

# R Venkataraman

A CENTENARY TRIBUTE



FOREWORD BY  
PRESIDENT PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL



'Shri R. Venkataraman had a deep understanding of constitutional matters and upheld the Constitution on all occasions, especially during the days of political instability ...'

*President Pratibha Devisingh Patil*

'His multifaceted personality as a writer, politician and above all, a good human being had won him a prominent place in the hearts of the people of India.'

*Atal Bihari Vajpayee*

'Ramaswamy Venkataraman stands out as one of the most eminent presidents India has had in its six decades of Independence.'

*Meira Kumar*

'I will remember President Venkataraman as the perfect embodiment both of the wisdom of an ancient culture and the proud aspirations of a rising young nation.'

*Dr Richard von Weizsäcker*

'He was very fond of art and artists and always encouraged the traditional classical arts.'

*Ustad Amjad Ali Khan*

'It is of utmost importance for the young people of this country to be acquainted with the lives and work of outstanding leaders like Venkataraman ...'

*Dr RK Pachauri*

Parliamentarian, statesman,  
patron of the arts, humanist –  
the eighth president of India,  
R Venkataraman (1910–2009),  
was all this and much more.

Be it political affairs, arts and crafts,  
or even religion, he played a pioneering  
role in many fields. He was also extremely  
affable, soft-spoken, a complete family  
man who encouraged everyone to  
follow their dreams.

The articles in this volume analyse his  
role in shaping India into what the  
country is today, as well as what  
future generations can learn from him.  
Illustrious personalities, including  
Vice-President M Hamid Ansari,  
Inder Malhotra, Atal Bihari Vajpayee,  
Dr L Subramaniam, Dr RK Pachauri,  
Dr Richard von Weizsäcker,  
Fali S Nariman, Swami Dayananda  
Saraswati and Lord Geoffrey Howe reveal  
different aspects of this multifaceted  
man. Reminiscences by friends and  
family members give glimpses of  
his private persona as well.

This volume has been put together by  
the **R Venkataraman Birth Centenary**  
**Editorial Board**, comprising  
KP Singh Deo (chairman),  
Gopalkrishna Gandhi,  
Inder Malhotra,  
Lakshmi Venkataraman Venkatesan  
(convenor),  
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Tarun Das

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