Civil Disobedience Movement in Tamil Nadu (1930–34) – Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha, Udayavanam Camp in Madras, Rukmini Lakshmipathi, Foreign-Cloth Picketing & Tiruppur 1932 | TNPSC Notes

TNPSC Notes · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/tnpsc-notes/civil-disobedience-movement-tamil-nadu/en

The **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–1934)** began with Gandhi's **Dandi Salt March** (12 March – 6 April 1930). In Tamil Nadu its main form was the **Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha** led by **Rajaji**: volunteers left **Tiruchirappalli** on **13 April 1930**, reached Vedaranyam on **28 April** and broke the salt law. In Madras, satyagrahis under **T. Prakasam** and **K. Nageswara Rao** set up a camp at **Udayavanam**; their arrest led to a hartal and clashes at Triplicane. **Rukmini Lakshmipathi** was the first woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws. In the second phase (1932) **Tiruppur Kumaran** died holding the national flag.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants. They bring the **whole movement** – both phases, Vedaranyam, Madras, women and the 1932 repression – into one place. The day-by-day detail of the Vedaranyam march and Rajaji's life are in our Rajaji note; here only the movement angle is given. **Units:** History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu; Indian National Movement.

At a Glance

Detail	Fact
Background	Lahore session (December 1929) – Purna Swaraj; 26 January 1930 – Independence Day pledge
All-India start	Dandi March – 12 March 1930 (Sabarmati) to 6 April 1930 (salt law broken at Dandi)
Tamil Nadu start	Vedaranyam march – 13 April 1930, Tiruchirappalli (house of Dr T. S. S. Rajan) → 28 April 1930, Vedaranyam
Madras	T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao – Udayavanam camp; hartal; clashes at Triplicane
Women	Rukmini Lakshmipathi; Ambujammal (foreign-cloth picketing, khadi)
Truce	Gandhi–Irwin Pact (5 March 1931); failure of the Second Round Table Conference
Second phase	From January 1932 – severe repression; Tiruppur Kumaran (died 11 January 1932)
End	Gandhi called off the movement in 1934

Why Salt?

- Salt was a daily need of rich and poor alike; the tax on it and the government's monopoly hurt everyone.
- Tamil Nadu's long coast and salt pans (Vedaranyam, Tuticorin and others) made it a natural struggle for the region.
- Non-violent, open breaking of the law and acceptance of arrest – a simple form in which masses could take part.

Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha – the Movement Angle

Aspect	Detail
Leadership	Rajaji, President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee
Organisation	About 1,000 applied; 98 were chosen for the first batch for discipline and commitment to non-violence; local volunteers joined on the way
Route	Tiruchirappalli → Thanjavur delta (Kumbakonam, Valangaiman, Needamangalam, Thiruthuraipoondi) → Vedaranyam; about 240 km
Local support	**A. Vedaratnam Pillai** of Vedaranyam (later called "Sardar") – shelter, food and guidance to the salt swamps
Marching song	Namakkal Kavignar V. Ramalingam Pillai's "Kathiyindri Rathamindri Yuthamondru Varuguthu"
Law broken, arrest	Salt was gathered at the swamps at the end of April; Rajaji was arrested (sources give 28 April, 30 April or 1 May); six months' rigorous imprisonment
Participants	T. S. S. Rajan, Rukmini Lakshmipathi, K. Santhanam, Kamaraj (Alipore Jail), M. Bhaktavatsalam, C. R. Narasimhan, A. Vaidyanatha Iyer and others

Significance: a southern salt march parallel to Dandi; carried the national movement to the villages of the Thanjavur delta; a training ground for future leaders such as Kamaraj and Bhaktavatsalam. Day-by-day detail: the Rajaji note.

Madras: The Udayavanam Camp and the Triplicane Clash

- Satyagrahis led by **T. Prakasam** (later Premier of Madras and the first Chief Minister of Andhra State) and **K. Nageswara Rao** set up a camp at **Udayavanam** near Madras to break the salt law.
- The police arrested them; a **hartal** followed in Madras, and there were clashes between the people and the police at **Triplicane**.
- Picketing of foreign-cloth and toddy shops in the city; hoisting of the national flag; the textbook also names Bhashyam and Satyamurti among those who played important roles.

Role of Women

Name	Role

Rukmini Lakshmipathi	Vedaranyam satyagraha; **the first woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws** (Tamil Nadu textbook); later the first woman minister of the Madras Presidency in the Prakasam ministry of 1946
S. Ambujammal	Daughter of S. Srinivasa Iyengar; foreign-cloth picketing and khadi propaganda; later the Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam (1948)
Ordinary women	Picketing and processions in Madras; khadi spinning

The Truce: Gandhi–Irwin Pact (1931)

- **5 March 1931:** Gandhi–Irwin Pact – release of non-violent prisoners; coastal people allowed to make salt for their own use; the Congress to suspend the movement and attend the Second Round Table Conference.
- Because of the pact, Kamaraj, who had a two-year sentence, was released early in 1931.
- The Second Round Table Conference (1931) failed, and the movement resumed in January 1932.

Second Phase (1932–34): Repression and Tiruppur

- The Congress was declared unlawful; leaders were arrested; processions and flag-hoisting were banned.
- **Tiruppur (January 1932):** in a flag procession defying the ban, **Tiruppur Kumaran** was struck down in a police lathi charge but did not let go of the flag; he died on **11 January 1932** – "Kodi Kaatha Kumaran". Details: the Tiruppur Kumaran note.
- Kamaraj spent about a year in prison in 1932 for processions and demonstrations in Virudhunagar.
- **Poona Pact (September 1932):** the Gandhi–Ambedkar agreement after the Communal Award; Rettaimalai Srinivasan of Tamil Nadu represented the depressed classes at the Round Table Conferences.
- **1934:** Gandhi called off the movement; the Congress returned to legislative politics through the 1934 and 1937 elections.

Tamil Nadu Sites – A Map View

Place	Event	Year
Tiruchirappalli	Start of the Vedaranyam march (T. S. S. Rajan's house)	13 April 1930
Vedaranyam (now Nagapattinam district)	Salt law broken; Rajaji arrested	April 1930
Udayavanam, Madras	Camp of Prakasam and Nageswara Rao	1930
Triplicane, Madras	Clash on the hartal day	1930
Tiruppur	Flag procession; Kumaran's martyrdom	January 1932

Virudhunagar	Protests led by Kamaraj	1932

Assessment

Achievements	Limitations
Spread the national movement to coastal and delta villages	The Justice Party and the Self-Respect Movement stayed away
Women went to jail in large numbers – Rukmini Lakshmipathi and others	The salt tax was not abolished
A new generation of leaders – Kamaraj, Bhaktavatsalam	The repression of 1932–34 weakened the movement
Base for the Congress's big win in the 1937 elections	Workers' and peasants' demands were not central

Writing Mains Answers (Group 1 / Group 2)

The Civil Disobedience Movement in Tamil Nadu (about 200–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Lahore 1929, Purna Swaraj; Dandi 1930.
- **Vedaranyam:** Rajaji; 13–28 April 1930; first batch of 98; Vedaratnam Pillai; Namakkal Kavignar's song.
- **Madras:** Prakasam and Nageswara Rao – Udayavanam; hartal; Triplicane.
- **Women:** Rukmini Lakshmipathi, Ambujammal.
- **Second phase:** Gandhi–Irwin (1931); repression of 1932; Tiruppur Kumaran.
- **Conclusion:** mass participation, new leadership; base for the 1937 victory.

Significance of the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (about 150 words)

- A southern march parallel to Dandi – a model of non-violent discipline.
- Popular support in the delta villages; local leader Vedaratnam Pillai.
- Mobilisation through Tamil song – Namakkal Kavignar.
- Training ground for future leaders of government.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
13 April 1930	March starts from Tiruchirappalli
28 April 1930	Reaches Vedaranyam
Udayavanam	Camp of Prakasam and Nageswara Rao
Rukmini Lakshmipathi	First woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws
Vedaratnam Pillai	Local organiser at Vedaranyam

SHANMUGAM IA

Namakkal Kavignar	"Kathiyindri Rathamindri" song
5 March 1931	Gandhi–Irwin Pact
11 January 1932	Death of Tiruppur Kumaran

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- The Vedaranyam march started from Tiruchirappalli – not Thanjavur or Madras.
- Rajaji led Vedaranyam; Kamaraj was only a participant.
- Udayavanam camp – Prakasam and Nageswara Rao; Vedaranyam – Rajaji.
- Tiruppur Kumaran died in 1932 (second phase) – not in the 1930 salt satyagraha.
- The Dandi March ended on 6 April 1930; the Vedaranyam march began on 13 April 1930 (Tamil New Year day).

Key Terms – Tamil / English (for the bilingual paper)

தமிழ்	English
சட்டமறுப்பு இயக்கம்	Civil Disobedience Movement
உப்புச் சத்தியாகிரகம்	Salt Satyagraha
உப்பளம்	Salt pan / salt swamp
பூர்ண சுயராஜ்யம்	Complete independence
வட்டமேசை மாநாடு	Round Table Conference
கடுங்காவல்	Rigorous imprisonment
தண்டம்	Penalty / fine
வகுப்புவாரித் தீர்ப்பு	Communal Award

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
December 1929	Lahore – Purna Swaraj
26 January 1930	Independence Day pledge
12 March – 6 April 1930	Dandi March
13 April 1930	Vedaranyam march from Tiruchirappalli
28 April 1930	Reaches Vedaranyam
April–May 1930	Salt law broken; Rajaji arrested
1930	Madras – Udayavanam camp, hartal
5 March 1931	Gandhi–Irwin Pact

January 1932	Movement resumed
11 January 1932	Death of Tiruppur Kumaran
September 1932	Poona Pact
1934	Movement called off

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Leader of the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha: Rajaji; Tiruchirappalli (13 April 1930) → Vedaranyam (28 April 1930).
- House from which the march began: Dr T. S. S. Rajan's, Tiruchirappalli.
- Marching song: Namakkal Kavignar – "Kathiyindri Rathamindri Yuthamondru Varuguthu".
- Local leader at Vedaranyam: Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai.
- Udayavanam camp: T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao.
- First woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws: Rukmini Lakshmipathi.
- Kamaraj – Alipore Jail (1930); released in 1931 after the Gandhi–Irwin Pact.
- Kodi Kaatha Kumaran: 11 January 1932, Tiruppur.

Related notes: Rajaji, Kamarajar, Tiruppur Kumaran, Rettaimalai Srinivasan, Temple Entry Movement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha, and when?

Rajaji led it. Volunteers left Dr T. S. S. Rajan's house at Tiruchirappalli on 13 April 1930, reached Vedaranyam on 28 April 1930 and broke the salt law at the end of April; Rajaji was arrested and given six months' rigorous imprisonment.

How was the Salt Satyagraha carried out in Madras?

Satyagrahis led by T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao set up a camp at Udayavanam near Madras. Their arrest was followed by a hartal in the city and clashes at Triplicane.

Why is Rukmini Lakshmipathi remembered?

She took part in the Vedaranyam satyagraha, and the Tamil Nadu textbook names her as the first woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws. In 1946 she became the first woman minister of the Madras Presidency, in the Prakasam ministry.

What happened in Tamil Nadu in the second phase of Civil Disobedience?

After the failure of the Second Round Table Conference the movement resumed in January 1932; the Congress was banned and repression was severe. At Tiruppur, Tiruppur Kumaran was beaten in a flag procession defying the ban and died on 11 January 1932.

SHANMUGAM IA

What was the marching song of the Vedaranyam march, and who wrote it?

"Kathiyindri Rathamindri Yuthamondru Varuguthu", written by Namakkal Kavignar V. Ramalingam Pillai. It speaks of a war without sword and without blood – a non-violent struggle.

Practise this topic with our free Tamil quizzes, follow daily current affairs (English) and Tamil current affairs, and see our TNPSC PYQ books such as the General Tamil PYQ book and the Tamil Nadu Administration PYQ book. For classroom and online TNPSC coaching at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore and Anna Nagar, Madurai, see our TNPSC course page or call 99941 46662 (Coimbatore) / 73059 47122 (Madurai).

Frequently asked questions

Who led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha, and when?
Rajaji led it. Volunteers left Dr T. S. S. Rajan's house at Tiruchirappalli on 13 April 1930, reached Vedaranyam on 28 April 1930 and broke the salt law at the end of April; Rajaji was arrested and given six months' rigorous imprisonment.

How was the Salt Satyagraha carried out in Madras?
Satyagrahis led by T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao set up a camp at Udayavanam near Madras. Their arrest was followed by a hartal in the city and clashes at Triplicane.

Why is Rukmini Lakshmipathi remembered?
She took part in the Vedaranyam satyagraha, and the Tamil Nadu textbook names her as the first woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws. In 1946 she became the first woman minister of the Madras Presidency, in the Prakasam ministry.

What happened in Tamil Nadu in the second phase of Civil Disobedience?
After the failure of the Second Round Table Conference the movement resumed in January 1932; the Congress was banned and repression was severe. At Tiruppur, Tiruppur Kumaran was beaten in a flag procession defying the ban and died on 11 January 1932.

What was the marching song of the Vedaranyam march, and who wrote it?
"Kathiyindri Rathamindri Yuthamondru Varuguthu", written by Namakkal Kavignar V. Ramalingam Pillai. It speaks of a war without sword and without blood – a non-violent struggle.

Practice questions

1. Who led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha?

A. Rajaji
B. Kamaraj
C. Satyamurti
D. T. Prakasam

SHANMUGAM IA

2. From where did the Vedaranyam march start?

A. Thanjavur
B. Tiruchirappalli
C. Kumbakonam
D. Madras

3. On which date did the Vedaranyam march begin?

A. 6 April 1930
B. 28 April 1930
C. 13 April 1930
D. 12 March 1930

4. On which date did the volunteers reach Vedaranyam?

A. 13 April 1930
B. 20 April 1930
C. 5 May 1930
D. 28 April 1930

5. Who wrote "Kathiyindri Rathamindri Yuthamondru Varuguthu"?

A. Namakkal Kavignar
B. Bharathiyar
C. Bharathidasan
D. Kavimani

6. Who organised the local arrangements at Vedaranyam and was later called "Sardar"?

A. T. S. S. Rajan
B. A. Vedaratnam Pillai
C. K. Santhanam
D. A. Vaidyanatha Iyer

7. Who led the Udayavanam camp near Madras?

A. Satyamurti and Kamaraj
B. Rajaji and T. S. S. Rajan
C. T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao
D. Rukmini Lakshmipathi and Ambujammal

8. Whom does the textbook name as the first woman to pay a penalty for breaking the salt laws?

A. Ambujammal
B. Durgabai
C. Muthulakshmi Reddy
D. Rukmini Lakshmipathi

9. In which jail was Kamaraj held after the Salt Satyagraha?

A. Alipore
B. Vellore
C. Tiruchirappalli
D. Yerawada

SHANMUGAM IA

10. On which date was the Gandhi–Irwin Pact signed?

A. 6 April 1930
B. 5 March 1931
C. 24 September 1932
D. 26 January 1930

11. On which date did Tiruppur Kumaran die?

A. 26 January 1932
B. 13 April 1930
C. 11 January 1932
D. 15 August 1932

12. What sentence did Rajaji receive after the Vedaranyam satyagraha?

A. A fine only
B. Two years' rigorous imprisonment
C. Transportation
D. Six months' rigorous imprisonment

13. How many volunteers were selected for the first batch of the Vedaranyam march?

A. 78
B. 98
C. 120
D. 1,000

14. Where in Madras did clashes take place after the salt satyagraha arrests?

A. Perambur
B. Triplicane
C. Adyar
D. Tambaram

15. Why did the Civil Disobedience Movement resume in 1932?

A. Arrival of the Simon Commission
B. The Poona Pact
C. Failure of the Second Round Table Conference
D. Government of India Act, 1935

16. In which district is Vedaranyam today?

A. Thanjavur
B. Tiruvarur
C. Mayiladuthurai
D. Nagapattinam

17. Which salt satyagrahi became the first woman minister of the Madras Presidency in the Prakasam ministry of 1946?

A. Rukmini Lakshmipathi
B. Ambujammal
C. Muthulakshmi Reddy
D. Moovalur Ramamirtham

SHANMUGAM IA

18. Whose daughter was S. Ambujammal?

A. Satyamurti
B. S. Srinivasa Iyengar
C. C. Vijayaraghavachariar
D. Rajaji

19. Which was a term of the Gandhi–Irwin Pact?

A. Purna Swaraj granted
B. Salt tax fully abolished
C. Coastal people could make salt for their own use
D. Separate electorates abolished

20. Which statement on Civil Disobedience in Tamil Nadu is correct?

A. The Vedaranyam march started from Madras
B. Tiruppur Kumaran died in 1930
C. Kamaraj led the Vedaranyam march
D. Prakasam and Nageswara Rao led the Udayavanam camp

Answers with explanations

1. A) Rajaji – Rajaji; Kamaraj was a participant.

2. B) Tiruchirappalli – Tiruchirappalli – T. S. S. Rajan's house.

3. C) 13 April 1930 – 13 April 1930 – Tamil New Year day.

4. D) 28 April 1930 – 28 April 1930.

5. A) Namakkal Kavignar – Namakkal Kavignar V. Ramalingam Pillai.

6. B) A. Vedaratnam Pillai – Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai.

7. C) T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao – T. Prakasam and K. Nageswara Rao.

8. D) Rukmini Lakshmipathi – Rukmini Lakshmipathi.

9. A) Alipore – Alipore Jail; released in 1931.

10. B) 5 March 1931 – 5 March 1931.

11. C) 11 January 1932 – 11 January 1932 – second phase.

12. D) Six months' rigorous imprisonment – Six months' rigorous imprisonment.

13. B) 98 – 98; about 1,000 had applied.

14. B) Triplicane – Triplicane.

15. C) Failure of the Second Round Table Conference – The Second Round Table Conference (1931) failed.

SHANMUGAM IA

16. D) Nagapattinam – Nagapattinam (then Thanjavur district).

17. A) Rukmini Lakshmipathi – Rukmini Lakshmipathi.

18. B) S. Srinivasa Iyengar – S. Srinivasa Iyengar.

19. C) Coastal people could make salt for their own use – Salt for own use was allowed; the tax was not abolished.

20. D) Prakasam and Nageswara Rao led the Udayavanam camp – Udayavanam – Prakasam and Nageswara Rao; the rest are wrong.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – next step

- **Classes:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS, Bank, SSC, SI – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, General Tamil complete book, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **More free PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · This page: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/tnpsc-notes/civil-disobedience-movement-tamil-nadu/en

Admissions / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in