

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL



GOPAL SWAMI AYYANGAR

**DRAFTING COMMITTEE
THE UNTOLD STORY**


adda247
DEFENCE



**BY -
GOPAL SHARMA**

Early Life:

Gopalaswami Ayyangar was born in 1882 in Tanjore, Madras, and studied at the Wesley School and later at Presidency College, Madras. In 1905, he joined the Madras Civil Service and served in several posts including Deputy Collector and Member of the Board of Revenue.



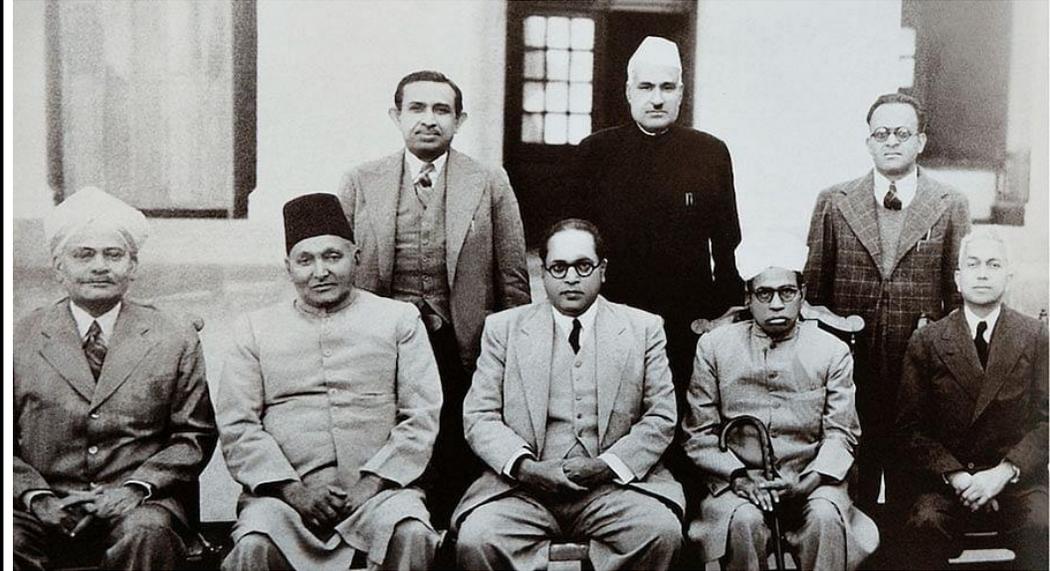
Role in India's Independence Movement:

His contribution to politics started with his [appointment](#) as the Prime Minister of Kashmir from 1937-1943. His tenure as a member of the [Council of States](#) lasted from 1943-1947 during which he was the Chairman of the 'Committee for the Indianization of Army'.



Contribution to Constitution Making

Ayyangar was a member of the Constituent Assembly and belonged to the thirteen-member Drafting Committee that was to draft Article 370 of the Constitution. He played a significant role in the shaping of this article, which granted considerable autonomy to the state of Jammu and Kashmir



Later Contributions:

Post-independence, he served as a minister without any specific portfolio in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet between 1947-48. In 1948, Ayyangar headed the delegation that represented India at the United Nations in the persistent dispute over Kashmir.

Under his leadership as the Minister for Railways and Transport from 1948 to 1952, the Indian Railways experienced remarkable growth and development in services and equipment. The regrouping of the Indian Railways into six zonal systems was his brainchild leading to the Railways reporting surplus earnings at this time.

The final post [held](#) by him was that of Defence Minister from 1952-1953. In 1952, during his tenure as Defence Minister, he was appointed India's representative in the ongoing negotiations and discussions on Kashmir at the Geneva talks.

Ayyangar died in Madras on [February 10, 1953](#) at the age of 71.

