

PM pays tributes to Rajaji on his birth anniversary

By IASToppers | 2021-12-10 17:05:00



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Prime Minister of India paid tribute to freedom fighter and scholar Chakravarti Rajagopalachari on his 143rd birth anniversary.



(Ref: ANINews)

About C. Rajagopalachari:

- Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji or C.R., is also known as **Mootharignar Rajaji**.
- He was an Indian statesman, writer, lawyer, and independence activist.
- He was born in 1878 in Tamil Nadu.



(Ref: BetterIndia)

Pre-independence:

- **He was an ardent supporter of Gandhi.**
 - He participated in Gandhi's **Non-Cooperation Movement** and was also jailed.
 - He **opened his own ashram to promote Gandhi's principles** of Hindu-Muslim harmony

- and the abolition of untouchability.
- He was also a **proponent of khadi**.
- He became the editor of Gandhi's newspaper, **Young India**.
- He was described by Gandhi as the "**keeper of my conscience**".
- He joined the **Indian National Congress**
 - He participated in the agitations against the Rowlatt Act, joining the Non-Cooperation movement, the Vaikom Satyagraha, and the Civil Disobedience movement.
- He carried out **Salt Satyagraha at Vedaranyam** in the Madras Presidency when Gandhi led Dandi March in 1930, to break the salt law
- He was **against Gandhi's Quit India Movement**.
 - He favoured talks with both Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League and proposed what later came to be known as the C. R. formula.
- He was appointed Minister of Industry, Supply, Education and Finance in the Interim Government of India, in 1946
- He was **elected to the Constituent Assembly** from Madras in 1946.
 - He was a part of Advisory Committee and Sub-Committee on Minorities.

Post-Independence:

- Rajagopalachari was the **Governor of West Bengal from 1947 to 1948**.
 - He was the **last Governor-General of India**, as India soon became a Republic in 1950.
 - He was also the **first Indian-born governor-general**, as all previous holders of the post were British nationals
- He was the **Chief Minister of Madras state from 1952 to 1954**.
- He **founded the Swatantra Party**, which fought against the Congress in the 1962
 - He resigned from the Indian National Congress due to the **differences between Nehru and Rajagopalachari**.

Major Works:

- Rajagopalachari was an accomplished writer who made lasting contributions to Indian English literature
- He printed Gandhi's jail experience onto pamphlets in 1913.
- He is also credited with the **composition of the song Kurai Onrum Illai** set to Carnatic music.
- He published **Siraiyil Tavam** (Meditation in jail) in 1922
 - it is the day-to-day account of his first imprisonment by the colonial government from 21 December 1921 to 20 March 1922.
- He wrote an abridged retelling of the Mahabharata in English in 1951
- He **translated** the Thirukkural, books on the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads in English as well as works on Socrates, and Marcus Aurelius in Tamil

Contributions:

- He pioneered temperance and temple entry movements in India and advocated **Dalit upliftment**.
- He introduced the compulsory study of Hindi and was criticized for it.
- He was the **founder of the Salem Literary Society**.
- He vehemently opposed the use of nuclear weapons and was a proponent of world peace and

disarmament.

- During his lifetime, he also acquired the nickname '**Mango of Salem**'

Recognitions:

- He was one of the first recipients **the Bharat Ratna**.
- He was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1958 for works in the Tamil language for his retelling of the Ramayana – **Chakravarti Thirumagan**