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TAMIL NADU LEADERS SERIES

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



Kamarajar

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2. KAMARAJAR

Childhood Days

- He was born in **Virudupatti** (Virudhunagar) on 15th July 1903.
- His Parents: Kumarasamy - Sivagami ammal.
- His birth name is **Kamatchi** (Based on family deity).
- His parents affectionately called him '**Raja**'. Later, both the names were mingled and he was known as **Kamaraj** thereafter.
- He studied in schools **Enathi Nayanar Vidyasala** and **Kshathriya Vidyasala**.
- He discontinued his schooling when he was in 6th standard due to his family financial condition.

Freedom struggle

- He joined in the Indian National Congress in 1919.
- He participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920.
- He was elected as a member of the Virudhunagar Municipality in 1922. Then he met Congress leader **S. Sathyamoorthy**, who was **Political Guru** for Kamaraj.
- He participated in the **Vaikom Satyagraha** (1924) and **Susindram Temple Entry Movement**.
- He became a member of the Madras Provincial Congress Committee in 1925.
- He participated in the **Sword Satyagraha** (1927).

- The British banned Indians carrying arms like dagger, spear, etc. This was opposed vehemently by Indians, consequently the 'Sword Satyagraha' movement was started.
- The Satyagrahis marched towards the streets, carrying swords and propagating inalienable right to bear arms.
- In 1927, Kamaraj organized a meeting called **the Indian Republic Congress** at Virudhunagar which was presided by **Nehru**.
- He campaigned the Congress ideology in **rural areas**, which was supported by 'Thiruvannamalai' **Annamalai Pillai** and 'Rajapalayam' **P.S. Kumarasamy Raja** (who later become Chief Minister).
- He participated in anti-Simon demonstration along with **George Joseph** in 1928, when Simon Commission reached Madurai.
- In 1930, he participated in **Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha** and later got arrested and sentenced **2 years imprisonment** in **Alipore Jail**. This was his first imprisonment. Then Satyagrahis was released according to **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** which was signed in March 05, 1931.
- S. Satyamoorthy was elected as President and Kamarajar was elected as **Secretary** in Tamil Nadu Congress Committee election held in **Karaikudi** in 1936.
- He was elected unopposed from Sattur constituency in Madras provincial Assembly election held in 1937.

The President of TNCC

- In **1940**, Kamaraj was elected as the **President** of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.
- He was arrested in **Karur** on the way to meet Gandhi in **Wardha** to discuss about **Individual Satyagraha** and sent to Vellore Jail.

- In 1941, he was elected as the Chairman of Virudhunagar Municipality when he was in prison (Later he resigned from the post).
- In 1942, **Quit India Resolution** was passed in Bombay, Kamaraj was participated in that meeting while returning he got arrested and imprisoned in Vellore Jail for **3 years**.
- In 1946, Kamaraj won the Madras Provincial Assembly election from Sattur Constituency.
- In 1946, he elected as member to the Constituent Assembly.
- When India got independence he went to **S. Satyamoorthi's house** and hoisted the National Flag.
- He was elected as a member of All India Congress Committee in 1947.

Behind the First Amendment Act

- In 1950, during **Chembagam Doraisamy Case**, the Madras High Court ruled out the validity of **Communal G.O. (1928)** which gave communal reservation for Backward class people in education and public employment which was against the "Right to Equality" of Indian Constitution.
 - Later Supreme Court also upheld the Judgment. (1951)
 - The people of Tamil Nadu thought that the Right of backward class people has taken away.
 - A tense situation has developed in Tamil Nadu.
 - Then Kamaraj as the president of Congress in Tamil Nadu explained Nehru about the situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu and explain him about importance of communal reservation and urged him to take necessary step. Nehru accepted the suggestions of Kamaraj and enacted **the First Amendment Act (1951)**.
- In 1952, Congress Party won 152 seats out of 375 seats in Assembly elections in Madras Province. Rajaji became Chief Minister with support of

some parties. At that time, Kamaraj was elected as MP from Srivilliputhur Parliamentary Constituency.

- In 1953, Chief Minister Rajaji introduced a new system of elementary education called **“the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education”** in Tamil Nadu. This created controversy. Moreover, it was sarcastically called as **“Kula Kalvi Thittam”**. Congress Party also opposed this scheme. So, Rajaji resigned as the Chief Minister on March 25, 1954.

Chief Minister

- Kamarajar sworn as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on **April 13, 1954**. He resigned from Member of Parliament post in the Lok Sabha.
- He kept the Ministers in Rajaji’s Cabinet remain unchanged.
- In Kamaraj Chief Ministership (1954) other minister were
 - A.P. Shetty (Health)
 - M. Bhaktavatsalam (Agriculture)
 - C. Subramanyam (Education)
 - M.A. Manikavelu (Revenue)
 - Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathy (Public Works Department)
 - Parameshwaran (Hindu Endowment Board)
 - S.S. Ramasamy Padaiyatchi (Local Governance)
- He was the **first Chief Minister of India** who do not know English language.
- On 18th May 1954, Chief Minister Kamaraj announced withdrawal of Rajaji’s Education Policy. (“Kulakalvi Thittam”).
- Later he contested in by-election held at **Gudiyatham Constituency** and became a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA).

- In 1955, the Indian Congress Session (INC) held at **Avadi** near Chennai, the responsibility of conducting this session was given to Kamaraj.
 - The premises where the meeting will take place was named as **Satyamoorthy Nagar**.
 - President of the Session – **U.N.Dhebar**
 - Chief Guest to the Session – Yugoslavia’s President **Marshal Tito**.
 - The famous resolution to establish of the **“Socialistic Pattern of Society”** was passed.
 - This resolution was proposed by – **Nehru**
 - This resolution was seconded by - **Kamaraj**
- Kamaraj opposed the proposal of **“Dakshina Pradesh”** that the Union Government sought to create in 1956, as per **P.C. Roy’s plan**. Dhakshina Pradesh in sole administrative unit of Southern State comprises of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- In Kamaraj period, the present border line (boundary) of Tamil Nadu was completely mapped (i.e, determined).

Education Revolution

- In 1954, Kamaraj constituted an **Elementary Education Reform Committee** with **R.M.Alagappa Chettiyar** as Chairman.
 - **N.D.Sundaravadivelu** was one of its member
 - This committee submitted its report to government in 1955.
 - The committee was expected to suggest ways and means for implementing the directive principle (DPSP) contained in Article 45 of the Constitution
- Kamaraj who discontinued his schooling due to poverty so he gave opportunity to other poor children to continue their education in school.

- For this causes, he allocated the double the amount for primary level education.
- He had also ensured that villages with the population of 300 people should provide with primary school.
- He introduced Mid-day meal scheme to all schools with support of people, to prevent children discontinue from their schooling due to poverty.
- In 1920, based on the idea of **P. Theagaraya Chetty**, (then Mayor of Madras Corporation) the mid-day meal scheme introduced in a Corporation school in **Thousand Lights area**. Later Government to discontinue the scheme due to some reasons. However, in 1925 the scheme was re-implemented.
- On advice of the Kamarajar, Director of Public Instruction N.D. Sundara Vadivelu enacted Mid-day meal scheme into an education movement with the support and participation of people.
- Mid-day meal scheme was first introduced in 1956 at **Ettayapuram** (Birth place of Bharathiyar). This was the **first time in independent India**.
- Mid-day meal scheme had 2 objectives.
 - Increase student enrollment in school.
 - Reduce the students drop out from schools.
- In 1957, Kamaraj ordered to make a survey of schools.
- He introduced a **triple benefit scheme** to school teachers that included **pension, provident fund and insurance schemes**.
- In 1958, Kamaraj set up **the Madras State Education Advisory Committee** under the Chairmanship of **C. Subramaniam**.
 - C. N. Annadurai was one of its member.
- Kamaraj ordered to conduct **“School Improvement Conference”** throughout Tamil Nadu to seek financial assistance for Mid-day meal scheme

- In 1958, the **first meeting** of “School Improvement Conference” held at **Kadambur** (Tiruvallur District)
- In 1959, Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** attended the School Improvement Conference held at **Thekkur** (Karaikudi) and **Adaikalapu** (Thirunelveli).
- Kamaraj increased school working days from 180 days to 200 days.
- He introduced the **uniform system to school children** to eradicate imbalance between students in schools. He gave **free uniforms to poor children**.
- School Meals and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee was constituted in 1960 with **K. S. Subramaniam** as Chairman.
- Kamaraj who introduced **compulsory school education** in 1960 and implemented across all over the state in 1962.
- The **American government** was very much impressed by the Mid-day meal scheme and came forward to associate itself in the scheme. It sent milk powder packets through **CARE** (‘Cooperative American Relief Everywhere’) programme in the year 1961-1962.
- During his tenure, (1963) the age of retirement of teachers was raised from 55 to 58.
- In the final phase of British period, the literacy rate of Tamil Nadu is 7% which had been improved to 37% in Kamarajar’s rule.
- In Madras Assembly Election of 1957, Congress won 151 seats. Kamaraj became Chief Minister again for **second term**. In his Chief Ministership, other ministers were
 - Bhaktavatsalam (Home)
 - C. Subramaniam (Finance)
 - R. Venkataraman (Industries)
 - M.A. Manickavelu (Revenue)

- P. Kakkan (Public Works)
- V. Ramayya (Electricity)
- Lourdammal Simon (Local Governance)

Pachai Tamizhan (A True Tamizhan)

- On December 27, 1956 Tamil was declared as the **official language for the state of Tamil Nadu** (released on January 23, 1957 in Gazette)
- Kamaraj Government formed a committee under the chairmanship of **Ki.Aa.Pe. Viswanatham** to develop Tamil glossary for research, appropriate translations for technical syllabus and jargons
- During his tenure, **the Budget** (Annual Financial Statement) year 1957-58 was prepared in **Tamil for very first time.**
- During his rule, **Tamil Development and Research Council** was established in 1959. On this recommendation the Government Arts College in Coimbatore, introduced Tamil as the teaching language in their Bachelor's degree in the year 1960-61.
- Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation started to publish text books in Tamil language.
- **Periyar** called Kamarajar as "Pachai Tamizhan" (The True Tamizhan).

Progressive Laws

- The **Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1955** was passed under his period, ensured welfare of farmers.
- In 1958, he introduced Madras State Panchayat Act, resulted in creation of more than 12,000 Panchayat and 373 Panchayat Unions.
- **The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1961** was enacted under his rule. This act ensured and regulated land on one's

hand and checked ownership of more than 30 acres of land for a family of five.

Developmental schemes

- Mettur Paper Industry, Mettur Canal Project & Cauvery Delta Development Project were brought by him.
- In 1958, Mani Muttharu Dam was built. Also, Amaravathi Dam was constructed.
- Parambikulam – Aliyar Irrigation Project had been implemented with the cooperation of two states Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In 1961, Prime Minister Nehru inaugurated the Parambikulam- Aliyar Project.
- In his rule, Kundha Electricity Project was completed. The main reason for completing this project with the help of Industrial Minister R. Venkataraman (who later became the President).
- Under his rule, Tamil Nadu showed progress in all fields like agriculture, industry, education and medicine.
- In his period, power generation has increased. As the result more villages had got electricity connection and supplied with electricity. Many industries was opened.
- Kamaraj development programs in Tamil Nadu are aimed at creating socialism. Henceforth, he fondly called as **“Democratic Socialist Architect”** by people.
- Kamaraj brought some Central Government Projects in Tamil Nadu. They were
 - Neyveli Lignite Corporation (with the help of East Germany) (Kamarajar was sole responsible for bringing this central government project)
 - Neyveli Thermal Power Plant (with Russia’s assistance)
 - Integral Coach Factory, Avadi, Chennai (with Switzerland’s assistance).

- Hindustan Teleprinter Factory (with Switzerland's assistance)
- Raw Photo Film Industry at Udthagamandalam (France's assistance)
- BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited), Tiruchi.
- Manali Oil Refinery Plant.
- Heavy Armoured Vehicle Factory, Avadi, Chennai.

Consecutive Victory

- **“Navasakthi”** Magazine was launched in 1960 under the guidance of Kamaraj to propagate the policies of congress (Editor: **T.S. Chokkalingam**).
- In Legislative Assembly Election (1962), Congress won 139 seats and elected Kamaraj as the Chief Minister. Kamaraj sworn as Chief Minister for the **third consecutive time**.
- Other Ministers in third term were
 - M. Bhaktavatsalam (Education)
 - Jothi Venkatachalam (Public Health)
 - R. Venkataraman (Finance)
 - M.S. Abdul Majeet (Local Governance)
 - B. Kakkan (Agriculture)
 - V. Ramayya (Public Works Revenue)
 - N.S.S. Mandradiyar (Co-operative Societies Forest)
 - G. Poovaragavan (Information and Broadcasting)
- Kamaraj served as Chief Minister for **nine years** consecutively from 1954 to 1963.

K-Plan

- After Chinese War in 1962, the **Prime Minister Nehru** realized that Congress Party became weakened and met Kamaraj at **Hyderabad** and formulated **K-Plan** to retrieve congress from shock.
 - According to this plan, the senior leader of Congress Party should resign from the Minister ship and work for their party.
 - Kamaraj resigned from Chief Minister post in October 02, 1963 as per K-Plan.
 - **Except Nehru** many other leaders like **Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jagjivan Ram, Morarji Desai** and **S.K. Patil** resigned from the minister post and returned to party work.
 - Periyar described that the Kamaraj's resignation is like suicide.

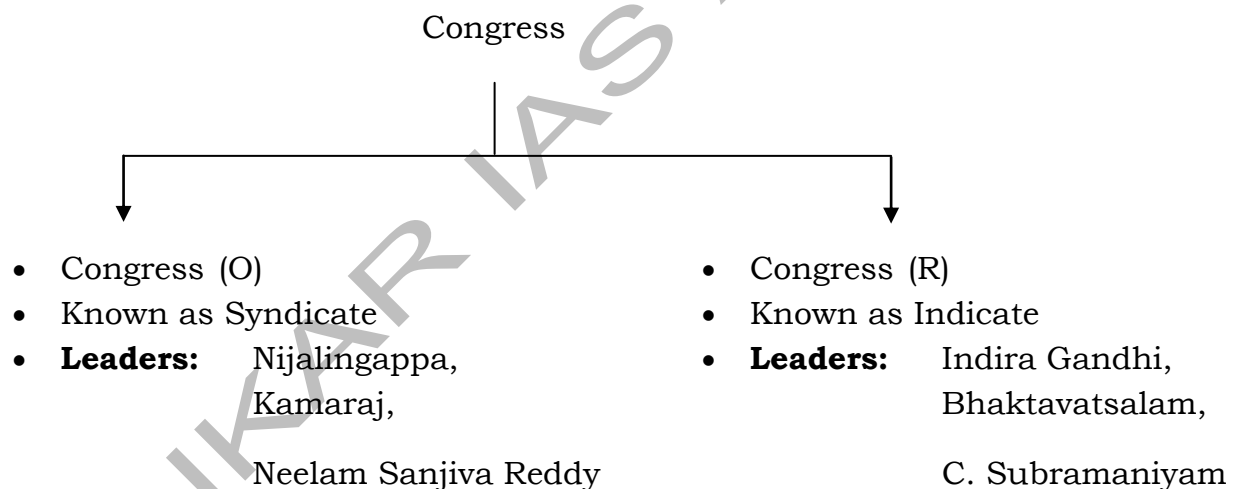
President of All India Congress Committee

- Kamaraj was elected as the **President** of the All-India Congress committee in 1964. He presided the following congress session.
 - Bhubaneswar (1964)
 - Durgapur (1965)
 - Jaipur (1966)
- After the death of Prime Minister Nehru on May 27, 1964. Kamaraj made **Lal Bahadur Shastri** as the Prime Minister of India.
- After signing **Tashkent Agreement**, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri passed away. Then Kamaraj (as president of all India congress) made **Indira Gandhi** to sworn as Prime Minister.
- When Kamarajar served as President of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee made **Prakasam, Omandur Ramasamy, Kumaraswamy Raja** to serve as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

- When he was President of all India Congress, he supported **Lal Bahadur Sastri, Indira Gandhi** to serve as Prime Minister of India.
- Therefore, he is proudly known as **King Maker**.
- The Anti - Hindi agitation that began in Tamil Nadu on January 25, 1965 diminished Congress's influences. As the result Kamarajar lost in Legislative Assembly election in 1967, he contested from Virudhunagar constituency.
- Kamarajar resigned from the Presidentship of All India Congress in 1967.

Final Phase of Life

- In 1969, the All India Congress split into two factions due to conflict of interest.



- In 1969, he won in the by-election from Nagercoil parliamentary constituency.
- Kamaraj led Congress (O) formed alliance with Rajaji's **Swtantra Party** in Assembly Election in 1971. But Congress (O) won only 15 seats.
- Kamaraj died on October 02, 1975.
- He was awarded with the **“Bharat Ratna”** posthumously in 1976.

Impact made by Kamarajar

- In 1995, then Finance Minister **Manmohan Singh** introduced a scheme called “**National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education**” all over India. This scheme was based on Kamaraj’s “Midday meal Scheme”.
- Kamaraj’s “Midday meal Scheme” has further developed and has implemented as a “**Nutritious Meal Programme**” in Tamil Nadu since **July 01, 1982**.
- Due to his contribution towards education, his birth anniversary (July 15) is celebrated as ‘**Educational Development Day**’.
- He is also known as **Perumthalaivar** (Great leader), **Karmaveerar**, **Kalvi Kan Thiranthavar**, **Karuppu Gandhi** (Kala Gandhi).
