



Prasar Bharati Archives

List of Eminent Personalities
who were part of
ALL INDIA RADIO



Lionel Fielden

Lionel Fielden was the first Controller of Broadcasting in British India, in 1935. He was transferred from the BBC UK, to set up and head the newly formed broadcasting division in British India. He was also instrumental in coining the nomenclature All India Radio(AIR), when on June 8, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio. From 1935-1943 he was the Director-General of All India Radio. British officials wanted the medium to reflect British viewpoints, whereas he wanted it to represent the aspirations of the Indian

people. He wished also to allot airtime to representatives political parties like the Congress, a proposal that was at once shot down by the then British government. Programs of Indian music, drama, and public affairs were increasingly broadcast over AIR in Hindustani after about 1940, in an attempt to standardize language use.

He continued to remain in touch with India even after he left India after Independence and trained a new generation of broadcasters, foremost being Z A Bukhari.

आकाशवाणी



Zulfiqar Ali Bukhari

(1904-1975)

Zulfiqar Ali Bukhari was a distinguished and legendary Radio broadcaster of British India and later Pakistan. He was also a writer, poet and musician. He was the first director-general of Radio Pakistan.

Born into a family of Sufi mystics in Peshawar, Zulfiqar Ali Bukhari, or Z. A. Bukhari as he was popularly known, went to Oriental College Lahore and completed his Munshi Fazil, the highest degree at that time in oriental knowledge.

He then was recruited into AIR, and was trained by Lionel Fielden the then Director General AIR in the art of broadcasting. In 1939, Bukhari, as a Station Director of AIR Delhi, got transferred to the Bombay station of AIR.

After the Partition of India and creation of Pakistan, he was made first director-general of Radio Pakistan (Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation) The independence of Pakistan was announced through Radio Pakistan on Aug 13, 1947 at 11:59 pm under his stewardship.

Bukhari was a perfectionist and took great care to maintain the sanctity of pronounciation in broadcast of Urdu and Hindi. He wrote Sarguzasht, an autobiography, Jo Kuchh Main Ne Kaha, a collection of his verses and Raag Darya, a book on music.



Ghulam Mustafa Durrani

(1919-1988)

Ghulam Mustafa Durrani was born in Peshawar but came to Bombay in search of work. Blessed with a very fine voice, he started working as a singer in the Bombay station of all India Radio, under the then station director Z A Bukhari. He worked in the Delhi station too, but eventually stopped working for AIR in 1940 when his career as a full time playback singer took off. He sang in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Pashto. He was also one of the first Muslim singers to sing Hindu Devotional songs.

He also sang in Indian movies in the 1940s-1950s. G. M. Durrani considered his first famous song was 'Duniya mein sab jode jode' of the film "Sharda" (1942) composed by Naushad. His singing style was to inspire Mohammed Rafi and others in the years to come.

He died in Bombay in 1988.

आकाशवाणी



Kazi Nazrul Islam

(1899-1976)

Kazi Nazrul Islam was a Bengali poet, writer, musician, and revolutionary, and is the national poet of Bangladesh. Nazrul's impassioned activism for political and social justice earned him the title of The Rebel Poet (Bidrohi Kobi). His compositions form a new avant-garde genre of light music in the vernacular - Nazrul Sangeet (Music of Nazrul). He holds a world record in terms of number of songs written and composed. Although his primary contributions are in the areas of poetry and music, including classical music, he also wrote a

good number of novels as well as prose.

Born in Burdwan in 1899, Nazrul received religious education and worked as a muezzin at a local mosque in his early life. He then worked as a journalist, and also wrote on revolution through his poetic works, such as Bidrohi (The Rebel) and Bhangar Gaan (The Song of Destruction), as well as his publication Dhumketu (The Comet).

In 1928, Nazrul began working as a lyricist, composer and music director for His Master's Voice Gramophone Company. The songs written and music composed by him were broadcast on radio stations across the country. He was also enlisted/attached with the Indian Broadcasting Company. In 1972 at the invitation of the Govt of Bangladesh Nazrul and his family moved to Bangladesh where he died in 1976.



Saadat Hasan Manto

(1912-1955)

Saadat Hassan Manto was born in Samrala, in the Ludhiana district of the Punjab in 1912. He was a writer, playwright and author considered among the greatest writers of short stories in South Asian history. He produced 22 collections of short stories, one novel, five radio plays, three collections of essays, and two collections of personal sketches.

In 1941 he had accepted the job of writing for Urdu Service of All India Radio and this proved to be his most productive period as in the next eighteen months he published over four collections of

radio plays, Aao, Manto ke Drame , Janaze and Teen Auraten. He continued to write short stories and his next short story collection Dhuan (Smoke) was soon out followed by Manto ke Afsane and his first collection of topical essays, Manto ke Mazamin. This period culminated with the publication of his mixed collection Afsane aur Dramey in 1943.

He also later worked with the film industry and wrote scripts for films like Aath Din, Chal Chal Re Naujawan and Mirza Ghalib. His final literary work was Toba Tek Singh. He stayed in Bombay until he moved to Pakistan in January 1948 after the partition of India in 1947.

On August 14, 2012 which is Pakistan's Independence Day, Saadat Hasan Manto was posthumously awarded Nishan-e-Imtiaz award (Distinguished Service to Pakistan Award) by the Government of Pakistan.



Vishnu Prabhakar

(1912-2009)

Vishnu Prabhakar was a Hindi writer. He was born in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

He had several short stories, novels, plays and travelogues to his credit. Prabhakar's works have elements of patriotism, nationalism and messages of social upliftment.

His literary life started with the publication of his first story Diwali in the Hindi magazine Milap in 1931. He wrote Hatya Ke

Baad, his first play in 1939. Eventually he began writing as a full-time career. After Indian Independence he worked as a drama director, from September 1955 to March 1957, in Akashvani, All India Radio, New Delhi.

Although mainly a story writer, Vishnu Prabhakar has written in almost all the genres of literature including poetry. Collection of his poems titled Chalta Chala Jaaunga was published posthumously in the year 2010. He did not let himself limit to any special school of thought and it is reflected in his vast variety of works. Aawara Masiha, biography of Sharat Chandra Chatterjee and Ardhnarishwar, however remain the most awarded and widely acclaimed of his works. His works are said to be a mirror of modern Indian society.

He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1993, Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award in 1995 and the Padma Bhushan (the third highest civilian honour of India) by the Government of India in 2004.



Upendranath Ashk

(1910-1996)

Upendranath Ashk, an Indian novelist, short story writer and playwright, was born in Jalandhar, Punjab. Ashk began his literary career writing in Urdu.

In 1941, Ashk was hired at All India Radio (AIR) as a playwright and Hindi adviser. During this period, Ashk began work on his semi-autobiographical novel **Girti Divārē** which was published later in 1947, a six-volume novel cycle, Girti Divarein.

In 1944, Ashk moved to Bombay, where he began as a dialogue

and screenplay writer for the production company Filmistan. He wrote dialogues, stories and songs and even acted in two films: Mazdoor, and Aath Din.

While in Bombay, Ashk wrote one his most noted plays, **Tūfān se Pahale**, which was produced for the stage by Balraj Sahni. By the time of his death in 1996 he had more than 100 titles to his credit. He was the first Hindi dramatist to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1965, Soviet Land Nehru Award (1972), Iqbal Award 1996.

आकाशवाणी



Rajinder Singh Bedi

(1915-1984)

Rajinder Singh Bedi was born in Sialkot, and was one of the most versatile voices among the 20th century Progressive writers, and he took to writing fiction in Urdu long before the language became a divisive political tool. He later became a Hindi film director, screenwriter and dialogue writer.

As a screenwriter and dialogue writer, he is best known for Hrishikesh Mukherjee's films *Abhimaan* and *Satyakam*; *Madhumati*, *Devdas*, and *Mirza Ghalib*. As a director he is

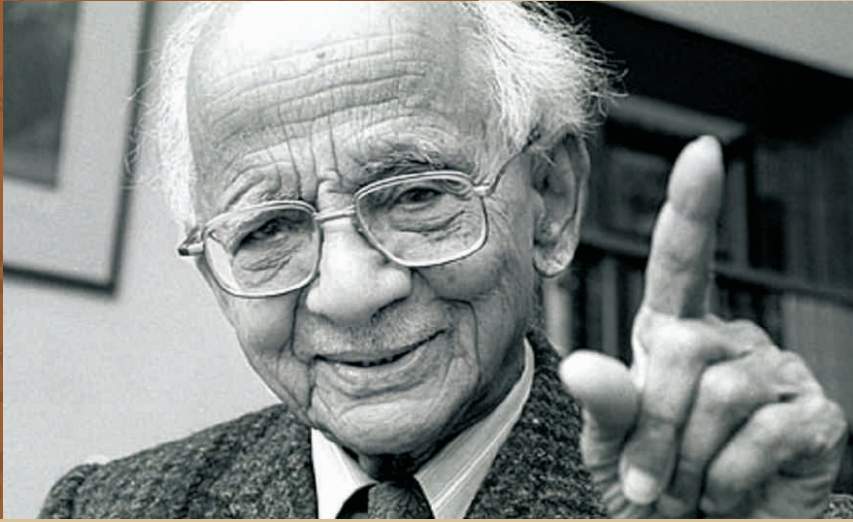
known for *Dastak* (1970) and *Phagun* (1973)..

His first collection of short stories, *Daan-O-Daam* (*The Catch*), featuring his prominent story "Garam Coat" (*Warm Coat*) was published in 1940. In 1942, he published his second collection of short stories, *Grehan* (*The Eclipse*).

He worked in All India Radio in the 1940s – he was posted to Jammu, where he worked until 1947, and became the Director of Jammu and Kashmir Broadcasting Service.

His novella *Ek Chadar Maili Si* was made into a film in Pakistan, *Mutthi Bhar Chawal* (1978) and later in India, as *Ek Chadar Maili Si* (1986). He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1965 for *Ek Chadar Maili Si*. His short story *Lajwanti* was made into a telefilm, by Neena Gupta in 2006.

In his memory, the Government of Punjab has started a "Rajinder Singh Bedi Award" in the field of Urdu Literature.



Nirad Chandra Chaudhuri

(1897-1999)

Nirad Chandra Chaudhuri was born in Kishoreganj, now in Bangladesh. He was appointed as a political commentator on the Kolkata branch of the All India Radio. In 1941, he started working for the Delhi Branch of the All India Radio where he continued till his 1st book was published.

Chaudhuri authored numerous works in English and Bengali. His writings provide a magisterial appraisal of the histories and cultures of India, especially in the context of British colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries. Chaudhuri is best known for The

Autobiography of an Unknown Indian, published in 1951. He kept on writing and publishing; among his books were "Scholar Extraordinary," a biography of Friedrich Max Muller, a German-born Orientalist; "Clive of India," ; "Culture in the Vanity Bag: Clothing and Adornment in Passing and Abiding India" , and "Hinduism: A Religion to Live By" .

Over the course of his literary career, he received numerous accolades for his writing. In 1966, "The Continent of Circe" was awarded the Duff Cooper Memorial Award, making Chaudhuri the first and only Indian to date to be given the prize. The Sahitya Akademi, India's national Academy of Letters, awarded Chaudhuri the Sahitya Akademi Award for his biography on Max Müller, Scholar Extraordinary.

In 1990, Oxford University awarded Chaudhuri, an Honorary Degree in Letters. In 1992, he was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).



Kartar Singh Duggal

(1917-2012)

Kartar Singh Duggal was born in Rawalpindi district, now in Pakistan. He was an Indian writer who wrote in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, and English. His works have been translated into Indian and foreign languages.

He started his professional career with All India Radio (AIR). He worked there from 1942 to 1966 in various jobs including Station Director. For the AIR, he wrote and produced programmes in Punjabi and other languages. In addition, he authored a large number of plays and dramas.

A master story-teller, Duggal, during a career spanning for over four decades, has written 24 collections of short stories and ten novels weaving the historical strands of the Partition saga and intricacies of human relationships in modern society. Considered a virtual pioneer of modern Punjabi fiction, Duggal also penned seven plays, seven works of literary criticism, two collections poems and an autobiography.

Many of his books have been adopted by various universities for graduate studies.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by Government of India in 1988. In 2007, he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest honour given by Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.



Pt. Narendra Sharma

(1913-1989)

Narendra Sharma was born in Jahangirpur, Uttar Pradesh. He was a pre eminent writer who has penned unforgettable poems, literature and lyrics in Hindi.

He started his career with All In India Radio, and as the Chief Producer of 'Vividh Bharti', he nurtured the channel in a way that it became one of the world's biggest radio networks. He remained with 'Vividh Bharti' until his retirement.

After attending the age of retirement he went back to his world

of lyrics. Some of his best known poems include Kahani Kehte Kehte Paniharin, Rathwan and Swagatham

He also wrote some songs for Bollywood movies, best known being the title song for Satyam Shivam Sundaram (1979), for which he also received a Filmfare Award nomination for Best Lyricist.

Narendra Sharma also wrote many non-filmy bhajans and devotional songs. 'Satrang Chunar Navrang Paag', 'Naach Re Mayura Bolkar Sahasra Nayan' 'Aiye Prabhui Aaiye' are some of his famous non-film poems.

आकाशवाणी



Birendra Krishna Bhadra

(1905-1991)

Birendra Krishna Bhadra was an Indian broadcaster and playwright from Calcutta. He worked for the All India Radio, India's National Radio broadcaster for several years during its inception in the 1930s and during this period he produced and adapted several plays, including writing for the film, Nishiddha Phal (1955). In 1952, he dramatised Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Subarna Golak.

Today, he is most known for his rousing Sanskrit recitation through a two-hour audio program, Mahishashura Mardini

(Annihilator/Destroyer of Mahisasura) a collection of shlokas and songs broadcast by All India Radio Calcutta at 4:00 am, in the dawn of Mahalaya since 1931.

आकाशवाणी



Ustad Bundu Khan

(1880-1955)

Ustad Bundu Khan, probably the most outstanding sarangi player during the first half of the 20th century, was born in Delhi, in a family of musicians. He received his early training in sarangi from his father Ali Jan Khan and later from his uncle Ustad Mamman Khan, who was attached to the Maharaja of Patiala.

Ustad Bundu Khan's complete mastery over his delicate and difficult instrument not only placed him on the top rung of the subcontinent's sarangi players but also made him one of the

most proficient Hindustani instrumentalists of the 20th century. His sarangi was smaller than usual, which perhaps added to his distinct sound. He became court-musician to Maharaja Tukaji Rao Holkar of Indore and was also in the Rampur court of a brief period. He was highly influenced by Pandit Bhatkhande whom he met in Indore. He devoted himself to the study of musicology, and wrote a book Sangeet Vivek Darpan.

He was posthumously awarded the Pride of Performance by the Government of Pakistan in 1985.

आकाशवाणी



Ustad Sabri Khan

(1927-2015)

Ustad Sabri Khan was born in Moradabad. He was initiated into Sarangi – playing by his grandfather, Ustad Haji Mohammed Khan and later continued his training under his father Ustad Chajju Khan, both accomplished Sarangi exponents of their time. He also learned some important and rare techniques of playing this ancient and difficult instrument from his uncle Ustad Laddan Khan of Rampur.

The credit of introducing the Sarangi to American and European

audiences goes to Ustad Sabri Khan. He also played a duet with the renowned Yehudi Menuhin and was invited as a visiting professor by the University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

He was associated with All India Radio Delhi station as a staff artist since 1942. Not only for his accomplished accompaniment to all the major vocalists in India, Ustad Sabri Khan was also a distinguished soloist.

In appreciation of his contribution to the Classical Music of India, Ustad Sabri Khan received numerous honours and awards, including the Sahitya Kala Parishad Award, UP Sangeet Natak Academy Award, National Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Padma Shree Award (1992) and Padma Bhushan Award (2006).



Pandit Vijay Raghav Rao

(1925-2011)

Pandit Vijay Raghav Rao born in Madras, was an Indian flautist and composer. He represented all that is best about our culture - dance, as it came through in his scores for ballet, music in vibrant scores for films and gramophone records and the AIR Orchestra and also his performances on the flute; and our magnificent cultural diversity he demonstrated through his writings and lecture-demonstrations.

Panditji's scores for Mrinal Sen's *Bhuvan Shome* (1969) (honoured with the Golden Peacock, IFF, New Delhi) and painter

M.F. Hussain's *Through the Eyes of a Painter* (1967) (honoured with the Golden Bear, Berlin Film Festival) are just two examples of such brilliance. As a poet, Panditji has published five well- received anthologies of poems and short stories in English and Telugu.

He has been associated with All India Radio for years, and spent decades as chair of All India Radio's Film Division.

He was awarded the Padma Shri by Government of India in 1970, and in 1982 the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in Creative and Experimental music category, the highest for performing artist conferred by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.



Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh

(1909-1997)

Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh was born in Calcutta. He was both an extremely talented tabla Guru as well as a harmonium player of repute, having trained under musical legends like Pt Girija Shankar, Ustad Mohammed Sagir Khan and Ustad Mohammed Dabir Khan. He took tabla lessons from Ustad Masit Khan of the Farukhabad gharana and became his senior disciple, and later also learnt from Ustad Feroze Khan of the Punjab gharana.

He worked for 15 years in All India Radio Calcutta as a producer

of music. He wrote pieces in classical music, light music, modern, orchestral, choral, and percussion styles.

He also scored music for many Bengali films, including Jadubhatta. The Drums of India and a jugalbandi with Pandit V.G. Jog on violin are amongst his most popular records

But he was most known for the array of students he produced, amongst others - tabla players Nikhil Ghosh, Kanai Dutta, Shankar Ghosh, Abhijit Banerjee, and Anindo Chatterjee, and vocalists A Kanna, Malvika Kanna, Prasun Banerjee, and Arun Bhaduri.

In 1974, he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship the highest honour conferred by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama. This was followed by the Padma Bhushan in 1984, given by the Government of India.



Emani Sankara Sastry

(1922-1987)

Pandit Emani Sankara Sastry was born in Draksharamam, Andhra Pradesh. He came from a family of celebrated classical musicians and was one of the best veena players of his times.

He was amongst the first musicians to collaborate with North Indian musicians and played duets with Ustad Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar.

A prolific composer, he also directed music for hit films such as

Mangla, Sansar, Bahut Din Huwe, Vindhyarani, Nishan, and others. His own compositions of keerthanas, javalis and bhajans can be frequently heard in his solo concerts. His operas in Hindi and regional languages are also very popular.

His major monumental works in orchestration include Adarsasikhararohanam in which he used six veenas, Swaratarangini, Ragam Thanam Pallavi, a first of its kind in classical music, Bharatajyoti a thematic musical composition on late Pandit Nehru, and Saumyapursh, a musical composition on late Mahatma Gandhiji's ideals.

In 1959, he joined All India Radio (AIR) Madras as producer of Music and later rose to the position of Director and composer of the National Orchestra there and chief producer of music



Naina Devi

(1917-1993)

Vidushi Naina Devi was born in Calcutta, but lived much of her adult life in North India. She was a renowned thumri and ghazal singer, though she had also been trained in the classical music genre. She started her musical training under renowned Girja Shankar Chakravarty in her teens, later restarted it with Ustad Mushtaq Hussain Khan, Rampur-Sahaswan gharana and Rasoolan Bai of Benaras gharana in the 1950s. After the death of her husband, a scion of the royal family of Kapurthala, she resumed her musical training and started a career in music.

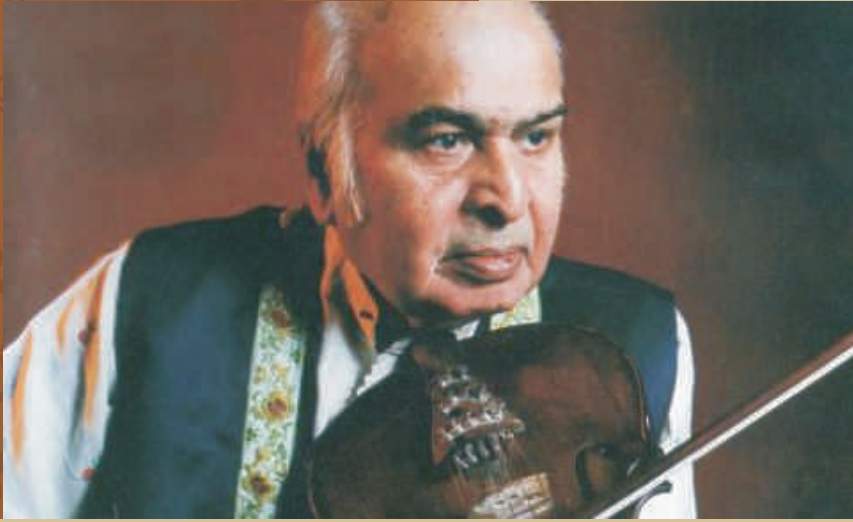
She was a music producer at All India Radio and later with

Doordarshan in the 1960s, during which time she produced several noteworthy programmes featuring live concerts of the then greats of music.

In 1974, she was awarded the Padma Shri, by the Government of India.

She also taught notable disciples amongst whom are Shubha Mudgal, Madhumita Ray and Vidya Rao. In 2011, Vidya Rao wrote a memoir about her titled, "Heart to Heart: Remembering Naina Devi."

आकाशवाणी



Pandit Vishnu Govind Jog

(1922-2004)

Pandit Vishnu Govind Jog, better known as V. G. Jog, was born in Bombay. His name is a name synonymous with the violin in Hindustani classical music.

His career as a highly active and successful performer spanned almost five decades.

At a very young age, he rubbed shoulders with all-time greats at the Bhatkhande College of Music, Lucknow, in the 1930s where he studied and subsequently taught. He also taught at the Ustad Ali Akbar School. His extensive knowledge and skilful artistry are legendary

among lovers of Indian Classical music worldwide.

He joined All India Radio in 1953 and served as music producer. By the time he retired he had risen to deputy chief producer, All India Radio. He also had the honour of being a member of AIR's audition board.

Pandit Jog was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1982. He received many honors from various cultural institutions, including the Sangeet Natak Academy award in 1983.

आकाशवाणी



Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

(1st July 1938-)

Born in Allahabad, Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia has appreciably extended the expressive possibilities of North Indian classical flute through his magnificent blowing skills. His inimitable artistry has distinguished him as the greatest living master of the North Indian Bamboo Flute, acclaimed both at home and abroad

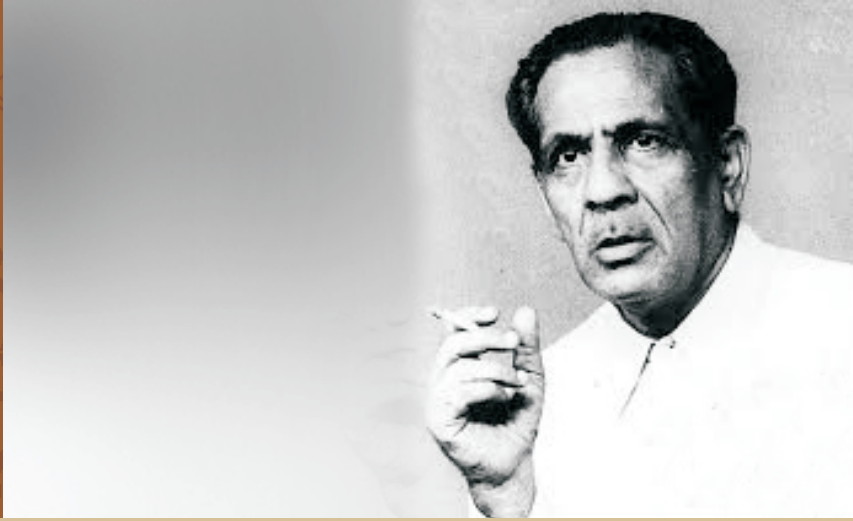
He started playing flute under the guidance of Pandit Bholanath Prasanna of Varanasi. Eventually, he got the opportunity to learn music from Guruma. Annapurna Devi, daughter of Baba Allaudin Khan.

He has also composed music for several Bollywood movies, such as 'Chandni', 'Faasle', 'Lamhe', 'Silsila', and 'Darr'. He has worked jointly with many world musicians experimental cross-cultural concerts, including Shakti, the fusion group. He has also performed in partnership with western musicians, like John McLaughlin and Jan Garbarek.

In 1957, barely out of his teens, he became a regular staff artiste of All India Radio, Cuttack in Orissa, where he worked as performer as well as a composer. He was transferred by AIR (All India Radio) Cuttack to Bombay in 1960, where he served for a few years before leaving AIR to pursue a career in music.

Currently teaching music in Mumbai, in the traditional Guru-Shishya Parampara, he has another school in the same Gurukul style in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He also teaches music at the Rotterdam Music Conservatorium, where he is the Artistic Director of the Indian Music Department.

He has been awarded the Sangeet Natak Academy Award, 1984; Padma Bhushan, 1992; Padma Vibhushan Award, Ordres des Arts et Lettres, France 2008 (France's highest civilian award) and Sangeet Natak Academy Fellowship Award 2012.



Firaq Gorakhpuri

(1896-1982)

Firaq Gorakhpuri's real name was Raghupati Sahay. He was born in Gorakhpur. He left his imprint on three important genres of Urdu poetry - ghazal, nazm and rubaayee. He wrote more than 40,000 couplets. His poems are published in three anthologies - Rooh-o-Qaayanat, Gul-e-Ra'naa, Nagma-numaa.

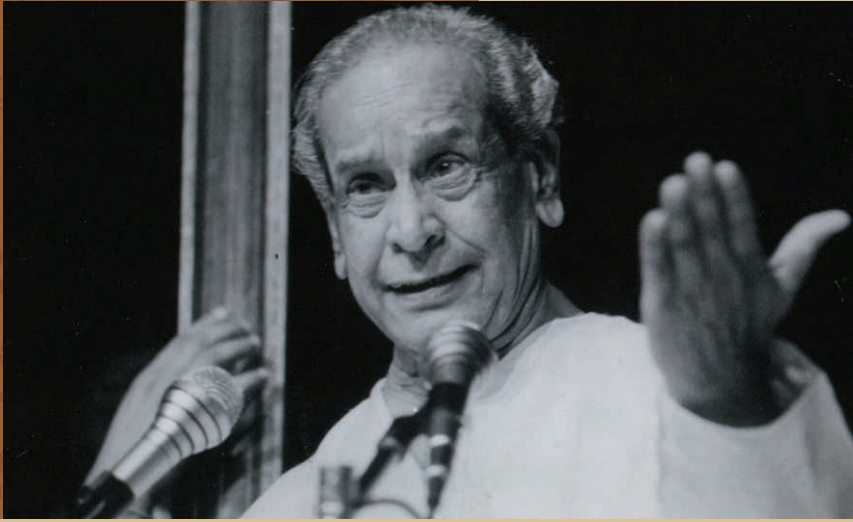
He was a lecturer of English literature at Allahabad University. It was there that he wrote most of his Urdu poetry, including his magnum opus Gul-e-Naghma which earned him the highest literary award of India, the Jnanpith Award, and also the 1960 Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu.

During his life, he was given the position of Research Professor at the University Grants Commission.

He was associated with All India Radio for a long time, and eventually was made Producer Emeritus by All India Radio.

He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu in 1960, the 1st Jnanpith Award in 1968 ; Padma Bhushan in 1969 and the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 1970.

आकाशवाणी



Bhimsen Joshi

(1922-2011)

Pt Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi was born in Dharwad district of Karnataka. He heard a recording of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan when he was a child, which inspired him to become a musician, so in 1933 he left Dharwad to find a master and learn music. For 3 years he travelled around North India in search of a Guru, but eventually in 1936, Sawai Gandharva, a native of Dharwad, agreed to be his guru.

Panditji first performed live in 1941 at the age 19. His debut album, containing a few devotional songs in Marathi and Hindi, was released by HMV the next year in 1942.

Later he moved Bombay in 1943 and worked as a radio artist with All India Radio.

What made him distinctive from his contemporaries was his ability to balance between the traditional music and mass-culture taste. This probably best explains his success as a Hindustani vocalist in terms of largest commercially recorded repertoire.

His musical career culminated in receiving the Bharat Ratna in 2009. Earlier awards included in 1972 Padma Shree, in 1976, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, in 1985, Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow in 1998 and in 1999 Padma Vibhushan.

आकाशवाणी



Amritlal Nagar

(1916-1990)

Shri Amritlal Nagar, born in Agra, was one of the prominent Hindi writers of the twentieth century. Often cited as the true literary heir of Premchand, Amritlal Nagar is counted as one of the most important and multi-faceted creative writers of Indian literature.

He worked as a drama producer in All India Radio between December 1953 and May 1956. At this point he realised that a regular job would always be a hindrance to his literary life, so he devoted himself to freelance writing. However he remained connected to All India Radio and was nominated Member, Advisory Board, Akashvani (All India

Radio) Lucknow (1974–1979).

His first published poem was in the fortnightly Anand in December 1928. From 1940 to 1947, Nagar wrote screen plays and dialogues for the film industry in Bombay, Kolhapur, and Madras. He was one of the early pioneers specialising in cinematic dubbing that involved the art of translating films of one language into another.

He published several novels during his literary career, which culminated in his being made a Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi in 1989.

आकाशवाणी



Girija Kumar Mathur

(1918-1994)

Girija kumar Mathur was born in Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He is considered one of the most important writers in Hindi due to his efforts to modernise Hindi literature and promote it through many of his works.

After practicing law for a few years, he started working in All India Radio and later Doordarshan. He retired as the deputy director-general of Doordarshan in 1978 and was later appointed emeritus producer.

He published his first anthology, 'Manjir' in 1941. In 1991, he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for his anthology, "Main Vaktke

Hun Samne" as well as the Vyas Samman in the same year. He is noted for his translation of the popular English song "We Shall Overcome" into Hindi.

His several important published works include Nash aur Nirman, Dhup ke Dhan, Sheilapankh Chamkile, and Bhitri Nadi Ki Yatra (Anthology).

आकाशवाणी



Kamleshwar

(1932-2007)

Kamleshwar Prasad Saxena was born in the Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh. He was a prominent 20th-century Hindi writer, and scriptwriter for Hindi cinema and television.

He is considered a part of the league of Hindi literature's Nayi Kahani ("New Story") movement in the 1950s.

Kamleshwar's first story, "Comrade", was published in 1948. By the late 1970s, he had made his first short TV film the "Jamuna Bazar", near river Yamuna in Delhi, and soon switched to television scriptwriting.

He eventually became the Additional Director General of Doordarshan,

India's national television channel and during his tenure, (1980–82), in a matter of 24 months, the entire nation was connected with television network.

Over the years, he wrote stories in ten TV serials including Chandrakanta, Aakash Ganga, Yug ,Betaal Pachisi, Darpan and Ek Kahani.

He hosted a popular talk show on Doordarshan, Parikrama, started a weekly literary show, Patrika, and also produced and directed several television programs and investigative documentaries on social and political issues for Doordarshan.

He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003 for his Hindi novel Kitne Pakistan and also the Padma Bhushan in 2005.



Anil Biswas

(1914-2003)

Anil Krishna Biswas was an Indian film music composer from 1935 to 1965, who apart from being one of pioneers of playback singing, is also credited with the first Indian orchestra of twelve pieces and of introducing orchestral music and full-blooded choral effects, into Indian cinema.

Out of his over 90 films, most memorable were, Roti(1942), Kismet (1943), Anokha Pyaar (1948), Taraana(1951), Waaris(1954), Pardesi(1957) and Char Dil Char Rahen (1959).

In Delhi he became director of the National Orchestra at the All India

Radio (AIR) in March 1963, and remained Chief Producer-Sugam Sangeet (light Hindustani classical music) at AIR, Delhi till 1975. His association remained, and he composed music for Doordarshan's pioneering TV series Hum Log (1984)

He won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986.

Upon his death, the then Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee called him, “a doyen of film music who struck the rare balance between classical purity of music and popular pulse”, and credited him for leaving, “an enduring legacy as he introduced many talented singers and innovations to the Indian film music.”

आकाशवाणी



Ustad Sultan Khan

(1940-2011)

Ustad Sultan Khan was born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He was a legendary sarangi player, and gave his first performance at the All-India Conference at the age of eleven, and first performed on an international stage with Pt Ravi Shankar on George Harrison's 1974 Dark Horse World Tour

He started his career at the Rajkot station of All India Radio as a 20-year-old boy. He got a chance to play with Lata Mangeshkar during her visit to Rajkot. This proved a turning point for him. Thereafter he was transferred to All India Radio Bombay. Here he was not only deeply involved with the classical music circuit but also with film industry.

In 1984 Oscar winning film "Gandhi" also featured his music and thereafter he recorded for other Hollywood films such as "Heat and Dust" (Merchant Ivory productions). Ustad Sultan Khan's album Piya Basanti was released in 2000 and it was the number one album of the year.

He has won numerous musical awards including, twice, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and in 2010 the Padma Bhushan.

आकाशवाणी



Pankaj Mullick

(1905-1978)

Pankaj Mullick born in Calcutta was a Bengali Indian music director, who was a pioneer of film music in Bengali and Hindi cinema.

“Nemecche Aaj Prothom Badal” was his first commercial recording, with the Kolkata-based Videophone Company in 1926, at the age of eighteen. This was the first of many albums which made him a household name in Rabindra sangeet.

He started his career with the Indian Broadcasting Corporation in Calcutta in 1927, the forerunner of All India Radio (AIR), where he

contributed as a music director and artist for nearly fifty years. He and Bharatanatyam danseuse Vjyayanthimala were lead performers at the nationwide launch of the Doordarshan channel in 1959.

He contributed in various capacities to Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Tamil language films for 38 years, starting in 1931. Along with Nitin Bose and his renowned sound engineer brother Mukul Bose, Mullick introduced playback singing in Indian cinema.

The Indian Postal Service released a postage stamp on his birth centenary in 2006, and on 10 May, Doordarshan, India's state television channel, telecast a special music program to commemorate the occasion.

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970, followed by the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (India's highest award in cinema, given by the Government of India) in 1972 for lifetime contribution to Indian cinema.



Rai Chand Boral

(1903-1981)

Rai Chand Boral was born in Calcutta into a renowned musical family. He was a prolific Indian music composer, considered by music connoisseurs to be the father of Bollywood film music.

Trained in classical music – he learnt both dhrupad and tabla, and set up his own 30 pc orchestra to make music for films.

Along with Pankaj Mullick, he was in charge of New Theatres' music department which set standards in film music which have not been exceeded since. They also shaped film music in its early days and their format was followed for the most part for the first 20–30 years in Hindi

film music.

Boral joined the Indian Broadcasting Company in the year of its inception, 1927. In 1931, he shifted to the New Theatres in the silent era for supporting the stage with live music.

He was also responsible for forming what is now known as the Bengal school of Indian film music. He made music for hit films like President Devdas (Bengali) Vidyapati and Manzil.

He was also responsible for shaping legendary singer K L Saigal's career.

He was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award the highest award in Indian cinema, given by Government of India, in 1978, and also in the same year, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy for Music, Dance and Drama. Anil Biswas called Boral 'Bhishma Pitamah of film music'.



Dr Bhupen Hazarika

(1926-2011)

Dr Bhupen Hazarika was born in Sadiya Assam, was the pioneer of Assam's film industry in the Northeast, and has been therefore, rightly hailed as the uncrowned king of North-Eastern India's cultural world.

After completing his MA he briefly worked at the All India Radio station at Guwahati before embarking for his doctoral studies at Columbia University. Many years later, The Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Government of India bestowed the honour of Producer Emeritus on him. In 2003, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was appointed the member of the Prasar Bharati Board, Ministry of

Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

He made several films in Assamese, and won the President's National Award for the best film maker thrice : for Shakuntala, Pratidhwani, and Loti Ghoti.

In the period after the release of Ek Pal (1986) until his death, Dr Bhupen Hazarika mainly concentrated on Hindi films, including Rudaali (1993) and Daman: A Victim of Marital Violence (2001).

He received the National Film Award for Best Music Direction in 1975. He is a recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award(1987), Padmashri (1997), and Padmabhushan (2001),

Hazarika was awarded with Dada Saheb Phalke Award (1992), India's highest award in cinema, by the Government of India and Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2008). He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 2012.

Dr Hazarika also held the position of the Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi from December 1998 to December 2003.



D.R. Bendre

(1896-1981)

Dattatreya Ramachandra Bendre was born in Dharwar and is considered the father figure of modern Kannada poetry. His poems are linked to the Kannada poetic tradition through their use of folklore, the vachanas and the Kirtans.

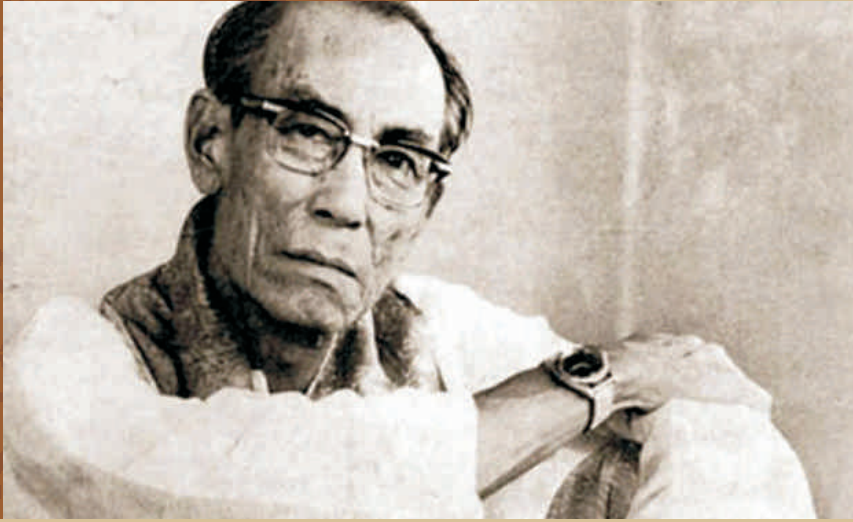
Prof Bendre earned his Master degree in 1935. Starting his career as a teacher at Victoria High school in Dharwad, he worked as a professor of Kannada in D.A.V. College Solapur between 1944 and 1956.

In 1956 he was appointed an advisor for All India Radio's Dharwad station.

Prof Bendre's poetry was impeccable – it is neither narrative nor dramatic, but essentially lyrical. R.S. Mugali, the eminent Kannada scholar and literary historian has identified Bendre's, more than anyone else as being instrumental in establishing Kannada lyric poetry on a firm footing. Though Bendre's first anthology of poems was Krishnakumari (1922), it was Gari (the Feather, 1932) which shot him into limelight. He was a prolific writer - 1427 poems.

In 1972, film director and playwright Girish Karnad made a Kannada documentary film, D. R. Bendre on his life and work. In 1993 Karnataka Govt, has established Bendre Memorial Trust at Dharwad with the object of furthering the cause of literature and culture. A magnificent Bendre Bhavan has been erected in 1996 for the purpose

He was awarded Padma Shri – 1968, Sahitya Academy award – 1958, Fellowship of Sahitya Academy – 1968.



Sachin Dev Burman

(1906-1975)

Sachin Dev Burman was born in Comilla, now Bangladesh. He was a renowned Indian music composer.

His association with All India Radio started his career - in 1932, he began singing for the Calcutta radio station. It was there that he became famous for his performances of Bengali, Tripuri folk music, and light classical music.

S D Burman composed music for over 100 movies, including Hindi and Bengali films. Apart from being a versatile composer, he also sang

songs in light semi classical and folk style, as also 14 Hindi and 13 Bengali film songs.

In 1950s, he made musical hits like Devdas, Taxi Driver, Nau do Gyarah and Kala Paani, Munimji, Paying Guest Pyaasa and Kaagaz Ke Phool (1959). In 1970 he won National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer for Aradhana, and in 1974 the National Film Award for Best Music Direction: Zindagi Zindagi.

In 1958 he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Music direction of 'Sujata' and remains the only music director to have won the prestigious award.

आकाशवाणी



Bhagwati Charan Verma

(1903-1981)

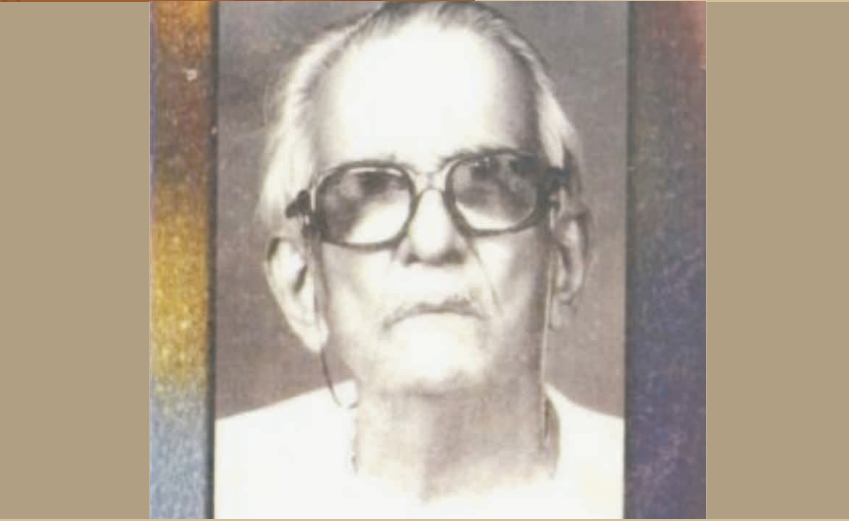
Bhagwati Charan Verma was one of the leading writers in Hindi. He wrote many novels, his best work was Chitrlekha (1934), which was made into two successful Hindi films, in 1941 and 1964.

In his literary career he wrote to write over 17 novels. He worked at Calcutta Film Corporation for a while, followed by editing a weekly magazine, Vichaar. He also did screenwriting in Bombay, and later edited a Hindi daily Navjeevan; and finally he started writing independently in 1957.

His connection with All India Radio started with his serving as a Hindi advisor at the Lucknow station. Darwhekar was Assistant Producer at Delhi Doordarshan from 1961 to 1963, before moving to Mumbai All India Radio (Akashwani) as Producer. He worked as a member of the Stage Review Committee from 1974 to 1980.

He was awarded Sahitya Akademi Award for his epic five-part novel, Bhoole Bisre Chitra in 1961 and Padma Bhushan in 1971. He was also nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1978.

आकाशवाणी



Nagavally R. S. Kurup

(1917-2003)

Nagavally R. S. Kurup, or Nagavally as he was popularly known as, was born in Alleppey Kerala. He was a writer, commentator and broadcaster best known for his works on All India Radio. He was the father of the Malayalam actor Venu Nagavally. He authored over 50 literary works including plays and around 20 film scripts. He penned the script for the Malayalam film "Newspaper Boy" which is regarded as the first neo-realist movie in Malayalam. He had also acted in the film

In 1951, he joined All India Radio, with which he was associated till his retirement in 1977.

Author of over 50 literary works including plays and around 20 film scripts, Nagavally will be remembered for long as a radio commentator as well. Be it a football match or a boat race, there was the 'Nagavally touch' in his commentary in an age when the radio was much more popular.

He was honoured by the Kerala Sahithya Akademi for his overall contributions to Malayalam literature. The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi also had honoured him with an award.

आकाशवाणी



Amrita Pritam

(1919-2005)

Amrita Pritam was born in Gujranwala, Punjab. She is considered the first prominent woman Punjabi poet, novelist, and essayist, and the leading 20th-century poet in Punjabi. With a career spanning over six decades, she produced over 100 books, a collection of Punjabi folk songs and an autobiography.

She is most remembered for her poignant poem, Ajj aakhaan Waris Shah nu (Today I invoke Waris Shah – "Ode to Waris Shah"), an elegy to the 18th century Punjabi poet. As a novelist, her most noted work was Pinjar (The Skeleton) (1950), the novel was made into an award-winning film, Pinjar in 2003.

In her career spanning over six decades, she penned 28 novels, 18 anthologies of prose, five short stories and 16 miscellaneous prose volumes.

She joined All India Radio Punjabi section after Partition in 1947.

She became the first woman to win the Sahitya Akademi Award for her magnum opus, a long poem, Sunehade (Messages), later she received the Bharatiya Jnanpith in 1982 for Kagaz Te Canvas, the Padma Shri in 1969 and finally, Padma Vibhushan in 2004, and in the same year she was honoured with India's highest literary award, given by the Sahitya Akademi (India's Academy of Letters), the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship given to the "immortals of literature" for lifetime achievement.



P.L. Deshpande

(1919-2000)

Purushottam Lakshman Deshpande was born in Bombay and was a Marathi writer and humourist. He was also an accomplished film and stage actor, music composer, singer, and orator. He was often referred to as "Maharashtrache Laadke Vyaktimatva" (roughly translated as "Maharashtra's beloved personality").

Both P L Deshpande and his wife served as teachers in Orient High School, Mumbai. He also worked for some years as a college professor in Belgaum, Karnataka before embarking on a career in writing, acting, directing and composing film music. He was a prolific writer, with

several books and plays to his credit including a biography on Gandhiji. He also composed music and wrote the screen play for several Hindi films including Sandesh Phool Aur Kaliyan Aaj aur Kal and also a much larger number of Marathi films.

He also worked for newly founded Doordarshan, the state owned Indian TV. He was the first person to interview the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on Indian television. He was deputed to the BBC in UK for a year-long training.

He was highly decorated and awarded Sahitya Akademi Award (Marathi) in 1965, Padma Shri in 1966, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 1979 and Padma Bhushan 1990.



Sai Paranjpye

(1938-)

Sai Paranjpye was born in Bombay and is a celebrated movie director and a screenwriter. She is the director of award-winning movies Sparsh, Katha, Chasme Buddoor, and Disha.

She graduated from the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi in 1963.

She started her career in All India Radio (AIR) in Pune, Maharashtra, India as an announcer and soon got involved with AIR's Children's Program. She worked for many years as a director and a producer with Doordarshan Television in Delhi. Her first made-for-TV movie, The

Little Tea Shop (1972), won the Asian Broadcasting Union Award at Teheran, Iran. Later that year, she was selected to produce the inaugural program of Bombay (Mumbai) Doordarshan. She also made TV serials, Ados Pados (1984) and Chhote Bade (1985).

Sai Paranjpye is a multifaceted personality. Over the years, she has written and directed plays in Marathi, (Jaswandi, Sakkhe Shejari, Albel amongst others) Hindi, and English for adults and children. She has written and directed six feature films, two children's films, and five documentaries. Six of her children's books have won national and state level awards.

The Government of India awarded her the Padma Bhushan in 2006 in recognition of her artistic talents. She has also been awarded in 1980, the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi (director) for Sparsh and in 1993 National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues for Choodiyan.



Syed Abdul Malik

(1919-2000)

Syed Abdul Malik was born in Golaghat, Assam. No other writer has contributed so extensively to Assamese literature as him – he left behind a rich legacy of 60 novels, 1000 short stories 6 plays and much more.

During 1948-49, Syed Abdul Malik worked as a Programme Assistant in the Shillong-Guwahati Radio station. During this time he started his literary career which continued for the next five decades.

A widely travelled man, Syed Abdul Malik wrote travelogues on England, China, Russia and the Middle East. These travelogues are

regarded as those among the best works written in the category in Assamese.

Many of his works have been translated into major Indian languages, while many of his novels and short stories have been made into films. Recently in his honour, the Sahitya Acharya Abdul Malik Bhavan, was built in his memory in his native Golaghat Assam.

He was awarded the Padmashri in 1984 and the Padma Bhushan in 1992. He was also awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award.

आकाशवाणी



P. Padmarajan

(1945-1991)

P. Padmarajan was born near Haripad in Alappuzha district and was a distinguished author, screenwriter, and film director who was known for his landmark works in Malayalam literature and Malayalam cinema. Padmarajan was the founder of a new school of film making in Malayalam, along with Bharathan, in the 1980s, which created films that were widely received while also being critically acclaimed.

He joined All India Radio, Trichur (1965), starting as a programme announcer, and later settled at Poojappura, Trivandrum (1968); he would remain at All India Radio until 1986, when his busy involvement

in films would prompt him to retire voluntarily.

His first novel Nakshathrangale Kaaval won the Kerala Sahithya Academy award in 1972.

He entered the world of Malayalam films by writing the screenplay for Bharathan's directorial debut Prayaanam (1975) ending up as one of the most talented script writers to have graced Malayalam cinema.

In 1972 he received the Kerala Sahithya Academy Awards for his Novel – Nakshathrangale Kaval. He also won Best Feature Film award in Malayalam twice in 1979 and 1986.

आकाशवाणी



Webster Davies Jyrwa

(1923-2015)

Shri Webster Davies Jyrwa joined AIR Shillong as a Programme Executive in 1960 when AIR's popularity was at its heights. He retired from service in 1983 as Station Director, AIR, Shillong.

His contribution to programme content was tremendous since AIR Shillong at that time was broadcasting programmes in Khasi, Jaintia, Garo, Mizo, and Naga. He worked in various stations of the north-east and was part of the opening team when AIR stations at Kohima & Tezu were started. He served as station director, AIR Dibrugarh in 1972, and later opened the new station at Tawang. He was the first tribal Station Director in the North East region. In fact it can be rightly said that he

was the Father of All India Radio in the North East.

His experiences at All India Radio in his memoir make fascinating reading.

Shri Webster Davies Jyrwa was an accomplished musician and played a number of musical instruments. He formed the famed 'Jaiaw Orchestra' which was first broadcast in 1947.

He has also written several books & was a noted columnist. He published thirteen books, dramas, essays, novelettes, poetry and had received six Literary Awards. Most well known is his book in Khasi Phra tylli ki ese.

आकाशवाणी



G. Sankara Kurup

(1901-1978)

G. Sankara Kurup was born in Cochin, Kerala. He is better known as Mahakavi G (The Great Poet G). Kurup published his first poem, called Salutation to Nature in 1918, while still a student. Apart from 25 collections of poetry, Kurup also wrote verse dramas and collections of literary essays—in all about 40 works in Malayalam. He also translated the Rubáiyát (1932) of Omar Khayyám, the Sanskrit poem Meghaduta (1944) of Kalidas, and the collection of poems Gitanjali (1959) of Rabindranath Tagore into Malayalam.

His association with All India Radio was from the late 1950s - for two years he was Producer in the All India Radio Station, Trivandrum. From

1958 to 1960 he was 'Sahitya Salak' in the same station.

He also penned the lyrics for P. J. Cherian's Nirmala, (1948), the first Malayalam film to incorporate music and songs. Kurup also led an active public life as a member (1968–72) of Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian parliament.

His poetry collection Viswadarshanam won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1961, Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 1963, Jnanpith Award in 1965, and Padma Bhushan in 1968.

आकाशवाणी



Balakrishna Bhagwant Borkar (1910-1984)

Balakrishna Bhagwant Borkar was born in Goa, and was a well known poet. His long poems Mahatmayan, an unfinished poem dedicated to Gandhi), and TamaHstotra (upon the possibility of blindness due to diabetes and old age) are famous.

He worked as teacher in various schools in Goa from 1930 to 1945. Later he left for Bombay where he edited Konkani periodicals Amacha Gomatak and Porjecho Awaj.

In 1955 he joined Aakashvani (All India Radio) Bombay and worked there until his retirement in 1970.

Shri Borkarji's forte was his diverse sensibility, his multi-coloured imagery and ease with which he could showcase the joys and sorrows of life. His works were about nature, patriotism, about body and soul, sensuous and meditative, about individual and society.

He was awarded Padma Shri, in 1967 by the then President Dr S. Radhakrishnan in recognition of his distinguished service in the field of Literature & Education. He was also awarded the Tamrapatra (Copper Plaque) in 1974 by the Government of India for his meritorious services to the cause of India's freedom.

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आकाशवाणी



Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan (1907-2003)

Harivansh Rai Bachchan was born in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was a noted Indian poet of the Nayi Kavita literary movement of the early 20th century Hindi literature. He is best known for his early work Madhushala.

Shri Harivanshrai served at All India Radio, Allahabad in the 1940s.

In 1955, he shifted to Delhi to join the External Affairs Ministry as an officer on Special duty and during the period of 10 years that he served he was also associated with the evolution of Hindi as the official language. He also enriched Hindi through his translations of major

writings.

Besides Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat, he will also be remembered for his Hindi translations of Shakespeare's Macbeth and Othello and also the Bhagvad Gita. Harivanshrai was nominated to the Indian Rajya Sabha in 1966 and government gave him the Sahitya Akademi award three years later. In 1976 he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan for his immense contribution to Hindi literature.

आकाशवाणी



Pt. Ravi Shankar

(1920-2012)

Pt. Ravi Shankar was born in Banaras, and was one of the best known faces of classical Indian music in India and the West. Not only a performer, he was also a great composer, teacher and music visionary.

He joined All India Radio, New Delhi, from 1949 to 1956, where he was music director. He founded the Indian National Orchestra at AIR and composed for it; in his compositions he combined Western and classical Indian instrumentation.

He was music director for several Hindi movies including Godaan and

Anuradha. Indian music began to be known by his tours to the West starting from the mid 1950s. His association in the 1960s with the Beatles and his teaching George Harrison took this interest in the West to a different level. He collaborated with several Western musicians, incorporated elements of Carnatic music within Hindustani, gave more prominence to “laya” or rhythm than had ever been given before in concerts.

From 1986 to 1992, he served as a nominated member of Rajya Sabha, the upper chamber of the Parliament of India. He was awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, Padma Vibhushan and finally in 1999, India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna



Soumitra Chatterjee

(1935-)

Soumitra Chatterjee was born in Krishnanagar West Bengal, and is a famous Bengali film actor.

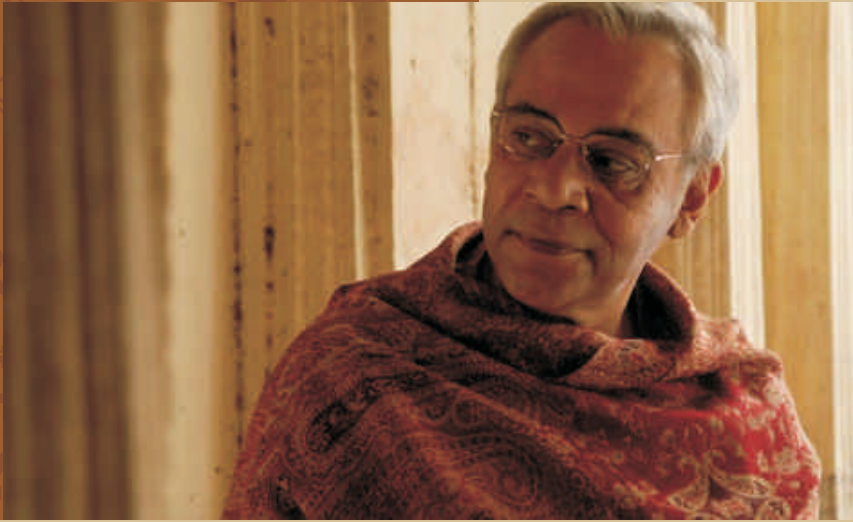
He started his career working in All India Radio as an announcer, while he was still there he started pursuing a career in films

Starting with his debut film, Apur Sansar (The World of Apu, 1959), the third part of Apu Trilogy, he continued to be a prolific film actor in several movies including greats like Abhijan, Charulata, Parineeta and Ganadevata.

Besides acting, he has written and directed several plays, translated a few and also branched out to poetry reading in recent decades. He has been the subject of a full-length documentary named Gaach by French film director Catherine Berge

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2004. In 2012, he received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in cinema given by the government of India for lifetime achievement. He has won two National Film Awards as an actor, and as an actor in Bengali theatre, he received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1998, given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama.

Soumitra has received the 'Officier des Arts et Metiers', the highest award for arts given by the French government, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Italy.



Dhritiman Chatterjee

(1945-)

Dhritiman Chatterji is a reputed Bengali actor, documentary film maker and advertising professional.

He began his acting career in 1970 in of Satyajit Ray's Pratidwandi . Most of his acting work has been in India's parallel cinema with filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Aparna Sen, among others. He has also worked in English films with well-known filmmakers such as Deepa Mehta and Jane Campion. He has received several acting awards in India and has been on the Jury of the Indian National film Awards.

He pursues a parallel career in advertising, social communications and documentary filmmaking.

Never a part of mainstream "Bollywood", he's made an astonishingly small number of films. About his acting qualities Satyajit Ray once remarked, "I do not know what definition of a star these filmmakers have been using, but mine goes something like this. A star is a person on the screen who continues to be expressive and interesting even after he or she has stopped doing anything. This definition does not exclude the rare and lucky breed that gets lakhs of rupees per film; and it includes everyone who keeps his calm before the camera, projects a personality and evokes empathy. This is a rare breed too but one has met it in our films. Dhritiman Chatterji of Pratidwandi is such a star."

Dhritiman is currently anchor of Pradhanmantri (TV Series) in Bengali.



Allah Rakha

(1919-2000)

Ustad Allahrakha Khan was born in Jammu and Kashmir, and was one of the finest tabla players of his generation.

Ustad Allah Rakha joined All India Radio Bombay in 1940, playing the station's first ever tabla solo and elevating the instrument's position in the process.

The master achieved world renown as Pt Ravi Shankar's chief accompanist during the 1960s, delighting audiences in the West with his percussion wizardry, not only as an uncanny accompanist with

flawless timing and sensitivity but also as a soloist where he was a master of improvisation, a prolific composer and an electric showman.

Ustad Allah Rakha Khan popularised the art of tabla, playing across the globe, elevating the status and respect of his instrument. "Abbaji" (as he was affectionately known by his disciples) also bridged the gap between Carnatic music and Hindustani music by playing with both renowned Carnatic musicians and other

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1977 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1982.

आकाशवाणी



Jaidev Singh (1893-1986)

Thakur Jaidev Singh was born in Shratgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and was an Indian musicologist and philosopher and Sanskrit scholar.

He played a key role in the development of All India Radio in Uttar Pradesh where he was chief producer for a number of years.

Thakur Jaidev Singh was also a renowned scholar in the Kashmir Saivism school of Indian philosophy, a subject he studied for years with Swami Lakshman Joo in Kashmir, and other Gurus. . He prepared and published first-ever English and Hindi translations of a number of Shaivite scriptures including Introduction to Madhyamaka

Philosophy, Pratyabhijnahridayam: The Secret of Self-Recognition, by Kēemarāja, Vijnanabhairava or Divine Consciousness: A Treasury of 112 Types of Yoga, and many more.

The oft-quoted book “Indian Music” penned by Thakur Saheb and published by Sangeet Research Academy in Kolkata, has a few of his rare collection of Dhruvapadas and Thumris of Agra ang.

Thakur Jaidev Singh was appointed as the Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1973.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974 for his contribution to music and Purab Ang.

आकाशवाणी



Jagdish Chandra Mathur (1917-1978)

Jagdish Chandra Mathur was born in Khurja Uttar Pradesh. He was a Hindi playwright and writer. He came into fame with his first play Konark. He. His other famous works includes Phela Raja, Shardiya, Dasrath Nandan, Bhor ka Tara and Oo mere Sapne.

In addition to his writing abilities, Shri Mathur was a civil servant, and also served as the Director General of Akashvani from 1955 to 1962.





Abdul Latif Khan

(???)

Abdul Latif Khan is an Indian classical musician and instrumentalist, known for his proficiency in Sarangi, a stringed Hindustani classical music instrument. He was born in a family of musicians in Gwalior in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, learned music under the tutelage of Haider Khan, his grandfather, Chote Khan, his father, Chhote Khan and Uday Khan and Haddu Khan, his uncles, in Khyal Gharana style and mastered the instruments such as Sitar, Santoor and Tabla Later, he learned Sarangi under Bade Ghulam Sabir Khan.

Khan has performed at many music festivals like Bhopal Sarangi Mela

and has been a staff artist at the All India Radio. He has performed as an accompanist to such renowned musicians as Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Amir Khan, Hirabai Barodekar, Nazakat and Salamat Ali Khan, Kumar Gandharva, Mallikarjun Mansur and Kishori Amonkar. A recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992, Abdul Latif Khan was honored by the Government of India with the fourth highest Indian civilian award, the Padma Shri, in 2002.

आकाशवाणी



Syed Mujtaba Ali

(1904-1974)

Syed Mujtaba Ali was born in Karimganj in Sylhet district of Bengal Presidency (now in Assam). He was a prolific writer, academician, scholar, and linguist.

From 1952 to 1956 he worked for All India Radio at New Delhi, Cuttack, and Patna.

He then joined the faculty of Visva-Bharati University (1956–1964) as professor of German language and later of Islamic Culture.

Ali was a trail-blazer of a unique category of Bengali writing called 'Ramya Rachana' in Bengali, an anecdotal story-telling – often based

on real-life experiences. This became immensely popular, mostly because of the attractive writing style of Ali. 'Deshe Bideshe', the story of his journey to and experiences in Kabul during his brief stint as professor in a college there is one of Ali's best works. Panchatantra is a collection of thoughts and short stories (some already published in 'Desh' magazine) of his days in Europe, Cairo, and Baroda.

In 1972, after the liberation of the country, Ali returned to Bangladesh. He was awarded Ekushey Padak in 2005 by the Government of Bangladesh.

आकाशवाणी



Ustad Karamatullah Khan

(1917 - 1977)

Ustad Karamatullah was one of the greatest players of the Farukhabad gharana in recorded history.

He and his son was primarily responsible for popularizing the style of “Farukhabad Gharana” in West Bengal. He has given a new dimension of accompaniment, with Vocal, Instrument and Dance, and of course in Solo style of playing for which he will be remembered by music lovers. He was also awarded by the Sangeet Natak Academy for his contribution in the field of Tabla.





Ustad Hafiz Ahmed Khan (1926-2006)

Ustad Hafiz Ahmed Khan was a talented singer and composer. With a Masters and Law degree he was a most unusual professional musician. Because of his lucid command over English, his recitals abroad, interspersed with explanations that would help foreigners understand the intricacies of Indian classical music, were hugely popular.

He served in the Delhi station of All India Radio for many years until his retirement in 1986 as Dy Director.

He also acted in a German movie on Tansen, called "The Rain Maker".

After retirement he was vice-chancellor, Indira Sangeet University at Khairagarh, the only university devoted exclusively to music. Despite his strict adherence to gharana norms, Ustad Hafiz Ahmed Khan was eclectic enough to create new ragas, adapt south Indian melodies into the Hindustani idiom, and perform jugalbandi duets with Carnatic musicians

He was a recipient of the 1996 Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. The Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri in 1991.

आकाशवाणी