

A person wearing a blue jacket, a dark beanie, and a large orange backpack is seen from behind, looking towards a majestic, snow-capped mountain range. The person is holding a blue trekking pole. The scene is set in a forested area with green trees in the foreground and a clear blue sky above the mountains.

**PASSION AND
DEVOTION**

**CELEBRATING
INDIA'S 75TH
YEAR OF
INDEPENDENCE**

MATT
RAVIKUMAR

75th year



Logo for 75th year celebrations.

Source: Government of India

Flag

INDIA OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FLAG



Inside Page

Published in 2022

Thank the Divine in making my dreams come true.
Thank my parents (MNS Mani & Lakshmi Mani) for this
life-time opportunity.

Key words: India, Independence, 75th year, culture

Disclaimer: This book is the compilation of great people from India known in their field of arts, science, literature, spirituality, etc.

I have chosen a few to write in this book, based on my understanding of their passion and devotion to the country. And to their field of work/career.

Contents

Contents

Foreword

India from world's perspective

Subramania Bharati

Rabindranath Tagore

Lad Ded

Sri Ramana Maharshi

Swati Thirunal

Krishnamurthi

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Lal Bahadur Shastri

Sarojini Naidu

C Rajagopala Chari

Abdul Kalam

Adi Shankara

Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Chinmayananda

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

Sri Aurobindo

Paramahansa Yogananda

Eknath Easwaran

R K Laxman

R K Narayan

M.S. Subbulakshmi

S Rangarajan

Prahalad

SP. Balasubrahmanyam

Publications

About the Author:

Quote

Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without
passion

- Georg Hegel

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so
with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style

-Maya Angelou

Foreword

Every country's Independence Day is a memorable for its citizens. USA proudly celebrates with its fireworks and party atmosphere. There are parades in major cities in USA. India celebrates its independence on 15th August with parades in State Capitals. Military displays, and cultural showcases form a major content of those parades.

This year 2022 marks 75th year of India's Independence. This is an opportunity to tread back 75 years of the country's achievements. And reflect back world-wide events from Covid to woman's rights compared to situation in India.

What is the character of India? I would like to use the word, 'ethos.' Ethos is a Greek word meaning character that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology. Ethos of India is imbibed from its ancestral lineage of Poets from different part of the country. From school textbooks to community events, these are programmed into people's mind. The book is to highlight such noble persons and their contribution.

I can, in no way, completely reproduce their contributions. The idea is that readers will do their research and further their studies, based on the highlights provided in this book. There is large wealth of knowledge and wisdom in their works. Links are provided in case you want to download the original contents and understand the full texts. It will take weeks if not months, to read each chapter's original content in the published web sites.

India is known for the leaders and leading contributors in every field whether it is art, science, music, spirituality, or consciousness. I just picked few of them and researched for their detailed contribution.

World knows about Mahatma Gandhi and his non-violence movement. There are lot of published literature on his work. But there are other leaders in their own space and yet not completely known world-wide.

National Leadership: Nehru, Sardar Patel, Netaji, Rajaji, Kamaraj,

Indira Gandhi- to name a few

Spirituality: Swami Vivekananda, Paramahansa, Adi Shankara

Science: Ramanujam, Sir C.V. Raman

Literature: Tagore, Bharathiyar

Music: RaviShankar, M.S. Subbulakshmi

Industry: Tata, Birla

Film: Burman(s), Ashok Kumar, LP

Each area has their own contemporary leaders (who are living and actively participating in social life). There could be another book about them later! In this book I have chosen leaders and writers who lived even before India's Independence.

I have not included famous personalities like Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Buddha, Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Vallabbhai Patel, AB Vajpayee, Thiruvalluvar, Ambedkar, Kabir, Osho Rajneesh, etc. in this book's content. There is enough published content available on the web. And the above list purely an example and there are many more worth included into that list.

The focus of this book about the leaders whose thought processes was totally different at that time of their life. And they displayed their passion and devotion (title of this book) in their writings which are still relevant and popular. And their writings are still available in the social platforms. My goal is that these short versions of their biography ignite your interest and you get to research more about them on your own.

One of my friends who proofreads the content, told me that I have picked people who are already dead. I said people living now have more chance and opportunity to contribute more - who am I to say they are done with their purpose. Age, they say, it is just a number!

PART-1

I would rather die of passion than of boredom

- Vincent Van Gogh

I have no special talents, I am only passionately curious

- Albert Einstein

India's Independence

India's Independence

India's Independence came from long sought struggle from the colonial empire. This book is NOT about the independence struggle. How the country changed in 75 years. Where does every individual's inner soul's strength come from? What is the legacy of the past? Not few years or decades back but centuries back.

1947 Story

British India had 17 provinces and 565 princely states. The provinces were given to India or Pakistan

Per capita income 249.6 (INR- Indian Rupees)

Country's population at 340 million

GDP at INR 2.7 lakh crores

2022 Story

Total population at 1.4 billion as of January 2022

60% of the population are internet users at 840 million users.

It was 164 million users in 2017

Per Capita income INR 1.27 lakhs

GDP at INR 135.13 lakh crores

29 States and 8 Union Territories

We can say karma is powerful. While India's independence was from British's colonial rule, the British Prime minister visited India in 2002 and visited Gandhi's Ashram.

As the book goes into press, Rishi Sunak, a person of Indian origin is likely to be named as the next British Prime Minister. The result is expected on 5th September 2022.



Boris Johnson spinning wheel at Gandhi's ashram

India from world's perspective

I was trying to compile India's position in world economic and social order. But timely enough, came across this linked-in post. I am reproducing the entire content and thank Anjana.

India Today

Abortion in India has been legal for more than 50 years.

The paid maternity leave in India is 26 weeks for working women.

Maternity leave in the U.S. is ZERO (only a handful of States have few days of paid leave).

India's gun control laws are restrictive and amongst the strictest in the world.

The U.S. has just 4% of the world's population but owns about 40% of civilian-owned guns globally!!! Unsurprisingly, the U.S. leads the chart even in school and mass shootings.

In the U.S., there has never been a woman President.

The only time a woman was briefly given presidential powers in the US was to Vice-President Kamala Harris when Joe Biden underwent a regular health check!!

In India, Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister for nearly 16 years & Pratibha Patil held the highest office of President.

India's Constitution explicitly mandates equality for women, whereas the U.S. Constitution contains no explicit equality guarantee for women.

Before the British rule, homosexuality was not illegal in India. Ancient temples built in fifth century depict homosexuality & Kamasutra, written around 400 BCE–200 CE, has a chapter devoted to the same.

The third gender has been intertwined with the Indian culture for thousands of years. Only 14 countries recognize the third gender in official documents & India is one of them.

Time to revisit definitions of "third world", "developed and developing countries"....

(Source: LinkedIn post by Anjana Rajguru July 2022)

PART-2

Subramania Bharati

(Known as Bharathiyar)



Subramania Bharati

11 Dec 1882- 12 Sep 1921

Ettaiyapuram, Tamil Nadu, India

Photo above shown with spouse Chellammal

Subramania Bharati



I was raised in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India. The language spoken there is a very historic one - called Tamil. I grew up learning Tamil and reading its vast knowledge of literary publications in religion, traditions, spirituality, history, etc.

One outstanding poet/lyrics is Bharathi. He had such wisdom and thinking way above decades for the social justice and women liberation. His writings were very powerful to kindle the emotions and feel passionate about his thoughts. No doubt his words are still being quoted in public speeches. He lived a modest life. His soul is being revered as guiding factor for many writers and authors. I am very happy that I was able to translate his writings in Tamil language into English. There are many books about him and translated works. I

want to capture his forceful and convincing thoughts into appropriate words in English.

These songs and their lyrics are worth reaching many people outside the state of Tamil Nadu. I am sure these are translated many times in other languages including English. I want to add more value to this process by explaining some of the words and the context used in the songs. This is my small contribution to legendary works of Poet Bharathi

Many times, people are at the cross-roads wondering how to channel their thoughts and actions for the next steps. The wisdom from Bharathi's songs will provide guidance and give us resolution in many unexpected ways!

Readers will get tremendous perspective in life. All the songs listed in Tamil words are from Poet Bharathi and this book is an attempt to explain some of them in English. Songs source: Tamil Virtual Academy. www.tamilvu.org

About Poet Bharathi

A poet still remembered after nearly hundred years after his death. A poet known for revolutionary thoughts and inspiring lyrics. A human being who tirelessly worked and educated the masses about women's liberation and uplifting the people across all sections of the society

Chinnaswami Subramania Bharathi (Bharathiyar) was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, social reformer, and activist towards India's Independence. He is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time. His works and contribution are still remembered and used in various social contexts. He was also known as Mahakavi Bharathi. Mahakavi means the greatest of all poets.

He was born 11 Dec 1882 at a place called Ettaiyapuram in Southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu. He died on 12 Sep 1921 at Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu

Bharathi was proficient in about 14 languages, and he was known to be a prolific reader. He was a journalist with many newspapers and worked in Tirunelveli and Varanasi cities in India.

Bharati's poetry expressed a progressive, reformist ideal. His imagery and the vigor of his verse were a forerunner to modern Tamil poetry in different aspects. He was the forerunner of a forceful kind of poetry that combined classical and contemporary elements. He has a prodigious output penning thousands of verses of diverse topics like Indian Nationalism, love songs, children's songs, songs of the nature, glory of the Tamil language, and odes to prominent freedom fighters in India. His poetry not only includes works on Hindu deities like Shakthi, Kali, Vinayakar, Murugan, Shiva, Krishna, but also on other religious leaders like Allah and Jesus. He has translated speeches of Indian National reform leaders like Aurobindo, Bala Gangadhar Tilak and Swami Vivekananda. (Source: Wikipedia)

Women Liberation

Have you read about women's lifestyle during mid-nineties, like the years 1950s? Women were not allowed to vote, get education, or treated equal to men. Some of the belief systems will be considered neurotic for current times. Bharathi was a biggest literature expert focusing more on India's independence from British rule. He is combining nation's freedom to women's freedom from those society rules.

Translated version:

Talk and enjoy that women in this world got their liberation

Like eyes getting new sight and new life for human let us
thank God

Clap your hands girls, let the entire State of Tamil Nadu go for
celebrative mood. The demons have left so let us clap again

People who said woman can't get education have left the world

Crazy people who kept woman within the house locked have
dropped their head down

Like handling cow bull for work and keeping it in the barn they
have treated the woman. These are over, so start clapping

People who buy pricey dog, will they ask the dog for the
advice? Just left to die was the status of women with more burdens
on her

They talk about chastity only to women. Is it applicable for both genders? Let us stop the practice of forced marriage on women

Getting advanced degrees or creating new law can be done by women in this world too. Women are no longer inferior to learning skills

They can create new Vedas and make new rules. They can cook rice as well as create a new religion if needed

Their life goal is not get married to a man and support him. These conservative thoughts must be renewed at this point of time.

Tamil Version.

பெண்கள் விடுதலை பெற்ற மகிழ்ச்சிகள் பேசிக்
களிப்பொடு நாம் பாடக் கண்களிலே யொளி போல வுயிரில்
கலந்தொளிர் தெய்வம்நற் காப்பாமே.

கும்மியடி தமிழ் நாடு முழுதும் குலங்கிடக் கைகொட்டிக்
கும்மியடி நம்மைப் பிடித்த பிசாசுகள் போயின நன்மைகண்
டோமென்று கும்மியடி.

ஏட்டையும் பெண்கள் தொடுவது தீமையென் றெண்ணி
யிருந்தவர் மாய்ந்துவிட்டார் வீட்டுக்குள்ளே பெண்ணைப்
பூட்டிவைப்போ மென்ற விந்தை மனிதர் தலைகவிழ்ந்தார்.

மாட்டை யடித்து வசக்கித் தொழுவினில் மாட்டும் வழக்கத்தைக்
கொண்டுவந்தே வீட்டினில் எம்மிடங் காட்ட வந்தார் அதை
வெட்டி விட்டோமென்று கும்மியடி.

நல்ல விலைகொண்டு நாயை விற்பார் அந்த நாயிடம் யோசனை
கேட்பதுண்டோ? கொல்லத் துணிவின்றி நம்மையும் அந்நிலை
கூட்டிவைத் தார்பழி கூட்டி விட்டார்.

கற்பு நிலையென்று சொல்லவந்தார் இரு கட்சிக்கும் அஃது
பொதுவில் வைப்போம் வற்புறுத்திப் பெண்ணைக் கட்டிக்
கொடுக்கும் வழக்கத்தைத் தள்ளி மிதித்திடுவோம்.

பட்டங்கள் ஆள்வதுஞ் சட்டங்கள் செய்வதும் பாரினிற் பெண்கள்
நடத்தவந்தோம் எட்டு மறிவினில் ஆணுக்கிங் கேபெண்
இளைப்பில்லை காணென்று கும்மியடி

வேதம் படைக்கவும் நீதிகள் செய்யவும் வேண்டி வந்தோமென்று
கும்மியடி சாதம் படைக்கவும் செய்திடு வோம்தெய்வச் சாதி
படைக்கவும் செய்திடுவோம்

காத லொருவனைக் கைப்பிடித்தே அவன் காரியம் யாவினும்
கைகொடுத்து மாதர றங்கள் பழமையைக் காட்டிலும் மாட்சி
பெறச்செய்து வாழ்வமடி

Independence Achieved

Poets are futuristic and have creative ideas that impact everyone's life. Here Bharathi is already talking and singing about an event that has not yet happened. That's India's Independence. This is one of the favorite songs even in the 2020s. People relish the wisdom and optimism in these statements. They can compare the situation then and now in the society. That makes them wonder on the Poet's ability to grasp the future!

Translated version:

Let us all dance and sing too; Because we have achieved independence; Those who mocked at Brahmins; called Lord on the white people; asking people to beg for food or helping people who cheat us. Those days are gone

Got independence is the word everywhere. We have all become equals now. Let us blow horn today, let us spread it all over the world

The time that everyone is equal has come. Liars and cheaters will get vanished now. Let us blow horn today, let us spread it all over the world

Let us bow to agriculture and industry. Let us scold who are just idling and only eating food at home. Let us not throw water at unwanted grass, let us not work for the losers; The land we live

belong to us; we have realized. We understand it comes with rights and privileges. We will never be slaves to anyone in the world. We will serve the God and live together.

Tamil Version

ஆடுவோமே -- பள்ளுப் பாடுவோமே;

ஆனந்த சுதந்திரம் அடைந்துவிட் டோமென்று

பார்ப்பானை ஐயரென்ற காலமும்போச்சே -- வெள்ளைப்
பரங்கியைத் துரையென்ற காலமும்போச்சே -- பிச்சை
ஏற்பாரைப் பணிகின்ற காலமும்போச்சே -- நம்மை
ஏய்ப்போருக் கேவல் செய்யும் காலமும்போச்சே.

எங்கும் சுதந்திரம் என்பதேபேச்சு -- நாம் எல்லோரும்
சமமென்ப துஹுதியாச்சு சங்குகொண் டேவெற்றி
ஊதுவோமே -- இதைத் தரணிக்கெல் லாமெடுத்து ஒதுவோமே

எல்லோரும் ஒன்றென்னும் காலம்வந்ததே -- பொய்யும்
ஏமாற்றும் தொலைகின்ற காலம்வந்ததே -- இனி நல்லோர்
பெரியரென்னும் காலம்வந்ததே -- கெட்ட நயவஞ்சக் காரருக்கு
நாசம்வந்ததே

உழவுக்கும் தொழிலுக்கும் வந்தனைசெய்வோம் -- வீணில்
உண்டுகளித் திருப்போரை நிந்தனைசெய்வோம் விழலுக்கு
நீர்ப் பாய்ச்சி மாயமாட்டோம் -- வெறும் வீணருக்கு
உழைத்துடலம் ஓயமாட்டோம்.

நாமிருக்கும் நாடுநமது என்பதறிந்தோம் -- இது நமக்கே
உரிமையாம் என்பதறிந்தோம் -- இந்தப் பூமியில் எவர்க்கும்
இனி அடிமைசெய்யோம் -- பரி பூரணனுக் கேயடிமை செய்து
வாழ்வோம்.

Free from Fear

Poets are known for one factor in their personality. Courage or
courageousness. Especially when they themselves go through
upheavals of life and they must come back to running again. This is
one of the very motivational song and rhymes well with the beats.

Translated version:

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if everyone in the world is
against us

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if everyone in the world
belittles us and abuse with words

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if we must land as a
beggar to get food from others

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if lose our acquired
objects with desires

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if women give us different
looks

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if military try to force rule
on us

No Fearfulness, no fearfulness, even if thunders and lighting
come flowing from the sky

Tamil Version:

அச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்ப தில்லையே இச்சகத்து
ளோரெலாம் எதிர்த்துநின்ற போதிலும், அச்சமில்லை
அச்சமென்ப தில்லையே. துச்சமாக எண்ணிநம்மைத்
தூறுசெய்த போதிலும், அச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்ப
தில்லையே. பிச்சைவாங்கி உண்ணும்வாழ்க்கை பெற்றுவிட்ட
போதிலும், அச்சமில்லை யச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்பத்
தில்லையே. இச்சைகொண்ட பொருளெலாம் இழந்துவிட்ட
போதிலும், அச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்ப தில்லையே.

கச்சணிந்த கொங்கை மாதர் கண்கள் வீசு போதிலும்,
அச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்ப தில்லையே. நச்சைவாயி

லேகொணர்ந்து நண் பரூட்டு போதினும், அச்சமில்லை
அச்சமென்ப தில்லையே. பச்சையு னியைந்தவேற்
படைகள்வந்த போதினும், அச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்ப
தில்லையே. உச்சிமீது வானிடிந்து வீழுகின்ற போதினும்,
அச்சமில்லை அச்சமென்ப தில்லையே.

Rabindranath Tagore



Rabindranath Tagore

7 May 1861- 7 August 1941

Kolkata (Calcutta), India

Nobel Prize in Literature

(First Non-European Writer to be awarded Nobel in 1913)

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher
storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.

-Rabindranath Tagore, 292, Stray Birds, 1916

Rabindranath Tagore

The original author of India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

The anthem, composed originally in Bengali by **Rabindranath Tagore**, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on 24 January 1950. It was first sung 27 December 1911 at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas.

National Anthem of India - "Jan Gan Man" Lyrics

Jana gana mana adhinaayak jaya hai

Bhaarat bhagya vidhaata

Panjaab, sindh, gujraat, maraatha

Draavid utkal banga

Vindya, himaachal, yamuna, ganga

Utchchhal jaldhi taranga

Tab shubh naame jaage

Tab shubh aashish maage

Gaahe tab jay gaatha

Jana gana mangal daayak jay he

Bhaarat bhagya vidhaata

Jaya hey...

Jaya hey...

Jaya hey...

Jaya jaya jaya hey...

Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,

dispenser of India's destiny.

Thy name rouses the hearts of the Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat and
Maratha,

of the Dravida, Orissa and Bengal.

It echoes in the hills of the Vindhya and Himalayas, mingles in the
music of the Jamuna and Ganges

and is chanted by the waves of the Indian Sea.

They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.

The saving of all people waits in thy hand,

thou dispenser of India's destiny.

Victory, Victory, Victory to thee.

(English Translation source: Wikipedia)

As the youngest of the 13 children, Tagore started writing poetry as eight-year-old. Tagore enrolled at a public school in Brighton, East Sussex, England in 1878. After two years, he returned back to India. Between 1878 and 1932, Tagore traveled more than thirty countries on five continents. There are eight Tagore Museums, three in India and five in Bangladesh.

Every year, events pay tribute Tagore on his birth anniversary. Annual Tagore festival in Urbana, Illinois (USA), walking pilgrimages from Kolkata to Shanti Niketan in India and recitals of his poetry at many gatherings.

Original Poetry in Bengali Language

1884- Songs of Bhanusimha Thakur

1890- The Ideal One

1894- The Golden Boat

1910- Song offerings

1914- Wreath of songs

1916- The Flight of Cranes

Original dramas in Bengali Language

1881- The Genius of Valmiki

1882- The Fatal Hunt

1888- The Play of Illusions

1890- The Sacrifice

1892- Chitragada

1910- The King of the Dark chamber

1912- The Post Office

1912- The Immovable

1922- The Waterfall

1926- Red Oleanders

1933- The Untouchable Girl

Original Fiction in Bengali

1901- The Broken Nest

1910- Fair-faced

1916- The home and the world

1929- CrossCurrents

Original nonfiction in Bengali

1912- My reminiscences

1940- My Boyhood days

Original works in English

1921- Thought Relics

English Translations

31 between 1914 to 1921

Tagore is also a painter.

India's National Gallery of Modern Arts lists 102 works by Tagore.

Tagore is also a composer. There are 2230 songs to his credit.

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high.

Where knowledge is free.

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.

Where words come out from the depth of truth.

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection.

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action—

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country

awake.

(35 Gitanjali. The Song offerings, which got him Nobel Prize.

The introduction to the book was written by W.B. Yeats)

Source: gutenberg.org. You can read the original full content free of charge there)

This is my prayer to thee, my lord—strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart.

Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.

Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service.

Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might.

Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles.

And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love.

(36 Gitanjali)

Thy gifts to us mortals fulfil all our needs and yet run back to thee undiminished.

The river has its everyday work to do and hastens through fields and hamlets; yet its incessant stream winds towards the washing of thy feet.

The flower sweetens the air with its perfume; yet its last service is to offer itself to thee.

Thy worship does not impoverish the world.

From the words of the poet men take what meanings please
them; yet their last meaning points to thee.

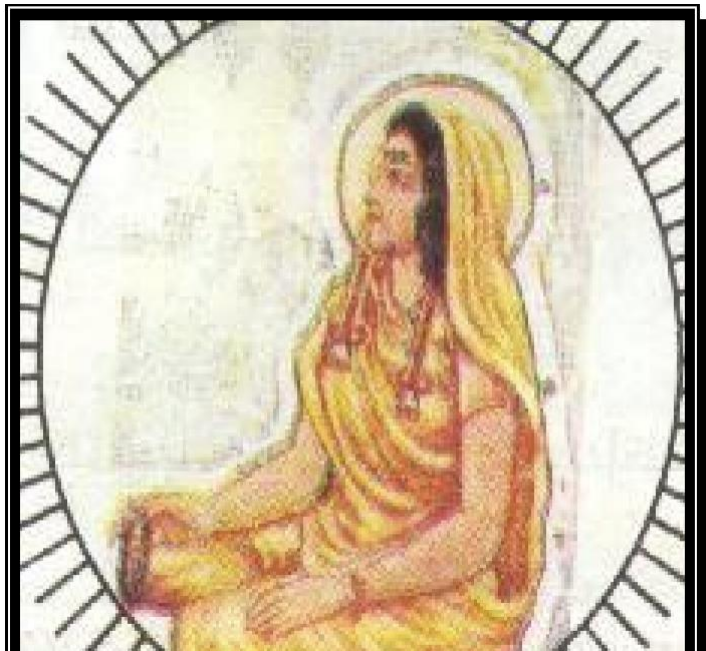
(75 Gitanjali)

Man's cry is to reach his fullest expression. It is this desire for self-expression that leads him to seek wealth and power. But he has to discover that accumulation is not realization. It is the inner light that reveals him, not outer things. When this light is lighted, then in a moment he knows that Man's highest revelation is God's own revelation in him. And his cry is for this—the manifestation of his soul, which is the manifestation of God in his soul. Man becomes perfect man, he attains his fullest expression, when his soul realizes itself in the Infinite being who is *Āvīh* whose very essence is expression.

Yes, our individual soul has been separated from the supreme soul, but this has not been from alienation but from the fullness of love. It is for that reason that untruths, sufferings, and evils are not at a standstill; the human soul can defy them, can overcome them, nay, can altogether transform them into new power and beauty.

(Sadhana, The realization of life) 1916

Lad Ded



Lal Ded

14th Century mystic woman

Mother Lalla, Lalla Yogeshwari- various names

Pandrethan, Kashmir (Born 1355)

Lalleshwari

Kashmir is in the top-most Northern part of India. Known for snow-capped mountains and beautiful valleys. Rich in culture and traditions that runs into centuries. Kashmir is also the seat of learning and knowledge. Philosophical and religious discourses popular in the country. No wonder it was nick-named. 'Paradise on Earth.'

The history of Kashmiri literature has major periods; Old Kashmiri between 1200 to 1500 AD, Middle Kashmiri from 1500 to 1800 AD and Modern Kashmiri after 1800 AD.

The earliest use of Kashmiri in literature is found in Kalhana's '*Rajatarangini*' (12th century A.D.) in which a three-word phrase of Kashmiri Apabhramsa was used. However, the earliest composition in Kashmiri appears to be the 'Mahanayaprakasa' of Sitikantha Acharya, which belongs to the period 1200-1500 A.D. The 14th century Saiva woman-saint Lal Ded has written many compositions in Kashmiri which are still very popular. The sayings or 'shruks' of another mystic poet Sheikh Nuruddin (1377-1440 A.D.) have been collected in the book '*Nurnama*' or '*Rshinama*'. Utthasoma, Yodhabhatta and Bhatta Avatara were important Kashmiri poets in the court of Zainul Abidin (1420-1470 AD). '*Banasuravadha*' is considered as the earliest epic

poem in Kashmiri.

Important Kashmiri poets of the post-Independence period include Abdul Ahmad Azad, Dinanath Nadim, Amin Kamil, Ghulam Rasul Nazki, Rahman Rahi, Abdul Haqq Barq and Nur Mohammed Roshan. Dinanath Nadim's poems like '*Yirada*,' '*Ba Gyavna Az*' and '*Zindabad Shyamji*' brought new vigour into Kashmiri verse. Rahman Rahi is known for his work '*Nauroz-i-Saba*.' Motilal Kemmu is a renowned Kashmiri dramatist who wrote powerful plays like '*Trunov*,' '*Mangay*' and '*Manjuli Nika*.'

(Source: Culturopedia- articles of India)

Kashmiri Poets and some of the excerpts

(Source: ikashmir.net)

Great mystic poetess Lalleshwari of 14th Century. Lad Ded, some consider her as a poet, some as holy woman, a yogi, or Lord Shiva Devotee. The Kashmiri Language is full of her sayings. At twenty-six she renounced the family and kept the company of Sadhus (Religious people). Her says are still popular because it dealt with everything human needs, from life, yoga to dharma. There are nearly two hundred popular sayings available in many books. From human life forms to Chakra healing, plenty of contents to read and comprehend the contents. Some of the Chakra sayings from 14th century woman are given below with the original Kashmiri lines. The English translations are as noted in the ikashmir.net website.

You are the heaven, and You are the earth, you are the day, and You are the night, you are all pervading air, you are the sacred offering of rice and flowers and of water; You are Yourself all in all, what can I offer You?

God does not want meditations and austerities Through love alone canst thou reach the Abode of Bliss. Thou mayst be lost like salt in water Still it is difficult for thee to know God

I held firm the reins of the horse, my mind, I controlled well the pranas coursing through the ten nadis; Then did the nectar of the mystic moon Melt and flow, suffusing my whole being, the mind thus

curved, my void merged with the void of pure consciousness.

I discovered the Lord Within the walls of my own soul

Kashmiri lines:

aayas kami dishi ta kami vate Gatsha kami deyshi kava zaana
vath; antidaay lagimay tate, Chanis phookas kanh ti no sath.

English Translation:

Whence I have come and by which way, I do not know. Wither
I shall go and by which way, I do not know. Where I to know the end
of it all and gain the knowledge of the truth, (it would be well, for
otherwise) Life here is but an empty breath.

Kashmiri lines:

pavan puu'rith yus ani vagi Tas baovi na sparsh na bwachi ta
tresh Ti yas karun anti tagi, Samsaaras suy zeyyi nech.

English Translation:

He who can direct his praana aright, is not troubled by hunger
or thirst. And he who can do this unto the end is born fortunate* in
this world.

Kashmiri lines:

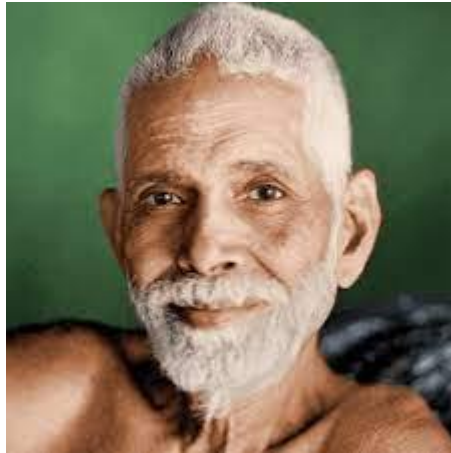
naabisthaana chay prakrath zalavu'nii Brahmasthaanas
shishirun mwakh, Brahmaandas chay nad vahavani, Tavay turun
'huh','haah' gav to't.

English Translation:

At the navel region is the Place of the Sun, Where Prakriti
glows as hot as fire; From here hot breath rises to the throat. At the
crown of the head is the Place of the Moon, from here cool nectar
down the naaddi-s flows, thus haah is hot, and huh is cold.

Source: Gems of Kashmiri Literature and Kashmiriyat

Sri Ramana Maharshi



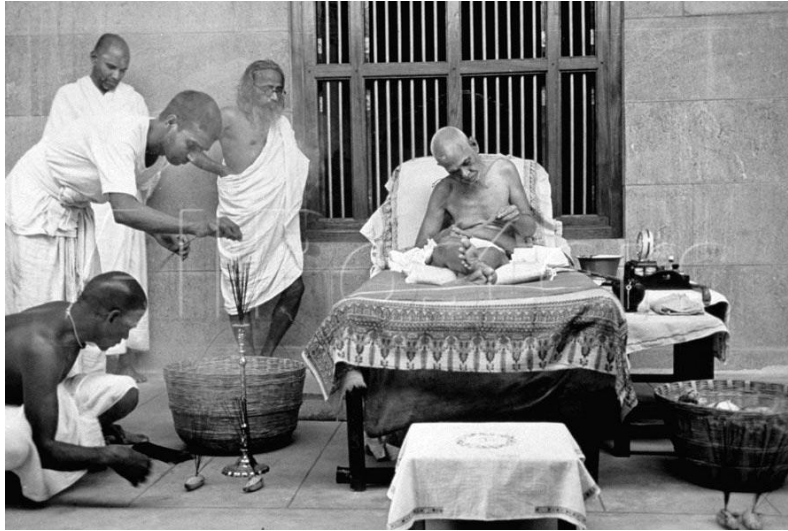
(Photo source: sriramanamaharshi.org)

“The mind will exist only so long as you think of external things”

30 December 1879- 14 April 1950

Thiruchuli, Tamil Nadu, India

Ramana Maharishi



(Picture source: realization.org)

'The degree of freedom from unwanted thoughts and the degree of concentration on a single thought are the measures to gauge spiritual progress' - Ramana Maharishi

Ramana Maharishi was a Hindu sage. People refer as Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi. He was born in Tamil Nadu, India on 30 December 1879 and died on 14 April 1950. At the age of sixteen, Ramana Maharishi left to the holy mountain Arunachala near Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, and he took the role of a Sanyasi. He remained there for the rest of his life.

He had a near death experience (NDE in Western parlance) and became aware of his true self. Ramana Maharshi approved a number of path and practices in spirituality. Self-inquiry as the principal means to remove ignorance and self-awareness, besides bhakti (devotion) and surrender to the Self. There are lot of books on Ramana Maharshi. In 1931, Paul Brunton visited India and then published a book 'A search in Secret India'.

Q: Why is concentration ineffective?

Sri Ramana Maharshi:

To ask the mind to kill the mind is like making the thief the policeman.

He will go with you and pretend to catch the thief, but nothing will be gained.

So you must turn inward and see from where the mind rises and then it will cease to exist.

Q: In turning the mind inwards, are we not still employing the mind?

Sri Ramana Maharshi:

Of course we are employing the mind.

It is well known and admitted that only with the help of the mind can the mind be killed.

But instead of setting about saying there is a mind,

and I want to kill it,
you begin to seek the source of the mind,
and you find the mind does not exist at all.

The mind, turned outwards, results in thoughts and objects.
Turned inwards, it becomes itself the Self.

Q: Even so, I do not understand. `I', you say, is the wrong `I'
now. How to eliminate the wrong `I'?

Sri Ramana Maharshi:
You need not eliminate the wrong `I'.
How can `I' eliminate itself?
All that you need do is to find out its origin and abide there.
Your efforts can extend only thus far.
Then the beyond will take care of itself.
You are helpless there.
No effort can reach it.

~ From Be as you are book

Sources: www.sriramanamaharshi.org

Www.arunachala.org/ramana

All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them

- Walt Disney

If you do what you always did, you will get what you always got

-Albert Einstein

You cannot cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water

- Rabindranath Tagore

Swati Thirunal



(Photo source: wegotguru.wordpress.com)

Sri Swati Thirunal

16 April 1813 - 25 December 1846

Travancore, Kerala, India

A Maharaja turned to Musical Composer

Swati Thirunal

Swati Thirunal Rama Varma was a King with multi-faceted personality. He was from Kulasekhara Dynasty and ruled Travancore area between 1813-1846. Just 33 years of life and his contributions still very famous and known across the country. His name Swati came because he was born on Swati star (Indian way of birth stars)

As a Prince, he had access to learn to many languages and brought in English as a language to the Kerala State in India. The languages include Sanskrit, Marathi, and Persian. At the age of sixteen, he was able to correlate geometry words to the sources from Sanskrit. His interest in Astronomy helped to install telescopes at the Thiruvananthapuram observatory. As a King, he abolished lot of traditional practices that were considered inhuman treatment.

Swati Thirunal composed over four hundred compositions in Hindustani and Carnatic music. Many of them still rendered in public gathering by students of the music. With such talent, Swati Thirunal is now called 'A prince among Artists.'

A song was written when the King was born. It is called 'Omana thinkal' in Malayalam language. The song is still rendered in popular concerts. The English translation goes like this (partial words)

Is this sweet child

The bright crescent moon or the charming lotus flower

The honey in a flower or the lustre of the full moon

A pure coral gem or the chatter of parrots

A dancing peacock or a singing bird

A young deer or bright shining swan

In this beautiful form, is it Avatar of Lord Krishna himself?

Krishnamurthi

J Krishnamurthy also known as Jiddu Krishnamurthy

Philosopher, Speaker, and Writer



(Photo courtesy: hinduwebsite.com)

12 May 1895- 17 Feb 1986

Born: Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh, India

Died: Ojai, California

“Read every word, every phrase, every paragraph of the mind, as it
operates through thought ”

J Krishnamurthi

Jiddu Krishnamurthi (also known as JK)

The true World Teacher, who renounced any allegiance to nationality, caste, religion, or philosophy in that century (1895-1986). He worked to share his thoughts on psychological revolution, explanation on mind, meditation, and relationships. He traveled world-wide and spoke to large and small gatherings in those pre-social media times!

Born to the family of eleven children, JK experienced psychic episodes at 18 years. Through his father, who was worked at the Theosophical Society at Chennai, Tamil Nadu (known as Madras at that time), JK got involved with the Society. JK and his brother Nitya went to England in April 1911 to give a series of public speeches at the Society. They also visited many European countries. In 1922, he moved to Ojai Valley, California. He started experiencing paranormal or mystical incidents. The death of his brother in 1925 made him to re-think his role in the Society and he quit all the leadership roles. Between 1930 and 1944, JK gave world speaking tours and issued publications under his own trust.

JK was the founder of five schools in India, one in England and another one in California. The educational aims were Global Outlook, Concern for man and the environment and religious spirit which includes scientific temper.

There are nine famous books authored by him between 1910 to 1987. Some of the famous titles are, what are you doing with your life? Can the mind be quiet; What are you looking for? His teachings are published in more than seventy-five books, 700 audio and 1200 video files.

His core of the teachings is given below. Source: krishnamurthicenter.org. The organization has twice a year week-long retreat.

'Thought is time. Thought is born of experience, of knowledge, which are inseparable from time. Time is the psychological enemy of man. Our action is based on knowledge and therefore time, so man is always a slave to the past.'

'When man becomes aware of the movement of his own consciousness, he will see the division between the thinker and the thought, the observer and the observed, the experiencer and the

experience. He will discover that this division is an illusion. Then only is there pure observation which is insight without any shadow of the past. This timeless insight brings about a deep radical mutation in the mind. '

'Is it possible to be completely free of fear? Not simply say whether it is possible or not impossible.

Fear creates disorder – fear of the past, the present and the future.

Is comparison a factor of fear?

Seeing that, can you live a life without comparing yourself with anybody? **Without a single comparison.**

Comparison implies striving to become something, and the fear that you may not fulfil.

Where there is comparison, there must be conformity, imitation inwardly.

When you are seriously concerned with the ending of fear, then there's no comparison, no becoming.

When the mind sees those factors as bringing about fear, the very perception of that ends the contributory causes.'

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan



(Photo source: Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

5 September 1888- 17 April 1975

Born: Thiruttani India

Died: Chennai India

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Dr Radhakrishnan was a famous Indian philosopher and politician who served as the second President of India from 1962 to 1967. He was the first Vice-President of India before that time. He has received the nation's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna in 1954. He believed teachers should be the best minds in the country. India celebrates his birthday September 5th as Teacher's Day.

He started his career in Philosophy in April 1909 at Madras Presidency college and became Professor of Philosophy in 1918 at Maharaja college, Mysuru (Mysore). In 1929, he took over as Principal at Manchester College, UK. He taught University of Oxford on comparative religion. He was knighted by George V. He was nominated sixteen times for the Nobel Prize in Literature and eleven times for the Nobel Peace Prize

His literary contributions include writings on Advaita Vedanta, Intuition and religious experience, and classification of religions. There are 18+ books written by him from Tagore's philosophy to Bhagavad Gita. The books are published over 50-year period, 1918 to 1968. There five known biographies on him. His books are famous

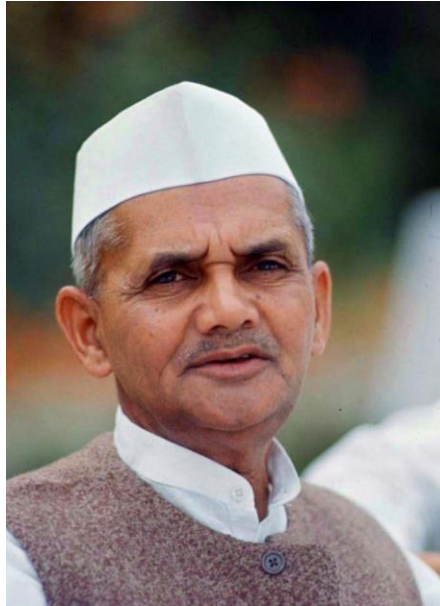
for its content on metaphysics, Intuition, and psychic experience.

Some of his quotes:

'When we think we know, we cease to learn'

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

Lal Bahadur Shastri



(Photo: news18.com)

2 October 1904- 11 January 1966

Born: Mughalsarai, India

Died: Toshkent, Uzbekistan

White revolution in India- national campaign to increase the
production and supply of milk

Character: Asked his own Government staff to reduce his
salary by 50 Indian rupees since his wife got salary increase that
year from her job.

Lal Bahadur Shastri

Born to teacher's family in 1904, Shastri received his school education in Urdu language. He was attracted by Gandhian principles and participated in Satyagraha (non-cooperation) movement towards India's independence. He was the first one to issue 'Quit India' speech on 8th August 1942.

After independence, he worked as a state minister in his home state of Uttar Pradesh. He was the first to appoint women bus conductors, ordered the use of water jets instead of lathis (sticks) to disperse unruly crowds. Later, he worked at the Central government as Railway minister and commerce minister. Following Nehru's death, he became Prime Minister on 9 June 1964.

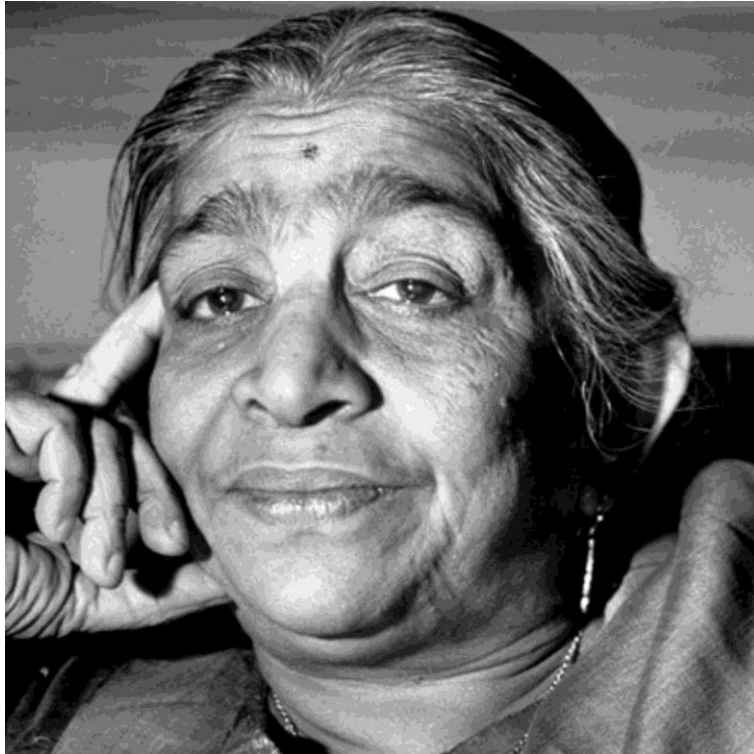
His everlasting economic contributions comes from white and green revolution. White revolution is about increasing the production and supply of milk using co-operatives model. The green revolution is about increasing the wheat production in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh states with high-yielding varieties of wheat.

When there was food shortage in the country, he showed that vegetable plants can be grown in everyone's yard. And asked countrymen to skip one meal in a week. This was known as 'Shastri Vrat,' vrat meaning skipping food.

During war period with Pakistan, Shastri the coined the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kishan' (Hail the soldier, hail the farmer), which is still being remembered in the country.

Shastri is known for taking moral ownership and lived a very simple life.

Sarojini Naidu



(Photo source: [bio.biography.com](https://www.biography.com))

13 February 1879- 2 March 1949

Born: Hyderabad, India

Died: Lucknow, India

Political activist and Poet

Sarojini Naidu

'We want deeper sincerity of motive, a greater courage in speech and earnest in action'

Born in 1879, Sarojini Naidu was an Indian political activist, a great patriot, orator, writer, and administrator. She supported women's emancipation, civil rights and also joined the Indian Nationalist movement and Gandhi's Satyagraha Movement to gain freedom from British rule.

She became the first Indian woman to be president of the Indian National Congress and is popularly known as the Nightingale of India because of her contribution to poetry.

13 February is praised as National Women's Day in India to respect the commitments of Sarojini Naidu.

Born in Hyderabad, her father was the principal of Nizam College, and her mother wrote poetry in Bengali language. Between 1895-98 she studied at King's college London and in Cambridge. She was proficient in multiple languages including English, Bengali, Urdu, Telegu and Persian. Her parents wanted her to become a scientist, but she was attracted to poetry.

After 1917, she joined Gandhi's satyagraha movement of nonviolent resistance against British rule. She became first female president of Indian National Congress and participated in the famous

'salt march.' During freedom struggle she was imprisoned for 21 months. After independence, she was appointed as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh state.

Sarojini started writing at the age of twelve, a Persian play. Her first book of poems was published in London in 1905, titled 'The Golden Threshold'. She has written eight books and multiple poems/speeches. Her speeches were first published in 1918.

*Can ye measure the grief of the tears I weep
Or compass the woe of the watch I keep?
Or the pride that thrills thro' my heart's despair
And the hope that comforts the anguish of prayer?
And the far sad glorious vision I see
Of the torn red banners of Victory?

When the terror and tumult of hate shall cease
And life be refashioned on anvils of peace,
And your love shall offer memorial thanks
To the comrades who fought in your dauntless ranks,
And you honor the deeds of the deathless ones
Remember the blood of thy martyred sons!*

(Poem: The gift of India. Source: poets.org)

C Rajagopala Chari
(Chakravarti Rajagopalachari)



(Photo source: spontaneousorder.in)

9 December 1878- 25 December 1972

Born: Thorapalli, India

Died: Chennai, India

Rajaji

C Rajagopalachari

(Known as Rajaji)

Rajaji was the last Governor-General of India before India became Republic in 1950. He was the first and only Indian-born Governor General. In 1900s Rajaji started legal practice at Salem city in Tamil Nadu, India. He joined Indian National Congress and became one of the earliest political associates of Mahatma Gandhi. He helps different posts in Nehru cabinet. He was also the chief minister of Tamil Nadu state 1952-54. He introduced regulations that opened up treating all people as equal which was considered revolutionary at that time.

He is known for his contributions to literature and music. Rajaji started the Tamil scientific terms society in 1916 towards to coin new words in Tamil language to replace Sanskrit words. He has Mahabharata and Ramayana in English. And translated Kamba Ramayana into English in 1961. Some of his other translations include Thirukural. He has written books in English on Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads. He has also composed devotional songs in Tamil.

Abdul Kalam



APJ Abdul Kalam

(Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam)

15 Oct 1931- 27 July 2015

Born: Rameshwaram, India

Died: Shillong India

President of India, 25 July 2002 to 25 July 2007

Abdul Kalam

Can one take the country's leadership as the President of the Nation, from a simple beginning and with no political or wealthy family lineage? Does goodness and kindness pay off, within this lifetime? Can care and passion for the country, take you to highest level you have never imagined? The answer is Abdul Kalam

Can dedication to your profession do wonders? Can you think outside your job and care about the people in the community? Can you speak and motivate the youth and give them direction? The answer is again Abdul Kalam.

APJ Abdul Kalam was born and raised in Rameswaram, India. His father was a boat-owner in the fisheries town and his mother a homemaker. Kalam was the youngest of the four brother and one sister in the family. He sold newspapers as a young boy to supplement the family income. He studied physics and aerospace engineering. He spent four decades at defense research and space research organizations. He led programs like missile development and nuclear test. He was elected as 11th President of India in 2002. A scientist became the President.

Kalam is known for his simplicity and integrity. He never owned a television, reading a lot till 2am and going for morning walks at 6:30am. His possessions include mostly books, veena instrument and a laptop. He left the President's office after his tenure with two suitcases. His love for the people knew no limit. He motivated the children to dream big and always spent time with them.

He used his technology and inquisitive spirit to develop a low-cost coronary stent. This helped large patients to go thorough surgery instead of the costly imported devices. He also designed a rugged tablet computer for health care, to be used in rural areas of India.

Kalam was strict in using the Presidential powers vs his personal pocket money. Once he bought a kitchenware from a shop and issued his personal check. The shop owner did not cash-in the check but framed it as it is from the country's President. Kalam was doing his own bank bookkeeping and found the check not being cashed. He called the owner by himself to cash it otherwise he will return the goods!

His honors include,

Seven honorary doctorates from 40 universities.

National awards Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and

Bharat Ratna

18+ books, 8 biographies

His inspirational quotes: (source: abdulkalam.com)

'To succeed in life and achieve results, you must understand and master three mighty forces- desire, belief, and expectations'

'Determination is the power that sees us through all our frustrations and obstacles. It helps in building our willpower which is the very basis of success'

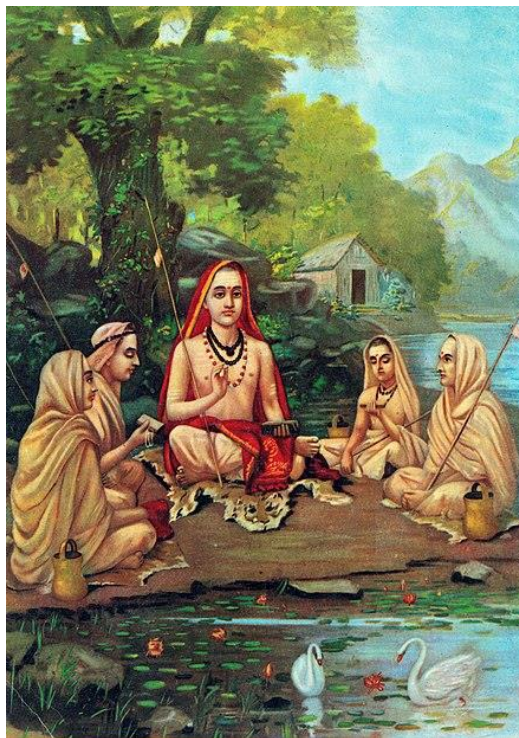
'When I call upon youth to dream lofty dreams, I am invoking a vision in them. As you dream so shall you become'

'Creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes you great'

Adi Shankara

Adi Shankara Charya

(Adi means first, Shankaracharya means Vedic teacher)



(Painting by famous king, Raja Ravi Varma)

700 CE. - 750 CE. (CE- common era)

Born: Kaladi, Kerala, India

Died: Kedarnath, India

Adi Shankara

Shankara, also called Shankaracharya, philosopher and theologian, most renowned exponent of the Advaita Vedanta school of philosophy, from whose doctrines the main currents of modern Indian thoughts are derived.

Adi Shankara was an eighth century Indian Philosopher and theologian who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. It is documented that he was born 509 BC at Kalady, Kerala, India and died in 477 BC at Kedarnath, India. He took Sannyasa (hermit) at very young age and traveled across India. Adi Shankara is most known for his systematic review and commentaries on ancient Indian texts. Adi Shankara believed in the philosophy of non-dualism. He believed in the fact that every individual has a divine existence, which can be identified with the Supreme cosmic power. Though bodies are diverse, the soul is one. The moment someone believes that the concept of life is infinite; they are discarding an entirely higher and different dimension of life and knowledge. Self-realization is the key to attain Moksha (blissful) and connect with God. Adi Shankra left a treasure of spiritual knowledge for future generations. (Source: culturalindia.net) Adi Shankara founded four peethas (monasteries) called mathas. It was in four corners of India to teach

and uphold his spiritual teachings. They are known as Sarada Peetham at sringeri, Karnataka; Kalika Peethan at Dwaraka, Gujarat; Jyothi Peetham, Badarikashrama, Uttarakhand; Govardhana Peetham in Puri, Orissa. These are most revered pilgrim destination even in this time. Additional reading: www.advaita-vedanta.org

I am Consciousness, I am Bliss, I am Shiva, I am Shiva.

Without hate, without infatuation, without craving, without greed;

Neither arrogance, nor conceit, never jealous I am;

Neither *dharma*, nor *artha*, neither *kama*, nor *moksha* am I;

I am Consciousness, I am Bliss, I am Shiva, I am Shiva.

Without sins, without merits, without elation, without sorrow;

Neither mantra, nor rituals, neither pilgrimage, nor Vedas;

Neither the experiencer, nor experienced, nor the experience am I,

(Adi Shankara in Nirvana Shatakam hymns)

Ramakrishna Paramahansa

(Gadadhar Chattopadhyaya)

Indian Hindu mystic and religious leader



18 Feb 1836 - 16 August 1886

Born: Kamarpukur, India

Died: Kolkata, India

Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Worldwide, people have heard or know about Swami Vivekananda. Vivekananda's guru was Ramakrishna. Swami Vivekananda popularized Ramakrishna's ideas and founded the famous Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission. Math provides spiritual training to anyone, and the Mission does charity, social work, and education.

Ramakrishna was the fourth child to his parents. His parents were poor, but pious and orthodox type. Ramakrishna had spiritual trance at the age of six at a rice paddy field. He received no formal education and learned Bengali so that he could read/write. In 1852, he moved to Calcutta to do priest work and helping his eldest brother.

A rare combination of various religions:

In 1861, a female ascetic Bhairavi Brahmani initiated Ramakrishna into Tantra

In 1865, a Vedanta monk Tota Puri initiated sannyasa to him

In 1866, Practicing Sufism Govinda Roy initiated Ramakrishna into Islam

In 1873, Ramakrishna had Bible read to him.

(Source: Wikipedia)

His messages

The **goal of human life** is the realization of the Ultimate Reality which alone can give man supreme fulfilment and everlasting peace. This is the essence of all religions.

The **Ultimate Reality** is one; but it is personal as well as impersonal and is indicated by different names (such as God, Ishvar, etc.) in different religions.

The Ultimate Reality can be realized through various paths taught in world religions. **All religions are true** in so far as they lead to the same ultimate Goal.

Purity of mind is an essential condition for the attainment of the Ultimate Reality; real purity is freedom from lust and greed. External observances are only of secondary importance.

Through **spiritual practices** man can overcome his evil tendencies, and **divine grace** can redeem even the worst sinner. Therefore, one should not brood over the past mistakes, but should develop a positive outlook on life by **depending on God**.

God realization is possible for all. The householders need not renounce the world; but they should pray sincerely, practice discrimination between the Eternal and the temporal and remain unattached. God listens to sincere prayer. **Intense**

longing (*vyakulata*) is the secret of success in spiritual life.

God dwells in all people but the manifestation of this inner Divinity varies from person to person. In saintly people there is greater manifestation of God. Women are special manifestations of Divine Mother of the Universe, and so are to be treated with respect.

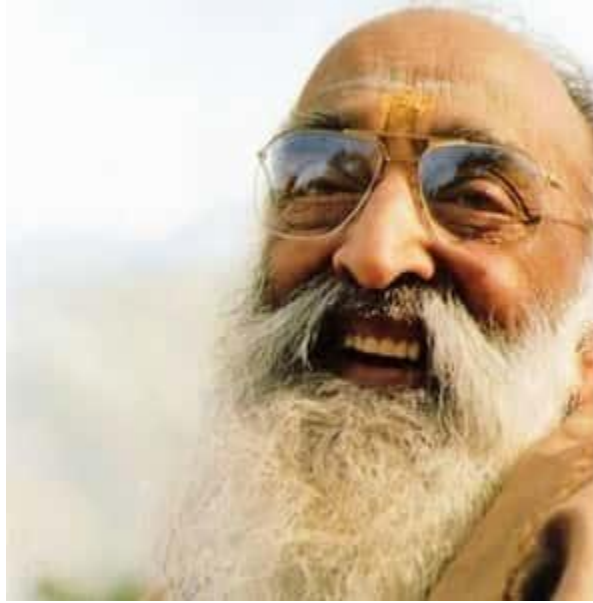
Since God dwells in all people, **helping the needy** should be done not out of compassion (which is an attitude of condescension) but **as humble service to God**.

Egoism, caused by ignorance, is the **root-cause of all suffering**.

Life is an expression of the spontaneous creativity (*Lila*) of God. Pleasure and pain, success, and failure, etc. are to be borne with patience, and **one should resign oneself to God's will** under all circumstances.

(Source: belurmath.org)

Chinmayananda



8 May 1916 - 3 August 1993

Born: Ernakulam, India

Died: San Diego, USA

Founder: Chinmaya Mission, Vishva Hindu Parishad

Chinmayananda

Swami Chinmayananda Saraswati (born Balakrishna Menon) was a Hindu spiritual leader and a teacher who inspired the formation of Chinmaya Mission, a worldwide nonprofit organization, to spread the knowledge of Advaita Vedanta, the non-dual system of thought found in the Upanishads, which epitomize the philosophical teachings of the Vedas.

Born as the eldest son to a prominent Judge in Kerala, he completed arts degree in Ernakulam and Thrissur. He went to Lucknow University to complete post graduate degrees in literature and law. In 1936, he visited Sri Ramana Maharshi (also mentioned in this book) which led to his path in spirituality. He was involved in 'Quit India' movement and associated himself with different freedom groups. He worked as a journalist at 'The National Herald' newspaper and wrote articles. One of his inquisitive writing assignments took him to Rishikesh. He traveled to Sivananda's ashram as writer but came out becoming as a renunciate monk.

Chinmayananda is known for teaching Bhagavad Gita, the Upanishads, and other ancient Hindu scriptures. From 1951 onward, he spearheaded a global Hindu spiritual and cultural renaissance that popularized the religion's esoteric scriptural texts, teaching them in

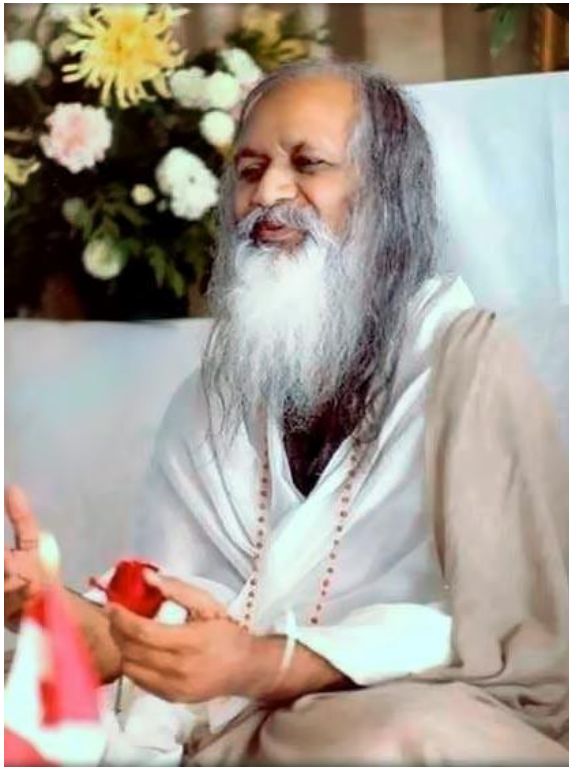
English all across India and abroad.

Chinmayananda inspired the formation of Chinmaya Mission program (CVP) in 1953. Founded by his disciples and led by him, it is a spiritual, educational, and charitable nonprofit organization that encompasses more than three hundred centers in India and internationally.

He authored ninety-five publications, including commentaries on the major Upanishad and Bhagavad Gita. He was a visiting professor of Indian philosophy at several American and Asian universities, and he conducted university lecture tours in many countries.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

Yoga Guru



(Photo source - Wikipedia)

12 January 1918 - 5 February 2008

Born: Rajim, India

Died: Vlodrop, Netherlands

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

(Mahesh Prasad Varma)

"I had one thing in mind, that I know something which is useful to every man" - Maharishi

Maharishi means great seer. The famous Indian yoga guru developed and popularized the 'Transcendental Meditation' (TM). As the guru to 'The Beatles' he became international super star.

Another physics graduate in this book. He earned a degree in Physics in 1942 from Allahabad University. He started as an assistant to Swami Brahmananda Saraswathi and stayed at the Himalayas. In 1955 he started TM and took out to global tour in 1958. He founded thousands of teaching centers, hundreds of colleges, and schools. He is reportedly trained more than 40000 TM teachers. By 1971, Maharishi had completed thirteen world tours, visited 50 countries, and gave TM lectures to very large gatherings. In 1990, he had his own satellite TV channel called Veda Channel, broadcasting content in twenty-two languages in 144 countries!

Sri Aurobindo

(Autobindo Ghose)

Indian philosopher, Yoga teacher, Poet, Journalist



15 August 1872 - 5 December 1950

Born: Kolkatta, India

Died: Puducherry, India

Sri Aurobindo

Aurobindo studied for the Indian Civil Service at Cambridge. After returning to India, he worked on various civil service work at Baroda. He got increasingly involved with the freedom struggle. He was imprisoned for writing articles against the British colonial rule in India. He received mystical and spiritual experience in the Jail. Later he moved to Pondicherry, southern India for spiritual work.

He developed a spiritual practice of 'Integral Yoga' where human life can be evolved into divine life in a divine body. You do not have to die to gain the spiritual experience, but live divine life on earth while living.

His parents moved into London to give the children better education and life. The three children were left under the custody of the Reverend at the congregational church Manchester. Latin was a must to get into the good English school. Aurobindo also learned Greek, besides German and Italian languages. So, in the end, he knew twelve languages: English, French and Bengali to speak, read and write; Latin, Greek and Sanskrit to read and write; Gujarati, Marathi, and Hindi to speak and read; and Italian, German and Spanish to read!

In 1926 he started Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, which attracted foreign visitors. Sri Aurobindo was nominated twice for Nobel Prize- 1943 for literature and 1950 for Peace. There are about twenty published Indian editions of his poems and stories; 13 books in American edition starting from 'Secret to Veda' to 'Essays on Gita'.

Sriaurobindoashram.org has lot of resources and details about the ashram.

Paramahansa Yogananda



5 January 1893 - 7 March 1952

Born: Gorakhpur, India

Died: Los Angeles, USA

Paramahansa Yogananda was an Indian Hindu monk, yogi and guru who introduced millions to the teachings of meditation and Kriya Yoga through his organization Self-Realization Fellowship / Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, and who lived his last 32 years in America. (Source: Wikipedia)

Yogananda

Pramahansa Yogananda

(Paramahansa means supreme swan)

Born as Mukunda Lal Ghosh, Paramahansa was an Indian Hindu monk, yogi, and guru, who introduced meditation and yoga to the world. He lived his last 32 years in America, gave him the title 'Father of yoga in the west'. He was the first Indian teacher to settle in America and first prominent Indian to be hosted by US President Calvin Coolidge in 1927. His Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) and Yogoda Satsanga Society (YSS) are still available in every major American city. He initiated thousands into Kriya Yoga practices.

He met his Guru Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri at the age of seventeen and spent 10 years at his hermitages. In 1920, while in meditation at his Ranchi School he received a vision of teaching Kriya Yoga to the West. On the following day, he received an invitation to represent India at a conference in Boston. After Boston he did extensive tour in America teaching Yoga and Meditation. He visited briefly back to India 1935-36 when he met Gandhi.

He published his book, 'Autobiography of a Yogi' in 1946 which

became '100 best spiritual books of the 20th century's **selling four million+ copies. This has been translated in forty-five languages.**

"Self-realization is the knowing – in body, mind, and soul – that we are one with the omnipresence of God; that we do not have to pray that it come to us, that we are not merely near it at all times, but that God's omnipresence is our omnipresence; and that we are just as much a part of Him now as we ever will be. All we have to do is improve our knowing "

"The Kriya Yogi mentally directs his life energy to revolve, upward and downward, around the six spinal centers (medullary, cervical, dorsal, lumbar, sacral, and coccygeal plexuses) which correspond to the twelve astral signs of the zodiac, the symbolic Cosmic Man. One-half-minute of revolution of energy around the sensitive spinal cord of man effects subtle progress in his evolution; that half-minute of Kriya equals one year of natural spiritual unfoldment "

(Source: Wikipedia)

Yogananda himself wrote the following as his aims for the SRF/YSS society:

- To disseminate among the nations a knowledge of definite

scientific techniques for attaining direct personal experience of God.

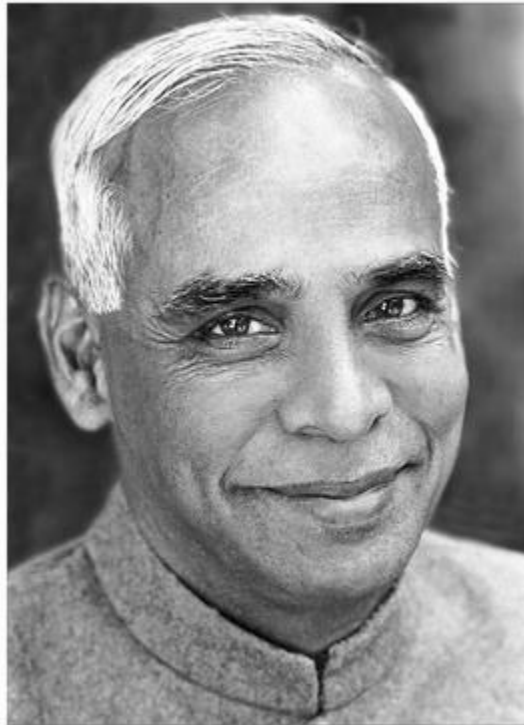
- To teach that the purpose of life is the evolution, through self-effort, of man's limited mortal consciousness into God Consciousness; and to this end to establish Self-Realization Fellowship temples for God-communion throughout the world, and to encourage the establishment of individual temples of God in the homes and in the hearts of men.
- To reveal the complete harmony and basic oneness of original Christianity as taught by Jesus Christ and original Yoga as taught by Bhagavan Krishna; and to show that these principles of truth are the common scientific foundation of all true religions.
- To point out the one divine highway to which all paths of true religious beliefs eventually lead: the highway of daily, scientific, devotional meditation on God.
- To liberate man from his threefold suffering: physical disease, mental in harmonies, and spiritual ignorance.
- To encourage "plain living and high thinking;" and to spread a spirit of brotherhood among all peoples by teaching the eternal basis of their unity: kinship with God.
- To demonstrate the superiority of mind over body, of soul over mind.
- To overcome evil by good, sorrow by joy, cruelty by kindness,

ignorance by wisdom.

- To unite science and religion through realization of the unity of their underlying principles.
- To advocate cultural and spiritual understanding between East and West, and the exchange of their finest distinctive features.
- To serve mankind as one's larger Self.

Eknath Easwaran

Spiritual leader, author, and translator



17 December 1910 - 26 October 1999

Born: Kerala, India

Died: California

Ekknath Easwaran

Ekknath Easwaran (December 17, 1910 – October 26, 1999) was an Indian-born spiritual teacher, author, as well as a translator and interpreter of Indian religious texts such as the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads.

Born in a village in Kerala, his maternal grandmother was his spiritual teacher. He studied at a Catholic college in Thrissur, Kerala to get to know the Christian traditions. He graduated at Nagpur University in English and Law. Easwaran was a professor of English literature at the University of Nagpur in India, and in 1959 he came to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley where he taught courses on meditation. In 1961, Easwaran founded the Blue Mountain Center of Meditation and Nilgiri Press, based in northern California. Nilgiri Press has published over thirty books that he authored.

Easwaran was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, whom he met when he was a young man. Easwaran developed a method of meditation – silent repetition in the mind of memorized inspirational passages from the world's major religious and spiritual traditions – which later came to be known as Passage Meditation. 5651215401

The passage meditation consists of eight-point program, as follows:

1. *Meditation*: Silent repetition upon memorized inspirational passages from one of the world's great religions. Practiced for one-half hour each morning.
2. *The Mantram*: silent repetition of a *mantram*, holy name or hallowed phrase from one of the world's great religions.
3. *Slowing Down*: set priorities to reduce stress and hurry
4. *One-Pointed Attention*: give full concentration to whatever matter is currently at hand
5. *Training the Senses*: enjoy simple pleasures in order to avoid craving for unhealthy excess
6. *Putting Others First*: denounce selfishness and cultivating altruism
7. *Spiritual Companionship*: practice meditation in the company of others
8. *Reading the Mystics*: draw inspiration from the writings of the scriptures of all religions.

Easwaran's reputation lies in three translations, where one edition itself sold more than 470000 copies. They are considered the best-selling translation of the scriptures of India. They are on Bhagavad Gita, the Upanishads and the Dhammapada (Buddha). And then

there is 'The Bhagavad Gita for Daily Living,' a three-volume set of books. He has written two spiritual biographies. And three commentaries on Christian literature.

R K Laxman

(Rasipuram Krishnaswami Laxman)

Cartoonist, illustrator, and humorist



24 October 1921 - 26 January 2015

Born: Mysure, India

Died: Pune, India

R K Laxman

(rklaxman.com)

Laxman was born in Mysuru (Mysore) in 1921. His father was a headmaster and Laxman was the youngest of eight children. His elder brother was renowned novelist R K Narayan. Laxman was called 'Pied Piper of Delhi.' He is known for his 'The common man' daily cartoon strip, which is also called 'You said it.' This came in Time of India newspaper starting from 1951. This daily feature depicted the average Indian's life, hopes, aspirations and troubles. Irrespective of the political party or people in power, he show-cased the humor from the common man's perspectives.

What started as a part-time cartoonist drawing illustrations for his older brother's stories, became a full-time political cartoonist later in life. After his high school, he applied to join an arts institute. The dean of the school refused admission that he lacked the talent! But that did not dampen his spirits. He finished Bachelor of Arts from University of Mysuru (Mysore). He received honorary doctorate from the same University at later years.

Besides 50 years of daily political cartoon work at the newspaper, he

also created mascot for companies and products. Example: asian paints, Air Deccan airlines. There were eight exhibitions of Laxman's cartoons shown between 2009 to 2020.

"I drew objects that caught my eye outside the window of my room – the dry twigs, leaves and lizard-like creatures crawling about, the servant chopping firewood and, of course, and number of crows in various postures on the rooftops of the building's opposite: - RK Laxman



(Source: IndiaTV news; remembering RK Laxman)

R K Narayan

(Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami)

Known as 'kunjappa' to his family circles

Known for early Indian English Literature

Elder brother of R K Laxman



10 October 1906 - 13 May 2001

Born: Chennai, India

Died: Chennai, India

R K Narayan

Narayan was the famous writer known for his work set with background of fictional Indian town called Malgudi. Malgudi days came out as a book as well as TV serial. In the writing career that went for 60+ years, he wrote 15 novels, 9 non-fictions, three on mythology (Ramayana and Mahabharata), four short story collections. Two of his books were adapted into Hindi films. BBC choose his novel 'Swami and Friends' as one of the one hundred novels that shaped our world!

Like his younger brother R K Laxman, Narayan did his school and college in Mysuru (Mysore). He worked as a teacher in high school. When the headmaster asked him to do physical training master as a substitute teacher, Narayan quit his job. He realized writing as his passion. His family truly supported him since writing was not a remunerative career at those times.

In his first three books, Narayan highlights the problems with certain socially accepted practices. The first book has Narayan focusing on the plight of students, punishments of caning in the classroom, and the associated shame. The concept of horoscope-matching in Hindu marriages and the emotional toll it levies on the bride and groom is covered in the second book. In the third book, Narayan addresses

the concept of a wife putting up with her husband's antics and attitudes. (Source: Wikipedia)

In early life, the books did not sell well to generate income. He did write story for a Tamil film (Miss Malini- 1947). But after 1951, his fictional book 'The English Teacher' got wide attention in the press. In 1953 his works were published in United States. He traveled to United States and England in 1956 under Rockefeller fellowship. Writing was his focus and doing about 1500 words in a day in his diary. At the age of ninety-four, just before his death, he was planning to write his next novel about his grandfather.

Narayan's greatest achievement was making India known and accessible to the outside world at those times. Through his literature. His stories made the reader to eagerly anticipate the next move and they believed this is happening in their own backyard. His house in Mysuru (Mysore) is now turned into a museum.

"Whom next shall I meet in Malgudi? That is the thought that comes to me when I close a novel of Mr. Narayan's. I do not wait for another novel. I wait to go out of my door into those loved and shabby streets and see with excitement and a certainty of pleasure a stranger approaching, past the bank, the cinema, the haircutting saloon, a stranger who will greet me I know with some unexpected and revealing phrase that will open a door on to yet another human existence."

— *Graham Greene*

(Source: Wikipedia)

M.S. Subbulakshmi

(Madurai Shanmukhavadivu Subbulakshmi)



16 Sep 1916 - 11 December 2004

Born: Madurai, India

Died: Chennai, India

'Queen of Music'

M.S. Subbulakshmi

M.S. Subbulakshmi (known as MS)

First musician ever to be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor.

First Indian musician to receive the Ramon Magsaysay award (1974)

First Indian who performed in United Nations General Assembly (1966)

MS was born to musical family of her mother being a Veena instrument player and grandmother was a violinist. She started learning Carnatic Music at very early age. She gave her first public performance at the age of eleven in the year 1927 at Rockfort temple, Thiruchirappalli. In 1938, she made her Tamil film debut in Sevasadan movie. She acted in six films during 1938-1947 period.

Music made her famous world-wide. Especially for singings bhajans, Hindu hymns. At 13 years old, in 1929, she gave public performance in Chennai. She traveled world-wide and some her famous concerts are Edinburgh (1963), United Nations (1966), London (1982) and Moscow (1987). Her famous renditions still played in many households in India and abroad daily. Noted are Bhaja Govindam,

Vishnu Sahasranama, Venkateswara Suprabhatam, etc. The famous Hindu temple of Tirupathi still plays her song everyday morning. The temple installed a bronze statue of her in the town. She is known for her silk saree dress. In Kancheepuram, the textile town near Chennai, a type of silk saree has been named after her.

Her name became synonymous with the world of Carnatic Music. The singing was flawless, and the voice had divine power. Anyone, without knowing anything about Carnatic Music, can spend hours watching her performance and find the inner peace.

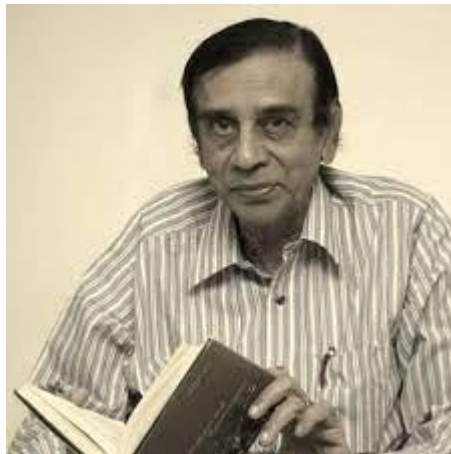
Her musical journey got her from Padma Bhushan award in 1954 to Bharat Ratna award in 1998. She led a simple life and known for donating royalties from singing to many charity organizations. She has performed more than two hundred charity concerts.

S Rangarajan

Known as 'sujatha' to many

Allonym name was sujatha

Author, Novelist, and screenwriter



3 May 1935- 27 February 2008

Born: Chennai, India

Died: Chennai, India

S Rangarajan

A person known for his prolific writing all through his life. Most of his works are in Tamil Language so he may have been popular in Tamil Nadu. But the Tamilians living abroad world-wide surely will remember his contribution to the writing community.

He authored over one hundred novels, 250 short stories, ten books on science, ten stage plays and poems. As a writer he has credits for 23 Tamil movies as story writer, dialogue writer, screenplay, etc. He was a regular contributor to Tamil periodicals and worked briefly as the editor. His literary career went for more than four decades.

He graduated in Physics in 1954 and later studies electronics engineering at Madras Institute of Technology. He worked in Bharat Electronics Limited in Bengaluru (Bangalore) and was known for the development of Electronic Voting machine in India. His passion includes coining new Tamil words for computer terminology and answering science questions from readers.

As an avid reader, he was able to bring modern thoughts into his writings. Taking a cue from James Hadley Chase, he wrote fictitious Ganesh-Vasanth characters in most of detective stories

Prahalad

C.K. Prahalad

(Coimbatore Krishnarao Prahalad)

Entrepreneur, Author, and Management professor



(Photo source: Wikipedia)

8 August 1941 - 16 April 2010

Born: Coimbatore, India

Died: San Diego, California

Prahalad

C.K. Prahalad

Prahalad was born in 1941, finished physics graduation at Chennai, India. After working for four years, he did post graduate work at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He did doctoral thesis at Harvard Business School for 2.5 years. He returned back IIM school in India to work as professor. He returned to US again in 1977. He worked at Michigan's Ross school of Business and reached the highest distinction of Distinguished University Professor in 2005

In 2007 India celebrated 60th year of independence. **He was inspirational to charter India's role in 75 th year of Independence but could live to watch it.** His 'strategy for New India @ 75' was accepted by Government of India in 2018. He co-authored many books which are still considered management classics.

The core competence - with Gary Hamel June 1990

Competing for the future- with Gary Hamel June 1994

The future of competition- with Venkat Ramaswamy 2004

Fortune at the bottom of the pyramid, in 2004

The new age innovation- with M.S. Krishnan in 2008

On his entrepreneurial part, he founded Praja for test bed for management ideas. He ran his own consultancy company, The Next Practice to strategy implementations for the corporation. He was known for his advice to Philips company. He was on board at The Indus Entrepreneurs, popularly known as TiE

SP. Balasubrahmanyam

SP. Balasubrahmanyam (also known as Balu)

Sripathi Paditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam



4 June 1946- 25 Sep 2020

Born: Nellore India

Died: Chennai, India

SP Balasubramanian

SPB was the Indian playback singer, television presenter, music director, actor, and film producer. For fifty years, he ruled the south Indian film industry with his singing. His record of recorded songs stands at 40000. Yes, forty thousand songs as one of the Guinness World Record. And he did not have any formal music training at all.

What is his special contribution to the industry? His humbleness and appreciating everyone around him. His passion and dedication. At the beginning of his career, one music composer asked him to come back later after learning one of the South-Indian language, Tamil. He took one year to learn to learn the language, so the words are pronounced correctly. His mother tongue was not Tamil. Covid took many lives well ahead of their life tenure. SPB is one of them. One his female colleagues commented how this baby could have handled the covid sufferings. That is the love of the people around him on his personality.

He sang relentlessly sometimes close to few dozen songs within a day. Twenty-one songs in Kannada language from 9am to 9pm on 8th February 1981. 19 Tamil songs in a day and 16 Hindi songs in a

day- shows his language skills and dedication. No wonder awards came after him. He was awarded three national level ones, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. Six national film awards, on four different languages. He has traveled world-wide and given countless stage performances.

He did not write a book or took any social leadership position. But his songs with his rare touch of nuances are in the hearts of millions of people from India, both in India and worldwide.

Publications

About the Author - List of Publications	
General Subjects	Published
1 ALASKA for first time travel	June 23, 2022
2 Power of Mantras	April 26, 2022
3 Circa-2020 Inspirational Stories from Covid	September 19, 2020
4 Palghat Trails- Unique lifestyle from South India	September 17, 2020
5 Preaching of Saint Dattareya	July 31, 2020
6 Teachings of Thirumandiram	July 31, 2020
7 Inspirational Stories from covid 19	July 5, 2020
8 Be Happy Enjoy Life	December 11, 2019
9 Smile -100 cartoons	December 11, 2019
10 Life Lesson Stories from nature	December 10, 2019
11 Wisdom in proverbs from India's Tamil Language	December 10, 2019
12 South India's Ancient Wisdoms Demystified	December 3, 2019
13 Mediterranean Cruise Plus Vatican	November 17, 2019
14 Lyrics of Tamil Poet Bharathi	November 17, 2019
15 Marriages Made in Madras	November 16, 2019
16 Women Power	February 12, 2019
17 Lyrics of Poet Kannadasan	February 12, 2019
18 Yes, You can be self publisher	December 3, 2017
19 Guru Shopping made easy	December 3, 2017
20 Learn Quick Books	December 3, 2017
21 Kailash Calling	March 19, 2017
22 Lyrics of Poet Vaali	March 1, 2017
Technical Books	
Implementing Oracle JDE Manufacturing	July 20, 2017
Implementing Oracle JDE Manufacturing Tip & Tricks	May 28, 2018
Udemy courses	
Self-Publish in Seven Days	July 2, 2020
Time to be an Entrepreneur	July 31, 2020
Audio Books	
Life Lesson Stories from nature	July 6, 2020
Inspirational Stories from covid 19	July 31, 2020
Marriages Made in Madras	August 15, 2020
Kailash Calling	August 16, 2020

About the Author:

Mathur (matt) Ravikumar, an author, consultant, and political/economic cartoonist

Matt started his own consulting company in 2012 and provide functional consulting in enterprise resource planning business software applications.

He has self-published 20+ books over many years. He also publishes weekly cartoon content on political and economic news and events in YouTube Channel. Two of his Udemy lessons have been released, one on entrepreneurship and another on self-publishing. Four of self-published books have been released into audio format, available in audible and iTunes.

Regular meditator and trekked partially to Himalayas (Mount Kailash) towards a spiritual journey in 2016.

He is passionate about writing, especially on the subjects that can teach life's lessons. He like to mentor others and find their talent sitting dormant inside. He lives near San Francisco/California & reachable by email. Mattravikumar@gmail.com

[Www.mattravikumar.com](http://www.mattravikumar.com)

[Www.cartoonsbymatt.com](http://www.cartoonsbymatt.com)

