

Sir C P Ramaswamy Iyer

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In news– Amid the ongoing tussle between the LDF government in Kerala and the governor, some traded allegations over the erstwhile Travancore Diwan, Sir CP Ramaswamy Iyer.

A brief note on Sir CP Ramaswamy Iyer-

- **Sir Chetput Pattabhiraman Ramaswamy Iyer, popularly known as 'Sir CP', was the Diwan of the erstwhile Travancore princely state** from 1936 to 1947.
- A **lawyer who served as the Advocate-General of Madras Presidency** from 1920 to 1923, CP rose to glorious heights as he found favour with both the **crown prince Sri Chithira Thirunal Bala Rama Varma and Lord Willingdon**, the Viceroy of India.
- **Serving as Adviser to the prince between 1931 and 1936**, Sir CP was personally requested by Sri Chithira Thirunal in 1936 to be the Diwan of Travancore, an offer he accepted and served at the position for 10 years.
- On June 3, 1947, Britain announced its intention to quit India, while also accepting demands for the country's partition.
- Following the announcement, the Indian Independence Act of 1947 – a legislation of the United Kingdom Parliament – gave princely states the option to accede to the newly divided territories of India or Pakistan, or continue as an independent sovereign state.
- **Maharaja Sri Chithira Thirunal, who wished to stay independent, was supported by Sir CP**, who declared his intention of forming an independent state of Travancore that would be open to the idea of signing a treaty with the Indian union.
- **According to historian Ramachandra Guha, Sir CP, being strongly pressed by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, also maintained secret relations with senior ministers of the British**

- government**, who encouraged him to not merge with India.
- Amid his dream of an independent state, Sir CP became more unpopular as **he proposed an 'American model' for Travancore.**
 - Communists were opposed to his move and the struggle against the Travancore Kingdom led to the merger of socialist parties, creating a new radical communist party.
 - **Further**, severe famine conditions during the Second World War, that killed over 21,000 peasants in Cherthala taluk alone, **spewed discontent against the Diwan**, who was accused of not helping the poor during the famine.
 - **His policies led to a massive uprising, the Punnapra-Vayalar revolt**, which was suppressed by the Travancore army and navy.
 - The anger and **discontent culminated into an assassination attempt on Sir CP on July 25, 1947**, at a concert commemorating the anniversary of Swati Thirunal.
 - The attempt was carried out by a member of the Kerala Socialist Party, and the Diwan survived with multiple stab wounds.
 - Soon after, he **agreed to the accession of Travancore state to the Indian Union**, following which he resigned and left for London. On July 30, 1947, Travancore joined India.