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March of Nation

3665

6 JAN 1979

The last mention made by Radio Hanoi of General Giap was on Saturday when it said he visited anti-aircraft missile units in Hanoi the previous day, as well as a hospital.

VETERAN

Barely a month ago, commenting on Rajaji's completion of 94 years a Tamil weekly good-humouredly said the grand old man of India just needed a sixer to reach a hundred. CR's health had been so fine these last few years that one was sure he would soon become a centenarian. But he is dead now.

Rajaji's death is hard to believe for he has been with us for long, keeping the nation's politics alive with his timely, witty and thought-provoking comments. Even on his last day Rajaji was as politically

Rajaji

alert as he was during his days with Gandhiji. In short he had a full life.

Chakravarti Rajagopalachari's grand role in our freedom struggle and his close association with Gandhiji needs no mention. Rajaji had the distinction of being the last, and the only Indian, Governor General of India.

Though age had mellowed him physically, Rajaji till his death enjoyed a certain respect and admiration in our politics. It would augur well for a politician in Tamil Nadu to take CR's blessings before embarking on something, whatever the ideology. MGR's first move after he was expelled from the DMK was to drive straight to Rajaji's place for his blessings.