

Life Sketch of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861–1962) was a legendary Indian engineer, scholar, and statesman who played a crucial role in the modernization of India during the early 20th century. Born on September 15, 1861, in the village of Muddenahalli in Karnataka, he hailed from a humble background. Despite financial challenges, he pursued education with determination and graduated in civil engineering from the College of Engineering, Pune.

Visvesvaraya began his career in the British government's Public Works Department and soon became known for his technical brilliance. One of his earliest and most significant contributions was designing an innovative flood protection system for Hyderabad after the devastating floods of 1908. He also introduced an automatic water weir system at the Khadakwasla Reservoir near Pune, which was considered highly advanced for its time.

His most remarkable achievement was as the **Dewan (Prime Minister)** of Mysore from 1912 to 1918. During his tenure, he spearheaded a wide range of reforms in education, banking, water supply, and industrial development. He was instrumental in the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara Dam**, one of the largest dams in India at that time, and in establishing institutions like the University of Mysore, State Bank of Mysore, and Mysore Iron and Steel Works.

In recognition of his service, he was knighted by the British Government in 1915 and later awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955, India's highest civilian honor.

Known for his discipline, vision, and patriotism, Visvesvaraya believed in self-reliance and nation-building. His life continues to inspire generations of engineers and leaders. To honor his contributions, **Engineers' Day** is celebrated every year in India on his birthday, September 15. His legacy remains a guiding light for India's progress in science and technology.