



C.R. PATTABHI RAMAN

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Commemorating his Birth Centenary

1906 - 2006

THE C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION

1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600 018.

C.R. PATTABHI RAMAN

Pattabhi Raman was the eldest son of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar and Seethamma. His mother had several miscarriages, till she performed a *nagapratishtha pooja* and installed three granite snake stones under the pipal tree in her garden. Nine months later, a son was born. He was named Pattabhi Raman after his late paternal grandfather whom he had never seen, and after Lord Rama, the presiding deity of the village of Chetpet, near Wandiwash, the *brahmadeyam* which his great grandfather had left in an earlier century. The grace of the Naga (snake) gave him the pet name Nagaraja, by which he was known to his parents, siblings and friends. To the world he was C.R.P.; to the younger family members and friends he was Anna (elder brother). He was followed by two more sons, Venkata Subban and Sundaram, called Chinappa (or Peri Chitappa) and Chinny (or Chinna Chitappa) respectively.



**Front-row, right to left (sitting):
C.R. Pattabhi Raman, Sir C.P. Ramaswami
Aiyar and Smt. Saraswathi Pattabhi
Raman. Standing right to left -
C.R. Venkata Subban and C.R. Sundaram**



**C.R.P. in his father
Sir C.P.'s car - the second car in Madras**

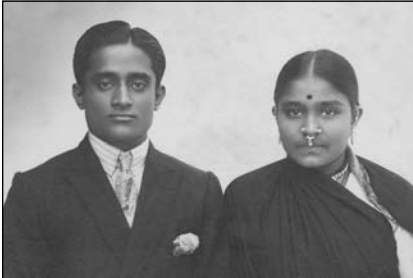
He was brought up in the lap of luxury by his father, India's largest earning advocate, a doting mother and his paternal grandmother, the only child and heir of a rich landlord of Damal Village, Venkatasubbiaiyar.

After his schooling at P.S. High School, Mylapore, Madras, established by Pennathur Subrahmani Aiyar, the uncle of his future wife Saraswathi, he completed his B.A. from Presidency College in 1928, obtained an LL.B. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, London,

where he studied politics under the famed Harold Laski, a close friend of his father's, and was called to the Bar from the Middle Temple in 1932, the year he obtained his LL.B. from London University, specializing in Constitutional and International Law.

On January 26, 1925, C.R.P. married Saraswathi, daughter of Captain Dr. P. Krishnaswami, Principal of Stanley College and Hospital and one of the early Indian cardiologists. His famous joke every Republic Day was

that he lost his freedom the date his country became a republic. Between 1925 and 1943, the couple had four daughters - Shakunthala, Seetha, Lakshmi and Padmini. They had a long and happy married life till Saraswathi - known as Periamma or Peri to the world - died of a heart attack on December 6, 1984.



C.R.P. with his wife Saraswathi

LAWYER

In 1932 C.R.P. enrolled in Madras High Court under Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar and, later, practiced in Allahabad under Sir Teg Bahadur Sapru. In 1938 he became an Advocate of the Federal Court, Delhi, and later a Senior Lawyer of the Supreme Court of India. He took part in several sensational cases of his times, representing Tarapore & Co. against the Madras Government; the State of Madras against the Communist Member of Parliament A.K. Gopalan; the Communist Editor Romesh Thapar when his paper *Crossroads* was banned by the Madras Government, where C.R.P. upheld the right to freedom of speech. The Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act was consequently quashed and the decision led to the First Amendment of the Constitution. Other



**C.R.P. -
Barrister - at-Law, London**

important cases include the Shirur Mutt case which involved complicated issues connected with the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act; and his winning arguments for Standard Motors which won the case for all three car companies against the Government of India. In fact he holds the rare distinction, along with an English lawyer, of never having lost a case. His legal brilliance and acumen led to his being chosen as the Legal Adviser to the Indian delegation to the Tenth United Nations General Assembly in 1955, when he was hosted by Justice Douglas and other luminaries of the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1958 he toured the U.S.S.R. and Poland as a member of the Indian Lawyers' Delegation.

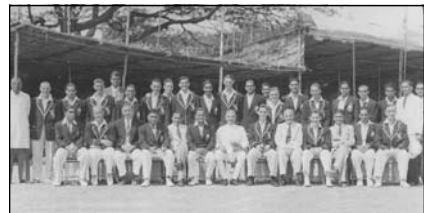
He was a partner in the legal company of Aiyar and Dolia, with Mr. Dolia and Mr. A.L. Somaiyaji, till he resigned to become a Senior Lawyer of the Supreme Court of India.

He was the Honorary Secretary of the Bar Association of India, New Delhi and Madras; Member of the Editorial Committee of the Labour Law Journal, Madras; President of the Madras Bar Association from 1970 to 1978; Member of the Indian Council of World Affairs and of the International Law Association, Indian Branch. He was also a Founder-Member of the Indian Council for Africa in New Delhi.

C.R. Pattabhi Raman collaborated with Justice N. Chandrasekhara Aiyar in the XI edition of *Mayne's Hindu Law*. He also authored the *Periyar Water Rights Arbitration Proceedings* as Counsel. He wrote several articles on law in various journals.

SPORTSMAN

Apart from his legal brilliance, C.R.P. was an excellent sportsman and, if he had been born today, would have been a sporting hero. He was an ardent cricketer, who played for the Indian Gymkhana team and Cambridge, when the combined Oxford and Cambridge



MCC (England) vs. India, 1952 -
C.R.P. is seated fifth from left

team toured Yorkshire and Lancashire in 1931. He also captained the Madras Presidency team.

So great was his love of the game that he was a Founder, President and later Patron of the Madras Cricket Association; and Founder and Vice-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. He was the Founder President - Patron of two league teams – Grand Prix Cricket Club and The Grove Cricket Club.

He was also a golf champion with a handicap of five. He won several cups at the annual championships held at Ootacamund. He was the President of the Cosmopolitan Club, Madras' Golf Club, and the Madras United Club.



C.R.P. receiving the MCC team at the Airport in Madras



C.R.P. with former cricketer Gundappa Vishwanath



C.R.P. with Golf trophy



South India Open - Golf finals. First Indian in the Finals



Playing Golf in Darion on the occasion of 'India Day'

STATESMAN

Shri. Pattabhi Raman grew up with law and politics all around him. If the atmosphere of law gave him a brilliant legal career, his political baptism also began at home. Between 1916 and 1921, the meetings of the Home Rule League took place under the aegis of Dr. Annie Besant, founder of the movement, in the tree-canopied gardens of The Grove, the family home in the heart of Alwarpet. *New India*, the magazine of the Home Rule League was edited and published here, and he grew up amidst Dr. Besant, Pandit Motilal Nehru, the Ali Brothers and Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who were his father's houseguests. He became an ardent Congressman when his father was the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress along with Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1917. Later, when Sir C.P. fell out with the Congress, he was liberal enough to permit his son to follow the politics of his choice, which resulted in C.R.P. remaining a Congressman all his life.

In 1921 he was one of the student leaders who led the boycott against the visit of the Simon Commission to India. As a student in England, he participated in the India League activities between 1929 and 1932. After his return he became a busy lawyer till Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Madras in 1946, when he became the leader of the volunteers. His involvement with the Congress party and politics increased till he became a member of the Reception Committee of the Avadi Session of the Congress in 1955. In the same year, he accompanied the Indian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly as Legal Adviser.



With Rajaji in 1953



With Pandit Nehru at the Avadi Congress in 1955

In 1957 he stood for election to the Second Lok Sabha from Kumbakonam, Madras State, a constituency he nurtured and represented till 1967.

In 1958-59 he became Chairman of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited. Soon after, he went as a delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Warsaw in 1959; and as the Indian delegate to the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations' General Assembly at New York in 1961.

C.R.P. became the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Lok Sabha in 1961-62 and Chairman, Joint Committee of both houses on Mines and Minerals Bills. As Chairman of the Joint Select Committee of Gift Tax, Estate Duty, Wealth & Expenditure Tax, Amending Bills and Chairman of the Legal Practitioners' (Later Advocates) Bill, he effected several remarkable legal milestones.

As Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Offices of Profit, he laid down the first rules and guidelines. He was also a Member of the Joint Select Committee of the Trade Marks Bill; Rules Committee, Transport Reorganization Committee; Sports Advisory Council; and Direct Taxes Advisory Committee.



C.R.P. as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee with other Members

In May 1962, C.R.P. was appointed Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Planning in the cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Simultaneously, he was the Chairman of the Employees State Insurance Scheme Review Committee; Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee of Planning Forums; Chairman of the All India Radio Sports Advisory Committee; and Member of the All India Tourist Council.

From 15th June, 1964, to 24th January, 1966, he was Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting in the cabinets of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and later Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He became Minister in the Ministry of Law and Company Affairs on January 25, 1966, a position he held till he resigned in 1967 on losing the election after the



C.R.P. swearing in as Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Planning in the cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



A.I.R. Interview in 1957



With M. Bakthavatsam, former Chief Minister of Madras, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



With Shri. Zail Singh, former President of India, on the occasion of the Foundation Stone Laying Function of Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram building in 1983



Receiving Smt. Indira Gandhi at Madras in 1980

terrible anti-Hindi riots in Madras State. In fact his constituents in Kumbakonam requested him to stand as an independent. However, he had inherited his father's strong sense of loyalty and, in spite of knowing that he would lose, refused to stand down or desert his party. Thereafter, he was appointed Chairman of Cochin Refineries Limited, a post he held till 1975, when he resigned.

EDUCATIONIST

The last twenty-six years of his life were spent between law, educational activities and a deep and abiding faith in God and his religious beliefs. He was the President of several educational societies, including

- * Madrasi Educational Schools, New Delhi
- * South Madras Bharat Scouts & Guides, Madras
- * P.S. Educational Societies, Mylapore, Madras (4 schools)
- * The Conjeevaram Girls School Union, Kanchipuram (5 schools)
- * N.K.T. National Girls' High School, Triplicane, Madras

MAN OF RELIGION

C.R.P. was always deeply religious. Whether he was in India or abroad, his small box with his prayer books and ritual items invariably traveled with him. However important a meeting, he would never miss his pooja twice a day. He would wake up at 4 a.m., bathe, meditate, pray and do his yoga every day. In the evening he would go for a walk on the beach, return home and bathe, meditate and pray till it was time for dinner and bed.

He was a member of the Vinayaka Mandir Committee, New Delhi, and several temple committees in Madras and Kanchipuram.

He was deeply devoted to the philosophy of Advaita and a shishya of two great



With Smt. Indira Gandhi at Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kanchipuram

Shankaracharyas – Shri Chandrashekhara Bharati of Sringeri Matham and the late Paramacharya of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. He gave liberal gifts to temples and mutts, including donations to the Vinayaka Mandir, New Delhi, and temples in Rishikesh U.P. and other religious places in Rameshwaram, Ooty and Kanchipuram.

In 1997, he presented rupees one lakh each to Their Holiness Jagadgurus of Sringeri and Kanchi for Sama Veda pathashalas, besides 18 acres of agricultural land in Damal village to His Holiness Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Kanchi. A Trust, called “Dr. Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Sama Veda Trust”, was established for a Samaveda pathashala and for conducting the annual Panguni Uthiram Veda parayanam at kanchipuram.

He gifted several rare pieces of his mother’s and grandmother’s jewellery were gifted to the Kamakshi Amman temple, Kanchipuram, including the famed Blue Jaeger (*tharuppukal*) of his great grandfather, Tharuppukal Ramaswami Aiyar.

He left Rs. 9,00,000/-for poojas and religious charities to be carried out after his lifetime.

PHILANTHROPIST

C.R. Pattabhi Raman was one of the greatest philanthropists of the twentieth century, giving away much of his property to religious and educational charities. Apart from the religious donations mentioned above, there were several other gifts:

- * In 1968, the family house “The Grove” and the surrounding vacant land (one acre) to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. The Government of Tamil Nadu exempted the gift from gift tax and stamp duty fees.
- * Rs. 50,000/- each for
 - * P.S. Higher Secondary School, Chennai
 - * S.S.K.V. Group of Schools, Kanchipuram
 - * N.K.T. Schools and College, Chennai
- * Over Rs. 9,00,000/- to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation

- * In 1997, about 8 acres of land at Damal village, Kanchipuram district, to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation.
- * In 1997, the old family house and about 8 grounds of land in Kanchi - South Mada Street, 81, Lingappa Street - to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
- * Collections of paintings and objets d'art to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation for the establishment of a Museum.

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation was founded by several eminent citizens of Madras on October 14, 1966, on the passing away of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar. But the Foundation has been able to contribute substantially and usefully to the socio-economic and cultural regeneration of Madras, Tamilnadu and Southern India only because of the considerable donations of Shri C.R.P., which made it possible to build up a basic infrastructure and develop a variety of innovative and useful programmes. We remain eternally grateful to him for his generosity which has made it possible for us to contribute to the events of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries.

THE END

Shri C.R. Pattabhi Raman's last year was especially tragic - he had seen the deaths of his youngest son-in-law V.K. Balagopal on January 2, 2000, and his eldest daughter Shakunthala Jagannathan on March 12, 2000. Earlier, on September 17, 1958, his second daughter Seetha and her husband Tyagarajan had died in a tragic accident on Marve Beach at Bombay. C.R.P. did not wish to live on and see more tragedies. His strong faith and deep devotion ensured that his prayers were answered: he passed away in his sleep on June 19, 2001, at the ripe old age of 94.

But his memory will live forever in his many gifts to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. We pray that his soul reaches the Ultimate Supreme Brahman and is liberated from the cycle of birth and death.

