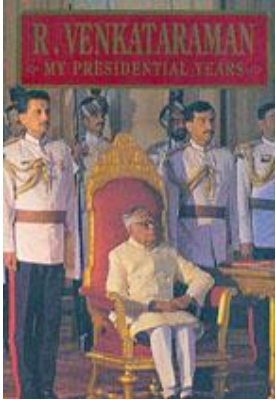


# My Presidential Years

by [R Venkataraman](#)



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## Description

My Presidential Years is a first-hand portrayal of events of R Venkataraman's tenure as the eighth President of India, spanning as it did the politically sensitive years 1987-1992. Never before has the tenure of an Indian President been so eventful, thorny and challenging.

These trying times demanded decisions on a gamut of tricky constitutional and political issues-Sri Lankan crisis, Bofors Gun deal, assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, Stock Scam, or the Defamation Bill. In his inimitable style, the author attempts an in-depth analysis of questions relating to split and disqualification in Parliament, role of Governors, discretionary powers of the president-constitutional issues that have often eluded answers.

The inherent element of subjectivity reveals the personality of the author and of the personalities he comes across.

The office of the President is like an emergency light. It comes on automatically when there is a crisis and goes off automatically when the crisis passes.

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## ► About the Author

RAMASWAMI VENKATARAMAN was born on December 4, 1910, in Rajamadam village in Tamil Nadu. After a distinguished academic career, he was enrolled as an advocate of the Madras High Court and later of the Supreme Court of India. He specialized in Industrial Relations Law and founded and edited the Labour Law Journal, Madras. After release from detention in jail for participating in the Quit India Movement, he entered Parliament in 1950. Later he successively became Minister of Industries, Labour, Power, etc., in the then State of Madras from 1957-67. He is remembered even today as the Father of Industrialisation of Tamil Nadu. He re-entered Parliament and became Minister of Finance and then Minister of Defence, vice-President of India between 1987-92 was marked by a series of political crises leading to the appointment of three Prime Ministers in two years. Widely traveled, he has a deep interest in philosophy, religion, art and literature. He is

currently the Chairman of the Kalakshetra foundation, Adyar, Madras.