

Shantanurao Laxmanrao Kirloskar (1869-1956) was an Indian businessman. He was the founder of the Kirloskar Group.

He had read about industrial townships in Europe and America where the owners of industries had built communities for the employees. His dream was to build his own industry and community for his employees; he realized this dream with Kirloskarwadi, a place where he started the Kirloskar Brothers Limited factory in 1910.

He was a global thinker and an enterprising person who had the courage and the confidence in the potential of his own country even in the pre-independence era. He often said, "Economic preparedness is as vital as military preparedness." He always looked at India as a part of the rest of the world and worked towards making India globally competitive.

He created a business empire that enjoyed one of the highest growth rates in Indian history, a staggering 32,401% growth of assets from 1950-1991. Today, the Kirloskar Group is India's largest Engineering Conglomerate.

In May 2003, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister of India released a commemorative postage stamp.