

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

The Vedaranyam Salt March: C. Rajagopalachari's Civil Disobedience

Free · Share

The Vedaranyam Salt March: C. Rajagopalachari’s Civil Disobedience

While Gandhi walked to Dandi on India’s west coast, a separate group of about 100 volunteers set out on the other side of the country. Their leader, C. Rajagopalachari, was about to break the same law on the Tamil coast.

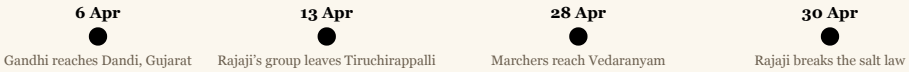


Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, photographed in 1944. Wikimedia Commons, public domain.

Leader C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)
Route Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam
Arrived 28 April 1930
Broke the salt law Usually dated 30 April 1930

Civil disobedience: Openly and peacefully breaking a law seen as unjust, and accepting arrest to show that the law itself is wrong.

Salt law: The British rule that controlled who could make or sell salt in India, and taxed it even though every household needed it.



1. Why did Rajaji march to the Tamil coast in 1930?

1.1 Why did Gandhi's movement target salt of all things?

- British law controlled who could make and sell salt in India, and the government taxed it on top of that.
- Gandhi chose salt because every household needed it. That made the law's unfairness easy to grasp, across class and region alike.
- **Civil disobedience** means openly and peacefully breaking a law seen as unjust. Protesters accepted arrest on purpose, to show the law's unfairness in public. Rajagopalachari used this exact method on the Tamil coast.

1.2 Who led the march, and how many people joined?

- The **Vedaranyam Salt March** carried civil disobedience to India's east coast in April 1930.
- **C. Rajagopalachari**, widely known as Rajaji, led about 100 volunteers from Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam.
- They challenged the same British salt law, as part of the same national movement as Gandhi's march to Dandi.

> **Quick check 1.** True or false: Rajaji led the Vedaranyam march on India's east coast, while Gandhi led the Dandi march on the west coast. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Now you try: In one sentence, explain why breaking a law about salt, specifically, made the protest easy for ordinary people to understand.

2. How did the Vedaranyam march actually unfold?

2.1 What happened on each leg of the route?

- On 13 April 1930, the volunteers set out from Tiruchirappalli.
- On 28 April 1930, the marchers reached Vedaranyam, on the Tamil coast.
- On 30 April 1930, they openly made salt and broke the law in public.
- The walk linked inland towns with a coastal salt-making centre. This let local people join the protest all along the route, not just at the final stop.

2.2 Why do sources disagree on the exact breach date?

- The team was about 100 people, though different accounts give slightly different totals.
- Most sources date the actual salt-law breach to 30 April. One historical study instead gives 1 May. Either way, the march itself reached Vedaranyam on 28 April.

> **Quick check 2.** True or false: The marchers broke the salt law on the very same day they first reached Vedaranyam. *(True or False?)*
>
> See answer ↓

Remember: Set out 13 April, reached Vedaranyam 28 April, broke the salt law 30 April. Most sources agree on this order, even where a single date shifts by a day.

3. How was Vedaranyam connected to Gandhi's Dandi march?

3.1 What did the two marches share, and what set them apart?

- Gandhi and his volunteers reached Dandi, in Gujarat, on 6 April 1930. Rajaji's group began its own journey from Tiruchirappalli a week later.
- Both marches challenged the same salt law through the same method: peaceful, public defiance.
- Dandi sat on India's west coast. Vedaranyam sat on the east coast, in the then Madras Presidency. The two marches stayed separate events, inside one wider Civil Disobedience Movement.

3.2 Who else helped carry the campaign forward?

- Rajaji led the march, but he did not carry the whole campaign alone. T. S. S. Rajan and Sardar Vedaratnam supported the effort directly.
- Rukmini Lakshmipathi also took part in the wider salt protest across the region.
- These names show the campaign needed organisers beyond its best-known face. Local networks welcomed new volunteers and helped the protest spread further.

> **Quick check 3.** True or false: Local leaders such as T.S.S. Rajan and Sardar Vedaratnam helped carry the Civil Disobedience Movement into different regions of the south. *(True or False?)*
>
> See answer ↓

Explain it back: In one or two sentences, explain why one country-wide movement could still produce two separate, regionally led marches like

Dandi and Vedaranyam.

4. What happened after Rajaji broke the salt law?

- Police arrested Rajaji soon after the protest. His arrest showed plainly how the colonial government answered peaceful defiance.
- The march helped widen civil disobedience across the south. People could join through local meetings, public salt-making of their own, and other everyday forms of protest.
- For exam recall: leader Rajaji, route Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam, arrival 28 April 1930, salt-law breach usually dated 30 April 1930. The key difference from Dandi is simple: Vedaranyam was the eastern march, led by Rajaji, not Gandhi.

5. Exam Angle: How does UPSC test the Vedaranyam march?

Asked before

PYQ 1 · UPSC CSP 2015, Q46

Who of the following organized a march on the Tanjore coast to break the Salt Law in April 1930?

(a) V. O. Chidambaram Pillai
(b) C. Rajagopalachari
(c) K. Kamaraj
(d) Annie Besant

mcqquestion.com/upsc-pre/upsc-csp-2015-general-studies-paper-i-full-question-paper/#q46

Practice these questions with instant scoring on mcqquestion.com →

NCERT's Class 10 "Nationalism in India" chapter teaches the Salt March as part of the wider Civil Disobedience Movement. The Vedaranyam march is a clean example of how that same protest method travelled from Gujarat to a different coast entirely, carried there by local leaders rather than by Gandhi himself.

Practice MCQs

1. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's earlier maritime nationalist activism inspired a later 1930 salt march along the Tanjore coast, which was organised by which prominent South Indian leader?

A. C. Rajagopalachari

B. K. Kamaraj

C. Periyar E.V. Ramasamy

D. T. Prakasam

See answer ↓

2. Who led the Vedaranyam Salt March in April 1930?

A. C. Rajagopalachari

B. V. O. Chidambaram Pillai

C. K. Kamaraj

D. Annie Besant

See answer ↓

3. The Vedaranyam Salt March started at which city?

A. Tiruchirappalli

B. Chennai

C. Madurai

D. Thanjavur

See answer ↓

4. C. Rajagopalachari, leader of the Vedaranyam march, later became independent India's only holder of which office?

A. President

B. Prime Minister

C. Governor-General

D. Chief Justice

See answer ↓

5. On what date did C. Rajagopalachari's march reach Vedaranyam and break the Salt Law?

A. 6 April 1930

B. 2 October 1930

C. 15 August 1930

D. 28 April 1930

See answer ↓

6. The Vedaranyam Salt March was directly inspired by which earlier 1930 event?

A. Gandhi's Dandi March

B. The Quit India Movement

C. The Simon Commission protests

D. The Non-Cooperation Movement

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** Rajagopalachari led a significant salt march along the Tamil Nadu coastline from Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam, parallel to and roughly contemporaneous with Gandhi's more famous Dandi March in Gujarat, demonstrating the Civil Disobedience Movement's nationwide, multi-regional character extending well beyond its most iconic single episode. Rajagopalachari's leadership of this southern salt satyagraha built his reputation as one of the Congress's most capable and trusted regional leaders, a standing that would later see him serve in several senior roles in independent India, including as the country's first Indian-born Governor-General. The Vedaranyam march's relative historical obscurity compared to the Dandi March illustrates how the Civil Disobedience Movement's true scale and geographic breadth often exceeds what popular memory typically foregrounds. ↑ Q1
2. **A.** C. Rajagopalachari led the Vedaranyam Salt March, breaking the Salt Law on the Tanjore coast in April 1930. ↑ Q2
3. **A.** The march began at Tiruchirappalli and covered about 150 miles to reach Vedaranyam on the Tanjore coast. ↑ Q3
4. **C.** C. Rajagopalachari became independent India's last Governor-General, the only Indian to ever hold that office. ↑ Q4
5. **D.** The marchers reached Vedaranyam on 28 April 1930, where they broke the Salt Law by making salt. ↑ Q5
6. **A.** The Vedaranyam march followed the same civil disobedience logic as Gandhi's Dandi March, held earlier the same month. ↑ Q6

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **True.** ↑ 3

Previous year answers

1. **(b) C. Rajagopalachari** C. Rajagopalachari led the Vedaranyam Salt March, from Tiruchirappalli to the Tanjore coast, breaking the Salt Law on 28 April 1930.

Practice these questions with instant scoring on mcqquestion.com →

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com

Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/the-vedaranyam-salt-march-c-rajagopalacharis-civil-disobedience/