

PERSONALITIES

- ❑ **ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN** (1890-1988). Also called Badshah Khan and Frontier Gandhi. A staunch Congressman and freedom fighter. He organised Khudai Khitmatgars or Red Shirts. First foreigner to be awarded the Bharat Ratna
- ❑ **ABDUL KADAR MAULAVI VAKKOM** (1873-1931) Social reformer who started the daily *Swadeshbhimani* and the magazines *Muslim*, *Al Islam* and *Deepika*.
- ❑ **ABDUL KALAM, A.P.J.** (b. 1931). Popularly called the Missile Man of India, was the architect of India's various missile. He is presently Principal Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister. *Vision 2020* is a book written by Abdul Kalam and Y.S. Rajan.
- ❑ **ABDU SALAM** Pakistan's only Nobel Prize winner for Physics in 1979.
- ❑ **ABUL FAZAL** (1561-1602) Persian scholar patronised by Akbar, wrote *Akbar Nama* and *Ain-e-Akbari*.
- ❑ **ACHUTHA MENON, C.** (1913-91) Chief Minister of Kerala 1969-70 and 1970-77. Communist Party leader and writer wrote *Soviet Land*, *Smaranayude Edukal*, *Kissan Padapusthakam* etc.
- ❑ **AGASSI, ANDRE** (b. 1970). US tennis player. Winner of Australian open (2001).
- ❑ **AKBAR THE GREAT** (1524-1605) full name was Jalal ud-Din Muhammad Akbar. The greatest Mughal Emperor. Born at Amarkot. Considered real founder of the Mughal empire in India. Built Fatehpur Sikri, Humayun's Tomb at Delhi, and forts at Agra, Lahore and Allahabad. Built Ibadat Khanna for religious discussion at Fatehpur Sikri. Historians gave him the title Guardian of Mankind.
- ❑ **AKILAN** (1922-88). P.V. Akilandan, known as Akilan, was a famous Tamil poet. Won Jnanpith for *Chithira Pavai*.
- ❑ **AKKITHAM** (b. 1926), real name Achuthan Namboothiri, is a famous Malayalam poet. Major works are *Sparshamanikal*, *Manasapooja*, *Manoratham*, *Irupatham Noothan-dinte Ithihasam*.
- ❑ **ALA-UD-DIN KHILJI** (13th-14th century) ruled north India between 1296-1316. Strongest ruler of the Khilji dynasty during his reign the Muslims progressed into the Deccan.
- ❑ **ALEXANDER THE GREAT** (356-323 BC) King of Macedonia who conquered Egypt and founded Alexandria. His conquests extended to Asia Minor (Turkey), Armenia, Mesopotamia, Iran, Egypt, Gandhara including the borders of India during the period 336 BC to 323 BC. A disciple of Aristotle.
- ❑ **ALI, MUHAMMAD** (b. 1942). Original name Cassius Clay. He converted to Islamism and changed his name to Muhammad Ali. First man to win the world heavyweight title three times.
- ❑ **AMARTYA SEN** (b. 1933) is an economist and philosopher, born in West Bengal. He won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998. His well known book is *Poverty and Famine*.
- ❑ **AMBEDKAR, B.R.** (1891-1956). an eminent jurist, social reformer, scheduled castes leader. Chairman of Constitution drafting body, considered the Architect of the Indian Constitution.
- ❑ **AMJAD ALI KHAN** Indian sarod maestro awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2001.
- ❑ **AMPERE, ANDRE MARIE** (1775-1836). French scientist who formulated Ampere's Law. The S.I. unit of electric current 'ampere' is named after him.
- ❑ **AMRITA PRITAM** (b. 1919) Punjabi poetess and novelist. Won the 1981 Jnanpith Award for *Kagaz ke Kanwaz*.
- ❑ **AMUNDSEN, ROALD** (1872-1928). A Norwegian explorer, the first to reach the South Pole was lost in the Arctic.
- ❑ **ANNAN, KOFI** (b. 1940). Kofi Annan, from Ghana, is the seventh UN Secretary-General. He is a first black to head the UN.
- ❑ **ANTONY, A.K.** (b. 1940) Chief Minister of Kerala in 1977, 1995-96. Youngest Chief Minister of Kerala (37).
- ❑ **APPU NEDUNGADI T.M.** (1862-1933) Malayalam novelist. Wrote the first novel in Malayalam – *Kunda Latha*. Founder of Nedungadi Bank.
- ❑ **ARAFAT, YASSER** (b. 1929). Chairman of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) since 1969, President of Palestine Authority and founder of Al-fatah (1956). He won the 1994 Nobel Prize for Peace.
- ❑ **ARISTOTLE** (384-322 BC) Greek philosopher. Disciple of Plato, later started his own school of philosophy, the *Lyceum*, or the Academy.
- ❑ **ARUNA ASAF ALI** (1909-96) was a veteran freedom fighter who played a prominent role in the 1942 Quit India Movement. She was the first woman Mayor of Delhi (1958). Awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1997.
- ❑ **ARYABHATTA** (476-550 AD) Indian astronomer who adorned the court of Chandragupta Vikramaditya. First known person to use algebra. His famous treatise is *Aryabhatiya*.
- ❑ **ASHAPURNA DEVI** (1909-95) Grand Old Lady of Bengali Literature. First woman Jnanpith Award winner. Her works include *Prathama Pratishruti*, *Subarnalatha* and *Bakuler Katha*.
- ❑ **ASHOKA THE GREAT** (264-228 BC) the third and the greatest of the Mauryas. Considered to have held the 3rd Buddhist Council. He also inscribed edicts all throughout his kingdom.
- ❑ **ATTENBOROUGH, RICHARD** (b. 1923). British actor-director. Well known for his film *Gandhi* which won eight Oscars.
- ❑ **ATWOOD, MARGARET** (b. 1932). Canadian writer. Won 2000 Booker for *The Blind Assassin*.
- ❑ **AUGUSTUS CAESAR** (63 BC-AD 14) founder of the Roman Empire
- ❑ **AUNG SAN SUU KI** (b. 1945) Myanmar's pro-democracy opposition leader. Founded National League for Democracy (NLD) and won the 1989 election but was jailed by Myanmar's military junta. Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991.
- ❑ **AURANGZEB** (1618-1707) *Alamgir*. Ruled for almost 50 years till his death in Ahmednagar. A Muslim fanatic. Many Hindu temples were demolished and religious festivals, idol worship and pilgrimages were banned.
- ❑ **AUROBINDO GHOSH** (1872-1950) exponent of Indian nationalism, philosopher and saint. Known as *Risi Aurobindo*. Started as an extremist and ended as a sage at Pondichery. Famous works *Life Divine*, *Essays on the Gita*.
- ❑ **AYYAPPAN O.V.** (b. 1923), Popularly as Kovilan is a famous Malayalam writer. *Shakunam*, *Thottangal*, *Pravasi* and *Thattakan* are his works.
- ❑ **AZAD MAULANA ABUL KALAM** (1888-1958) a nationalist Muslim scholar, President of the Indian National Congress. Founded *Al Hilal* and *Al Balagh* Urdu weeklies. Free India's first Union Education Minister. Wrote *India Wins Freedom*.
- ❑ **AZHARUDDIN, MOHAMMAD**. Indian cricketer. In December 2000 he was banned for life following accusations of match-fixing against him.
- ❑ **BABA AMTE** (b. 1914). Murlidhar Devdas Amte, popularly known as Baba Amte, is an Indian social worker known for his work among leprosy patients. He was the founder of Khat India Movement. Winner of Templeton, Ramon Magsaysay UN Right Livelihood Awards and the Gandhi Peace Prize in 1999.
- ❑ **BABUR, ZAHIR-UD-DIN MOHAMMED** (1483-1530), founder of Mughal Empire in India. Autobiography is *Tuzuk-i-Babari*.
- ❑ **BACHENDRI PAL** (b. 1954) First Indian woman and fifth woman in the world to scale Everest (May 23, 1984).

- ☐ **BACON, FRANCIS** (1561-1626). was an English statesman and philosopher. *The Advancement of Learning* is his major work.
- ☐ **BADEN-POWELL, ROBERT** (1857-1941). was a soldier . Founded the Boy Scouts in 1908 and, with his sister, Agnes, the Girl Guides in 1910.
- ☐ **BADHRUDDIN TYABJI** (1844-1906) First Indian barrister of the Bombay High Court and first Muslim President of Indian National Congress (1887).
- ☐ **BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR** (1807-62) last ruler of the Mughal dynasty. He became Emperor of India in 1857 during the Sepoy Mutiny.
- ☐ **BAHUGUNA, SUNDERLAL** (b. 1927) an Indian environmentalist. Leader of the Chipko Movement and has been resisting the construction of Tehri Dam
- ☐ **BAIRD, JOHN LOGIE** (1888-1946). British television pioneer from Scotland.
- ☐ **BAKER, LAURIE** (b. 1917). Lawrence Wilfred Baker, known as Laurie Baker, is the British-born Indian architect who specialises in low-cost building.
- ☐ **BALAKRISHNA PILLAI A.** (1889-1960) was the Malayalam writer, critic and journalist known as Kesari. He was the author of *Rupamanjari*. He founded the magazine *Prabodhakan*.
- ☐ **BALAMANIAMMA NALAPAT**, a poet, is known as the Mother of Malayalam Literature. Works include *Kooppukai, Naivedyam, Amma, Kalikotta, Sopanam, Jeevithathiloode* etc.
- ☐ **BAL GANGADHAR TILAK** (1856-1920) freedom fighter called Father of Indian Unrest. Also called Lokmanya . First Indian leader to give the slogan 'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it'. Started two well-known newspapers *Kesari* (Marathi) and *Marhatta* (English). Founder leader of Home Rule League in 1916 .
- ☐ **BALAYOGI, G.M.C.** (b. 1952) first Dalit Speaker. Speaker of the 12th Lok Sabha and the 13th Lok Sabha.
- ☐ **BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO** (1917-2000). World's first elected woman Prime Minister. Sri Lankan stateswoman. Entered the 1999 *Guinness Book of World Records* for being the oldest prime minister in the world.
- ☐ **BANDOPADHYAY TARA SANKAR** (1893-1971) was a Bengali novelist and freedom fighter. Won the 1967 Jnanpith for *Ganadevatha*.
- ☐ **BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTERJEE** (1838-94) Bengali novelist and author of *Vande Mataram*, the National Song of India is from his work *Anand Math*.
- ☐ **BANNERJEE, W.C.** (1844-1906). First President of the Indian National Congress held in 1885 at Bombay.
- ☐ **BARNARD, DR. CHRISTIAAN** (b. 1922). Conducted the first human heart transplant operation.
- ☐ **BASHIR, VAIKOM MOHAMMAD** (1908-94). A legendary Malayalam writer and freedom fighter. His well known works include *Balyakalaskhmi* and *Pathummayude Adu*.
- ☐ **BASU, JYOTI** (b. 1914). Communist leader . Served as Chief Minister of West Bengal for a record five consecutive times. Longest serving chief minister of an Indian state (24 years).
- ☐ **BECKER, BORIS** (b. 1967). youngest tennis player to win the men's single tennis championship at Wimbledon.
- ☐ **BECKETT, SAMUEL** (1906-89) Irish playwright, novelist and poet. Best known for his play *Waiting for Godot* Won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969.
- ☐ **BEGUM, KHALEDA ZIA** First woman Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party.
- ☐ **BELL, ALEXANDER GRAHAM** (1847-1922) Scottish-American scientist who invented the telephone in 1867.
- ☐ **BESANT, ANNIE** (1847-1933). Irish by birth, but staunch supporter of India's freedom struggle. Known as the Grand Old Lady of Indian Nationalism. First woman President of Indian National Congress.
- ☐ **BHAGAT SINGH** (1907-31) was a patriot and revolutionary, known as Shahid-e-Azam. He became a martyr on May 23, 1931 along with Sukhdev and Rajguru. He was the first to raise the slogan *Inquilab Zindabad* which was coined by Muhammad Iqbal.
- ☐ **BHASKARACHARYA** (12th Century AD) Astronomer who wrote *Leelavathi*.
- ☐ **BHUTTO, BENAZIR** (b. 1953). former Prime Minister of Pakistan (1988-90, 1993-97) and the present Leader of the Opposition.
- ☐ **BISMARCK, OTTO VON** (1815-98). German statesman known as the Iron Chancellor for his 'blood and iron' policies. Known as the Father of German Integration.
- ☐ **BLAIR, TONY** (b. 1953). Prime Minister of Great Britain. Won the General Election of 1997 bringing Labour back to power after 18 years in opposition.
- ☐ **BOOTH, WILLIAM** (1829-1912). The British founder of the Salvation Army.
- ☐ **BORDER, ALLAN** (b. 1956). Former Australian cricket captain who holds the record for the highest runs in Test Cricket (11,174).
- ☐ **BORLAUG, NORMAN** (b. 1914) US-born plant pathologist known as the Father of the Green Revolution. Only agricultural scientist to have won a Nobel Prize for Peace .
- ☐ **BOSE, RASH BEHARI** (1886-1945). founder of the Indian National Army (INA), also known as Azad Hind Fauj. Handed over its leadership to Netaji.
- ☐ **BOSE, SUBHASH CHANDRA** (1896-1945). known as Netaji. Elected President of Congress in 1938 but left Congress in 1939 and formed the Forward Block . Reorganised the INA and setup the provisional government of free India in Singapore. Believed to have died in an aircrash at Formosa (Taiwan).
- ☐ **BRADMAN, DON** (1908-2001). world famous test batsmen. Set many batting records, including the highest score – 452 not out – and scored 117 centuries.
- ☐ **BRAHMA GUPTA** (7th Century AD) was an Indian mathematician.
- ☐ **BRAILLE, LOUIS** (1809-52). Louis Braille was the French inventor of the Braille system (raised point lettering which can be felt by fingertips), a system of writing and printing for the blind.
- ☐ **BUBKA, SERGEI** (b. 1964). Sergei Bubka is the world's best pole vaulter, from Ukraine.
- ☐ **BURNS, ROBERT** (1759-96). Scotland's national poet known as the Shakespeare of Scotland.
- ☐ **BUSH, GEORGE W.** (b. 1946). George Walker Bush is the 43rd President of the United States. He belongs to the Republican Party. His father, George Bush, was 41st President (1989-93).
- ☐ **BYRD, RICHARD** (1888-1957). An American explorer and aviator. First to fly over the North and South Poles.
- ☐ **CAESAR, JULIUS** (c. 100-44 BC). Julius Caesar was a Roman general and statesman. He extended the boundaries of Roman hegemony . He took the title 'dictator for life' in 44 BC.
- ☐ **CANNING, LORD.** last Governor-General of East India Company and first Viceroy of British India (1856-62).
- ☐ **CARIAPPA, K.M.** (1899-1993) 'Grand Old Man of the Indian Army'. First Army Commander-in-Chief of free India. Nickname was 'Kipper'. Second Field Marshal of India.
- ☐ **CARROLL, LEWIS** (1832-98). British clergyman and writer. Real name Charles Dodgson. Works *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and its sequel *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* .
- ☐ **CARTER, JIMMY** (b. 1924). James Earl Carter was the 39th President of the United States 1977-81. He arranged a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, known as the Camp David accord.
- ☐ **CASTRO, FIDEL** (b. 1927). President of Cuba. He led a successful uprising against President Fulgencio Batista in 1958 and proclaimed a 'Marxist-Leninist programme' of reforms.
- ☐ **CAVENDISH, HENRY** (1731-1810). British physicist and chemist who studied 'inflammable air', now known as

hydrogen gas.

- ❑ **CHADWICK, SIR JAMES** (1891-1974) British physicist who discovered neutrons.
- ❑ **CHAITHANYA, MAHAPRABHU** (1445-1533) was a pioneer of the Bhakti Movement in Bengal, a devotee of Lord Krishna.
- ❑ **CHANAKYA** (c.300 BC) was Prime Minister during Chandra Gupta Maurya's reign. Also known as Vishnu Gupta and Kautilya. Wrote *Arthashastra*.
- ❑ **CHAND, DYAN** (1906-79) was the hockey wizard who scored the largest number of goals for India.
- ❑ **CHANDRA GUPTA MAURYA** (321-298 BC) founder of the Maurya Dynasty. He defeated Seleucus and extended his empire to almost all of North India. Megasthenes was the envoy of Seleucus to his court.
- ❑ **CHANDRA GUPTA II (VIKRAMADITHYA)** (AD 375-415) was a brave emperor of the Gupta dynasty. The court of Vikramadithya is said to have been adorned by the celebrated Nine Gems including Kalidasa and Amarasingha Fa-hien was a Chinese pilgrim visited India during his reign.
- ❑ **CHANDRASEKHAR, S.** (1910-97). Indian-born American citizen. Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1930 for his work known as Chandrasekhar's Limit .
- ❑ **CHANDY, ANNA** (1905-96). First woman judge of the Kerala High Court.
- ❑ **CHAPLIN, CHARLIE** (1889-1977). Charlie Chaplin was a great British comedian, film actor, director, producer and composer. In 1972 he was awarded a special Oscar.
- ❑ **CHARLEMAGNE** (AD 742-814) was King of the Franks (771-814) and Emperor of the West (800-814).
- ❑ **CHARLES I, KING OF ENGLAND** (1600-49) was the king who was executed by the people following the English Civil War.
- ❑ **CHATTAMI, SWAMI** (1853-1924). Real name was Srividyaadhiraja Kunjan Pillai. He exerted a great influence on Kerala's socio-cultural renaissance.
- ❑ **CHAUCER, GEOFFREY** (c.1345-1400). Considered Father of English Poetry. His *Canterbury Tales* is a classic.
- ❑ **CHAUDHARY, MAHENDRA**. Sworn in as Prime Minister of Fiji in 1999. In July 2000 he was ousted from power by the coup led by George Speight.
- ❑ **CHAUDHURI, NIRAD C.** (1897-1999). Indian writer who lived in England. His works include *Autobiography of an Unknown Indian, A Passage to England, Clive of India, Scholar Extraordinary, Hinduism, Continent of Circle* and *Culture is the Vanity Bag*. His last book was *The Three Horsemen of the New Apocalypse* (1997).
- ❑ **CHEKHOV, ANTON** (1860-1904). Russian dramatist and master of short story.
- ❑ **CHELMSFORD, LORD**. Viceroy of India during 1916-21. Notable events during his term were: August Declaration of 1917, the Government of India Act 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms), the Rowlatt Act 1919 passed, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of April 13, 1919, Launching of Kilafat Movement and Non-Cooperation Movement.
- ❑ **CHEMBAI, VAIDYANATHA BHAGAVATHAR** (1889-1974) was a great Carnatic musician of India.
- ❑ **CHENEY, DICK**. Dick Cheney is the Vice-President of USA. He was Defence Secretary during the Gulf War of 1991.
- ❑ **CHERUSSERI, NAMBOOTHIRI** (15th Century) was the Malayalam poet who wrote *Krishnagatha*.
- ❑ **CHIANG, KAI-SHEK** (1887-1975). A Chinese revolutionary leader. Effective head of the Nationalist Republic (1928-49) and thereafter head of Nationalist Party in Taiwan.
- ❑ **CHOU, EN-LAI** (1898-1975). Chinese statesman and one of the leaders of the Communist Party of China. He was Prime Minister of the People's Republic. He and Nehru signed the Panchasheel Agreement for peace .
- ❑ **CHRISTIE, AGATHA** (1891-1976). One of the most popular writers of crime stories of this century and the author of over 70 novels.
- ❑ **CHURCHILL, SIR WINSTON** (1874-1965). British statesman and wartime leader, who was Prime Minister during World War II (1940-45), and again in 1951-55. He was also an accomplished writer. His publications *Memories of the Second World War* (in 6 volumes) became very famous and earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953.
- ❑ **CLINTON, BILL** (b. 1946). 42nd President of the United States. He is the second American president to be impeached by the House of Representatives.
- ❑ **CLINTON, HILLARY**. Wife of Bill Clinton. In November 2000 she was elected to the US Senate – the first First Lady ever to be so elected.
- ❑ **CLIVE, ROBERT** (1725-74). He defeated Siraj-ud-Daula in the Battle of Plassey in 1757. Was instrumental in laying the foundation of British Empire in India.
- ❑ **COCKERELL, SIR CHRISTOPHER** (1910-99) British inventor of hovercraft.
- ❑ **COETZEE, J.M.**. South African author First author to win the Booker Prize twice - *Disgrace* (1999) and *The Life and Times of Michael K* (1983).
- ❑ **COLERIDGE, SAMUEL TAYLOR** (1772-1834) British poet, the founder of a new literary style with Wordsworth known as romanticism. His works are *The Ancient Mariner* and *Christabel*.
- ❑ **COLUMBUS, CHRISTOPHER** (1451-1506). Italian explorer, the first European to discover America in 1492.
- ❑ **CONFUCIUS** (551-479 BC) Chinese philosopher whose teachings are recorded in the *Confucian Analects*
- ❑ **COPERNICUS, NICOLAS** (1473-1543). Polish astronomer known for his theory that the sun was the centre of the universe. His famous work is *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* ('On the Revolution of the Celestial Spheres').
- ❑ **CORBUSIER, LE** (1887-1965). Pseudonym of Charles Edouard Jeanneret, was a Swiss architect and city planner. Planned the city of Chandigarh (1951).
- ❑ **CORNWALLIS, LORD** (1738-1805). Governor-General of India for two terms (1786-1793) well known for his land Bengal (1793). Founded British Civil Service in India and established thanas and police departments were set up under district magistrates.
- ❑ **COUSTEAU, JACQUES** (1910-1997). French underwater explorer. Invented aqualung and underwater television camera.
- ❑ **CRICK, FRANCIS** (b. 1916). British biophysicist who, together with James Watson, constructed a molecular model of the genetic material DNA.
- ❑ **CURIE, MARIE** (1867-1934). Polish chemist known for her discovery of radium (1898).
- ❑ **CURZON, LORD** (1859-1905). Viceroy of India 1889-1905. Created North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) Agricultural Research Institute, Archaeological Department, Criminal Investigation Department. Ancient Monuments Protection Act and construction of the Victoria Memorial constructed in Calcutta. His most unpopular action was the Partition of Bengal in 1905.
- ❑ **DADABHAI NAOROJI** (1825-1917) Grand Old Man of India. Prominent Congress leader and worked for Swaraj in England, first Indian to be elected to the House of Commons from a London constituency (1862)., author of the monumental work *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*. In this book he describes the 'drain theory', i.e. the exploitation of Indian wealth by the British. Known as the Father of Indian Politics and Economics. He suggested the name 'Congress' for the Indian National Congress.
- ❑ **DA GAMA, VASCO** (c.1469-1525). Portuguese explorer who made the first voyage from Europe round Africa to the East and reached Kappad (Kozhikode) on May 27, 1498.
- ❑ **DALAI LAMA** (b. 1935) Tibetan spiritual leader, the 14th Incarnation. His original name was Tensin Gyatsho. He was expelled from Tibet in 1959 following Chinese capture of Tibet. He established a government-in-exile at Dharamshala (Himachal

P r a d e s h)

Recipient of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize. Works are *My Land and People*, *Freedom in Exile*

- **DALHOUSIE, LORD** (1812-60). Governor-General of India 1848-1856. During his period, the Second Sikh War (1849), Doctrine of Lapse, first railway line between Bombay and Thana was opened ,Calcutta and Agra were connected by telegraph, set up the Public Works Department and passed Widow Remarriage Act (1856).
- **DANTE** (1265-1321). Greatest Italian poet. Best known work is *The Divine Comedy*.
- **DARWIN, CHARLES** (1809-82). British naturalist who put forward his theory of evolution based on natural selection. His works *On the Origin of Species* and *Descent of Man* .
- **DAS, C.R.** (1870-1925).Known as *Deshbandhu* and CR . Presided over the Gaya Congress. Along with Motilal Nehru , launched the Swaraj Party in 1923.
- **DAS, KAMALA** (b. 1932)Poet from Kerala, who also writes under the name Madhavikutty. Books include *A Doll for the Child Prostitute* and *My Story* .Converted to Islam taking the name Surayya Begum.
- **DAVY, SIR HUMPHRY** (1778-1829) British chemist who invented the safety lamp for miners.
- **DAYANAND SARASWATHI** (1824-83) was a famous Indian Hindu social reformer.Founder of the Arya Samaj . Fought against social evils.Famous book is *Satyartha Prakash*.
- **DE ALBUQUERQUE, ALFONSO** (16th Century AD). Founder of Portuguese empire in the east. Conquered Goa in 1510.
- **DE COUBERTIN, BARON PIERRE**.founder of the modern Olympic Games organised the first Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens, Greece.
- **DE GAULLE, CHARLES** (1890-1970). French general and statesman, leader of the Free French forces in England after the fall of France in 1940. He became the first President of postwar France in 1958.
- **DENG XIAOPING** (1902-97) Chinese paramount leader. He became Secretary-General of the Chinese Communist Party in 1954 but was ousted in the Cultural Revolution (1966); he was returned to power in 1974.
- **DESAI, ANITA**. Indian novelist. Works include *A Village by the Sea*. Short-listed for the Booker three times- *Light of the Day* (1980), *In Custody* (1994) and *Fasting Feasting* (1999).
- **DESAI, MORARJI** (1896-1995) Indian freedom fighter and the 4th and oldest Prime Minister of India. First non-Congress Prime Minister headed a Janata Government in 1977. He is the only Indian to have received the Bharat Ratna (1991), the highest national award of India, and the Nishan-e-Pakistan, the highest civilian award of Pakistan.
- **DEVIKA RANI ROERICH** (1908-94) First Lady of the Indian silver screen. After the death of Himanshu Rai, her first husband, she married Svetoslav Roerich, a Russian painter. First recipient of Dada Saheb Phalke Award.
- **DHANRAJ PILLAI** India's hockey star. Selected for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1999.
- **DICKENS, CHARLES** (1812-70). Recognized as the greatest novelist of his time. Works of Dickens are *Pickwick Papers*, *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, and *A Tale of Two Cities*.
- **DILIP KUMAR** (b. 1922)actor of the Hindi screen. He was awarded with one of Pakistan's highest civilian awards, Nishan-e-Imtiaz, for his extraordinary contribution in the field of art. His real name was Yousuf Khan. He is known as the Tragedy King.
- **DISNEY, WALT** (1901-66). US film producer famous for his cartoon characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. His films include *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Fantasia* and *Mary Poppins*. He has won many Oscar Awards, more than thirty.
- **DOYLE, SIR ARTHUR CONAN** (1859-1930). Creator of the detective hero Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr. Watson and doctor by profession.
- **DRAKE, SIR FRANCIS** (c.1540-96). Greatest of Elizabethan seamen who circumnavigated the world and defeated the Spanish Armada. Famous for having brought tobacco to Europe for the first time from South America.
- **DUFFERIN, LORD**. Viceroy of India during the period 1884-88. Burma was invaded in 1885, Indian National Congress was formed and appointed the Public Service Commission.
- **DUNANT, HENRI** (1828-1910). Swiss-born philanthropist.Established the International Red Cross Society in 1863 and helped draft of the Geneva Convention (1864)Shared the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.
- **DUNLOP, JOHN BOYD** (1840-1921). British inventor of the pneumatic tyre.
- **DUPLEIX, J.F.** (1697-1763). French Governor-General of French possessions in India. He attempted to turn India into a French colony.
- **EDISON, THOMAS ALVA** (1847-1931). US inventor with more than 1,300 patents to his credit. Called the Wizard of Menlow Park. Some of his important inventions are the electric bulb, phonograph, the movie projector, printing telegraph, carbon telephone transmitters.
- **EIFFEL, ALEXANDRE GUSTAVE** (1832-1923). French civil engineer who built the Eiffel Tower in 1889. Also designed the framework of the Statue of Liberty.
- **EINSTEIN, ALBERT** (1879-1955). One of the most illustrious scientists of the 20th century. Discovered the theory of relativity in 1905. $E = mc^2$ is his famous formula.Awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 for discovering the law of photo electric effect.
- **EISENHOWER, DWIGHT** (1890-1969). Known as 'Ike'.. 34th President of USA, 1953-61. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Europe (1943-45) during World War II.
- **ELIZABETH I** (1533-1603). Elizabeth I, daughter of **HENRY VIII**, was Queen of England 1558-1603. During her time the Spanish Armada was defeated. She never married for this reason she was known as the Virgin Queen 'Good Queen Bess'and Maiden Queen. Shakespeare lived during this period.
- **ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF ENGLAND** (b. 1926). Elizabeth II, the daughter of **GEORGE VI** , is currently England's Queen and Head of State.
- **ENGELS, FRIEDRICH** (1820-95). German socialist philosopher.Collaborated with Marx on the *Communist Manifesto* (1848).
- **EPICURUS** (c.341-270BC) Greek philosopher, founder of Epicurean philosophy.
- **EZHUTHACHCHAN, THUNCHATHU RAMANUJAN** (16th Century AD) Father of Malayalam Language and Literature.
- **FAHIEN** (5th Century AD) was the first Buddhist pilgrim from China to visit India. He came during the reign of Chandragupta Vikramadithya.
- **FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** (1905-77) was the fifth President of India (1974-77).
- **FARADAY, MICHAEL** (1791-1867). British scientist who discovered electromagnetism and invented dynamo.
- **FATHIMA BEEVI M.** (b. 1927) First woman and Muslim judge of the Supreme Court of India (1989).
- **FELLINI, FEDERICO** (1920-93). Italian film director. His works include *Bicycle Thieves*, *Eight-and-a-Half*, *Fellini's Roma* and *La Dolce Vita* ('The Sweet Life'). His film *The Road* won an Oscar for the best foreign film.
- **FERMI, ENRICO** (1901-54). Enrico Fermi was an Italian nuclear physicist.
- **FLEMING, SIR ALEXANDER** (1881-1955). Scottish bacteriologist who discovered penicillin in 1928. Shared the 1945 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

- ❑ **FLEMING, IAN** (1908-64). British writer of popular literature who created the British secret agent James Bond.
- ❑ **FORSTER, E.M.** (1879-1970). British writer who wrote numerous books, many on India. *Where Angels Fear to Tread, Two Cheers for Democracy, The Longest Journey, A Room with a View, Howards End, Maurice* and *A Passage to India*.
- ❑ **FRANCE, ANATOLE** (1844-1924). French writer whose real name was Jacques Anatole François Thibault. Won Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ❑ **FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN** (1706-90). US statesman who promoted the American Declaration of Independence and worked on the drafting of the Constitution of America. He showed that clouds produced electricity, invented the lightning conductor, bifocal lens and stove heater.
- ❑ **FREUD, SIGMUND** (1856-1939). Austrian psychologist who developed the theory of psychoanalysis. He published *The Interpretation of Dreams* and *The Ego and the Id*.
- ❑ **FROEBEL, FRIEDRICH** (1782-1852). German educational reformer who founded Kindergarten.
- ❑ **FROST, ROBERT** (1874-1963). US poet who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1924, 1931, 1937 and 1943. Among his poems are *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, Birches, Mending Wall* and *The Death of the Hired Man*.
- ❑ **GAGARIN, YURI** (1934-68). Russian cosmonaut who became the first man to travel in space on the spacecraft Vostok-1 in 1961.
- ❑ **GALBRAITH, J.K.** (b. 1908). Canadian born US economist, author of *The Affluent Society*, US Ambassador to India 1961-63, recently awarded Padma Vibhushan.
- ❑ **GALILEO** (1564-1642). Italian astronomer who developed the telescope and discovered four satellites of Jupiter. He believed that Copernicus was right.
- ❑ **GALLUP, GEORGE** (1901-84). George Gallup is credited with having invented opinion polls.
- ❑ **GANDHI, INDIRA** (1917-84). Indira Gandhi was the first woman Prime Minister of India. Became the third Prime Minister of India on January 24, 1966 and remained in this post up to 1977. Nationalization of banks in 1969, the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971, 20-point programme, the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement and India's first nuclear explosion at Pokran on May 18, 1974. Introduced a national emergency in 1975-1977. Brutally assassinated by her own guards on October 31, 1984.
- ❑ **GANDHI, M.K.** (1869-1948). Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known as Mahatma Gandhi, was the Father of the Nation.
- ❑ **GANDHI, RAJIV** (1944-91). Youngest Prime Minister of India. Assassinated on May 21, 1991, by the LTTE activists at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ **GAO XINGJIAN** (b. 1940) Chinese novelist and playwright who won the 2000 Nobel Prize for Literature, the first Chinese person to win the prize.
- ❑ **GATES, BILL** (b. 1955). Bill Gates is the cofounder of Microsoft in 1975 and is at present the chairman and chief technology officer of the company. He is the world's richest man.
- ❑ **GAVASKAR, SUNIL** Former captain of the Indian cricket team. Popularly known as Little Master as well as Sunny. *Sunny Days* and *One Day Wonders* are his books. He retired from cricket in 1987. World record for scoring maximum number of test centuries (34).
- ❑ **GENGHIS KHAN** (1162-1227) He conquered North China, Kara-Chatai, Kharezm and other territories. Nicknamed the 'Scourge of God'.
- ❑ **GEORGE, JIMMY** (1955-87). Volleyball player. He was playing for an Italian club and died in a car accident in Italy.
- ❑ **GHALI, BOUTROS BOUTROS** (b. 1922). 6th Secretary-General of the United Nations. He was the first African to hold the office of Secretary-General.
- ❑ **GHOSH, TUSHAR KANTI** (1899-1994). One of the world's longest serving editors-editor of *Amrita Bazar Patrika* from 1928 until his death.
- ❑ **GIRI, V.V.** (1894-1980). 4th President of India and 3rd Vice-President awarded Bharat Ratna (1975). *Jobs for Millions* is his book.
- ❑ **GLADSTONE, W.E.** (1809-98). Prime Minister of Great Britain 1868-74, 1880-5, 1886 and 1892-4. Leader of Liberal Party. Known as Grand Old Man of British Politics.
- ❑ **GLENN, JOHN** (b. 1921). US astronaut- the first American to orbit Earth and the oldest man to go to space.
- ❑ **GODDARD, ROBERT** (1882-1945). US physicist and rocketry pioneer.
- ❑ **GODREJ, P. NAOROJI** (1927-1990) Indian industrialist, founder of Godrej company. Manufactured the first indigenous machine tools and typewriters.
- ❑ **GOETHE, JOHANN WOLFGANG VON** (1749-1832). German poet, writer, dramatist and scientist. *Faust* is his famous work.
- ❑ **GOLDING, SIR WILLIAM** (1911-93). British novelist. Wrote many books including *Lord of the Flies*. Won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983.
- ❑ **GOLDSMITH, OLIVER** (1728-74). Anglo-Irish playwright, novelist and poet *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Deserted Village* are important works.
- ❑ **GOODYEAR, CHARLES** (1800-60). Inventor of vulcanised rubber which is used in tyres.
- ❑ **GOPALAKRISHNA GOKHALE** (1866-1915) Political guru of Gandhiji. Leader of moderate group in the Congress Party. Founded The Servants of India Society.
- ❑ **GOPALAKRISHNAN, ADOOR** (b. 1941). Indian scriptwriter and film director. His best known films are *Swayamvaram, Mathilukal, Vidheyam* and *Kathapurushan*.
- ❑ **GOPI** (b. 1937) Malayalam film actor. Real name is V. Gopinathan Nair. Won the National Award for Best Actor in 1977 for his role in the film *Kodiyettam*. Twice he won the state award for Best Actor.
- ❑ **GORBACHEV, MIKHAIL** (b. 1934). Russian statesman and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of USSR (effectively head of state) 1985-91 and executive President 1990-91. Introduced the policy of Glasnost ('openness') and Perestroika ('restructuring').
- ❑ **GOVINDA MENON, PANAMPILLI** (1908-70) Chief Minister of Cochin in 1948. He had been a member of the Indian Constitutional Committee and was a Central Minister 1962-67.
- ❑ **GOVINDAN, M.** (1919-89). Malayali poet, philosopher and critic. He started two magazines, *Gopuram* and *Veekshanam* and was the leader of the Neo-Humanist Movement in Malayalam.
- ❑ **GRAF, STEFFI** (b. 1969). Steffi Graf is a German tennis player.
- ❑ **GRASS, GÜNTER** (b. 1927) German author who won the 1999 Nobel Prize for Literature. Works include *The Tin Drum*, *Dog Years*, *The Rats* and *My Century*.
- ❑ **GUJRAL, I.K.** (b. 1919) Twelfth Prime Minister of India (1997-98). Earlier he had been in the Union Cabinet 1967-76 and 1989-90. He was Minister for External Affairs.
- ❑ **GULZARILAL NANDA** (1898-1998) was a freedom fighter, Gandhian and twice interim Prime Minister of India after Nehru's and Lal Bahadur Shastri's deaths. He was the first Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.
- ❑ **GUNDERT, DR. HERMAN** (1814-93). German linguist who came to India as a missionary. He compiled the first Malayalam dictionary in 1872, and started the first Malayalam newspaper, *Rajya-samacharam*.

- **GURU DUTT** (1925-64) was a well known film actor and director.
- **GUSMAO, XANANA.** Xanana Gusmao is the rebel leader of East Timor who led the fight for autonomy for his country.
- **GUTENBERG, JOHANNES** (1400-68). German printer who invented the printing process with moveable type and introduced printing books.
- **HAHN, OTTO** (1879-1968). German physicist. In 1938 he created the first chemical evidence of nuclear fission by bombarding uranium with neutrons.
- **HALLEY, EDMUND** (1656-1742). British astronomer who discovered Halley's Comet, and it is named after him.
- **HAMMARSKJÖLD, DAG** (1905-61). Second Secretary-General of the United Nations and only one to die in harness. He was Swedish.
- **HANNIMAN, SAMUEL** (1755-1843). German physician who is considered the Father of Homeopathy.
- **HARDY, THOMAS** (1840-1928). British novelist and poet. *Far From the Madding Crowd* is considered his masterpiece. Other novels are *The Return of the Native*, *The Mayor of Caster-bridge*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* etc.
- **HARSHA, KUM (INDIRA)** (b. 1987). India's first scientifically documented test-tube baby (August 6, 1987).
- **HARSHAVARDHANA** (AD 606-647). Hindu but later converted to Buddhism. He was, however, tolerant towards all religions. He moved his capital from Thaneshwar to Kanauj. Hieun-tsang was a Chinese traveller who stayed in India during the reign of Harshavardhana. Banabhatta was the court poet of Harshavardhana. *Naganda*, *Priyadarshika* and *Ratnavali* are supposed to be written by him.
- **HARVEY, WILLIAM** (1578-1657). British physician who discovered the circulation of the blood. Governor-General of Bengal. . Notable events during his period were supreme court established in 1774, abolition of double government system. Impeached in the British Parliament for dereliction of duty and corruption, he was later freed from all charges.
- **HAVEL, VACLAV** (b. 1936). Czech statesman, poet and playwright. Imprisoned under the Communist regime of Czecho-slovakia, later became President of Czechoslovakia 1989-92 and then became the first President of the Czech Republic.
- **HAWKING, STEPHEN** (b. 1942). British theoretical physicist and a professor at Cambridge University. His popular writings include the best-selling book *A Brief History of Time*. He suffers from multiple sclerosis and is so severely handicapped that he can only talk through his computer.
- **HAZARIKA, DR. BHUPENDRA KUMAR** (b. 1926). Renowned film maker, composer of lyrics and music. Won the 1993 Phalke Award. Appointed Chairman of the Sangeeth Nataka Academy.
- **HEANEY, SEAMUS** (b. 1939). Irish poet. Famous works are *Death of a Naturalist*, *Field Work* and *Station Island*. Won many prizes, including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995 and the 1999 Whitbread Award.
- **HEMINGWAY, ERNEST** (1899-1961). US writer and novelist who, in 1954, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for his book *The Old Man and the Sea*. Other books include *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Sun Also Rises*.
- **HENRY, O.** (1862-1910). Pseudonym of William Sydney Porter, a US writer and master of the short story.
- **HERODOTUS** (c.485-c.425 BC) Greek historian called the Father of History.
- **HERTZ, HEINRICH** (1857-94). German physicist. The unit of frequency is named after him.
- **HIDAYATULLAH, MOHAMMED** (1905-92). Mohammed Hidayatullah was Vice-President of India 1979-84. He was a jurist and was Chief Justice of India 1968-70.
- **HILLARY, EDMUND** (b. 1919). New Zealander who was part of John Hunt's expedition and the first man in the world to conquer Mount Everest (1953) along with an Indian mountaineer-guide, Tenzing Norgay.
- **HINGIS, MARTINA** (b. 1981). Martina Hingis is a Swiss tennis player. She was the youngest Wimbledon champion of this century and attained this feat when she was 16 years old.
- **HIPPOCRATES** (c.460-c.377 BC) Greek physician known as the Father of Medicine.
- **HIROHITO** (1901-1989) Japanese Emperor for 62 years. He renounced his divinity in 1946 following the defeat of Japan in World War II.
- **HITCHCOCK, ALFRED** (1899-1980). British film director known as the Master of Suspense. Among his many films are *Psycho*, *The Thirty-nine Steps*, *The Lady Vanishes*, *The Birds* and *North by North-West*.
- **HITLER, ADOLF** (1889-1945). Austrian-born German dictator who influenced the course of history in the 20th century. Author of *Mein Kampf* ('My Struggle') which he wrote in prison.
- **HUEN-TSANG** (7th Century AD) Chinese Buddhist pilgrim who came to India to study Buddhism during the time of Harshavardhana. His book *Si-Yu-Ki* gives an account of then India.
- **HOBBS, THOMAS** (1588-1679). British political philosopher who favoured supremacy of state above everything. Author of *Leviathan*.
- **HO CHI-MINH** (1892-1969) Vietnamese revolutionary Communist leader who organised the League of Independence (Viet Minh) against French rule. He was the first President of North Vietnam.
- **HOMER** (9th century BC) was a Greek poet, the author of the classic epics, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.
- **HOMI J. BHABHA** (1909-66) Indian physicist, considered the Father of Indian Nuclear Science. Responsible for creating the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Trombay. First Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Under his guidance, the nation's first atomic reactor Apsara was commissioned in 1956.
- **HRISHIKESH MUKHERJEE** Film director awarded the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 1999. His films include *Chupke Chupke*, *Gol Mal*, *Khub Sooret*, *Rang Birangi*, *Anari*, *Anuradha*, *Anupama*, *Anand*, *Abhiman* and *Namak Haram*.
- **HUGO, VICTOR** (1802-85). French author, the most prolific writer of the 19th century. Best known of his books are *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Les Miserables*.
- **HUME, A.O.** (1829-1912). Retired English member of the Indian Civil Service who founded the Indian National Congress in 1885. Also the first General-Secretary of the INC.
- **HUSSAIN, M.F.** (b. 1915). World famous Indian painter. Called the Bare-Foot Painter. His famous paintings are *Lighting Horses*, *Shira Nataraja*, *Mother Theresa*.
- **HUSSAIN, ZAKIR** (1887-1969). Third President of India (1967-69) and the second Vice-President (1962-67). A staunch nationalist and educationist. Awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1963. Shortest serving President of India. - two years.
- **HUSSEIN, KING OF JORDAN** (1935-99). Jordan's King Hussein was on the throne from 1952 for 47 years. His full name was Hussein bin Abdullah al Hashem.
- **HUSSEIN, SADDAM** (b. 1937). Saddam Hussein has been President and Prime Minister of Iraq since 1979.
- **HUXLEY, ALDOUS** (1894-1963). British novelist and essayist. His books include *Chrome Yellow*, *Antic Hay*, *Point Counter Point* and his best-known book is *Brave New World*.
- **HUXLEY, SIR JULIAN** (1887-1975). British biologist and first Director-General of UNESCO (1946-48).
- **IBN BATUTA** (14th Century AD) was a great scholar and traveller from South Africa who visited India in 1333 AD during the reign of Mohammed Tughlaq and wrote a chronicle on him. He was appointed Chief Qazi of Delhi by the Sultan and subsequently as his ambassador to China (1324).
- **IBRAHIM LODHI** (15th Century AD) was the last king of the Lodhi Dynasty and the last Sultan of Delhi. Defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat (1526).
- **IBSEN, HENRIK** (1828-1906). Norwegian dramatist known as the Father of Modern Drama.
- **ILAIYARAJA** (b. 1943) Indian musician and the only Asian whose symphony *Fusion* was recorded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London.

- ❑ **ILLANKO ADIKAL** (2nd Century AD) was the author of the Tamil classic *Chilapathikaram*.
- ❑ **ILTUTMISH** (1210-36) was a slave of Qutub-ud-Din Aibak and occupied the throne of Delhi in 1210-11 after the death of Qutub-ud-Din Aibak. He completed the construction of Qutub Minar started by Qutub-ud-Din Aibak.
- ❑ **IMRAN KHAN** (b. 1952) Pakistan's captain when Pakistan won the World Cup in 1992. He entered politics by launching his Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement of Justice) Party.
- ❑ **IQBAL, MOHAMMED** (1875-1938) Indian poet and philosopher. His song *Sare Jahan Se Acha* inspired freedom fighters during the struggle for independence.
- ❑ **IRVING, WASHINGTON** (1783-1859). US writer known as the Father of American Literature.
- ❑ **ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR** (1820-98) Indian social reformer and educationist from Bengal. His pressure led to the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1856 during Lord Dalhousie's time. He was a co-founder of Bethune School, the first school exclusive for women.
- ❑ **JACKSON, JESSE** (b. 1941). The Rev. Jesse Jackson is a US clergyman and civil rights campaigner.
- ❑ **JAYA DEVA** Author of *Gita Govinda*.
- ❑ **JAYARAJ** noted Malayalam film director. He received the National Best Director Award in 1998 for *Kaliattam*. His *Karunam* won the Golden Peacock Award at the 2000 International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- ❑ **JEFFERSON, THOMAS** (1743-1826). American statesman and third President of USA. The US Constitution was largely drafted by him.
- ❑ **JEHANGIR** (1569-1627). Salim, known to history as Jehangir, came to throne after Akbar's death in 1605 AD and ruled to 1627. Known for his strict administration of justice. His wife Nurjahan took an active interest in matters of state and also ruled the empire when Jehangir was ill for a long time. In 1608, Captain William Hawkins, and in 1615 Sir Thomas Roe, an ambassador of King James I of England visited his court.
- ❑ **JENNER, EDWARD** (1749-1823). British physician who discovered the vaccination for smallpox.
- ❑ **JESUS CHRIST** (c.4 BC - c.AD 29), the founder of Christianity, was born in about 4 BC in Bethlehem near Jerusalem. Crucified in AD 29.
- ❑ **JINNAH, MOHAMMAD ALI** (1876-1948). The founder of the separate Muslim state of Pakistan and Governor-General of Pakistan after the partition.
- ❑ **JOAN OF ARC** (c.1412-31) was the French girl, also known as the Maid of Orleans, who led the French against the English. She was about 19 when she was burned at stake as a witch. Canonised in 1920.
- ❑ **JOHN, KING OF ENGLAND** (1167-1216). King John was king of England from 1199 to 1216 was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215- the Bible of the English Constitution.
- ❑ **JOHNSON, ANDREW** (1808-75). Andrew Johnson was the 17th President of USA 1865-69, the first president in American history to be impeached.
- ❑ **JOHNSON, SAMUEL** (1709-84). Samuel Johnson, known as Dr. Johnson, was a British lexicographer, critic and poet.
- ❑ **JONES, SIR WILLIAM** (1746-94). Famous Indologist who established the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784. He translated *Abhijnana Shakuntalam* into English.
- ❑ **JONSON, BEN** (1572-1637). Ben Jonson, full name Benjamin Jonson, was an English dramatist.
- ❑ **JORDAN, MICHAEL** (b. 1963). US basketball player, twice Olympic gold medallist. He is known as Air Jordan.
- ❑ **JOSHI, PANDIT BHIMSIN GURURAJ** (b. 1922). Internationally acclaimed Hindustani vocalist who led the renaissance of Indian classical music.
- ❑ **JOYCE, JAMES** (1882-1941). Irish writer whose book *Ulysses* is ranked as the best book of the last century.
- ❑ **JUNG, CARL** (1875-1961). Swiss psychiatrist, with Sigmund Freud, one of the most influential in the world of psychiatry.
- ❑ **JYOTHIRMONEYE SIKDAR** Indian athlete who won two gold medals at the Bangkok Asian Games for 800 m. and 1,500 m. She received the 1998 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- ❑ **KABILA, LAUREN** Congo's dictator who was assassinated in January 2001.
- ❑ **KABIR DAS** (1440-1518) was a Hindi poet who was one of the greatest exponents of the Bhakti movement. He believed in the equality of all religions and unity of Hindus and Muslims.
- ❑ **KADAR, VAKKOM ABDUL** (1917-43). Indian freedom fighter who was hanged on September 10th, 1943.
- ❑ **KAKKANADAN** (b. 1935) Malayalam short story writer; his real name is George Varghese.
- ❑ **KALHANA** (10th Century) Kashmiri poet and author of *Rajatharangini* which describes the history of Kashmir up to the 10th century.
- ❑ **KALIDAS** (c.400 AD) was India's greatest Sanskrit poet and dramatist known as the Shakespeare of India. His famous works are *Abhijnana Shakuntala*, *Reghuvamsah*, *Meghdoot*, *Kumara Sambhava*, *Malvikagnimitra*.
- ❑ **KALPANA CHAWLA** (b. 1952) was the first Indian woman to walk in space from the space shuttle Columbia.
- ❑ **KANISHKA** (2nd Century AD) was the greatest king of the Kushan dynasty (AD 12-162). He started a new era known as Saka Era, starting from AD 78 and also held the fourth Buddhist Council.
- ❑ **KAPIL DEV** (b. 1959) is a former Indian cricket captain. Under his captaincy India won the 1983 World Cup. He is known as *Haryana Hurricane*.
- ❑ **KAPUR, SHEKHAR**. Noted Indian film maker. He is the director of *Elizabeth*. Earlier he directed the controversial film, *Bandit Queen*.
- ❑ **KARANTH, SHIVARAMA** (1901-97) Kannada writer, playwright educationist, environmentalist and social worker. Won the Jnanpith Award for his *Mukkajjiya Kanasugalu*.
- ❑ **KARNAD, GIRISH RAGHUNATH** (b. 1938). Girish Raghunath Karnad is the noted Indian playwright, actor and director who won the 1998 Jnanpith Award.
- ❑ **KARUN, SHAJI N.** Malayalam film director. He received world acclaim for his movie *Piravi*. Other films are *Swam* and *Vanaprastham*.
- ❑ **KAUR, RAJKUMARI AMRIT** (1889-1964). Independent India's first Health Minister in Nehru's cabinet.
- ❑ **KELAPPAN, KIZHARIYOOR** (1890-1971) Indian social reformer, Sarvodaya leader known as Kerala Gandhi.
- ❑ **KELLER, HELEN** (1880-1968). US deaf and blind author and educator.
- ❑ **KENNEDY, JOHN F.** (1917-63). 35th President of USA. First Roman Catholic president and the youngest President of USA. *Why England Slept* and *Profile in Courage* are the two most famous of his books.
- ❑ **KERALA VARMA PAZHASI RAJA** (1753-1805) was a brave patriot who led his army against Tipu Sultan's attack on Malabar and later the English. Known as Kerala Simham.
- ❑ **KERALA VARMA VALIYAKOI THAMPURAN** (1845-1914) known as the Father of Modern Malayalam Prose and Kerala Kalidasan. *Mayoorasandesham* is his well known book.
- ❑ **KESAVADAS, RAJA** (1745-99). First Dewan of Travancore. Popularly known as Valiya Diwanji.
- ❑ **KESAVADEV, P.** (1905-83). Malayalam novelist whose works include *Odayil Ninnu*, *Nadi*, *Ayalkar*, *Tharavadu* and *Oru Muri Thenga*.
- ❑ **KEYNES, JOHN MAYNARD** (1883-1946). John Maynard Keynes was a British economist.
- ❑ **KHAN, SYED AHMED** (1817-89). Muslim educationist and reformer. Founded the Aligarh Muslim University.
- ❑ **KHOMEINI, RUHOLLAH** (1900-89). Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was the spiritual and political leader of Iran 1979-89. Who

issued the famous fatwa against Salman Rushdie.

- **KHURAM BOSE** (1889-1908) was an Indian revolutionary.
- **KHURANA, HAR GOBIND** (b. 1922). An Indian-born American citizen who was awarded the 1968 the Nobel Prize for Medicine for the laboratory synthesis of a yeast gene for the first time.
- **KHUSHWANT SINGH** is a contemporary journalist. His famous works include *History of the Sikhs, The Sikhs Today, Train to Pakistan, The Men and Women in My Life* and *Truth, Love and a Little Malice, The Company of Women*. His latest book is *Book of Unforgettable Women*.
- **KIM DAE JUNG** (b. 1925) President of South Korea. He won the 2000 Nobel Prize for Peace. As President he instituted a 'Sunshine Policy', a programme of reconciliation with North Korea.
- **KING, BILLIE JEAN** (b. 1943). Billie Jean King is a US tennis player.
- **KING, MARTIN LUTHER** (1929-68). Black American clergyman and civil rights leader. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964.
- **KINGSLEY, BEN** (b. 1944). British actor who played the role of Gandhiji in Richard Attenborough's film, *Gandhi*, for which he won the Best Actor Oscar in 1982.
- **KIPLING, RUDYARD** (1865-1936). British writer, born in India. Among his works are *The Jungle Book, Kim, The Light that Failed, Barrack Room Ballads, Just So Stories* etc. First British author to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature (1907).
- **KIRAN BEDI** (b. 1949) India's first woman IPS officer (1972). Author of *I Dare*. Won the Magsaysay for improving conditions in prisons.
- **KISSINGER, HENRY** (b. 1923). US academician and statesman. Became President Nixon's National Security Advisor in 1969 and in 1973 Secretary of State (i.e. Foreign Secretary), a position he kept under President Ford. He invented what became known as 'shuttle-service diplomacy' – dashing with great energy from one capital to another, often with very little notice.
- **KOCH, ROBERT** (1843-1910). German bacteriologist. He won the 1905 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.
- **KOHL, HELMUT** (b. 1930). Chancellor of Germany for sixteen years, from 1982 to 1998 and presided over the unification of West and East Germany in 1990.
- **KOTTARAKARA THAMPURAN** (17th Century AD) Known as the Founder of Ramanattam and author of *Ramanujam Attakatha*.
- **KOTTAYAM THAMPURAN** (1645-1705) was a writer of Attakathas and a reformer of Kathakali. *Bakavadham, Kirmeera-vadham* and *Kalyana Saugandhikam* are his famous Attakathas.
- **KRIPALANI, ACHARYA** (1882-1982). Freedom fighter who was President of Congress when India became independent.
- **KRIPALANI, SUCHETA** (1908-74). Freedom fighter and first woman Chief Minister of a state of independent India (Uttar Pradesh 1963-67).
- **KRISHNA DEVA RAYA** (15th Century) was great Indian ruler of South India (1509-1530). His famous Sanskrit work was *Amukta Malya*.
- **KRISHNA MENON, V.K.** (1896-1974). Indian politician and diplomat from Kozhikode, Kerala.
- **KRISHNAMURTI J.** (1895-1986). One of the most profound Indian philosophers of international reputation.
- **KRISHNA PILLAI, CHANGAMPUZHA** (1911-48) was a famous Malayalam poet. Main works include *Ramanan Vazhakkula* etc.
- **KRISHNA PILLAI, E.V.** (1894-1938). well known satirist, actor, journalist and advocate, known as the Kerala Ibsen.
- **KUBLAI KHAN** (1216-94) was the first Mongol emperor of China, grandson of Genghis Khan.
- **KULASEKHARA ALWAR** (AD 767-834) was one of the 12 Vaishnava saints.
- **KUMBLE, ANIL** (b. 1970). Indian cricketer who made cricket history by taking all ten Pakistani wickets in a test match, the first Indian to achieve this, and only the second in the history of cricket.
- **KUNJABULLA, PUNATHIL** (b. 1941) Malayalam novelist who severely criticised the snobbish attitude of society in his novels.
- **KUNJUNNI** (b. 1927) is a famous writer who writes mainly for children. His writings are known for their epigrammatic quality.
- **KURIEN, DR. VERGHESE** (b. 1921). Indian technocrat brain behind Operation Flood, known as Father of India's White Revolution. First Indian to win the International Dairy Person Award in 1993. He was Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand (Gujarat).
- **KUTTIKRISHNAN P.C.** (1915-79) Malayalam writer, popularly known as Uroob. *Ummachu, Amina, Aniyara, Mindapennu, Thurannitta Jalakam, Sundarikalum Sundaranmarum* are his famous books.
- **LALA LAJPAT RAI** (1865-1928) Extremist leader of Congress. He was severely injured while protesting against Simon Commission report. Called Sher-e-Punjab (Punjab Kesari).
- **LAKSHMIBAI, RANI OF JHANSI** (1835-58) Ruler of Jhansi, a great warrior of India who took part in the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857.
- **LALITHAMBIKA, ANTHERJANAM** (1903-87) Indian writer. *Agnisakshi* (which won the first Vayjalar Rama Varma Award), and *Punarjanmam* are her works.
- **LAMB, CHARLES** (1775-1834). British writer who became famous for his informal, personal essays and his literary criticism.
- **LANDSTEINER, KARL** (1868-1943). US scientist who discovered the RH blood factor and blood groups.
- **LAO-TZU** (c. 6th Century BC). Chinese philosopher who founded Taoism, 'The Path to Virtue'.
- **LARA, BRIAN** (b. 1969). West Indian cricketer who holds the world record for highest individual score in Test (375) and first class cricket.
- **LATYNINA, LARISSA** (b. 1935). Ukrainian gymnast who between 1956 and 1964 collected 18 Olympic medals (including nine gold), a record for any sport.
- **LAVOISIER, ANTOINE** (1743-94). French chemist who first established that air contains two gases: oxygen and nitrogen, called Father of Modern Chemistry.
- **LAXMAN, R.K.** (b. 1927). Outstanding Indian cartoonist who won the Magsaysay Award in 1984.
- **LEAN, DAVID** (1908-91). One of the greatest postwar British film directors. His films *The Bridge on the River Kwai, Lawrence of Arabia, Doctor Zhivago, Ryan's Daughter* and *A Passage to India*.
- **LEEUWENHOEK, ANTONY VAN** (1632-1723). Dutch scientist who perfected the use of microscope.
- **LEIBNITZ, G.W.** (1646-1716). German mathematician, philosopher. who invented calculating machine.
- **LENIN, VLADIMIR** (1870-1924). Leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917. Originally called Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov.
- **LEONARDO DA VINCI** (1452-1519) Italian painter, sculptor and architect of the Renaissance. *Mona Lisa, The Last Supper* are his paintings.
- **LESSEPS, FERDINAND** (1805-94). French engineer who planned the Suez Canal and Panama Canal.
- **LEWIS, CARL** (b. 1961). US athlete who won four gold medals in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles (100 metres, 200 m, long jump and 4 x 100 m relay); and two more in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. He won the long jump medal at four successive Olympics.
- **LIAQUAT ALIKHAN** (1895-1951) was a Pakistani statesman and first Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- **LIE, TRYGVE** (1896-1968). First Secretary-General of the United Nations. He was Norwegian.
- **LINCOLN, ABRAHAM** (1809-65). 16th President of USA, 1861-5 who proclaimed the freedom of the slaves. He was the first leader of the Republican Party formed to oppose slavery.
- **LINDBERGH, CHARLES** (1902-74). US aviator who made the first solo trans Atlantic flight from New York to Paris in 1927 in his plane *The Spirit of St. Louis*.
- **LINNAEUS, CAROLUS** (1707-78). Swedish naturalist considered the founder of modern taxonomy.

- ❑ **LISTER, JOSEPH** (1827-1912). British surgeon who discovered the cause of sepsis and introduced an antiseptic into the operating theatre to prevent it.
- ❑ **LIVINGSTONE, DAVID** (1813-73). First European to explore many parts of central and eastern Africa and discover Victoria Falls.
- ❑ **LOUIS XIV** (1638-1715) King of France from 1643 until his death -the longest ruling French king (61 years). He was called Le Grande Monarque – the Great Monarch and also The Sun King. He build the Palace of Versailles.
- ❑ **LUMIÈRE, AUGUSTE** (1862-1954). French inventor of photographic equipment. With his brother, Louis Jean Lumière, he invented the cine-camera in 1893 and two years later they demonstrated a moving picture for the first time.
- ❑ **LUTHER, MARTIN** (1483-1546). German religious reformer and the founder of the Protestant form of Christianity.
- ❑ **LUTYENS, SIR EDWIN** (1869-1944). Sir British architect who planned New Delhi and Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❑ **MACAULAY, THOMAS** (1800-59). British poet and historian,an Indian Civil servant who played a significant role in introducing English as a medium of instruction and education.
- ❑ **MACDONALD, RAMSAY** (1866-1937). James Ramsay MacDonald was first Labour Prime Minister of Great Britain 1924, 1929-31 and 1931-5.
- ❑ **MACHIAVELLI, NICCOLO** (1469-1527). The author of *The Prince*, (1532) in which he propounded his political philosophy, this is his most well known work.
- ❑ **MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA** (1861-1946) was a prominent lawyer of Allahabad who founded the Benares Hindu University.
- ❑ **MAGELLAN, FERDINAND** (c.1480-1521). Portuguese navigator who discovered the Pacific Ocean and the first to circumnavigate the world.
- ❑ **MAGSAYSAY, RAMON**. Ramon Magsaysay was President of the Philippines 1953-57. The Magsaysay Award, known as Asia's Nobel Prize, is given in his memory.
- ❑ **MAHALANOBIS, P.C.** (1893-1972). Indian economist, statistician and physicist known for Mahalanobis Model in planning. Founder of the Central Statistical Organisation, the Indian Statistical Organisation and the National Sample Survey Organisation.
- ❑ **MAHASWETA DEVI** Bengali writer. Winner of the Jnanpith Award 1996 and Magsaysay Award 1997 for crusading for the cause of the oppressed tribal under class in India.
- ❑ **MAJROOH SULTAN PURI** Indian lyricist. First Hindi film lyricist to be honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 1993.
- ❑ **MALAYATTOOR RAMAKRISHNAN** (1928-98) Malayalam novelist and former IAS officer. His famous books are *Yanthram*, *Yakshi*, *Verukal*, *Ponni* and *Dwandvayudham*. *Shirasil Varachatu* is an unfinished novel by him.
- ❑ **MALHOTRA, ANNA** (b. 1927). First woman IAS officer in India, the first woman Sub-Collector and Secretary.
- ❑ **MALLESWARI, KARNAM** (b. 1976). Indian weightlifter who won bronze medal at Sydney Olympics.
- ❑ **MALTHUS, THOMAS ROBERT** (1766-1834). British economist and author of *Essay on the Principle of Population*.
- ❑ **MANDELA, NELSON** (b. 1918). Frst black President of South Africa. Shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. *Long Walk to Freedom* is his autobiography.
- ❑ **MANGESHKAR LATA** (b. 1929) Playback singer known as the Melody Queen of India, won Bharat Ratna 2000.
- ❑ **MANMOHAN SINGH** Indian economist and Union Finance Minister who introduced the New Economic Policy in 1991.
- ❑ **MANSINGH, SONAL** (b. 1944) is a famous Bharatnatayam and Oddissi dancer.
- ❑ **MANU** (c. 3110 BC) ancient Law Giver of India and author of *Manu Smriti*.
- ❑ **MAO TSE-TUNG** (1893-1976), Founder of Communist China in 1949 and became its President, as well as being Chairman of the Communist Party until his death. In 1958 he launched his Great Leap Forward (rural and agricultural reforms) and in 1965 the Cultural Revolution.
- ❑ **MARADONA, DIEGO** (b. 1960) Argentinian footballer who captained Argentina when they won their second World Cup in 1986.
- ❑ **MARCONI, GUGLIELMO** (1874-1937). Italian physicist who invented the radio and wireless system.
- ❑ **MARCO POLO** (1254-1323) Italian traveller who was the first European to visit China ,visited coastal areas of India.
- ❑ **MARLOWE, CHRISTOPHER** (1564-93). Christopher Marlowe was a great English playwright and poet. His works include *Tamburlaine the Great*, *The Jew of Malta* and his greatest work, *The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus*.
- ❑ **MARSHALL, GEORGE** (1880-1959). US general and statesman awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1953 for evolving a strategy for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II, called the Marshall Plan.
- ❑ **MARTHANDA VARMA** (1706-58) Builder of modern Travancore. He built the famous Padmanabha Swami Temple in 1731-33. Famous poet like Ramapurath Warriar and Kunjan Nambiar adorned his court. Defeated the Dutch in the Battle of Kulachal.
- ❑ **MARX, KARL** (1818-83). Father of Communism. Author of *Das Kapital* (1848) and in collaboration with Friedrich Engels he published *The Communist Manifesto* .
- ❑ **MASCREEN, ANNIE** (1902-63). Indian freedom fighter from Kerala known as the Jhansi Rani of Travancore.
- ❑ **MAULANA MOHAMMED ALI** (1878-1931) Indian nationalist and leader of the Kilafat agitation. Editor of *Comrade* (English) and *Hamdard* (Urdu).
- ❑ **MAUPASSANT, GUY DE** (1850-93). French novelist and short story writer whose writings show penetrating realism.
- ❑ **MAZZINI, GIUSEPPE** (1805-72). Italian patriot who founded the Young Italy Movement, a movement of Italian youth to unify Italy.
- ❑ **MEDHA PATKAR** (b. 1956) Indian environmentalist, social activist and leader of NBA fighting against the Narmada dam.
- ❑ **MEGASTHENES** (300 BC) Greek Ambassador at the court of Chandragupta Maurya, sent by Seleucus. His work is *Indica*.
- ❑ **MEHTA, ZUBIN** (b. 1936). Indian-born musician who was recently awarded Padma Vibhushan.
- ❑ **MENUHIN, YEHUDI** (1916-99). Yehudi Menuhin was a US-born violinist.
- ❑ **MERCHANT, ISMAIL**. Well known film director.
- ❑ **MICHELANGELO** (1475-1564) Italian painter, sculptor and architect who designed the famous Sistine Chapel, Pieta and Last Judgement.
- ❑ **MIHIR SEN** (1930-97) A famous Indian swimmer who swam the English chanel for the first time and all seven straits in one calendar year.
- ❑ **MILL, JOHN STUART** (1806-73). John Stuart Mill was a British empiricist philosopher and utilitarian reformer.
- ❑ **MILLER, ARTHUR** (b. 1915). US dramatist whose works include *All My Sons*, *Death of a Salesman* (which won him Pulitzer Prize in 1949), *The Crucible*, *A View from the Bridge* and *Playing for Time*.
- ❑ **MIRA BEHN** (1892) English woman named Madelaine Slade who became Gandhiji's disciple.
- ❑ **MONTESSORI, MARIA** (1870-1952) Italian educationist and founder of Montessori System of education.
- ❑ **MORSE, SAMUEL** (1791-1872). US artist and inventor of morse code (1838).
- ❑ **MOTION, ANDREW** (b. 1952). New Poet Laureate of England who succeeded Ted Hughes.
- ❑ **MUHAMMAD** (AD 570-632). Prophet Muhammad was the founder of Islam. Born in AD 570 at Mecca. In 622 he was forced to flee from Mecca to Medina, which is known as Hijra. After he returned to Mecca the Caliphate was established. He taught that there is only one God.
- ❑ **MUNDASSERI, JOSEPH** (1903-77). The first Education Minister of Kerala. *Kozhinja Ilakal* is his autobiography.
- ❑ **MUNSHI, K.M.** (1887-1971). Freedom fighter, , writer, educationist and constitutional law expert. Founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Movement, a pioneer of Grow More Trees Movement. Started the *Vana Mahotsava* .
- ❑ **MUSHARRAF, GEN. PERVEZ**. The self-styled Chief Executive of Pakistan who staged a coup in October 1999 and ousted the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif. Earlier he was Chief of Army Staff.
- ❑ **MUSSOLINI, BENITO** (1883-1945). Dictator of Italy 1922-43 and founder of fascism.
- ❑ **MUTHUSWAMI DIKSHITAR** (1775-1835) was a highly proficient musician. He is considered one of the trinity in Carnatic music, the

other two being Thyagaraja and Shyama Shastri.

- ❑ **MYRDAL, GUNNAR** (1898-1987). Swedish economist, politician and civil servant who won the 1974 Nobel Prize for Economics and author of *American Dilemma* and *Asian Drama*.
- ❑ **NADIRSHAH** (17th Century) Persian king who invaded India in 1739 in the reign of Mohammed Shah.
- ❑ **NAGARJUNA** (c. AD 150- c. 250) one of India's great philosophers, from Andhra Pradesh who wrote *Rasaratnakara*, *Dvadasa Sastra* and *Sata Shashtra*.
- ❑ **NAGENDRA SINGH** First Indian to become a judge and later President of the International Court of Justice.
- ❑ **NAIPAUL, V.S.** (b. 1932). Vidiadhar Surajprasad, is a West Indian novelist of Indian descent, now living in England. Among his works are *An Area of Darkness*, *India, A Wounded Civilisation*, *A House for Mr. Biswas*, *The Mimic Men*, *A Bend in the River* and *Beyond Belief*. His *In a Free State* won the 1971 Booker Prize.
- ❑ **NAIR, MIRA** (b. 1957). Indian film director of world renown. She directed the film *Salaam Bombay* which won the prestigious Golden Camera Award at the Cannes in 1988. She also directed *Mississippi Masala*, *Perez Family* and *Kama Sutra*.
- ❑ **NAMBOOTHIRIPAD, E.M.S.** (1909-98). Elamkulam Manackal Sankaran Namboothiripad headed the first-ever Communist government to be elected through the ballot box anywhere in the world. He became Chief Minister of Kerala for the first time in April 1957. His government was dismissed in 1959. He became Chief Minister for the second time in 1967.
- ❑ **NANAK, GURU** (1469-1538). Guru Nanak, who was instrumental in the development of Sikhism.
- ❑ **NANDA LAL BOSE** was an Indian artist known as the Father of Modern Painting in India.
- ❑ **NAPOLEON** (1769-1821). Nicknamed Little Corporal he was a French statesman, Emperor of France, the most brilliant general of his time. Finally defeated in the Battle of Waterloo.
- ❑ **NARASIMHA RAO, P.V.** (b.1920) was the ninth Prime Minister of India (1991-96). He is the only Prime Minister to be convicted in a criminal case.
- ❑ **NARAYAN, JAYAPRAKASH** (1902-79). A Sarvodaya leader of India. Popularly known as Loknayak. *Prison Diary* is a book written by him.
- ❑ **NARAYAN, R.K.** (b. 1906). Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan is an Indian writer writing in English. His books include *The Guide*, *Swami and Friends*, *The Vendor of Sweets*, *Mr. Sampat*, *Maneater of Malgudi* and his autobiography *My Days*.
- ❑ **NARAYANAN, K.R.** (b. 1921). Kocheril Raman Narayanan is the 10th President of India. He is the first Malayali and first Dalit to occupy the high post.
- ❑ **NARAYANA PANICKAR, KAVALAM** (b. 1928) Malayalam poet and playwright. *Daivatham*, *Kadamba*, *Suryathanam* are his major works.
- ❑ **NARGIS DUTT** First lady of the Indian screen to have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Famous for her film *Mother India*.
- ❑ **NARLIKAR, DR. JAYANT V.** (b. 1938). Dr. Jayant V. Narlikar is an Indian astronomer.
- ❑ **NASSER, COLONEL** (1918-70). Prime Minister of Egypt 1954-6 and President 1956-70. He was a founder of Non-Aligned Movement with Jawaharlal Nehru and President Tito of Yugoslavia.
- ❑ **NATHAN, S.R.** Sellapan Rama Nathan was elected President of Singapore unopposed.
- ❑ **NAVRAILOVA, MARTINA** (b. 1956). Czecho-slovakian-born tennis player. She became a naturalised US citizen in 1981. Holder of a record nine Wimbledon singles titles.
- ❑ **NAYANAR, E.K.** (b. 1919). E.K. Nayanar is a Communist leader, the longest-serving Chief Minister of Kerala. He took an active part in the Kayyur Strike. *My Struggles* is his autobiography.
- ❑ **NAYYAR, KULDIP.** Kuldip Nayyar is an Indian journalist.
- ❑ **NEHRU, JAWAHARLAL** (1889-1964). First and longest serving Prime Minister of India, 1947-64. Known as the Father of Modern India and the Architect of the Nation. Co-founder of NAM and put forth the Panchasheel doctrine. He wrote *The Discovery of India*, *Glimpses of World History* and *Letters from Prison*.
- ❑ **NEHRU, MOTILAL** (1861-1931), father of Jawaharlal Nehru, a nationalist leader of the Gandhian era, and a noted lawyer of the Allahabad High Court. Donated his palatial house, Anand Bhavan (later known as Swaraj Bhavan), to the Congress Party.
- ❑ **NELSON, LORD** (1758-1805). British admiral and hero. His most famous victory was the Battle of Trafalgar.
- ❑ **NEWTON, SIR ISAAC** (1642-1727). English mathematician and physicist famous for his discovery of the Law of Gravitation, three laws of motion, differential calculus, composition of light etc. Author of *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*.
- ❑ **NICHOLAS II** (1868-1918) last Tsar of Russia, 1895-1917.
- ❑ **NIGHTINGALE, FLORENCE** (1820-1910). A devoted British nurse who reformed the nursing profession. Known as the Lady with the Lamp.
- ❑ **NIRMALA, SISTER.** Successor of Mother Theresa as head of the order of Missionaries of Charity.
- ❑ **NIVEDITA, SISTER** (1867-1911). Sister Nivedita, real name Margaret Elizabeth Nobel, was an Irishwoman who became a disciple of Swami Vivekananda and took the name Nivedita ('the Dedicated One') from him.
- ❑ **NKRUMAH, KWAME** (1909-72). Prime Minister of Ghana 1957-60 and later President 1960-6. He was the leader of Ghana's independence movement. Known as the Gandhi of Africa.
- ❑ **NOBEL, ALFRED** (1833-96). Inventor of dynamite and founder of the Nobel Prizes, except economics.
- ❑ **NUSRAT, FATEH ALI KHAN** (1949-98) One of the world's greatest Sufi singers from Pakistan.
- ❑ **NYERERE, JULIUS** (1922-99). Julius Nyerere was President of Tanzania 1962-85.
- ❑ **OLAPPAMANNA** (1923-2000). One of the best known modern Malayalam poets. His masterpiece is *Nangema-kutty*.
- ❑ **OPPENHEIMER, J. ROBERT** (1904-67). US nuclear physicist known as Father of Atomic Bomb.
- ❑ **OSAMA BIN LADEN** Saudi millionaire accused by the US of planning the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) on August 7, 1998, which killed 224 people and injured over 5,000.
- ❑ **OWENS, JESSE** (1913-80). US athlete. On May 25, 1935, he set five world records within 45 minutes (100 yards, long jump, 220 yards, 220 yards hurdles, 200 metres hurdles). He won a Gold Medal at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.
- ❑ **PAES, LEANDER.** Leander Paes is the Indian tennis player who, with Mahesh Bhupathi, won the French Open men's doubles in June 1999. A month later they became the first Indian to win the Wimbledon Doubles title.
- ❑ **PANDEY MANGEL** (d. 1857) first martyr of India's Freedom Movement on March 29, 1857.
- ❑ **PANICKAR, P.N.** (1909-95). Founder of Kerala Granthasala Sangh.
- ❑ **PANINI** (c. 4-5th Century BC) Sanskrit grammarian who wrote *Ashtheadhyayi*.
- ❑ **PANT, G.B.** (1887-1961). Indian national leader in whose name Best Parliamentary Award is given.
- ❑ **PASTERNAK, BORIS** (1890-1960). Russian poet and writer known for *Dr. Zhivago*.
- ❑ **PASTEUR, LOUIS** (1822-95). French scientist who found the cure for chicken pox, hydrophobia or rabies, inoculation against anthrax and pasteurisation.
- ❑ **PATANJALI** (c. 2nd Century BC) Exponent of yoga and grammar. His books are *Mahabhashya* and *Yoga Sutras*.
- ❑ **PAUL, SWRAJ** (b. 1931). Leading NRI industrialist in the U.K and Chairman of Caparo group. Autobiography is *Beyond Boundaries*. Appointed the first-ever Pro Vice-Chancellor of Thames Valley University.
- ❑ **PAULING, LINUS** (b. 1901). US chemist, the first person to win two full Nobel Prizes for chemistry and peace
- ❑ **PAZ, OCTAVIO** (1914-98). Mexican poet, essayist and diplomat who won the 1990 Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ❑ **PEARY, ROBERT E.** (1856-1920) American explorer - the first to reach the North Pole overland.

- ❑ **PEEL, SIR ROBERT** (1788-1850). Prime Minister of Great Britain 1834-35, 1841-46.
- ❑ **PELE** (b. 1940 Brazilian soccer player considered to be the best footballer in the game's history. Real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento).
- ❑ **PERCEVAL, SPENCER** (1762-1812). Tory Prime Minister of Great Britain 1809-12, the only British prime minister in history to be assassinated.
- ❑ **PERICLES** (490-429 BC) was an Athenian orator and statesman.
- ❑ **PHALKE, DADA SAHEB** (1870-1944). Father of Indian Cinema. Made the first fully indigenous silent feature film *Raja Harishchandra* in 1913.
- ❑ **PICASSO, PABLO** (1881-1973). Spanish artist best remembered for his two dimensional illusory paintings, introduction of cubism. Most famous painting is *Guernica*.
- ❑ **PITMAN, SIR ISAAC** (1813-97). British inventor of shorthand.
- ❑ **PLANCK, MAX** (1858-1947). German theoretical physicist and winner of the 1918 Nobel Prize for Physics.
- ❑ **PLATO** (c.427-347 BC) Athenian philosopher known as the Father of Western Political Thought. Disciple of Socrates. Major work *The Republic*.
- ❑ **POL POT** (1926-98) Former despotic ruler of Cambodia. Founder of Khmer Rouge toppled in 1976 Cambodia's military government, became Cambodia's Prime Minister (1975-79) and known for reign of terror.
- ❑ **POPE, ALEXANDER** (1688-1744). British satirical poet and master of the heroic couplet. His works include *The Rape of the Lock*, *The Duncaid*, and *The Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*.
- ❑ **POTTAKADU S.K.** (1913-82) Malayalam writer who won the Jnanpith Award. *Oru Deshathinde Katha, Oru Theruvinde Katha, Cairo Kathukkal, Kappirikalude Nattil, Pathira Suryante Nattil, Yatrasmaranakaal* and *Simhabhoomi* are his works.
- ❑ **POWELL, COLIN** Gen. US Secretary of State (i.e. Foreign Minister the first black man ever to hold this office).
- ❑ **PRATAP, MAHARANA** (16th Century). Illustrious Rajput ruler of Mewar defeated at Haldighati in 1576 by Akbar's army.
- ❑ **PREM CHAND** (1880-1936). well-known Hindi novelist, a pioneer of modern social fiction; his real name was Dhanpatrai. His works are *Rang Bhoomi, Godan, Kayakalpa* and *Kafan*. Wrote in Urdu under the pen name Nawabrai.
- ❑ **PRIESTLEY, JOSEPH** (1733-1804). British chemist who discovered oxygen, the life-giving gas.
- ❑ **PULITZER, JOSEPH** (1847-1911). Hungarian-born US newspaper proprietor. In his will he established annual Pulitzer Prizes.
- ❑ **PURANDARA DAS** (1484-1564) master of Carnatic music known as the Father of Carnatic Music.
- ❑ **PYTHAGORAS** (582-500 BC) Greek philosopher, theologian and mathematician known for his Pythagoras Theorem.
- ❑ **QASIM, MUHAMMAD BIN** (7th-8th Century AD). The first Muslim invader of India.
- ❑ **QUEENSBERRY, MARQUIS OF** (1844-1900). British aristocrat who, in 1867, wrote the Queensberry Rules, the rules governing boxing.
- ❑ **QUTUB-UD-DIN AIBAK** (ruled 1206-1210) Founder of the first Muslim Dynasty in India, the Slave Dynasty.
- ❑ **RADHAKRISHNAN, DR. S.** (1888-1975). Second President of India, 1962-67. and first Vice-President, 1952-62. A distinguished philosopher and writer. He wrote *Religion and Society, The Hindu View of Life, An Idealist View of Life, Indian Philosophy*.
- ❑ **RAHMAN, SHEIKH MUJIBUR** (1920-75). Prime Minister of Bangladesh 1972-75, and President 1975 known as Bangabandhu. His government was overthrown in a coup and he was killed.
- ❑ **RAJAGOPALACHARI, C.** (1878-1972). Popularly known as Rajaji was the first and last Indian Governor-General of India 1948-50. He was Chief Minister of Madras State. First person to win the Bharat Ratna in 1954.
- ❑ **RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY** (1772-1833) Social reformer who tried to eradicate sati, purdah and child marriage, also advocated widow-remarriage and women's education, with the help of Lord William Bentinck. Father of the Indian Renaissance and the Father of Indian Nationalism. Founded Atmiya Sabha and Brahma Samaj. Famous works are *Gift of Monotheists* and *Precepts of Jesus*.
- ❑ **RAJA RAVI VARMA** (1848-1906) was a well-known Indian painter.
- ❑ **RAJENDRA PRASAD, DR.** (1884-1963) First and longest serving President of India, 1950-62, famous work is *India Divided*.
- ❑ **RAJINDER SINGH** (1911-94), nicknamed 'Sparrow', the first member of the Indian armed forces with a double Mahavir Chakra decoration.
- ❑ **RAJNEESH, OSHO** (1931-90). Born Rajneesh Chandra Mohan was the Indian spiritual leader who introduced 'dynamic meditation'.
- ❑ **RAKESH SHARMA** (b. 1954) Indian test pilot and India's first cosmonaut to go into space.
- ❑ **RAMACHANDRAN, M.G.** (1917-87). Tamil film star and politician, founder-leader of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the first film star Chief Minister of India and awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1988.
- ❑ **RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI SWADESHABHIMANI** (1878-1916) A journalist and politician, editor of the daily *Swadesha bhimani* severely criticised Sir C.P. Ramaswami's rule and was exiled.
- ❑ **RAMAN, C.V.** (1888-1970). First Indian scientist to have won the Nobel Prize (1930) for his study of the scattering of light known as the Raman Effect. He published his theory on February 28, 1928; February 28 is observed as National Science Day.
- ❑ **RAMAN PILLAI, C.V.** (1858-1922). Malayalam writer called Kerala Scott. *Marthanda Varma, Dharmaraja* and *Rama Raja Bhadur* are his famous historical novels.
- ❑ **RAMANUJAN, SRINIVASA** (1887-1920) A pure mathematician of the highest order, with prime interest in the theory of numbers.
- ❑ **RAMAKRISHNA, PARAMAHANSA** (1836-86). Real name was Gadadhar Chattopadhyaya, priest at a temple in Dakshineswar near Calcutta. His great disciple, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) popularised his religious message and founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1896.
- ❑ **RAMANUJA** (c. AD 1100) Tamil Brahmin who propounded Vishishtadvaita.
- ❑ **RAMA RAO, N.T.** (1923-96). Indian film star politician founder of Telugu Desam Party and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ **RAM G. REDDY** (1930-95) Indian educationist, chairman of UGC, Father of Distance Education. Founder Vice-Chancellor of Andhra Pradesh Open University, India's first Open University.
- ❑ **RANJITH SINGH** (1780-1839) Sikh Maharajah of Punjab, known as Lion of Punjab, credited with having unified the Sikhs.
- ❑ **RAY, SATYAJIT** (1921-92). Greatest Indian film director of the last century. Best known film are *Pather Panchali* (called *On the Road* in English), *Aparajito*, *Apur Sansar*, *Ashani Sanket*, *Charulata*, *Mahanagar* and *The Home and the World*. Winner of special Oscar and many other awards.
- ❑ **RAZIA SULTANA** (13th Century) Daughter of Iltutmish, first and only Muslim lady who ruled over India.
- ❑ **REUTER, PAUL** (1816-99). German-born British founder of the world's first news agency, Reuter's.
- ❑ **RIPON, LORD.** Viceroy of India 1880-84. During his period there was a phase of progress with the Factories Act 1881, repeal of Vernacular Press Act first regular census of India (1881), Ilbert Bill controversy and institution of local self-government.
- ❑ **RÖNTGEN, WILHELM K.** (1845-1923). German physicist discoverer of X-rays and the recipient of the first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901.
- ❑ **ROOSEVELT, FRANKLIN D.** (1882-1945). known as FDR, was the 32nd President of USA, 1933-45 and is the only President to hold the post three times.

- ❑ **ROSS, RONALD** (1857-1932). Ronald Ross was a British physician and bacteriologist.
- ❑ **ROUSSEAU, JEAN JACQUES** (1712-1778). French revolutionary philosopher and essayist. The French Revolution of 1789 was influenced by his thoughts and ideology. His best known book is *The Social Contract*.
- ❑ **ROY, ARUNDHATI** (b. 1961) Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize (1997) for her debut novel, *The God of Small Things*. *End of Imagination*, and *the Grater Common Good* are other works and she supports NBA.
- ❑ **ROY, M.N.** (1889-1945). Manabendra Nath Roy, whose real name was Narendranath Bhattacharya Roy, was pioneer of Indian Communism.
- ❑ **RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE** (1904-86) was the founder of Kalaskshetra.
- ❑ **RUSHDIE, SALMAN** (b. 1947). Indian-born British writer . His books include the *Midnight's Children*, which won the Booker Prize. *The Moor's Last Sigh* and *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*. In 1993 he won the Booker of Booker Prize.
- ❑ **RUSKIN, JOHN** (1819-1900). British author and art critic. His book *Unto the Last* influenced Gandhiji greatly.
- ❑ **RUSSELL, BERTRAND** (1872-1970). British philosopher and mathematician who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950.
- ❑ **SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA** (1871-1950) Indian educationist and journalist, acting president of the Constituent Assembly for two days from December 9 to 11, 1946.
- ❑ **SAGAN, CARL** (b. 1934). Carl Sagan is a US astronomer and writer.
- ❑ **SAKHAROV, ANDREI** (1921-89). Russian physicist who won the Nobel Prize for Peace on 1975 called the Father of Russian hydrogen bomb.
- ❑ **SALIM ALI, DR.** (1896-1987). World famous Indian ornithologist, known as the Bird Man of India. His autobiography is *Fall of a Sparrow*.
- ❑ **SALK, JONAS** (1914-95). A medical pioneer who discovered the first vaccine against polio.
- ❑ **SAMUDRAGUPTA** (AD 335-375) son and successor of Chandragupta I known as the Indian Napoleon as he never suffered a defeat in the battlefield.
- ❑ **SANGER, FREDERICK** (b. 1918). British biochemist ,first man to win two Nobel Prizes in the same field-chemistry (1958& 1980).
- ❑ **SARABHAI, DR. VIKRAM** (1919-71). Indian nuclear scientist credited with launching India into the space age. As Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission mainly instrumental in the establishment VSSC.
- ❑ **SAROJINI NAIDU** (1879-1949). 'The Nightingale of India', Indian poetess who wrote in English. The first Indian woman president of Congress, first woman Governor of a state (Uttar Pradesh) in India. Famous works are *Bird of Time*, *The Song of India*, *Sceptred Flute*, *Broken Wings* and *Golden Threshold*.
- ❑ **SARTRE, JEAN-PAUL** (1905-80). French writer and existentialist philosopher. Recipient of the 1964 Nobel Prize for Literature which he turned down.
- ❑ **SAVARKAR, V.D.** (1883-1966). Indian revolutionary leader who founded the Mitra Mandal , Abhinav Bharat and author of *The Indian War of Independence*.
- ❑ **SETH, VIKRAM** (b. 1953). Indian writer of last century's longest novel, *A Suitable Boy*. *The Golden Gate* is a novel in verse. *An Equal Music* is his new novel.
- ❑ **SETHI, GEET** (b. 1962) is an unseeded Indian billiards player.
- ❑ **SHAH, JAHAN** (1592-1666) Mughal emperor of India who built the Taj Mahal , Moti Masjid in Agra, Red Fort and Juma Masjid in Delhi and Peacock throne.
- ❑ **SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM** (1564-1616). English dramatist and poet, born at Stratford-on-Avon. *Henry VI*, *Venus and Adonis*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* , *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth* and *Othello* are his works.
- ❑ **SHAKUNTALA DEVI** (b. 1939) called Human Computer found place in *The Guinness Book of Records* by solving complex mathematical problems.
- ❑ **SHANKAR** (1902-89) famous Indian cartoonist. *Shankar's Weekly*, the International Children's Art Competition and the International Dolls Museum were founded by him.
- ❑ **SHANKAR, RAVI** (b. 1920). Indian sitar player, awarded Bharat Ratna in 1999.
- ❑ **SHANKARACHARYA** (b. AD 788) Hindu reformer who revived Hinduism born at Kaladi , founder of the Advaita philosophy. Founded four peethas at Sringeri, Dwarka, Puri and Badrinath.
- ❑ **SHANKARAKURUPPU, G.** (1901-78) Malayalam poet who received the first Jnanpith Award for his work *Odakkuzhal*.
- ❑ **SHANTI SWAROOP BHATNAGAR, DR.** (1895-1955). Father of Research Laboratories. After his death, the Bhatnagar Memorial Award was instituted in his honour by CSIR and other scientific organisations.
- ❑ **SHARMA, SHANKAR DHAYAL** (1919-99). Ninth President of India (1992-97) and Vice-President 1987-92.
- ❑ **SHASTRI, LAL BAHADUR** (1904-66). Indian states-man who succeeded Nehru as the second Prime Minister of India (1964-66), signed the Tashkent Agreement, gave the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kissan", awarded Bharat Ratna his smadhi is at Vijay Ghat.
- ❑ **SHAW, BERNARD** (1856-1950). Irish-born British dramatist, essayist and pamphleteer. Among his books are *Caesar and Cleopatra*, *Arms and the Man*, *Candida*, *The Devil's Disciple*, *Man and Superman*, *Major Barbara*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Pygmalion* and *Saint Joan*.
- ❑ **SHELLEY, PERCY BYSSHE** (1792-1822). British poet, wrote many poems, including *Queen Mab*, *The Skylark*, *Ode to the West Wind*, *Prometheus Unbound* and *Adonais*.
- ❑ **SHER SHAH SURI** (1473-1545) defeated Humayun in 1540 in the Battle of Kanauj and claimed the throne of Delhi. He issued the coin called rupia, fixed standard weights and measures all over the empire and built the Grand Trunk Road (G.T. Road).
- ❑ **SHIVAJI** (1627-80) was a military genius, the last Hindu king to succeed partly in establishing a Hindu Swaraj.
- ❑ **SHIVAJI GANESHAN** Popularly known as Natarikar Tilakam, which means 'Star Among Stars'. First Indian to be decorated with the Chevalier Award given by the French government.
- ❑ **SIRAJ UD DAULA** (c.1732-57) Nawab of Bengal 1756-75. Notable events of his rule were the Black Hole tragedy and the Battle of Plassey in which he was defeated and killed.
- ❑ **SMITH, ADAM** (1723-90). Scottish economist known as the Father of Economics. His book is *The Wealth of Nations*.
- ❑ **SOCRATES** (469-399 BC) Greek philosopher who was sentenced to death by taking poison (hemlock).
- ❑ **SOLZHENITSYN, ALEKSANDR** (b. 1918). Soviet dissident writer. His works include *The Gulag Archipelago*, *Cancer Ward*, and *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.
- ❑ **SOYINKA, WOLE** (b. 1934). Nigerian writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, the first black African to win the prize.
- ❑ **SPIELBERG, STEVEN** (b. 1947). Steven Spielberg is one of USA's most successful film directors.
- ❑ **SPITZ, MARK** (b. 1950). US swimmer who won seven gold medals, all in world record time, at the 1972 Olympic Games at Munich, Germany.
- ❑ **SREE NARAYANA GURU** (1855-1928) was social reformer, saint and philosopher from Chempazhanthi, worked for eradication of untouchability, built a Shiva temple at Aruvipuram and in 1903 he organised the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, most important philosophy was 'One caste, one religion and one god'.
- ❑ **STALIN, JOSEPH** (1879-1953). Russian from Georgia, the dictator of USSR, known as the Iron Man of the USSR, introduced Five Year Plans .

- ❑ **STEPHENSON, GEORGE** (1781-1848). British inventor of the steam locomotive.
- ❑ **STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS** (1850-94). British writer of highly readable adventure stories, like *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.
- ❑ **STOWE, HARRIET** (1811-96). US novelist who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a moving book about the plight of black slaves in USA.
- ❑ **SURDAS** (1483-1563) Disciple of Vallabha, blind musician, his songs are collected as *Sursagar*. *Surasaravali* and *Sahityalahari* are his works.
- ❑ **SURENDRANATH BANNERJI** (1848-1925) Indian patriot, one of the first three candidates to pass the ICS Examination but dismissed for a minor irregularity, founded the Indian Association in 1876, President of the Indian National Congress twice (1895 and 1902) and led the anti-partition agitation in 1905.
- ❑ **SUSRUTA** (4th Century AD) Indian surgeon known as Father of Modern Plastic Surgery.
- ❑ **SWAMINATHAN, DR. M.S.** (b. 1925) famous agricultural scientist, regarded as the Father of India's Green Revolution and first Indian to receive the World Food Prize (1987).
- ❑ **TAGORE, RABINDRANATH** (1861-1941). Gurudev, first Indian and the first Asian to have won the Nobel Prize for Literature for his *Gitanjali* (1913), founded the Shantinikethan (1901) at Bolepur. His important books are *Bisarjan*, *Chitra*, *The Gardener*, *Gitanjali*, *Gora*, *Hungry Stones*, *The Wreck*, *Lipika* and *Post Office*. Composed the national anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, and the national anthem of Bangladesh.
- ❑ **TASLIMA, NASREEN** (b. 1962). Bangladeshi feminist writer. *Lajja* ('Shame') and *Amar Meyebela* ('My Childhood Days') are her two books
- ❑ **TATA, JAMSHEDJI** (1839-1904) was the founder of the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO).
- ❑ **TATA, J.R.D.** (1904-1993). He was the first man in India to qualify as a pilot. Known as the Father of Civil Aviation in India.
- ❑ **TELLER, EDWARD** (b. 1908). US atomic scientist called the Father of the Hydrogen Bomb.
- ❑ **TERESA, MOTHER** (1910-97). Born in Skopje in Macedonia. Her real name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, came to India in 1929 at the age of 19, beatified by Pope John Paul II in a ceremony in St. Peter's Square in Rome. She has won Nobel Peace Prize (1979), Bharat Ratna (1980) and Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- ❑ **TERESHKOVA, VALENTINA** (b. 1937). Russian cosmonaut, first woman to fly into outer space.
- ❑ **THAKAZHI SIVASANKARA PILLAI** (1911-99) Indian writer in Malayalam. *Chemmeen*, *Thottiyude Makan*, *Randidangazhi*, *Kayar* and *Enippadikal* are his works.
- ❑ **THAMPI, IRAIYAMMAN** (1783-1856) The poet who wrote lullaby *Omanathingal Kidavo* for Marthanda Varma.
- ❑ **THANT, U** (1909-74). Third Secretary-General of the United Nations (1962-71). He was Burmese.
- ❑ **THATCHER, MARGARET** (b. 1925). First woman and longest serving British Prime Minister of this century (1979-1990). Remembered Iron Lady.
- ❑ **THAYAGARAJA SWAMI** (1767-1847) was a south Indian saint and musician.
- ❑ **TIPU SULTAN** (1749-99) was the ruler of Mysore 1782-99 who fought the Third and Fourth Anglo-Mysore Wars, finally defeated by Lord Wellesley.
- ❑ **TODAR MAL** (16th Century) Revenue Minister of Akbar, known for his reforms in policies of land revenue.
- ❑ **TOLSTOY, LEO** (1828-1910). Russian literary figure. Mahatma Gandhi was greatly influenced by his works which include *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina* and *Resurrection*.
- ❑ **TOMBAUGH, CLYDE** (1907-97). Astronomer who discovered Pluto.
- ❑ **TULSIDAS** (1532-1623) Hindi poet and Hindu religious preacher known for his work *Ramacharitamanas*.
- ❑ **ULOOR, S. PARAMESHWARA IYER** (1877-1949). Malayalam poet. *Umakeralam*, *Pingala*, *Karnabhooshanam*, *Bhakthi Deepika* and *Chithramala* are his major works. Dean of Travancore University and Chief Secretary of Travancore.
- ❑ **USHA, P.T.** (b. 1964). First Indian woman and the fifth Indian to reach the final of an Olympics.
- ❑ **VALLABHBHAI PATEL** (1875-1950) First Home Minister, worked tirelessly for the integration of the Indian princely states, founder of *Satyagraha Patrika*, first Deputy Prime Minister of India, known as the Iron Man of India, and the Bismarck of India and awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1991.
- ❑ **VALLATHOL NARAYANA MENON** (1878-1958) Malayalam poet. *Kiratha Satakam*, *Badhiravilapam*, *Ganapati*, *Magdalana Mariam*, *Kochu Sita*, *Sahitya Manjari* are his works. Known as the Kerala Valmiki, re-established Kathakali as a major theatre art form and revived Mohiniattam and founded Kerala Kalamandalam at Cheruthuruthi.
- ❑ **VALMIKI** (c.800 BC) Sanskrit poet author of *The Ramayana*.
- ❑ **VARAHMIHIRA** (6th Century AD) Distinguished astronomer, mathematician and philosopher of early times. *Panchasidhandika* and *Brihatsamhita* are his works.
- ❑ **VARDHAMANA MAHAVIRA** (540-468 BC) was the founder of Jainism. Born in Kundagrama, 24th and last Tirthankara of Jainism, died at Pavapuri.
- ❑ **VASUDEVAN NAIR, M.T.** (b. 1934) Malayalam writer, President of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi and recipient Bharatiya Jnanpith Award.
- ❑ **VATSYAYANA** (5th Century AD) Sanskrit writer who wrote *Kama Sutra*.
- ❑ **VENKATARAMAN, R.** (b. 1910). The oldest person to be elected President of India 1987-92. *My Presidential Years* is his book.
- ❑ **VESPUCCI, AMERIGO** (1454-1512). Italian navigator. America was named so in memory of Amerigo.
- ❑ **VICTORIA, QUEEN OF ENGLAND** (1819-1901). Queen Victoria was Queen of England from 1837 to her death, and Empress of India from 1876. She reigned for 64 years, the longest reign of a British monarch.
- ❑ **VIJAYALAKSHMI PANDIT** (1900-90) Sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, first woman Minister of an Indian state (Uttar Pradesh), holds the distinction of being the first woman to become President of the UN General Assembly and first Indian woman Ambassador to Moscow.
- ❑ **VINOBA BHAVE** (1895-1982). Indian social reformer, leader of the Sarvodaya Movement, known for the Shramdan and the Bhoodan Movement, established his ashram at Paunar, first person to win the Magsaysay Award.
- ❑ **VISWANATHAN, ANAND** (b. 1969) Indian chess player, first recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and become world champion in 2000.
- ❑ **VIVEKANANDA** (1862-1902). Disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. His famous talk at the Chicago Conference of World Religions in 1893 made Westerners realise the greatness of Hinduism for the first time.
- ❑ **VISVESVARAYA, M.** (1862-1962) Indian engineer who built the dam across the River Cauvery in Karnataka, honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 1955.
- ❑ **VOLTAIRE** (1694-1778) French writer and philosopher. Voltaire's and Rousseau's writings paved the way for the French Revolution of 1789.
- ❑ **WASHINGTON, GEORGE** (1732-1799). The first President of USA. American colonies defeated Britain under his leadership.
- ❑ **WASIM AKRAM** Pakistani cricketer and the highest wicket-taker in one day internationals.

- ❑ **WATT, JAMES** (1736-1819). Scottish engineer, inventor of steam engine.
- ❑ **WELLESLEY, LORD** (1760-1842). Governor-General of India during the period 1797-1805. He depended on a system of subsidiary alliances to expand British territories.
- ❑ **WHITTLE, SIR FRANK** (b. 1907). British inventor of the jet engine.
- ❑ **WILDE, OSCAR** (1854-1900). British poet, writer and playwright. His plays include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Lady Windermere's Fan*.
- ❑ **WILMUT, IAN** (b. 1946). Scottish-born world famous scientist who cloned the first cloned adult mammal Dolly.
- ❑ **WILSON, WOODROW** (1856-1924). 28th President of USA (1913-21) and the founder of the League of Nations.
- ❑ **WORDSWORTH, WILLIAM** (1770-1850). English poet made Poet Laureate in 1838. Leader of romantic movement. His works include ode on *Intimations on Immortality*, *Lyrical Ballads*, *The Recluse*, *The Solitary Reaper*.
- ❑ **WRIGHT, ORVILLE** (1871-1948) and **WRIGHT, WILBUR** (1867-1912). the US aviators who were the first to fly a heavier-than-air machine.
- ❑ **XAVIER, St. FRANCIS** (1506-52). Spanish Jesuit missionary known as the Apostle of the Indies. His body lies in Goa. Declared a saint in 1622.
- ❑ **YEATS, WILLIAM BUTLER** (1865-1939). Irish poet and dramatist who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923.
- ❑ **ZAIL SINGH, GIANI** (1916-94). India's seventh president (1982-87)- the first to belong to the Sikh community as well as an OBC community (Ramgarhia community).. He was also Chief Minister of Punjab.
- ❑ **ZOROASTER** (6th century BC) Persian prophet and religious leader who lived in the 6th century BC. Founder of Zoroastrianism whose followers are the Parsees who settled in India. His teachings are collected as *Zend-Avesta*.

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