



C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)

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Context: Prime Minister paid tribute to **Rajaji** on his birth anniversary, recalling his multifaceted role as a **freedom fighter, thinker, statesman, and India's last Governor-General**.

About C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)

- **Lifespan:** 1878–1972
- **Popularly Known As:** Rajaji
- **Key Roles:** Freedom fighter, jurist, writer, statesman, last Indian Governor-General of India.
- **Notable Praise:** Gandhi called him "*the keeper of my conscience.*"

Early Life

- Born **10 December 1878** in Thorapalli, Tamil Nadu.
- Education: Hosur, Bangalore, **Presidency College, Madras**.
- Career start: Successful criminal lawyer in Salem.
- Public life: Joined in **1917 as Chairman of Salem Municipality**.

Key Contributions to Freedom Movement

Movement/Event

Role/Contribution

Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919)

Led protests in Madras Presidency; addressed mass meetings on Marina Beach.

Non-Cooperation Movement

Gave up thriving law practice; mobilized Tamil Nadagagainst British.

Khilafat Movement

Supported Khilafat committees; earned esteem among Muslims.

Vedaranyam Salt March (1930)

Led Tamil equivalent of Dandi March; inspired thousands.

Civil Disobedience & Quit India

Imprisoned multiple times; close strategist of Gandhi.

Post-Independence Roles

Kamaraj IAS Academy

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Governor of West Bengal (1947–48): Managed post-partition turbulence.

Governor-General of India (1948–50): Last to hold the office; abolished it after India became a republic.

Home Minister of India (1950): Succeeded Sardar Patel.

Chief Minister of Madras State (1952–54): Implemented administrative reforms; dealt with police strikes; introduced education policies.