

On R Venkataraman

We all know that today is the 110th birthday of Dr. Ramaswamy Venkataraman, the eighth President of India. A few paragraphs about them -

Born on 4 December 1910 in Rajamadam, Tamil Nadu, Ramaswamy Venkataraman pursued law at the University of Madras. From 1942 to 1944, he found himself increasingly invested in India's freedom movement and was also jailed by the British for this.

Early in his career, he took an interest in labour law. After being released from jail in 1944, he founded the Labour Law Journal. Labour and trade union activity soon became a stepping stone in his association with politics.

In 1946, Venkataraman was sent to Malaya and Singapore to defend Indians facing charges of collaboration with the Japanese occupation.

With his legal acumen, Venkataraman also helped draft the Indian Constitution. In 1950, he was elected to India's Provisional Parliament as a member of the Congress Party. From 1957 to 1967, he served as the Minister of Industry and Labour for Tamil Nadu. Soon after, he joined the central government as Minister of Finance and Industry (1980 to 1982) and then as Minister of Defence (1982 to 1984).

The 'emergency light' President

He worked with four prime ministers during his tenure — Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandrasekhar and P.V. Narasimha Rao.

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