

**Draft speech of Smt. D. Purandeswari, MoS-HRD on the eve of the  
Teacher's Day on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.**

It is my proud privilege to address you on the eve of the Teacher's Day celebrations. I congratulate all of you who have received the awards to be given to you formally by the president of India tomorrow at a national function. The Teacher's Day as you are aware is celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> September every year which is the birth day of Dr. Sarvepalli Radha Krishna, who was the First Vice President of India and the Second President of Indian Republic. In 1962 some of Dr. Radha Krishnan's Students and friends approached him and requested for his permission to allow them to celebrate his birth day on a grand scale. Dr. Radha Krishnan reacted by saying that instead of celebrating his birth day it would be his proud privilege and honor if 5<sup>th</sup> September was observed as Teacher's Day on national scale. Such was his love and attachment for the teachers and members of the teaching profession. Since then the country has been celebrating teachers day on 5<sup>th</sup> September every year. This day recalls to us the qualities and achievements of Dr. Radha Krishnan as a teacher, educationist and philosopher statesmen. It is said that an average teacher teaches a good teacher explains, a superior teacher illustrates, and a great teacher both learns and inspires students. He was not only a great teacher but a world teacher to combining himself the qualities of head and heart and spared no pains for creating a world scenario in the knowledge map for India. He was all along a brilliant scholar who supported his education through scholar ships and a philosophy academic carrier all through.

His specialized in philosophy in which he did his post graduation from the Madras Christian College, University of Madras. While working as a professor of philosophy in the university of Mysore, Calcutta, he mastered the classics in the philosophy with specialization in the Hindu philosophical thought. His magnum offers was the History of Indian Philosophy was not only a philosophical classic but literary master piece. Which placed Indian Philosophy on world map. But a man of such universal littérateur genius could not contain himself in within the four walls of teaching in India after he felt various responsible positions as vice chancellors of Andhra and Banaras Hindu University, he was appointed as ambassador to UNESCO. He also served as the Chairman of the University Education Commission in 1948 and made effective contribution for the development for education system in independent India. Soon Higher Call beckoned him and he was persuaded to become the Indian ambassador of Soviet Union in which capacity he laid the foundation for a strong relationship with that county. Dr. Radha Krishnan was first elected as vice president of India 1952 in which capacity he continue up to 1957 have been elected vice president for a subsequent second term. He was elected to the highest post of the Indian Union under the Indian constitution for a five term. During this tenure as president he made effective contribution to the development of national priorities. Such was the man who has amply described India has philosophers statesmen who uplifted the country in the comity of nations.

Centuries back the famous world teacher Plato in his magnum opus Republic observed as follows:

“Unless Kings are philosophers and princes and potentates are imbued with some element of philosophy, there is no respite from its for our city states nor yet, I believe, for the entire mankind” (Plato in his Republic)

Dr. Radhakrishnan eminently fits in this description who played the role of a philosopher kind in an admirably objective manner and improve the image of our people in the International world a ever grateful nation today pays eternally homage to this illustrious son of India for his unparallel contribution for the cause of education and teachers.

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