

# Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya : A profile

Amitava Ghosh\*



*Born* : 28th August, 1860 at Muddawahi in a poor family of Mysore state.

*Education* :

- Matriculated (1875) from Wesleyan Mission High School.
- Stood first in Engineering Examination (1884), all the more creditable as he had to support himself financially.

*Service* :

- Shifted to Bombay to get a job as Govt. Asst. Engineer.
- On being denied the post of Chief Engineer (because of apartheid) retired to become the Chief Engineer of Hyderabad State.
- Subsequent to his 3 years service to Mysore, became the "Diwan" of that Province.

*Achievements as an Engineer* :

- Accomplished the ingenious task of providing drinking water from the river for the population of Sakkur.
- Solved many more similar problems of water circulation besides building a large number of bridges and dams.
- Devised ways and means to store the rain water thereby solving the water crisis of Aden.

*Accomplishments as a social reformer* :

- Introduced compulsory primary education.
- Played a leading role in spreading education among women.
- Was instrumental in opening a large number of mechanical institutes as well as agriculture schools.
- Was pioneer in classification of industries & development of 5-year plans (as early as 1911).
- Was the key figure in the establishment of State Bank of Mysore (1913), University of Mysore (1915), Mysore Chamber of Commerce (1916).
- Established various factories to produce various household items, medicines, matches and the like to stop unnecessary imports and save precious foreign exchange for the country.
- Advocated birth control, community feelings, industrialization and tried to implant active and creative attitude among fellow beings.

*Awards & Honours* :

- Got Hon. Doctorate from the universities of Calcutta, Patna, Allahabad, Jadavpur, Bombay, Varanasi, Andhra.
- Awarded "Bharatratna" (on 15th September, 1960).

*Died* : 12th April, 1962.

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\* Final Year Student of Computer Sc. & Tech.