

## Dr. S. Radhakrishnan : The Great Guru

*Madhusudan Patnaik*

Born in a humble Brahmin family on 5th September 1887 at Tiruttani, Dr. Radhakrishnan was educated in the intermediate college of Vellore and then at Christian College, Madras. Here Dr. Hogg, Professor of Philosophy greatly influenced his life. He qualified himself as a great teacher in the training college at Saidapet. He then joined the Madras Educational Service of Rajahmundry. In 1909 he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Presidency College of Madras. Here he became the Professor of Philosophy.



Despite his poor financial condition he continued studies at Godae School and Mission School depending upon scholarship. He completed his Post Graduate qualification in Philosophy from Madras Christian College. He achieved vast knowledge in Hindu Philosophy specially in Upanishad, Bhagabat Gita and

Brahmasutra including the preachings of Shankar and Ramanuja. To add to all these, he was well-up with the Philosophy of Buddhism and Jainism and the teachings of great thinkers like Plato, Bradley and Bergsen.

Then he was appointed Professor of Philosophy in the newly-founded University of Mysore, where Professor Candeth and Professor TK Doraiswamy Ayer became his life-long friends to whom he

dedicated his book 'Reign of Religion'. In 1921 he became the Professor in the University of Calcutta. He had achieved so much in so many fields like religion, politics, legislator, ambassador in thirty years of work that none had done. With his dual appointment at Banares and Oxford like a weaver's shuttle he had gone to and fro between the east and west. His first publication was 'the Philosophy of Tagore' which brought him fame

and facilitated his Calcutta appointment. The Hindu views of life brought immense popularity all over the world. His appointment was made as first Vice-President and subsequently as President of the Republic. He could bring a great change in the field of education through his learned counsels in the Radhakrishnan committee basing upon the need of the country. These high appointments were preceded by a spell of his ambassadorship at Moscow in 1949. Stalin, the then President of U.S.S.R., gave him two interviews, a great honour, and almost shed tears as he complimented Radhakrishnan on his deep humanity.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was most considerate to poor students. He helped them generously. His work was usually done in his bed : reading, writing, dictating and talking to visitors. He never takes physical exercise not even walking. He was able to bear the strain of the strenuous town that he had to undertake as Vice-President and President of India.

His hobby had been reading only. Even in his retirement he could be found surrounded by books. He was a voracious reader with a quick grasp and a photographic memory.

In 1903 he married to lady Sivakamma. He was blessed with five daughters as Smt. Padmavati, Smt. Rukmini, Smt. Susheela, Smt. Sundari and Smt. Shakuntala and a son Dr. S. Gopal, Reader in South Asian Studies, Oxford University.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded the higher honour of Bharat Ratna in 1954, a couple of years before he had become the first Vice-President of India in 1952. In 1962 he was the second President of Republic when China and Pakistan war was going on in 1967. He retired from President of India and then he come to Madras. He passed away on 17th April, 1975.

A Great Guru whose birthday on 5th September is observed as Guru Divas in Schools and Colleges throughout the country, and the Government have been pleased to declare it a holiday to commemorate it. Let's pay tribute to him.

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Madhusudan Patnaik, Kaibalya, Duttatota, Puri.

### **ST & SC STUDENTS TO BECOME COMPUTER SAVVY**

Government in ST & SC Development Department decided to set up computer labs in 86 High Schools managed by ST & SC Development Department. Recently Shri Lal Bihari Himirika, Minister, ST & SC Development inaugurated this novel project "Setting up computer lab and providing computer education" at Tapobana High School, Bhubaneswar. The project aims at upgrading IT infrastructure in ST & SC Development Department schools involving students from standard VIII to Std. X. Each school will have a computer lab in shared computing model with qualified instructor. Under this programme each school will be provided with a completely shared multimedia computing lab equipped with one high end host PC (server) alongwith ten multimedia enabled workstations and one digital multimedia projector apart from power backup and other necessary equipment wherein all software like Microsoft Windows etc. will be loaded in the server and can be accessed at different workstations.