

Indian Scientist

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

1955: Bharat Ratna, India's Highest Civilian Award



15 SEP 1861 - 14 APR 1962

A renowned Civil Engineer, Administrator, and a Statesman, Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya served as the 19th Dewan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918. He is often called "the maker of modern Mysore." His birthday, September 15, is celebrated as Engineer's Day in India, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

Achievements & Accomplishments

- Visvesvaraya's major achievement was the **Krishna Raja Sagara Dam**, completed in 1932, which revolutionized irrigation in Mysore.
- He designed **Flood Protection and Irrigation Systems**, boosting agricultural productivity with canals and embankments.
- In 1903, he designed **Hyderabad's Water Supply System**, improving sanitation and public health.
- He established **Mysore Iron and Steel Works**, improved infrastructure, and advised on the Mokama Bridge over the Ganga in Bihar.

Dewan of Mysore (1912-1918)

He introduced many reforms as Dewan of Mysore:

- Established the University of Mysore in 1916.
- Founded Bangalore Polytechnic and Government Engineering College in 1917 which is now known as University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE).
- Built Mysore Soap Factory in 1916, now known as Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL).
- Instrumental in formation of State Bank of Mysore in 1913.
- Formed Kannada Parishat for the development of the Kannada language.

Awards and Honors

- **1911:** Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE).
- **1915:** Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE).
- **1955:** Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- **1923:** President, Indian Science Congress.

Legacy and Recognition

- Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) and Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) are named after him.
- Metro stations in Bangalore and Delhi and a railway terminal in Bangalore bear his name.