



சானக்யா Chanakya IAS ACADEMY

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Role of Tamil Nadu in the Freedom

Movement

The Indian independence movement had a long history in the Tamil-speaking districts of the then Madras Presidency going back to the 18th century. The first resistance to the British was offered by the legendary Since then there had been rebellions by polygars such as the Puli Thevar, Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar, Muthu Vaduganatha Periyavudaya Thevar, Ondiveeran, Marudu brothers, Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Veeran Sundaralingam, Oomaithurai, Maveeran Alagumuthu Kone Yadav, and Dheeran Chinnamalai and the sepoys of Vellore.

Vellore Mutiny - 1806

The British administration prohibited the Hindu soldiers from smearing religious marks on their forehead and ordered the Muslims to shave their beard and trim their moustache which created a strong resentment among the soldiers. On July 9, 1806, one of Tipu's daughters was to be married at Vellore. The revolting soldiers gathered at the fort under the pretext of attending the wedding. On the midnight of July 10, the soldiers surrounded the fort and killed most of the Europeans and unfurled the flag of Tipu over the fort. However, the British crushed the revolt in no time.

Madras Mahajan Sabha

P Rangaiah Naidu was elected first President of the Sabha. The Sabha adopted a moderate policy in its early days. Madras Mahajan Sabha was considered to be a unique one that paved the way for our national freedom. The Sabha voiced out the fundamental rights of our countrymen. In 1930, the Sabha organised the salt satyagraha movement on April 22nd in Madras George town, Esplanade, the high

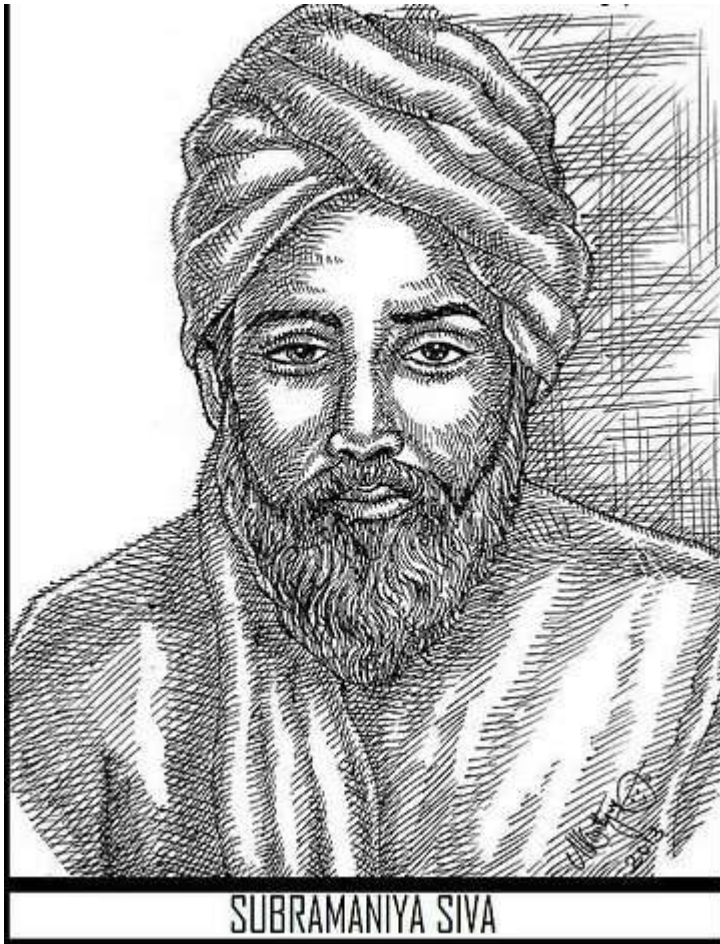
court and the beach areas. When the British government banned the Congress party, Madras Mahajan Sabha conducted numerous exhibitions to instigate the patriotic feelings in the hearts of our countrymen as well as All India Khadi Exhibition and Swadeshi Exhibition.

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai



He started his career as a lawyer in Tirunelveli. He encouraged the formation of trade guilds and worker's association. He was the founder of the Swadeshi Dharma Sanga Weaving Association and Swadeshi Co operative Stores at Tuticorin. The Partition of Bengal had drawn him into politics. He organised Coral mill strike in the town near the sea shore that resulted in the increase of worker's wages and reduction of working hours. He followed the militant leader Lokmanya Tilak and preached his philosophy. Charged with sedition, he was sentenced to forty years of imprisonment.

Subramaniya Siva



He was a freedom fighter and a creative writer. He was arrested many times between 1908 and 1922 for his anti-imperialist activities. When Siva was unable to walk due to the severity of leprosy, the British government enacted a law for Siva, that leprosy patient should not travel by rail. Due to this, Siva travelled the whole length of Madras province on foot. He eventually died on 23rd July 1925.

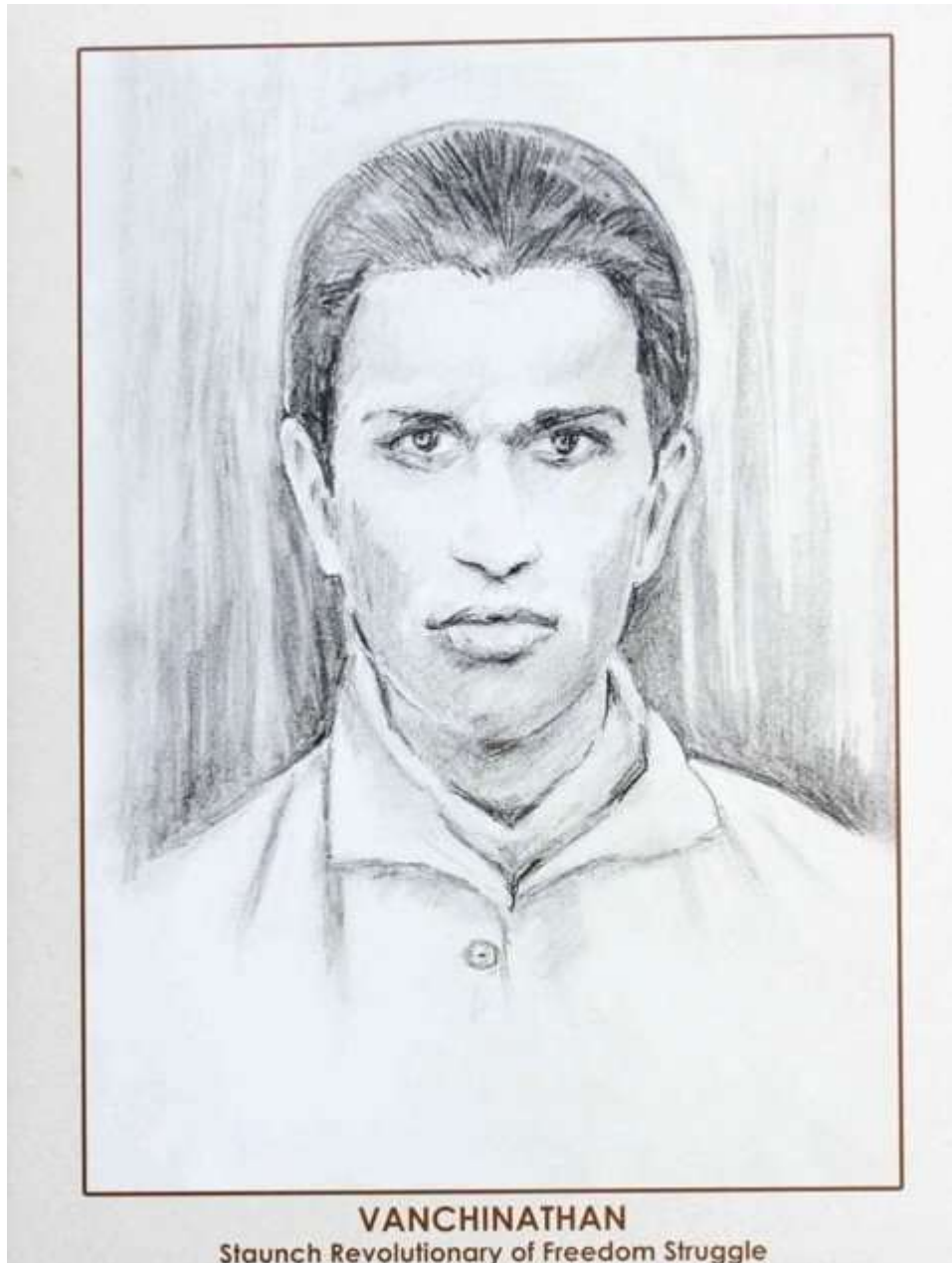
Subramanya Bharathiyar



He worked as a Tamil teacher at Madurai. He also served as an Assistant Editor of Swadeshimitram in 1904. In 1907, he participated in the Surat conference and supported the demand for Swaraj along with Tilak and Aurobindo. In April 1907, he became the editor of the Tamil weekly 'India.' In 1908, he organised a huge public meeting in Madras to celebrate 'Swaraj Day.' After the First World War, Bharathi entered British India near Cuddalore in November 1918 where he was arrested for giving evidence in a case which had been instituted by the British against Kappalotiya Thamizhan. He was released after 3 weeks in custody. He passed away on September 11, 1921.

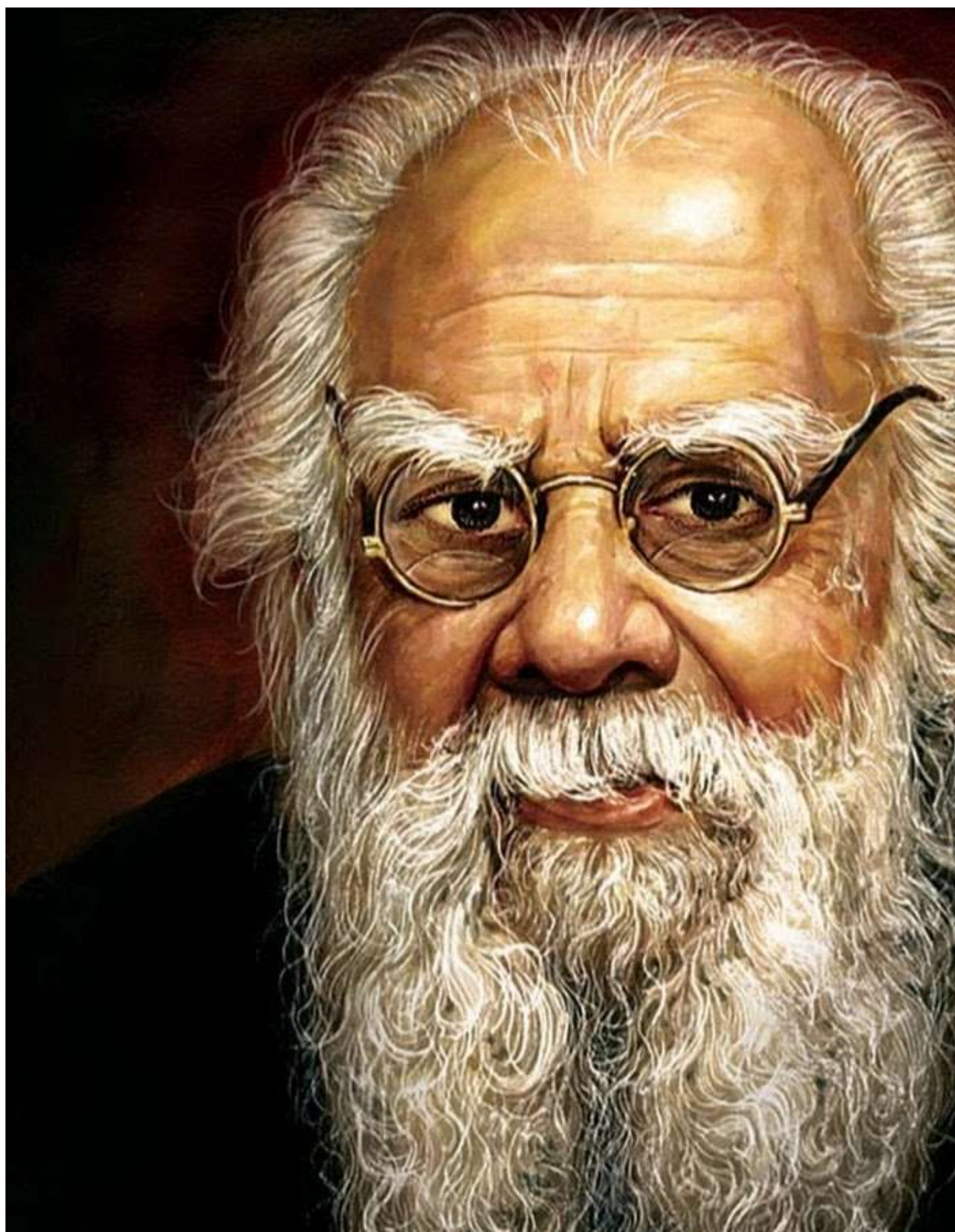
Vanchinathan

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He was under the service of the state of Travancore. Since the activities of the Extremists alarmed the British, the collector Ashe shot down and killed four persons in Thirunelveli. In order to take a revenge against the Collector, Vanchinathan secretly went to Maniyachi Railway station and shot dead Ashe after which Vanchinathan committed suicide.

Achievements of Periyar



He spread self-respect principles through Kudiarasu, Puratchi, Viduthalai. He also published some books against social evils. He visited many European countries and studied their way of life. After his return, he propagated 14 points of the Socialists Manifesto. In order to check the growing population and to keep good health, he suggested family planning.

Thiruppur Kumaran



He was a great revolutionary. He founded Desa Bandhu Youth Association and led protests against the British. He participated in the march against the ban on the national flag and he died from injuries sustained from a police assault. He is revered as a martyr in Tamil Nadu.

CN Annadurai

He was the founder of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Anna's inception into politics was through the Justice Party. Anna chose the Justice Party to work for the establishment of a casteless and classless society. He became the General Secretary of the DMK. In the 1967 election, his party got victory and Anna became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1967. He introduced the scheme of 1 kg rice for RE. 1. He also introduced Tamil Language Development Scheme. Government under the leadership of Anna changed the name of the state from Madras to Tamizhaga Arasu. He was conferred Doctorate by Annamalai University in 1968.

s. Satyamurti

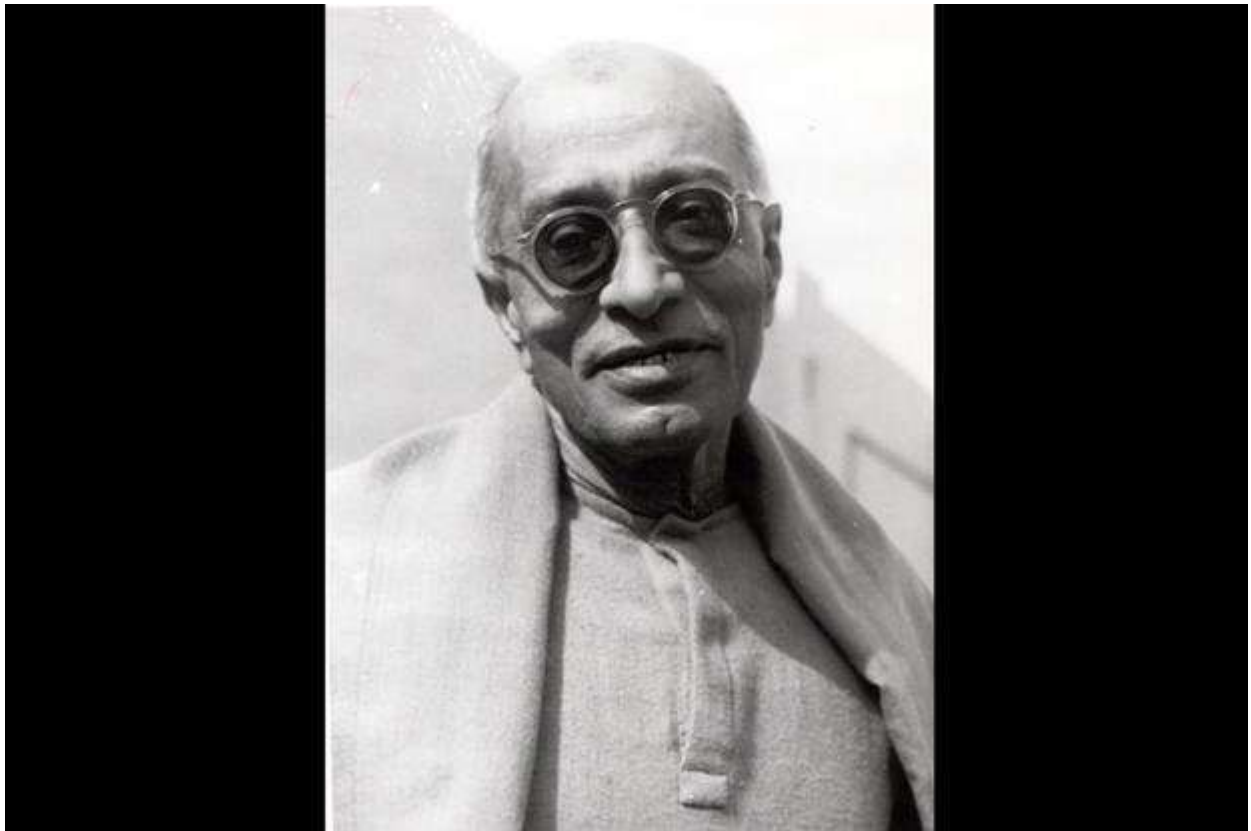


He was an Indian politician and a patriot. He was the political mentor of K. Kamaraj. He served as Mayor of Madras in 1939, leading a campaign to restore public education, improved water supply and improve the life of the citizens. He started practising as an advocate prior to his initiation in the National movement. He participated in the swadeshi movement and the quit India movement for which he was imprisoned several times. He passed away on 28th March, 1943.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy fought vigorously against the Devadasi system. She was the first woman in India to get a degree in medicine. She started cancer relief hospital in 1949. She was also interested in politics and social reforms. Appreciating her role in the agitation against Devadasi system, she was nominated to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council in 1929. In 1930, she organised All India Woman Conference at Pune. She also started Avvai Illam, an orphanage at Santhome in Madras.

C. Rajagopalachari



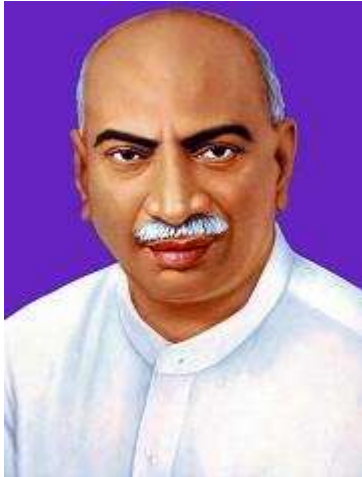
He became a lawyer at Salem in 1898. He joined the Indian National Congress and participated in the Calcutta session in 1906. In 1930, he broke the salt laws at Vedaranyam. He won the 1937 provincial elections and became the Chief Minister of the Madras Presidency. During his administration, he introduced prohibition, passed several laws to uplift Adi Dravidar and other depressed classes. He became the first Indian Governor General of free India. He founded the Swatandra party in 1959. He wrote many books. In 1955, he was awarded 'Bharat Ratna.' He was often referred as 'Chanakya' for his diplomatic skills.

Dr. S Dharmambal

One reformer who proved that service to the people could be done through humanity and goodwill was Dr. S. Dharmambal. She had the instinct of social service and started a hospital at Chennai. Later, she entered into public service. She showed great interest in implementing widow remarriage, intercaste marriage and women education. She participated in the Hindi agitation programme and went to jail many times. She started an agitation called 'Elavu Varam' to ensure that Tamil teachers were paid equal salary. To improve student's knowledge in Tamil and to score good marks, "Chennai Manavar Mandram" was established of which

she was the President for 10 years. She sacrificed her whole life for Tamil people, language and literature.

K. Kamaraj



He was one of the greatest freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu. He entered into the freedom movement of India by taking part in Vaikam sathyagraha in 1924. He enrolled himself as a full time worker of the Congress party in 1929. He participated in the salt sathyagraha in 1930. Because of his active participation in the Quit India Movement in 1942, he was arrested and sentenced to 3 years in the Amravathi prison. He served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for 9 years and introduced various welfare measures like free education, mid-day meals, construction of dams and canals to improve agriculture, etc. He was famous for his policy known as 'K' Plan.

Moovalur Ramamirtham

She belonged to Isai vellalar caste. In olden days, girls belonging to this caste were sacrificed to temples to do service to God. Later, they were ill treated and humiliated by the landlords and zamindars in the name of caste. Moovalur decided to fight for their emancipation. She joined the Indian National Party and organised the conference of Isai Vellalar in 1925. She was supported by many great leaders who raised slogans against the cruel practice of Devadasis. As a result, the government passed "Dr Muthu Lakshmi Devadasi Abolition Act." She inspired women to take part in the national movement on a large scale.

Work of EV Ramasamy Naicker

He was the first leader the country had ever seen to inculcate self-respect, nationalism, women liberation and social equality in the minds of the people. He joined the Congress in 1919 to realise his ideas. He joined the Non-Cooperation Movement. He led the famous Vaikam Sathyagraha in 1924, where the people of downtrodden community were prohibited to enter into the temple. Finally the Travancore government relaxed such segregation and allowed the people to enter the temple. He moved a resolution for reservation in government services for non-Brahmins in the state Congress conference held at Kanchipuram. He started the Self Respect Movement in 1925 to spread and execute his ideas and policies. He criticized the meaningless ideas, superstitious beliefs and unbelievable puranic stories in the public meetings.

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