

Supplement to *Public*

Rajaji Birthday Lecture, 1965

GOKHALE AND HIS MESSAGE

BY

Dr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR

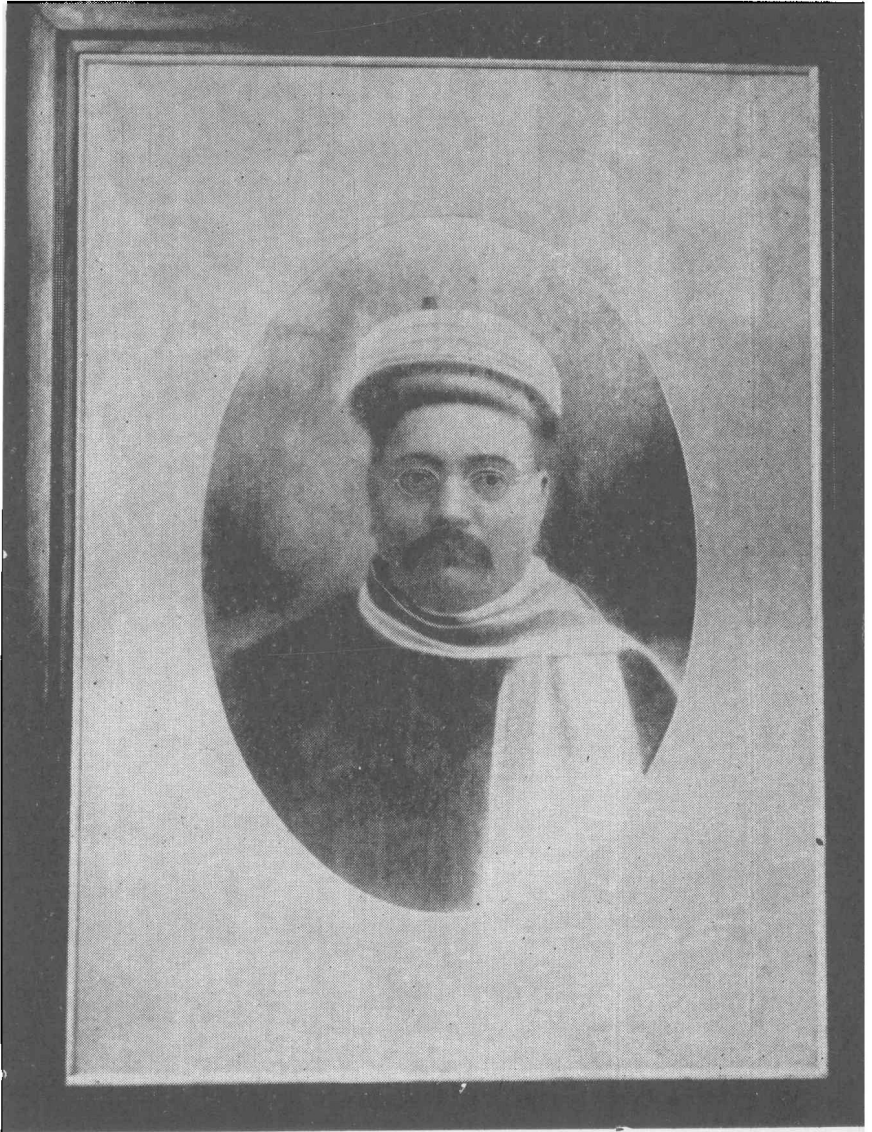


Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 7

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BANGALORE - 4

Re. 1



GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE
(Portrait unveiled by Mahatma Gandhi, on 8-5-1915; G.I.P.A.)

Rajaji Birthday Lecture, 1965

GOKHALE AND HIS MESSAGE

BY

Dr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR



Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 7

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BANGALORE - 4

RAJAJI

Sri C. Rajagopalachariar, popularly known by affectionate abbreviation as Rajaji, was born in the year 1878 in Torapalli, a village near Hosur, Salem District in the State of Madras. He was a student of the Central College, Bangalore, and completed the B.A. course in the Presidency College, Madras. He took his B.L. degree from the Law College in Madras and joined the bar in 1900. His early practice as a lawyer was in Salem and later in Madras upto 1919. He was a delegate to the Indian National Congress at Calcutta in 1906. Responding to the call of the Mahatma in 1920 he joined the non-cooperation movement for the independence of India. He edited Mahatma Gandhi's weekly *Young India* during the latter's imprisonment. He was General Secretary to the Indian National Congress in 1921-22, and a member of the Congress Working Committee from 1922 to 1942, and again in 1946-47. He suffered imprisonment on five different occasions in Congress campaigns between 1921 and 1942.

He was Vice-President of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras, and in the wake of the political reforms under the Government of India Act, 1935 and the Congress decision to contest elections, he became Prime Minister of Madras from 1937-39. He resigned the Prime Ministership in October, 1939, along with other Congress Ministers throughout the country and rejoined the national struggle. He however resigned from the Congress in April 1942 on account of differences of opinion but was soon back in its fold in 1944 and in September of that year he assisted Mahatma Gandhi in the Gandhi-Jinnah talks. At the end of the national struggle in 1946, when the Interim Government was formed, he became a member in the Governor General's Council from September 1946 to August 15, 1947. Following the disturbed political conditions in Bengal, he became Governor of Bengal in August 1947, and later, in succession to Earl Mountbatten, Governor-General of India in November 1947, and, after transfer of power was the first

[Contd. on cover 4]

Contd. from cover ii!

Governor General of Free India from June 1948 to January 26, 1950, the date of the inauguration of the Indian Republic. He was Minister without portfolio in the Government of India for a brief period, May-December 1950 and Minister for Home Affairs from January to November 1951.

The difficult political situation in Madras in 1952 called him from his retirement and he became Chief Minister of Madras, from 1952-54. He was given the highest award of Bharat Ratna in 1954. From then onwards, he was chiefly concerned with guiding the nation's affairs through numerous articles in newspapers, which paved the way, particularly after the Avadi Congress, for the founding of the Swatantra Party as an all-India party by him. Interested in world peace, he led the three-men Indian delegation on behalf of the Gandhi Peace Foundation to America, England and Italy in October 1962 to canvass support for the banning of nuclear tests.

His publications, which are a perennial source of thought, wisdom and enlightenment, are both in Tamil and English. Important among his Tamil books are: Socrates, Kutti Kadhaigal, Kannan Kattiya Vazhi, Aureliussin-Atmachintanai, Upanishada-Palagani, Abhedha Vadam, Vyasara Virundhu, Chakravarthy Thirumagan, Valluvar Vachagam and others, some of which have been translated into other Indian languages. His English books include Jail Diary, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Kamba Ramayana-Ayodhya Kanda, Cripps Mission, SatyamEva Jayate-Vols. I, II and III, Voice of the Uninvolved, Hinduism - Doctrine and Way of Life, and others.

The G. I. P. A. has much pleasure in making available to the public, as Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 7, this brochure containing chiefly the instructive and inspiring address delivered by Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar on the 8th of January 1966 as Rajaji Birthday Lecture.

Many requests have been received for the speech from members of this Institute and from the public, and we trust this publication will be widely welcomed as a contribution to the Indian political literature of our day — particularly by the younger generation who are separated from the times of Gokhale by so much as half a century.

This year, as it happens, is the year of the centenary of Gokhale's birth, and the G. I. P. A. is happy to open the Centenary Celebrations with this publication.

G.I.P.A.
Bangalore 4
9th May 1966

D. V. GUNDAPPA
Hon. Secretary

CONTENTS

	Page
Rajaji	Cover (ii) and (iii)
Introductory Speech	3
Chairman's Opening Speech—by <i>Dr. N. Madhava Rau</i>	7
“MESSAGE OF GOKHALE ”—by <i>Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar</i>	9
Thanksgiving	27

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Gokhale	Frontispiece
2. Sri C. Rajagopalacharya	5
3. Sri C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, at the G.I.P.A.	9

Copyright by G.I.P.A.