Quit India Movement in Tamil Nadu (1942) – Kamaraj Underground, Satyamurti, Sulur Airfield, Devakottai–Tiruvadanai, Madurai & Student Protests | TNPSC Notes

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

The **Quit India Movement** began with the resolution passed by the All India Congress Committee at Bombay on **8 August 1942**; Gandhi's call was **"Do or Die"**. The leaders were arrested the next day. In Tamil Nadu, **Kamaraj**, returning from Bombay, escaped arrest at a railway station (Arakkonam), worked **underground** to spread the message, then surrendered and was detained for about three years (until June 1945). **Satyamurti** fell ill in Amaravati jail and died on **28 March 1943**. The **Sulur airfield** near Coimbatore was set on fire; police opened fire at **Devakottai**, **Tiruvadanai**, **Rajapalayam** and **Karaikudi**. **Rajaji** did not support the movement.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants. The topic falls under **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu** and the **Indian National Movement**. The leaders' life stories are in our Kamarajar and Rajaji notes; this note gives the full Tamil Nadu picture of 1942 – place by place.

At a Glance

Detail	Fact
Resolution	8 August 1942, Bombay (Gowalia Tank maidan) – All India Congress Committee
Slogan	"Do or Die"
Arrests	Early hours of 9 August 1942 – Gandhi and other leaders; Congress bodies declared unlawful
Tamil Nadu leaders	Kamaraj (underground work), Satyamurti, M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chinna Annamalai
Violent incidents	Sulur airfield burnt; Devakottai court burnt; Tiruvadanai jail broken open; post offices burnt at Vellore and Panapakkam; trains derailed in the Coimbatore area
Police firing	Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai (Tamil Nadu textbook); clash with the military at Madurai
Opposed / stayed away	Rajaji; Justice Party; Muslim League; Communist Party

Background

- **Cripps Mission (March–April 1942)** offered only dominion status after the war and failed.
- **Japanese threat:** Japan's advance in South-East Asia; fear of an attack on the east coast led a large part of Madras city's population to leave in 1942.
- **Wartime burden:** rising prices, shortages and forced collection of war funds.
- **Rajaji's different line:** when his Madras resolution for a settlement with the Muslim League was rejected, he resigned from the Congress and the Assembly in 1942 and did not support Quit India.

Madras: Arrests, Bans and Student Protest

- **Station arrests:** police waited at railway stations to arrest Kamaraj, Bhaktavatsalam and Satyamurti on their return from Bombay.
- **Bans:** the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee was declared unlawful; public meetings were banned under the Defence of India Rules.
- **Students:** college students in khadi and Gandhi caps led the protests – Presidency College students blocked roads with bicycles, Pachaiyappa's students were lathi-charged, Queen Mary's students shouted slogans, Women's Christian College held a fast; students pulled train alarm chains to stop traffic.
- **City mood:** Madras city stayed relatively calm; most violence took place in the districts.

Kamaraj – Underground Work

- He attended the Bombay meeting of August 1942 and returned.
- He escaped the police waiting for him by slipping away in disguise at **Arakkonam**.
- Underground, he carried the message and plan of the movement to district leaders; when the work was done he surrendered.
- About three years in detention; released in **June 1945** – his longest and last imprisonment.

Satyamurti – Illness in Prison

- Kamaraj's political guru **S. Satyamurti** was arrested in 1942 and served rigorous imprisonment in **Amaravati jail**.
- His health broke down in prison and he died on **28 March 1943**.
- The Poondi reservoir, a source of Chennai's drinking water, is called "Satyamurti Sagar"; the Congress headquarters in Chennai is "Satyamurti Bhavan".

The Movement in the Districts – Place by Place

Place	Event
Sulur (Coimbatore)	August 1942: the airfield set up in 1940 was set on fire by freedom fighters of nearby **Kannampalayam**; a collective fine called "Thimir Vari" was levied on the whole village; about 30 men were tried and given long sentences
Coimbatore area	Trains derailed, disrupting rail traffic

SHANMUGAM IAS

Devakottai (now Sivaganga district)	Court burnt; police firing; **Chinna Annamalai** arrested for leading protests
Tiruvadanai (Ramanathapuram district)	A crowd besieged and broke open the jail to free Chinna Annamalai; many were killed in the firing that followed
Madurai	Clash between Congress volunteers and the military
Rajapalayam, Karaikudi	Police firing
Vellore, Panapakkam	Post offices set on fire; telegraph wires cut

Chinna Annamalai: surrendered about a month later, after a reward of ₹10,000 was announced for his capture; he was sentenced to four and a half years' rigorous imprisonment, and Rajaji later argued his case. He later became a pioneer of Tamil publishing.

Government Repression

- Defence of India Rules – detention without trial, bans on meetings, press curbs.
- **Collective fines** on villages ("Thimir Vari" on Kannampalayam near Sulur).
- Firing, lathi charges and long prison terms – those convicted in the Sulur case were freed only after the Interim Government was formed in 1946.

Those Who Stayed Away

Body / person	Position
Rajaji	Did not support the movement; condemned the violence; in 1944 proposed the C.R. Formula for a Congress–League settlement
Justice Party	Opposed
Communist Party	After the USSR joined the war (1941) took the "People's War" line; urged students to stay out
Muslim League	Opposed

Results and Assessment

- **Mass upsurge:** with the leaders in jail, students, peasants, workers and villagers acted on their own – spreading to the southern and western districts.
- **Heavy price:** deaths, collective fines and long jail terms.
- **Political impact:** the demand for freedom reached a point of no return; release of leaders in 1945–46, the 1946 elections and independence in 1947.
- **Tamil Nadu features:** Kamaraj's underground coordination raised him to state leadership; Rajaji's different line created two camps in the Congress.
- **Next phase:** Tamils of Malaya and Singapore joined the Indian National Army (INA) in large numbers; Madras-born **Captain Lakshmi** led the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

Writing Mains Answers (Group 1 / Group 2)

Key incidents of the Quit India Movement in Tamil Nadu (about 200–250 words)

- **Introduction:** failure of Cripps; Bombay resolution of 8 August 1942; "Do or Die".
- **Arrests:** leaders arrested at stations; Kamaraj escaped at Arakkonam and went underground; Satyamurti arrested.
- **Students:** protests by Madras colleges.
- **Districts:** Sulur airfield, Coimbatore trains, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai, Madurai, Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Vellore, Panapakkam.
- **Repression:** firing, collective fines ("Thimir Vari").
- **Conclusion:** a leaderless mass upsurge; the road to freedom.

Why did Rajaji not support the Quit India Movement? (about 150 words)

- He held that freedom was not possible without a Congress–Muslim League settlement.
- He feared that a struggle during the Japanese threat would worsen matters; he urged negotiation.
- His 1942 Madras resolution was rejected → he left the Congress.
- Later, the C.R. Formula of 1944 – the basis of the Gandhi–Jinnah talks.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
8 August 1942	Bombay resolution
Arakkonam	Where Kamaraj escaped arrest
28 March 1943	Death of Satyamurti
Sulur	Airfield burnt (Coimbatore)
Thimir Vari	Collective fine on Kannampalayam
Tiruvadanai	Jailbreak to free Chinna Annamalai
June 1945	Release of Kamaraj
Panapakkam	Post office burnt

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Rajaji did not support Quit India – do not call him its Tamil Nadu leader.
- Kamaraj was not arrested at once – he first escaped, worked underground and then surrendered.
- Satyamurti died in 1943 (as a result of prison) – not in 1942.
- Devakottai is in Sivaganga district; Tiruvadanai in Ramanathapuram district.
- Resolution on 8 August; arrests on 9 August (now observed as "August Kranti Day").

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

தமிழ்	English
வெள்ளையனே வெளியேறு இயக்கம்	Quit India Movement
செய் அல்லது செத்து மடி	Do or Die
தலைமறைவு	Underground
கூட்டு அபராதம்	Collective (punitive) fine
இந்தியப் பாதுகாப்பு விதிகள்	Defence of India Rules
விமானதளம்	Aerodrome / airfield
சிறை உடைப்பு	Jailbreak
கிரிப்ஸ் தூதுக்குழு	Cripps Mission

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
March–April 1942	Cripps Mission fails
1942	Rajaji leaves the Congress
8 August 1942	Bombay resolution
9 August 1942	Leaders arrested; Kamaraj escapes at Arakkonam
August 1942	Sulur, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai, Madurai incidents
28 March 1943	Death of Satyamurti
1944	C.R. Formula
June 1945	Release of Kamaraj
1946	Release of the Sulur case prisoners

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Quit India resolution: 8 August 1942, Bombay – "Do or Die".
- Kamaraj: escaped arrest at Arakkonam and went underground; about three years in jail; released June 1945.
- Satyamurti: Amaravati jail; died 28 March 1943; Poondi – Satyamurti Sagar.
- Sulur airfield (Coimbatore) – burnt in 1942; "Thimir Vari" on Kannampalayam.
- Police firing: Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai.
- Post offices burnt: Vellore, Panapakkam.
- Tiruvadanai jailbreak – Chinna Annamalai.
- Tamil Congress leader who did not support the movement: Rajaji.

Related notes: Kamarajar, Rajaji, Tiruppur Kumaran, Justice Party.

Frequently Asked Questions

What did Kamaraj do during the Quit India Movement?

Returning from the Bombay meeting in August 1942, he escaped the police waiting at the railway station by slipping away in disguise at Arakkonam. He went underground to carry the movement's message to district leaders and then surrendered; after about three years in detention he was released in June 1945.

Why is the Sulur airfield remembered?

The Sulur airfield near Coimbatore, set up in 1940, was set on fire in August 1942 by freedom fighters of Kannampalayam. The government levied a collective fine called "Thimir Vari" on the whole village and tried about 30 men.

What happened at Devakottai and Tiruvadanai?

At Devakottai, Chinna Annamalai was arrested for leading protests against Gandhi's arrest; a crowd besieged and broke open the Tiruvadanai jail to free him, and many were killed in the firing that followed. The court at Devakottai was also burnt.

What happened to Satyamurti?

Arrested in 1942, Satyamurti served rigorous imprisonment in Amaravati jail. His health broke down in prison, and he died on 28 March 1943.

Why did Rajaji not support the Quit India Movement?

He believed freedom was impossible without a Congress–Muslim League settlement and that negotiation was better during the Japanese threat. When his 1942 Madras resolution was rejected he left the Congress, and in 1944 he proposed the C.R. Formula.

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

What did Kamaraj do during the Quit India Movement?
Returning from the Bombay meeting in August 1942, he escaped the police waiting at the railway station by slipping away in disguise at Arakkonam. He went underground to carry the movement's message to district leaders and then surrendered; after about three years in detention he was released in June 1945.

Why is the Sulur airfield remembered?
The Sulur airfield near Coimbatore, set up in 1940, was set on fire in August 1942 by freedom fighters

of Kannampalayam. The government levied a collective fine called "Thimir Vari" on the whole village and tried about 30 men.

What happened at Devakottai and Tiruvadanai?
At Devakottai, Chinna Annamalai was arrested for leading protests against Gandhi's arrest; a crowd besieged and broke open the Tiruvadanai jail to free him, and many were killed in the firing that followed. The court at Devakottai was also burnt.

What happened to Satyamurti?
Arrested in 1942, Satyamurti served rigorous imprisonment in Amaravati jail. His health broke down in prison, and he died on 28 March 1943.

Why did Rajaji not support the Quit India Movement?
He believed freedom was impossible without a Congress–Muslim League settlement and that negotiation was better during the Japanese threat. When his 1942 Madras resolution was rejected he left the Congress, and in 1944 he proposed the C.R. Formula.

Practice questions

1. On which date was the Quit India resolution passed?

A. 8 August 1942
B. 9 August 1942
C. 15 August 1942
D. 26 January 1942

2. What was Gandhi's slogan in the Quit India Movement?

A. Delhi Chalo
B. Do or Die
C. Swaraj is my birthright
D. Inquilab Zindabad

3. At which railway station did Kamaraj escape arrest in 1942?

A. Katpadi
B. Villupuram
C. Arakkonam
D. Jolarpettai

4. When was Kamaraj released after the Quit India detention?

A. August 1943
B. August 1947
C. January 1946
D. June 1945

5. On which date did Satyamurti die?

A. 28 March 1943
B. 9 August 1942
C. 2 October 1943
D. 15 June 1945

SHANMUGAM IA

6. In which jail did Satyamurti serve his 1942 sentence?

A. Alipore
B. Amaravati
C. Vellore
D. Andaman

7. Which airfield near Coimbatore was set on fire in 1942?

A. Tambaram
B. Meenambakkam
C. Sulur
D. Arakkonam

8. What was the collective fine on Kannampalayam after the Sulur incident called?

A. Thozhil Vari
B. Thalai Vari
C. Uppu Vari
D. Thimir Vari

9. Where was a jail broken open to free Chinna Annamalai?

A. Tiruvadanai
B. Devakottai
C. Karaikudi
D. Ramanathapuram

10. According to the Tamil Nadu textbook, where did police open fire in 1942?

A. Tiruppur, Erode, Salem
B. Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai
C. Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Vedaranyam
D. Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Maniyachi

11. Where were post offices burnt in 1942?

A. Coimbatore and Sulur
B. Madurai and Dindigul
C. Vellore and Panapakkam
D. Madras and Chengalpattu

12. Which Tamil Congress leader did not support the Quit India Movement?

A. Kamaraj
B. Satyamurti
C. Bhaktavatsalam
D. Rajaji

13. What happened at Madurai in 1942?

A. A clash between Congress volunteers and the military
B. An airfield was burnt
C. A jailbreak
D. A shipping company was started

SHANMUGAM IA

14. In which year was the Sulur airfield set up?

A. 1936
B. 1940
C. 1942
D. 1949

15. Which 1944 proposal sought a Congress–Muslim League settlement?

A. Cripps Proposals
B. Wavell Plan
C. C.R. Formula
D. Mountbatten Plan

16. Which party stayed away from the 1942 movement because of its "People's War" line?

A. Forward Bloc
B. Self-Respect Movement
C. Congress Socialist Party
D. Communist Party

17. After whom is the Poondi reservoir named?

A. Satyamurti
B. Kamaraj
C. Rajaji
D. Bhaktavatsalam

18. In which district is Devakottai today?

A. Ramanathapuram
B. Sivaganga
C. Pudukkottai
D. Madurai

19. Which Madras-born woman led the Rani of Jhansi Regiment?

A. Rukmini Lakshmipathi
B. Ambujammal
C. Captain Lakshmi
D. Durgabai

20. Which statement on Quit India in Tamil Nadu is correct?

A. Rajaji was its Tamil Nadu leader
B. Kamaraj was arrested at once
C. Satyamurti died in 1942
D. The Sulur airfield was set on fire

Answers with explanations

1. A) 8 August 1942 – 8 August 1942, Bombay.

2. B) Do or Die – "Do or Die".

3. C) Arakkonam – Arakkonam – in disguise.

SHANMUGAM IA

4. D) June 1945 – June 1945 – about three years in detention.

5. A) 28 March 1943 – 28 March 1943 – died after falling ill in detention.

6. B) Amaravati – Amaravati jail.

7. C) Sulur – Sulur – by Kannampalayam freedom fighters.

8. D) Thimir Vari – "Thimir Vari".

9. A) Tiruvadanai – Tiruvadanai.

10. B) Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai – Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai.

11. C) Vellore and Panapakkam – Vellore and Panapakkam.

12. D) Rajaji – Rajaji – he left the Congress in 1942.

13. A) A clash between Congress volunteers and the military – A clash between volunteers and the military.

14. B) 1940 – 1940; burnt in 1942.

15. C) C.R. Formula – Rajaji's C.R. Formula.

16. D) Communist Party – The Communist Party – after the USSR joined the war.

17. A) Satyamurti – Satyamurti Sagar.

18. B) Sivaganga – Sivaganga district.

19. C) Captain Lakshmi – Captain Lakshmi (INA).

20. D) The Sulur airfield was set on fire – Sulur is correct; 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/quit-india-movement-tamil-nadu/en

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