

**Paper Name:** GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF TAMILNADU  
**Paper Code :** 18BPO43C  
**Class :** II B A POLITICAL SCIENCE  
**Faculty Name :** Mr P, SELVAKUMAR  
**Contact Number :** 9688188993

#### UNIT -- 4

❖ **M. G. RAMACHANDRAN ( 17 January 1917 – 24 December 1987 )**

- ❖ Maruthur Gopalan Ramachandiran was born on 17 January 1917 in Kandy Sri Lanka .
- ❖ Popularly known as M. G. R., was an Indian politician and film actor who served as the chief minister of Tamil Nadu for over nine years between 1977 and 1987.
- ❖ He was also a philanthropist and a humanitarian icon.
- ❖ In 1988, M.G.R. was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, Posthumously.
- ❖ In his youth, Ramachandiran and his elder brother M. G. Chakrapani became members of a drama troupe to support their family.
- ❖ Influenced by Gandhian ideals, Ramachandiran joined the Indian National Congress.
- ❖ After a few years of acting in plays, he made his film debut in the 1936 film Sathi Leelavathi in a supporting role. By the late 1940s,

- ❖ he graduated to the lead roles and for the next three decades dominated the Tamil film industry.
- ❖ Ramachandiran became a member of the C. N. Annadurai ,Led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam DMK party and rapidly rose through its ranks,
- ❖ Using his enormous popularity as a film star to build a large political base. In 1972, three years after Annadurai death, he left the DMK, then led by Karunanidhi,
- ❖ Ramachandran's erstwhile friend and now rival, to form his own party ,
- ❖ The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Five years later, Ramachandiran steered an AIADMK-led alliance to victory in the 1977 Election, Routing the DMK in the process.
- ❖ He became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the first film actor to become a chief minister in India.
- ❖ Except for a six-month interregnum in 1980, when his Government was overthrown by the Union Government, he remained as chief minister till his death in 1987,
- ❖ Leading the AIADMK to two more electoral triumphs in 1980 and 1984.
- ❖ In October 1984, Ramachandiran was diagnosed with kidney failure as a result of diabetes.
- ❖ He died on 24 December 1987 in his Ramavaram Gardens residence in Manapakkam after his prolonged illness.

- ❖ **Ramachandiran is regarded as a cultural icon in Tamil Nadu and is regarded as one of the most influential actors of Tamil cinema.**

### **POLITICAL CAREER :-**

- ❖ **Ramachandiran was a member of the Congress Party till 1953, and he used to wear khādī.**
- ❖ **In 1953 Ramachandiran Joined the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), or Dravidian Progressive Federation, attracted by founder C.N. Annadurai.**
- ❖ **He became a vocal Tamil and Dravidian nationalist and prominent member of DMK.**
- ❖ **He added glamour to the Dravidian movement which was sweeping Tamil Nadu.**
- ❖ **Ramachandiran became a member of the state Legislative Council in 1962.**
- ❖ **At the age of 50, he was first elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1967.**
- ❖ **After the death of his mentor, Annadurai, Ramachandiran became the treasurer of DMK in 1969 after Muthuvel Karunanidhi became the Chief Minister.**

### **1967 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT :-**

- ❖ **M.G.R seen in his debut film Sathi Leelavathi.**
- ❖ **The actor and Politician M. Radha and Ramachandiran had worked in 25 films together. On 12 January 1967,**

- ❖ **M.R.Radha and a producer visited Ramachandiran to talk about a future film project.**
- ❖ **During the conversation, M. R. Radha stood up and shot Ramachandiran in his left ear twice and then tried to shoot himself.**
- ❖ **After the operation, M.G.R's voice changed. Since he had been shot in his ear, Ramachandiran lost hearing in his left ear and had ringing problems in the ear.**
- ❖ **These further surfaced in 1983 when he had kidney problems.**
- ❖ **When Sinnappa Devar Paid his first visit to see Ramachandiran at the hospital after the shooting incident he paid Ramachandiran an advance for Ramachandran's next film.**
- ❖ **After getting released from the hospital and finishing Arasakattalai Ramachandiran acted in Devar's film Vivasayee against doctors' advice.**
- ❖ **Due to the operation, Ramachandran's speaking parts in the film *Kavalkaran* were reduced. This was the only film in which Ramachandiran Spoke with Old and New voices between scenes .**
- ❖ **Ramachandiran was acting in the film *Kavalkaran* in 1967 opposite J. Jayalalitha when the shooting occurred.**
- ❖ **Petralthaan Pillaya was the last film of Ramachandiran-M.R. Radha together.**
- ❖ **Shooting ended just few days before Ramachandiran was shot.**

- ❖ **The bullet was permanently lodged in his neck and his voice damaged.**
- ❖ **Within hours of the shooting, some 50,000 fans had gathered at the hospital where Ramachandiran had been taken.**
- ❖ **People cried in the streets. For six weeks, he lay in the hospital as fans awaited each report of his health.**
- ❖ **He was visited by a steady stream of commoners and luminaries of film industry, polity and bureaucracy.**
- ❖ **From his hospital bed, he conducted his campaign for the Madras Legislative Assembly.**
- ❖ **He won twice the number of votes polled by his Congress rival and the largest vote polled by any candidate for the Assembly.**

#### **SPLIT FROM DMK AND FORMATION OF AIADMK :-**

- ❖ **Started AIADMK headquarters in 17 October 1972 ,**
- ❖ **DMK Leader Karunanidhi started to Project his first son M. K. Muthu in a big way in Film and Politics,**
- ❖ **Around the same time Ramachandiran was accusing that corruption had grown in the party after the demise of C. N. Annadurai. Consequently, Ramachandiran was expelled from the party.**
- ❖ **Upon his ouster from DMK, Ramachandiran floated a new party which he called Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (ADMK),**

- ❖ **Later renamed All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK),**
- ❖ **The only Powerful Opponent of the DMK.**
- ❖ **He mobilised between 1972 and 1977 to spread and preach his party ambition with films like *Netru Indru Naalai* (1974),**
- ❖ ***Idhayakani* (1975), *Indru Pol Endrum Vazhga* (1977), etc.**

#### **CONTINUED SUCCESS IN TN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS :-**

- ❖ **1977 Assembly elections.**
- ❖ **The AIADMK contested the 1977 assembly elections in Tamil Nadu.**
- ❖ **The election was a four cornered contest between the ADMK, DMK, the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Janata Party.**
- ❖ **The ADMK allied itself with the Communist Party of India (Marxist), while INC(I) and Communist Party of India (CPI) contested as allies.**
- ❖ **The DMK and Janata Party (JNP) contested the elections alone.**
- ❖ **The ADMK did not field any candidate in the Usilampatti Constituency in Support of the Forward Bloc leader P.K. Mookiah Devar.**
- ❖ **Similarly, the ADMK also supported the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) candidate M. Abdul Latheef in**

the Vaniyambadi Constituency.

- ❖ In the parliamentary elections that occurred just three months prior to these elections, there had been two major alliances .
- ❖ The ADMK led ADMK-INC-CPI coalition and the DMK Led DMK-NCO-JNP-CPM coalition.
- ❖ But in the months that followed the parliamentary election, these coalitions fell apart.
- ❖ The AIADMK alliance won the elections by winning 144 seats out of 234 and Ramachandiran became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Upon winning the 1977 state elections, MG Ramachandiran became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 30 June 1977, remaining in office till his death in 1987.
- ❖ In 1979, members of his party Satyavani Muthu and Aravinda Bala Pajanor became the first Non-Congress Politicians from Tamil Nadu to be ministers in the Union Cabinet.
- ❖ The AIADMK won every state assembly election as long as Ramachandiran was alive.
- ❖ Although Annadurai and Karunanidhi had acted in stage plays in trivial roles, in their younger days,
- ❖ Before becoming Chief Minister, Ramachandiran was the first popular film actor to be a Chief Minister in India.

### **1980 PARLIAMENT AND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS :-**

- ❖ **Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam allied with Indian National Congress (Indira) in the 1977 parliamentary election.**
  
- ❖ **However, when Janata Party won the election and Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister, M. G. Ramachandiran Extended unconditional support to the Janata party Government.**
  
- ❖ **He continued his support to the Charan Singh Government in 1979.**
  
- ❖ **After the fall of the Charan Singh government, fresh Parliamentary Elections were conducted in 1980.**
  
- ❖ **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam struck alliance with INC(I).**
  
- ❖ **ADMK and Janata Party alliance won only 2 seats in Tamil Nadu in that parliamentary election.**
  
- ❖ **INC won the Election and Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister. Congress DMK victory in the 1980 parliamentary Election emboldened their alliance and made them think that people lost their faith in M. G. Ramachandiran Government.**
  
- ❖ **DMK Pressed the central government to dismiss the Tamil Nadu government using similar allegations used by Ramachandiran to dismiss DMK government in 1976.**
  
- ❖ **The ADMK ministry and the assembly were dismissed by the central government and fresh elections conducted in 1980.**



- ❖ Despite their victory at the 1980 Lok Sabha polls, DMK and Indira Congress failed to win the legislative assembly election. ADMK won the election and its leader and incumbent Chief Minister, M. G. Ramachandran was sworn in as Chief Minister for the second time.
- ❖ He became the first leader since K. Kamaraj to win a re-election as Chief Minister.

### **1984 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS :-**

- ❖ Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31 October 1984. During the same time, M. G. Ramachandran was diagnosed with kidney failure and admitted into a hospital in New York City.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi assumed office immediately and this required a fresh mandate from the people.
- ❖ Indian National Congress (Indira) and Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam formed an alliance and contested the election.
- ❖ M. G. Ramachandran was confined to the hospital. Video coverage of Ramachandran recuperating in Hospital along with Indira Gandhi's assassination were stitched together by the ADMK man in charge of campaigning, R. M. Veerappan.
- ❖ The video was distributed and played across all over Tamil Nadu. Rajiv Gandhi visited cyclone-hit areas in Tamil Nadu, which also boosted the alliance.
- ❖ The sympathy wave created by Indira's assassination, Ramachandran's illness and Rajiv Gandhi's charisma helped the alliance sweep the election.

- ❖ **DMK leader M. Karunanidhi did not contest this election, due to the fact that the ADMK leader M.G.R was admitted to a hospital in the U.S. and Indira Gandhi being assassinated.**
- ❖ **It was a landslide victory for AIADMK-Congress combine which won 195 seats in assembly polls. The electoral victory proved the undying charisma of Ramachandiran upon the masses.**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AS CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU:-**

- ❖ **M. G. Ramachandran's Ambassador Car with National Flag**
- ❖ **Once he became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,**
- ❖ **He placed great emphasis on social development especially education.**
  
- ❖ **One of his most successful policies was the conversion of the "Midday Meal Scheme", introduced by the popular Congress Chief Minister and kingmaker K Kamaraj,**
  
- ❖ **This scheme was at a cost of Rs. 1 Billion and was imposed in 1982.**
- ❖ **A little more than 120,000 Children of the state were benefited. He also introduced Women's Special buses.**
  
- ❖ **He introduced a liquor ban in the state and preservation of old temples and historical monuments, ultimately increasing the state's tourist income.**
  
- ❖ **He set up a free school for the cinema technicians children in Kodambakkam called MGR Primary & Higher Secondary School which provided free mid-day meals in the 1950s.**

- ❖ **He led the ADMK to victory in the 1984 assembly elections, despite not taking part in the campaigning.**
- ❖ **At that time he was undergoing medical treatment in America and his images were broadcast in Tamil Nadu through cinema halls.**
- ❖ **This was an effective campaign tactic and ADMK won the elections claiming around 56% of assembly seats, indicating the depth of his popular support.**
- ❖ **He won his seat in a double landslide victory in 1984. He still holds the record of being the chief minister with the highest consistent longevity of more than a decade.**
- ❖ **Karunanidhi claimed on 1 April 2009 and again on 13 May 2012 that Ramachandiran was ready for the merger of his party with the DMK in 1979, with Biju Patnaik acting as the mediator.**
- ❖ **The plan failed, because Panruti Ramachandiran, who was close to Ramachandiran acted as a spoiler and Ramachandiran changed his mind.**

#### **Criticism and controversies :-**

- ❖ **Even after his death, Ramachandiran proved to be very popular in the state and his rule has been cited by many of his contemporaries as best in the country.**
- ❖ **However, his rule is not without criticism.**
- ❖ **Economic data under his rule showed that annual growth and per capita income was lower than the national average and the state went from being second among 25 industrialised states in development after Kamaraj's Rule to Tenth.**

- ❖ **This decline, according to critics has been due to shift of Government resources from power and irrigation to social and agriculture sector according to Madras Institute of Development Studies reported in 1988.**
- ❖ **In addition, the emphasis on "welfare schemes" such as free electricity to farmers, mid-day meal schemes, etc.**
- ❖ **Has been seen by many as taking money away from infrastructure development that could have benefited the poor.**
- ❖ **In addition, the liquor tax imposed during his rule was considered to contribute to a regressive tax mostly affecting the poor.**
- ❖ **Other criticisms have been on Ramachandran's centralised Decision Making, which many blame for inefficiency and corruption taking hold of his administration.**
- ❖ **Some examples stated by the critics include Goondas act in 1982 and other acts that limited political criticism in the media, which led to a "Police State" during his administration.**
- ❖ **Natwar Singh in his autobiography One Life is Not Enough alleges that Ramachandiran covertly supported the cause of independent Tamil Eelam and financed the LTTE and their cadres were being given military training in Tamil Nadu .**
- ❖ **He also alleges that Ramachandiran considered Jaffna an extension of Tamil Nadu and without informing the Indian Government at the time, had gifted 40 million rupees to the LTTE.**

- ❖ **Ramachandiran has been accused of being intolerant towards the media.**
- ❖ **In April 1987, the Editor of Ananda Vikatan S. Balasubramanian was sentenced to 3 months in jail by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for publishing a cartoon, depicting government ministers as bandits and lawmakers as pickpockets, though specific legislature was not specified. But due to media outcry, he was released and S. Balasubramanian later won a case against his arrest.**
- ❖ **Earlier, Vaniga Otrumai editor A.M. Paul raj was sentenced to 2 weeks imprisonment by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for his writing.**

#### **BHARAT RATNA :-**

- ❖ **Ramachandran's statue at the MGR Memorial**
- ❖ **After his death in 1987,**
- ❖ **He became the third Chief Minister from the state of Tamil Nadu to receive the Bharat Ratna after C. Rajagopalachari and K. Kamaraj.**
- ❖ **The timing of the award was controversial, due to the fact that it was given so quickly after his death and he was elected as Chief Minister only 11 years before the award.**
- ❖ **Many opponents, mostly outside Tamil Nadu, criticised then ruling party INC, under Rajiv Gandhi to have influenced the selection committee to give the award to help win the upcoming 1989 Lok Sabha election.**
- ❖ **The ruling party forming a coalition with Jayalalitha, the successor to Ramachandiran at that time,**

- ❖ Were able to sweep Tamil Nadu, winning 38 out of 39 seats, INC were however unable to win Nationally.

### COMMEMORATIVE COINS :-

- ❖ To commemorate Ramachandran's Birth Centenary in 2017, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- ❖ Decided to issue ₹100 and ₹5 coins that would bear his image as a portrait along with an inscription of " Dr M. G. Ramachandran Birth Centenary.

\*\*\*\*\*

### J. JAYALALITHAA (24 February 1948 – 5 December 2016)

- ❖ Jayaram Jayalalithaa” 24 February 1948 – 5 December 2016  
“ was an Indian Politician and Film actress who served Six Times as
- ❖ the chief minister of Tamil Nadu for over fourteen years between 1991 and 2016. From 9 February 1989,
- ❖ She was the general secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), a Dravidian party whose cadre revered her as their "Amma" (mother) and *Puratchi Thalai* (Revolutionary Leader).
- ❖ Her critics in the media and the opposition accused her of fostering a personality cult and of demanding absolute loyalty from AIADMK legislators and ministers, who often publicly prostrated themselves before her.
- ❖ Jayalalithaa first came into prominence as a leading film actress in the mid-1960s. Though she had entered the Profession reluctantly, upon the urging of her mother to

support the family, Jayalalithaa worked prolifically.

- ❖ She appeared in 140 films between 1961 and 1980, primarily in the Tamil, Telugu and Kannada languages.
- ❖ Jayalalithaa received praise for her versatility as an actress and for her dancing skills, earning the sobriquet "Queen of Tamil Cinema".
- ❖ Among her frequent co-stars was M. G. Ramachandiran, a Tamil cultural icon who leveraged his immense popularity with the masses into a successful political career.
- ❖ In 1982, when MGR was chief minister, Jayalalithaa joined the AIADMK, the party he founded.
- ❖ Her political rise was rapid; within a few years she became AIADMK Propaganda secretary and was elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of India's Parliament.
- ❖ After MGR's death in 1987, Jayalalithaa proclaimed herself his political heir and, having fought off the faction headed by Janaki Ramachandiran, MGR's widow,
- ❖ Emerged as the sole leader of the AIADMK. Following the 1989 election, she became Leader of the Opposition to the DMK-led government headed by Karunanidhi, her *bête noire*.
- ❖ In 1991 Jayalalithaa became chief minister, Tamil Nadu's youngest, for the first time.
- ❖ She earned a reputation for centralising state power among a coterie of bureaucrats; her council of ministers, whom she often shuffled around, were largely ceremonial in nature.

- ❖ **The successful cradle-baby scheme, which enabled mothers to anonymously offer their New Born for adoption,**
- ❖ **Emerged during this time. Despite an official salary of only a rupee a month, Jayalalithaa indulged in public displays of wealth, culminating in a lavish wedding for her foster son in 1995. In the 1996 election,**

**The AIADMK was nearly wiped out at the hosting.**

- ❖ **Jayalalithaa herself lost her seat. The new Karunanidhi government filed several corruption cases against her, and she had to spend time in Jail.**
- ❖ **Her fortunes revived in the 1998 general election, as the AIADMK became a key component of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 1998–99 government ,**
- ❖ **Her withdrawal of support toppled it and triggered another General Election just a year later.**
- ❖ **The AIADMK returned to power in 2001, although Jayalalithaa was personally disbarred from contesting due to the corruption cases.**
- ❖ **Within a few months of her taking oath as chief minister, in September 2001, she was disqualified from holding office and forced to cede the chair to loyalist O. Panneerselvam.**
- ❖ **Upon her acquittal six months later, Jayalalithaa returned as chief minister to complete her term.**



- ❖ **Noted for its ruthlessness to political opponents, many of whom were arrested in midnight raids, her government grew unpopular.**
  
- ❖ **Another period (2006–11) in the opposition followed, before Jayalalithaa was sworn in as chief minister for the fourth time after the AIADMK swept the 2011 assembly election.**
  
- ❖ **Her government received attention for its extensive social-welfare agenda, which included several subsidised "Amma"-branded goods such as canteens, bottled water, salt and cement.**
  
- ❖ **Three years into her tenure, she was convicted in a disproportionate-assets case, rendering her disqualified to hold office. She returned as chief minister after being acquitted in May 2015.**
  
- ❖ **In the 2016 assembly election, she became the first Tamil Nadu chief minister since MGR in 1984 to be voted back into office. That September, she fell severely ill and, following 75 days of hospitalisation, died on 5 December 2016 due to cardiac arrest.**
- ❖ **On 29 May 2020, Jayalalithaa's nephew J. Deepak and niece J. Deepa were declared as her legal heirs by Madras High Court.**

\*\*\*\*\*

