Bharat RSS – Lok Kalyan

RSS, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Founder, First Sarsanghchalak – Honourable Doctor Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (Doctorji), Born in Nagpur on the Hindu new year, in 1889 (1st April), he later rose to be the architect of a modern powerful India with an unapologetic pride in Hindu civilisational legacy of the nation. It is an incredible saga of a person who succeeded in transforming the society with a new order of dedicated youth, whose spread is seen today in every corner of India- from Tawang to Leh and Okha to Andamans. He founded the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) on Vijayadashami day in 1925 but the name was given an year later- the very first announcement that day was a simple one liner- 'I am announcing the formation of Sangh (organisation) today.' The name RSS was given a year later after intense deliberations and receiving many suggestions which included- Bharat Uddharak Mandal (loosely translated as - Society to rejuvenate India) and Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh. The principal purpose was to create a society that will never fall prey to the internal squabbles and forge a solidarity so that none would be able to subjugate us in future. Before that he had been an active member of the Congress and was the co-incharge for organising the famous Nagpur session of Congress. He participated in non-cooperation movement and was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment for giving passionate speeches for freedom. He had also been a target of the British for his connections with the revolutionaries of Anusheelan Samiti and its leader Pulin Behari Bose. The Hindu culture is the life-breath of Hindusthan. It is therefore clear that if Hindusthan is to be protected, we should first nourish the Hindu culture. If the Hindu culture perishes in Hindusthan itself, and if the Hindu society ceases to exist, it will hardly be appropriate to refer to the mere geographical entity that remains as Hindusthan. Mere geographical lumps do not make a nation. The entire society should be in such a vigilant and organised condition that no one would dare to cast an evil eye on any of our points of honour. Strength, it should be remembered, comes only through organization. It is therefore the duty of every Hindu to do his best to consolidate the Hindu society. The Sangh is just carrying out this supreme task. The present fate of the country cannot be changed unless lakhs of young men dedicate their entire lifetime for that cause. To mould the minds of our youth towards that end is the supreme aim of the Sangh - Doctor Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (Doctorji). **(RSS - 27 September 1925 to 21 June 1940)**

RSS, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Second, Sarsanghchalak – Honourable Shri Madhavrao Sadashivrao Golwalkar, affectionately known as Shri Guruji, was the second Sarsanghachalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), from 1940-1973. It was Shri Guruji who nurtured the RSS and helped it attain a pre-eminent position in Bharat's national life. A seer and visionary, he articulated the basic guiding principles of the RSS. He was and remains a constant source of inspiration, not only to RSS swayamsevaks but to several individuals and organizations in different walks of life. His thoughts on various issues concerning Hindu society are relevant even today. Truly, he was a Rashtra-rishi. Shri Guruji was the second all-Bharat Chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He was born in 1906. The special occasion round the corner is the celebration of his birth centenary. 'Guruji' was not his original name. This name was used out of regard, by his students in Banaras Hindu University where he taught. He is better known by this name even today throughout the Sangh and the nation. His name was Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar. His father's name was Sadashivrao and his mother was Lakshmibai. They lived in Nagpur. In his childhood, Shri Guruji was called lovingly as Madhu. Eight progenies of his parents before him had met a premature death. Those days, Nagpur was a province of modern Madhya Pradesh. His father was a teacher. He was continuously posted in Hindi speaking areas. Although, his mother tongue was Marathi, since Hindi was the general spoken language, Madhu had a firm grip on Hindi as well. And as his school was managed by the Christian missionaries, Madhavrao (his name in school) developed mastery in English, too. Madhavrao returned to Nagpur after completing his Masters in Zoology with first class from Kashi and a few months later, left for Chennai for research in aquarium. There also, people experienced his passion for strict discipline. Once, the Nizam of Hyderabad paid a visit to the laboratory. All the visitors were charged with entrance fee. The managers, however, thought it inappropriate to ask for entrance fee from a big shot like the Nizam. But Madhavrao insisted and the Nizam could enter only after paying the entrance fee. In 1929, his father retired from service and this led to a financial crunch. Money could no longer be sent for pursuance of Madhavrao's studies and ultimately, he left research work and returned to Nagpur. In his correspondence of those days, to his friends, Madhavrao expressed his sentiments as to how he felt in consonance about the incidents of the aggressive patriotism of revolutionaries. Boundless Love for Students From August 1931, Madhavrao began teaching at Banaras Hindu University. During this period, many of his hidden talents came to light. His unfathomable love for his students drove him to help them at studies in every possible way; often he would purchase the necessary text-books for needy students or financially assist them to pay their examination fees. He would be happy spending a large sum of his salary to this end. He would delve deep into other subjects also, so that he could help students in those subjects. Doing all this, Madhavarao had no expectation in return at all. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya noticed his talent as well as his deep affection for the students, and grew fond of him. It was through a Swayamsevak from Nagpur, Shri Bhaiyyaji Dani, who was sent there as a student by Doctorji, (Dr. Hedgewar, the founder of RSS) that Shri Guruji came into contact with the Sangh. He also became the Palak (guardian) of that Shakha. In February 1933, on the expiry of his teaching term, Shri Guruji returned to Nagpur and by 1935, completed his study of law. Ramakrishna Ashram helped him finding right direction in life. **(RSS - 21 June 1940 to 5 June 1973)**

RSS, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Third, Sarsanghchalak – Honourable Shri Madhukar Dattatraya Deoras, born on the 11th of December 1915 in Nagpur. Popularly known as (Pujaniya) Balasaheb Deoras served as third Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) from 6th June 1973. Balasaheb continued as Sarsanghachalak till 11 March 1994 when he stepped down due to ill health - leaving behind a shining legacy and paving the way for Prof. Rajendra Singh to replace him. Declining health eventually resulted in his death on 17 June 1996. He was one of the earliest swayamsevaks of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh who participated in Mohite Wada shakha started by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925.He was appointed as saha-sarkaryawah in 1946 (and Sarkaryawaha in 1965) and became the Sarasanghchalak after the death of M.S. Golwalkar. RSS under the leadership of Deoras went through various difficult situations like the ban on the RSS, the Emergency, Ramjanmabhoomi movement and many more. During the emergency, he was sent to Yerwada Jail due to his support for the JP movement, an anti-Indira Gandhi movement led by Jayprakash Narayan. He played an important role in guiding the Swayamsevaks in a successful anti-emergency struggle and reunited the Sangh after the dark phase of emergency and the ban. Gifted with a profoundly critical intellect, Balasaheb gave a much-needed fillip to the process of a direct dialogue with workers at different levels. He himself would sit for long hours seeking answers to a number of doubts arising in the minds of Swayamsevaks. This two-way intellectual feedback proved very useful in firming up the conviction of the rank and file of the Sangh Parivar. Such an organisational direction was particularly needed in view of the fast-changing intellectual agenda at the national level, with the phenomenal rise of Hindu awareness and Hindutva coming up to centre stage. **The RSS**, since its inception, has thought of itself as an organisation of the entire society and not as an organisation in society. This stance of RSS has not changed even after our Independence from the shackles of British rule. In 1977, during Emergency, when the Janata Party won the elections in which swayamsevaks wholeheartedly participated. In the formation of the Janata Party, many erstwhile parties had merged. But, in spite of the lucrative offer to merge the Sangh in a political party in power, the then Sarsanghachalak Shri Balasaheb Deoras declined it, saying that in a special, critical situation in national life the Sangh did take part in the election. But now Sangh will concentrate on its destined mission of organising the entire society. Deorasji's concern was in uniting the people politically. But appeasement was never his means to achieve this noble cause. He was the supreme leader of the organization which suffered much oppression and human rights violations during the Emergency. **RSS Balasaheb once said - Now the time has come for Krishna himself to go to Sudama's house. The swayamsevaks will have to go to the localities of the deprived, repressed and backward people to serve them and to raise their quality of life.**

RSS, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Fourth, Sarsanghchalak – Honourable Prof. Rajendra Singh (29 January 1922 – 14 July 2003), popularly called Rajju Bhaiya. A Nuclear scientist who solved the puzzles of a nation. He was Sarsanghchalak between 1994 and 2000.He worked as a professor and head of the Department of Physics at Allahabad University but left to devote his life to the RSS in the mid-1960s. Rajendra Singh was born to Jwala Devi and Balbir Singh on 29 January in 1922 in Shahjahanpur city of Uttar Pradesh, when his father was posted there as an engineer. Originally his father Balbir Singh belonged to village Banail Pahasu of Bulandshahr district. Rajju Bhaiyya matriculated from Unnao. After that he was enrolled at the Modern School (New Delhi) for a brief period before moving to St Joseph's College, Nainital. Progressing to Allahabad University, he obtained B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees. Rajju Bhaiyya was acknowledged as an exceptionally brilliant student by Sir C. V. Raman, the physicist and Nobel Prize-winner, when he was his examiner in M.Sc. He also offered Singh a fellowship for advanced research in nuclear physics. He joined Allahabad University after majoring in Physics to teach Spectroscopy. He taught at the university for several years, where later he was appointed head of the Physics Department.Rajju Bhaiyya was also considered an expert in nuclear physics which was very rare those days in India. He was a very popular teacher of the subject, using simplicity and clear concepts. With RSS: Singh was active in the Quit India Movement of 1942 and it was during this time that he came in contact with the RSS. From then onwards the Sangh influenced his life. He resigned from his university post in 1966 and offered full-time services to the RSS as a 'prant pracharak'. Beginning in Uttar Pradesh, Singh progressed to be the Sar Karyavaha (General Secretary) in the 1980s. In 1994, he was nominated to succeed Bala Saheb Deoras as RSS chief. While in Uttar Pradesh, Singh worked with Lal Bahadur Shastri, Chandra Shekhar and V.P. Singh. Murali Manohar Joshi was one of his best students.Arguably Rajju Bhaiya's term of six years was one of the most crucial for both Sangh and India. Rajju Bhaiyya shared an excellent rapport with political leaders cutting across ideological lines besides academicians, social workers and intellectuals. He abdicated the post of Sarsanghchalak on account of his failing health in February 2000 and nominated Shri K. S. Sudarshan for the post.During emergency he went underground and toured whole India. Singh was also responsible for organizing human rights convention presided by Justice VM Tarkunde in Delhi in 1976. He was also responsible for setting up friends of India Society International. **One of the most important beliefs of Singh was: "All people are basically nice. One should deal with every person by believing in his goodness. Anger, jealousy, etc. are the offshoots of his past experiences, which affect his behavior. Primarily every person is nice and everyone is reliable." Rajju Bhaiyya was a firm believer in the concept of swadeshi and empowering rural economy.** Initiating the rural developmental activities, he had declared in 1995 that the utmost priority should be given in making the villages hunger-free, disease-free and educative. Today, there are over 100 villages where the rural development work done by swayamsevaks has inspired the people of surrounding villages and their experiments are being emulated by those people. Addressing the Vijayadashami festival at Nagpur in 1995, Singh remembered Mohandas K. Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. He challenged the way in which the central governments till then were working on fulfilling the dreams of these two statesmen. Rajju Bhaiyya wanted to establish a memorial named after Bismil in Delhi, the capital of India. He died on 14 July 2003 at Kaushik Ashram in Pune, Maharashtra. **(RSS - 11 March 1994 to 10 March 2000)**

RSS, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Fifth, Sarsanghchalak – Honourable Shri Kuppahalli Sitaramayya Sudarshan (Sudarshan Ji), Aashad shukla tritiya (18-June -1931) marks the Jayanti of Swargeeya Shri Kuppahalli Sitaramayya Sudarshan, the fifth Sarsanghachalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Born in 1931 – Raipur Central Provinces, Sudarshan ji started attending RSS Shakha at the tender age of nine. He served as RSS Pracharak for six decades and became its Sarsanghachalak in the year 2000 succeeding Sri Rajendra Singh. An Engineer by qualification, Sudarshan ji was known for his emphasis on physical fitness and intellectual sharpness. His friends' circle included Diplomats, Scientists, Vedic Scholars, Environmentalists and Economists espousing the Swadeshi cause. Sri Ratan Sharda, in his book RSS: Evolution from an Organization to a Movement, describes Sudarshan ji as a feisty leader with a keen interest in physical fitness and intellectual pursuits. In his another book Secrets of RSS: Demystifying The Sangh, Ratan ji observes that Sudarshan ji was an outspoken polyglot with sharp intellect and great clarity of thought and that he was someone who stressed upon self-sustaining rural economy, sustainable consumption and espoused scientific Hindu way of personal, social and national life. Sri Sharda further adds in that book that Sudarshan ji's signal contribution was to bring back unapologetic reasoned aggression to Hindutva philosophy. He presented Hindutva in a scientific manner and explained how it alone could respond to challenges of environmental degradation, civilizational clashes and related issues plaguing India and the world. He received his Bachelor of Engineering in Telecommunications (Honours) from Jabalpur Engineering College (formerly named as Government Engineering college) in Jabalpur. His parents hailed from Kuppahalli Village, Mandya district, in the Kingdom of Mysore, a princely state. He was only nine years old when he first attended an RSS Shakha. In 1954, he was appointed as a Pracharak, with his initial posting in Raigarh district, then part of Madhya Pradesh (now located in Chhattisgarh). In 1964, he became the Prant pracharak of the RSS for Madhya Pradesh. Five years later, in 1969, he was appointed convener of the All-India Organisations' Heads. This was followed by an assignment in north-eastern India in 1977. In 1979, he assumed leadership of the Bauddhik Cell, an ideological and intellectual wing of the RSS. In 1990, he was appointed Joint General Secretary of the organisation. Sudarshan became Sarsanghachalak of the RSS on 11 March 2000. He succeeded Rajendra Singh, who had stepped down on health grounds. In his acceptance speech, Sudarshan recounted being personally selected to lead the RSS in the Madhya Bharat region. He stated that although he was initially reluctant to assume the responsibility, the then RSS Sarsanghachalak M.S.Golwalkar played a key role in persuading him to accept the position. **(RSS - 10 March 2000 to 21 March 2009)**

RSS, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Sixth, Sarsanghchalak – Honourable Doctor Mohan Rao Bhagwat - 11 September 1950 Chandrapur,Vidarbha region, Maharashtra. He graduated in veterinary sciences and animal husbandry from Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola. He left his masters course in veterinary sciences and became an RSS pracharak towards the end of 1975 when the country was under Emergency rule imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi. After working underground during the Emergency, he became pracharak of Akola in Maharashtra in 1977 and rose within the organisation to become pracharak of Nagpur and Vidarbha region. He became in-charge of physical training for RSS cadres across the country in 1991, a post he held till 1999. That year he was made in-charge, for one years, of RSS volunteers working full time all over country. In 2000, when Rajendra Singh and H V Seshadri decided to step down as RSS chief and general secretary respectively due to poor health, K S Sudarshan was nominated the new chief and Mohan Bhagwat rose to the post of general secretary for three years. He got re-elected to the office in 2003 and 2006. Later on, he was nominated by 74-year-old Sudarshan to succeed as the outfit's chief at the meeting of the RSS' top decision-making body, the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha. **Dr.Mohan Bhagwat strongly thinks that Bharat is not just a name but a civilisational symbol that must not be altered or translated and that its identity is respected because it is Bharat. The global respect India commands today is rooted in its original identity as Bharat. RSS leaders - Bharat is more than just a geographical entity or a constitutional framework; it embodies a profound philosophy and a spiritual legacy.** (RSS - 21 March 2009 to Till date)

RSS is also known for leaders who always accelerated growth of RSS across the globe.

Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal RSS

Born in Karnal, Haryana, Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal was educated at Dayanand Anglo Vedic College, Lahore, and did his B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering. Close to both former PrimeMinister AB Vajpayee and senior BJP leader LK Advani, Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal was the Shipping Minister for two-and-a-half years in the previous Vajpayee-led NDA Cabinet at the Centre. A former All India treasurer of the BJP, Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal was the party's Mumbai unit president. He had been a full-time RSS worker after completed his B.Sc in 1949. Subsequently, he was closely associated with Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Janata Party and the BJP. Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal held several positions in his public life with distinction. From March 2000 onwards Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal was the Chairman, House Committee, Rajya Sabha, September 2000 onwards, Chairman, Committee to discuss amendments to the Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915, 1990 onwards, All India Treasurer, BJP, 1998 onwards, Convenor-Overseas Friends of BJP, 1999-2000 Member, Standing Committee on Energy, 1999-2000 Convenor Sub-Committee on Non-Conventional Energy Sources of Standing Committee on Energy, 1999-2000, Member-Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communications, 1999-2000, Member-General Purposes Committee of Rajya Sabha, Member, Select Committee on Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1999, Member, Joint Committee on Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999, 1999-2000 Member, Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committee, 1999-2000 Member, Hindi Advisory Committee of Ministry of External Affairs, 1994-96 President BJP Mumbai, April 1996 Elected to Rajya Sabha, 1996-97 and 1997-98 Member, Standing Committee on Energy, 1997-98 Member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Industry, 1998-99 Member, Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism. Goyal was the founder editor of Nirbhay Pathik, a Hindi daily published from Mumbai. Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal was awarded "distinguished Alumnus Award" by Banaras Hindu University in 1984 and during 1997-98, he promoted young entrepreneurs projects in Science and Engineering models through Akhil Bharatiya Vidarthiii Parishad; women empowerment, slums development and upliftment of Adivasis through an NGO "Van-Bandhu"; Community service through projects like public convenience, community halls, gymnasium, beautification of public places, support to charitable medical institutions. Honourable Shri Ved Prakash Goyal was also the president BHU Alumni Association, Mumbai 1998-93 and Pt. Madan Mohan Malvia Smarak Samiti; Charter President, Lions Club Kaliwada, Mumbai, 1976; Member, Adarsh Ramlila Samiti and Agroha Vikas Parishad Central Committee, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Hindustan Parakashan Sansthan, Mumbai and Bharatiya Jan Kalyan Society Mumbai; Trustee of Mg. Committee and Lok Kalyan Nyas, Delhi; President, Dr. Mookerjee Samriti Nyas, Delhi; Founder Member, Parliamentarians for Friendship with Taiwan; Associated with National Advisory Committee of the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.