

T. CHENGALVARAYAN*

(1908 - 1999)



INTRODUCTION:

Concluding a speech at a gathering at Pachayappa's College in Madras, presently Chennai, Chengalvarayan said "now you will hear Cicero" pointing at Annadurai. Returning the encomium, Annadurai began his speech by saying, "so far you heard Demosthenes". This simple account speaks volumes about the extraordinary life led by Chengalvarayan and his legacy which has been buried in the annals of our history.

Chengalvarayan was born in the year 1908 in a place called Thandalam near Thiruperumbudur, Kancheepuram district Tamil Nadu to Manikavelu Mudaliyar and Maragatham amma. After finishing his Bachelors from the Madras Christian College, Chengalvarayan set off to Bombay to pursue higher studies in Law, after which he got married. Then, he joined the Congress at the age of 27 to work for his fellow countrymen when the struggle for the freedom was at its peak. Since then, till his demise, he was a staunch Congressman, unwavering in his support. His love for the country and his selfless work ethics soon paved the way for him to lead his fellow countrymen in the freedom struggle throughout the Madras Presidency and later into politics.

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M. SINGARAVELAR*
(18th February 1860 – February 1946)



INTRODUCTION

Sindhanai Sirpi Singaravelar, the first Communist of South India is widely regarded as the “Father of Communism in South India”. The first ever Communist Conference in India was organised under the leadership of Comrade Singaravelar. The first May-day was celebrated under his leadership. Even before the Communist parties entered India, he started the Labour and Kisan Party on May Day 1923, and propagated the Communist ideology throughout the Southern part of India. He initiated the Labour and Kisan Gazette and the Thozhilalan (The Worker) periodicals, two magazines that were launched concurrently but were later prohibited due to their Communist ideologies.

As a follower of Gandhiji, he became one of the leaders and forerunners of the Madras Presidency Congress Party. He originally got into the Indian Freedom Struggle after the passing of the 1918 anti-people Rowlatt Bill, which denied the essential rights including the right to speech and expression to Indians. He organised many protests and public meetings condemning the black law which allowed the government to punish the Indian people without conducting proper enquiry. However, in 1921, the act of burning his lawyer’s gown in a public meeting condemning the killing of 400

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T.S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR*

5th May 1903 - 21st November 1991



EARLY LIFE

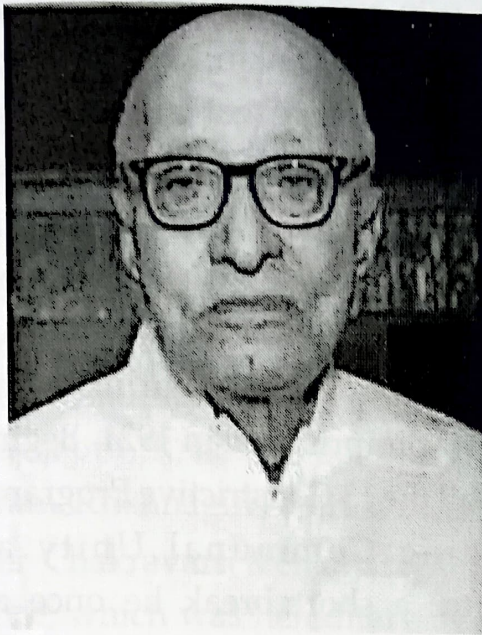
Tiruppur Subrahmanya Avinashilingam Chettiar (5 May 1903 - 21 November 1991) was an Indian lawyer, politician, freedom-fighter and Gandhian. He was born in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu to K. Subramania Chettiar, a wealthy merchant and a banker. His mother Pazhani ammal was a very religious woman who was devoted to her family. He was also a nephew of T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, a prominent politician and lawyer. Avinashilingam Chettiar was brought up in a large joint family learning the importance of patience, respect and due diligence. Since the family was rich, the family never shied away from lending alms to the poor and needy. They regularly contributed to the community in many ways. The ancestors of Avinashilingam Chettiar had built many Choultries and Caravansary for travellers and pilgrims at religious centres.

Avinashilingam had his education at Tiruppur and at Coimbatore London Mission School. He went on to complete his Bachelors Degree in Chennai Pachayappa's College and earned his law degree at the Madras Law College. In 1926, he went to work under his uncle, and Congress leader, T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar famously known as the father of Cooperatives. In 1930, he started his school "Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya" for the underprivileged Children.

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RAJAGOPALACHARI. C*

10th December 1878 - 25th December 1972



INTRODUCTION

"Murky politics of today has made it difficult for people, especially our younger generation, to understand the true value of Rajaji's work. He is a living monument of all that is best and enduring in our culture and tradition. May this doyen of Indian Patriots live long and in good health amongst us to correct us when we go wrong and advise us in the difficult task of building the India of tomorrow and the days to come"

*Sri S.K. Patil,
former Union Minister.*

C. Rajagopalachari, fondly known as Rajaji, was born in the year 1878. A multi-faceted person, he was one of India's greatest sons, who became a founding pillar of the country. He was a lawyer, statesman, freedom fighter, politician, writer, philosopher, preacher and advisor. His entire life was extraordinary and he was constantly working without any rest till his death in 1972 at the ripe age of 94 years. During his life time for almost a century, his footprints can be seen historically significant events. Or was it he who made these

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