

Paper : Tamil Political thought

Unit : 2

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E.V.Ramasamy

- He was affectionately known as Periyar
- He initially joined Indian National Congress. He functioned as the President of Coimbatore District Congress Committee
- He actively participated in the No Cooperation movement of Mahatma Gandhi 1920-22. He cut down thousands of coconut trees in his field as a mark of protests against liquor consumption
- He conducted a struggle for the rights of a community of people called Elavas in Kerala and therefore he was called Viakom Virar or Hero of Vaikom
- In the middle of the decade of 1920s he launched the Self Respect Movement
- He in the later part of the 1930s became the president of the Justice Party
- He launched the Dravidar Kazhagam in Salem
- The major features of his ideology are
 1. He promoted self respect among the masses
 2. He advocated the spirit of rationalism

3. He believed in disseminating modern western education among the people
4. He campaigned against caste system
5. He worked for the abolition of untouchability
6. He advocated women education, development and empowerment
7. He introduced certain changes in Tamil script so that printing of books in Tamil become easier and economical
8. He did not have belief in political parties. He conducted his movement purely as an apolitical, social reform movement. He followed the strategy of Pressure Groups rather than the Political Parties

C.N.Annadurai

- He was affectionately known as Anna
- He joined the Dravidar Kazhagam and became one of its strong leaders
- He launched the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in 1949 after walking away from Dravidar Kazhagam due to his differences with Periyar
- He had demonstrated more belief in political parties than pressure groups. He believed that political power is crucial to implement ideological beliefs and therefore started the political party

-He became the chief minister of the state in 1967 after winning the General Elections

- He supported federalism. He advocated greater rights for the states. He was a strong champion of state rights. He believed the classical theory of federalism that is being practiced in the western countries where the states are endowed with greater powers

- He wanted to promote the modern western education among the people

- He effected the change in the nomenclature of the state from Madras to Tamil Nadu. Earlier Kamarajar changed the state name from Madras to Tamil Nadu for internal, intra state communication purposes. Anna changed the state name to Tamil Nadu for external and extra state communication purposes too

- Anna was powerful orator

- He was a prolific writer

- A few months after becoming the chief minister Anna had passed away as he was afflicted with cancer

M.Karunanidhi

- - He was affectionately called as Kalaignar

- -He holds the record of being the longest chief minister in the state

- - He advocated a highly decentralized model of federalism. He expounded that the states should have more powers. His

government established the Rajamannar Commission on Centre-State Relations. The commission recommended a profoundly decentralized political system for India. It had recommended the abolition of All India Services like the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service. It also suggested the abolition of the institution of Governor. It argued for a comprehensive revamping of the financial distribution of powers between the center and states in India

- - He believed in rationalism
- - He worked for the development of Tamil Language. He built the ValluvarKottam in Chennai ,a memorial for the great saint poet who authored Thirukkural, the Tamil Poetic work on ethics and installed the Thiruvalluvar statue in Kanyakumari . - He worked hard for the declaration of Tamil as a classical language
- -He promulgated an ordinance to make Tamil compulsory in schools
- -The establishment of the Silappadikaram Art Gallery in Poompuhar and the creation of a separate department for the development of Tamil etc reveal his affection towards Tamil language. He advocated Two Language formula
- - His articulated egalitarianism. He was inspired by Thiruvalluvar's maxim that all beings are equal. He built Samaththuvapuram localities in all the districts where all communities without discrimination on the basis of caste and religion can live together.
- -He was a champion of social justice and supported reservation as the constitutionally provided strategy of ameliorative action
- - He had contributed greatly to the Tamil Nadu Model of Development

- - He had left his imprint in multiple fields like politics, literature, journalism and mass media and cinema

M.G.Ramachandran

- He was affectionately known as Puratchi Thalaivar (Revolutionary Leader)
- He founded All Indian Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam after breaking away from DMK
- He became the chief minister of Tamil Nadu in 1977 after the landslide victory of AIADMAK in the Legislative Assembly elections
- He advocated Cooperative Federalism. The Union and the state governments should work with the spirit of cooperation and coordination for the betterment of the country
- He loved the Tamil language. One of his lasting contributions is the establishment of Tamil University in Thanjavur
- He favored the welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka. When he was the chief minister of the state he actively supported the Tamil leaders of Sri Lanka and refugees who fled to India
- He followed the policy of neutrality towards all religious communities
- He believed in pragmatic approach towards electoral politics. He forged alliances as a successful strategy to win Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly Elections. He introduced MGR formula where by the AIADMK contested two third of the seats in Legislative Assembly Constituencies and one third of the Parliamentary Constituencies and

the Congress party as the alliance partner contested one third of the Legislative Assembly seats and two thirds of the Parliamentary seats in the state

J.Jayalalitha

-She was affectionately known as Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader)

-She was the longest General Secretary of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

- She defended state rights. She had believed in the concept of Cooperative Federalism. The architecture of Indian unity and integrity is built upon the bricks of state rights

- She had actively promoted women empowerment and education. Numerous measures were implemented to provide protection, education, employment to women.

-The Cradle Baby Scheme was launched by her government when she was the chief minister of the state in the first term in 1990s. the central objective of the program was to prevent female foeticide and gender based abortions that were rampant in some regions. - She had fought for the water rights of Tamil Nadu. She had approached the Supreme Court successfully to elicit the official notification of the Award of the Cauvery Inter State River Water Tribunal and also to raise the water level in the MullaiPeriyar Dam

- She believed in social justice and the effectiveness of constitutionally mandated reservation as an ameliorative measure. She had successfully

filed a case in the Supreme Court to protect the many decades old reservation scheme in Tamil Nadu- - She had carried forward the tradition of her mentor M.G.R in politics, economy. Society and education

For Further Readings

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