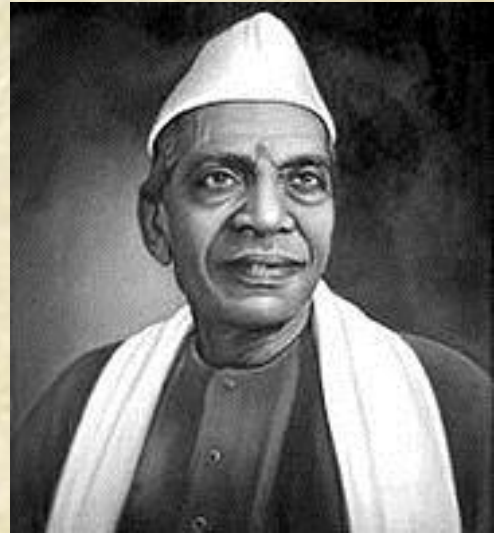


## Indian Writers and Poets

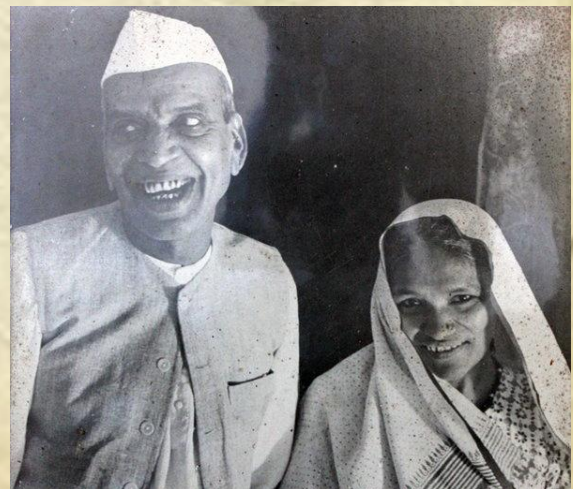
### **Maithili Sharan Gupta**

Maithili Sharan Gupta is one of the most popular names in the world of modern Hindi poetry. He was the first Hindi writer to bring Khari Boli, a Hindi dialect of the rural parts of Western India- a style that is popular in Hindi writing even today, script into literature writing against Braj Bhasha. His writings consisted of poems, dramas, and translations from other languages.



Born on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1886 in a Gahoi family of Chirgaon in Jhansi District of Uttar Pradesh, Maithili Sharan Gupta was destined to make a big name in Hindi literature writing. His family was that of merchants and his father, Seth Ramcharan Gupta was trader by profession. It is said that it was because of his hate for school that his father had to home school him. He was taught Hindi, Sanskrit and Bengali. His knowledge of Hindi can be credited to his Hindi home tutor, Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi. He himself was one of the most important writers that modern Indian literature has ever seen. He got married at the age of nine years in 1895.

Though he did not receive proper schooling, he did enjoy a flourishing career in Hindi Literature. His profound knowledge of Hindi helped his literary career reach unimaginable heights. He started his career writing poems for popular Hindi magazines like Saraswati. His creation, 'Rang Mein Bhang' was his first taste of success among the masses which he got in the year 1910. The

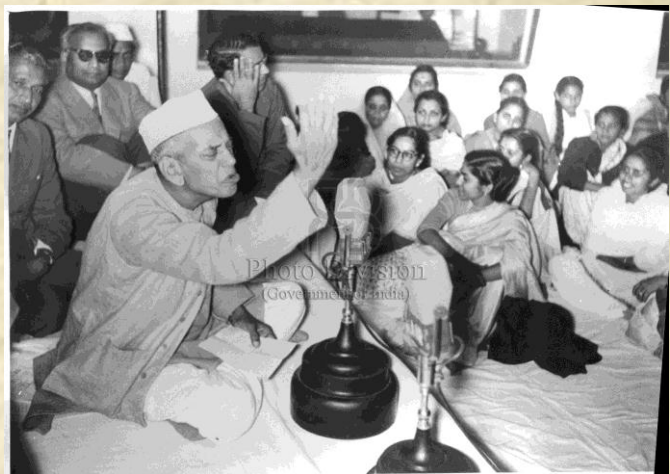


subject of his poems revolved around mythological plots like that of Ramayana and Mahabharata. He also wrote stories that dealt with the life of religious leaders like Lord Buddha.

His composition, Saket deals with the story of Urmila, Lakshman's wife from Ramayana his another book, Yashodhara, talks about Gautam Buddha's wife, Yashodhara. One of the most popular collections of his poems one can find today is the 'Bharat Bharati'. There is a sense of nationalistic spirit portrayed by Maithili Sharan in this book. This book was widely circulated through the British occupied India. It practically served as an inspiration for freedom fighters across India.

**Some of his famous works are:** Rang Mein Bhang, Bharat Bharati, Plassey Ka Yuddha, Saket, Kaaba Karbala in the form of poetry. In the form of drama he has written: Chandrahaas, Tilottama, Anagh, Vijay Parwa. Apart from drama, he also translated 'Rubaiyat' Omar Khayyam from English to Hindi and 'Swapnavaasavdatta' from Sanskrit to Hindi language two of the most popular of his translations.

Maithili Sharan Gupta had a brief encounter with a career in politics post independence. He was appointed as honorary member of the Rajya Sabha in the Parliament. But he never gave up on writing. He in fact is remembered for using lines from his poetry while putting his thoughts forward in the upper



house of Parliament. He remained a Rajya Sabha Member till his death in 1964.

He was 78 years of age when he expired on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1964.

**Activity:** Name two Indian poets who wrote in Khari Boli along with one poem of theirs.

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**Activity:** Match the following:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Vijayi Sadrish Jio Re                   | a. Subadhra Kumari Chauhan |
| 2. Himmat Karne Walon<br>Ki Haar Nahi Hoti | b. Shyam Narayan Pandey    |
| 3. Jhansi Ki Rani                          | c. Sohanlal Dwivedi        |
| 4. Khada Himalaya Bata Raha Hai            | d. Harivansh Rai Bachchan  |
| 5. Haldighati: Yudh                        | e. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar   |

**Sources:** [www.iloveindia.com](http://www.iloveindia.com),  
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