Dr. S. Muthulakshmi Reddy – Pioneer Woman Doctor, First Woman Legislator of British India (1926), Devadasi Abolition, Avvai Home & Adyar Cancer Institute | TNPSC Notes

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Dr. S. Muthulakshmi Reddy (1886–1968) of **Pudukkottai** was a doctor, legislator and social reformer. She was one of the earliest Indian women to qualify in medicine at **Madras Medical College (1912)**, became the **first woman legislator in British India** when she was nominated to the **Madras Legislative Council in 1926**, and was elected its **Deputy President**, led the campaign to **abolish the Devadasi system**, founded the **Avvai Home** for destitute girls and the **Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar**, and received the **Padma Bhushan (1956)**.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on their own. Muthulakshmi Reddy is a core topic in the unit **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu** (women's movement, social reform, Devadasi abolition, role of women in Tamil Nadu's public life). Her role in the Civil Disobedience period and in women's organisations comes under **History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement**; Hospital Day and the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme are asked under **Indian Economy and Development Administration in Tamil Nadu** (social welfare and health schemes). Read each section, then use the tables, quick revision table and key points at the end.

Muthulakshmi Reddy at a Glance

Item	Fact
Born	30 July 1886, Pudukkottai (then a princely state)
Parents	S. Narayanaswami Iyer (Principal, Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai) and Chandrammal
Education	Matriculation 1902; Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai; Madras Medical College 1907–1912
Profession	Doctor; first woman House Surgeon at the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras
Husband	Dr. Sundara Reddy (married 1914)
Legislature	Madras Legislative Council, nominated 1926 (some sources 1927) – first woman legislator in British India; Deputy President of the Council
Resigned	1930, in protest against the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi
Organisations	Women's Indian Association (editor of **Stri Dharma**; later president); All India Women's Conference (president)
Institutions founded	Avvai Home (1930); Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar (1954)
Book	**My Experience as a Legislator** (1930)
Honour	Padma Bhushan, 1956
Died	22 July 1968, Madras (Chennai)
Remembered on	30 July – observed as Hospital Day in Tamil Nadu government hospitals

Early Life and Family

- **Born:** 30 July 1886 in **Pudukkottai**, then a princely state and now a district of Tamil Nadu.
- **Father: S. Narayanaswami Iyer**, Principal of the **Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai**.
- **Mother: Chandrammal** (also written Chandramma), who came from a Devadasi family. Because of this marriage, her father's orthodox relatives cut ties with the family.
- **Childhood:** at a time when girls were taken out of school at puberty and married early, her father encouraged her studies. When she reached puberty she was withdrawn from school, but she continued to study at home with tutors.

Her mother's background is important for exam answers: Muthulakshmi Reddy saw at first hand how the Devadasi system and child marriage limited girls' lives, and this shaped her later work as a reformer.

Breaking Barriers in Education (1902–1907)

- **1902 – Matriculation:** she passed the matriculation examination after studying at home.
- **Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai:** the college, until then only for boys, hesitated to admit a girl, and some parents objected. The **ruler of Pudukkottai** ordered that she be admitted and gave her a scholarship.
- She was thus the **first girl student** of the Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai.

Medical Studies and Early Career (1907–1914)

- **1907:** she joined **Madras Medical College**; she was the only woman student in her class and the first woman student in its Department of Surgery.
- **1912:** she completed her medical course with distinction, winning several medals and prizes.
- **House Surgeon:** she became the **first woman House Surgeon at the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras**.
- **Marriage (1914):** she married **Dr. Sundara Reddy**, a physician,. From then on she was known as Muthulakshmi Reddy (also spelt Reddi).
- **Higher studies:** she later went to **England** for higher medical studies.

Exam tip: the first Indian women doctors in the country as a whole were **Anandibai Joshi** and **Kadambini Ganguly**, who qualified in 1886 – the year Muthulakshmi Reddy was born. For Tamil Nadu questions, remember her as the pioneer woman doctor of the Madras Presidency and a first in several Madras institutions.

Women's Indian Association and Stri Dharma

- The **Women's Indian Association (WIA)** was founded in **1917 at Adyar, Madras**, with **Annie Besant** as its first president and **Margaret Cousins** and **Dorothy Jinarajadasa** among its founders. Muthulakshmi Reddy was one of its leading members from the early years.
- She edited **Stri Dharma**, the WIA's journal, which carried news and views on women's education, suffrage and social reform.
- She later served as **president of the WIA**.
- **1926 – Paris:** she represented Indian women at the international women's suffrage congress in **Paris** and described the partial franchise that women had won in Madras.
- The WIA later backed both her major institutions – the Avvai Home and the **Cancer Institute (WIA)**, whose name still carries the initials of the association.

First Woman Legislator in British India (Madras Legislative Council)

The Madras Presidency was among the first in India to let some women vote: in **1921** the Madras Legislative Council passed a resolution giving the vote to women on the same property terms as men. A later change opened the way for women to become members. The WIA asked that a woman be nominated, and the Government nominated Muthulakshmi Reddy.

- **Entry:** the Government **nominated her to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926** (she was a member from December 1926 to 1930), and she became the **first woman legislator in British India**. Some books and websites give 1927; the nomination year is 1926.
- **Deputy President:** the Council elected her **unanimously as its Deputy President** – the first woman in India to hold such an office.
- To take up this public role she gave up her medical practice.
- **Book:** she described her work in the Council in **My Experience as a Legislator** (1930).

Her Work in the Council (1926–1930)

During her years in the Council she raised many issues concerning women and children. The main ones are listed below.

Issue	What she did
Devadasi system	Campaigned for ending the dedication of girls to temples; proposed a bill for its abolition in 1930 (it became law only in 1947)
Immoral traffic	Pressed for a law to suppress brothels and traffic in women and children
Age of marriage	Recommended raising the minimum age of marriage – 16 for girls and 21 for boys
Women and children's health	Proposed a special hospital for women and children
Political rights	Supported the franchise for women in municipal and legislative bodies and argued that women's views must be represented by women

Campaign Against the Devadasi System

Under the Devadasi system, young girls were "dedicated" to temples. Over time the practice had become a cover for the exploitation of girls. Muthulakshmi Reddy, whose own mother came from a Devadasi family, made its abolition her main cause.

- **Inside the Council:** she spoke and moved measures against the dedication of girls; her **Devadasi abolition bill of 1930** did not pass at that time.
- **Outside the Council:** she wrote and spoke widely against the practice and gave shelter to girls who left it.
- **Allies: Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar** also campaigned against the system and wrote the novel **Dasigalin Mosavalai** (1936) exposing the system. The Self-Respect Movement of Periyar also campaigned against it.
- **Result:** the **Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947** – passed soon after Independence, during the ministry of **O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar (Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar)** – made dedication of girls illegal and allowed Devadasi women to marry.

Exam tip: the **campaign and the 1930 bill** were Muthulakshmi Reddy's; the **Act was passed in 1947**, under the Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar ministry. Do not say that she passed the Act in 1930.

Resignation from the Council (1930)

- During the **Civil Disobedience Movement**, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested after the Salt Satyagraha (1930).
- In **protest against Gandhi's arrest**, Muthulakshmi Reddy **resigned from the Madras Legislative Council in 1930**.
- She had also supported women's participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

All India Women's Conference and the Hartog Committee

- **All India Women's Conference (AIWC):** founded in 1927 at Pune with Margaret Cousins as its moving spirit. Muthulakshmi Reddy served as its **president**.
- **Hartog Committee:** she was the **only woman member** of the Hartog Committee, the auxiliary committee of the Simon Commission that reviewed the growth of education in British India (report 1929).

The Avvai Home (Avvai Illam)

- **Origin:** in **1930** three young girls from Devadasi families, whom no hostel would admit, came to her house for shelter. She took them in, and this was the beginning of the **Avvai Home**.

- **Year:** the Avvai Home's own account and Tamil Nadu sources give **1930**; several other sources give **1931**.
- **Purpose:** a home for destitute and orphaned girls and for women rescued from Devadasi dedication and from brothels.
- **Growth:** it began in her residence and is now at **Adyar, Chennai**, with a residential home and a school.
- The name honours the Tamil poet **Avvaiyar**.

Other Public Roles

- **Madras Corporation:** she was the **first Alderwoman (woman alderman)** of the Madras Corporation (1937).
- **State Social Welfare Advisory Board:** she was its **first Chairperson**.
- **Women's franchise:** she led agitation for women's right to vote and stand in municipal and legislative elections.

Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar

The death of her sister from cancer moved Muthulakshmi Reddy deeply, and she resolved to start a hospital where cancer patients could be treated whatever their means.

Year	Step
1935	Publicly declared her wish to start a cancer hospital
1952	Foundation stone of the hospital laid by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru
1954	Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, began functioning in a small hut with 12 beds

- Under the Women's Indian Association she started a **Cancer Relief Fund**.
- Her son **Dr. S. Krishnamurthi** and **Dr. V. Shanta** ran the hospital in its early years; Dr. Shanta later led the Institute for decades.
- Today it is a large comprehensive cancer centre treating patients from across India, many of them free of charge.

Honours and Memorials

Honour / memorial	Detail
Padma Bhushan	Conferred by the Government of India in 1956
Hospital Day	Tamil Nadu government hospitals observe her birthday, **30 July**, as Hospital Day every year
Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme	Tamil Nadu scheme of financial aid to poor pregnant women; at present Rs 18,000 – Rs 14,000 in cash and nutrition kits worth Rs 4,000
Google Doodle	30 July 2019 – her 133rd birth anniversary
Avvai Home and Cancer Institute (WIA)	Both institutions she founded continue to work at Adyar, Chennai

Her "Firsts" – Table for Quick Recall

First	Year / place
First girl student of the Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai	After matriculation (1902)
First woman student in the Department of Surgery, Madras Medical College	1907
First woman House Surgeon, Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	After graduation (1912)
First woman legislator in British India	Madras Legislative Council, 1926
First woman Deputy President of a legislature in India	Madras Legislative Council
First Alderwoman of the Madras Corporation	1937
First Chairperson, State Social Welfare Advisory Board	Madras State
Only woman member of the Hartog Committee	1929 (report)

Death

Muthulakshmi Reddy died on **22 July 1968** in **Madras (Chennai)**, aged 81, a week before her 82nd birthday. Her work is continued by the Avvai Home and the Cancer Institute (WIA) at Adyar.

Key Terms

Term	Meaning
Devadasi system	Dedication of girls to temples; abolished in Madras by the 1947 Act
Madras Legislative Council	The provincial legislature of the Madras Presidency under the Government of India Act, 1919
Deputy President	The member who presides over the Council in the President's absence
Alderwoman	A senior member of a municipal corporation chosen by the elected councillors
Stri Dharma	Journal of the Women's Indian Association, edited by Muthulakshmi Reddy
Avvai Home	Home for destitute girls she founded (1930) after three Devadasi girls sought shelter

Writing Mains Answers on Muthulakshmi Reddy (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers ask about her role in women's emancipation and social reform in Tamil Nadu. Build your answer on these points, each supported by a fact from the notes above.

Muthulakshmi Reddy's contribution to women's emancipation in Tamil Nadu (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** doctor, legislator and reformer from Pudukkottai (1886–1968); first woman legislator in British India (1926).
- **Education as example:** first girl at the Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai; Madras Medical College 1907–1912; first woman House Surgeon at the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital.
- **Legislative reform:** Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council; worked on Devadasi abolition, suppression of immoral traffic, raising the age of marriage, women's franchise.
- **Institutions:** Avvai Home (1930) for destitute girls; Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar (1954).
- **Organisations:** WIA (editor of Stri Dharma, later president); AIWC president; only woman on the Hartog Committee.
- **Legacy:** Padma Bhushan (1956); 30 July is Hospital Day; maternity benefit scheme bears her name.
- **Conclusion:** she joined medicine, law-making and social service to widen the space for women in public life.

Abolition of the Devadasi system (about 150 words)

- **Problem:** dedication of young girls to temples had become a means of exploitation.
- **Campaign:** Muthulakshmi Reddy raised it in the Council and moved a bill for abolition in 1930.
- **Support:** Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar (novel Dasigalin Mosavalai, 1936) and the Self-Respect Movement.
- **Rehabilitation:** Avvai Home gave shelter and education to girls who left the system.
- **Outcome:** Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947, under the Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar ministry.

Muthulakshmi Reddy as a pioneer of public health (about 100 words)

- Pioneer woman doctor and House Surgeon; proposed a special hospital for women and children.
- Cancer Relief Fund under the WIA – foundation stone by Nehru (1952) – Cancer Institute (WIA) opened in 1954 with 12 beds.
- Today Tamil Nadu marks her birthday as Hospital Day and runs a maternity benefit scheme in her name.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Pudukkottai	Birthplace (1886); first girl at the Maharaja's College
1912	Completed medical studies at Madras Medical College
1914	Married Dr. Sundara Reddy
1926	Nominated to the Madras Legislative Council – first woman legislator in British India
1930	Resigned from the Council; Devadasi abolition bill; Avvai Home
1947	Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act
1952	Nehru laid the foundation stone of the cancer hospital
1954	Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, opened
1956	Padma Bhushan
30 July	Hospital Day in Tamil Nadu
Stri Dharma	Journal of the Women's Indian Association
Dasigalin Mosavalai	Novel by Moovalur Ramamirtham (1936)

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **First woman doctor of India?** No – Anandibai Joshi and Kadambini Ganguly qualified in 1886. Muthulakshmi Reddy is the pioneer woman doctor of the Madras Presidency and a "first" in several Madras institutions.
- **Devadasi Act year:** her bill was in 1930; the Act came in **1947**, under the Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar ministry.
- **Council year:** she was nominated in **1926** and sat from December 1926; some books give 1927. She was nominated, not elected by voters.
- **Reason for resignation (1930):** protest against Gandhi's arrest during the Civil Disobedience Movement – not the Quit India Movement (1942).
- **Two dates in July:** born **30 July** 1886 (Hospital Day); died **22 July** 1968.
- **Padma Bhushan, not Padma Vibhushan:** she received the Padma Bhushan (1956). Dr. V. Shanta of the same Institute received the Padma Vibhushan.
- **Cancer Institute dates:** foundation stone 1952 (Nehru); opened 1954 – do not swap them.
- **WIA vs AIWC:** WIA – founded 1917 at Adyar (journal Stri Dharma); AIWC – founded 1927 at Pune. She led both.

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
1886 (30 Jul)	Born at Pudukkottai
1902	Passes matriculation; admitted to the Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai
1907	Joins Madras Medical College
1912	Completes medical course; first woman House Surgeon, Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital
1914	Marries Dr. Sundara Reddy
1917	Women's Indian Association founded at Adyar
1921	Madras Council grants voting rights to women (on property terms)
1926	Represents Indian women at the Paris women's suffrage congress; nominated to the Madras Legislative Council – first woman legislator in British India; later elected Deputy President
1929 (report)	Only woman member of the Hartog Committee
1930	Devadasi abolition bill; My Experience as a Legislator; resigns over Gandhi's arrest; Avvai Home begins
1935	Declares her plan for a cancer hospital
1937	First Alderwoman of the Madras Corporation
1947	Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act
1952	Nehru lays the foundation stone of the cancer hospital
1954	Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, begins with 12 beds
1956	Padma Bhushan
1968 (22 Jul)	Dies in Madras (Chennai)
2019 (30 Jul)	Google Doodle on her 133rd birth anniversary

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Born: 30 July 1886, Pudukkottai. Died: 22 July 1968, Chennai.
- Parents: S. Narayanaswami Iyer (Principal, Maharaja's College) and Chandrammal.
- Matriculation 1902; first girl student of the Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai (admitted by order of the ruler).
- Madras Medical College 1907–1912; first woman House Surgeon, Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.
- Married Dr. Sundara Reddy, 1914.
- First woman legislator in British India – nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926 (at the WIA's request; some sources 1927).
- First woman Deputy President of a legislative council in India (elected unanimously).

- Resigned from the Council in 1930 in protest against Gandhi's arrest.
- Moved the Devadasi abolition bill (1930); Act passed in 1947 (Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar ministry).
- Worked for the suppression of immoral traffic and for raising the age of marriage.
- Book: My Experience as a Legislator (1930). Edited Stri Dharma (WIA journal).
- Later WIA president; AIWC president; only woman on the Hartog Committee.
- Avvai Home founded in 1930 (some sources 1931) – now at Adyar, Chennai.
- First Alderwoman of Madras Corporation (1937); first Chairperson, State Social Welfare Advisory Board.
- Cancer Relief Fund (WIA); foundation stone by Nehru 1952; Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, 1954 (12 beds).
- Padma Bhushan: 1956.
- 30 July = Hospital Day in Tamil Nadu; Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme (Rs 18,000).
- Google Doodle: 30 July 2019 (133rd birth anniversary).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy called the first woman legislator of British India?

At the request of the Women's Indian Association she was nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926 (some sources give 1927), becoming the first woman member of a legislature in British India. The Council then elected her unanimously as its Deputy President, making her the first woman to hold that office in India.

What was her role in the abolition of the Devadasi system?

She campaigned against the dedication of girls to temples both inside and outside the Council and proposed a bill to abolish the system in 1930. It did not become law at that time, but her campaign, supported by Moovalur Ramamirtham and the Self-Respect Movement, prepared the ground for the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947.

Why did Muthulakshmi Reddy start the Avvai Home?

In 1930 three young girls from Devadasi families whom no hostel would admit came to her house for shelter. She took them in, and this became the Avvai Home, a home for destitute girls and women that later added a school. The Home's own account gives 1930 as the founding year; several other sources give 1931.

How did the Adyar Cancer Institute begin?

Her sister's death from cancer made her resolve to build a cancer hospital. She started a Cancer Relief Fund under the Women's Indian Association; Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone in 1952, and the Cancer Institute (WIA) began working in 1954 in a small hut with 12 beds.

Which honours and schemes recall Muthulakshmi Reddy today?

She received the Padma Bhushan in 1956. Tamil Nadu government hospitals observe her birthday, 30 July, as Hospital Day; the State's Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme gives financial help

to poor pregnant women; and Google honoured her with a Doodle on 30 July 2019, her 133rd birth anniversary.

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 Tamil Nadu Administration PYQ book and the General Tamil 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).

Practice questions

1. Where was Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy born?

A. Thanjavur
B. Pudukkottai
C. Tiruchirappalli
D. Madurai

2. How is 30 July, Muthulakshmi Reddy's birthday, observed in Tamil Nadu?

A. Women's Day
B. Social Justice Day
C. Hospital Day
D. Educational Development Day

3. In which year was Muthulakshmi Reddy nominated to the Madras Legislative Council, becoming the first woman legislator in British India?

A. 1921
B. 1926
C. 1935
D. 1947

4. Which office did Muthulakshmi Reddy hold in the Madras Legislative Council?

A. President
B. Deputy President
C. Leader of the Opposition
D. Education Minister

5. Why did Muthulakshmi Reddy resign from the Legislative Council in 1930?

A. Ill health
B. In protest against Gandhi's arrest
C. To go to England for higher studies
D. Because the Devadasi Act had been passed

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6. In which year was the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act passed?

A. 1927
B. 1930
C. 1937
D. 1947

7. The Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947 was passed during whose ministry?

A. C. Rajagopalachari
B. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar
C. K. Kamaraj
D. T. Prakasam

8. What led to the founding of the Avvai Home?

A. Her sister's death
B. Three Devadasi girls seeking shelter at her house
C. A request by Gandhi
D. A government order

9. Who laid the foundation stone of the Adyar cancer hospital in 1952?

A. Rajendra Prasad
B. Jawaharlal Nehru
C. C. Rajagopalachari
D. K. Kamaraj

10. In which year did the Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar begin functioning?

A. 1949
B. 1952
C. 1954
D. 1956

11. In which year was Muthulakshmi Reddy awarded the Padma Bhushan?

A. 1954
B. 1956
C. 1962
D. 1968

12. Which journal of the Women's Indian Association did Muthulakshmi Reddy edit?

A. Kudi Arasu
B. Stri Dharma
C. India
D. New India

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13. Which book by Muthulakshmi Reddy describes her work in the legislature?

A. My Experience as a Legislator

B. Dasigalin Mosavalai

C. The Wrongs of Indian Womanhood

D. Women and Social Reform

14. Who wrote the novel "Dasigalin Mosavalai", which exposed the Devadasi system?

A. Muthulakshmi Reddy

B. Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar

C. Neelambikai Ammaiyar

D. Dr. Dharmambal

15. Where did Muthulakshmi Reddy study medicine?

A. Madras Medical College

B. Stanley Medical College

C. Christian Medical College, Vellore

D. Madurai Medical College

16. At which hospital was Muthulakshmi Reddy the first woman House Surgeon?

A. Government General Hospital, Madras

B. Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras

C. Royapettah Hospital

D. Kasturba Hospital, Madurai

17. Which of the following is/are correct? 1. Muthulakshmi Reddy was the only woman member of the Hartog Committee. 2. She served as president of the All India Women's Conference. 3. She was the first president of the Women's Indian Association.

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

18. In which year did Muthulakshmi Reddy become the first Alderwoman of the Madras Corporation?

A. 1921

B. 1930

C. 1937

D. 1952

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19. Match: a. 1912 – 1. Marriage b. 1914 – 2. Completed medical studies c. 1954 – 3. Padma Bhushan d. 1956 – 4. Cancer Institute (WIA) begins

A. a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
B. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
C. a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
D. a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1

20. Who was Muthulakshmi Reddy's husband?

A. Dr. Sundara Reddy
B. Dr. S. Krishnamurthi
C. Dr. T. M. Nair
D. P. T. Rajan

21. Muthulakshmi Reddy joined which college as its first girl student?

A. Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai
B. Presidency College, Madras
C. Pachaiyappa's College
D. St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli

22. What is the total assistance now given under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme?

A. Rs 6,000
B. Rs 12,000
C. Rs 18,000
D. Rs 25,000

23. Which of the following pairs is wrongly matched?

A. Matriculation – 1902
B. Joined Madras Medical College – 1907
C. Avvai Home – 1954
D. Death – 1968

24. In 1926 Muthulakshmi Reddy represented Indian women at the international women's suffrage congress held in which city?

A. London
B. Paris
C. Chicago
D. Geneva

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25. On which date did Muthulakshmi Reddy die?

A. 30 July 1968

B. 22 July 1968

C. 2 October 1968

D. 18 June 1954

Answers with explanations

1. **B) Pudukkottai** – She was born on 30 July 1886 in the princely state of Pudukkottai.

2. **C) Hospital Day** – Tamil Nadu government hospitals observe 30 July as Hospital Day.

3. **B) 1926** – She was nominated in 1926 and was a member from December 1926 to 1930 (some sources give 1927).

4. **B) Deputy President** – The Council unanimously elected her Deputy President.

5. **B) In protest against Gandhi's arrest** – She resigned in protest against Gandhi's arrest during the Civil Disobedience Movement.

6. **D) 1947** – After her 1930 bill, the Act was finally passed in 1947.

7. **B) O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar** – It was passed under the ministry of Omandur (O. P.) Ramaswamy Reddiyar.

8. **B) Three Devadasi girls seeking shelter at her house** – In 1930 three Devadasi girls with nowhere to go sought shelter at her home.

9. **B) Jawaharlal Nehru** – Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone in 1952.

10. **C) 1954** – It began in 1954 in a small hut with 12 beds.

11. **B) 1956** – The Government of India conferred the Padma Bhushan on her in 1956.

12. **B) Stri Dharma** – Stri Dharma was the WIA's journal, edited by her.

13. **A) My Experience as a Legislator** – My Experience as a Legislator (1930) records her work in the Council.

14. **B) Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar** – Moovalur Ramamirtham wrote it in 1936; she too campaigned against the Devadasi system.

15. **A) Madras Medical College** – She studied at Madras Medical College from 1907 to 1912.

16. **B) Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras** – She was the first woman House Surgeon at the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.

17. **A) 1 and 2 only** – Annie Besant was the WIA's first president; Muthulakshmi Reddy became its president only later.

18. **C) 1937** – She became the first Alderwoman of the Madras Corporation in 1937.

19. **A) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3** – 1912 medical studies, 1914 marriage, 1954 Cancer Institute (WIA) begins, 1956 Padma Bhushan.

20. **A) Dr. Sundara Reddy** – In 1914 she married Dr. Sundara Reddy.

21. **A) Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai** – She was the first girl student of the Maharaja's College, Pudukkottai, admitted on the ruler's order.

22. **C) Rs 18,000** – Rs 14,000 in cash plus nutrition kits worth Rs 4,000 – Rs 18,000 in all.

23. **C) Avvai Home – 1954** – The Avvai Home began in 1930 (some sources 1931); 1954 is the year the Cancer Institute opened.

24. **B) Paris** – At the 1926 Paris congress she described the franchise won by women in Madras.

25. **B) 22 July 1968** – She died in Chennai on 22 July 1968; 30 July is her birthday.

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