

Sudha Murty – A Short Biography

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Sudha Murty

Sudha Murty (born August 19, 1950) is an Indian author, philanthropist, and educator celebrated for her extensive literary work in English and Kannada and her social initiatives through the Infosys Foundation. In 2024, she was nominated to the Rajya Sabha of India for her contributions to social welfare, literature, and education.

Key Facts

- **Born:** August 19, 1950, Shiggaon, Karnataka, India
- **Education:** B.E., B.V.B. College of Engineering; M.E., Indian Institute of Science
- **Spouse:** N.R. Narayana Murthy
- **Awards:** Padma Shri (2006), Padma Bhushan (2023)
- **Recent Role:** Nominated Member, Rajya Sabha (2024)

Early Life and Education

Born to Dr. R.H. Kulkarni and Vimala Kulkarni, Sudha Murty grew up in a family that valued learning. Excelling in academics, she earned gold medals in both her engineering and master's degrees. She became the first woman engineer hired by Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company (now Tata Motors), breaking gender barriers in India's industrial sector.

Literary Career

Murty is one of India's most widely read authors, with over 250 titles across genres. Writing in English and Kannada, her works such as *Wise and Otherwise*, *Gently Falls the Bakula*, *The Magic Drum*, and *Three Thousand Stitches* blend moral insight with accessible storytelling. Her 2023 release, *Common Yet Uncommon*, marked her return to adult fiction after seven years.



Philanthropy and Social Work

As founder and long-time chairperson of the Infosys Foundation and trustee of the Murty Trust, she has led projects in education, public health, and rural development. Her notable initiatives include building thousands of libraries and toilets across India and rehabilitating members of the Devadasi community toward financial independence.

Honors and Recognition

Murty's service has been acknowledged through numerous awards, including India's **Padma honours**, the **R.K. Narayan Award** for Literature, and multiple state and national literary accolades. Her life reflects a blend of engineering acumen, storytelling talent, and deep social commitment, making her one of contemporary India's most respected public figures.