INSPIRING GENIOUS – AN ARTIFICER TO ACCOMPLISHED AUTHER

	 WHO'S WHO OF INDIAN WRITERS 1999 Appala Narasiah, K.R. Narasiah Tamil writer: M.O.T. (Naval Engg.) b. 26.7.1933, Berhampur, Ganjan Dist., Orissa. Service, retd Chief Mech Engineer, Visakhapatnam Port Trust presently freelance writing. A&P. rect Ananda Vikatan Award. mt. Telugu, write in Tamil. Pubs. 2. Mayaman, 89 (novel) Kadalodi, 72 (memoirs). Visited UK Germany & USA. Add. Plot No. 85 Choudhry Nagar, Valasara Vakkam Chennai-600087, Tamil Nadu. Tel. 4827853
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There are many among us who know partner **KRA Narsiah ERA from A/14** as a Merchant Mariner, and the Chief Mechanical Engineer etc. But here we present him as a historian and a famed writer that he rightfully is.

He retired as Chief Mechanical Engineer at Vizag Port, he served as consultant of Ports improvement related committees. He was also consultant for World Bank in a project on rehabilitation programme in Cambodia. Subsequently, Shipping Ministry appointed him to bring out a compendium of Indian Ports with reference to Indian Maritime History. This put him on a quest, and he began a full-scale research on the subject. His interests in the subject grew and Madras Port Trust commissioned him along with historian S Muthiah to write the **125 years of Port of Madras**.

'The Hindu', English daily published several of his articles. Partner Narisiah had contributed with many editorial works. He had authored celebrated books **Kadalodi**, **Madras Pattanam**, **Cambodia Ninaivugal**, **Aalavai** in Tamil language. In English Language he had also published 'Lettered Dialogue' and more than hundred much read short stories published in three volumes. He is a regular wrote various book reviews for "The Hindu".

He has a distinction of being a recipient of state awards for writing, for three consecutive years. A real glorious feat for an artificer, who took to writing and publishing his works late in his life, much after he had not only finished his first innings on the high seas but also completed his second innings in Ports in many responsible positions.

He may have found the expression to the story teller in him much later but it was his deep interest and study of English literary works, particularly dealing with sea life like, Sinking of the Bismarck, The Battle of the River Plate, The Cruel Sea and Hemingway's, The Old Man and the Sea etc. that must have prepared him subconsciously for his life progress.

His 'historian' facet is illuminated his work, 'Maritime History of India', his muchresearched chapters in 'the Four Hundred years History of Madras', treatise on sea trade 'Kadal Vazhi Vanikam', 'The Story of Port of Chennai during its 125th year'-Madarasapattinam etc. To this impressive list one must add that he has also co-authored 'Madras Rediscovered' with S Muthiah, who is a chronicler of Madras and is an authority on History of Madras. His reader fans remembered him as 'Kadalodi' Narasiah after the book Kadalodi (*Sea Farer*).

The Achiever Partner - *Kadalodi* **Narasiah** Narasiah KRA- A/14 – ERA: Author, Writer, Historian & Mechanical Engineer

The Genius says about himself:

"My inspiration is my brother, Prof. K.R. Krishnamurthy, who is an ardent admirer of Subramania Bharathi. He has also written a book, 'Kanavil Kanda Bharathi.' He was influenced by my uncle, Chitti. At that time, I was hesitant about writing. That is why I wrote just two stories even for the hand-written magazine, Vinayaka, although I had a burning desire to write.

"While I was sailing on INS Vikrant, as a marine engineer along with 1,800 sailors, I began contributing in English to a cyclostyled magazine that was being circulated. I was a voracious reader and 'Sinking of the Bismarck' and books on marine life fascinated me. I also loved to read Nicholas Monsarrat. When the ship arrived in (Mumbai) India in 1960, I had the chance to read Ananda Vikatan, which was introduced to me by a group of Tamil friends. It was an eye-opener. Jayakanthan was writing almost every week.

"The turning point came when I sailed on the ship, Govinda Jayanthi, in 1964. I wrote a 13page short story and posted it to Ananda Vikatan from Rashbihari Avenue post office in Kolkata. Titled, 'Theipirai,' it was set in Vietnam, describing the miserable life in Saigon. When I landed in Tuticorin about five weeks later, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter from the magazine Vikatan stating that my maiden story had been accepted. It was published as 'Muthirai Kathai.'"

A multi-talented partner, **KRA Narsiah A/14-ERA**, Mechanical Engineer, Administrator, a Consultant, an Author, a Writer, a Book reviewer a true source of Inspiration.



