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# **TAMIL NADU LEADERS SERIES**

(Based on Unit - 8 and Unit - 9 of TNPSC Exam)



## **KALAIIGNAR KARUNANIDHI**

**SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY**

AP-2241, 2nd Floor, 12th Main Road,  
Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. Tamil Nadu.

[www.shankariasacademy.com](http://www.shankariasacademy.com)

Email : [tnpscfeedback@shankarias.in](mailto:tnpscfeedback@shankarias.in)

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### 6. KALAINGAR KARUNANIDHI

#### Early Life

- Kalaignar Karunanidhi was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1924 in a village called Thirukkuvalai in Thiruvarur district. His birth name is **Dakshinamoorthy**. Later he changed his name as Karunanidhi.
- His parents: Muthuvelar – AnjugamAmmal.
- He started the organization called **Tamil Manavar Mandram** (Tamil Students Association).
- He established “**Ilaigner Marumalarchi Amaippu**” (Youth Renaissance Organization).
- He edited **Manava Nesan** (1938), a handwritten Journal, later it was converted into **Murasoli**, a printed publication in 1942.

#### Public Life

- He was inspired by the activities of Justice Party Leader **Alagirisamy** and involved in the public life.
- He was associated with the journal **Kudiarasu** (Edited by Periyar E.V.R)
- Actor **M.R. Radha** gave him the title “**Kalaignar**” (An Artist) after seeing his drama (play) ‘**Thookumedai**’. Then after he was known as ‘**Kalaignar Karunanidhi**’.
- He headed the “Kallakudi” renaming protest in 1953. Later he was sentenced to six month of imprisonment.
- The name Kallakudi was changed when he became Chief Minister in 1969.

- He was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from **Kulithalai** constituency in 1957 and won all the elections he contested until 2016.

### **Formation of the Government (First term)**

- When DMK came into power in 1967, he became Minister of **Public Works** (in Anna's Cabinet). He became the Chief Minister on **February 10, 1969** after the demise (death) of Anna. His tenure was
  - 1969 – 1971 – 1<sup>st</sup> term as Chief Minister
  - 1971 – 1976 – 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Chief Minister
  - 1989 – 1991 – 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Chief Minister
  - 1996 – 2001 – 4<sup>th</sup> term as Chief Minister
  - 2006 – 2011 – 5<sup>th</sup> term as Chief Minister
- During his period he amended the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Fair Wage Act, 1969 and increased wages to agricultural Labourers in the Cauvery Delta region and penalise landowners who exploit labours.
- During his period, he amended the **Tamil Nadu Land Ceiling Act, 1961** and reduced maximum acreage from 30 acres to **15 acres** in 1970.
  - The acquired land was given to landless farmers.
- He came up with a program of village electrification in **1969**, supplies surplus electricity to villages.
- In his rule, the problems in the "Cotton Mill" was resolved by implementing the recommendation of **B.S. Loganathan Committee**. This committee was formed during the period of Anna.
  - More Textile industries was formed.
- During his period **P.V. Rajamannar Commission** was setup in 1969 to examine **the 'Centre – State Relations'**.

- The Commission consists of
  - P.V. Rajamannar (Chairman)
  - A. Lakshmanasamy Mudaliyar (Member)
  - P. Chandra Reddy (Member)
- Recommendation of the Commission are
  - An Inter – State Council should be set up.
  - Article 356 and 365 (dealing with President’s Rule) of the Indian Constitution should be totally omitted.
  - All- India services (IAS, IPS and IFS) should be abolished.
- The report was submitted to State Government in 1971.
- Under his rule, **Tamil Nadu Police Commission** was established for the **first time** in 1969.
- Chairman of the Commission: **R.A. Gopalasamy**.
- **Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board** was established in 1970. It was formed under **Tamil Nadu Areas Improvement and Clearance Act, 1971**.
- The main function of this board to eradicate slum and provide hygienic settlements of them.
- He announced the work of Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai’s “**Neeraarum Kadaludutha**” song as the state song of Tamil Nadu. (**Thamizh Thaa Vaazhthu**). Its music was composed by **M.S. Viswanathan**.
- He attended the third World Tamil Conference in **Paris** in 1970.
- He found the **International Institute of Tamil Research** at Chennai in 1970 for doing research about the Tamil Language.
- He constituted **the State Planning Commission (SPC)** in Tamil Nadu on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1971, which was **first in India**.

- In 1971, he established the State Industries promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (**SIPCOT**) under the Companies act.
  - This inspired many entrepreneur and resulted in setting up more industries.
- In 1971, he came up with the Beggar Rehabilitation Program to provide the livelihood to those who beg in street.
- In 1971, he received an honorary Doctorate degree from **Annamalai University**.
- He received “**Raja Rajan Award**” from **Tamil University** in Thanjavur from his work “**Thenpandi Singam**”.
- In December 2006, he received an honorary Doctorate degree from **Madurai Kamaraj University**.

### **Formation of the Government (Second term)**

- During his rule (1971), the Prohibition was suspended (lifted) in Tamil Nadu.
  - Inorder to boost the state’s revenue and to prevent the sale of liquor in the black market.
- He erected a statue of Rajaraja Chola in Thanjavur in 1972.
- In 1972, he established the **Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute**, Coimbatore for **first time in South India**.
- He abolished the Hand Rickshaw in 1973 and introduced Bicycle Rickshaw in the place of Hand Rickshaw.
- In 1973, the Government headed by him held ‘**Mupperum Vizha**’ in Tirunelveli.
  - House of Bharathiyar in Ettaiyapuram was changed into Bharathiyar Memorial.



- Erecting a statue to V.O. Chidambaram Pillai.
- Inauguration Ceremony of Kattabomman Fort at Panchalankurichi.
- In 1973, he initiated a program to purchase Paddy directly from farmers through **the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation**.
- Under his rule **the Women Police Wing** was established in 1973.
- In 1974, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed the **State Autonomy Resolution**. This kind of resolution was first in India.
- During his rule, the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (**TAHDCO**) was formed in 1974.
  - It is registered under the **Companies Act, 1956**.
  - It aimed at raising Socio – Economic Status of **Scheduled Tribes** and **Scheduled Caste** People.
- He created **Senthamizh Sol Pirappuiyal Agramuthali Iyakkagam**.
- During his period the law was enacted in 1970 that enables all Caste people are eligible to become priests in Hindu temples. But for some reasons the law was not enforced.
- On January 31, 1976, the Government under his leadership was dissolved by using **Article 356. (President's Rule)**.

### **Formation of the Government (Third term)**

- He constituted **Tamil Nadu Traders Welfare Board** in 1989.
- During his tenure, **the Self Help Group movement** was started in **Dharmapuri District** in 1989.
- He enacted **the Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 1989** which provide equality to female heir on their ancestral property.

- This Act was enacted based on the resolution passed in **Self – Respect Conference (1929)** held in **Chengalpattu**.
- During his regime, **the Second Police Commission** was formed under the Chairmanship of **Sabhanayakam**.
- During his tenure, **the first Veterinary University of Asia** named **“Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University”** was established in 1989 at Chennai.
- For **the first time in India**, **farmers** in Tamil Nadu were given **free electricity** (1990).
- In 1990, he introduced **30% reservation for women** in the Public Employment.

### **Formation of the Government (Fourth term)**

- In 1996, he introduced **33.3% reservation for women in Local Body Election** in Tamil Nadu. This was **first time in India**.
- In 1996, he created a separate individual Ministry for Tamil Language.
- In 1996, he changed the name of **“Madras” to “Chennai”**.
- District and Transport Corporation in Tamil Nadu were named after the leaders. This led to caste conflicts over the time. All Districts and All Transport Corporation in Tamil Nadu were named after the leaders. This led to caste conflicts over the time. To avoid this, he changed name of all districts after their respective headquarters and named all Transport Corporations as their zonal headquarters. For example:

(Before)	(After)
Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar District	Sivaganga district
SS Ramasamy Padayatchiyar District	Villupuram district
Veeran Sundaralingam Transport Corporation	Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, Madurai
Dheeran Chinnamalai Transport Corporation	Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, Kumbakonam

- During his tenure, the wages of Agricultural Labourers was raised and fixed as per the recommendation of **the Kolappan Committee** which was formed in 1997.
  - Minimum wages determination
  - Determined the working hours of Agricultural labourers.
    - Men – 6 hours
    - Women – 5 hours
- In 1997, he started a separate department for Higher Education.
- In 1997, he founded **the first Law University in India** under the name of Ambedkar in Chennai.
- He initiated **the “Namakku Naame Thittam”** program in 1997 to strengthen the Self Help Groups.
- During his tenure, **“Samathuvapuram”** a creative housing project was developed to promote the casteless society and revitalize social justice program and to spread the goals of Periyar E.V.R.
- Accordingly the *Samthuvapuram* project with **100 houses** in each Taluk was constructed As per this
  - Adi Dravidars – 40 houses
  - Most Backward Classes – 25 houses
  - Backward Classes – 25 houses
  - Other Classes – 10 houses
  - Total = 100 houses
- First *Samathuvapuram* was established on August 17, 1998 at **Melakkottai**, Madurai.
- He setup a separate department for Information Technology in 1998.



- Tamil Nadu is the **first state in India** to formulate a **comprehensive IT Policy**.
- In 1999, he held a Tamil Internet Conference.
- In 1999, he launched **Uzhavar Sandhai** (Farmer's Market).
  - Farmer can sell their agricultural products directly to consumer without intermediaries.
  - **The first Uzhavar Sandhai** was opened in **Madurai**.
  - Farmers donot give rent to their place in the market area.
  - The project was based on **"Apne Mandi"** model of **Chandigarh**.
- In 1999, he introduced **"Vazhvoli Thittam"**.
  - It ensured the health of school children.
- On December 31, 1999 he erected Thiruvalluvar Statue in **Kanyakumari** (It was 2 days festival).
  - Sculptor of the statue: **Sirpi Ganapathi Sthapathi**.
  - Height of the statue : 95 feet
  - Height of foot column: 38 feet
  - Total Height : 133 feet
  - Total Weight : 7000 tons.
  - 133 Kurals in Thirukkural engraved on the statue.
- He founded **TIDEL Park** (2000) in Chennai.
  - Inaugurated by: Then Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
  - TIDEL Park is the joint venture of two organizations of Tamil Nadu
  - TIDCO (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation)
  - ELCOT (Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu)

- TIDCO + ELCOT = TIDEL
- Tamil was declared as Classical Language by the Central Government on **October 12, 2004**.
- Tamil is **the first Classical Language of India**.
- Karunanidhi was the one who initiated this (his party was one of the most important coalitions in the Central Government).
- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at that time is Selvi. J. Jayalalithaa.

### **Formation of the Government (Fifth term)**

- In 2006, he announced that the government would issue an ordinance to pave the way for appointment of priests from all castes.
  - He formed **A.K. Rajan committee** to investigate the legal implementation of this law.
  - The law was challenged in the Supreme Court in Adi Sivachiriyargal case.
  - The final judgment, delivered in December 2015, upheld the law and opened the gates for appointments.
- On September 15, 2006 (Birth Anniversary of Anna) he initiated a program to providing a colour television to the public.
- On September 17, 2006 (Birth Anniversary of Periyar) he started 2 acre land issuing project for land less agricultural labour.
- During his tenure (2006 – 2011), the **IAMWARM project** funded by **World Bank**. The productivity of land near sub – basin of the rivers was improved.
  - IAMWARM – Irrigated Agricultural Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management.
- In December 30, 2006 he initiated scheme **“Varum Mun Kappom”** (Free Preventive Health Care).

- This is the first medical pioneering program in India.
- As per the Scheme, people can access preventive medical check – up.
- In 2006, he implemented the **“Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam”**.
  - To expand the infrastructure of all the Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu and improve the village.
- In 2006 he exempted the “Entertainment Tax” for Tamil Movies named in Tamil.
- Until 2006, there was common entrance examination for getting admission to medical and engineering courses in Tamil Nadu. This led to create obstacle for the rural students to pursue their dream. So he cancelled Common Entrance Test. It has been in effect since 2007.
  - He appointed a panel of experts headed by **Ananda Krishnan** to investigate about Common Entrance Test.
- In 2006, he enacted a law for teaching Tamil Language compulsorily in schools in Tamil Nadu.
- During his tenure, the **“Third Police Commission”** was formed in 2006 under the Chairmanship of **R. Purnalingam**.
- In 2006, he started **“Ariviyal Tamil Mandram”** (Scientific Tamil Forum).
  - He announced to celebrate Birth Anniversary of Kamarajar (**July 15**) as the **“Education Development Day”**.
- During his period, the State Government introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) on **January 1, 2007** in Tamil Nadu.
  - This as an **Indirect Tax**.
  - This has significantly reduced the Income Tax.
- He enacted Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Act in 2007.

- In 2007, Kalaignar Karunanidhi introduced **“Kaniyan Poongunranar Prize”** for **the best software developers in Tamil**.
- In 2009, he introduced Choice based Credit System in all the colleges.
  - This resulted in undergraduate students to study “Tamil” as a subject.
- Under his rule, the Mechanical Department in Engineering College has started to taught their subjects in the Tamil Medium.
- He found **the Disabled Welfare Board** in 2007.
- In 2008, he found **the Third Gender Welfare Board**.
- During his period **the World Tamil Classical Conference** was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at on Codissia Hall, **Coimbatore**.
- He established **Anna Centenary Library** on September 15, 2010 (Birth Anniversary of Anna) at **Kotturpuram**, Chennai.
  - The largest library in South Asia.
- In his rule, there were preferential (20% Special reservation) for the students who were educated in Tamil Medium schools under the Tamil Nadu Appointment on Preferential Basis in the Services under the State of **Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) Act**, on September 30, 2010.
- Samacheer Education system was introduced based on recommendation of **Muthukumarar Committee** (2007). There have been four types of education in Tamil Nadu.
  - State Board Education
  - Matriculation Education
  - Anglo Indian Education
  - Oriental Education
  - Samacheer Education system combines all four of the above education systems into one syllabus called **“Samacheer Kalvi”** (Samacheer Education).

- During his tenure, the works of Tamil Scholars were Nationalised. Some of them are
  - Devaneyya Pavanar
  - Marimalai Adigal
  - Thiru. Vi.Ka
  - Kalki
  - Kavimani Desigavinayagam Pillai
  - Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam
  - V.O. Chidambaram.
  - V.V.S. Iyer
  - K. Appa Duraiyar
- In 2011, the **Maruthamuthu Commission** established to restore **Panchami lands**.
  - From 1918 to 1931 the British Government granted free lands to Schedule Caste. This land is called Panchami lands. This land can be sold on purchased by belongs to same Scheduled Caste only.
- **Amartyasen** and **Jean Draze** have described that the Development of Tamil Nadu is similar to Development of many European Nations. Tamil Nadu has pioneered Social Welfare Program and prioritized Poverty Alleviation Scheme. They described that Karunanidhi was one among the leaders who implemented the welfare programs in Tamil Nadu.
  - Amartyasen and Jean Draze were author of the famous book, **“An Uncertain Glory”**.
- He established **A.N. Sattanathan** Commission in 1969 for welfare of Backward Caste. As per their recommendations, he increased the reservation for Backward Caste from 25% to 31% in 1971.
  - Increased the reservation of the Scheduled Castes from 16% to 18%.



- He reclassified the **Urdu Speaking Muslim** and **Kongu Vellalar Community** as Backward Classes.
- Vanniyar Community demanded for 20% separate reservation. When Karunanithi formed the Government in 1989, that the subdivision of reservation for Most Backward Classes was carved out. **108 Communities** including **Vanniyar Community** classified under the **Most Backward Classes (MBC)**.
- He created **3.5%** special reservation for **the Backward Caste Muslim (BCM)**.
- He created **3%** sub – reservation for **Arunthathiyar** (who was socially oppressed) within Scheduled Caste.
- He wrote many books as fiction, poetry and Novels. Notable among them are
  - **Nenjukku Nidhi** (Autobiography)
  - **Kural Oviyam** (Thirukkural Explanation)
- He died on August 7, 2018.

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