

WHO IS WHO

A section on Indians and foreigners who have made their mark on different walks of life from business, politics, law, entertainment, science, sports and religion.

05

WHO IS WHO INDIA

A section on Indians who have made their mark on different walks of life from business, politics, law, entertainment, science, sports and religion.

Abbas, KA (1914–87): Indian film director, novelist, screenwriter, journalist • wrote in Urdu, Hindi and English • one of the pioneers of neo-realistic cinema • *Neecha Nagar*, *Saat Hindustani*, *Do Boond Pani* • Palme d'Or, National Award for the Best Feature Film, Ghalib Award.

Abdullah, Sheikh (1905–82): Indian politician and the founder of National Conference • known as the Lion of Kashmir • former CM of Jammu and Kashmir.

A.C. Bhaktivedanta also called Swami Prabhupada (1896–1977): Indian religious leader and author who in 1965 founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, popularly known as the Hare Krishna Movement.

Adiseshiah, Malcolm (1910–94): Development economist and educationist • Dy Director General of UNESCO • Padma Bhushan.

Advani, Lal Krishna (1927): Senior BJP leader and its former president • Deputy PM (2002–04), Leader of Opposition in LS (2004–09), Leader of Opposition in RS (1980) • *My Country My Life* • Padma Vibhushan.

Ahmed, Fakhruddin Ali (1905–77): Freedom fighter and the fifth President of India (1974–77).

Akbar, Jalal-ud-din Muhammad (1542–1605): Mughal emperor of India (1556–1605) known as 'Akbar the Great' • promoted commerce and learning • showed a receptive interest in Hinduism and Christianity • *Akbarnama*.

AKG (Gopalan, Ayillyath Kuttiri) (1904–

77): popularly known as A. K. Gopalan or AKG • Indian communist politician • one of 16 Communist Party of India members elected to the first Lok Sabha in 1952. Later he became one of the founding members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) • the leader of opposition in the first Lok Sabha

Akhtar, Begum

(1914–74): Singer of Ghazal, Dadra and Thumri genres • known as the 'Queen of Ghazals' • Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan (posthumous), Padma Shri.



Begum Akhtar

Akilan (1922–88): (Akilandam, PV): Tamil author noted for realistic writing • journalist and activist • *Chithira Pavai*, *Vengayin Maindan* • Jnanpith Award (1975).

Ali, Aruna Asaf (1909–96): Originally Aruna Ganguly • independence activist, socialist, publisher • wife of Asaf Ali, India's first Ambassador to US • first Mayor of Delhi (1958) • Bharat Ratna (1997), International Lenin Peace Prize (1964).

Ali, Salim (1896–1987): Indian ornithologist, known as 'The Birdman of India' • *The Fall of a Sparrow* • Padma Vibhushan (1976), Padma Bhushan (1958).

Ammal, Edavalath Kakkat (EK) Janaki (1897–1984): Renowned botanist and plant cytologist who is often referred to as the first woman botanist of India • the

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first director of the Central Botanical Laboratory of India (Lucknow) • co-authored the *Chromosome Atlas of Cultivated Plants* (1945) with C.D. Darlington • Padma Shri (1977).



EK Janaki Ammal

Ambani, Dhirubhai (1932-2002) Originally Dhirajlal Hirachand Ambani • industrialist • Reliance Industries that he set up is India's largest private sector company • Padma Vibhushan (posthumous).

Ambani, Mukesh (1957): Chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) • launched Reliance Jio telecommunication network in 2016.

Ambar, Malik (1548-1626): A former slave from Ethiopia who became a kingmaker in a Deccan Sultanate in Daulatabad.

Ambedkar, Dr Bhimrao Ramji (1891-1956): Indian jurist, social worker, politician, writer, educationist • emancipator of the 'untouchables' and crusader for social justice • headed the drafting body of the Indian Constitution • served as the first law minister of independent India • founded the Republican Party (1956) • Bharat Ratna (1990).

Amrit Kaur, Rajkumari (1889-1964) : Born into the royal family of Kapurthala and educated in England • First woman to join the Union Cabinet, serving as Health Minister for 10 years. In that position, she founded the Indian Council for Child Welfare; helped establish AIIMS, the country's top hospital and medical college and campaigned to prevent malaria, likely saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

Amrohi, Kamal (1918-1993): Urdu-Hindi poet, film director, screen writer • *Mahal*, *Pakeezah*, *Razia Sultan*.

Amte, Murlidhar Devidas (Baba Amte) (1914-2008): Indian lawyer and social

activist who worked for leprosy patients • Magsaysay award, Templeton Prize, Padma Vibhushan.

Anand, Dev (1923-2011): Renowned Indian film star, director and producer • *Roaming with Life* (autobiography) • Padma Bhushan (2001), Dada Saheb Phalke Award (2002).

Anand, Mulk Raj (1905-2004): Indian author, novelist, critic • one of the pioneers of Indo-Anglian fiction along with Raja Rao and RK Narayan • *Untouchable*, *Coolie* • Padma Bhushan.

Anand, Viswanathan (1969): Indian chess grandmaster • won the World Chess Championship in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 • won the World Rapid Chess Championship in 2003 and 2017 • won the International Grandmaster title in 1988 • former No. 1 player • Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Padma Vibhushan.

Annadurai, CN (1909-69): Former CM of Tamil Nadu, Rajya Sabha MP (1962-67), MLA (1957-62) • eminent writer in Tamil • formed the DMK party.

Arundale, George Sidney (1878-1945): Englishman who adopted India as his home • advocate of national education and the Indian independence movement • married dancer Rukmini Devi.



George Sidney Arundale

Aryabhatta (476-550 AD): Indian mathematician and astronomer • India's first satellite was named after him • *Aryabhata*, *Aryasiddhanta*.

Ashapurna Devi (1909-95): Bengali writer • first woman Jnanpith awardee • *Prothom Pratiruti*, *Subarnalata*, *Bakul Katha* • Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

Ashoka the Great: Emperor of the Mauryan dynasty • grandson of Chandragupta Maurya • following the Battle of Ka-



linga, renounced violence and embraced Buddhism.

Aurangzeb (1618-1707): Mughal emperor of India • helped the empire flourish to the fullest, but estranged Hindus and Sikhs • last of the great Mughal emperors in India.

Aurobindo, Sri (1872-1950): (Aurobindo Ghose) Indian philosopher • set up the Aurobindo ashram in Puducherry • developed 'integral yoga' • *The Life Divine*.

Ayyankali (1863-1941): Social reformer who worked for the marginalised in Kerala • founded the *Sadhujana Paripalana Sangham* for the upliftment of dalits.

Azad, Abul Kalam (1888-1958): Freedom fighter • first education minister of free India • *India Wins Freedom* • Bharat Ratna (1992).

Azad, Chandrasekhar (1906-31): A revolutionary who was actively involved in the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Kakori Conspiracy.

Azmi, Shabana (1950): Indian film and theatre actress • recipient of five national awards • social activist and former Rajya Sabha MP • Padma Bhushan (2012).

Baba Ramdev (1965): Proponent of yoga, founder of Patanjali Yogpeeth and Bharat Swabhimani Trust • started Patanjali Ayurved, a consumer packaged goods company, based in Haridwar.

Babar, Zahir-ud-din Muhammad (1483-1530): Founder of the Mughal dynasty that ruled northern India for nearly 300 years.

Bachchan, Amitabh (1942): Indian film actor and former MP • the quiz master of *Kaun Banega Crorepati* • *Zanjeer*, *Sholay*, *Deewar*, *Black*, *Piku*, *Pink* • Padma Vibhushan.

Bachchan, Harivansh Rai (1907-2003): Hindi poet most known for his work *Madhushala* and autobiography in four volumes *Kya Bhoolun*, *Kya Yaad Karoon*

• Padma Bhushan.

Bahadur Shah II (1775-1862): The last king of Mughal empire • took part in the 1857 Indian War of Independence.

Bahuguna, Sundarlal (1927-2021): Environmentalist most known for leading the Chipko movement and the fight against the construction of Tehri Dam • Padma Vibhushan (2009).

Bajaj, Jamnalal (1886-1942): Industrialist, freedom fighter, social worker • close associate of Mahatma Gandhi • founded the Bajaj group of companies.

Bajaj, Rahul (1938-2022): Indian businessman, politician and philanthropist • chairman of the Indian conglomerate Bajaj Group • Padma Bhushan (2001).



Rahul Bajaj

Balasaraswati, T (1918-84): The foremost exponent of Bharatnatyam • Padma Vibhushan.

Bandodkar, Dayanand (1911-73): The first CM of Goa after it was returned to India by Portugal • a mine owner • swept the polls in 1963, 1967, 1972.

Bandopadhyay, Padmavathy (1944): The first woman Air Marshal of the Indian Air Force.

Bandopadhyay, Tarashankar (1898-1971): Bengali novelist • Jnanpith award in 1966 for novel *Ganadebata* which was adjudged the best creative literary work published in an Indian language between 1925 and 1959.

Banerjee, Mamata (1955): Chief minister of West Bengal since 20 May 2011, the first woman to



Mamata Banerjee

hold the office • founded the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC or TMC) in 1998 after separating from the Indian National Congress, and became its first chairperson • served many times in the Union cabinet also.

Banerjee, Surendranath (1848-1925): One of the first Indians to pass the ICS examination • President of Indian National Congress, twice.

Basavanna: 12th-century Hindu religious reformer and Kannada poet • The Lingayats believe that Basava was the founder of their tradition.

Basu, Jyoti (1914-2010): Veteran CPI(M) leader • CM of West Bengal from 1977 to 2000, becoming the second longest-serving CM in the country.

Bedi, Bishan Singh (1946): Former Indian cricketer, coach • part of the famous 'Indian spin quartet'.

Bedi, Kiran (1949): First woman IPS officer (1972) • social activist • introduced prison reforms in the country • Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (2016 - 2021) • Magsaysay Award (1994), United Nations Medal (2004).

Bedi, Rajinder Singh (1915-84): Progressive Urdu fiction writer, playwright • Hindi film director, screenwriter and dialogue writer • Films: *Dastak*, *Phagun* • Novels: *Ek Chadar Maili Si* • Sahitya Akademi Award (1965).

Beevi, Fathima M. (1927): The first woman judge of the Supreme Court (1989).

Behn, Mira (1892-1982): Originally Madeline Slade • British disciple of Gandhi • Padma Vibhushan.

Behn, Sarala (1901-1982): born Catherine Mary Heilman • English woman disciple of Gandhi • played a key role in the evolution of the Chipko Andolan • wrote an ecological testament called *Revive Our Dying Planet*.

Benegal, Shyam (1934): Indian film director • *Ankur*, *Mandi*, *Nishant*, *Samar* • Dada Saheb Phalke award (2005), Pad-

ma Bhushan (1991). V.Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award (2018).

Besant, Annie (1847-1933): British woman, staunch supporter of the Indian independence movement • set up the Home Rule League • first female president of INC (1917) • member of the Theosophical Society of India.



Annie Besant

Bezbarua, Lakshminath (1864-1938): Assamese writer • composed Assamese state anthem • *Podum Kunwori*.

Bhabha, Dr Homi J. (1909-66): Indian nuclear physicist • founding director of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (now, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre) • the father of Indian nuclear programme • Padma Bhushan (1954), Adams Prize (1942).

Bhagwan Das (1869-1958): Indian theosophist • collaborated in founding the Central Hindu College • founded the Kashi Vidya Peeth • a scholar who wrote 30 books in Sanskrit and Hindi • *The Superphysics of the Great War* • Bharat Ratna (1955).

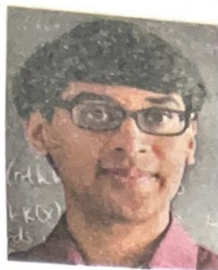
Bharata Muni (1 BCE-3CE): The father of Indian theatrical art forms • wrote *Natya-sastra*, a theoretical treatise on ancient Indian dramaturgy and histrionics, especially Sanskrit theatre.

Bharati, Dr Dharamvir (1926-1997): Hindi poet, author, playwright and thinker • *Gunahon Ka Devta* • Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Bharati, Chinna-swami Subramania (1882-1921): Known as 'Mahakavi' • poet, patriot, writer, journalist, social reformer, philosopher • worked in *Swadesamitran* (Tamil daily) • *Kuyil Pattu* and *Panchali Sapatham* • English works - *Agni and Other Poems* and *Translations and Essays*

and Other Prose Fragments.

Bhargava, Manjul (1974): Indian-American mathematician• received the Fields Medal 2014 for outstanding contribution in mathematics• Padma Bhushan (2015), Morgan Prize (1996).



Manjul Bhargava

Bhaskara-I (c.600-c.680): Indian astronomer and mathematician• helped disseminate the mathematical work of Aryabhata.

Bhaskara-II (1114-1185): Great Indian mathematician and astronomer who was the first to use the decimal system in a written work• *Siddhanta Shiromani*.

Bhatia, Sabeer (1968): Indian-born co-founder of Hotmail• sold Hotmail to Microsoft in 1998.

Bhatnagar, Shanti Swarup (1894-1955): Indian scientist considered to be the father of research laboratories• served as the first director-general of CSIR and the first chairman of UGC• Padma Bhushan (1954), Fellow of the Royal Society (1943).

Bhatt, Ela (1933): Activist, lawyer, Gandhian• founded the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)• Magsaysay Award (1977), Padma Bhushan (1986), Right Livelihood Award (1984).

Bhavabhuti (8 AD): A great Sanskrit dramatist• *Malatimadhava*.

Bhave, Vinoba (1895-1982): Advocate of human rights and non-violence• led the Bhoodan movement• Bharat Ratna (1983), Magsaysay award (1958).

Bhosle, Asha (1933): Playback singer in Hindi cinema• sister of Lata Mangeshkar• first film song: "Chala Chala Nav Bala" • OP Nayyar gave Asha a break in *CID* (1956)• Dada Saheb Phalke Award, Padma Vibhushan.

Bindra, Abhinav (1983): Indian shooter•

won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics• Padma Bhushan, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award.

Birla, Ghanshyam Das (1894-1983): Founder of the Birla empire• A close associate of Gandhi• Founder of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Birla, Kumar Mangalam (1967): Indian industrialist, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group (since 1995)• chancellor of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science.

Bonnerjee, Womesh Chunder (1844-1906): First president of the Indian National Congress• barrister.

Bordoloi, Gopinath (1890-1950): Independence activist• PM of Assam before independence and later, CM of the Indian state of Assam• one of the makers of modern Assam• educationist• Bharat Ratna (1999).

Bose, Amar Gopal (1929-2013): American-born Indian entrepreneur• founder of the Bose Corporation.

Bose, Jagadish Chandra (1858-1937): Doyen of Indian science • physicist and botanist• founder of the Bose Research Institute, Calcutta • did original work in electricity• identified life in plants, and is also said to have developed wireless telegraphy independent of Marconi• Fellow of Royal Society (1920), Knight Bachelor (1917).

Bose, Khudiram (1889-1908): Indian revolutionary from Midnapore• arrested for attempting to bomb Kingsford's (the magistrate of Muzaffarpur) carriage • hanged at the age of 18.

Bose, Nandalal (1882-1966): Pioneer of modern Indian art• key figure of contextual modernism• Padma Vibhushan.

Bose, Netaji Subhas Chandra (1897-1945): Freedom fighter• formed the Indian National Army in 1943 to fight the British• served twice as Congress president but later ousted• reportedly killed in an air crash, though some disagree.

Satyendra Nath (1894-1974): Indian physicist after whom the elementary particle Boson is named• best known for his work on quantum physics• Padma Vibhushan.

Brahmagupta (598- 665): Indian mathematician and astronomer• the first to give rules to compute with zero• *Brahm*

Siddhanta.
Buddha, Gautama (6th-4th BC) Born Siddhartha in Lumbini near Kapilavastu founder of Buddhism• followers of his teachings are known as Buddhists.

Cama, Bhikaji (1861-1936): Indian nationalist and advocate of women's rights• best known for unfurling the first version of the Indian national flag at the International Socialist Congress held in Stuttgart, Germany in 1907.

Canappa, Field Marshal KM (1899-1953): First Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army (1949-53).

Chanakya (4th C BC): Also known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta• statesman and philosopher who helped the Mauryan emperor Chandragupta rise to power in Arthashastra.

Chand, Dhyan (1905-79): Indian hockey wizard• won three Olympic gold medals for India (1928, 1932, 1936)• Padma Bhushan.

Chandragupta-II (Vikramaditya) (415 CE): Brave emperor from the Gupta period• son of Samudragupta• architecture and sculpture flourished during his reign.

Chandrasekhar (1928-2006): Dancer and choreographer • exponent of performances fusing Bharatanatyam with Yoga and martial arts like Kalarippayattu• niece



Chandrasekhar



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Chandragupta-II (Vikramaditya) (380-415 CE): Brave emperor from the Gupta period • son of Samudragupta • art, architecture and sculpture flourished during his reign.

Chandralekha (1928-2006): Dancer and choreographer • exponent of performances fusing Bharatanatyam with Yoga and martial arts like Kalarippayattu • niece



Chandralekha

of Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first deputy Prime Minister • Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 2004.

Chandra Shekhar (1927-2007): 8th PM of India • formed the Janata Party Socialist • *Dynamics of Social Change*.

Chandrasekhar, Subrahmanyan (1910-95): Indian-American astrophysicist • nephew of CV Raman • Nobel Prize in Physics (1983). Padma Shri (2018).

Chanu, Saikhom Mirabai (1994): Indian female weightlifter from Manipur • won silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 • won gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham • won gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championship in the US (2017) • Padma Shri (2018).

Chatterjee, Bankim Chandra (1838-1894): Celebrated Bengali poet, novelist and patriot • composed the national song *Vande Mataram* • *Durgeshnandini, Yugalanguriya, Anandamath, Radharani, Krishnakanter Uil, Debi Chaudhurani, Bisabrksa, Kapalkundala*.

Chattopadhyay, Kamaladevi (1903-88): Social reformer, freedom fighter • resurrected Indian crafts, theatre and literature • set up the National School of Drama • Magsaysay award, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan.

Chattopadhyay, Sarat Chandra (1876-1938): A popular Bengali novelist and short-story writer • *Debdas, Parineeta, Bordidi, Bindur Chhele, Biraj Bou, Shesh Prasna*.

Chaudhuri, Nirad C. (1897-1999): Indian Bengali-English writer • lived in England • *The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian, A Passage to England* • Sahitya Akademi award.

Chaurasia, Pt Hariprasad (1938): Indian classical player of the bansuri or the Indian bamboo flute • Albums: *Call of the Valley, Music of the Rivers, Rasdhara, The Elements: Wind, Flute Duet, Raga Cycle* • Padma Vibhushan.



Chavan, Yashwantrao Balwantrao (1913-84): The first CM of Maharashtra after the division of Bombay State • instrumental in establishing co-operatives in Maharashtra for the betterment of farmers • writer and advocate of social democracy.

Chawla, Kalpana (1961-2003): American astronaut of Indian origin • first Indian-born woman and the second Indian person to fly in space • flew first on Space Shuttle Columbia (1997) • died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster with six others • recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honour.

Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar (1896-1974): One of the greatest (Carnatic) musicians of India • Padma Bhushan, Sangeetha Kalanidhi.

Chidambaram, Rajagopala (1936): Indian physicist most known for his role in the country's nuclear weapons programme as well as coordinating test preparations for the Pokhran I and II • principal scientific adviser to GoI • Padma Vibhushan.

Chopra, Neeraj (1997): Track and field athlete who competes in the javelin. First track and field athlete to win an Olympic gold medal for India • won gold at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m in his second attempt • made history winning the javelin silver at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon in the U.S.

Chopra, Yash (1932-2012): Director and producer in Bollywood • Padma Bhushan, Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

Chughtai, Ismat (1915-91): Urdu novelist, short story writer, liberal humanist and filmmaker • wrote extensively on themes including female sexuality and femininity, middle-class gentility, and class conflict, often from a Marxist perspective.

Correa, Charles (1930-2015): India's eminent architect and urban planner • Pad-

ma Vibhushan, Royal Gold Medal.

Dahia, Ravi Kumar (1997): Indian freestyle wrestler who won a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the 57kg category. Also a bronze medalist from 2019 World Wrestling Championships and a two-time Asian Champion.

Dalai Lama (1935): (Tenzin Gyatso) Tibetan spiritual leader • established govt-in-exile at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh (1959) • Nobel Peace Prize (1989).



Dalai Lama

Das, Bina (1911-86): Revolutionary and nationalist from West Bengal • took up arms against the British, attempting to assassinate the British Governor of Bengal, Stanley Jackson, when she was just 21 • Padma Shri in 1960 for her contributions in social work.

Dara Shikoh (1615-59): The eldest son of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. In the war of succession which ensued after Shah Jahan's illness in 1657, Dara was defeated by his younger brother Aurangzeb. Executed in 1659 on Aurangzeb's orders. Translated into Persian the *Bhagavad Gita* as well as 52 Upanishads.

Das, CR (1870-1925): Nicknamed Deshbandhu • activist, politician, poet, lawyer • founded Swaraj Party in 1923 • *Malancha, Mala, Sagar Sangeet*.

Dasgupta, Kamal (1912-74): Eminent Bengali music director, composer and folk artist • *Raga, Thumri* - main elements of his music.

Deendayal, Lala (1844 - 1905): India's first world-class photographer • The ruler of Indore, Maharaja Tukoji II, encouraged him to set up his studio there • was bestowed the title of "Raja Deen Dayal" by the Nizam of Hyderabad • Through

his studios across Secunderabad, Indore and Mumbai, Dayal captured an estimated 30,000 photographs of monuments, people, and events.

Deodhar, D.B. (1892-1993): The Grand Old Man of Indian Cricket after whom the Deodhar Trophy is named • Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.



D B Deodhar

Derozio, Henry Louis Vivian (1809-

1831): Poet and assistant headmaster of Hindu College in Calcutta, now known as Presidency University • a radical thinker and one of the first Indian educators to disseminate Western learning and science among the young men of Bengal.

Desai, Morarji Ranchhodji (1896-1995): Indian PM from March 1977-July 1979 • Bharat Ratna.

Deshmukh, Nanaji (1916-2010): Social activist who was a leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh • worked in the fields of education, health and rural self-reliance • Bharat Ratna (2019).

Deshpande, Purushottam Lakshman (1919-2000): Maharashtra's Laadke Vyatimatva - Maharashtra's beloved person • veteran Marathi writer and performer known by his initials Pu. La • Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Sahitya Akademi Award.

Dev, Acharya Narendra (1889-1956) Nationalist, socialist, scholar • professor at Kashi Vidyapeeth (1925), Vice Chancellor of Lucknow and Banaras Hindu Universities • co-founder of Congress Socialist Party (1934), founder of Praja Socialist Party.

Devi, Shakuntala (1929-2013): Indian math whiz, author • known as human computer • secured a place in the 1982 Guinness Book of Records for successfully multiplying two 13-digit numbers in

just seconds.

Devi, Gayatri (1919-2009): Third Maharani consort of Jaipur from 1940 to 1949 through her marriage to Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II • renowned for



Gayatri Devi

her beauty and elegance : once listed by Vogue as one of the world's 10 most beautiful women • Following India's independence and the abolition of the princely states, she became a successful politician in the Swatantra Party.

Dey, Manna (1919-2013): Eminent Indian playback singer who sang in almost all major regional languages • sang primarily in Hindi and Bengali • Padma Bhushan (2005), Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2007).

Dhankhar, Jagdeep (b.1951): Vice President of India • Governor of West Bengal (2019-2022) • Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from 1990 to 1991.

Dhawan, Satish (1920-2002): Scientist, aerospace engineer • served as the director of IISc Bangalore, chairman of ISRO • Padma Vibhushan.

Dhoni, MS (1981): Indian cricketer • captained India in two World Cups • the team won the 2011 World Cup under his captaincy • Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (2017), Padma Bhushan (2018).

Dikshitar, Muthuswami (1775-1835): Poet and music composer • formed the 'Musical Trinity of Carnatic Music' along with Tyagaraja and Shyama Shastri.

Dinkar, Ramdhari Singh (1908-1974): Indian poet known for patriotic poems • Gandhian and advocate of non-violence • Rashmirathi, Kurukshetra • Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Jnanpith Award.

Dorjee, Ang (1970): (also called Chhuldim) Nepali sherpa mountaineer, guide, porter • climbed the summit of Mt Everest 19 times • in 1980, he guided Bachendri



Pal, the first Indian woman, to reach the summit.

Dutt, Guru (1925-64): Director, writer, producer and actor • *Pyasa, Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam, Baazi*.

Dutt, Nargis (1929-81): Hindi actress • married actor Sunil Dutt • nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1980 • *Mother India, Barsaat, Awaara* • National Film award for best actress, Padma Shri.



Nargis Dutt

Dwivedi, Hazari

Prasad (1907-79): Hindi novelist, essayist, critic • *Alok Parva, Sahitya Ki Bhumi, Kabir* • Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan.

EMS (Namboodiripad, Elamkulam Manakkal Sankaran) (1909-98): First CM of Kerala (1957-59, 1967-69) • CPI(M) general secretary (1978-1992).

Fazal, Abul (1551-1602): One of the *navaratnas* (nine jewels) of the royal court of Akbar • great scholar • *Akbarnama*.

Firaq Gorakhpuri (1896-1982): Originally Raghupati Sahay • one of the most noted contemporary Urdu poets from India • writer, critic • Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, Padma Bhushan, Jnanpith Award.

Fr Chavara (1805-71): Founder of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate in India • CMI priests heralded a revolution in the field of education • declared Blessed in 1984 • canonised in 2014.

Gadgil, Madhav (1942): Indian ecologist • chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (2010) • Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for S&T, Padma Bhushan.

Gaidinliu (1915-93): Spiritual and political leader from Nagaland who led a re-

volt against British rule in India • Jawaharlal Nehru called her the 'Daughter of the Hills' and gave her the title 'Rani' or queen, acknowledging her role in the struggle against the British.

Gandhi, Ela (1940): Grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi • peace activist • MP in S. Africa (1994-2004) • ally of ANC party • banned from political activism during apartheid (1975) • worked towards Mandela's release from Pollsmoor Prison in 1990 • Padma Bhushan (2007).

Gandhi, Indira (1917-84): PM of India for three consecutive terms (1966-77) • assassinated in 1984 during the fourth term • the only female PM of India till date • Bharat Ratna (1971).

Gandhi, Kasturba (1869-1944): Political activist and wife of Mahatma Gandhi • jailed by the British for political activism • worked for women's rights and welfare • died during imprisonment at Aga Khan Palace in 1944.

Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand (1869-1948): Father of the Indian nation • 1893-1914: lived in South Africa opposing discrimination against Indians • 1915: returned to India and worked for the Congress party • lived an austere life, devoted to truth, non-violence and worked for Indian independence and unity • assassinated • *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

Gandhi, Rahul (1970): President of the Indian National Congress from 2017-19 • chairperson of the Indian Youth Congress (2007-17) • Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad.

Gandhi, Rajiv (1944-91): Indian PM from 1984-89 • assassinated • grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru • a commercial pilot-turned-politician • Bharat Ratna (1991).

Gandhi, Sonia (1946): Originally Edvige Antonia Albina Maino • Italian by birth, naturalised in India • wife of former PM, late Rajiv Gandhi • president of the Indian National Congress (1998-2017) • MP

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Gandhi, Sonia (1946): Originally Edige Antonia Albina Maino. Italian by birth. naturalised in India. wife of former PM late Rajiv Gandhi. president of the Indian National Congress (1998-2017).

from Rae Bareilly (2004-). **Ganesan, Sivaji** (1928-2001): Legendary actor. acted in around 300 (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi) films in five decades. **Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Thevar Magan**. Padma Bhushan. Award, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri. **Ganguly, Kadambini** (1861-1923): First female physician of South Asia to be trained in western medicine. one of the first female graduates from the British Empire.

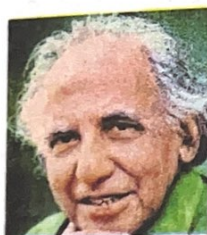
Ganguly, Sourav (1972): Former cricketer and captain of the Indian national team. Current President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). In 2002, Wisden Cricketers' Almanack ranked him the sixth greatest ODI batsman of all time.

Gargi, Balwant (1916-2003): Punjabi writer who wrote popular plays. Sahitya Akademi Award for *Rang Manch*. *Saunkan*, *Loha Kutt*, *Kesro*.

Gauhar, Jaan (1873-1930): Singer and dancer from Kolkata who was one of the first performers to record music on 78 rpm records in India. known as 'the Gramophone girl' and 'the first recording superstar of India'. recorded more than 600 songs in more than ten languages between 1902 and 1920.

Gavaskar, Sunil (1949): One of the greatest opening batsmen of all time. captained India in 47 Test matches. first person to score centuries in both innings of a Test match thrice. set a world record of 34 Test centuries which was broken by Sachin Tendulkar 19 years later. *Sunny Days* (autobiography), *Idols*, *Runs 'n' Ruins* and *One Day Wonders*. Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.

Ghalib, Mirza (1797-1869): Original-



Balwant Gargi

ly Mirza Asadullah Khan. one of the greatest Urdu poets ever. was the poet laureate to the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II. poetical works include *Diwan-i-Ghalib*. notable prose: *Naam-i-Ghalib*, *Lateif-i-Gaibi* and *Dupsh-e Kawayani*.

Goenka, Ramnath (1904-91): Founder of the Indian Express group in 1932. One of the few journalists to have stood against the Indira Gandhi government during the Emergency period.

Goenka, Satya Narayan (1924-2013): Teacher of Vipassan meditation. played an important role in establishing non-commercial Vipassana meditation centres globally. Padma Bhushan (2012).



Satya Narayan Goenka

Ghosh, Amitav (1956): Indian-English language novelist. First Indian writer in English to receive the Jnanpith Award. *The Shadow Lines*, *The Circle of Reason*, *The Glass Palace*, *Sea of Poppies*, *The Hungry Tide*, *Jungle Nama*, *Smoke and Ashes*. Sahitya Akademi award, Padma Shri (2007).

Ghosh, Rituparno (1963-2013): Director, actor, lyricist in Bengali cinema. noted for featuring complex themes like gender identity, separation, sexuality. *Unishe April*, *Choker Bali*, *Raincoat*, *Chitrangada*. recipient of over ten national film awards and numerous international awards.

Ghosh, Tushar Kanti (1899-1994): Prominent Indian journalist and a distinguished editor. long association with *Amrit Bazar Patrika*. Grand Old Man of Indian Journalism. Padma Bhushan.

Giri, Varahagiri Venkata (1894-1980): 4th president of India. 3rd vice president. advocate of labour and trade



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Gujral, Inder Kumar (1919-2012): PM of India (April 1997– March 1999).
Gujral: Matters of Discretion: An Autobiography.

Gulzar (1934): Film director, poet, lyricist. Wrote lyrics for films including *Anand*, *Mere Apne*, *Omkara*, *Dil Se*, *dog Millionaire*. Academy Award for best original song (2008), Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2013), Padma Bhushan (2004), Sahitya Akademi Award (2000).
Gupt, Maithili Sharan (1886-1964): Poet considered to be one of the pioneers of Khari Boli poetry. *Bharat Bharti* • Padma Bhushan.

Haasan, Kamal (1954): South Indian film star. Political activist who founded the party 'Makkal Needhi Maiam' in 2010. *Apoorva Raagangal*, *Moondram*, *Nayagan*, *Virumandi*, *Viswaroopam*. National film awards, Padma Bhushan, Chevalier French Award.

Hangal, AK (1914-2012): Freedom fighter, stage actor and character actor in Hindi films. *Sholay*, *Aandhi*, *Shree*. Padma Bhushan.

Hanuman, Guru (1901-99): Legendary Indian wrestling coach who coached many medal-winning wrestlers. *Dronacharya Award* (1987), Padma Shri (1983).

Hardayal, Lala (1884-1939): Indian revolutionary and scholar. Worked for the *Gadar Party* in San Francisco (1913). Garnered international support for Indian freedom.

Harishchandra, Bhartendu (1834-1882): Known as the father of modern Hindi literature and Hindi theatre. *Anand Nagari*, *Bharat Durdasha*.

Hashmi, Safdar (1954-89): Communist playwright, actor, director, lyricist. Theorist. Associated with street theatre in India. A founding member of the *Natya Manch* in 1973. Murdered while performing the street play *Halla Bol*.
Hazare, Kisan Baburao (1937): Pop-

ular as 'Anna' • social activist, Gandhian. Organised a mass agitation against widespread corruption and demanded Lok Pal Bill to check it. Known for rejuvenating Ralegan Siddhi village in Maharashtra. Padma Bhushan (1992), Padma Shri (1990).

Hazarika, Bhupen (1926-2011): Renowned poet, filmmaker and composer from Assam. Famous for his singing of *Borgeet*, *Bistirno Parore*, *Snehe Aamar Xoto Shrabon*. *Rudaali*, *Darmiyaan*, *Daman*, *Indramalati*. Winner of the *Bharat Ratna* in 2019 and *Dadasaheb Phalke Award* in 1992.



Bhupen Hazarika

Hedgewar, Keshav Baliram (1889-1940): Founder of *Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh* in 1925.

Hidayatullah, Mohammed (1905-92): Vice President of India (1979-84). Chief Justice (1968-70).

Horniman, BG (1873-1948): British journalist noted for his support of Indian independence. First editor of the *Bombay Chronicle*. Founded the Press Association of India, the first trade union of working journalists in India.

Husain, Maqbool Fida (1915-2011): One of the most celebrated and internationally recognised Indian artists, filmmaker and photographer. Popularly known as 'MF'. Member of *Rajya Sabha* (1986). Padma Vibhushan.

Husain, Zakir (1897-1969): 3rd President of India (1967-69). Second vice president. Vice chancellor of *Jamia Millia Islamia University*. *Bharat Ratna*.

Hussain, Zakir (1951): Classical tabla virtuoso, musical producer, composer. Considered the chief architect of contemporary

world music movement. Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.



Zakir Hussain

Idries Shah (1924-96): Born in Shimla. A teacher in the Sufi tradition. Author with the pen-name *Arkon Daraul*. Famous for *Mulla Nasrudin stories*, *The Dermis Probe*.

Ilaiyaraaja (1943): Veteran music composer. Music director of over 900 films. Composed music for films including *Thalapathi*, *Nayagan*, *Thevar Magan*, *Guru*. Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Irom Sharmila Chanu (1972): Civil rights activist and poet from Manipur. Known as the 'Iron Lady' or 'Mengoubi'. Led a hunger strike from 2000 to 2016 demanding the repealing of AFSPA from Manipur after the Assam Rifles killed 10 persons in Malom in 2000.

Iyengar, BKS (1918-2014): Founder of Iyengar Yoga. Padma Vibhushan (2014).

Iyer, Semmangudi Srinivasa (1908-2003): Great musician (Carnatic). Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Sangeeta Kalanidhi.

Jadhav, Khashaba Dadasaheb (1926-84): Wrestler. Won bronze at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in freestyle wrestling.

Jatti, Basappa Danappa (1913-2002): Vice President of India (1974-79). Formerly CM of Mysore and Governor of Odisha.

Jayalalitha Jayaram (1948-2016): Indian film actress-turned-politician, AIADMK chief and Tamil Nadu CM (1991-96, 2002-06, 2011-14, 2015-16).

Jayaraman, Lalgudi (1930-2013): Legendary Indian violinist. Padma Bhushan, National Film Award for Best Music Direction.



WHO IS WHO

Joshi, Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj (1922-2011): Hindustani vocalist • led the Renaissance of Indian classical music • Bharat Ratna (2009), Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (1998).

Kabir (1440-1518): Hindi poet who influenced the Bhakti movement • believed in the equality of all religions • *Bijak*, *Kabir ke Dohe*.

Kalam, Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul (1931-2015): President of India (2002-07) • former scientific adviser to defence minister • called as the Missile Man of India • *Ignited Minds*, *Wings of Fire*, *India 2020*, *Indomitable Spirit*, *My Journey*, *Target 3 Billion* • Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan.

Kalelkar, Kaka (1885-1981): Activist, social reformer and journalist • president of Backward Classes Commission constituted in 1953 • former VC of Gujarat Vidyapith • authored books in Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi • Padma Vibhushan, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

Kalhana (11th C): Kashmiri writer and poet • author of *Rajatarangini* - the book which describes the history of Kashmir up to the tenth century.

Kalidasa (4th-5th CE): Mahakavi • one of the greatest poets and dramatists ever • *Abhigyan Shakuntalam*, *Kumarasambhava*, *Meghadoot*, *Raghuvamsa*.

Kalyanji (1928-2000) - **Anandji** (1933): Indian music composer duo from Gujarat who are brothers • famous for Hindi film soundtracks • Padma Shri.

Kamaraj, Kumaraswami (1903-75): Leader of the Indian national movement • INC President (1964-67) • CM of Tamil Nadu (1954-63) • Bharat Ratna.

Kane, Pandurang Vaman (1880-1972): Indologist, Sanskrit scholar • *History of Dharmasastra* • Bharat Ratna (1963).

Kao, Rameshwar Nath (1918-2002): Founding Head of the Research and

Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency (1969-77).

Kapil Dev Ramlal Nikhanj (1959): Indian cricket all-rounder, former captain of India's World cup winning team and national team coach • record: 100 wickets in the shortest time • first ever player to score 4000 runs and take 400 wickets • Padma Bhushan, Arjuna Award.

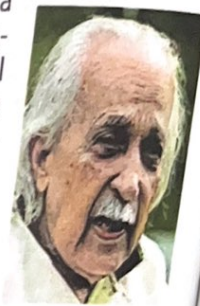
Kapoor, Raj (1924-88): Indian film actor, director, producer • *Barsaat*, *Awara*, *Shree 420*, *Sangam* • Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Kapur, Rippan: The airline purser who in 1979 founded the non-governmental organisation Child Rights and You (CRY).

Kapur, Shekhar (1945): Indian film director • *Bandit Queen*, *Elizabeth* • Padma Shri, BAFTA Award.

Karant, Shivaram (1902-97): A literary giant, Yakshagana

artist, environmentalist and social activist • wrote novels, plays, travelogues, essays • *Chomana Dudi* • Padma Bhushan, Jnanapith Award, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.



Shivaram Karant

Karat, Brinda

(1947): Communist politician • represents West Bengal in Rajya Sabha • first woman member of the CPI(M) Politburo.

Karat, Prakash (1948): Communist politician • former CPI (M) general secretary (2005-15).

Karmarkar, Narendra (b.1957): Mathematician • He introduced an algorithm in 1984 named after him for solving linear programming problems.

Karnad, Girish Raghunath (1938-2019): Noted Indian playwright, actor and director • chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi (1988-93) • director of Nehru Centre, London • *Tughlaq*, *Nagamandala*,

Khan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar (1890-1988): Frontier Gandhi or Badshah Khan • built the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement • opposed the partition of India • Bharat



Khan Abdul Khan

Mayavada • Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Inanpith Award.

Karthikeyan, Narain (1977): First Indian to compete in the Formula One car race • Formula Asia Champion (1996) • Padma Shri.

Karunanidhi, Muthuvel (1924-2018): Writer and politician • longest tenure as chief minister of Tamil Nadu with 6,863 days in office.

Karve, Dhondo Keshav (1858-1962): 'Maharishi' was an Indian social reformer and educator • worked for women's education and widow remarriage • *Atmawrutta*, *Looking Back* • Bharat Ratna (1958).

Kattabomman, Veerapandia (1760-99): Chieftain from Tamil Nadu who refused to pay taxes to the British • fought against the British East India Company, lost and was hanged.

Kelkar, Vijay Lakshman (1942): Economist and academic • served as the chairman of the 13th finance commission and as finance secretary to the Gol (1998-99) • Padma Vibhushan.

Kesavan, Bellary Shamanna (1909-2000): Former head of the National Library of India (Kolkata) • father of Indian National Bibliography • *History of Printing and Publishing in India*.

Khan, Aamir (1965): Bollywood film actor • *Lagaan*, *PK*, *Dangal*, *Laal Singh Chaddha* • Padma Bhushan.

Khan, Bismillah (1916-2006): Shehnai maestro from Varanasi • Bharat Ratna (2001).

Khan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar (1890-1988): Frontier Gandhi or Badshah Khan • built the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement • opposed the partition of India • Bharat

Ratna (1987).

Khan, Shah Rukh (1965): Bollywood film actor, producer • co-owner of KKR IPL cricket team • *Baazigar*, *Om Shanti Om*, *Chennai Express*, *Pathaan* • Padma Shri, Legion d'honneur.

Khan, Salman (1965): Bollywood film actor • owns Being Human, a charitable organisation • *Bajrangi Bhaijan*, *Sultan*, *Ek Tha Tiger*.

Khan, Sir Syed Ahmed (1817-98): Educator and reformer • established the MAO College at Aligarh, the first Muslim university in South Asia • *Essays on the Life of Mohammed* (1870).

Khan, Ustad Allauddin (1862-1972): Composer, sarod player, renowned musician • laid the foundation of the modern Maihar *gharana* • Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship.

Khan, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali (1903-68): Great classical vocalist • belonged to the Kasur Patiala *gharana* of Punjab • Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Khandekar VS (1898-1976): Eminent Marathi novelist • *Yayati*, *Dondhruva*, *Ulka*, *Hirva Chapha* • Jnanpith Award (1974).

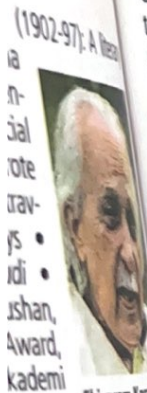
Khilji, Alauddin (1296-1316): Delhi ruler who ruled north India • his kingdom extended up to the Narmada River.

Khorana, Har Gobind (1922-2011): Indian-American biochemist • shared the Nobel Prize with Robert W. Holley and Marshall Warren Nirenberg in 1968.

Khusro, AM (1925-2003): Economist and intellectual who was the chairman of 11th Finance Commission.

Khusro, Amir (1253-1325): Poet, scholar and Sufi musician • wrote poetry in Persian and Hindavi • known as 'the parrot of India' (*Tuti-e-Hind*), father of Urdu literature and father of qawwali • *Nuh Sipihr*, *Tughlaq-namah*.

Kitchlew, Saifuddin (1888-1963): Free-



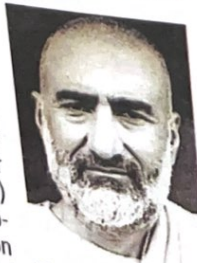
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Brinda Communist politician • first woman to be elected to the Rajya Sabha • member of the CPI(M) Politburo

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Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan



dom fighter, barrister and associate of Mahatma Gandhi • founder-president of the All-India Peace Council • Stalin Peace Prize.

Kotnis, Dr Dwarkanath (1910-42): One of the five Indian physicians dispatched to China to provide medical assistance during the Second Sino-Japanese war in 1938 • regarded as an example for Sino-Indian friendship.

Kovind, Ram Nath (1945): President of India (2017-22) • Governor of Bihar (2015-17) • RS MP from Uttar Pradesh (1994-2006) • former president of BJP Dalit Morcha (1998-2002) • practised as lawyer at the Delhi High Court.

Kripalani, Acharya JB (1888-1982): Freedom fighter, politician, close associate of Mahatma Gandhi • president of INC (1946) • started Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party and Praja Socialist Party • Wife-**Sucheta** (1908-74): freedom fighter and the first woman chief minister of India (UP) during 1963-67.

Krishna, Dr Balamurali (1930-2016): Celebrated Carnatic musical genius, singer, composer and instrumentalist • Raga compositions include *Mahati, Sumukham, Trisakthi, Omkari, Rohini, Pratimadhyamavathi* • Padma Vibhushan, Padma Shri.

Krishnamurthi, Jiddu (1895-1986): Indian philosopher of international repute • groomed to be the new 'world teacher' but later rejected the mantle • *The Songs of Life*.

Krishnamurthy, Kalki (1899-1954): Tamil writer, poet, journalist, critic • *Parthiban Kanavu, Ponnin Selvan*.

Krishnamurthy, Yamini (1940): Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi dancer • Padma Vibhushan,



Yamini Krishnamurthy

Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri • *A Passion for Dance*.

Kumar, Ashok (Kumudlal Kunjilal Ganguly) (1911-2001): One of the most popular actors of India • *Achhut Kanya, Kismet* • National Film Award for best actor, Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Kumar, Dilip (1922-2021): One of the greatest actors of all time • producer, screenwriter • known as the tragedy king • famous for bringing realism to film acting • *Andaz, Devdas, Mughal-e-Azam, Deedar* • Dadasaheb Phalke award.

Kumar, Kishore (1929-87): Born Abhas Kumar Ganguly • actor, lyricist, composer, producer, director, screenwriter and scriptwriter • sang in many Indian languages • *Nau do gyarah, Funtoosh*.

Kumari, Meena (Begum Mahjabeen Bano) (1932-72): Indian film actress • known as the tragedy queen • debut film: *Leather Face* • famous movies include *Pakeezah, Dil Ek Mandir, Aarti, Parineeta, Baiju Bawra, Piya Ghar Aaja*.

Kurien, Dr Verghese (1921-2012): Engineer and social entrepreneur • Father of White Revolution- India's milk revolution (Operation Flood) and the developer of co-operative milk sector • Magsaysay Award (1963), Padma Vibhushan (1999), World Food Prize (1989).

Lahiri, Jhumpa (1967): English-born American writer of Indian origin • won the Pulitzer Prize (2000) for *The Interpreter of Maladies* • *The Namesake, The Lowland*.

Lakshmi, Padma (1970): Indian-born American author, activist, actress, model, philanthropist, and television host • author of *The Encyclopedia of Spices & Herbs*. Her memoir is titled *Love, Loss and, and What We Ate*.

Lalleshwari (1320-1392): Mystic of the Kashmir Shaivism school of philosophy • Locally known as Lal Ded • creator of

M.T. (Madathil Thekkilair) (1934): Well-known novelist • *Randomoo, Kuttiedathi, Kaalam, Ninte Athmavu* • also a play writer and film director • Award, Sahitya Akademi

Madhava of Sangamagiri (c.1425): One of the greatest mathematicians of the Middle Ages • made pioneering contributions to the study of infinite series, trigonometry, geometry and algebra • of the Kerala school of astronomy and mathematics.

Madhubala (1933-69): Original Mumtaz Jehan Dehlavi • legend of *Mughal-e-Azam, Barsaat, Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi, Jwala*.

Maladevi, Akka (1320-1392):

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Padma Bhushan, Padma
for Dance.

Kumar, Ashok (Kumudlal Kunjilal Gargya) (1911-2001): One of the most popular actors of India. • **Achhut Kismet** • National Film Award for best actor, Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Award.

Kumar, Dilip (1922-2021): One of the greatest actors of all time. Producer, screenwriter. Known as the 'Bollywood King'. Famous for bringing realism to the acting. **Andaz, Devdas, Mughal-e-Azam, Deedar**. **Dadasaheb Phalke** award.

Kumar Ganguly (1929-87): Born Abanindranath Ganguly, actor, lyricist, composer, producer, director, screenwriter and scriptwriter. Sang in many Indian languages. *Nau do gharah*. *Furqan*.

Meena (Begum Mahjabeen Khan) (1932-72): Indian film actress known as the tragedy queen• debut film *Roohi*• famous movies include *Chandni*, *Chandni Bar*, *Chandni Chowk*, *Chandni*, *Dil Ek Mandir*, *Aarti*, *Parineeta*, *Ujala Bawra*, *Piya Ghar Aaja*.

Dr. P. V. Verghese (1921-2012): Engineer and social entrepreneur • Father of White Revolution- India's milk revolution (Operation Flood) and the developer of the cooperative milk sector • Magsaysay Award (1963), Padma Vibhushan (1999), World Food Prize (1989).

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or of *The Encyclopedia of Spices and Herbs*.
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shwari (1320-1392): My
mir Shaivism school of philosophy
ally known as Lal Ded • creator of

the style of mystic poetry called vatsun or literally "speech." (1929-2022): Melody

the style of mystic poet "Vakhs, literally "speech." **Lata Mangeshkar** (1929-2022): Melody queen of India, playback singer, songwriter, producer • famous songs include "Sun Sahib Sun", "Chand Apne Safar", "Zindagi Pyaar Ka", "Hum Bhool Gaye Re" • Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Bharat Ratna (2001), Padma Vibhushan (1999). **Laxman, RK** (1921-2015): Outstanding Indian cartoonist who characterised the "Common Man" • *The Messenger* • Mag-Award (1984).

Commonwealth Award for Literature (1984).
Lohia, Ram Manohar (1910-1967): Prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement toward Indian independence. Much of his career was devoted to combating injustice through the development of a distinctly Indian version of socialism.



Ram Manohar Lohia



Ram Manohar Lohia

M.T. (Madathil Thekkepat Vasudevan Nair) (1934): Well-known Malayalam novelist• *Randomoozham*, *Asuravithu*, *Kuttiyadi*, *Kaalam*, *Naalukettu* and *Irut-tinte Athmavu*• also a successful screen-play writer and film director• Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi award.

Madhava of Sangamagrama (c. 1340-1425): One of the greatest mathematician-astronomers of the Middle Ages•made pioneering contributions to the study of infinite series, calculus, trigonometry, geometry and algebra•founder of the Kerala school of astronomy and mathematics.

Madhubala (1933-69): Originally Begum Mumtaz Jehan Dehlavi • legendary actor • *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Barsaat Ki Raat*, *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi*, *Jwala*.

Mahadevi, Akka (1320-1392): One of

the early female poets of the Kannada language. A prominent personality in the Lingayat sect of Hinduism.

language • A proponent of the Lingayat sect of Hinduism. **Mahalanobis, Prasanta Chandra** (1893-1972): Economist and statistician • laid the foundation of India's statistical system and economic planning • Padma Vibhushan, Fellow of the Royal Society of London. **Krishnarajan** (1926-2004):

Mahapatra, Kelucharan (1926-2004): Exponent of Odissi dance • trained two generations of world-class dancers • Padma Vibhushan.

Mahasweta
(2026-2016):

Devi (1926-2016): Renowned Bengali writer and activist • *Jhansir Rani, The Breast Stories, Mother of 1084, Old Woman, Imaginary Maps* • Padma Vibhushan, Jnanpith Award, Magsaysay Award, SAAR

Mahavira, Vardhamana (599-527 BCE):
The last of the 24 *thirtankaras* who promulgated Jainism.

Mahesh Yogi, Maharishi (1917-2008): Indian yoga expert • led the Transcendental Meditation movement • *Meditations of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.*

Mahindra, Jagdish Chandra (1892-1951): Industrialist • founded the Mahindra & Mahindra with KC Mahindra and Malik Ghulam Mohammed.

Mahmood, Talat (1924-98): Celebrated ghazal and playback singer • Padma Bhushan (1992).

• **Madan Mohan Malaviya** (1861-1946): Scholar, leader of the nationalist movement • founder the Banaras Hindu University (1916) • Bharat Ratna (2015).

Malleswari, Karnam (1976): First Indian woman to win an Olympic weightlifting medal (bronze, Sydney) • Padma Shri, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award.



Mahasweta Devi

Mammooty (Muhammad Kutty Ismail Paniparambil) (1951): Indian film actor, producer • acts primarily in Malayalam cinema • *Thaniyavarthanam*, *Oru Vada-kan Veeragatha*, *Mathilukal*, *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar*, *Vidheyan*, *Ponthanmaada*, *Pathemari*, *Bheeshma Parvam* • Padma Shri (1998), national film award for the best actor (1989, 1993, 1999).

Manekshaw, Field Marshal S.H.F.J. (1914-2008): The first Indian army officer to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal • popular as Sam Bahadur • Padma Vibhushan (1972), Padma Bhushan (1968).

Mansingh, Dr Sonal (1944): Indian classical dancer specialised in Odissi • credited with the distinction of being the first female dancer to learn Chhau form • Padma Vibhushan.

Mappillai, KC Mammen (1873-1953): Eminent journalist, social worker and community leader from Kerala • greatly inspired by his uncle Kandathil Varghese Mappillai • In 1938, *Malayala Manorama* (MM) was proscribed and KC Mammen Mappillai imprisoned; MM recommenced in 1947.

Mappillai, Kandathil Varghese (1857-1904): A well-known writer and the founder of *Malayala Manorama* (1888), MM started as a weekly newspaper on March 22, 1890, and became a daily on July 2, 1928.

Mathew, KM (1917-2010): Son of veteran journalist and entrepreneur KC Mammen Mappillai • doyen of Indian media, patriarch of Malayala Manorama group until 2010 • Chief Editor, *Malayala Manorama* (1973-2010) • Founder-Chief Editor of *The WEEK* • books: *Annamma*, *Eighth Ring* (autobiography) • Padma Bhushan, BD Goenka Award.

Maurya, Chandragupta (321-298 BC): Founder of the Mauryan empire in India • spread his empire beyond India • Kautilya (Chanakya) was his minister.

Mavalankar, Ganesh Vasudev (1888-

1956): Independence activist • president of the Central Legislative Assembly • first Lok Sabha Speaker.

Mazumdar-Shaw, Kiran (1953): MD of Biocon India, one of the leading biotechnology companies in the world • Padma Bhushan (2005), Othmer Gold Medal, Nikkei Asia Prize.

Meera: (1502-1556): Rajasthani princess, Hindu mystic poet and devotee of Krishna • One of the central poet-saints of the Bhakti movement • A number of compositions by Meera Bai continue to be sung today in India

Mehta, Pherozeshah (1845-1915): Political leader, lawyer and activist • known as the father of municipal government in Bombay • founded the English-language newspaper *Bombay Chronicle* in 1913.

Mehta, Usha (1920 – 2000): Gandhian and freedom fighter • remembered for organizing the Congress Radio, also called the Secret Congress Radio, an underground radio station, which functioned for a few



Usha Mehta

months during the Quit India Movement of 1942 • Padma Vibhushan (1998).

Mehta, Ved (1934-2021): Indian-American writer • blinded at the age of three • *Face to Face* • Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature (2009).

Mehta, Zubin (1936): Indian-born musician and music director of the world famous Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic (1978-91) • *Praemium Imperiale* (2008).

Menon, VKK (1896-1974): (Vengalil Krishnan Krishna) Defence minister and minister without portfolio in Nehru's cabinet • distinguished himself with incandescent eloquence at the UN on Kashmir issue (1955).

MGR (Ramachandran, Marathur Gopala) (1917-87): Former chief minister of Tamil Nadu • one of the most influential actors in South India • popularly known as 'Makkal Thilagam' • founded the political party AIADMK • *Rickshawkkaran, Adimai Penn, Kudiyrundha Koyil* • Bharat Ratna (1988).

Miranda, Mario (1926-2011) Indian cartoonist and painter • Padma Vibhushan.

Mirza, Sania (1986): India's professional tennis player • formerly World No. 1 in Women's doubles ranking • highest-ranked female player ever from India, peaking at World no. 27 in singles in mid-2007 • Arjuna Award, Padma Bhushan, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.

Mitra, Bimal (1912-91): Bengali writer • wrote more than one hundred novels and short stories • *Saheb Bibi Golam*.

Mitra, Sombhu (1915-97): Stage actor who greatly influenced the Indian theatre scene • a pioneer of Bengali theatre • *Sanmarga-Saparya, Chandbaniker Pala* • Padma Bhushan, Ramon Magsaysay Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship.

Mittal, Lakshmi (1950): Indian steel magnate, based in the United Kingdom • chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaking company.

Mittal, Sunil Bharti (1957): Telecom entrepreneur • founder-chairman of Bharti Enterprises • Padma Bhushan.

Modi, Narendra Damodardas (1950): PM of India since 2014 • third PM after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to retain power for a second term with full majority in Lok Sabha • elected to Lok Sabha from Varanasi in 2019 • former CM of Gujarat (2001-2014).

Modi, Sohrab (1897-1984) Parsi actor, director and producer • directed and produced India's first technicolour film *Jhansi ki Rani* in 1953 • Dada Saheb Phalke Award (1980).

Mohanlal (1960): Indian actor, producer •

acts mainly in Malayalam films • debut - *Thiranoottam* (1978), superstar roles - *Rajavinte Makan; Kalapani; Drisyam* • Padma Shri (2001), Padma Bhushan (2019), five national film awards.

Mookerjee, Syama Prasad (1901-53): Indian political activist, academician, barrister • former minister of commerce and industry (1947-50) • founder-president of Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Mudgal, Shubha (1959): Hindustani classical singer - *Khayal, Thumri, Dadra* and Indian pop music • Padma Shri (2000).

Mukesh (1923-76) (Mukesh Chand Mathur): Indian playback singer • popular as being the voice of legendary actor Raj Kapoor • National Film Award for the best male playback singer (1973).

Mukherjee, Pranab (1935-2020): 13th President of India (2012-17) • served as the Union minister of defence (2004-06), Union minister of external affairs (2006-09), deputy chairman of the Planning Commission (1991-96) • Padma Vibhushan (2008), Bharat Ratna (2019).

Mukhopadhyay, Subhas (1919-2003): Bengali poet • edited the Bengali children's periodical *Sandesh* jointly with Satyajit Ray in the 1960s • Sahitya Akademi Award (1964), Jnanpith Award (1991).



Subhas Mukhopadhyay

Mukhopadhyay, Subhash (1931-81): Physician from Hazaribagh who created the world's second and India's first test tube baby Durga (alias Kanupriya Agarwal) on Oct. 3, 1978 using in-vitro fertilisation.

Munda, Birsa (1875-1900): Indian tribal freedom fighter and a folk hero from the Munda tribe in Jharkhand • spearheaded the Millenarian movement during the British Raj, becoming one of the heroes



WHO IS WHO

of the Indian independence movement.
Munda, Jaipal Singh (1903-1970): Politician, prolific writer and sportsman. Member of the Constituent Assembly. Captained the Indian field hockey team to clinch gold in the 1928 summer Olympics in Amsterdam.

Munshi, Kanaïyalal Maneklal (1887-1971): Independence activist, politician, writer, educationist and lawyer from Gujarat. Also an environmentalist. Initiated the Vanmahotsav in 1950.

Murmu, Draupadi (1958): President of India. Assumed office on July 25, 2022. First person belonging to a scheduled tribe to be President of India. Governor of Jharkhand (2015 - 2021).

Murthy, N.R. Narayana (1946): Indian IT industrialist, co-founder of Infosys (1981), former CEO of Infosys Technologies Ltd. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Shri.

Nadar, Shiv (1945): Founder and chairman emeritus of HCL Technologies and the Shiv Nadar Foundation. Padma Bhushan (2008).

Nadella, Satya (1967): CEO of Microsoft since Feb. 4, 2014. *Hit Refresh: The Quest to Rediscover Microsoft's Soul and Imagine a Better Future for Everyone.*

Naidu, Sarojini (1879-1949): Freedom fighter, poet, president of the INC (1925). Known as the Nightingale of India. First woman to be appointed a state governor (UP). *The Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time, The Broken Wing.*

Naidu, Venkaiah (1949): Vice president of India (2017-2022), minister of parliamentary affairs (2014-16), minister of I&B (2016-17), national president of BJP (2002-04).

Nainsukh (1710-1778): One of the most original and brilliant of Indian painters. An important practitioner of Pahari painting.

Naipaul, Vidiadhar Surajprasad (1932-2018): British writer of Indian descent

born in Trinidad. *Miguel Street, A House for Mr. Biswas, A Bend in the River, A Way in the World*. Nobel Prize (2001), Booker Prize (1971).

Nair, Mira (1957): Indian film director, writer and producer. *Salaam Bombay!, Mississippi Masala, Monsoon Wedding, The Namesake, New York, I love you*. Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival (2001), Padma Bhushan.

Nanak, Guru (1469-1539): Guru, founder of Sikhism and the first guru of Sikhs.

Nanda, Gulzarilal (1898-1998): Gandhian, veteran labour leader. Twice acting PM. Served as the vice chairman of Planning Commission (1950). Bharat Ratna (1997).

Nannayya Bhattaraka (Nannaya) (11c AD): Also called Adi Kavi. Authored a third of *Andhra Mahabharatam* and the treatise on Telugu grammar *Andhra Shabda Chintamani*.

Naoroji, Dadabhai (1825-1917): Pioneer of Indian nationalism. The first Indian to become a member of the British Parliament. One of the founders of the Indian National Congress. 'Grand Old Man of India'. *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*.

Narain, Sunita (1961): Environmentalist and political activist. A major proponent of the Green concept of sustainable development. The Director General of Centre for Science and Environment.

Narayan, Jayaprakash (1902-1979): (JP or Lok Nayak) Indian independence activist, social reformer, political leader. Led the mid-1970s 'total revolution', a movement against PM Indira Gandhi. Bharat Ratna (posthumously, 1999), Magsaysay award (1965).



Jayaprakash Narayan

Narayan, Saina (1990): Professional singles player. Former World No. 1 player. The first female player from India (and overall the second Indian player after Prakash Padukone) to be ranked World No. 1. Has to her credit 2 international titles including 10 Super Series titles. Padma Bhushan, Rajiv

Narayan, Rasipuram Krishnaswami (1906-2001): Indian writer in English• *The Guide, Swami and Friends, The Man-Eater of Malgudi*• Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan.

Narayana Guru, Sri (1856-1928): Social reformer from Kerala• worked to improve the life of backward classes• spread the message of equality• *Atmopadesha Satakam, Daiva Dasakam*.

Narayanan, KR (Kocheril Raman) (1920-2005): 10th President of India (1997-2002), Vice President (1992-97)• diplomat (ambassador to China, USA, etc), MP, educationalist (VC, Jawaharlal Nehru University).

Narendra Dev, Acharya (1889-1956): Indian scholar, socialist leader and educationist• leader of the Congress Socialist Party (1934).

Narlikar, Dr Jayant V. (1938): Indian astrophysicist• co-developed the Hoyle-Narlikar theory with Sir Fred Hoyle

Nayudu, Cottari Kanakaiya (1895-1967): First captain of the Indian Test cricket team• Padma Bhushan• the CK Nayudu Award is named after him.

Nehru, Motilal (1861-1931): Lawyer, independence activist, father of Jawaharlal Nehru• twice president of the INC (1919-20, 1928-29) • co-founded the Swaraj Party.

Nehru, Pt Jawaharlal (1889-1964): First PM (1947-64) and the architect of modern India• ardent democrat, internationalist, advocate of scientific temperament and modern technology• *Glimpses of World History, The Discovery of India* • Bharat Ratna.

Nehwal, Saina (1990): Professional badminton singles player• former World No. 1 player• the first female player from India (and overall the second Indian player after Prakash Padukone) to become World No.1 • has to her credit 24 international titles including 10 Super-series titles • Padma Bhushan, Rajiv

Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award.

Nerella Venu Madhav (1932-2018): Famous mimic from India who imitated celebrities, politicians, local dialects and Nizams• often regarded as father of Indian Mimicry• Padma Shri.

Nilekani, Nandan Manohar (1955): Indian entrepreneur, co-founder of Infosys and its CEO (2002-07)• former chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) • Padma Bhushan.

Nivedita, Sister (1867-1911): Irish-born school-teacher (Margaret Elizabeth Noble) who became a disciple of Swami Vivekananda• joined the Ramakrishna Mission and became a nun• worked for the upliftment of women and the poor, took care of patients during the plague epidemic in Calcutta• *The Master as I saw Him, The Web of Indian Life*.



Sister Nivedita

Nooyi, Indra (1955): Indian-born American business woman• former Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo• The first independent female director of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board• Padma Bhushan • *My Life in Full*.

Oberoi, Mohan Singh (1898-2002): Indian hotelier who owned the international chain of luxury hotels-the Oberoi Hotels and Resorts• Padma Bhushan.

Osho (Bhagwan Rajneesh) (1931-90): Originally Chandra Mohan Jain• Indian godman who set up ashrams in India and in Rajneeshpuram in Oregon, USA• preached the doctrine of Eastern mysticism, individual devotion and sexual freedom.

Padmanabhan, Thanu (1957-2021): The-



oretical physicist and cosmologist whose research spanned a wide variety of topics in gravitation, structure formation in the universe and quantum gravity • Padma Shri (2007), Infosys Prize for Physical Sciences (2009).

Paes, Leander Adrian (1973): Indian professional tennis player • won 8 doubles and 10 mixed doubles grand slam titles • won bronze medal in singles in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics • Padma Bhushan, Arjuna Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.

Pal, Bachendri (1954): The first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest (1984) • Everest: My Journey to the Top • Padma Shri.

Palkhivala, Nani (1920-2002): Eminent Indian jurist and civil rights activist • ambassador to USA (1977-79).

Pandit, Vijayalakshmi (1900-90): Political leader and diplomat • first woman president of UN Gen. Assembly (1953) • first Indian woman to be a minister (UP, 1937) • UK High Commissioner • ambassador to US, USSR, Mexico •



Vijayalakshmi Pandit

Governor, Maharashtra • *The Scope of Happiness: A Personal Memoir*.

Panikkar, KM (1895-1963): Scholar, historian, diplomat • minister in Patiala, Bikaner • ambassador to China, Egypt and France • chairman, States Reorganisation Commission • VC, Kashmir and Mysore Universities.

Pant, Govind Ballabh (1887-1961): Freedom fighter • CM of United Provinces (1937-39) and Uttar Pradesh (1950-54) • Bharat Ratna (1957).

Patel, Indraprasad Gordhanbhai (1924 – 2005): Eminent economist, 14th governor of the RBI (1977-1982) • demonetised notes of 1000, 5000, 10,000

denominations and also gold auctions • Padma Vibhushan (1991).

Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai (1875-1950): Freedom fighter • the Iron Man of India • played a key role in the integration of India's princely states into the Indian federation • first deputy PM of India • Bharat Ratna (1991, posthumous).

Patel, Vithalbhai (1873–1933): Legislator and political leader • co-founder of the Swaraj Party.

Patil, Pratibha Devisingh (1934): President of India (2007-2012) – the first woman to hold the post • Governor of Rajasthan (2004-07).

Patkar, Medha (1954): Noted environmentalist and social worker • works on issues raised by tribals, dalits, women, farmers and the displaced • active participant of Narmada Bachao Andolan • Right Livelihood award.

Paul, Lord Swraj (1931): Britain-based Indian industrialist • owns Caparo – a UK-based steel and engineering group • first person of Indian origin to become the deputy speaker of the House of Lords in UK • Padma Bhushan.

Pawar, Sharad (1940): former Chief Minister of Maharashtra (1978-1980, 1988-91, 1993-95) • served in the Union Council Of Ministers as the Minister of Defence in the Cabinet of P.V. Narasimha Rao and Minister of Agriculture in the Cabinet of Manmohan Singh • president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which he founded in 1999, after separating from the Indian National Congress.

Periyar (E.V. Ramaswami Naicker) (1879-1973): Anti-Brahmin activist, rationalist and orator • In the mid-1920s, he founded the Dravidian Self-Respect Movement.

Phule, Jyotirao (Jyotiba) Govindrao (1827-90): Social reformer and activist • worked for the eradication of caste discrimination and untouchability, and also for the upliftment of the marginalised • founded Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 •

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Wife **Savitribai** (1831-97), was an advocate of women's liberation and education.

Pichai, Sundar (1972): Indian-born American business executive • the CEO of Alphabet Inc. and its subsidiary Google.

Pillai, Chidambaram (1872-1936): Freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu • established Swadeshi steam navigation company to put an end to British monopoly in shipping.

Pillai, Thakazhi, Sivasankara (1912-99): Indian writer (Malayalam) • Chemmeen, Kayar • Jnanpith award, Padma Bhushan.

Pookutty, Resul

(1971): Sound engineer, sound editor and mixer working for Indian and international films • Saawariya, Enthiran, Highway, Gandhi: My Father • Academy Award for sound mixing for Slumdog Millionaire.

Pran Krishan Sikand (1920-2013): Film actor popular as 'Pran' • Padma Bhushan (2001), Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2013).

Prasad, Dr Rajendra (1884-1963): Statesman, Gandhian, lawyer and journalist • first president of the Republic of India (1950-62) • Bharat Ratna (1962).

Premchand, Munshi (1880-1936): Hindi writer whose real name was Dhanpat Rai Srivastava • writer of novels and short stories in Hindi and Urdu • referred to as the Upanyas Samrat or Emperor of Novelists • Sevasadan, Rangbhoomi, Ghagon, Nirmala, Godan.

Premji, Azim Hasham (1945): Businessman, philanthropist • former chairman and now non-executive chairman of the IT giant Wipro • founded the Azim Premji Foundation and University

Pritam, Amrita (1919-2005): Punjabi

language writer, poet and novelist • Kagaz Te Canvas, Pinjar • Jnanpith Award, Padma Vibhushan, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

Puli Thevar: The chieftain who resisted British rule in S. India in the late 1750s and early 1760s • opposed the Nawab of Arcot who was supported by the British • confronted Marudhanayagam.

Puri, Amrish (1932-2005): Indian theatre and film actor most remembered for negative roles • Mr India, Ghayal, Damini, Karan Arjun, Pardes, Virasat • Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for theatre.

Qurratulain Hyder (1927-2007): Writer, scholar, editor and translator • made novel a serious genre in Urdu literature • Aag ka Darya, Aakhir-e-shab ke Hamsafar • Jnanpith Award.

Radhakrishnan, Dr Sarvepalli (1888-1975): India's second president (1962-67), first vice president (1952-62) • scholar, philosopher, writer and statesman • served as a professor at the University of Oxford and as chairman of the UNESCO's executive board (1948-49) • The Hindu View of Life, Indian Philosophy • Bharat Ratna, Templeton Prize.

Rafi, Muhammed (1924-80): India's top playback singer who has to his credit more than 20,000 songs • "Chaudai ka Chand", "Parda Hai Parda" • Padma Shri.

Rahman, AR (1966): Renowned music director • winner of two Oscars (2009), Golden Globe, BAFTA awards • his album Vande Mataram, a best-seller • Roja, Bombay • Popular Songs - Maa Tujhe Salam, Jai Ho • Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan.



Amrita Pritam



Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

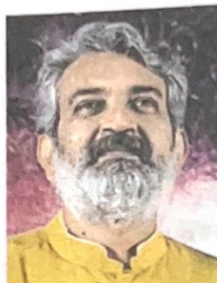


Rai, Aishwarya (1973): Indian film actor and beauty queen who won the Miss World title in 1994. *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*, *Raincoat*, *Jodha Akbar*, *Provoked*, *Fannee Khan*. Padma Shri.

Rai, Lala Lajpat (1865-1928): Prominent freedom fighter and patriot. known as the 'Lion of Punjab' (Punjab Kesari). *The Story of My Deportation* (1908).

Rajamouli, S. S.

(1973): Filmmaker who primarily works in Telugu cinema and is known for his action, fantasy, and epic genre films. highest grossing Indian director of all time. considered as the pioneer of Pan-Indian films. *Baahubali*, *RRR*



S. S. Rajamouli

Rajagopalachari, Chakravarti (1879-1972): Independence activist, statesman, writer. the only Indian governor-general of independent India. founder and leader of the Swatantra Party (1959). Bharat Ratna (1954).

Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906): Painter best known for uniting Hindu mythological subject matter with European realistic historical painting style. One of the first Indian artists to use oil paints and to master the art of lithographic reproduction of his work.

Raju, Alluri Sita Rama (1897-1924): Indian revolutionary who was involved in the independence movement. led the ill-fated Rampa Rebellion which witnessed a band of tribal leaders and other sympathisers fighting against the British Raj.

Rajnikanth (1950): Originally Shivaji Rao Gaekwad. Indian actor, Tamil film superstar, politician. known for his mannerism and style. breakthrough film: *Apoorva Ragangal* (1975). *Muthu*, *Padayappa*,

Chandramukhi, *Enthiran*, *Kabali*. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan.

Ram, Jagjivan (1908-1986): Dy PM (1977-1979). freedom fighter, social reformer. fought against untouchability and caste discrimination. member of the Constituent Assembly. contributed to the Green Revolution and modernising agriculture. formed Congress (J) in 1980

Ramabai Saraswati, Pandita (1858

- 1922): Scholar, feminist and educator. broke nearly every rule and tradition that confined the life of an upper-caste Hindu woman in 19th-century India. one of the ten women delegates of the Congress session of 1889. founded Mukti Mission, a Christian charity later named Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission.



Pandita Ramabai Saraswati

Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sri (1836-86): Religious leader who taught that God-realisation is the only goal of life. his chief disciple was Swami Vivekananda. Ramakrishna Mission founded after him.

Raman, Dr CV (1888-1970): Indian physicist of international repute. his work in the field of light scattering earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics (1930). discovered the phenomenon of Raman Effect. knighted in 1929, Fellow of the Royal Society, Bharat Ratna, Lenin Peace Prize.

Ramana Maharshi (1879 - 1950): Indian saint and spiritual teacher who taught a path of self-enquiry and devotion as a means to attain Self-awareness. His original contribution to yogic philosophy is the technique of vichara (self-"pondering" inquiry).

Ramanna, Dr Raja (1925-2004): Indian

nuclear physicist• served as the director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission• Padma Vibhushan, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology.

Ramanujan, Srinivasa (1887-1920): One of the greatest mathematicians from India• made contributions to the theory of numbers• published the first of his papers in the *Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society* in 1911• elected the Fellow of the Royal Society (1918).

Rao, Akkineni Nageswara (1924-2014): Film actor and producer who worked predominantly in Telugu cinema• known for works in biographical films and for donning female roles in the start of his career• *Laila Majnu*, *Meghasandesham*, *Premabhishekam*• Dada Saheb Phalke Award, Padma Vibhushan.

Rao, CNR (1934): Indian scientist• known for solid-state and structural chemistry• Bharat Ratna (2013), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (1969), Legion of Honour (2005).

Rao, CR (Calyampudi Radhakrishna) (1920): One of the world's greatest statisticians• In a 1945 paper published in the *Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society*, he demonstrated three fundamental results that paved the way for the modern field of statistics and provided statistical tools heavily used in science today• Padma Bhushan (1968), Padma Vibhushan (2001), 2023 International Prize in Statistics.



CR Rao

Rao, Pamulaparti Venkata Narasimha (1921-2004): PM of India between 1991 and 1996 whose reign saw the liberalisation of the Indian economy• CM of Andhra Pradesh (1971-73)• *The Insider*.

Rao, Raja (1908-2006): Novelist famous for his contributions to Indian English literature• *Kanthapura*, *The Serpent and The Rope*• Padma Vibhushan, Sahitya Akademi Award.

Rao, Samarla Venkata Ranga (1918-74): Indian film actor, director and producer in Telugu and Tamil cinemas• popular as Viswa Nata Chakravarthi• *Devadasu*, *Raju Peda*, *Karpagam*, *Prema Nagar*.

Rashmoni, Rani (1793-1861): Founder of the Dakshineswar Kali Temple, Kolkata• gave considerable charity to the National Library of India and Presidency College.

Rathore, Rajyavardhan Singh (1970): Indian shooter who won the silver medal in men's double trap at Athens Olympics (2004)• also a politician• Padma Shri, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.

Ravi Shankar, Sri Sri (1956): Spiritual icon and founder of the Art of Living Foundation• Padma Vibhushan.

Ray, Prafulla Chandra (1861-1944): Chemist, teacher, entrepreneur from the Bengal Presidency• founder of India's first pharmaceutical company-the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals• awarded knighthood in 1917, Companion of the Order of the Indian empire (1911).

Ray, Satyajit (1921-92): Legendary Indian film director whose films are noted for their realistic portrayal of daily life• *Pather Panchali*, *Aparajita*, *Charulata*• Honorary Oscar award, Bharat Ratna, Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Reddy, Arutla Ramchandra: Indian, known for armed freedom struggle against the rule of Nizam in Hyderabad• joined the poor peasants in Telangana region in the 1940s to throw out the regime in what became a sub-movement in the larger independence struggle of India.

Reddy, Dr Yaga Venugopal (1941): Governor of RBI (2003-08)• Padma Vibhushan (2010).

WHO IS WHO

Reddy, Neelam Sanjiva (1913-96): President of India (1977-1982) • CM (Andhra) • Speaker of Lok Sabha • freedom fighter.

Reddy, Raj (1937): Indian-American computer scientist who did pioneering work in the area of artificial intelligence • Turing Award, Padma Bhushan.

Roy, Arundhati (1961): Author, political activist, environmentalist • won the 1997 Booker Prize for Fiction for *The God of Small Things* • *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, *The Algebra of Infinite Justice*.

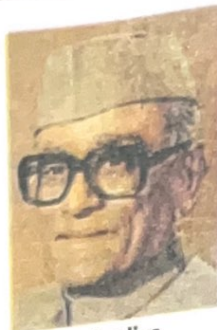
Roy, Bimal (1909-66): Indian film director noted for his realistic and socialist films such as *Do Bigha Zamin* (1953), *Biraj Bahu* (1954) and *Madhurmati* (1958) • Winner of 11 Filmfare awards.

Roy, Bidhan Chandra Dr (1882-1962): Freedom fighter, chief minister of West Bengal (1948-62) and prominent physician • considered the architect of West Bengal • Bharat Ratna (1961).

Roy, Jamini (1887-1972): Indian painter from West Bengal • known for developing a decorative, colourful style based on Bengali folk tradition • Padma Bhushan.

Roy, Kamini (1864-1933): Writer, poet and social activist • one of the first women honours graduates in British India • *Mahasweta*, *Pundarik*, *Nirmalya*, *Ashok Sangeet*.

Roy, Pranoy (1949): Journalist and psephologist • former executive co-chairperson of NDTV which he co-founded along with his wife Radhika Roy • credited with pioneer-



Neelam Sanjiva Reddy



Pranoy Roy

ing opinion polls in the country.

Roy, Raja Rammohan (1772-1833): Social reformer and scholar • worked for the abolition of *sati*, child marriage and polygamy • founder of Brahmo Samaj.

Rushdie, Salman (1947): Indian-born British writer • His book, *The Satanic Verses*, made Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini declare a fatwa • *Midnight's Children*, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, *Shame*, *Fury*, *Victory City* • Knighted in 2007 by Queen Elizabeth II • Man Booker Prize.

Saha, Arati (1940-94): Indian swimmer • the first woman from Asia to cross the English Channel • Padma Shri.

Saha, Meghnad (1893-1956): Indian astrophysicist noted for the development of the thermal ionisation equation • Fellow of Royal Society.

Sahoo, Dr Sarojini (1956): Indian feminist writer, columnist • *Gambhiri Ghara* • Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award.

Sahni, Bhisham (1915-2003): Hindi fiction writer, playwright, translator, teacher • *Basanti*, *Jharokhe*, *Bhagya Rekha*, *Aaj ke Ateet*, *Tamas* • Padma Bhushan (1998), Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (2002).

Samudragupta (CE 330-380): Son and successor of Chandragupta I • a powerful Hindu king • known as 'India's Napoleon.'

Sane, Pandurang Sadashiv (1899-1950): Freedom fighter, socialist leader and teacher • regarded as the national teacher of India.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali (1963): Indian film director • national film award for the best popular film providing wholesome entertainment (*Devdas*), national film award for the best feature film in Hindi (*Black*), national film award for best direction (*Bajirao Mastani*) • Padma Shri.

Sanyal, BC (1902-2003): Eminent Indian painter and sculptor • Padma Bhushan.

Sarabhai, Anasuya (1885-1972): Pioneer

of the women's labour movement in India • founded the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (Majdoor Mahajan Sangh), India's oldest union of textile workers, in 1920.

Sarabhai, Dr Vikram (1919-71): Indian physicist who helped develop nuclear power in India and initiated space research • regarded as the father of India's space programme • established the Indian National Committee for Space Research (later named ISRO) and the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station • Padma Vibhushan, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal.



Dr Vikram Sarabhai

Saraswati, Dayananda (1824-83): Hindu reformer who fought against social evils • founded Arya Samaj • *Satyartha Prakash*.

Satpathy, Nandini (1931-2006): Indian politician and author • CM of Odisha (1972-1976) • June 9 - Nandini Diwas (National Daughters' Day).

Satyarthi, Kailash (1954): Devout campaigner against child labour • saved over 83,000 children from labour, slavery and trafficking • founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan • Nobel Peace Prize (2014).

Savarkar, Vinayak Damodar (1883-1966): Indian patriot, philosopher, poet, writer, playwright and politician • leading figure in the Hindu Mahasabha • founded the Abhinav Bharat Society and the Free India Society • *The Indian War of Indian Independence*.

Sawant, Shivaji (1940-2002): Acclaimed

Indian writer in Marathi • *Yugandhar*, *Mrityunjay* • Moortidevi Award.

Sen, Amartya Kumar (1933): Indian economist most known for welfare economics and social choice theory • *The Argumentative Indian*; *The Idea of Justice*; *Home In the World: A Memoir* • Nobel Prize (1998), Bharat Ratna (1999).



Amartya Sen

Sen, Ashoke (1956): Theoretical physicist who has made significant contributions in string theory • Fundamental Prize in Physics in 2012.

Sen, Mihir (1930-97): First Indian to swim across the English Channel • credited with swimming the oceans of five continents in one calendar year (1966) • Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.

Sen, Mrinal (1923-2018): Renowned Indian film director • *Bhuvan Shome*, *Kharaj* • Padma Bhushan, Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

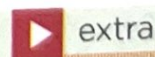
Sen, Suchitra (1931-2014): Indian actress whose pairing opposite Uttam Kumar made history in Bengali cinema • the first Indian actress to be honoured abroad (Moscow international film festival in 1963) • *Saat Paake Bandha* • Padma Shri (1972), Banga Bibhushan (2012).

Sen, Sukumar (1899-1961): The first chief election commissioner (1950-1958) who conducted the general elections in 1951, 52 and 1957 successfully • Padma Bhushan.

Serpa, Kazi Lhendup Dorjee Khang (1904-2007): The first CM of Sikkim who was instrumental in the merger of Sikkim

Narasimhan-Seshadri Theorem

The TIFR mathematicians M.S. Narasimhan and C.S. Seshadri created the Narasimhan-Seshadri Theorem in 1965. The most significant mathematical discovery to come out of India since independence maybe this one.



WHO IS WHO

with the Indian Union • Padma Vibhushan, Sikkim Ratna.

Seshan, Tirunellai Narayana Iyer (TN) (1932-2019):

Former Cabinet Secretary who as Chief Election Commissioner during 1990-96 initiated the process of cleaning up the electoral system • Ramon Magsaysay Award (2016) • *Through the Broken Glass: An Autobiography*



T N Seshan

Sethi, Dr PK (1927-2008): Noted Indian orthopaedic surgeon and co-inventor of the 'Jaipur Foot' • Magsaysay Award (1981), Padma Shri.

Sethi, Geet (1961): Professional player of English billiards • amateur snooker player • six-time winner of the professional-level and three-time winner of the amateur-level world championships • Rajiv Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Padma Shri.

Shah, Naseeruddin (1950): One of the finest actors in the country • acted as Gandhi in the film *Hey Ram* and as Shivaji in *Bharat Ek Khoj* • *Nishant*, *Aakrosh*, *Sparsh*, *Monsoon Wedding* • Padma Bhushan.

Shahjahan (1592-1666): Son of Jahangir • 5th Mughal emperor of India (1628-58) • brought the Mughal empire to its glory • builder of Taj Mahal, Moti Masjid • owned the Peacock Throne.

Shankar (Shankara Pillai) (1902-89): Indian cartoonist • known for *Shankar's Weekly*, Children's Book Trust and the International Dolls Museum • Padma Vibhushan.

Shankar, Ravi (1920-2012): Internationally known Indian sitar maestro • *My Music*, *My Life*, 5 Grammy awards, Bharat Ratna.

Shantaram, V. (1901-90): Famous Indian film maker, producer and actor •

Pinjra, *Amar Bhoopali*, *Duniya Na Mane*, *Navrang* • Dada Saheb Phalke Award, Padma Vibhushan.

Sharma, Dr Shankar Dayal (1918-99): Scholar, freedom fighter, President of India (1992-97) • vice president of India (1987-92) • CM of former Bhopal State.

Sharma, Pt Shivkumar (1938): Santoor maestro • Albums: *Call of the Valley*, *Rasdhara*, *The Glory of Strings*, *Sampradaya*, *The Inner Path*, *Varsha: A Homage to the Rain Gods* • Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Sharma, Rakesh (1949): The first Indian cosmonaut to fly into space aboard Soyuz T-11 to the space station Salyut-7 (1984) • Ashoka Chakra.



Rakesh Sharma

Shastri, Lal Bahadur (1904-66): Indian politician and Gandhian • succeeded Nehru as PM (June 1964 - Jan 1966) • died in Tashkent • Bharat Ratna.

Shastri, Shyama (1762-1827): Eldest of the trinity of Carnatic music • composed in Sanskrit, Telugu and Tamil • only one among the Trinity to have composed in Tamil.

Shah, Amit Anilchandra (b.1964): Most powerful politician in the BJP after Narendra Modi. Minister of Home Affairs in the Union Cabinet • Elected to Lok Sabha from Gandhinagar • President of BJP (2014-20).

Sher-Gil, Amrita (1913-41): Indian painter who is known as India's Frida Kahlo • a pioneer in modern Indian art • *South Indian Trilogy*, *Young Girls*.

Shiva, Vandana (1952): Scholar, environmentalist and author • co-founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity of living resources, especially native seeds • Right Livelihood Award

(1993), Sydney Peace Prize (2010).
Shivaji, Chhatrapati (1627-80): Great Maratha leader and a military genius who fought Mughal emperor Aurangzeb • established a Hindu state in the Deccan • crowned king in 1674 • great general and wise ruler.

Shourie, Arun (1941): Journalist, author and economist • served as a consultant to the Planning Commission • Rajya Sabha MP (1998-2010) • served as the editor of *The Times of India* and *The Indian Express* • Magsaysay award, Padma Bhushan.

Shyamalan, Manoj Night (1970): Acclaimed Indian-born Hollywood filmmaker • *The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable*, *Split*, *The Visit*.

Sindhu, Pusarla Venkata (b.1995): Indian professional woman badminton player • first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals (silver in Rio and bronze in Tokyo) • first and only Indian to become the badminton world champion • gold in 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Singh, Bhagat (1907-31): Indian patriot and revolutionary who was hanged by the British government for participating in the Lahore conspiracy which killed the British official Saunders in 1928, and for bombing the Central Legislative Assembly.

Singh, Charan (1902-87): Fifth PM of India (July 1979- Jan. 1980), Dy. PM (1977-79) • *India's Economic Policy: The Gandhian Blueprint*.



Manoj Night Shyamalan

Singh, Dr Manmohan (1932): Indian PM (2004-14), economist, pro-reform and liberalisation leader, former RBI governor and UGC chairman • first Sikh to become PM and get re-elected • Padma Vibhushan, Adam Smith Prize.

Singh, Guru Gobind (1666-1708): The 10th and the last Guru of the Sikhs • founded the Khalsa, the inner council of the Sikhs • believed to be the author of *Dasam Granth*.

Singh, Khushwant (1915-2014): Journalist, writer and parliamentarian • editor of *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, *The National Herald*, *Hindustan Times* • *With Malice Towards One and All*, *History of the Sikhs*, *Train to Pakistan* • Padma Vibhushan, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.



Khushwant Singh

Singh, Milkha (1935-2021): First Indian male to reach the final of an Olympic athletics event when he placed fourth in the 400-metre race at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome • known as "The Flying Sikh."

Singh, Nain (1830-1882): Explorer who surveyed the vast unexplored expanses of Tibet in the late 19th century • determined the exact location and altitude of Lhasa, mapping the Tsangpo, and finally, bringing the fabled gold mines of Thok Jalung to world's notice.

Singh, Paramjit (1971): Indian sprinter who broke Milka Singh's 38-year old national 400 m. record in 1998.

Singh, Rajendra (1959): Water conservationist and environmentalist • Known

Second Indian-born Woman to Go into Space

Andhra Pradesh native Sirisha Bandla was among six passengers on the Unity 22 spaceflight in July 2021. Bandla, an aeronautical engineer, is only the second Indian-born woman to have gone into space. The first was Kalpana Chawla.



WHO IS WHO

as 'waterman of India' • runs an NGO called 'Tarun Bharat Sangh'(TBS) which was founded in 1975 • won Magsaysay Award (2001) and Stockholm Water Prize(2015).

Singh, Vishwanath Pratap (1931-2008): PM of India (Dec. 1989 to Nov. 1990) • crusader for social justice • Janata Dal leader.

Sitharaman, Nirmala (b.1959): Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs in the Union Cabinet • second female finance minister after Indira Gandhi • She was also India's second female defence minister.

Sobti, Krishna (1925-2019): Hindi fiction writer famous for her 1966 novel *Mitro Marajani* • *Zindaginama*, *Samay Sargam*, *Yaaron ke Yaar* • Jnanpith Award (2017), Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (1996).

Sorcar, Protul Chandra (1913-71): Famous magician of India • gained global recognition during 1950s and 60s by performing *Indrajaal* • Padma Shri.

Sreedharan, Elattuvalapil (1932): The Metro Man of India • former managing director of Delhi Metro, former MD of Konkan Railway, principal adviser to Kochi Metro • Knight of Legion of Honour, Padma Vibhushan.

Sreeramulu, Potti (1901-52): Indian revolutionary and Gandhian who is revered as 'Amarajeevi' for striving to create a state for the Telugu-speaking population of Madras Presidency • worked for the welfare of dalits.



Potti Sreeramulu

Srinivas, Uppalapu (1969-2014): Renowned mandolin player • the youngest to receive the title of Asthana Vidwan (1990).

Srinivasan, Dr MR (1930): Indian nu-

clear scientist who was instrumental in building APSARA - India's first nuclear research reactor.

Subbier Subramania Iyer (1842-1924): Lawyer, freedom fighter • considered the Grand Old Man of South India.

Subbulakshmi, MS (1916-2004): (Mad-

urai Shan muga-

vadivu) Famous

Carnatic singer •

Magsaysay Award

(1974), Bharat Rat-

na (1998).

Subramaniam, C.

(1910-2000): Free-

dom fighter known

for his contribution

to India's Green

Revolution • served

as the governor of

Maharashtra, as the

minister for food

and agriculture, finance

as well as de-

fence • Bharat Ratna

(1998).

Subramanyam, Padma (1943): Bharata-

natyam dancer, scholar,

musician, com-

poser, author • Sangeet Natak Akademi

Award, Padma Bhushan, Kalidas Sam-

man.

Sudarshan, Prof. ECG (1931-2018): (En-

nackal Chandy George), Indian physicist

famous for his particle theory on 'Tachy-

ons'- particles that move faster than

light • Padma Vibhushan (2007).

Sundarayya, Puchalapalli (1913-85):

Founding member of CPI (M) and a lead-

er of the peasant revolt or Telengana

Rebellion.

Swaminathan, MS (1925) (Mankombu

Sambasivan): Father of Indian Green

revolution • agricultural scientist • chair-

man, National Commission for Farmers

(2004-14) • Padma Vibhushan, Padma

Bhushan, Padma Shri, Magsaysay Award,

World Food Prize.

Swaraj, Sushma (1952-2019): Politician,

lawyer • served as the external affairs

minister from 2014-19; 2nd woman after

Indira Gandhi to hold the post • leader



MS Subbulakshmi

of Opposition in the 15th Lok Sabha • served as the CM of Delhi.

Tagore, Rabindranath (1861-1941): Indian poet and philosopher • founded Shantiniketan which now is Viswabharati University • wrote national anthems of India - *Jana Gana* and Bangladesh - *Amar Shonar Bangla* • *Sonar Tori*, *Chaitali*, *Kalpana*, *Chitrangada*, *Gitanjali*, *Ghare Baire*, *Chhelebel*, *Bhanusinha Thakurer Padavali*, *Manasi* • Nobel Prize (1913)- the first Asian to get it.

Taimur, Syeda Anwara (1936): CM of Asom (1980-81)- the only female CM of the state.

Tandon, Purushottam Das (1882-1962): Indian freedom fighter from UP • remembered for his efforts in achieving the official language status for Hindi • customary title - *Rajarshi* • Bharat Ratna (1961).

Tata, Jahangir Ratanji Dadabhoy (1904-93): Indian industrialist • the first Indian to get a pilot license • chairman of Air India • Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan.

Tata, Jamsetji (1839-1904): Founder of the Tata Iron and Steel Company • built the Taj Hotel in Mumbai.

Tata, Ratan (1937): Indian industrialist, philanthropist • instrumental in conceiving and producing Nano car • stepped down from the Tata Group in 2012 • Padma Vibhushan (2008), Padma Bhushan (2000).

Tegh Bahadur, Guru (1621-75): Ninth Guru of the Sikhs • son of Guru Hargobind • was executed by Aurangzeb after he refused to embrace Islam.

Tendulkar, Sachin (1973): Indian cricketer, former captain • at 16, played his first Test in Karachi • the first batsman to score a double-century in an ODI •

the first cricketer to score 100 centuries in international cricket • Became a Rajya Sabha member in 2012 • Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Arjuna Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.

Tendulkar, Vijay (1928-2008): Marathi playwright, writer, political journalist and social commentator • *Kanyadaan*, *Sakharam Binder*, *Kadambari* • Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Kalidas Samman.



Vijay Tendulkar

Teresa, Mother (1910-97) (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu): Christian nun born in Skopje • founded the Missionaries of Charity and devoted life to work for the destitute • Nobel Peace Prize, Magsaysay award, Bharat Ratna.

Thackeray, Bal (1926-2012): Shiv Sena supremo who began his career as a cartoonist.

Tharoor, Shashi (1956): Writer and parliamentarian • Union Minister of State (2009-10, 2012-14) • UN Under-Secretary General (2002-07) • *The Great Indian Novel*, *An Era of Darkness*, *Why I Am A Hindu*, *Ambedkar: A Life*.

Thiruvalluvar (1st C): One of the greatest Tamil poets ever • *Thirukkural*.

Tikkana (or Tikkana Somayaji) (1205-1288) The second poet of the 'Trinity of Poets' (*Kavitrayment*).

Tilak, Bal Gangadhar (1856-1920): (Lokmanya) Indian patriot and statesman • proclaimed 'Swaraj is my birthright' • *Gita Rahasya*.

Tope, Tania (1813-59): One of the he-

Birth of Durga

On October 3, 1978, Dr. Subhash Mukherjee became the first physician in India and the second in the world to create a test tube baby. The baby, who was given the name Durga, is today known as Kanupriya Agarwal.



roes of the War of Indian Independence in 1857• a brave commander of Nana Sahib's force.

Tripathi, Suryakant (1896-1961): Hindi poet, novelist, essayist and storywriter• Known by his pen name 'Nirala'.

Tulsidas (1532-1623): Hindi poet, composer of devotional songs and kirtans• Masterpiece—*Ramcharit Manas* • Others: *Barvai Ramayana*, *Parvati Mangal*, *Gitavali*, *Vinaypatrika*.

Tyabji, Badruddin (1844-1906): Third president of the INC (1887-88).

Tyagaraja (1767-1847): One of the Trinity of Carnatic music•composed thousands of devotional compositions, mostly in Telugu•of special mention are five of his compositions called *Pancharatna Kritis*.

Tytler, Rev. James Douglas (1898-1973): Commonly referred to as J. D. Tytler• Indian educationist of Scottish descent• founded the Delhi Public School in New Delhi, and several other schools.

Uday Shankar (1900-77) Indian fusion dancer, choreographer• Padma Vibhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship.

Upadhyaya, Pandit Deendayal (1916-68): Thinker, politician, social worker• leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Usha, PT (1964): (Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil): President of the Indian Olympic Association•Track-queen of India, the first Indian woman to reach the final of an Olympic event - 400 m hurdles • nominated to Rajya Sabha in 2022 • known as Payyoli Express• runs a sports academy - The Usha School of Athletics• Padma Shri, Arjuna Award.

Vaidyanathan, Nirupama (1977): Retired

professional tennis player• first Indian woman to win a round in a grand slam tennis tournament (Australian Open, Jan. 1998).

Vajpayee, Atal Bihari (1924-2018): PM (1998-2004)• parliamentarian,

orator, poet, journalist• served as the minister of external affairs (1977-79)• Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan.

Varma, Raja Ravi (1848-1906): One of the greatest Indian artists • known for uniting Hindu mythological subject matter with European realist historicist painting style • belonged to the royal family of Kilimanoor, Kerala.

Vatsyayan, Sachidananda Hirananda (1911-87): (Agyeya) Hindi writer, journalist • *Kitni Navom Me Kitni Bar*• Jnanpith award (1978), Sahitya Akademi Award.

Venkataraman, R. (1910-2009): President of India (1987-92), vice president (1984-87).

Venkataraman Ramakrishnan (1952): Structural biologist • shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for studies on the structure and function of ribosome• Padma Vibhushan.

Venkayya, Pingali (1876-1963): Indian freedom fighter• the designer of the flag from which Indian national flag was adopted.

Vidyasagar, Ishwar Chandra (1820-91): Bengali scholar who fought for widow remarriage, women's higher education and against child marriage• father of Bengali prose• *Borno Porichoi*, *Kathamala*, *Bodhoday*.

Vijayan, O.V. (1930-2005): Political cartoonist and writer in Malayalam• *Khasakinte Ithihasam*• Padma Bhushan.

Visvesaraya, M. (1861-1962): Engineer, educationist, statesman• diwan of Mysore



Nirupama Vaidyanathan



Uday Shankar

sore (1912-18) • September 15 is celebrated as National Engineers' Day in his memory • Bharat Ratna (1955).

Vivekananda, Swami (1863-1902): Philosopher, famous for the talk at Chicago Conference of World Religions in 1893 • disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

Vyarawalla, Homai (1913-2012): India's first woman photo journalist • Padma Vibhushan.

Wahab, Zarina (1956): Indian actress •

Gopal Krishna, Gharaonda, Chittchor, Adaminte Makan Abu.

Williams, Suni

ta (1965): American astronaut of Indian-Slovenian descent • the second American astronaut of Indian heritage to go into space after Kalpana Chawla • Padma Bhushan, NASA Spaceflight Medal.



Zarina Wahab

Yadav, Akhilesh (1973): National president of the Samajwadi Party who served as the 20th Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh • having assumed office on 15 March 2012 at the age of 38, he is the youngest person to have held the office.

Yadav, Lalu Prasad (1948): The president of the political party Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) • a former Chief Minister of Bihar, a former Union Minister of Railways, and a former Lok Sabha member • Convicted in the controversial Fodder Scam, and was serving a term until 17 April 2021, when he was granted bail from the High Court.

Yadav, Mulayam Singh (1939-2022): Founder-patron of the Samajwadi Party • served for three non-consecutive terms as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and also served as the Defence Minister of India.

Yadav, Santosh (1969): Indo-Tibetan Border Police officer • the first woman in the world to have climbed the Everest twice (1992, 1993) • Padma Shri.



Santosh Yadav

Yashpal: (1903-1976): Hindi author and political commentator • **Jhutha Sach** • Sahitya Akademi Award for *Meri Teri Uski Baat* (1976).

Yechury, Sitaram (1952): Indian Communist leader (CPI-M) who was elected the party general secretary in 2015.

Yesudas, Kattassery Joseph (1940): Indian playback singer, composer and music director • recorded about 50,000 songs in over 17 languages • won the national award for the best male playback singer seven times and the state award over 40 times • Padma Vibhushan, Padma Shri.

Yogananda, Paramahansa (1893-1952): A teacher of yoga, who was one of the first Indian spiritual teachers to reside permanently in the West • founded the Self-Realization Fellowship • Autobiography of a Yogi (1946) and other works became highly popular and influential.

Zakaria, Fareed Rafiq (1964): Indian-American journalist, political commentator, and author • host of CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS. He has been a columnist for *Newsweek*, editor of *Newsweek International*, and an editor at large of *Time*.

Zareen, Nikhat (1996): Indian boxer • won gold in the 52kg category at the Women's World Championship in Turkey in 2022 • fifth Indian women's boxer to win a gold medal at the World Championships, joining Mary Kom, Laishram Sarita Devi, Jenny R.L., and Lekha K.C. • gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Ramakrishnan (1950): Chemist • shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for studies on the structure and function of ribosomes.

Tagore, Rabindranath (1876-1963): Indian poet, writer, and philosopher • the designer of the flag of the Indian national flag was also his.

Chandrasekhar, Subramaniam (1920-2012): Indian physicist and astrophysicist • Nobel Prize in Physics (1930) • father of Indian space programme • Borno Porichoi, Kailash Chodhoy.

Q.V. (1930-2005): Political and writer in Malayalam • **Neelam Sanjiva Reddy** (1917-2007): President of India • **Sarabjit Singh** (1952-2017): Indian statesman • **Shri** (1912-18): September 15 is celebrated as National Engineers' Day in his memory • Bharat Ratna (1955).



WHO IS WHO WORLD

A section on foreigners who have made their mark on different walks of life from business, politics, law, entertainment, science, sports and religion.

Abe, Shinzo (1954-2022): Prime Minister of Japan from 2006 to 2007 and from 2012 to 2020 • longest-serving prime minister in Japanese history • assassinated while delivering a campaign speech.

Adele (b.1988): English pop singer and songwriter known for her soulful emotive voice and traditionally crafted songs • one of the world's best-selling music artists, with sales of over 120 million records.

Aiken, Howard H. (1900-73): US mathematician who invented the Harvard Mark 1, the forerunner of modern electronic digital computer.

Ali, Muhammad (1942-2016): (Originally Cassius Marcellus Clay) American boxer • the first to win the world heavyweight title thrice.

Altman, Sam (1985): The CEO of OpenAI, the AI firm he cofounded with Elon Musk • previously the Chairman of Y Combinator, a leading silicon valley startup accelerator.



Sam Altman

Anatsui, El (1944): Ghanaian sculptor best known for his large-scale metal tapestries constructed from bottle caps and copper wire • His entire oeuvre examines such themes as colonialism's de-

structive forces and the resilience of Africa.

Andersen, Hans Christian (1805-75): Danish fairy-tale writer, novelist, play-wright and poet • *The Ugly Duckling, The Little Mermaid, The Emperor's New Clothes, Thumbelina.*

Armstrong, Neil (1930-2012): American astronaut who became the first man to set foot on the moon (Apollo XI mission) • Presidential Medal of Freedom, NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

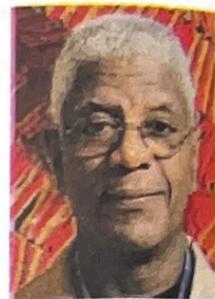
Arnault, Bernard (1949): Founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world's largest luxury goods company • the wealthiest person in the world.



Bernard Arnault

Asimov, Isaac (1920-92): US biochemist and writer of non-fiction.

Baden-Powell, Robert (1857-1941): Founder of Boy Scouts (1908) • his sister Agnes founded the Girl Guides (1910).



El Anatsui

Barnard, Christiaan Neethling (1922-2001): South African surgeon who performed the first human heart transplant operation.

Beatles, The (Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr) English vocal and instrumental rock'n'roll quartet whose highly original and melodic songs held the attention of youth all over the world in the 1960s.

Beethoven, Ludwig van (1770-1827): German musician and composer • his symphonies - nine in number - rank as the greatest ones ever written.

Beyonce Giselle Knowles-Carter (1981): Singer, song writer, actor, dancer, feminist • Albums: *Dangerously in Love*, *I Am...* *Sasha Fierce*, *Lemonade* • won 32 Grammy Awards, the most by any artiste.

Biden Jr., Joseph Robinette (1942): The 46th and current President of the United States. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 47th vice president from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama.

Bieber, Justin (1994): Canadian, Pop-R&B-teen singer, songwriter, musician, producer, and actor • Album: *My World 2.0*, *Under the Mistletoe*, *Purpose*, *Believe*.

Blyton, Enid (1897-1968): Prolific and highly popular British author of stories, poems, plays, and educational books for children • her *Famous Five*, *Secret Seven*, and *Mystery* series of books were widely read • her Little Noddy series, featuring the adventures of Little Noddy, Mr. Plod the policeman, Big Ears, and other characters of Toyland Village, enjoyed enormous popularity and made her a household name.



Enid Blyton

Bolt, Usain (1986) 'Lightning Bolt': Jamaican sprinter • holds the world record for 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres relay • the first man to win all three events at a single Olympics since Carl Lewis in 1984 • retired after the 2017 World Championships • Laureus World Sportsman of the Year (four times), IAAF World Athlete of the Year.

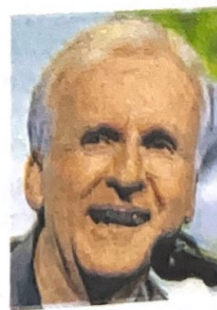
Borlaug, Norman (1914-2009): American agricultural scientist, plant pathologist, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1970 • Known as the "Father of the Green Revolution," Borlaug helped lay the groundwork for agricultural technological advances that alleviated world hunger.

Bradman, Sir Donald (1908-2001): Australian cricket legend • secured 6996 runs in 52 games (average 99.94) including 29 centuries and a record score of 334 • inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009 • *Farewell to Cricket*, *The Art of Cricket*.

Braille, Louis (1809-52): French educator and inventor of the Braille system (an embossed lettering - touch system of reading and writing for the blind) • turned blind at the age of three and became a teacher for the blind in 1826.

Bubka, Sergey (1963): Former pole vaulter from Ukraine who won gold at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul • broke the world record for men's pole vault 35 times.

Buffett, Warren (1930): American business magnate, investor and philanthropist • chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway • one of the most successful investors in the world known by the nickname 'oracle of Omaha.'



James Cameron

Cameron, James (1954): Canadian filmmaker known



WHO IS WHO

for his expansive vision and innovative special-effects films, most notably *Titanic* (1997), for which he won an Academy Award for best director, and *Avatar* (2009).

Cardin, Pierre (1922-2020): French master designer • internationally known for avant-garde style and space-age design • founded his fashion house in 1950 • introduced the bubble dress in 1954.

Carlsen, Sven Magnus Øen (1990): Norwegian chess grandmaster, former five-time World Chess Champion (2013-23) • peak rating: 2882, the highest in history • won the Chess Oscars five times, Peer Gynt Prize.

Carver, George Washington (1861-1943): An African-American scientist, botanist and inventor • developed more than 300 products from peanut, bringing benefits to a lot of farmers and opportunities to industries.

Castro, Fidel (1926-2016): Cuban revolutionary and political leader • overthrew a police-state in 1959 • remained in power for the longest period • handed over power to brother Raul on July 31, 2006.

Catherine the Great (1729-1796): German-born empress of Russia (1762-96) who led her country into full participation in the political and cultural life of Europe, carrying on the work begun by Peter the Great • With her ministers she reorganized the administration and law of the Russian Empire and extended Russian territory, adding Crimea and much of Poland.



Catherine the Great

Chan, Jackie (1954): Movie star, stuntman and director from Hong Kong •

Rumble in the Bronx, Rush Hour, The Tuxedo, Shanghai Noon, The Foreigner.

Chaplin, Charles Spencer (Charlie) (1889-1977): Film actor, comedian, director, screenplay writer, producer • first international screen star with more than 50 years' achievement • Academy Award-three times • *The Kid, City Lights, Modern Times, The Great Dictator, The Circus.*

Charles III (1948): King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from September 8, 2022 • the longest-serving monarch-in-waiting in British history • ascended the throne at age 73, with the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II.



Charles III

Chekhov, Anton (1860-1904): Russian dramatist and short story writer • *Uncle Vanya, Ivanov, Charles III*

Chomsky, Noam (1928): American linguist and firebrand political activist • Often described as "the father of modern linguistics." • One of the founders of the field of cognitive science • *Syntactic Structures, Manufacturing Consent.*

Churchill, Sir Winston (1874-1965): British PM (1940-45, 1951-55) and author • *The Second World War, A History of the English-Speaking Peoples, The World Crisis* • Nobel Prize for Literature.

Columbus, Christopher (1451-1506): Italian explorer and navigator whose four transatlantic voyages opened the way for European exploration, exploitation, and colonisation of the Americas.

Comaneci, Nadia (b.1961): Romanian gymnast who was the first gymnast to be awarded a perfect score of 10 in an Olympic event.

Cook, Tim (1960): CEO, Apple Inc. which produces iPhone, iPad, iPod, MacBook, etc.

Copernicus, Nicolaus (1473-1543): Polish astronomer who put forward the theory that the planets, including the earth, revolve round the sun.

Corbusier, Le (1887-1965): Eminent Swiss-French architect and city-planner • famous for preparing the masterplan for Chandigarh City.

Crick, Francis Harry Compton (1916-2004): English molecular biologist, biophysicist, and neuroscientist • co-discoverer of the structure of DNA molecule with James Watson in 1953 • Nobel Prize (1962).

Crosby, Bing (1903 -1977): American singer and actor • one of the most popular and influential musical artists of the 20th century.

Cushing, Harvey (1869-1939): American surgeon whose pioneering techniques for brain surgery improved neuro-surgery tremendously • Cushing's syndrome is named after him • Life of Sir William Osler got him the Pulitzer Prize in 1926.

Dahl, Roald (1916-1990): British writer, a popular author of ingenious, irreverent children's books • wrote some of the best-loved children's stories of the 20th century, such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda* and *James and the Giant Peach*.

Dali, Salvador (1904-1989): Spanish surrealist artist who is known for wide-ranging creative thoughts, from stage design and jewellery to writing poems and essays • *The Persistence of Memory*, *Metamorphosis of Narcissus*, *The Temptation of St Antony*.

Darwin, Charles Robert (1809-82): British naturalist who theorised evolution

and natural selection through the study of fossils and diverse plant and animal life in and around Galapagos Islands between 1831 and 1836 • *The Origin of Species* (1859) and *The Descent of Man* (1871).

Davis, Dwight F. (1879-1945): American tennis player best known as the founder of Davis Cup • played for the US team in the opening contest.

Dickens, Charles (1812-70): Greatest English novelist of the Victorian era • *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations*, *Our Mutual Friend*.



Charles Dickens

Didrikson, Babe (1911-1956): Named the greatest female athlete of the 20th century by the Associated Press • excelled in a stunning number of sports: track, golf, basketball, baseball, tennis, swimming, bowling and billiards among them • At the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1932, she became the only female Olympian ever to collect individual medals in a running, a throwing and a jumping event (the 80-m hurdles, javelin and high jump).

Diesel, Rudolf (1858-1913): German engineer, inventor of an internal combustion engine which he patented in 1893.

Disney, Walter Elias ('Walt') (1901-66): American cartoonist famous for animated cartoons • opened the Disneyland in 1955 • *Pinocchio*, *Dumbo*, *Cinderella*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* • has a record of winning 22 Oscars.

Djokovic, Novak (1987): Serbian professional tennis player credited with record-breaking 23 Grand Slam singles titles • ranked world No.1 for a record total 387 weeks in a record 12 different



Roald Dahl



WHO IS WHO

years, and finished as the year-end No. 1 for a record seven times.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan (1859-1930): British writer of detective stories • *Stories of Sherlock Holmes, The Lost World.*

Drucker, Peter F. (1909-2005): Austrian-born American management guru and author.

Dylan, Bob (1941): Originally, Robert Allen Zimmerman • US singer and composer • *Blowin' in the Wind, Like a Rolling Stone* • Pulitzer Prize (2008), Nobel Prize for Literature (2016).

Earhart, Amelia (1897-1937), American aviator, one of the world's most celebrated, who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean • Her disappearance during a flight around the world in 1937 became an enduring mystery, fueling much speculation.

Edhi, Dr Abdul Sattar (1928-2016): Pakistani philanthropist • called 'the angel of mercy' • founded the Edhi Foundation • operated the world's largest volunteer ambulance network • Gandhi Peace Prize.

Edison, Thomas Alva (1847-1931): American inventor who held 1093 patents for his inventions including the incandescent lamp • created the world's first industrial research lab.

Ehrlich, Paul (1854-1915): German scientist who worked in the fields of haematology, immunology • known as the father of chemotherapy • founder of the Paul Ehrlich Institute • Nobel Prize (1908).

Einstein, Albert (1879-1955): Physicist whose Theory of Relativity superseded Newton's Theory of Gravitation • his work led to the making of the nuclear bomb • Nobel Prize (1921).

Elizabeth II (1926-2022): Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from 1952 to 2022 • the longest-serving British monarch.

Engels, Friedrich (1820-95): German philosopher, socialist • along with Karl Marx, wrote *The Communist Manifesto*.

Evans, Sir Harold Matthew (1928-2020): British-born journalist and writer • voted Britain's greatest newspaper editor of all time • editor of *The Sunday Times* (1967-1981) • president and publisher of Random House (1990-97) • editor-at-large of the Reuters news agency (2011). *Good Times, Bad Times*

Federer, Roger (1981): Swiss professional tennis player • won 20 Grand Slam singles titles • set a record with eight Wimbledon titles and five consecutive US Open titles • won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award five times, named the ITF World Champion five times.

Feynman, Richard (1918-88): Iconic and most influential American theoretical physicist of the post-World War II era • co-awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1965 for this work, which tied together in an experimentally perfect package all the varied phenomena at work in light, radio, electricity, and magnetism • *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!* • *Adventures of a Curious Character, Six Easy Pieces.*



Richard Feynman

Fischer, Bobby (1943-2008): American-born chess player • became the youngest to win the Grandmaster title when he received it in 1958 • his victory at the World Championship 1972 drew global attention.

Flinders, Matthew (1774-1814): English explorer who discovered a continent and named it Australia.

Frank, Anne (1929-45): Jewish girl who fled Germany with family to escape Nazi

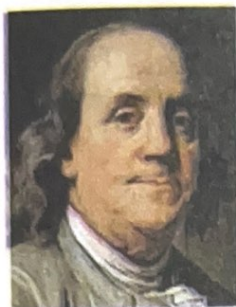
Gagan, Yuri (1931): Russian • became the first man to travel in outer space when he orbited the earth on *Apollo 11*.
Gallup, George (1901-1982): American statistician • known for his public opinion polls.
Gates, Bill (1955): American programmer, billionaire • co-founder of Microsoft.
Gogh, Vincent van (1853-1890): Dutch post-impressionist painter • *Potato Eaters, Sorrow, Wheatfield With Crows, Begonia*.
Goodall, Jane (b.1934): British biologist and anthropologist • known for her work on chimpanzees.

Gorbachev, Mikhail (1931-2022): Russian • last leader of the Soviet Union • Nobel Peace Prize (1990).
Gorky, Maxim (1868-1936): Russian writer, political activist • *Anna Karenina, The Id*.

persecution • *The Diary of a Young Girl* which she wrote remains a classic of war literature.

Franklin, Benjamin (1706 - 1790):

American printer and publisher, author, inventor and scientist, and diplomat • One of the foremost of the Founding Fathers, he helped draft the Declaration of Independence • made important contributions to science, especially in the understanding of electricity.



Benjamin Franklin

Freud, Sigmund (1856-1939): Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis • *The Interpretation of Dreams, The Ego and the Id.*

Gagarin, Yuri (1934-68): Soviet cosmonaut • became the first man to travel into outer space when his Vostok aircraft orbited the earth on April 12, 1961.

Gallup, George Horace (1901-84): Renowned American statistician who studied public opinion through questions put to a representative group - Gallup poll.

Gates, Bill (1955): American computer programmer, billionaire and philanthropist • co-founder of Microsoft Corp.

Gogh, Vincent van (1853-90): Renowned Dutch post-impressionist painter • *The Potato Eaters, Sorrow, The Starry Night, Wheatfield With Crows, Bedroom in Arles.*

Goodall, Jane (b.1934): English primatologist and anthropologist • considered to be the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees.

Gorbachev, Mikhail (1931-2022): Russian and former Soviet politician • president of the Soviet Union (1990-91) • Nobel Peace Prize (1990).

Gorky, Maxim (1868-1936): Russian writer, political activist • founder of so-

cial realism • *Mother, The Lower Depths, Children of the Sun, Summerfolk.*

Graf, Steffi (1969): German tennis legend • the first tennis player to achieve the Golden Grand Slam (1988) • was ranked World No. 1 by the WTA for a record 377 total weeks • won 22 grand slam singles titles.

Grass, Gunter Wilhelm (1927-2015): German novelist, poet, playwright, graphic artist and sculptor • *The Tin Drum, Dog Years, The Call of the Toad* • Nobel Prize (1999).

Guevara, Ernesto 'Che' (1928-67): Argentine Marxist theoritian, revolutionary, tactician of guerrilla warfare • key figure of the Cuban Revolution • his image remains an icon of leftist radicalism and anti-imperialism.

Hadid, Zaha (1950-2016) Iraqi-born British architect known for her radical deconstructivist designs • In 2004 she became the first woman to be awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize.



Zaha Hadid

Hamilton, Lewis Carl (1985): British Formula One racing driver • seven-time Formula One World Champion equalling the record of Michael Schumacher (2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020).

Harris, Kamala Devi (1964): The 49th and current Vice President of the United States • She is the first female vice president, the highest-ranking female elected official in U.S. history and the first African American and first Asian American vice president.

Harris, Paul (1868-1947): American who founded the Rotary International in 1905.

Hasina, Sheikh (1947): Bangla-



desh PM (1996-2001, 2009-) • daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman • Indira Gandhi Prize.

Hassan, Mehdi (1927-2012): Pakistani singer • known as the king of ghazal • Nishan-e-Imtiaz.

Hawking, Stephen (1942- 2018): English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author • suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) • *A Brief History of Time, The Universe in a Nutshell, My Brief History*.

Hillary, Edmund (1919-2008): New Zealand explorer who was the first to climb Mount Everest in 1953.

Hippocrates (460-370 BC): Ancient Greek physician famous for his contribution to the field of medicine • father of medicine.

Hitler, Adolf (1889-1945): Austrian-born German dictator • Chancellor of Germany (1933-45) • known as Fuhrer • killed 6 million Jews.

Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969): Vietnamese revolutionary leader • served as the PM (1945-55) and President (1945-69) of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam • key figure in the foundation of the People's Army of Vietnam.

Houdini, Harry (1874-1926): American magician noted for his sensational escape acts.

Hynek, Dr Josef Allen (1910-1986): American astronomer and ufologist famous for his research on UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

Inayat Khan, Noor (1914 – 1944): a British spy who served in the Second World War in the Secret Operations Executive • first female wireless operator to be dropped into oc-



Noor Inayat Khan

cupied France to help the resistance and send messages back to Britain.

Jackson, Michael (1958-2009): (the "King of Pop" or MJ) - American singer, song-writer, entertainer, dancer, music producer, choreographer, actor and philanthropist • albums: *Thriller, Off the Wall, Bad, Dangerous, and History* • 13 Grammy Awards, 26 American Music Awards.

James, LeBron (1984): American professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) • Nicknamed "King James", he is widely considered one of the greatest players in NBA history and is frequently compared to Michael Jordan in debates over the greatest basketball player ever.

Jesus Christ (4C BC): Born in Bethlehem, Israel • Bible describes him as the Son of God • creator, saviour of the world, Messiah • transformed lives and still inspires songs, ethics, education, medical and social services • His teachings are opposed to injustice, inequality and discrimination.

Jinnah, Mohammed Ali (1876–1948): Pakistani statesman, lawyer • the founder and first governor-general of Pakistan • called the 'great leader' • leader of the All India Muslim League (1913- 47).

Jobs, Steve (1955-2011): Co-founder, chairman and former CEO of Apple Inc. • revolutionised the use of personal computer, iphones, ipods, ipad etc.

Jolie, Angelina (1975): American actress, movie director, humanitarian and global celebrity • rose to fame through her title role in the film *Lara Croft* • won an Academy Award



Angelina Jolie

for her supporting role as a mental patient in *Girl, Interrupted* (1999) • serves as a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN-HCR.

Jordan, Michael (1963): US basketball legend • played for Chicago Bulls (1984-93, 1995-98) • retired in 1999.

Kasparov, Garry (1963): Russian chess Grandmaster • the youngest-ever world champion (1985).

Keller, Helen (1880-1968): American author and educator of the blind • turned deaf and blind when 19 months old • *The Story of My Life*.

Lady Gaga (1986): (Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta) US pop-dancer, electronic-rock singer, songwriter, record producer, dancer, activist, actress and philanthropist • *The Fame, Just Dance, Bad Romance, Telephone, Born This Way*.

Lenin (1870-1924): (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov) Russian revolutionary leader and statesman • founder of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) • leader of the Bolshevik Revolution • architect and first head of the Soviet State (1917-24) • founder of the Comintern or Communist International.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519): A great multi-faceted genius from Italy • one of the master artists of the Renaissance • *Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, St Jerome, The Virgin of the Rocks, Leda, Madonna Benois*.

Lewis, Carl (1961): American track and field athlete • won nine Olympic gold medals during the 1980s and 90s • won ten World Championship medals including eight gold • set world records in the 100m, 4x100m and 4x200m relays.

The First Arjuna Awards

The first Arjuna award was conferred upon India's football Olympian PK Banerjee who was among the 20 recipients of the Arjuna Award in its inaugural edition in 1961. Hockey player Anna Lumsden was the first woman Arjuna Award winner.

Lie, Trygve (1896-1968): Norwegian politician and the first UN Secretary-General (1946-52).

Lincoln, Abraham (1809-65): 16th President of USA (1861) •



Trygve Lie

re-elected in 1864 • opposed slavery and succeeded in its abolishment • assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

Luther, Martin (1483-1546): German religious priest and theologian whose teachings led to the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.

Madonna (1958): (Madonna Louise Ciccone) World's top female pop star, a self-made icon.

Mandela, Nelson Rolihlahla (1918-2013): First black president of South Africa (1994-99) • imprisoned for about 27 years for fighting apartheid • under his leadership, South Africa became a non-racist democracy • *Long Walk to Freedom* • Bharat Ratna (1990), Nobel Prize (1993).

Manto, Saadat Hasan (1912-55): British Indian-born Pakistani • famous as short story writer, film and radio scriptwriter, journalist • Writing mainly in Urdu, he produced 22 collections of short stories, a novel, five series of radio plays, three collections of essays and two collections of personal sketches.

Maradona, Diego (1960-2020): Argentinian football star • one of the greatest players in the history of the sport • one of the two winners of the FIFA Player of the 20th Century award along with Pele.

Marley, Bob (1945-81): (Nesta Robert



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Marley) Jamaican singer-songwriter famous for crossover reggae albums in US • Rastafarian • infused music with spirituality • *Exodus* (1977).

Marx, Karl (1818-83): German philosopher, sociologist, economist and journalist • propounded the doctrine of Communism-Marxism • with his friend Engels, wrote the *Communist Manifesto* (1848) • *Das Kapital*.

Meir, Golda (1898-1978): First woman to become Israeli Prime Minister (1969-74).

Menuhin, Yehudi (1916-99): One of the greatest violinists of the 20th century.

Messi, Lionel (1987): Argentinian professional footballer who plays as a forward for U.S. Major League Soccer club Inter Miami and captains the Argentina national team • widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time • seven FIFA Ballon d'Or, six European Golden Shoes, ten La Liga titles, seven Copa del Rey titles • helped UEFA Champions League titles • helped Argentina win the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Michelangelo (1475-1564): Italian painter, sculptor, architect and poet • *The Last Judgement*, *Bacchus*, *Pieta*.

Mirzakhani, Maryam (1977-2017): Iranian mathematician who became (2014) the first woman and the first Iranian to be awarded a Fields Medal.

Mohammad, Prophet (570-632): Believed to be the last messenger by Muslims • *The Quran*, the sacred book, was delivered by Jibreel, the angel, to the prophet over 23 years • established Islam.

Monroe, Marilyn (1926-62): Originally Norma Jeane Mortenson • American film star and charming sex symbol of her times • *The Seven Year Itch*, *Bus Stop*,



Golda Meir

Some Like It Hot.
Montessori, Maria (1870-1952): Italian educator and originator of the educational system that bears her name. The Montessori system is based on belief in the creative potential of children, their drive to learn, and the right of each child to be treated as an individual.

Moore, Bobby (1941-93): Soccer legend who captained England to its World Cup triumph in 1966 • played 1000 league games • considered the golden boy of English football.

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus (1756-91): Austrian composer • hailed as one of best musical geniuses ever • his best works include *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*.

Murasaki Shikibu, (c. 978 -c. 1014) Japanese writer and lady-in-waiting who was the author of the *Genji monogatari* (c. 1010; *The Tale of Genji*), generally considered the greatest work of Japanese literature and thought to be the world's oldest full novel.

Murdoch, Rupert (1931): US publisher and entrepreneur born in Australia • founder of the News Corporation Ltd.

Musk, Elon (1971): Visionary businessman • co-founded and leads Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink and The Boring Company.

Nadal, Rafael 1986): Spanish professional tennis player known as the 'king of clay' • his 81 consecutive wins on clay is the longest single-surface win streak in the Open Era • has won 22 Grand Slam men's singles titles • Olympic gold in singles (2008), career Golden Slam.

Napoleon I (1769-1821): French general,



Maria Montessori

Ogilvy, David (1911-99): Doye of advertising world • founder of the London ad agency Ogilvy & Mather.

Pavarotti, Luciano (1935-2007): Italian singer who is popularly known as the 'King of the High Cs' • well-known for his rare voice range.

first consul (1799–1804), and emperor of the French (1804–1814/15), one of the most celebrated personages in the history of the West • revolutionized military organization and training • sponsored the Napoleonic Code, the prototype of later civil-law codes • reorganized education • established the long-lived Concordat with the papacy.

Navratilova, Martina (1956): US tennis star born in Czechoslovakia • won 18 grand slam singles titles, 31 major women's doubles titles and 10 major mixed doubles titles.

Newkirk, Ingrid (1949): Animal activist who co-founded the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Nightingale, Florence (1820–1910): English nurse and the founder of modern nursing • during the Crimean war, she organised a nursing service • known as 'the Lady with the Lamp.'

Nobel, Alfred Bernhard (1833–96): Swedish inventor and philanthropist who discovered dynamite • bequeathed a fund for annual prizes now known as the Nobel Prize.

Ogilvy, David (1911–99): Doyen of the advertising world • founder of the international ad agency Ogilvy & Mather.

Owens, James Cleveland ('Jesse') (1913–80): American athlete and the first man to win four track and field gold medals (100m, 200 m, long jump, 4x100 m relay) in a single Olympics (1936).

Pavarotti, Luciano (1935–2007): Italian singer who is popularly known as the King of the High Cs • well-known operatic tenor - a rare voice range.



Ingrid Newkirk

Peale, Rev. Norman Vincent (1898–1993): American priest who preached positive thinking for more than five decades.

Pele (1940–2022): (Edson Arantes Do Nascimento): Brazilian soccer legend • the first player ever to play for three world championship teams • scored 1281 goals in 1363 games • seven Ballon d'Or awards, FIFA Player of the Century (2000).

Perelman, Grigory b.1966): Russian mathematician • Winner of Fields Medal (2006) and the \$1million prize for solving Poincare Conjecture, one of the seven Millennium problems designated by Clay Mathematics Institute. He declined both.

Phelps, Michael (1985): American swimmer • Olympian of all-time highest (28) medals with 23 gold • holds the record for the most gold medals won by an athlete at a single Olympics- 8 golds- in Beijing.

Picasso (1881–1973): Spanish painter, sculptor and ceramicist • one of the originators of Cubism • *Les Femmes d'Alger*, *Guernica*, *The Weeping Woman*, *La Vie*, *Girl Before a Mirror*, *Le Reve*.

Poitier, Sidney (1927–2022): Bahamian-American actor, film director, and diplomat • first Black actor to win the Academy award for Best Actor • *Lilies of the Field*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

Pope Francis (1936): (Jorge Mario Bergoglio); The 266th Pope of the Catholic Church (2013) • the first from the Jesuit order and also, from Latin America • Archbishop of Buenos Aires (1998), Cardinal (2001) • popular as Father Jorge • the defender of the poor and disenfranchised • a soccer fan.

Presley, Elvis (1935–77): Popular singer, entertainer and actor best known as the king of Rock 'n' Roll • acted in numerous films • *Love Me Tender*, *Jailhouse Rock*, *All Shook Up*.

Putin, Vladimir (1952): Russian politician and former intelligence officer who is



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serving as the current president of Russia.

Quinn, Anthony (1915-2001): Mexican-American actor, painter, writer, and film director • known for portrayal of earthy, passionate characters • *La Strada*, *The Guns of Navarone*.

Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur (1920-75): Founding father of the People's Republic of Bangladesh • popularly known as *Bangabandhu* (Friend of Bengal) • first President (1971-72), PM (1972-75).

Reeve, Christopher (1952-2004): Actor best known for the *Superman* movies • an accident in 1995 left him paralysed • *Noises Off*, *Deathtrap*, *Street Smart*, *The Remains of the Day*.

Reuter, Paul Julius (1816-99): German-born pioneer of telegraphic press service • founded the *Reuters* international news agency.



Paul Julius Reuter

Rihanna (1988): Barbadian singer, actress, and businesswoman. With sales of over

250 million records worldwide, she is one of the best-selling music artists of all time. She has earned 14 number-ones and 32 top-ten singles in the US and 31 top-ten entries in the UK.

Ronaldo, Cristiano (1985): Portuguese professional footballer • plays as a forward for and captains both Saudi Professional League club Al Nassr and the Portugal national team • five FIFA Ballon d'Or awards, four European Golden Shoe awards.

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano (1882-1945): 32nd president of the United States from 1933 until his death in 1945 • The only

president elected to the office four times • led the United States through two of the greatest crises of the 20th century: the Great Depression and World War II. **Roosevelt, Theodore** (1858-1919): American politician and statesman who was the 26th president from 1901 to 1909 • won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1906 for mediating an end to the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05).

Rowling, JK (1965): British author of young fantasy, mystery, thriller, magical realism • philanthropist • *Harry Potter* series.



JK Rowling

Russell, Bertrand (1872-1970): English philosopher, mathematician and essayist • *The Principles of Mathematics*, *The Scientific Outlook*, *The Conquest of Happiness*, *My Philosophical Development*, *Power: A New Social Analysis*, *What I Believe* • Nobel Prize (1950).

Sagan, Carl (1934-96): A multifaceted scientist who left his mark in astronomy, astrophysics, extra-terrestrial science, space and natural sciences • *The Dragons of Eden*, *Broca's Brain*, *Cosmos*.

Sakharov, Andrey (1921-89): Russian physicist and an advocate of civil liberties • Soviet dissident • designer of thermonuclear weapons • Nobel Prize (1975), Lenin Prize (1956).

Sanger, Larry (1968): American project developer and co-founder of the non-profit encyclopaedia, *Wikipedia* • former editor-in-chief of *Nupedia*.

Savitskaya, Svetlana (1948): Soviet cosmonaut • the first woman to walk in space and to make two space flights.

Schumacher, Michael (1969): German seven-time Formula One world champion • met with a serious skiing accident in

Roosevelt, Theodore (1858-1919): American politician and statesman who was the 26th president from 1901 to 1909 for mediating an end to the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05).

Rowling, JK (1965): British author of young fantasy, mystery, thriller, magical realism • philanthropist • Harry Potter series.



JK Rowling

Shaw, George Bernard (1856-1950): Irish dramatist and the greatest critic of his age • *Man and Superman*, *Saint Joan*, *Pygmalion* • Nobel Prize (1925).

Sobers, Gary (1936) (Sir Garfield St Aubrun Sobers): Legendary West Indian cricketer, all-rounder • highest score- 365- a world record for long time • first to hit 6 sixes in an over in a first class match.

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr (1918-2008): Russian novelist, dissident and activist • *Cancer Ward*, *The Gulag Archipelago*, *August 1914*, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* • Nobel Prize (1970).

Spielberg, Steven (1946): One of world's most successful film directors • *Jaws*, *E.T.*—

Alps in 2013 • fully recovered in 2014 • holds the record for the most Grand Prix wins (91) and the most races won in a single season (13).

Shakespeare, William (1564-1616): Greatest dramatist and poet of England • wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets and two poems • *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*.

Shakira (1977): A highly successful Colombian pop singer, songwriter, dancer, record producer, choreographer, model • *Laundry*, *Service*, *Oral Fixation*, *She Wolf*, *El Dorado*.



Shakira

Sinatra, Frank (1915-1998): American singer and actor who is generally viewed as one of the greatest musical artists of the 20th century • sold an estimated 150 million records worldwide • *From Here to Eternity*, *The Man with the Golden Arm*.

Shaw, George Bernard (1856-1950): Irish dramatist and the greatest critic of his age • *Man and Superman*, *Saint Joan*, *Pygmalion* • Nobel Prize (1925).

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Steven Spielberg

the Extra Terrestrial, Jurassic Park, Saving Private Ryan, Bridge of Spies, The Post, The Fabelmans • Schindler's List won him the Oscar for the best director (1994) and six other awards.

Stallman, Richard (1953): American who started free software movement • launched GNU Project, Free Software Foundation • pioneered Copyleft -a concept that preserves the right to use, modify and distribute freely.

Sunak, Rishi (1980): British politician of Indian descent who became leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in October 2022 • Previously he served as chancellor of the Exchequer (2020-22).



Rishi Sunak

Suu Kyi, Aung San (1945): Myanmar's champion of democracy, politician, diplomat, author • leader of the National League for Democracy • the first State Counsellor • Nobel Peace Prize, Sakharov Prize, Jawaharlal Nehru Award.

Swift, Taylor Alison (1989): One of the world's leading contemporary recording artists • known for narrative songs about her personal life • sold more than 150 million records globally • the most streamed woman on Spotify.

Tenzing Norgay (1914-86): The first to climb Mount Everest (1953) along with Edmund Hillary.

Tereshkova, Valentina (1937): Soviet cosmonaut, engineer, politician • in 1963, she became the first woman to make a space flight, aboard Vostok-VI, lasting 3 days.

Thunberg, Greta (b. 2003): Swedish teenager who skipped school and inspired an international movement to fight climate



change. She has become a leading voice, inspiring millions to join protests around the world • Time Person of the Year (2019).

Tim Berners-Lee (1955): Invented WWW-World Wide Web while at CERN in 1989 • director of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) • knighted in 2004, AM Turing Award (2016).

Tolkien, JRR (1892-1973): English writer, scholar, philologist • *The Hobbit*, *The Silmarillion*, *The Lord of the Rings*.

Turing, Alan (1912-54): Mathematician and logician who invented modern computing in 1935 • also cracked the Nazi Enigma code and helped the Allies win World War II. • a martyr for gay rights.



Alan Turing

Truman, Harry S. (1884-1972): US President (1945-53) • took the decision to drop the first atom bomb.

Trump, Donald John (1946): 45th President of America (2017- 21), businessman, billionaire, TV personality • owns the Trump Organisation.

Tussaud, Madame (Marie) (1761-1850): French wax modeller • the museum in London with the same name features life-size models of famous people and is now a major tourist attraction.

Updike, John (1932-2009): American novelist, poet, short-story writer and literary critic • Rabbit Angstrom novels, Henry Bech stories, *The Witches of Eastwick*.

Uris, Leon (1924-2003): American author of historical fiction • *Exodus*, *Trinity*.

Vespucci, Amerigo (1451-1512): Italian merchant, explorer, navigator from the Republic of Florence, from whose name

the term "America" is derived.

Vettel, Sebastian (1987): German racing driver who competed in Formula One from 2007 to 2022 • 4-time Formula One World Champion (2010-2013 with Red Bull Racing) • youngest World Champion in Formula One.



Sebastian Vettel

Voltaire (1694-1778): French writer, historian and philosopher famous for his wit and advocacy of freedom of speech • *Candide*.

Wales, Jimmy (1966): American internet entrepreneur • co-founded Wikipedia with Larry Sanger.

Walton, Ernest (1904-95): Irish scientist • along with John Cockcroft, split the atom artificially for the first time in the early 1930s • shared Nobel Prize (1951).

Walton, Sam (1918-92): Business magnate and the owner of Walmart stores, a chain of world's leading departmental stores.

Washington, George (1732-99): First US President (1789-97) • American General who led the revolt against the British and declared American independence.

Wiles, Andrew (1953): British mathematician who proved Fermat's last theorem • In recognition he was awarded a special silver plaque – he was beyond the traditional age limit of 40 years for receiving the gold Fields Medal–by the International Mathematical Union in 1998 • He also received



Andrew Wiles

the Wolf Prize (1995–96), the Abel Prize (2016), and the Copley Medal (2017).

Williams, Serena Jameka (1981): American former professional tennis player • The only player to achieve a career Grand Slam in both singles and doubles • Grand Slam: 23 singles, 14 doubles, 2 mixed doubles.

Williams, Venus Ebony Starr (1980): Professional US tennis player • former World No. 1 • 7 singles, 14 doubles and 2 mixed doubles grand slam titles • Olympic gold in doubles (2012).

Winfrey, Oprah (1954): American TV talk show host, actress, entrepreneur • first woman to top the *Forbes* magazine list of entertainment millionaires • Presidential Medal of Freedom (2013).

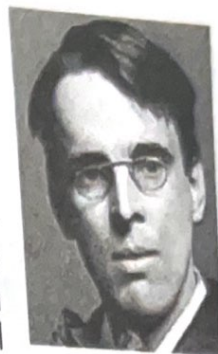
Xerxes 1 (BC 519- BC 465): The son and successor of Darius 1. He is best known for his massive invasion of Greece from across the Hellespont, a campaign marked by the battles of Thermopylae, Salamis, and Plataea. His ultimate defeat spelled the beginning of the decline of the Achaemenian Empire.

Xiaoping, Deng (1904-97): Chinese politician responsible for economic reforms in the country and an opening to the global economy.

Xi Jinping (b.1953): The most powerful Chinese leader since Deng Xiaoping. He worked his way up the party ranks to become a major player in the Chinese Politburo. By 2013, Xi was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party, Chair of the Military Commission and President of the People's Republic of China.

Yale, Elihu (1649 – 1721): British- American colonial administrator and philanthropist • Served as President of the British East India Company settlement in Fort St. George, at Madras • best remembered as the primary benefactor of Yale College (now Yale University), which was named in his honour.

Yeats, William Butler (1865-1939): Irish poet, dramatist and prose writer • One of the greatest English-language poets of the 20th century • Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923.



William Butler Yeats

Yew, Lee Kuan (1923-2015): Politician and lawyer who led Singapore to independence. He served as its prime minister from 1959 to 1990. During his long rule, Singapore became the most prosperous country in Southeast Asia.

Young, Brigham (1801-77): American religious leader, second president of the Mormon church, and coloniser who significantly influenced the development of the American West.

Yousafzai, Malala (b.1997): Pakistani education advocate • became an advocate for girls' education when she herself was still a child, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her • At the age of 17 in 2014, she became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Yunus, Mohammad (1940): Bangladeshi economist and founder of the Grameen Bank which provides micro-credit to clients • Nobel Peace Prize, Magsaysay Award, Gandhi Peace Prize, World Food Prize, Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Zappa, Frank (1940-93): American multi-instrumentalist musician, composer and bandleader • Released more than 60 albums in his 30-year career • Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995.

Zamenhof, Ludwig L. (1859-1917): Polish physician and oculist who created the most important of the international artificial languages- Esperanto.



Zanussi, Krzysztof (b. 1939): Polish film and theatre director, producer and screenwriter • recipient of the Golden Lion at the 1984 Venice Film Festival for *A Year of the Quiet Sun*, the Jury Prize at the 1980 Cannes Film Festival for *The Constant Factor*.

Zedong, Mao

(1893-1976): Chinese communist revolutionary. He was the founding father of the People's Republic of China, which he ruled as the chairman of the Communist Party of China from its establishment in 1949 until his death in 1976.



Mao Zedong

Zelensky, Volodymyr (b.1978): Ukrainian actor and comedian who was elected president of Ukraine in 2019.

Zellweger, Renee (b.1969): U.S. film actress known for her portrayals of vulnerable characters in films such as *Jerry Maguire* (1996), *Nurse Betty* (2000), *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001), and *Judy* (2019). Oscar for best actress for *Judy*.

Zemeckis, Robert Lee (1951): American filmmaker. Came to public attention as the director of the action-adventure romantic comedy *Romancing the Stone* (1984), the science-fiction comedy *Back to the Future* film trilogy (1985-90), and the live-action/animated comedy *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988).

Zeno of Citium (c. 334 - c. 262 BC): was a Hellenistic philosopher from Citium, Cyprus • the founder of the

Stoic school of philosophy, which he taught in Athens from about 300 BC.

Zeta-Jones, Catherine (b.1969):

Welsh-born actress who showed her acting mettle in a wide range of films, most notably the musical *Chicago* (2002), for which she won the Academy Award for best supporting actress. Married actor Michael Douglas in 2000.



Chloe Zhao

Zhao, Chloe (b. 1982): Chinese-born filmmaker who made a splash in American cinema with her two independent features, *Songs My Brother Taught Me* (2015) and *The Rider* (2018).

Zhou Enlai (1898-1976): Chinese revolutionary statesman • the first Premier of the People's Republic of China (1949- until his death).

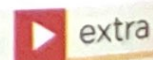
Zidane, Zinedine (b.1971): French footballer who won the Golden Ball as the most valuable player in the World Cups of 1998 and 2006.

Zola, Emile (1840-1902): French journalist and novelist known for his series of 20 novels collectively known as *Les Rougon-Macquart* (1871-93).

Zoroaster (6BC): Iranian religious reformer, prophet and the founder of Zoroastrianism, a part of Parsi religion • author of the holy book *Zend Avesta*.

Zuckerberg, Mark Elliot (1984): American computer programmer • co-founder and CEO of Facebook.

National Sports Day



August 29 marks a significant day in the history of sports in India as the legendary hockey player, Major Dhyan Chand was born on this day. To commemorate his invaluable contributions, India celebrates his birthday as the National Sports Day.