K. Kamaraj (Perunthalaivar) – Freedom Struggle, Chief Minister 1954–63, Education, Dams, Kamaraj Plan & Kingmaker | TNPSC Notes

K. Kamaraj (Kumaraswami Kamaraj, 1903–1975) was a freedom fighter from Virudhunagar who served as Chief Minister of Madras State from 1954 to 1963 and is remembered for spreading school education through free mid-day meals, free uniforms and thousands of new schools. Honoured as **Perunthalaivar**, **Karmaveerar**, **Kalvi Thanthai** and the **Kingmaker** of Indian politics, he gave the Congress the **Kamaraj Plan** (1963) and received the **Bharat Ratna** posthumously in 1976.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on their own. Kamaraj is a core topic in **Unit VI – History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu**; his education and welfare measures come under **Unit V – Indian Economy and Development Administration in Tamil Nadu**; and his role in the freedom struggle and in national politics comes under **Unit III – History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement**. Read each section, then use the tables, the quick revision table and the key points at the end.

Early Life, Family and Schooling

- **Born:** 15 July 1903 at **Virudhupatti**, now **Virudhunagar**, in the then Madras Presidency.
- **Parents:** Kumaraswami Nadar and **Sivakami Ammal**; the family were traders of modest means.
- **Name:** his birth name was **Kamatchi**; combined with the pet name "Raja", he came to be called **Kamaraj**.
- **Loss of father:** his father died when Kamaraj was about six years old, and the family faced hardship.
- **Schooling:** he studied in local schools in Virudhunagar but left school at a young age to support his mother. He worked in his maternal uncle's cloth shop.
- **Personal life:** he never married and owned no property; his simple life became part of his public image.

Though he had little formal schooling, he read widely, especially during his long years in prison, and gained a sharp understanding of people and administration.

Entry into the Congress and Political Mentor

- The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919)** and the national movement drew him into politics; he joined the **Indian National Congress as a teenager** and organised meetings in Virudhunagar.
- He took part in the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22)** and met **Mahatma Gandhi** when Gandhi visited Madurai.
- He took part in the **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25)**, the struggle for the right of all castes to use the roads around the Vaikom temple in Travancore.
- **Political guru: S. Satyamurti**. Kamaraj worked closely with him in the provincial Congress. Satyamurti died in 1943 while Kamaraj was in jail.

Freedom Struggle and Imprisonments

Kamaraj was imprisoned **six times** by the British and spent **more than 3,000 days** (over eight years) in jail. The main jail terms and cases are listed below.

Year	Movement / reason	Jail and outcome
1930	Salt Satyagraha – Vedaranyam march led by C. Rajagopalachari	Alipore Jail; sentenced to two years but released early, in 1931, after the Gandhi–Irwin Pact
1932	Processions and demonstrations in Virudhunagar	About one year in prison
1933	Implicated in the Virudhunagar bomb case	Acquitted – charges not proved
Dec 1940	Arrest under the Defence of India Rules for opposing war-fund collection (Second World War)	Vellore jail; while in jail he was elected chairman of Virudhunagar municipality; after release he resigned the post at once
1942–1945	Quit India Movement	About three years' detention; released in June 1945

- **Salt Satyagraha (1930):** in Tamil Nadu the Salt March went from Tiruchirappalli to **Vedaranyam** under **C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)**. Kamaraj was arrested and sent to **Alipore Jail**.
- **1940 arrest:** during the Second World War he spoke against collecting war funds and was arrested in December 1940. While he was in jail, he was elected chairman of the **Virudhunagar municipality**; on release he took charge and resigned at once.
- **Quit India (1942):** he spread the Quit India message in the south before his arrest and was detained for about three years, until June 1945.

Congress Organisation and Legislature (1936–1954)

- **1936:** General Secretary of the provincial (Tamil Nadu) Congress committee.
- **1937:** elected to the **Madras Legislative Assembly** from **Sattur**.
- **1940:** elected **President of the provincial Congress committee** (Tamil Nadu Congress Committee) in February 1940, and led the provincial party for most of the years until he became Chief Minister in 1954.
- **1946:** re-elected to the Madras Assembly; also a member of the **Constituent Assembly of India** from Madras.
- **1952:** elected to the **first Lok Sabha** from **Srivilliputhur**.

Kamaraj's Elections at a Glance

Year	House	Constituency	Result
1937	Madras Legislative Assembly	Sattur	Won
1946	Madras Legislative Assembly	–	Won
1952	Lok Sabha (first)	Srivilliputhur	Won
1954	Madras Legislative Assembly (by-election)	Gudiyatham	Won – entered the Assembly as Chief Minister
1957, 1962	Madras Legislative Assembly	–	Won – second and third terms as Chief Minister
1967	Madras Legislative Assembly	Virudhunagar	Lost to P. Seenivasan (DMK) by 1,285 votes
1969 (Jan)	Lok Sabha (by-election)	Nagercoil	Won
1971	Lok Sabha	Nagercoil	Won as Congress (O) candidate

Exam tip: five place names are often mixed up in options – **Sattur** (first Assembly win, 1937), **Srivilliputhur** (Lok Sabha, 1952), **Gudiyatham** (by-election as CM, 1954), **Virudhunagar** (defeat, 1967) and **Nagercoil** (Lok Sabha by-election, 1969).

Becoming Chief Minister (1954)

In 1953 Rajaji's government introduced the **Modified Scheme of Elementary Education**, under which children attended school for half the day and learnt their family occupation in the other half. Critics called it **"Kula Kalvi Thittam"** (hereditary education scheme) and the Dravidar Kazhagam, the DMK and teachers' groups opposed it. Rajaji resigned, and Kamaraj became **Chief Minister of Madras State on 13 April 1954**. He resigned his Lok Sabha seat and entered the Assembly by winning the **Gudiyatham by-election** in 1954.

- **Tenure:** 13 April 1954 – 2 October 1963, a little over nine years, across **three terms** (he won again in the 1957 and 1962 elections).
- **Small cabinet:** his cabinet had **about eight ministers**. He chose ministers on merit, and included **C. Subramaniam**, who had contested against him for the leadership.
- **Avadi session (1955):** the Congress session at Avadi, near Madras, adopted the goal of a **"socialistic pattern of society"**.

Education – Why He Is Called Kalvi Thanthai

Education was the centre of Kamaraj's government. His aim was that no child should stay out of school because of poverty or distance.

Measure	What it did
Withdrawal of the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education, 1953 ("Kula Kalvi Thittam")	The half-day scheme of Rajaji's ministry was dropped in 1954; Education Minister C. Subramaniam announced the decision in the Assembly
Free and compulsory elementary education	Schooling made free and compulsory; poor students exempted from fees
School within reach	Aim: a school within about 3 km of every child – a primary school in every village
Reopening and opening schools	About 6,000 schools closed earlier were reopened and about 12,000 new schools opened
Free mid-day meal scheme	Launched in 1956 at Ettayapuram (then in Tirunelveli district, now Thoothukudi district) and extended to schools across the State
Free school uniforms	Given so that differences of caste and class are not seen in the classroom

- **Mid-day meal scheme:** the idea of feeding poor schoolchildren so that they would come and stay in school was taken up with the help of the Director of Public Instruction, **N. D. Sundaravadivelu**. The scheme began in **1956** at **Ettayapuram** and was gradually extended to government and panchayat schools across the State; the US agency CARE later supplied food aid. It was expanded by M. G. Ramachandran in 1982 and became a model for the national mid-day meal scheme.
- **Higher and technical education:** new engineering, medical and teacher-training institutions were opened, and **IIT Madras** was set up in 1959.
- **Title:** for these measures he is called **Kalvi Thanthai** (Father of Education). The Class 6 Tamil textbook lesson about him is titled **"Kalvi Kann Thirandhavar"** (one who opened the eyes of education) and notes that Thanthai Periyar praised him in these words.

Irrigation and Dams

Kamaraj saw irrigation as the base of food security. Several major irrigation projects were built or begun in his period, along with canal schemes and drainage works.

Project / dam	River / area	Key fact
Vaigai Dam	Vaigai river (Theni district)	Inaugurated by Kamaraj on 21 January 1959
Sathanur Dam	Thenpennai (Ponnaiyar) river, Tiruvannamalai district	Built in the 1950s, during his tenure
Krishnagiri Dam	Thenpennai (Ponnaiyar) river, Krishnagiri district	Built during his tenure
Amaravathi Dam	Amaravathi river (Tiruppur district)	Built around 1957
Manimuthar Dam	Manimuthar river (Tirunelveli district)	Built in the late 1950s
Lower Bhavani Project	Bhavani river – Bhavanisagar Dam (Erode district)	Dam completed in the mid-1950s; one of the major irrigation projects of his period
Parambikulam–Aliyar Project (PAP)	Inter-State project with Kerala (Coimbatore–Pollachi region)	Taken up in his tenure; links several dams through tunnels and canals

Exam tip: **Vaigai Dam** (opened 21 January 1959) is the most frequently asked; **Sathanur** and **Krishnagiri** are both on the **Thenpennai (Ponnaiyar)** river.

Industries and Infrastructure

During the Second and Third Five-Year Plans, Kamaraj worked to bring large public-sector projects to the State and encouraged small and medium industries. The following came up in the State during his tenure:

Industry / institution	Place
Integral Coach Factory (ICF) – railway coaches	Perambur, Chennai
Neyveli Lignite Corporation – lignite mining and power	Neyveli (Cuddalore district)
Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) – boiler plant	Tiruverumbur, Tiruchirappalli
Heavy Vehicles Factory	Avadi, Chennai
Hindustan Photo Films	Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Nilgiris
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras – 1959	Chennai

Industrial estates near Madras and supply of electricity helped private companies set up factories.

The Kamaraj Plan (1963)

After the China war of 1962 and by-election defeats in 1963, the Congress was losing popular support. Kamaraj proposed that **senior leaders should give up government posts and work to strengthen the party organisation**. This became known as the **Kamaraj Plan** ("K-Plan").

- **Accepted:** by the All India Congress Committee in **August 1963**; Prime Minister Nehru was given authority to decide whose resignations to accept.
- **Union Ministers who resigned (six):** they included **Lal Bahadur Shastri**, **Morarji Desai**, **Jagjivan Ram** and **S. K. Patil**.
- **Chief Ministers who resigned (six):** they included **Kamaraj** himself (Madras) and **Biju Patnaik** (Odisha).
- **Kamaraj's resignation:** on **2 October 1963** (Gandhi Jayanti). **M. Bhaktavatsalam** became Chief Minister the same day.

Congress President and "Kingmaker" (1963–1967)

- **Congress President:** elected on **9 October 1963**; he led the party until 1967.
- **The Syndicate:** he was the leading figure of the informal group of senior regional Congress leaders known as the Syndicate.
- **1964:** after Nehru's death (27 May 1964) he built a consensus for **Lal Bahadur Shastri** as Prime Minister.
- **1966:** after Shastri's death at Tashkent (11 January 1966) he backed **Indira Gandhi**, who defeated Morarji Desai in the Congress Parliamentary Party vote.
- Because he chose two Prime Ministers but never sought the post himself, he is called the **Kingmaker**.

Chief Ministers Before and After Kamaraj

Chief Minister	Period	Link with Kamaraj
C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)	1952 – 13 April 1954	Resigned after opposition to the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education; Kamaraj succeeded him
K. Kamaraj	13 April 1954 – 2 October 1963	Three terms; resigned under the Kamaraj Plan
M. Bhaktavatsalam	2 October 1963 – 1967	Succeeded Kamaraj on Gandhi Jayanti 1963; Congress lost power in 1967
C. N. Annadurai (DMK)	From 1967	DMK victory in 1967, the year Kamaraj lost at Virudhunagar

Later Life: 1967 Defeat, Congress (O) and Death

- **1967 election:** food shortages and the anti-Hindi agitation turned the State against the Congress. The DMK came to power, and Kamaraj lost his own **Virudhunagar** seat to **P. Seenivasan** of the DMK by 1,285 votes – his first electoral defeat.
- **1969 by-election:** he won the **Nagercoil Lok Sabha by-election** in January 1969 and was re-elected from Nagercoil in 1971, holding the seat until his death.
- **Congress split (1969):** after the 1969 presidential election contest, the party split. Kamaraj and the Syndicate led the **Congress (Organisation) – Congress (O)**, while Indira Gandhi led the other faction. Congress (O) won 16 Lok Sabha seats in 1971.

- **Death:** he died of a heart attack on **2 October 1975** – Gandhi Jayanti, and the twelfth anniversary of his resignation – in **Chennai**, aged 72. He was cremated near Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai, where the **Kamarajar Memorial** now stands.

Titles of Kamaraj

Title	Meaning
Perunthalaivar	The great leader
Karmaveerar	Man of action
Kalvi Thanthai	Father of education
Kalvi Kann Thirandhavar	One who opened the eyes of education (Class 6 Tamil textbook; praise attributed to Periyar)
Kingmaker	Chose Shastri (1964) and Indira Gandhi (1966) as Prime Ministers
Black Gandhi	For his simple, Gandhian life

Honours and Memorials

- **Bharat Ratna:** 1976, **posthumously**.
- **Postage stamp:** issued on **15 July 1976** (25 paise).
- **Madurai Kamaraj University:** Madurai University (founded 1966) was renamed after him in **1978**.
- **Kamarajar Port:** Ennore Port, north of Chennai, has been renamed Kamarajar Port.
- **Kamaraj Domestic Terminal:** the domestic terminal of Chennai airport was named after him.
- **Memorial houses:** his houses in **Chennai** and **Virudhunagar** are maintained as memorials; the Kamarajar Memorial stands at his cremation site in Chennai.
- **Statues:** including one in Parliament, New Delhi.
- **Birth centenary (2003):** Rs 100 and Rs 5 commemorative coins were issued; a Tamil biographical film, **Kamaraj**, was released in 2004.
- **Educational Development Day:** his birthday, **15 July**, is celebrated as **Kalvi Valarchi Naal** in all schools under the **Tamil Nadu Educational Development Day (Declaration and Celebration) Act, 2006** (Act 26 of 2006).

Writing Mains Answers on Kamaraj (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers often ask about Kamaraj's contribution. Build your answer around these points and support each with a fact from the notes above.

Kamaraj's contribution to school education (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Chief Minister of Madras State 1954–63; education was the centre of his rule; called Kalvi Thanthai.
- **Policy reversal:** withdrew the 1953 Modified Scheme of Elementary Education (Kula Kalvi Thittam) in 1954.
- **Access:** school within about 3 km of every child; about 12,000 new schools; about 6,000 closed schools reopened.
- **Removing barriers:** free and compulsory elementary education; fee exemption for poor students.

- **Retention:** free mid-day meal scheme from 1956 (Ettayapuram); free uniforms to remove visible inequality.
- **Higher education:** new engineering, medical and teacher-training institutions; IIT Madras (1959).
- **Legacy:** the meal scheme was expanded by M. G. Ramachandran in 1982 and became a model for India; 15 July is Educational Development Day (Act 26 of 2006).

Significance of the Kamaraj Plan (about 150 words)

- **Context:** Congress weakened after the 1962 China war and 1963 by-election defeats.
- **Idea:** senior leaders give up office to rebuild the party at the grassroots.
- **Action:** accepted by the AICC in August 1963; six Union Ministers and six Chief Ministers, including Kamaraj, resigned.
- **Result:** Kamaraj became Congress President (9 October 1963) and guided the leadership changes of 1964 and 1966.
- **Evaluation:** a rare example of a leader giving up power for the organisation; it also raised the influence of the party organisation (the Syndicate), which later clashed with Indira Gandhi and led to the 1969 split.

Kamaraj as "Kingmaker" (about 100 words)

- 1964: consensus for Lal Bahadur Shastri after Nehru's death.
- 1966: backed Indira Gandhi after Shastri's death; she won the Congress Parliamentary Party vote against Morarji Desai.
- Never sought the Prime Minister's post himself – hence the title.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Vaigai Dam	Inaugurated 21 January 1959
Ettayapuram	Mid-day meal scheme launched, 1956
Gudiyatham	By-election won as Chief Minister, 1954
Nagercoil	Lok Sabha by-election won, 1969
Alipore Jail	Salt Satyagraha imprisonment, 1930
Perambur	Integral Coach Factory
Avadi	Heavy Vehicles Factory; 1955 Congress session
Tiruverumbur (Tiruchirappalli)	BHEL boiler plant
Udhagamandalam	Hindustan Photo Films
Thenpennai river	Sathanur and Krishnagiri dams

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Two different 2 October dates:** he **resigned** as Chief Minister on 2 October 1963 and **died** on 2 October 1975 – both on Gandhi Jayanti.

- **Bharat Ratna year:** 1976 (posthumous), not 1975.
- **Kingmaker order:** Shastri first (1964), then Indira Gandhi (1966).
- **Predecessor and successor:** Rajaji before him; M. Bhaktavatsalam after him – not C. Subramaniam (who was his Education Minister).
- **Salt Satyagraha leader in Tamil Nadu:** Rajaji led the Vedaranyam march; Kamaraj was a participant.
- **Political guru:** S. Satyamurti – not Rajaji or Gandhi.
- **Congress (O) vs Congress (R):** after the 1969 split Kamaraj was in Congress (O); Indira Gandhi led the other group.
- **Madurai Kamaraj University:** the university was founded in 1966 as Madurai University and renamed only in 1978, after his death.

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Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
1903 (15 Jul)	Born at Virudhupatti (Virudhunagar)
c. 1909	Father dies; Kamaraj about six years old
c. 1919–20	Joins the Congress as a teenager, after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
1924–25	Takes part in the Vaikom Satyagraha
1930	Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha; Alipore Jail (two-year sentence)
1931	Released early after the Gandhi–Irwin Pact
1932	About one year in jail
1936	General Secretary, provincial Congress committee
1937	Elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly (Sattur)
1940	President of the provincial (Tamil Nadu) Congress committee; arrested in December
1942–45	Quit India Movement – about three years in jail
1946	Re-elected to the Assembly; member of the Constituent Assembly
1952	Elected to the first Lok Sabha (Srivilliputhur)
1954 (13 Apr)	Becomes Chief Minister of Madras State; wins the Gudiyatham by-election
1954	Modified Scheme of Elementary Education withdrawn
1955	Avadi Congress session (near Madras) – "socialistic pattern of society"
1956	Mid-day meal scheme launched at Ettayapuram
1957, 1962	Re-elected; second and third terms as Chief Minister
1959 (21 Jan)	Vaigai Dam inaugurated; IIT Madras set up (1959)
1963 (Aug)	AICC accepts the Kamaraj Plan
1963 (2 Oct)	Resigns as Chief Minister; M. Bhaktavatsalam succeeds
1963 (9 Oct)	Elected President of the Indian National Congress
1964	Lal Bahadur Shastri chosen Prime Minister
1966	Indira Gandhi chosen Prime Minister
1967	Loses Virudhunagar seat to P. Seenivasan (DMK); DMK wins the State
1969 (Jan)	Wins Nagercoil Lok Sabha by-election
1969	Congress splits – Kamaraj leads Congress (O)

1971	Re-elected from Nagercoil
1975 (2 Oct)	Dies in Chennai
1976	Bharat Ratna (posthumous); stamp on 15 July 1976
1978	Madurai University renamed Madurai Kamaraj University
2003	Birth centenary – Rs 100 and Rs 5 commemorative coins
2006	15 July declared Educational Development Day (TN Act 26 of 2006)

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Born: 15 July 1903, Virudhupatti (Virudhunagar). Parents: Kumaraswami Nadar and Sivakami Ammal. Birth name: Kamatchi.
- Political guru: S. Satyamurti.
- Salt Satyagraha 1930 – Vedaranyam (led by Rajaji); Kamaraj jailed at Alipore.
- Jailed six times; more than 3,000 days in prison.
- Took part in the Vaikom Satyagraha.
- Provincial Congress president from 1940; first elected to the Assembly in 1937 (Sattur).
- Chief Minister of Madras State: 13 April 1954 – 2 October 1963 (three terms); preceded by Rajaji, succeeded by M. Bhaktavatsalam.
- First Assembly seat as CM: Gudiyatham by-election (1954).
- Cabinet of about eight ministers; C. Subramaniam was Education Minister.
- Withdrew Rajaji's Modified Scheme of Elementary Education (Kula Kalvi Thittam).
- Mid-day meal scheme: started in 1956 at Ettayapuram.
- About 12,000 new schools opened; about 6,000 closed schools reopened; school within about 3 km of every child.
- Free uniforms; free and compulsory elementary education.
- Dams: Vaigai (inaugurated 21 January 1959), Sathanur, Krishnagiri, Amaravathi, Manimuthar, Lower Bhavani; Parambikulam–Aliyar Project.
- Industries: ICF Perambur, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, BHEL Tiruchirappalli, Heavy Vehicles Factory Avadi, Hindustan Photo Films Ooty; IIT Madras (1959).
- Kamaraj Plan: 1963; six Union Ministers and six Chief Ministers resigned.
- Congress President: elected 9 October 1963; Kingmaker – Shastri (1964), Indira Gandhi (1966).
- 1967: lost Virudhunagar to P. Seenivasan (DMK).
- 1969: Nagercoil Lok Sabha by-election; led Congress (O) after the split.
- Died: 2 October 1975, Chennai. Bharat Ratna: 1976 (posthumous).
- 15 July = Educational Development Day (TN Act 26 of 2006).
- Madurai Kamaraj University (renamed 1978); Kamarajar Port (Ennore).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is K. Kamaraj called the "Kingmaker"?

As Congress president he guided the choice of two Prime Ministers: Lal Bahadur Shastri after Nehru's death in 1964, and Indira Gandhi after Shastri's death in 1966, when she defeated Morarji Desai in the

vote of the Congress Parliamentary Party. Because he made Prime Ministers without seeking the post himself, he is called the Kingmaker.

When was Kamaraj the Chief Minister of Madras State?

From 13 April 1954 to 2 October 1963 – more than nine years, over three terms. He first entered the Assembly through the Gudiyatham by-election of 1954, kept a small cabinet of about eight ministers, and resigned on Gandhi Jayanti 1963 under the Kamaraj Plan. M. Bhaktavatsalam succeeded him.

What was the Kamaraj Plan of 1963?

It was Kamaraj's proposal that senior Congress leaders should give up ministerial posts and work to rebuild the party organisation. The AICC accepted it in August 1963; six Union Ministers (including Lal Bahadur Shastri, Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram and S. K. Patil) and six Chief Ministers (including Kamaraj himself and Biju Patnaik) resigned.

Why is 15 July celebrated as Educational Development Day in Tamil Nadu?

15 July is Kamaraj's birthday. In recognition of his work for school education – new schools, free and compulsory elementary education, free mid-day meals and uniforms – the Tamil Nadu Educational Development Day (Declaration and Celebration) Act, 2006 (Act 26 of 2006) declared it Educational Development Day (Kalvi Valarchi Naal), celebrated in every school.

When did Kamaraj receive the Bharat Ratna?

He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1976. He had died on 2 October 1975 (Gandhi Jayanti) in Chennai. A postage stamp in his honour was issued on 15 July 1976.

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Practice questions

1. Where was K. Kamaraj born?

A. Sattur
B. Virudhupatti (Virudhunagar)
C. Srivilliputhur
D. Gudiyatham

2. What was Kamaraj's birth name?

A. Kamatchi
B. Kumaraswami
C. Raja
D. Sivakami

3. Who was Kamaraj's political guru?

A. C. Rajagopalachari
B. E. V. Ramasamy
C. S. Satyamurti
D. V. O. Chidambaram Pillai

4. In which jail was Kamaraj held after the 1930 Salt Satyagraha?

A. Alipore Jail
B. Cellular Jail, Andaman
C. Kannur Jail
D. Yerawada Jail

5. Who led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha in Tamil Nadu (1930)?

A. K. Kamaraj
B. C. Rajagopalachari
C. S. Satyamurti
D. T. Prakasam

6. How many times was Kamaraj imprisoned by the British?

A. Two
B. Four
C. Six
D. Eight

7. Which social-rights struggle in Travancore did Kamaraj take part in?

A. Vaikom Satyagraha
B. Guruvayur Satyagraha
C. Suchindram struggle
D. Moplah Rebellion

8. In which year did Kamaraj become President of the provincial (Tamil Nadu) Congress Committee?

A. 1936
B. 1937
C. 1940
D. 1946

9. On which date did Kamaraj become Chief Minister of Madras State?

A. 26 January 1950
B. 13 April 1954
C. 1 November 1956
D. 2 October 1963

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10. Through which by-election did Kamaraj enter the Assembly after becoming Chief Minister in 1954?

A. Sattur
B. Virudhunagar
C. Gudiyatham
D. Nagercoil

11. Whom did Kamaraj succeed as Chief Minister in 1954?

A. M. Bhaktavatsalam
B. C. Rajagopalachari
C. C. N. Annadurai
D. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar

12. Which scheme was criticised as "Kula Kalvi Thittam"?

A. Modified Scheme of Elementary Education, 1953
B. Mid-day Meal Scheme
C. Free Uniform Scheme
D. Samacheer Kalvi

13. Where was the mid-day meal scheme of Kamaraj's government first launched in 1956?

A. Virudhunagar
B. Ettayapuram
C. Madurai
D. Cheranmahadevi

14. About how many new schools were opened during Kamaraj's rule?

A. 2,000
B. 6,000
C. 12,000
D. 25,000

15. Which dam did Kamaraj inaugurate on 21 January 1959?

A. Mettur
B. Vaigai
C. Papanasam
D. Mullaperiyar

16. Sathanur and Krishnagiri dams are on which river?

A. Cauvery
B. Vaigai
C. Thenpennai (Ponnaiyar)
D. Thamirabarani

17. Which of these came up at Tiruchirappalli during Kamaraj's tenure?

A. ICF
B. BHEL boiler plant
C. Heavy Vehicles Factory
D. Hindustan Photo Films

18. What was the aim of the Kamaraj Plan (1963)?

A. Land reform
B. Senior leaders to quit office and strengthen the party
C. Reorganisation of States
D. Making Hindi the official language

19. Who among the following resigned as Union Minister under the Kamaraj Plan?

A. Lal Bahadur Shastri
B. Jawaharlal Nehru
C. Gulzarilal Nanda
D. Indira Gandhi

20. Who succeeded Kamaraj as Chief Minister on 2 October 1963?

A. C. Subramaniam
B. M. Bhaktavatsalam
C. C. N. Annadurai
D. C. Rajagopalachari

21. With Kamaraj's backing, who became Prime Minister in 1966?

A. Lal Bahadur Shastri
B. Morarji Desai
C. Indira Gandhi
D. Y. B. Chavan

22. Who defeated Kamaraj at Virudhunagar in the 1967 election?

A. C. N. Annadurai
B. P. Seenivasan
C. M. Karunanidhi
D. M. G. Ramachandran

23. Which Lok Sabha by-election did Kamaraj win in January 1969?

A. Virudhunagar
B. Nagercoil
C. Srivilliputhur
D. Madras South

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24. In which year was Kamaraj awarded the Bharat Ratna?

A. 1975

B. 1976

C. 1988

D. 1990

25. Kamaraj's birthday, 15 July, was declared Educational Development Day by a Tamil Nadu Act of which year?

A. 1978

B. 2004

C. 2006

D. 2010

Answers with explanations

1. **B) Virudhupatti (Virudhunagar)** – Kamaraj was born on 15 July 1903 at Virudhupatti, now Virudhunagar.

2. **A) Kamatchi** – His birth name was Kamatchi; with the pet name Raja it became Kamaraj.

3. **C) S. Satyamurti** – S. Satyamurti was Kamaraj's political mentor.

4. **A) Alipore Jail** – After the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha he was sent to Alipore Jail on a two-year sentence; he was released early, in 1931, after the Gandhi–Irwin Pact.

5. **B) C. Rajagopalachari** – Rajaji led the Vedaranyam march; Kamaraj took part and was jailed.

6. **C) Six** – Six times, for more than 3,000 days in all.

7. **A) Vaikom Satyagraha** – He took part in the Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25), the struggle for the right of all castes to use the roads around the Vaikom temple.

8. **C) 1940** – He was General Secretary in 1936 and became President in 1940.

9. **B) 13 April 1954** – He was Chief Minister from 13 April 1954 to 2 October 1963.

10. **C) Gudiyatham** – He won the Gudiyatham by-election in 1954.

11. **B) C. Rajagopalachari** – He succeeded Rajaji, who resigned amid opposition to the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education.

12. **A) Modified Scheme of Elementary Education, 1953** – Rajaji's 1953 half-day scheme; Kamaraj's government withdrew it in 1954.

13. **B) Ettayapuram** – It was launched at Ettayapuram (then in Tirunelveli district) in 1956.

14. **C) 12,000** – About 12,000 new schools were opened; about 6,000 closed schools were reopened.

15. **B) Vaigai** – Vaigai Dam was inaugurated by Kamaraj on 21 January 1959.

16. **C) Thenpennai (Ponnaiyar)** – Both are on the Thenpennai (Ponnaiyar) river.

17. **B) BHEL boiler plant** – BHEL is at Tiruverumbur (Tiruchi); ICF is at Perambur, HVF at Avadi, HPF at Ooty.

18. **B) Senior leaders to quit office and strengthen the party** – Senior Congress leaders were to give up office and rebuild the party organisation.

19. **A) Lal Bahadur Shastri** – Six Union Ministers including Shastri, Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram and S. K. Patil resigned.

20. **B) M. Bhaktavatsalam** – M. Bhaktavatsalam became Chief Minister on 2 October 1963.

21. **C) Indira Gandhi** – Shastri in 1964 and Indira Gandhi in 1966 – hence the title Kingmaker.

22. **B) P. Seenivasan** – P. Seenivasan of the DMK won by 1,285 votes.

23. **B) Nagercoil** – He won the Nagercoil Lok Sabha by-election in January 1969.

24. **B) 1976** – It was awarded posthumously in 1976.

25. **C) 2006** – The Tamil Nadu Educational Development Day Act, 2006 (Act 26 of 2006).

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