

Easy like Sunday morning

This highest civilian award carries no monetary grant

BY BERTY ASHLEY

1 Born on December 10, 1878, this gentleman wrote the carnatic song 'Kurai ondrum illai'. In his capacity as a prominent leader of the Madras Congress, he led a parallel 'salt march' in 1930 at Vedaranyam when Gandhi took out his Dandi march. He was given the Sahitya Akademi Award for his retelling of the *Ramayana*. He was the last Governor General of India and the only Indian to occupy that post. Who is this politician and what was he affectionately known as?

2 This gentleman was a philosopher, statesman and knight of the British Empire. From 1937 to 1960 he was nominated multiple times for the Nobel Prize in Literature but never won. He had a successful academic career being a professor in many prestigious institutions including Oxford University. Only much later did he get into politics which culminated in him becoming the second President of India. Who was this gentleman and how do we celebrate his birthday?

3 The third President of India was also the country's first Muslim president. When he was 23 years old, he founded the National Muslim University in Aligarh along with a group of students, and later obtained a Ph.D. in economics in Berlin. Post-partition he was the vice-chancellor of the University of Aligarh after which he was nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha. Who was this gentleman?

4 Born 'Kamatchi' in 1903, this gentleman was the Chief Minister of Madras State for three consecutive terms. Under his leadership, the state made immense strides in education and trade. Following his reforms, the education rate of Madras State went up by 30%. After Nehru's death he was instrumental in shaping the Indian National Congress. Who was this dynamic personality who was awarded a posthumous Bharat Ratna in 1976?



Jewel of India The Bharat Ratna is a peepal-leaf-shaped medallion.

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5 This person was the first Bharat Ratna awardee who was not born in India. Born Anjezë Goxhe Bojaxhiu in modern day Macedonia in 1910, Anjezë came to Darjeeling to begin a period of training to become a member of a religious order. Anjezë started working as a teacher in Eastern Calcutta, but the Bengal Famine of 1943 brought much misery and poverty to the city. This led to Anjezë founding a school which helped the poor and hungry. How do we better know this global icon?

6 This person was a freedom fighter and the founder of the Bhoodan Movement (getting donated land from land owner Indians and giving it away to the poor and landless, for them to cultivate). On reading a letter by Mahatma Gandhi, he abandoned his favourite subject, Mathematics and developed an interest in Gandhi's activities. He was the first recipient of the Magsaysay Award. Who was this

leader who was awarded a Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1983?

7 Fondly referred to as 'Maulana' (our master), this scholar was the first Minister of Education in the Indian government. He was also the youngest president of the Indian National Congress at the age of 35. The establishment of the Indian Institutes of Technology and the University Grants Commission are both attributed to his drive for bettering the education system in India. His works include letters and poems in Urdu and *India Wins Freedom*, which is an exhaustive account of India's freedom struggle. Who was this influential statesman?

8 The first musician to be awarded a Bharat Ratna was from Madurai. This person's first ever public performance was at the age of 11 inside the hall of the Rockfort Temple. This was under the tutelage of INC leader Natesa Iyer, who also introduced this child prodigy to the world of cinema in a movie called *Sevasadan*. One of the few Carnatic musicians to have performed at the Royal Albert Hall, the highlight of this person's career was a spellbinding performance at the UN General Assembly in 1966. Who was this iconic personality?

9 This person was popularly known as 'Lok Nayak' (The Folk Hero). A Magsaysay Award winner, he is known for his social work and also for leading the 1974 opposition against the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi (herself a Bharat Ratna Awardee by then). He was arrested during the Emergency and was later released as his health declined. Delhi's largest government hospital, the Patna airport and an express train service are named in his honour. Who was this radical activist?

10 In 2015, this gentleman became only the third scientist to be awarded the Bharat Ratna. He currently serves as the Head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India. Born in Bangalore, he was home-tutored by his mother till middle-school. In high school he started his life-long love for chemistry and by the age of 24, he had a Ph.D. from Purdue University. His seminal work on two-dimensional oxide materials has made him one of the world's foremost experts on solid state chemistry. Who is this highly regarded scientist?

A molecular biologist from Madurai, our quizmaster enjoys trivia and music, and is working on a rock ballad called 'Coffee is a Drink, Kaapi is an Emotion'.
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Answers
1. Rajagopalachari, 'Rajaji'
2. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan - 'Teachers' Day
3. Zakir Husain
4. K. Kamaraj
5. Mother Teresa
6. Vinoba Bhave
7. Abdul Kalam Azad
8. Madurai Shanmukhavadivu (M.S.) Subbulakshmi
9. Jayaprakash Narayan
10. C.N.R. Rao