

LESSON 14



THE MAN WHO GAVE INDIA WINGS



Do you know the name of the man who gave India wings?

It was Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata. He was popularly known as JRD. He was born in Paris in July 29, 1904. His father Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata was Parsi and mother Suzanne Briere was French. Tata's childhood was spent travelling between France and India.

Some people said in jest that he got his surname from an ancestor who stood on the shores of Bombay and waved 'ta-ta' to the departing ships.

In 1924, at the age of 20, as a French citizen, he was recruited into the French Army. A year later he was sent to England to prepare for

admission in Cambridge University. But his father Ratanji asked him to return to Bombay to work in his steel plant called the 'Tata Steel Industry'. His father did not consider a college degree necessary to succeed in life. A year later Ratanji died, his eldest son and heir, Jehangir, inherited the directorship of the Tata Sons and Board.

JRD became India's first licensed pilot in 1929. It was JRD who gave India wings to fly in 1932. JRD set up Tata Aviation Service, by piloting the first flight himself from Karachi to Bombay in a small aircraft. JRD at the age of 34 was elected the Chairman of Tata and Sons in 1938, making him the youngest head of the largest industrial group in India. In 1948, Air India was launched jointly by JRD and the Indian Government. In 1953, JRD was made the Chairperson of Air India. For the next 25 years he worked tirelessly to make Air India successful. JRD excelled not only as an aviator but also as a philanthropist, educationist, sportsman, poet and sculptor. He received the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in 1992 from the Indian Government.

JRD's last major public statement was an appeal to Indians to maintain peace. He breathed his last on November 29, 1993. Do you know JRD Tata was not only the director of the Tata company but also a great human being? He made sure that 75% of the company's profit was spent on looking after the workers and those in need.

When you work, work as if everything depends on you. When you pray, pray as if everything depends on God - JRD Tata

New Words

Word	Meaning
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- ancestor -पूर्वज
- recruited -भर्ती किया
- heir -उत्तराधिकारी
- tirelessly -बिना थके
- excelled -बहुत अच्छा किया
- philanthropist -मानवता वादी
- educationist -शिक्षाविद
- sculptor -मूर्तिकार

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions :

- What was the name of JRD's parents and which country did they belong to?
- Name the aviation service setup by JRD.
- Why did he not have a college degree?
- Who became the Director of Tata Boards after Ratanji's death?
- Why was JRD awarded the Bharat Ratna?
- What was JRD's last public statement?
- What different areas did JRD excel in?

2. Choose the correct option:

1. JRD's father did not consider a college degree necessary-

- a. to succeed in life

b.to earn in life

c. to help others

2.JRD received the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna in-

a. 1980

b. 1989

c. 1992

3.JRD spent 75% of the company's profit on-

a. maintenance of the industries

b. looking after the need of the workers

c. his personal luxurie

Language Practice

1. Fill in the blanks with a suitable preposition from the box:

to,from,in, into, on

He was born ___Paris __July 29,1904. He was recruited _____
the French Army. He was sent _____ England. He received the
Bharat Ratna Award __1992 __the Indian Government.

2. Narration- Change from Direct to Indirect form of speech.

There are two forms of speech-

i. **Direct form of speech-** A statement given by the speaker himself. Direct Speech consists of two parts- (i) Reporting Speech (ii) Reported Speech.

She said to him, "Love begets love."

She said to him-reporting speech

Love begets love."reported speech

ii. **Indirect form of speech-** Statement conveyed by another person to someone.

In Indirect Speech-

- * Inverted commas are not used.
- * The comma between reporting speech and reported speech is removed and they are joined together by the conjunctions like 'that', 'if' or 'whether'.
- * The signs of question mark and exclamation are not used. Instead, full stop sign is used.
- * The tense of reporting speech is not changed.
- * The forms of interrogative, imperative, exclamatory sentences are changed to assertive sentences.
- * The tense of reported speech is changed according to the tense of reporting speech.

* First person in the reported speech changes according to the subject and second person according to the object in the reporting speech. For third person there is no change.

Example -

He said, "I have won." (Direct Speech)

He said that he had won. (Indirect Speech)

Q. Change the following Direct Speech into Indirect Speech-

i. Madhu said, "I am very busy now."

ii. He said, "I go to school everyday."

iii. Ram said, "Anand is a good boy."

iv. The girl said, "I like singing."

Activity

Let's Read and Write

» You have read about JRD Tata - pick out the qualities that you liked about him and write in the space given below-

_____.

» Find out the names of some great industrialists of India. Also mention the field in which they have contributed.

Name Field of Contribution

1

2

3

4