they marveled at how a saint could run so astonishingly fast. For five decades, he held the esteemed title of India's greatest Olympian, thanks to his extraordinary achievements.

### RECOGNITION

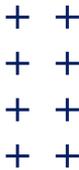
- Milkha broke the 200m and 400m records in the 1958 National Games in Cuttack.
- In the same year, he secured gold medals in the 200m and 400m events at the Asian Games in Tokyo.
- He represented India in three Olympics, from 1956 to 1964.
- At the 1958 Commonwealth Games, he clinched India's first gold.
- He received the Padma Shri in 1959.
- In the 1962 Asian Games, he won gold medals for India in the 400m and 4x400 relay.
- He declined the Arjuna Award in 2001, stating it was "40 years late."

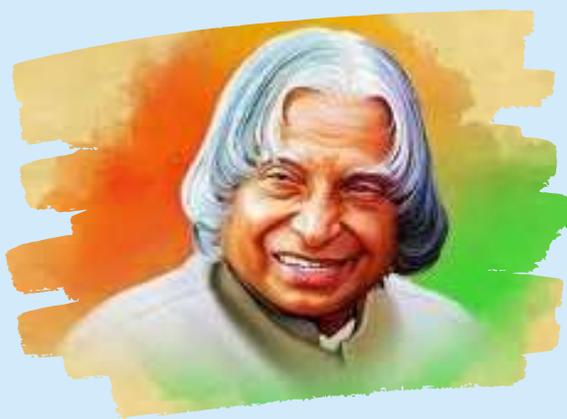
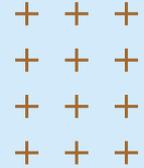


### FACTS

- He was the first Indian athlete to reach Olympic finals, narrowly losing the race by 0.1 seconds.
- He founded the Milkha Singh Charitable Trust, aimed at assisting needy sportspeople.
- Milkha generously donated all of his medals to India.
- He sold the rights to his biography for just Rs. 1 to the producer and director of "Bhag Milkha Bhag."
- Out of 80 races he participated in around the world, he won an astounding 77.
- His average running speed during the 1960 Rome Olympics 400m final was 32 km/hr.

Milkha Singh, the renowned "Flying Sikh," emerged from a traumatic past to introduce India to the realm of track and field with his unparalleled feats and unwavering spirit.





# DR. A P J ABDUL KALAM

## 'MISSILE MAN OF INDIA'



Born: 15th October, 1931  
Died: 27th July, 2015

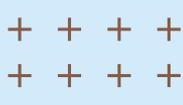
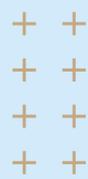
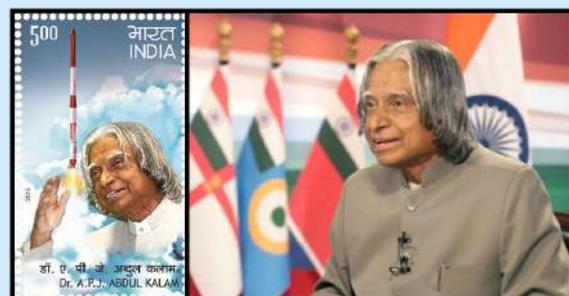
*"You cannot change your future, but you can change your habits, and surely your habits will change your future"*

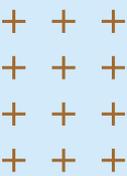
*People's president, Author, Professor, Engineer, Scientist, President & above all a good human being*

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen, affectionately known as the "People's President," was a remarkable scientist and engineer who served as India's President from 2002 to 2007. Driven by a vision of propelling India to superpower status, he consistently generated magnificent ideas to realize this dream.

Dr. Kalam was a profound thinker, a technical genius, and an astute defense project manager. Yet, his communication was always marked by a certain lightness that concealed the seriousness and critical nature of his undertakings. Thus, he concentrated his efforts on sowing seeds of inspiration in the minds of young Indians. His incredible people-connect and mass appeal earned him love and respect among students across the nation.

A dedicated educationist and prolific writer, Dr. Kalam's books, such as "Wings of Fire," "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium," "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the Power Within India," and "My Journey," ignited a passionate drive in numerous young minds to work towards India's progress. He possessed a forward-looking perspective, understanding that motivating individuals of his generation proved challenging, given their entrenched beliefs.

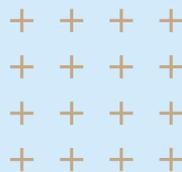




Dr. Kalam’s life taught us that power and peace can coexist. he demonstrated that to achieve the ability to create missiles armed with nuclear warheads capable of striking deep into enemy territory, one does not need wealth, influence, or a metropolitan upbringing. Born in a village in Tamil Nadu, he once sold newspapers as a child to support his education but grew up to have his finger on the country's nuclear button. He taught us that determination, hard work, and the spirit to dream beyond immediate circumstances are the only prerequisites for achieving greatness.

## RECOGNITION

- Honorary doctorates from 40 universities.
- Padma Bhushan in 1981.
- Padma Vibhushan in 1990.
- Bharat Ratna in 1997.
- The Indian government declared Kalam's birthday as "Youth Renaissance Day."
- The UN celebrated Kalam's 79th birthday as World Student's Day in 1997.
- Switzerland declared 26th May as Science Day in 2005 to commemorate Dr. Kalam's visit.



## FACTS

- Dr. Kalam initiated his day by reading the Bhagavad Gita.
- He worked for about 18 hours each day.
- He played the Rudra Veena.
- He took leave from work only twice, both times due to the deaths of his parents.
- He cherished interacting with school students and aimed to establish a small school in Rameshwaram after retirement.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's exemplary humility and personal conduct as India's 11th President have become a part of folklore, serving as an enduring motivation for future generations of young Indians.





# DALAI LAMA 'HIS HOLINESS'



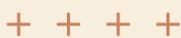
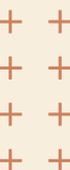
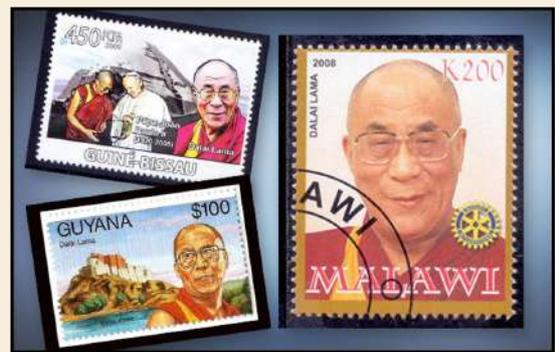
Born: 6th July, 1935

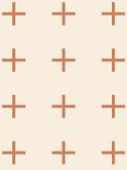
"Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back, and reasons to stay".  
*Holiness*

## Spiritual Leader, Buddhist Monk

The Dalai Lama, a title that resonates with profound spiritual authority, represents the highest spiritual leader chosen by the Tibetan people. Referred to simply as 'His Holiness,' the Dalai Lama holds a unique and revered position within Tibetan Buddhism. The origins of this title provide us with a glimpse into the deep symbolism it carries. The term 'Dalai' traces its roots to the Mongolian word 'ocean,' which signifies vastness and depth, while 'Lama' closely resembles the Sanskrit term 'guru,' symbolizing a spiritual teacher or guide. Hence, when these elements are brought together, 'Dalai Lama' embodies the concept of 'ocean wisdom' – a teacher whose wisdom is as profound as the boundless ocean. This position, created in 1391, signifies profound spiritual knowledge and is believed to be the earthly embodiment of Avalokiteśvara, a symbol of

Tenzin Gyatso has been the Dalai Lama since 1940. Born into a humble farming family, it took Tibetan monks four years to locate him, influenced by various signs. In March 1959, as the political landscape in China shifted, Tibetans rose against Chinese rule. The Chinese People's Republic responded harshly, leading to a revolt's suppression. The Dalai Lama fled Tibet to India during this uprising, where he was welcomed by the then-Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, allowing the formation of the 'Tibetan government in exile' in Dharamsala.





compassion. The Dalai Lama's significance transcends borders , symbolizing peace, spirituality and the quest for a free Tibet. His life story is a testament to his unwavering commitment to these principles, making him an iconic figure on the global stage. The Dalai Lama is a significant figure not just as a person but also as an influential personality transcending borders, politics, and physical boundaries. His lifelong dedication to spiritual wisdom and his tireless efforts for a free Tibet and a more peaceful, harmonious world exemplify his impact.

## RECOGNITION

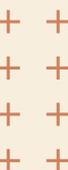
- Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle in the liberation of Tibet in 1989.
- First Nobel Laureate recognized for global environmental concerns.
- Over 150 awards, honorary doctorates, and prizes in recognition of his message of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility, and compassion since 1959.



## FACTS

- Traveled to more than 67 countries across six continents.
- Authored or co-authored more than 110 books.
- Released an album, 'Inner World,' on his 85th birthday in 2020, featuring prayers, instrumental music, and meditation music.
- Enjoys hobbies like gardening and watchmaking.
- Deep interest in the intersection of science and religion, particularly in the areas of ecology and planet preservation.

The Dalai Lama, a religious teacher for Tibetans and one of the world's most influential leaders, spreads a message of peace, spirituality, and freedom.



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+ + +  
+ + +



*Environmentalism, Engineer, Professor, Author, Nobel-Laureate, Advisor*

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri was a renowned global figure, celebrated for his exceptional contributions to climate change and sustainable development. As the Chairman of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Director General of the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), he was a leading voice in addressing planetary sustainability.

Dr. Pachauri, a stalwart in the field of climate change and sustainability, held the esteemed position of Chairman of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Simultaneously, he served as the Director General of the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a pioneering organization dedicated to researching and advocating sustainable development in India. His conviction that

## **DR. RAJENDRA K.PACHAURI 'ENVIRONMENTALIST'**



Born: 20th August, 1940  
Died: 13th February, 2020

*"Don't eat meat, ride a bicycle, be frugal-that's how you can help brake global warming."*

*Maharishi*

Dr. Pachauri was vocal about the crucial role our dietary choices play in climate change mitigation. He emphasized that efforts to combat world hunger and promote environmental sustainability, such as planting trees, could be significantly undermined if the root problem, our dietary choices, remained unaddressed. In a bold statement in 2008, he advocated for reduced meat consumption, along with adopting frugality and cycling as ways to combat global warming. His strong stand on the environmental impact of our food choices resonated with people worldwide and prompted change.



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climate change posed a grave threat to the planet and necessitated a shift towards low-carbon fuels was unwavering. In his Nobel Peace Prize Award speech in 2007, he eloquently referred to the Hindu philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, conveying the message that "the whole universe is one family." Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, a staunch vegetarian, embarked on a global journey to encourage people to shift towards plant - based diets as an effective strategy to combat climate change. His influence extended beyond individual choices as seen in Ghent, Belgium, where the city council officially declared Thursday as "Veggie Day" in response to his seminar. Dr. Pachauri's unwavering leadership made climate change a paramount global issue, ushering in a new era of international action and deliberation.

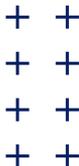
**RECOGNITION**

**FACTS**

- Padma Bhushan (2001): Recognized for significant contributions.
- Officer De La Leigon D'Honneur (2006): Awarded by the Government of France.
- Nobel Peace Prize (2007): Acknowledged for outstanding work in climate change.
- Padma Vibhushan (2008): India's second-highest civilian award.
- Conferred The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (by His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan): Recognition for climate change efforts.

- 26 Honorary Doctoral Degrees: Recognized by universities worldwide.
- 23 Books Authored: Contributions in the field of climate change and sustainability.
- Avid Cricket Enthusiast: Embraced the sport with enthusiasm.
- Poetry and Fiction Writer: Apart from his scientific work, he was a creative author.
- Novel: Return to Almora (2010): Demonstrated his literary talent and versatility.

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, a hero advocating the Vegetarian Diet to combat Global Warming, earned the Nobel Peace Prize for his remarkable contributions.





# SAM PITRODA 'FATHER OF INDIA'S COMPUTER AND I T REVOLUTION'

Born: 17th November, 1942

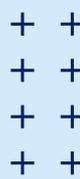
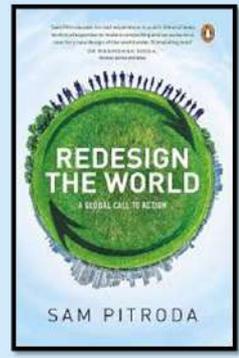
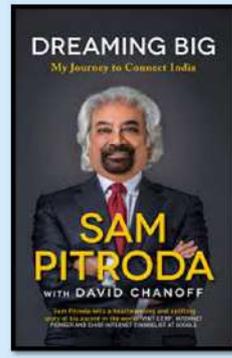
Until we get 5,000-10,000 people in every district who are dedicated to help local people you don't have a movement. That is what we need,"

*Development thinker, Policy maker, Telecom inventor, Innovator & Entrepreneur.*

Sam Pitroda, also known as Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda, is a renowned development thinker with over 55 years of experience in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and related fields.

Credited with laying the foundation for India's technology and telecommunications revolution in the 1980s, Mr. Pitroda is a leading advocate for bridging the global digital divide. During his tenure as an advisor to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he spearheaded six technology missions, addressing critical areas such as telecommunications, water resources, literacy, immunization, dairy production, and oilseed cultivation. Furthermore, he played a pivotal role in founding and chairing India's Telecom Commission. In these multifaceted roles, Mr. Pitroda

Recently, Mr. Pitroda served as the Advisor to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation, holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister. He chaired the Smart Grid Task Force and various committees aimed at modernizing public broadcasting, railways, governance delivery, and other developmental initiatives. He is also the founding chairman of five nonprofit organizations, including the India Food Bank, the Global Knowledge Initiative, and the Institute of Transdisciplinary Health.





transformed India's development strategies and policies by emphasizing access to technology as the catalyst for social change . In 2005 , he assumed leadership of India's National Knowledge Commission from 2005 to 2009, laying the groundwork for knowledge-related institutions and infrastructure in the 21st century. Sam Pitroda dedicated his efforts to make telecommunication accessible even in the remotest parts of rural India, recognizing that information and communication technology (ICT) is as essential as basic amenities like water and education in the developing world. During his role as advisor to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1987, he spearheaded six pivotal technology missions, addressing areas like telecommunications, water resources, literacy, immunization, dairy production, and oilseed cultivation.

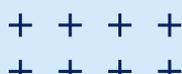
## RECOGNITION

- Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award, 2000
- Dataquest Lifetime Achievement Award, 2002
- IEEE Communications Society Award, 2007
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication and Information Society Award, 2011
- Padma Bhushan, 2009, for his outstanding contributions to Science and Engineering

## FACTS

- Sam Pitroda is a talented artist and painter, with his work being exhibited in Paris, France.
- His biography, titled "Sam Pitroda: A Biography," authored by Mayank Chhaya, became a best-seller in India.
- His family has a deep-rooted influence of Mahatma Gandhi and his principles. As a child, Sam and his brother were sent to Gujarat to learn about Gandhian philosophy.

Sam Pitroda: A Pioneer of Hand-Held Computing with the Invention of the Electronic Diary.





# AMITABH BACHCHAN

**'THE MOST ADMIRRED ACTOR IN INDIA'**

Born: 11th October, 1942

"कोई भी लक्ष्य मनुष्य के साहस से बड़ा नहीं, हारा वही जो लड़ा नहीं"

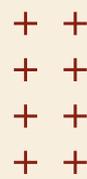
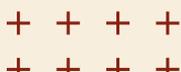
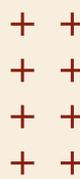
*Amitabh Bachchan*

*Mahanayak, Actor, Shahenshah of Bollywood, Star of the Millennium, film producer, television-host, a singer & former politician.*

Amitabh Bachchan, popularly known as 'Big B,' is an iconic figure in the Indian film industry. Born as Inquilab Shrivastava to renowned poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, he adopted the name Amitabh and his father's pen name 'Bachchan.' His remarkable career in cinema began in 1969 with a voice narration role in Mrinal Sen's 'Bhuvan Shome,' and he later lent his voice to Satyajit Ray's 1977 film 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi.'

Amitabh Bachchan's entry into Bollywood was facilitated by a letter of introduction from then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, owing to his friendship with her son, Rajiv Gandhi. This marked the beginning of his illustrious film career, commencing with the movie 'Zanjeer,' alongside future wife Jaya Bhaduri. In

Often referred to as the 'complete actor,' Amitabh Bachchan's versatile talents encompassed comedy, action, dance, drama, and romance. His dynamic performances effortlessly transitioned between brooding intensity, humor, romantic charm, and action sequences. Some of his signature dance moves became iconic in Indian cinema. Bachchan's contributions led to a shift in the industry's narrative focus, emphasizing the central role of the lead actor over supporting characters.





1975, he appeared in two movies of the millennium Deewar millennium Deewar and Sholay. There evolved another Amitabh Bachchan with the name of 'angry young man' of Bollywood leading to film career spanning over five decades. Over the years, he has appeared in numerous films and even ventured into television with 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. Despite his age, he exudes boundless energy and enthusiasm on sets. Amitabh Bachchan is known for his willingness to step out of his comfort zone, making him a legendary figure in Indian cinema. He may be 80 but on sets he behaves like the mirror image, as if he is 8, he is so full of energy and enthusiasm. He is the change. He never wants to remain in his comfort zone and always wants to experiment, which makes him Big B, Baadshah, Amitabh - a person with an immortal glow...

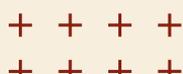
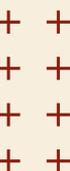
## RECOGNITION

- Four National Film Awards, including three for Best Actor.
- Fourteen Filmfare Awards with 37 nominations in major acting categories.
- Padma Shri in 1984.
- Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- Knight of the Legion of Honour by France.
- Actor of the Century Award at the Alexandria International Film Festival in 2001.
- Lifetime Achievement Award at the Asian Film Awards in 2010.
- Honorary Citizenship of France.

## FACTS

- Battled a rare muscular disorder called myasthenia gravis along with vitiligo.
- His wax statue is displayed at Madame Tussaud's in London, making him the first Asian actor to receive this honor.
- With a filmography of over 180 Indian movies spanning four decades, he had 12 consecutive flops before his first super hit, 'Zanjeer'.
- His name has been Vijay in more than 20 films, and he has played double roles in 14 films, a record for any Indian actor.
- Amitabh Bachchan is ambidextrous, capable of writing with both hands.

Amitabh Bachchan, known as 'Big B', is an iconic figure who has left an indelible mark on the world of Indian cinema, celebrated for his remarkable versatility and legendary performances.





*Educator, Researcher, author, lecturer, disability rights activist.*

Dr. Mithu Alur is the Founder Chairperson of a disability movement in India, which began in 1972, when she realized the need of caring and education such people after her daughter Malini Chib was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and the care of people with conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome and mental retardation was non-existing in India in the 1970s. Since then she has been extensively involved in social change, legislation and policy for disabled people. She is a pioneer in the care and education of people with Neuro-Muscular and Developmental Disabilities, like cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome and mental retardation. in the 1960s, there was no proper school for children with disabilities in India. Hence, she trained in Institute of Education, England and started the



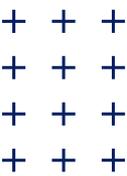
## **DR. MITHU ALUR** **'FOUNDER OF SPASTICS SOCIETY IN INDIA'**

Born: 27th March, 1943

"A disabled child starts emulating how a normal child reacts by observing. A non-disabled child learns even more, in terms of values not taught otherwise, like kindness and compassion."

In 1998 Dr Alur completed her Ph.D. entitled, 'Invisible Children: A Study of Policy Exclusion' from London University. The findings of this research showed that India did not have a cohesive policy for the education of children with disabilities and that only 2% of coverage has taken place in the last fifty years a 98% of people with disabilities got no service at all. Based on the findings of her own research Dr. Alur moved onto her second model a new movement and launched the National Resource Centre for Inclusion within the Spastics Society.





Spastics Society of India (SSI) in 1972. She got support from then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to open the school and actress Nargis Dutta became the first patron. The Spastics Society of India has since changed names and is currently called ADAPT - Able Disable All People Together. A school that began with three students has now served education for children more than 3000 and around 10,000 families. Mithu Alur has advocated inclusive education under the news provisions in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act RTE Act, stating that it will help every child, including children without disabilities.

## RECOGNITION

## FACTS

- Woman of the Year – CNN IBN Super Idol Award in 2010.
- EMPI – Indian Express Indian Innovation Award in 2009.
- Padma Shri Award by the Government of India in 1989.
- Woman of the Year Award for Outstanding Woman Citizen of Mumbai by the Indian Merchant Chamber in 2009.
- Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary International, USA, in 2006.
- First recipient of the Martha Forrest Rose Quartz Warrior Award in Canada in 2003.

- Dr. Mithu Alur is a prominent voice for the rights of people with disabilities and has been featured on various news channels, with a notable presence on NDTV.
- She initiated the Mithu Alur Foundation with the vision of establishing an inclusive village model in Maharashtra.
- Dr. Alur has actively written articles, books, and papers to advocate for inclusion in society.



Dr. Mithu Alur, a pioneering advocate for inclusive education and the Founder Chairperson of ADAPT in India.





# SUNIL GAVASKAR

## 'THE LITTLE MASTER OF INDIAN CRICKET'



Born: 10th July, 1949

"I believe the sport has a universal language. Sports has this unique ability to bring communities together."

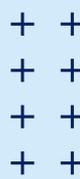
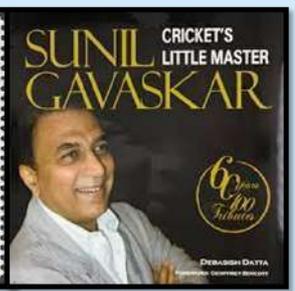


*Opening Batsman, Commentator, Right-hand batsman, Right-arm medium, Cricket's Napoleon & Little Master*

Sunil Gavaskar, affectionately known as "Little Master," is renowned for his fearless and technically sound batting that revolutionized Indian cricket. In an era without helmets, Gavaskar's unwavering spirit and unmatched skill helped him conquer menacing fast bowlers, setting a benchmark for future generations. With incredible balance, unwavering concentration, and a deep understanding of the game, he emerged as a prolific run-scorer, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of cricket enthusiasts.

Gavaskar comes from a family deeply rooted in cricket. His maternal uncle, Madhav Mantri, played four Tests for India. His son, Rohan, represented India in 11 One-Day Internationals. Moreover, Gavaskar's brother-in-law is

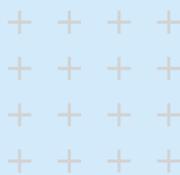
Sunil Gavaskar's illustrious career is marked by several remarkable records. He was the first Test cricketer to surpass 10,000 runs and the first to play 100 consecutive test matches. Despite this, there was a memorable instance when he crawled to 36 runs from a massive 174 balls during the Prudential World Cup against England. Additionally, he holds the record for scoring the maximum number of runs and centuries against West Indies, tallying 2,749 runs and 13 centuries. Gavaskar is the only cricketer to score four consecutive centuries at two venues: Port of Spain and Wankhede Stadium.



the former India batsman, GR Viswanath. His sister, Nutan, also contributed to cricket by playing for Albees Cricket Club, the first women's club in Mumbai. Gavaskar's exceptional slip fielding skills earned him the distinction of becoming the first Indian to take over a hundred catches in Test matches. Following his retirement, Sunil Gavaskar has found success as a cricket commentator and columnist. He has also been actively involved in various roles within the BCCI. Notably, he served as the interim President of the BCCI during the seventh Season of the Indian Premier League. Gavaskar's influence extends beyond the field, and his vocal and humorous off-field persona cements his status as one of the most influential figures in the history of Indian cricket.

## RECOGNITION

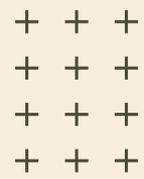
- Arjuna award in 1975
- Padma Bhushan in 1980
- Delivered a MCC Spirit Of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture in 2003, becoming the first and only Indian to do so
- Awarded the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for Cricket in India by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2012.



## FACTS

- Sunil Gavaskar ventured into acting, playing the lead role in a Marathi movie, "Savli Premachi," and making a cameo appearance in Naseeruddin Shah's film "Maalamaal" in 1988.
- He showcased his singing talent by performing the Marathi song "Ya Duniyemadhye Thambayaala Vel Konala," drawing parallels between a cricket match and real life.
- Appointed as the Sheriff of Mumbai in 1994 for a year.
- An accomplished writer, Gavaskar authored four books: "Sunny Days," "Runs n Ruins," "Idols," and "One Day Wonders."

'No Helmets, No Arm Guard, Lethal bowling And A Little Man Dominating' was none other than Sunil Gavaskar.



# SUDHA MURTY

## 'SHE, WHO BREAKS STEREOTYPES'



Born: 19th August, 1950

"It doesn't matter how intelligent you are, how well off you are, or how well-connected you are. Your perseverance, your courage - if you keep that intact, only such people will always be successful".

*Sudha*

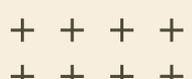
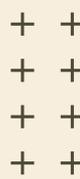
*Famous female Engineer, Teacher, Author (Kannada, Marathi, English), & Social Worker.*

Sudha Murty's journey as a pioneering female engineer and her remarkable efforts to break the gender bias at TELCO stand as a testament to her determination and resilience. Her initiative to write a postcard to the Chairman of TELCO to address the "men only" gender bias was a bold and groundbreaking step that showcased her unwavering resolve to challenge societal norms. Her trailblazing spirit not only opened doors for countless women but also laid the foundation for her lifelong commitment to empowering the less privileged and transforming society.

Sudha Murty's marriage to N. R. Narayana Murthy, the co-founder of Infosys, marked another remarkable chapter in her life. She played a pivotal role in nurturing Infosys during its formative years,

JRD Tata's words inspired her to be a philanthropist that she is now.

In 1982 she resigned from her job at Telco and went to meet JRD to say goodbye to him and told him that my husband was starting a company called Infosys. JRD asked her what will do when you are successful. And Sudha answered that she did not know whether she will be successful, its then JRD told her "Never start with diffidence, "Always start with confidence. When you are successful you must give back to society. Society gives us so much; we must reciprocate. I wish you all the best."





with her savings providing the seed money. Her support allowed Narayana Murty to establish the global brand Infosys. Sudha Murty's philanthropic spirit led to the foundation of several orphanages, including the Infosys Foundation, dedicated to uplifting the less-privileged sections of society. Today, Sudha Murty continues her philanthropic endeavors, donating millions to various causes. She has established hospitals, orphanages, rehabilitation centers, school buildings, and science centers. Her focus remains on rural women and children, with her activities spanning six states. As a trustee, she travels constantly to over 800 villages, making a lasting impact.

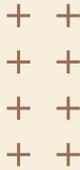
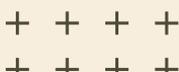
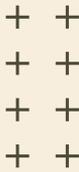
**RECOGNITION**

**FACTS**

- Padma Shri in 2006
- Best Teacher Award in 1995 from the Rotary Club of Bangalore
- National Award from Public Relation Society of India for outstanding Social Service to Society
- Award for Excellent Social Service by Rotary South – Hubli, Karnataka
- Rajyotsava State Award for the year 2000, recognizing her achievements in literature and social work
- Ojaswini Award for an excellent social worker in 2000
- Millennium Mahila Shiromani Award
- Received Honorary Doctorate for her contributions in social work

- Sudha Murty adopted the revolutionary bob cut hairstyle in the 1960s.
- She initiated the introduction of computer and library facilities in all schools in Karnataka.
- She became the first female engineer hired by TATA, India's largest auto manufacturer.
- She established 'The Murty Classical Library of India' at Harvard University.
- Sudha Murty also ventured into acting, appearing in the Marathi film "Pitruroon" and the Kannada film "Prarthana."

Sudha Murty, a bestselling author, has penned over 1.5 million books encompassing a diverse range of genres, from children's literature and short stories to technical books, travelogues, novels, and nonfiction works.



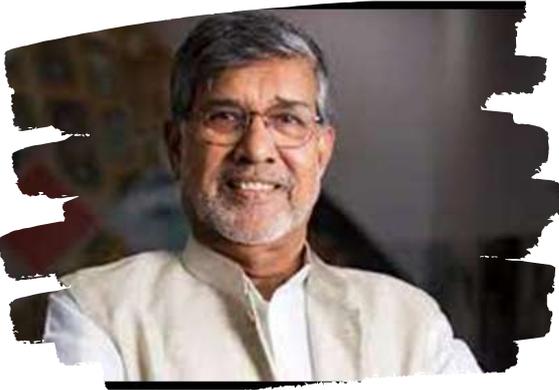


# KAILASH SATYARTHI 'SOCIAL WORKER'

Born: 11th January, 1954

"A lot of work still remains, but I will see the end of child labour in my lifetime."

*Kailash Satyarthi*



*Social Worker, Activist, Nobel Peace Laureate.*

Kailash Satyarthi, known for advocating the rights of voiceless children, has been a global leader in the fight to end child slavery and exploitative child labor since 1980. Child labor, a severe human rights issue with profound implications for poverty, illiteracy, and humanity, has been the focal point of his lifelong dedication. Alongside his grassroots organization, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement), Satyarthi has spearheaded the liberation of over 90,000 children from exploitation. Moreover, he has successfully implemented a restorative model for their education and rehabilitation.

His passion as a children's rights activist traces back to his own childhood. The catalyst for his mission was a heart-wrenching encounter on his first day of school when he observed a child his age working as a shoeshine boy

Kailash Satyarthi's commitment to the cause has led to the establishment of "Mukti Ashram," a short-term rehabilitation center on the outskirts of Delhi, and "Bal Ashram," a long-term rehabilitation center in Virat Nagar, near Jaipur, India. These centers have set the standards for child care institutions, not only within India but also as exemplary models worldwide. In recognition of his tireless advocacy, the United Nations Secretary-General has appointed Kailash Satyarthi as the Sustainable Development Goals Advocate for 2021-2023.



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instead of attending class. The poignant response from the boy's father, a cobbler, left an indelible impression: "You're born to go to school, and we're born to work." Kailash Satyarthi's life's work has been devoted to reversing this unjust equation, ensuring that children are born to learn, grow, and thrive. Education stands at the core of empowerment, dignity, and identity, particularly for the most underprivileged and marginalized children, including girls . Once equipped with knowledge about their rights and literacy skills, these children gain boundless self-confidence. Kailash Satyarthi remains unwavering in his quest to bridge policy gaps and unite the efforts of various stakeholders for the protection and welfare of children. His vision is to create a child-friendly world in our lifetime.

**RECOGNITION**

**FACTS**

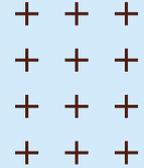
- 2014: Nobel Peace Prize
- 2009: Defender of Democracy Award
- 2008: Alfonso Comin International Award
- 2007: Gold Medal of the Italian Senate
- 2007: Recognized as one of the "Heroes Acting to End Modern Day Slavery" by the U.S. State Department
- 2006: Freedom Award
- 2002: Wallenburg Medal, awarded by the University of Michigan
- 1999: Frederich Ebert Stiftung Award
- 1998: Golden Flag Award
- 1995: Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award
- 1995: The Trumpeter Award
- 1994: The Aachener International Peace Award

- Kailash Satyarthi is the first India-born individual to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the seventh Indian Nobel laureate.
- He led the Global March Against Child Labor in 1998, with participation from 7.2 million people across 103 countries.
- "The Price of Free," a documentary about his life and mission, won the 2018 U.S. Documentary Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.
- In December 2016, he launched the "100 Million for 100 Million Campaign," a global initiative aiming to mobilize 100 million youth to shape a better future for 100 million children.

Kailash Satyarthi, the champion of children's rights and a Nobel laureate, has transformed countless young lives by rescuing them from exploitation and providing them with a brighter future.

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# P T USHA 'UDANPARI'



Born: 27th June, 1964

"Success is not an accident. It is the result of hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing."

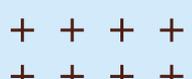
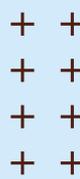


*Queen of Indian track and field, Golden girl, Payyoli Express, Asian Spirit Queen, Running machine.*

Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha, affectionately known as the "golden girl" and "udan pari," stands as one of India's most illustrious athletes. Her remarkable agility and swiftness have dominated the running track for nearly two decades, amassing numerous accolades and becoming a beacon of inspiration for girls worldwide. P.T. Usha's speed and determination have made her a living legend, securing a total of 33 international awards and 13 gold medals at the Asian Games and Asian Championships.

In 1985, P.T. Usha reached the pinnacle of her athletic career, seizing five gold medals in 100m, 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles, and 4X400m relay, along with a bronze medal in 4X100m relay at the Asian meet in Jakarta. At the Los Angeles Olympics, she came

The following year, she made a triumphant return, claiming four gold medals and one silver medal at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games, earning the title of Asia's "Sprint Queen." The Indian Olympic Association honored her with the Adidas Golden Shoe and named her the Sports person of the century. In 1998, her team set a national record in 4X400m relay, clocking 44.43 seconds. P.T. Usha established an athletic school in Koyilandy, Kerala, dedicated to training and empowering girls in athletics. Truly, she reigns as the undisputed queen of Track & Field.



agonizingly close to clinching the bronze medal, missing it by just 1/100th of a second. This near-victory was a heart-wrenching moment for her and her admirers. P.T. Usha's social media profile offers a glimpse into her multifaceted personality. Her love for her country, nature, family, music, and her unwavering respect for individuals across all borders shine brightly. Her simple living, high thinking, and grounded nature make her a luminary figure alongside her stellar achievements. She consistently supports athletes and fearlessly voices issues faced by Indian athletes on the international stage.

## RECOGNITION

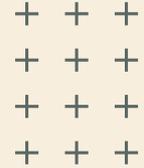
- 1984: Arjuna Award for Athletics
- 1985: Padma Shri
- 1986: Adidas Golden Shoe awardee for the best athlete, Seoul Asian Games
- 1989: Most outstanding female athlete of the 8th Asian track field meet held in New Delhi
- 2000: Honorary Doctorate (D.Litt.) conferred by Kannur University
- 2017: Honorary Doctorate (D.Sc.) conferred by Kanpur University
- 2018: Honorary Doctorate (D.Litt.) conferred by Calicut University

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## FACTS

- P.T. Usha was the first Indian woman to reach the final of an Olympic event.
- Om Nambiar, who discovered her talents, remained her personal coach throughout her athletic career.
- She was the National champion in 800m for 14 years.
- P.T. Usha is an endorser of KFC's "Express Pick up" service, emphasizing her love for speed.
- She initiated the Usha School of Athletics in Kozhikode district of Kerala in 2002, which has produced 8 international athletes and 2 Olympians in 15 years.

P.T. Usha, the "golden girl" of Indian athletics, illuminated the track for decades and remains an enduring symbol of excellence and inspiration.



# LEANDER PAES 'GREATEST TENNIS DOUBLES PLAYER'



Born: 17th June, 1973

"I love taking challenges, as my name is Leander mean 'lion's heart'."

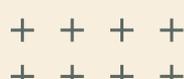
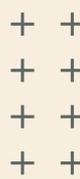
*Leander Paes*

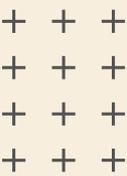
### Indian Tennis player

Leander Adrian Paes, known for his remarkable achievements in the world of tennis, especially in doubles, is a revered Indian professional tennis player. Often regarded as one of the greatest doubles players in tennis history, his journey commenced at the age of 12, setting the stage for a career that would make him an iconic figure in Indian and global tennis. What truly distinguishes Paes is his ability to inspire and lead by example, becoming a source of inspiration for aspiring athletes, particularly young girls. Over nearly two decades, he has accumulated a multitude of accolades and established a legacy that continues to motivate future generations of athletes around the world.

Paes' journey to excellence began when he was just 12 years old, an age when most future champions are just starting to hone their skills. It didn't take long for his talent

At the age of 22, Paes clinched the singles bronze at the Atlanta Games, solidifying his status as a tennis legend. His prowess extends to doubles and mixed doubles, where he has claimed Grand Slam titles alongside Mahesh Bhupathi, Martina Hingis, and Martina Navratilova. Known for his adaptability, Paes has had over 100 different partners during his career, forming memorable doubles partnerships with the likes of Bhupathi, Hingis, Cara Black, Lukas Dlouhy, and Navratilova. Together with Mahesh Bhupathi, he formed a formidable doubles pair which was dubbed as 'Indian Express' before personal differences resulted in them breaking apart.





to shine through. By the age of 17, in the year 1991, he had already clinched both the Junior Wimbledon and US Open titles, catapulting him into the international limelight. It was a testament to his exceptional abilities and fierce dedication to the sport. But his journey was far from over. Paes remains the most successful tennis player in Indian history with 18 doubles titles to his name. He is celebrated for his unique playing style, and his impact on Indian tennis has left an indelible mark for future stars. His remarkable consistency is evidenced by seven consecutive Olympic appearances from 1992 to 2016, making him the first and only Indian tennis player to achieve this feat.

## RECOGNITION

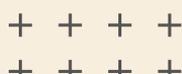
- 18 Times Grand Slam Champion
- Olympic Medalist in 1996 - Atlanta Olympic Games
- 7 Olympics World Record Holder
- Davis Cup World Record Holder
- Arjuna Awardee in 1990
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 1996-97
- Padma Shri in 2001
- Padma Bhushan in 2014
- Sports Ambassador of the state of Haryana



## FACTS

- Paes idolizes boxing legend Muhammed Ali and Mother Teresa.
- In 2003, he was diagnosed with neurocysticercosis, a parasitic brain infection, and made a full recovery within a year.
- Paes ventured into Bollywood by acting in the film 'Rajdhani Express' during a time when he was third in world ranking.
- He narrowly escaped the 9/11 attacks in New York as he was inside the Twin Towers hours before the attack happened.

In a country like India, which rarely produces tennis talents as frequently as it does in cricket or kabaddi, Paes stands as a unique and accomplished athlete.





# PRASHANT GADE 'GOLDEN HAND'



Born: 1995

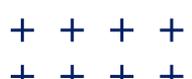
"If you make one person's life better, you never know how many lives you can save. I hope that with such advancements in technology, no person is left disabled"

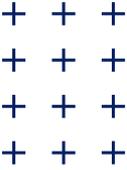
*Entrepreneur, philanthropist, writer & speaker*

Prashant Gade, a 25-year-old Indian entrepreneur, charted an unconventional path when he made the bold decision to drop out of his engineering program during his third year. His realization that education was more than just acquiring grades and securing a job fueled his quest for a deeper sense of purpose. Gade's journey led him to Pune, where he embarked on a job that paid a modest sum of Rs. 5,000 while pursuing his studies. During this time, he encountered the remarkable story of Nicholas Huchet, a bionic hand maker who, despite losing his own hand in an accident, had ingeniously crafted a bionic arm.

Gade's innovative journey involved repurposing everyday items, such as a hot water bag, JCB toy lever, and badminton racket threads, ingeniously connected to a motor for prosthetics. The Technical Secretary of the

In 2016, Gade's journey took a poignant turn when he encountered a 7-year-old girl living without arms. This heart wrenching experience compelled him to take action. When he inquired about purchasing 2 prosthetic arms for the young girl, he was shocked when the company quoted an exorbitant amount of 24 lakhs. The revelation that nearly 40,000 individuals lost their limbs annually in India, with 500,000 people currently living without arms, and 85% of them unable to access solutions due to the prohibitive cost, fueled Gade's determination to make a difference. He made the momentous decision to dedicate himself to create an affordable electronic prosthetic arm.





Jaipur Foot Foundation recognized his work , leading to the development of seven prosthetic hands. Additionally, a retired U.S. professor donated ten machines to support prosthetic production. Inspired by his mission, Gade founded the Inali Foundation, renowned for affordable bionic arms. Prashant Gade's remarkable journey serves as a testament to the power of innovation, compassion, and determination in transforming lives. His unwavering commitment to providing accessible Prosthetic solutions has the potential to make a profound impact on countless individuals, exemplifying the extraordinary change that one individual can bring to the world.

## RECOGNITION

- Bagged the first place for Aarohan Social Innovation Award 2018.
- He has appeared as guest speaker at TEDx NMINS Shirpur and INK talks in 2019 and 2020.
- In 2019, he received The Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship and Karmaveer Chakra award instituted by iCONGO in partnership with United Nations.
- In 2021 he appeared in the special Karmaveer episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati.



## FACTS

Prashant has three different designs of prosthetic arms

- Simple, tap-based hand. Once you tap it close, you can hold the handle until you tap it again to open your hand.
- A myoelectric arm that works with a signal from your brain.
- An advanced, gesture-based hand. Across the world these gesture-based hands are priced anywhere between \$10,000 to \$120,000, but in India, the hand costs merely Rs 25,000

Prashant Gade: College Dropout, Creator of Free Prosthetic Arms for the Needy.



# NOTES

# NOTES



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ISBN 978-93-340-5741-6



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