



Who is Kamala Das & Why is She on Today's Google Doodle?

To honor one of the greatest poet and her time, Google India has payed tribute to Kamala Surayya, popularly known as Madhvi Kutty and Kamala Das, by creating Google Doodle on 1st February 2018. Kamala Das is mainly known for her contribution in Indian literature through her poems and short stories. Google often releases image of various personalities in gif or an interactive animation, which is known as 'Google Doodles', to pay them homage. These Google Doodle are designed by the various artists to acquaint /familiarize you with the life of important personalities. This knowledge will help you in the preparation of General Awareness & General Knowledge section for various Government exams like IBPS Clerk, SSC CHSL, SSC CGL, etc. So here's all you need to know about Kamala Das to score in your exam!

Kamala Das - An Introduction

Kamala Das was born as Nalapat Kamala on 31st March 1934 in a Hindu family in Thrissur district of Kerala. She spent her entire childhood in Kolkata with her father V.M Nair, who had been the Managing Editor of Malayalam daily 'Mathrubhumi' and her mother Balamani Amma, who was a renowned poet.

Personal Life of Kamala Das

- Kamala Das was brought up in Kolkata.
- She got married at the age of 15 to Madhava Das, a banker.
- It was her husband and her mother who inspired her and gave her a nudge to start writing and publish her work.









- She started publishing her works both in English and Malayalam using the pseudonym Madhavikutty.
- Her pet name was Ami, while Suraiyya was the name she gave herself upon converting to Islam.
- She had also released her autobiography, "My Story" in 1976 that comprised her life from childhood to marriage, which got her into controversies.

Excerpts of the Career of Kamala Das

- She had an amazing shape-shifting quality, where she could juggle with many genres and languages to express herself through her writing.
- Her poetry and writings mainly revolved around a myriad women's issues, from sexuality to childbirth, etc.
- Her famous poetries includes Summer In Calcutta, The Old Playhouse, The Old Playhouse and The Looking Glass.
- 'My Story', in which she described her life from childhood to marriage, and beyond, was considered controversial in some quarters.

Writing Style of Kamala Das

- She tried to give voice to the India Women through her poem.
- Her work provided great insights to the issues that women who were confined to their households and or were considered a commodity to be exchanged through marriage faced.
- She portrayed the women in her poems as human with desires, pain and emotions just like men.
- In 'An Introduction', which was one of her first poems, expressed her resentment in being confined to gender roles and she that had a desire to break out of them.
- In her later years, she had gone through financial crisis and had to switch to become a columnist because of better pay.









She also started writing for a popular weekly, Malayalanadu, where she
had described the other side of her personality, mainly her experiences of
womanhood.

Kamala Das - Awards

- She had been honored with Sahitya Akademi award in 1984.
- She was recipient of various other honors like Asian World Prize, Kent Award, and Ezhuthachan Puraskaram.
- Her biopic is being filmed in Malayalam as Aami, where the role of Kamala
 Das will be portrayed by actress Manju Warrier.

Beside being grabbed by many controversies for expressing her heart out through her writing, Kamala Das continued wring throughout her life and touched many lives even after her death in 2009 and earned the label of *'The Mother of Modern Indian English Poetry'*.

This Google Doodle on Kamala Das is illustrated by - Manjit Thapp

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