

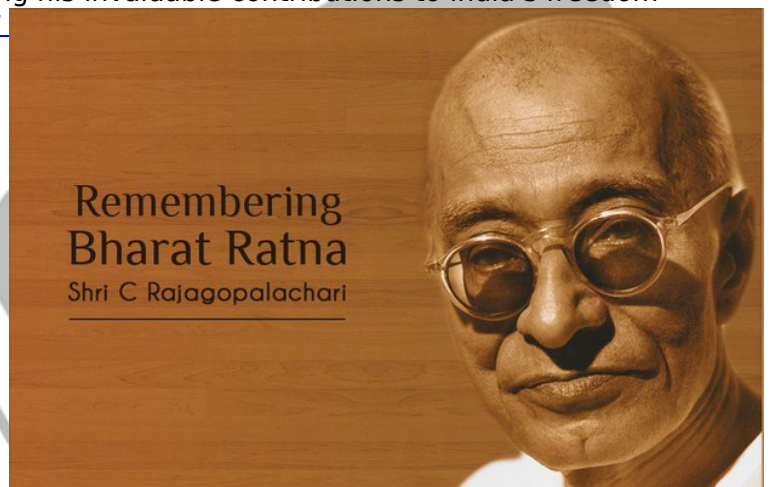


# Birth Anniversary of C. Rajagopalachari

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India, paid tribute to [Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari](#) (popularly known as Rajaji) on his birth anniversary (10<sup>th</sup> December), remembering his invaluable contributions to India's freedom struggle, governance, and social empowerment. //



## Who Was C. Rajagopalachari?

- **Early Life and Education:** C. Rajagopalachari was born on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1878 in Salem, Madras Province (now Tamil Nadu). Became a Bachelor of Law in 1899 and began his legal practice in Salem.
- **Politics and Social Reforms:** Rajagopalachari was deeply affected by [Lord Curzon's decision to partition Bengal on communal lines](#) and was inspired by [Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's](#) call for complete independence.
  - Joined the [Indian National Congress \(INC\)](#) and actively participated in India's freedom struggle.
  - In 1917, Rajagopalachari became Chairman of Salem Municipality, focused on social welfare of [backward classes](#), and in 1925, he established an Ashram in Madras Province for social upliftment.
    - The Ashram published two magazines, **Vimochanam (Tamil) and Prohibition (English)**.
- **Freedom Struggle:** During the [anti-Rowlatt agitation](#), Rajaji hosted [Mahatma Gandhi](#) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
  - In 1930, during the [Dandi March](#), Rajagopalachari led the Salt March in Madras Province from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam (also known as **Vedaranyam Satyagraha**).
    - His arrest during Vedaranyam Satyagraha gained him national recognition as a leader in the **independence movement**.
  - After the [Quit India movement](#), Rajagopalachari's pamphlet "**The Way Out**" outlined the **C. R. Formula** to resolve the constitutional deadlock between the **Muslim League** and the

INC regarding a separate Muslim state.

- **Prime Minister of Madras Province:** In 1937, Rajagopalachari became the **Prime Minister of Madras Province**.
  - Implemented social and economic reforms, including the **promotion of Khadi**, the **abolition of Zamindari**, and the **introduction of Hindi in schools**.
  - Focused on raising the **standard of living for Dalits** and promoting **social equity**.
- **Post-Independence Contributions:** Rajagopalachari was appointed the **Governor of West Bengal** and later the **first Indian Governor-General of Independent India in 1947** (the office was permanently abolished in 1950).
  - Worked to integrate **Muslims into the national mainstream** and maintain India's secular fabric.
  - Served as Union Home Minister after **Sardar Patel's** death and played a significant role in key national issues, including the **preparation of the First Five-Year Plan**.
  - In 1959, Rajagopalachari founded the **Swatantra Party**, advocating for a market economy and less government control.
  - In 1962, Rajaji led a **Gandhi Peace Foundation** delegation to the US, urging a **ban on nuclear tests**.
  - Rajagopalachari wrote a Tamil translation of the Ramayana, titled **Chakravarthi Thirumagan**, which won the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1958**.
- **Legacy:** Shri C. Rajagopalachari was awarded '**Bharat Ratna**' in 1954. He was the **first to receive the highest civilian award**.
  - Rajagopalachari passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1972.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. After Quit India Movement, C. Rajagopalachari issued a pamphlet entitled "The Way Out". Which one of the following was a proposal in this pamphlet? (2010)**

- (a) The establishment of a "War Advisory Council" composed of representatives of British India and the Indian States
- (b) Reconstitution of the Central Executive Council in such a way that all its members, except the Governor General and the Commander-in-Chief should be Indian leaders
- (c) Fresh elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures to be held at the end of 1945 and the Constitution making body to be convened as soon as possible
- (d) A solution for the constitutional deadlock

**Ans: (d)**