C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) – Vedaranyam Salt March, Premier of Madras, C.R. Formula, Governor-General & Swatantra Party | TNPSC Notes

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Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878–1972), popularly called **Rajaji** or **C.R.**, was a lawyer from Salem who became one of Gandhi's closest colleagues. He led the **Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha** (1930), was the first Congress **Premier of Madras Presidency** (1937–39), framed the **C.R. Formula** (1944), became the **first and only Indian Governor-General of India** (1948–50), served as **Chief Minister of Madras State** (1952–54), founded the **Swatantra Party** (1959) and was among the first recipients of the **Bharat Ratna** (1954). Gandhi called him the **"keeper of my conscience"**, and in Tamil he is honoured as **Mootharignar** (the elder scholar).

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on this topic. Rajaji is a core topic in the unit **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu** (Vedaranyam march, temple entry, prohibition, the anti-Hindi agitation, Kula Kalvi Thittam) and in **History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement** (Non-Cooperation, the No-Changers, Salt Satyagraha, the C.R. Formula, Governor-General). His administrative and economic measures – debt relief, sales tax, the Swatantra Party's free-market ideas – link to **Indian Economy and Development Administration in Tamil Nadu**, and his political career to **Indian Polity**. His Tamil books (Chakravarti Thirumagan, Vyasar Virundhu) are asked in **General Tamil**. Read each section, then use the tables, the quick revision table and the key points at the end.

Rajaji at a Glance

Detail	Fact
Full name	Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (Rajaji; C.R.)
Born	10 December 1878, Thorapalli, near Hosur (now Krishnagiri district)
Parents	Chakravarti Venkatarya Iyengar (village munsiff of Thorapalli) and Singaramma
Profession	Lawyer – practised at Salem from 1900
Titles	Rajaji; C.R.; Mootharignar; Gandhi's "keeper of my conscience"
Key posts	Premier of Madras Presidency (1937–39); Governor of West Bengal (1947–48); Governor-General of India (1948–50); Union Home Minister (1950–51); Chief Minister of Madras State (1952–54)
Party founded	Swatantra Party, 4 June 1959, Madras
Honours	Bharat Ratna (1954); Sahitya Akademi Award for Tamil (1958)
Died	25 December 1972, Madras (Chennai), aged 94

Early Life, Education and Family

- **Born:** 10 December 1878 at **Thorapalli**, a village near **Hosur**, now in **Krishnagiri district**.
- **Parents: Chakravarti Venkatarya Iyengar**, the village munsiff of Thorapalli, and **Singaramma**.
- **Schooling:** early schooling at Hosur; then **Central College, Bangalore**.
- **Law:** he studied law at **Presidency College, Madras**, and began legal practice at **Salem in 1900**, where he became a leading lawyer.
- **Marriage:** in 1897 he married **Alamelu Mangalamma (also written Mangamma)**; they had five children – three sons and two daughters. His wife died young.
- **Link with Gandhi's family:** his daughter **Lakshmi** married **Devdas Gandhi**, Mahatma Gandhi's youngest son, in 1933.

Salem Years: Municipality and Public Life (1900–1919)

- **Congress:** he attended the **Calcutta session of the Congress (1906)** as a delegate.
- **Salem municipality:** elected a member in **1911** and chairman in **1917**; he served as chairman until 1919.
- **Tamil Scientific Terms Society (1916):** he founded this society to coin simple Tamil words for scientific terms – an early effort to teach science in Tamil.
- **Social concerns:** removal of untouchability, poverty and drink were his main concerns even before he joined Gandhi.

Joining Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Years (1919–1929)

- **1919:** he joined Gandhi in the agitation against the **Rowlatt Act** and soon gave up his lucrative law practice for the national movement.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement:** he took part in it and went to jail; his prison diary was later published in Tamil.

- **1921:** elected to the **Congress Working Committee** and served as **General Secretary** of the Congress.
- **Young India:** he edited Gandhi's weekly **Young India** for a time while Gandhi was in prison.
- **Gaya session (1922) – leader of the No-Changers:** after the Non-Cooperation Movement was withdrawn, C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru (the **Pro-Changers** or Swarajists) wanted to enter the legislative councils. Rajaji, with Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad and M.A. Ansari, led the **No-Changers**, who wanted to continue Gandhi's constructive programme instead. The No-Changers won the vote at Gaya.
- **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25):** he supported and took part in the struggle for the right of all castes to use the roads around the Vaikom temple.
- **Gandhi Ashram, Puthupalayam:** he set up a Gandhi Ashram at **Puthupalayam near Tiruchengode** (Namakkal district) in **1925** (some accounts give 1924), modelled on Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram. It worked for khadi (hand-spinning and weaving), the removal of untouchability and prohibition. From here he published **Vimochanam**, a Tamil magazine for the anti-liquor campaign.

Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930)

When Gandhi began the Dandi March in March 1930, Rajaji, who had been elected **President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee**, organised a parallel salt march in Tamil Nadu to the **Vedaranyam** coast (then in Thanjavur district, now Nagapattinam district).

Point	Fact
Start	13 April 1930 (Tamil New Year day) from the house of Dr T.S.S. Rajan at Tiruchirappalli
Volunteers	About 1,000 applied; 98 were selected for the first batch; the number grew as local workers joined
Route	Through the Thanjavur delta – Kumbakonam, Valangaiman, Needamangalam, Thiruthuraipoondi – to Vedaranyam
Distance	About 240 km (150 miles), in about 15 days
Reached Vedaranyam	28 April 1930
Salt law broken	At the end of April 1930 at the salt swamps near Vedaranyam; Rajaji was arrested (sources give the exact date as 28 April, 30 April or 1 May)
Sentence	Six months' rigorous imprisonment, at Tiruchirappalli Central Jail
March song	Composed by Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai – "Kathi indri, ratham indri" (a war without sword and without blood)
Local organiser	A. Vedaratnam Pillai of Vedaranyam, later given the title "Sardar"
Other marchers	K. Kamaraj, M. Bhaktavatsalam, Rukmini Lakshmipathi (the first woman arrested in the Salt Satyagraha in Madras Presidency), Rajaji's son C.R. Narasimhan, A. Vaidyanatha Iyer

Exam tip: the Tamil Nadu salt march went from **Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam** under Rajaji; Kamaraj was a participant at Vedaranyam, not its leader.

Premier of Madras Presidency (1937–1939)

Under the **Government of India Act, 1935**, provincial autonomy came into force, and the Congress won the 1937 elections in Madras Presidency. Rajaji became the **first Congress Premier** (then called "Prime Minister" of the province) on **14 July 1937**. His ministry resigned in **October 1939**, along with the other Congress ministries, in protest against the Viceroy declaring India a party to the Second World War without consulting Indians.

Measure	Year	What it did
Prohibition	1937	Liquor was banned first in **Salem district** (from 1 October 1937) and then extended to other districts
Sales tax	1939	A general sales tax was introduced to make up the excise revenue lost through prohibition – the first sales tax in the province
Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act	1938	Scaled down the debts of farmers to moneylenders; a pioneer debt-relief law
Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act	1939	Removed restrictions on Dalits and other excluded castes entering Hindu temples and protected the trustees who allowed them
Madurai Meenakshi temple entry	8 July 1939	A. Vaidyanatha Iyer led a group of Dalits into the temple; the government protected the entry
Compulsory Hindi	G.O. of 21 April 1938	Hindi made compulsory in 125 secondary schools – led to the first anti-Hindi agitation

The anti-Hindi agitation of 1937–40

- Rajaji first announced the Hindi plan in August 1937; the order of **21 April 1938** covered **125 secondary schools**.
- Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, C.N. Annadurai, A.T. Panneerselvam, Moovalur Ramamirtham and others led the protests.
- Two protesters, **L. Natarasan** (died 15 January 1939) and **Thalamuthu** (died 11 March 1939), died after being imprisoned and became martyrs of the movement.
- After the Congress ministry resigned, the Governor, **Lord Erskine**, withdrew compulsory Hindi on **21 February 1940**.
- Later in life Rajaji himself opposed making Hindi the sole official language and argued for keeping English.

The 1940s: Break with the Congress and the C.R. Formula

- **1942 – Madras resolution:** Rajaji believed that the Congress should come to terms with the Muslim League to win independence. The Congress legislators of Madras, under his lead, passed a resolution accepting the League's claim for separation of Muslim-majority areas. The Congress leadership rejected it.
- **Resignation:** refusing to give up his view, he resigned from the Congress and from the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1942.

- **Quit India:** he did not support the Quit India Movement (August 1942), as he felt it would delay a settlement and urged dialogue with the British instead.

The C.R. Formula (Rajaji Formula), 1944

In **1944** Rajaji proposed a formula to break the Congress–League deadlock. Gandhi, released from prison in May 1944, placed it before Jinnah. Its main points:

- The Muslim League would endorse the demand for independence and cooperate with the Congress in forming a **provisional interim government** at the Centre.
- After the war, a commission would demarcate **contiguous districts with a Muslim majority**; a **plebiscite of all adult inhabitants** (not only Muslims) would decide whether to separate.
- If separation came, **mutual agreements** would safeguard **defence, commerce and communications**.
- The terms would apply only if Britain transferred full power to India.

Gandhi–Jinnah talks: held at Jinnah's house in **Bombay** from **9 to 27 September 1944**. **Jinnah rejected** the formula: he wanted only Muslims to vote, a full Pakistan including whole provinces, and no common arrangement with India. The talks failed.

Interim Government, Governor and Governor-General (1946–1950)

Post	Period	Note
Member, Interim Government	1946–47	Held Industries, Supplies, Education and Finance at various times under Nehru
Governor of West Bengal	15 August 1947 – June 1948	The first Governor of West Bengal after Partition
Acting Governor-General	November 1947	While Lord Mountbatten was away
Governor-General of India	21 June 1948 – 26 January 1950	Succeeded Mountbatten; the only Indian and the last Governor-General; the post ended when India became a Republic
Minister without portfolio, then Union Home Minister	1950 – 1951	Became Home Minister in December 1950 after Sardar Patel's death and served about ten months

Exam tip: **Lord Mountbatten** was the **first Governor-General of independent India**; Rajaji was the **first Indian** and the **last** Governor-General. After 26 January 1950 the head of State became the President (Dr Rajendra Prasad).

Chief Minister of Madras State (1952–1954)

- **Appointment:** the Congress did not have a majority of its own after the 1952 elections. Governor **Sri Prakasa** invited Rajaji, who was not an elected member, to form the government. He became **Chief Minister on 10 April 1952** and was **nominated to the Legislative Council** instead of contesting a by-election.
- **Majority:** he won a confidence vote in the Assembly in **July 1952** by gaining the support of members from other parties and independents.
- **Modified Scheme of Elementary Education (1953):** school hours for primary children were reduced to half a day, and in the other half children were to learn their parents' occupation. Critics led by the

DMK and the Dravidar Kazhagam called it **"Kula Kalvi Thittam"** (hereditary education scheme), saying it would tie children to caste occupations.

- **Resignation:** opposition to the scheme and dissent within the Congress led him to resign on **13 April 1954**. **K. Kamaraj** succeeded him and withdrew the scheme.

Swatantra Party and Later Politics (1955–1972)

- **Against the "licence-permit raj":** Rajaji opposed the Congress turn towards state-controlled socialism and Nehruvian planning in the later 1950s. He criticised the system of licences and permits as the **"licence-permit raj"**.
- **Swatantra Party:** founded on **4 June 1959** at **Madras**, with **Minoo Masani**, **N.G. Ranga** and **K.M. Munshi** among its leaders. It stood for a market economy, individual freedom and limited government.
- **1967:** the Swatantra Party won **44 Lok Sabha seats** and became the **largest opposition party** in the Fourth Lok Sabha. In Madras State Rajaji helped build the **DMK-led alliance** that ended Congress rule in the State; C.N. Annadurai became Chief Minister.
- **Peace mission (1962):** as part of a Gandhi Peace Foundation delegation he went to the USA and met **President John F. Kennedy** to plead against nuclear weapons. His speeches and statements against atomic weapons are collected in **Mankind Protests**.
- **End of the party:** the Swatantra Party merged into the Bharatiya Lok Dal in 1974, after Rajaji's death.
- **Death:** Rajaji died in **Madras on 25 December 1972**, aged 94.

Rajaji's Positions – Timeline Table

Year	Position / event
1917–1919	Chairman, Salem municipality
1921	General Secretary, Indian National Congress
1930	President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee; leads the Vedaranyam march
1937–1939	Premier of Madras Presidency
1946–1947	Member of the Interim Government
1947–1948	Governor of West Bengal
1948–1950	Governor-General of India
1950–1951	Union Minister; Home Minister from December 1950
1952–1954	Chief Minister of Madras State
1959	Founds the Swatantra Party

Rajaji the Writer

Rajaji wrote in both Tamil and English. He believed that the epics and moral classics should be told in simple language for ordinary readers and children.

Work	Language	Note
Chakravarti Thirumagan	Tamil	The Ramayana in simple Tamil prose; **Sahitya Akademi Award, 1958**
Vyasar Virundhu	Tamil	The Mahabharata in simple Tamil ("Vyasa's feast")
Mahabharata	English	Abridged retelling, 1951 (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan)
Ramayana	English	Abridged retelling, 1957 (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan)
Kural: The Great Book of Tiru-Valluvar	English	Translation of the Thirukkural, 1965
Bhagavad Gita (abridged and explained)	English	1949
Hinduism: Doctrine and Way of Life	English	1959
Bhaja Govindam	English	1965
Ambedkar Refuted	English	1946
Mankind Protests	English	Speeches and statements against atomic weapons
Thirumoolar Thavamozhi; Thinnai Rasayanam; Atma Chintanai; Thuravi Lawrence	Tamil	Other Tamil books
Kurai Ondrum Illai	Tamil song	Devotional song; made famous by M.S. Subbulakshmi
Vimochanam	Tamil magazine	Anti-liquor magazine from the Gandhi Ashram, Tiruchengode

Titles of Rajaji

Title	Meaning / origin
Rajaji	Popular short name
C.R.	Initials of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari
Mootharignar	The elder (senior) scholar – Tamil honorific
"Keeper of my conscience"	Gandhi's description of Rajaji

Honours and Memorials

- **Bharat Ratna (1954):** one of the first three recipients, with **Dr S. Radhakrishnan** and **Dr C.V. Raman**.
- **Sahitya Akademi Award (1958)** for Chakravarti Thirumagan.
- **Birthplace memorial, Thorapalli:** the house where he was born, near Hosur, is maintained by the Tamil Nadu Government as a memorial with his belongings and a photo gallery.
- **Rajaji Memorial, Guindy (Chennai):** memorial hall at Guindy.

- **Rajaji Hall, Chennai:** the hall in the Omandurar Government Estate, Chennai, is named after him.
- **Rashtrapati Bhavan (2026):** on 23 February 2026 President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a bust of Rajaji at Rashtrapati Bhavan during the "Rajaji Utsav"; it replaced the bust of the architect Edwin Lutyens.

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

Descriptive papers ask about Rajaji's role in the freedom struggle and in Tamil Nadu's administration. Build your answer around these points and support each with a fact from the notes above.

Rajaji's role in the freedom struggle (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Salem lawyer who joined Gandhi in 1919; called Gandhi's "keeper of my conscience".
- **Non-Cooperation:** gave up law practice; jailed; General Secretary of the Congress (1921); edited Young India.
- **Constructive programme:** led the No-Changers at Gaya (1922); Gandhi Ashram at Puthupalayam near Tiruchengode – khadi, anti-untouchability work, prohibition (Vimochanam).
- **Salt Satyagraha:** Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam, 13–28 April 1930, about 98 volunteers, about 240 km; arrested and jailed for six months.
- **Province:** first Congress Premier of Madras (1937–39); resigned over the war.
- **Partition question:** realistic approach – 1942 Madras resolution; C.R. Formula (1944) became the basis of Gandhi–Jinnah talks.
- **Conclusion:** first Indian Governor-General (1948–50) – symbol of transfer of power; Bharat Ratna 1954.

Social reforms of the Rajaji ministry, 1937–39 (about 150 words)

- **Prohibition:** first in Salem district (1937); sales tax (1939) to replace lost revenue.
- **Temple entry:** Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act, 1939; Meenakshi temple entry, 8 July 1939, led by A. Vaidyanatha Iyer.
- **Rural relief:** Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act, 1938.
- **Criticism:** compulsory Hindi (21 April 1938) – anti-Hindi agitation, deaths of Natarasan and Thalamuthu; withdrawn in 1940.
- **Evaluation:** the reforms on drink, debt and temple entry were pioneering, but the Hindi order and later the 1953 education scheme show the limits of his reading of Tamil public opinion.

The C.R. Formula – significance (about 100 words)

- First Congress-side proposal (1944) to accept, in principle, separation of Muslim-majority areas through a plebiscite.
- Basis of the Gandhi–Jinnah talks, Bombay, September 1944; rejected by Jinnah.
- Showed Rajaji's realism; the final Partition of 1947 followed similar lines of district-level Muslim-majority areas.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Thorapalli	Birthplace (near Hosur)
Puthupalayam (Tiruchengode)	Gandhi Ashram
Vimochanam	Anti-liquor Tamil magazine
13 April 1930	Start of the Vedaranyam march from Tiruchirappalli
Salem district	First district under prohibition, 1937
8 July 1939	Meenakshi temple entry, Madurai
21 April 1938	Compulsory Hindi order (125 schools)
September 1944	Gandhi–Jinnah talks on the C.R. Formula
21 June 1948	Becomes Governor-General
4 June 1959	Swatantra Party founded at Madras
Chakravarti Thirumagan	Sahitya Akademi Award, 1958
Vyasar Virundhu	Tamil Mahabharata

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **"First Governor-General of independent India"** is Lord Mountbatten. Rajaji is the **first Indian** and the **last** Governor-General.
- **Bharat Ratna year:** 1954 (the first year of the award) – some websites wrongly give 1955.
- **Kula Kalvi Thittam** belongs to his **second** term (1953), not the 1937–39 ministry. The compulsory Hindi order belongs to the **first** term (1938).
- **Successor in 1954:** K. Kamaraj (not M. Bhaktavatsalam).
- **Entry to the legislature in 1952:** by nomination to the Legislative Council – he did not win a by-election.
- **Swatantra Party:** founded in 1959 (not 1956 or 1957); co-leaders Minoo Masani and N.G. Ranga.
- **Vedaranyam vs Dandi:** Dandi (Gujarat) – Gandhi; Vedaranyam (Tamil Nadu) – Rajaji.
- **Chakravarti Thirumagan vs Vyasar Virundhu:** the first is the Ramayana (award-winning); the second is the Mahabharata.

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
1878 (10 Dec)	Born at Thorapalli, near Hosur
1897	Marries Alamelu Mangalamma
1900	Begins law practice at Salem
1906	Attends the Calcutta Congress session
1911	Member, Salem municipality
1916	Founds the Tamil Scientific Terms Society
1917	Chairman, Salem municipality (to 1919)
1919	Joins Gandhi – Rowlatt Satyagraha
1921	General Secretary of the Congress
1922	Leads the No-Changers at the Gaya session
1924–25	Vaikom Satyagraha
1925	Gandhi Ashram at Puthupalayam, Tiruchengode (some say 1924)
1930 (13–28 Apr)	Vedaranyam Salt March; arrested, six months' jail
1933	Daughter Lakshmi marries Devdas Gandhi
1937 (14 Jul)	Premier of Madras Presidency; prohibition in Salem
1938	Debt Relief Act; Hindi order (21 April)
1939	Temple Entry Act; Meenakshi temple entry (8 July); sales tax; ministry resigns (October)
1940 (21 Feb)	Compulsory Hindi withdrawn by Governor Erskine
1942	Madras resolution; leaves the Congress
1944	C.R. Formula; Gandhi–Jinnah talks (September)
1946–47	Interim Government minister
1947 (15 Aug)	Governor of West Bengal
1948 (21 Jun)	Governor-General of India
1950 (Dec)	Union Home Minister after Patel's death
1952 (10 Apr)	Chief Minister of Madras State
1953	Modified Scheme of Elementary Education ("Kula Kalvi")
1954	Resigns (13 April); Bharat Ratna

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1958	Sahitya Akademi Award – Chakravarti Thirumagan
1959 (4 Jun)	Founds the Swatantra Party
1962	Meets President Kennedy, pleading against nuclear weapons
1967	Swatantra – 44 Lok Sabha seats; DMK-led alliance wins Madras
1972 (25 Dec)	Dies in Madras
2026 (23 Feb)	Bust unveiled at Rashtrapati Bhavan

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Born: 10 December 1878, Thorapalli (Krishnagiri district). Died: 25 December 1972, Madras.
- Parents: Chakravarti Venkatarya Iyengar and Singaramma. Wife: Alamelu Mangalamma.
- Gandhi called him the "keeper of my conscience". Tamil title: Mootharignar.
- Chairman, Salem municipality from 1917; founded the Tamil Scientific Terms Society (1916).
- Leader of the No-Changers (Gaya, 1922).
- Gandhi Ashram: Puthupalayam near Tiruchengode; magazine Vimochanam (prohibition).
- Vedaranyam Salt March: 13 April 1930 from Tiruchirappalli; reached 28 April; 98 volunteers; about 240 km.
- Song of the march: Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai – "Kathi indri ratham indri".
- First Congress Premier of Madras Presidency: 14 July 1937 – October 1939.
- Prohibition first in Salem district (1937); sales tax (1939); Debt Relief Act (1938).
- Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act (1939); Meenakshi temple entry 8 July 1939 (A. Vaidyanatha Iyer).
- Compulsory Hindi in 125 schools (1938) – first anti-Hindi agitation; withdrawn 21 February 1940.
- Left the Congress in 1942; did not support Quit India.
- C.R. Formula: 1944; Gandhi–Jinnah talks, Bombay, September 1944.
- First Governor of West Bengal (1947).
- Governor-General: 21 June 1948 – 26 January 1950 – only Indian and last.
- Union Home Minister after Patel (December 1950).
- CM of Madras State: 10 April 1952 – 13 April 1954; nominated MLC; Kula Kalvi Thittam (1953); succeeded by Kamaraj.
- Bharat Ratna 1954 – with S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman.
- Swatantra Party: 4 June 1959, Madras; 44 Lok Sabha seats in 1967.
- Books: Chakravarti Thirumagan (Sahitya Akademi 1958), Vyasar Virundhu; English Mahabharata (1951), Ramayana (1957), Kural translation (1965).
- Song: Kurai Ondrum Illai – sung by M.S. Subbulakshmi.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Rajaji called the first and last Indian Governor-General?

C. Rajagopalachari succeeded Lord Mountbatten on 21 June 1948 and held the office until 26 January 1950, when India became a Republic and the post of Governor-General was abolished. He was therefore the only Indian ever to hold the post, and also the last Governor-General of India. He had earlier acted briefly as Governor-General in November 1947 while Mountbatten was away.

What was the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha?

It was the Tamil Nadu counterpart of Gandhi's Dandi March. Rajaji, then President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, led about 98 selected volunteers from Tiruchirappalli on 13 April 1930 (Tamil New Year day). They covered about 240 km (150 miles) through the Thanjavur delta and reached Vedaranyam on 28 April 1930. Rajaji broke the salt law there, was arrested and was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

What was the C.R. Formula (1944)?

It was Rajaji's plan to end the Congress–Muslim League deadlock. The League would support the demand for independence and join a provisional interim government; after the war a commission would mark out contiguous Muslim-majority districts, where a plebiscite of all adult inhabitants would decide on separation; if separation came, both sides would agree on defence, commerce and communications; all of this only if Britain transferred full power. Gandhi placed it before Jinnah in the Gandhi–Jinnah talks at Bombay in September 1944, but Jinnah rejected it.

What were Rajaji's main measures as Premier of Madras (1937–39)?

He introduced prohibition, first in Salem district (1937), and a sales tax (1939) to make up the lost excise revenue; the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act (1938); and the Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act (1939), after which A. Vaidyanatha Iyer led Dalits into the Madurai Meenakshi temple on 8 July 1939. His order making Hindi compulsory in 125 secondary schools (21 April 1938) led to the first anti-Hindi agitation and was withdrawn in February 1940.

Which book of Rajaji won the Sahitya Akademi Award?

Chakravarti Thirumagan, his Tamil prose retelling of the Ramayana, won the Sahitya Akademi Award for Tamil in 1958. His Tamil Mahabharata is Vyasar Virundhu. He also wrote English versions of the Mahabharata (1951) and the Ramayana (1957), an English translation of the Thirukkural (1965), and the devotional song Kurai Ondrum Illai, made famous by M. S. Subbulakshmi.

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Practice questions

1. Where was C. Rajagopalachari born?

A. Thorapalli near Hosur
B. Salem
C. Tiruchengode
D. Krishnagiri town

2. Who called Rajaji the "keeper of my conscience"?

A. Jawaharlal Nehru

B. Mahatma Gandhi

C. Sardar Patel

D. Periyar

3. Rajaji became chairman of which municipality in 1917?

A. Madras

B. Madurai

C. Salem

D. Coimbatore

4. From where and when did the Vedaranyam salt march begin?

A. Thanjavur, 12 March 1930

B. Madras, 6 April 1930

C. Madurai, 30 April 1930

D. Tiruchirappalli, 13 April 1930

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

A. 78

B. 150

C. 98

D. 1,000

6. Who composed the Vedaranyam march song "Kathi indri ratham indri"?

A. Subramania Bharati

B. Bharathidasan

C. Kavimani Desika Vinayagam Pillai

D. Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai

7. Who was the local organiser of the Vedaranyam satyagraha, later titled "Sardar"?

A. A. Vedaratnam Pillai

B. T.S.S. Rajan

C. A. Vaidyanatha Iyer

D. S. Satyamurti

8. On which date did Rajaji become Premier of Madras Presidency?

A. 15 August 1937

B. 14 July 1937

C. 1 April 1937

D. 26 January 1938

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9. In which district did the Rajaji ministry first enforce prohibition?

A. Chingleput
B. Thanjavur
C. Madurai
D. Salem

10. To make up the revenue lost through prohibition, the Rajaji ministry introduced in 1939 –

A. A higher land tax
B. An income tax
C. A sales tax
D. A customs duty

11. Who led Dalits into the Madurai Meenakshi temple on 8 July 1939?

A. Rajaji
B. A. Vaidyanatha Iyer
C. Periyar
D. M.C. Raja

12. The Rajaji government order of 21 April 1938 made Hindi compulsory in how many secondary schools?

A. 125
B. 100
C. 150
D. 200

13. Which two protesters died during the anti-Hindi agitation of 1937–40?

A. Chinnasamy and Aranganathan
B. Keezhapaluvur Chinnasamy and Sivalingam
C. Thalamuthu and Rajendran
D. Natarasan and Thalamuthu

14. Who withdrew the compulsory Hindi order?

A. Rajaji, 1939
B. Governor Lord Erskine, 21 February 1940
C. Viceroy Linlithgow, 1942
D. Governor Arthur Hope, 1941

15. At the Gaya Congress session (1922), Rajaji led which group?

A. Swarajists (Pro-Changers)
B. Moderates
C. No-Changers
D. Extremists

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16. Where did Rajaji set up his Gandhi Ashram?

A. Puthupalayam (near Tiruchengode)

B. Sabarmati

C. Cheranmahadevi

D. Vedaranyam

17. Which statement about the C.R. Formula is correct?

A. It was put forward at the 1940 Lahore session

B. Jinnah accepted it fully

C. It proposed creating Pakistan before independence

D. It proposed a plebiscite of all adult inhabitants in Muslim-majority districts

18. When and where were the Gandhi–Jinnah talks on the C.R. Formula held?

A. March 1946, Delhi

B. September 1944, Bombay

C. August 1942, Wardha

D. June 1945, Simla

19. Match: (a) Governor of West Bengal (b) Governor-General (c) Chief Minister of Madras State (d) Swatantra Party – (1) 1959 (2) 1952 (3) 1948 (4) 1947

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

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

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

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

20. Which of the following is correct?

A. Rajaji was the first Governor-General of independent India

B. Rajendra Prasad succeeded Rajaji as Governor-General

C. Rajaji was the last Governor-General of India and the only Indian to hold the post

D. Rajaji was Governor-General until 1952

21. How did Rajaji become a member of the legislature in 1952?

A. By winning the Gudiyatham by-election

B. By winning the Salem seat

C. Through the Rajya Sabha

D. By nomination to the Legislative Council

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22. In which year was the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education, criticised as "Kula Kalvi Thittam", introduced?

A. 1938
B. 1953
C. 1947
D. 1956

23. When and where was the Swatantra Party founded?

A. 4 June 1959, Madras
B. 15 August 1956, Bombay
C. 26 January 1957, Delhi
D. 2 October 1962, Salem

24. Who were the other two first recipients of the Bharat Ratna in 1954, along with Rajaji?

A. Nehru and Patel
B. Kamaraj and M.G.R.
C. S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman
D. Bhagwan Das and Visvesvaraya

25. Match: (a) Chakravarti Thirumagan (b) Vyasar Virundhu (c) Vimochanam (d) Kurai Ondrum Illai – (1) anti-liquor magazine (2) devotional song (3) Ramayana, Sahitya Akademi 1958 (4) Mahabharata

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

Answers with explanations

1. **A) Thorapalli near Hosur** – Rajaji was born on 10 December 1878 at Thorapalli near Hosur (Krishnagiri district).
2. **B) Mahatma Gandhi** – Gandhi described Rajaji as the keeper of his conscience.
3. **C) Salem** – A Salem lawyer, Rajaji became chairman of the Salem municipality in 1917.
4. **D) Tiruchirappalli, 13 April 1930** – The march began from Tiruchirappalli on 13 April 1930, Tamil New Year day.
5. **C) 98** – From about 1,000 applicants, 98 were selected (78 is the Dandi March figure).
6. **D) Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai** – The march song was composed by Namakkal Kavignar V. Ramalingam Pillai.
7. **A) A. Vedaratnam Pillai** – A. Vedaratnam Pillai of Vedaranyam organised the local arrangements and was later called "Sardar".
8. **B) 14 July 1937** – After the 1937 elections under the 1935 Act, Rajaji became Premier on 14 July 1937.
9. **D) Salem** – Prohibition was first enforced in Salem district in 1937.
10. **C) A sales tax** – A sales tax was introduced in 1939 to replace the lost excise revenue.
11. **B) A. Vaidyanatha Iyer** – A. Vaidyanatha Iyer led the entry; the Rajaji government protected it.
12. **A) 125** – The order covered 125 secondary schools.

13. **D) Natarasan and Thalamuthu** – L. Natarasan (January 1939) and Thalamuthu (March 1939) died after being imprisoned.

14. **B) Governor Lord Erskine, 21 February 1940** – After the Congress ministry resigned, Governor Erskine withdrew it on 21 February 1940.

15. **C) No-Changers** – Rajaji led the No-Changers, who opposed council entry and backed the constructive programme.

16. **A) Puthupalayam (near Tiruchengode)** – He set up the Gandhi Ashram at Puthupalayam near Tiruchengode and published Vimochanam from there.

17. **D) It proposed a plebiscite of all adult inhabitants in Muslim-majority districts** – Its core was a post-war plebiscite of all adults in Muslim-majority districts; Jinnah rejected it.

18. **B) September 1944, Bombay** – The talks were held at Jinnah's house in Bombay, 9–27 September 1944.

19. **A) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1** – West Bengal Governor 1947, Governor-General 1948, Chief Minister 1952, Swatantra Party 1959.

20. **C) Rajaji was the last Governor-General of India and the only Indian to hold the post** – Mountbatten was the first; Rajaji was the last, from 21 June 1948 to 26 January 1950.

21. **D) By nomination to the Legislative Council** – He was nominated to the Legislative Council without a by-election (Gudiyatham was Kamaraj's by-election).

22. **B) 1953** – It came in 1953, in Rajaji's second term; Kamaraj dropped it in 1954.

23. **A) 4 June 1959, Madras** – The Swatantra Party was founded at Madras on 4 June 1959; it won 44 Lok Sabha seats in 1967.

24. **C) S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman** – In 1954 Rajaji, S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman were the first Bharat Ratna recipients.

25. **D) a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2** – Chakravarti Thirumagan – Ramayana (1958 award); Vyasar Virundhu – Mahabharata; Vimochanam – anti-liquor magazine; Kurai Ondrum Illai – devotional song.

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