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ALGEBRA OF CHAKRAVARTHI RAJAGOPALACHARI

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Abstract

C Rajagopalchari popularly known as Rajaji, the first and only Indian to be the Governor General of India was an ardent patriot a pioneering social reformer, incisive thinker, profound scholar and author. Rajaji 's merits and traits elevated him to held highest posts such as Governor – General of free India, Governor of Bengal, premier of Madras Presidency and chief minister of madras state. He participated in the freedom struggle and faithfully carried out all the programmes of Gandhiji and congress party. Rajaji was the Chief Minister during the year 1937-39 and 1952 – 54 in Madras State.

The theme dealt in this work are his early carrier, administration, honesty, example to the successors, recipe for good government, compliment and criticism. Besides I mention the references at the end of this article.

“Rajaji was a true nationalist. A prince among the freedom fighters, he caught the imagination of the masses and continued to hold their affection till he lived.”

Keywords: Governor General – Administration – Prohibition – Contribution – Criticism – Government – Successor – Legislature – Agitation – Corruption – Eradication – Scrutinized – Compliments.

1. Introduction

A Freedom fighter, writer, politician Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari is a memorable figure in modern India. He was popularly called Rajaji. He was born at Thorapalli in Salem district on 9th December 1878. He was the son of Chakravarthi Srinivasa Iyengar and Varadamal. His father worked in the Taluk Office at Salem. He had his early education at Hosur and obtained his degree from Bangalore. He was a good orator and successful Lawyer.

2. Administration

Rajaji began his career as a lawyer at Salem. He emerged as a prominent leader in the struggle for freedom. In the election of 1937, the congress party defeated the justice party and captured majority of seats in Madras legislature. Elected as a leader of congress, Rajaji formed his ministry.

2.1 Prohibition

At that time, the congress party was committed to the introduction of the prohibition of drinking liquor. Rajaji first introduced prohibition in his home district of Salem followed by Chittoor and Cuddapah in 1938.

2.2 Sales Tax

Rajaji introduced the obnoxious sales tax in his budget for the year 1939 – 40. The business community opposed this measure, still it was imposed upon the poverty stricken people. Though it yielded a large revenue to the state, this drastic measure proved oppressive.

2.3 Agitation against Hindi

Rajaji introduced Hindi as a compulsory subject. But E V Ramaswami and others opposed it and an anti-Hindi conference was held at Salem.

2.4 Rajaji's Second Ministry

Since Britain moved to take India to Second World War without the consent of the leaders of India. So, the congress ministry resigned. Rajaji supported the cause of the muslim league for a separate state. But his plan was not accepted and he resigned from the Congress party. Then in the 1952 election, he again formed the ministry. The Telugu people agitated for a separate State, and so on Oct 1, 1953 the Andhra State was formed.



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2.5 Kulakalvi Thittam

Rajaji was cautious not to repeat his mistake on language policy but he invited troubles when he decided to reorganize the education system in 1953. By his new scheme of elementary education, the children were to attend the classes for the one session either in the morning or in the evening and rest of the day they were learn their traditional work from their parents. However, the situation appeared unfavourable for the new experiment.

3. An Honest Administrator in Public Life

Rajaji was an administrator par- excellence, there were ample examples to show that he was a committed administrator. The eradication of untouchability and the temple entry, introduction of prohibition, abolition of Zamindari system and his services in the field of Khadi and handloom development are only few examples though there were many others. He kept the administrative machinery in fine trim with high standard of discipline and correct conduct. He fully justified his expressive phrase that “the corridors of the secretariat should be kept clean”.

He had no frowns or favours for anyone and worked in the true spirit of detachment. Corruption and nepotism were banished into their hideouts. Rajaji was amusingly called Chankya in politics but in administration he had all the simple casuistry and persuasion of Tiruvalluvar whom he had admired and unstudied.

4. Rajaji an Example to the Successors

Rajaji set an example to his successors by following Mahatma Gandhi’s principle of non-cooperation movement in his personal life, by pulling out his two sons from college, according to the boycott of schools and colleges program. As a chief minister he shed his wisdom not only on files, but also in the platform of legislative chamber. He investigates even a small incidence on his own. In 1952, when a severe cyclone affected Tiruchirapalli and Tanjore, he made a four-day tour covering four hundred miles and saw things for himself.

Among the senior leaders with whom Rajaji came into direct relations in his political carrier either as co-worker or as rival. Rajaji set an example to his successors like Kamarajar, Ramanathan, V. V. Giri, Prakasam etc.,

5. Conscience Keeper

When Gandhiji entered the political scene and assumed the leadership of the congress, Gandhiji’s ideas on social reform attracted Rajagopalachari because there was a lot of similarity in the ideas of both the Leaders. Gandhiji’s ideas on prohibition, eradication of untouchability, the Harijan Uplift, the promotion of Khadi and the common language etc., appealed to Rajaji.

Rajaji agreed with Gandhi that the world should abolish wars and move towards peace but the path to it was to be found in education in the highest sense, in international co-operation and not in finding alternative weapons to defeat one another’s ambitions and aims. Rajaji was the principal companion of Gandhi who lived the longest after Gandhi’s assassination. Rajaji would have continued to play the role of Gandhi ‘s conscience keeper.

6. Recipe for the Good Government

Rajaji had his own ideas about the essentials of a good public administration. His contributions in administration were a great moral emotion that he introduced in the daily tasks of government. He expected his higher officers to work with personal attentions.

Once when the government cases failed in courts due to defective affidavits. He ordered that such drafts should be personally scrutinized and approved by the highest officers before sending them for filing. He wanted to send away two districts senior officers who were too long occupying the same post in Madras city and lost touch with district administration. However, he was considerate and indulgent to honest but took a firm line with persons charged with corruptions and never hesitated to recommend severe punishment if charges were proved.

7. Compliments and Criticism

Rajaji received in his life both great honour and violent criticism. He was a seasoned politician, who was accustomed to very warm compliments as well as very severe criticism in an equal courage. He heard the harshest words of criticism from his own colleagues.

People who could not understand him pelted stones at him. He withstood all that. He followed an equally compromising attitude both towards appreciations and depreciations. Rajaji imbibed the essence of Bhagavat Gita in his own life. “Praise did not elate him; malicious words did not accept him.”



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Conclusion

Rajaji was one of the rare personalities who have inscribed their names in many chapters of history at one and the same trend. In the field of political affair Rajaji played a significant role in the historic movements for the achievement of independence of India. He held several offices of high positions under the Government of India. Whatever capacity he served he showed much success in every face of the administrations. He indeed was very hard working and pains staking. He considered no tasks below his dignity. Work was thus a kind of worship for him. Ultimately, he meticulously did his assignments whole heartedly with love and passion.

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