

## SAROJINI NAIDU

### A Freedom Fighter and jailed several times

This study material has been prepared for B.A. English Literature Paper-III Modern Literature (A) (Poetry) students of Vth semester for the session 2020-21 of Lucknow University

- Born in Hyderabad on 13 Feb., 1879 and known as Bulbul-e-Hind.
- A committed nationalist, who worked relentlessly for Hindu Muslim Unity.
- She started writing poetry when she was just 11 years old.
- She was deeply influence by G.K. Gokhla and Mahatma Gandhi.
- When she was 12, she passed her High School examination from Madras Board.
- She has got a scholarship from Nizam of Hyderabad to study in England and there she joined Girton College, Cambridge University and lived there for three years.
- She also came in contact with Edmund Gosse, Arthur Symons and several members of Rhyme's Club in London.
- An Association with those people enabled her a mastery over the nuances of English language.

#### Work:

- '**Lady of Lake**', 1893.
- '**Songs**', 1986, privately published by S. Chattopadhyaye.
- '**The Golden Threshold**' in 1905, as major collection of poems.
- '**Bird of Time**' was published in 1912 and '**Broken Wings**' came in 1917.
- '**Feather of the Dawn**', 1961 was published after her death by her daughter.
- In 1905 she plunged into active politics and became deeply involved in Freedom Struggle, against British Colonial rule in India.
- In 1925 she became the president of Indian National Congress and in 1927, she founded 'The All India Women's Conference'.
- She had been imprisoned several times by British rule for her involvement in Freedom Struggle.
- She became first Governor of Uttar Pradesh in 1947, after India God independence from Britain.

### **Earlier:**

- She was awarded, '**The Qaiser-e-Hind**' Gold Medal in 1908 by Govt. of India, which she returned in 1919 in protest against Jalianwala Bagh massacre.

One can find in her poetry, lyrical cadence and rhythmic vigor, she reflects upon subtle contradictions and complexities of her age. She possessed a fiery and ardent spirit in her persona. She was totally committed to politics and people and was known for her unorthodox views.

The themes of her poems are multiple aspects of love and beauty. She portrays in her poems refreshing imagery and verbal felicity.

### Work Consulted and Cited:

- '**Eternal Rhythms**', 2012, Oxford University Press, India.
- '**The Infinite Riches**', 1999, Oxford University Press, India.
- '**A compendious History of English Literature**', 2001, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Iyenger, KRS, '**Indian Writing in English**', 2017, Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi