

KERALA | MODULE 1**BACKGROUND OF KERALA STATE FORMATION****TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

- Mysore was the first princely state in India to form a Legislative Council. Chamarajendra Wadiyar, the ruler of Mysore set up a legislative body on 1881 August 25. The first meeting of this legislative body was held on October 7, 1881 and attended by 144 members.
- Travancore was the second princely state to set up a Legislative Council in India. Maharaja of Travancore, Sree Moolam Thirunal constituted the Travancore Legislative Council through a regulation issued on March 30, 1888, on the recommendation of Diwan T. Rama Rao.
- The Council, chaired by the Diwan, was not a representative body. It consisted of six officials and two non-officials, all nominated by the Maharaja. Its status was that of a consultative body and the Maharaja could accept or reject any of its recommendations. It had tenure of 3 years.
- The first meeting was held on August 23, 1888 at the Diwan's chamber in the main building of the Secretariat. It was presided by the Diwan T Rama Rao.
- The first Legislative Council (1888-1891) had total sittings of 32 and recommended 9 Bills for consideration.
- In 1898, the membership was raised to 15 from 8.
- The council was remodelled in 1919 and the membership was fixed as not more than 25 and not less than 15.
- In 1921, the strength of council was again raised to 50. For the first time, elected members got a majority in the House. The official representation came down to 15. A Deputy President was named to preside over the Council in the absence of the President (Diwan). It was specified that he need not necessarily be an officer.
- The members were given right to vote on the Budget subject to certain limitations. They could also move adjournment motions and resolutions on matters of public interest and ask supplementary questions.

SREE MOOLAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY

- The Maharaja of Travancore constituted the Sree Moolam Popular Assembly (Sree Moolam Praja Sabha) on October 1, 1904, to provide for increased participation of the people in the administration. It was not to be a law making body.
- Its membership was initially limited to representatives of landlords and merchants.

The objective of Popular Assembly was "solely to give the people an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government their requirements, wishes or grievances on the one hand, and on the other, to make the policy and measures of the Government better known to the people so that all possible grounds of misconception in regard to the action of Government may be removed."

- The members of the Assembly were chosen by the Division Peishkars (District heads) from among landholders who pay annual land revenue of not less than Rs. 100 and landholders or traders whose net annual income was Rs. 6000 or above. Each taluk got two representatives.
- The first meeting of the Assembly took place on October 22, 1904 at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall in Thiruvananthapuram. It was attended by 88 members and presided by Diwan V P Madhava Rao.
- In 1905, It was decided that more than two thirds of the representatives were elected from among the people. The regulation was passed on May 1, 1905 granting the people the right to elect their representatives was issued. The membership was raised to 100. Of the 100 members, 77 were to be elected and rest nominated.
- But franchise was limited to persons who paid on their account an annual land revenue of not less than Rs. 50 or whose net income was not less than Rs. 2000. Graduates of recognised university with not less than ten years of standing and having their residence in the taluk were also eligible to vote.
- Sree Moolam Popular Assembly of Travancore was given the right to elect for members of the upper Legislative Council of Travancore in 1907. This marked a significant step in increasing the representative character of the Council.

BICAMERALISM

- Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma ascended the throne of Travancore in 1931.
- The Legislative Council of Travancore and Sree Moolam Popular Assembly were replaced on October 28, 1932, with a formal bicameral system consisting of an upper House, the Travancore Sree Chitra State Council, and a lower House, Sree Moolam Assembly.
- The new bodies started functioning from January 1, 1933. They enjoyed more powers than their predecessors. The Assembly could vote on the budgetary demands for grants with powers to reduce and omit items. For the first time, a Public Accounts Committee was created making the executive increasingly accountable to the legislature.
- The Diwan was the ex-officio President of both the Houses. The Assembly elected its own Deputy President. Its term was four years.
- Foundation stone for a new building for the Assembly was laid on December 12, 1933 by the Viceroy Lord Wellington on the Northern side of the Secretariat.
- Diwan C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer opened the building on February 8, 1939 and the Second Sree Moolam Assembly (in its fourth session) met there the next day. A decision was taken the next month to style all regulations as Acts.
- The bicameral system continued to function till September 1947.

ABSTENTION MOVEMENT (NIVARTHANA AGITATION)

- The new constitutional reforms introduced in 1932 did not satisfy a section of population. The franchise was restricted and this invited strong protests from the Ezhavas, Christians and the Muslims who constituted 70 percent of the population.
- A meeting presided by E J John demanded for proper representation of Ezhavas, Christians and Muslims in Legislative bodies and employment.
- The agitators founded an organisation named Joint Political Conference (JPC). C Keshavan, N V Joseph, T M Varghese, P K Kunju were the leaders of this movement. They decided to abstain from election to be conducted in 1933.
- The name Nivarthana Prakshobham was coined by I C Chacko, a Sanskrit scholar.
- In 1935, Government arrested C Keshavan for a speech he delivered at Kozhancherry. He was imprisoned for 2 years.
- In 1936, Travancore government decided to expand the franchise by allotting specific number of seats to the Ezhava, Muslim and Christian communities
- In 1937, JPC candidates won majority of seats in Legislative Assembly and this enabled them to make T M Varghese the Deputy President of the assembly.
- But Diwan dismissed him from the office of Deputy President for presiding over a meeting welcoming C Keshavan after his jail sentence.

Nivarthana Agitation resulted in the formation of Travancore Public Service Commission in 1936 for selecting candidates for direct recruitment to various categories of posts under the Government. G.D. Nokes was appointed as the first Public Service Commissioner on 14th June, 1936. The Office of the Public Service Commissioner, Travancore continued to function till the integration of Travancore and Cochin States.

TRAVANCORE STATE CONGRESS

- Indian National Congress decided not to involve in freedom movements in princely states in 1938 Haripura Session.
- In 1938, Joint Political Conference was reconstituted as Travancore State Congress. Pattom Thanu Pillai was chosen as the first President of State Congress (1938 Feb 30).
- The main demand of State Congress was to establish a responsible Government in Travancore. Adult suffrage, judicial independence and press freedom were the other demands.
- State Congress decided to start a Civil Disobedience Movement against Diwan. The leader of the movement was assumed the title Dictator. Pattom Thanu Pillai was the first dictator.
- Police suppressed this movement against the government and most of the leaders were arrested immediately. The first eleven dictators were arrested and twelfth dictator was chosen as Akkamma Cheriyan.

- Akkamma Cheriyan, a former headmistress of St. Mary's High School, Kanjirappilly, lead a march to Kowdiyar Palace, the residence of King of Travancore on November 12, 1936. This is known as Rajadhani March.
- When she and other volunteers was stopped by police, she dared to ask Colonel Watson "If you want to shoot, then shoot me first"

"1114-nte Kadha" ("The Story of 1114") is her memories of leading the strike organized by Travancore State Congress.

FREE TRAVANCORE DEMAND

- In 1946, Diwan of Travancore Sir C P Ramaswamy Iyer declared a new model of administration named American model to be implemented in Travancore.
- A mass uprising broke out in the Alleppey region in October 1946 against Diwan's American model.
- Labourers and peasants in Punnapra and Vayalar regions revolted against this proposed American Model with slogan, 'American model arabikkadalil'(American Model in Arabian sea). On 24 October Travancore police opened fire and killed about 200 people in Punnapra and the government ordered martial law in Alleppey and Cherthala. On 27 October, Vayalar witnessed another mass uprising and 150 people were killed there.
- The police and army suppressed the revolt by October 31, 1946.

C K Kumarappanikker, the leader of Punnapra-Vayalar revolt is known as Vayalar Stalin.

- On 1947 January, Diwan reiterated his demand for American model constitution.
- On June 11, 1947, Diwan declared that when the British leave, Travancore will become an independent country.
- Violence erupted all over the Travancore against this decision and Police suppressed these revolts.
- An assassination attempt was made on C. P. on 25 July 1947 during a concert of Shemmankudi Sreenivasa Iyer at Swathi Music College. A Socialist Party worker K C S Mani attempted to kill Diwan but he survived with multiple stab wounds.
- He advised the King of Travancore to join India. The King Chithira Thirunal informed the Viceroy Mountbatten the willingness to join the Union of India.
- On 19 August 1947, C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer formally resigned as Diwan. PGN Unnithan became Acting Diwan (Officiating Diwan) of Travancore.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

- Maharaja of Travancore announced plans to establish a responsible Government for Travancore on September 4, 1947. As per the announcement, the new Assembly called the Representative Body was to function as a Constituent Assembly. It consisted of 120 members.

- First election to this Representative Body was conducted in 1948.
- The Assembly held its first sitting on March 20, 1948 with President A. J. John in the chair. G. Chandrasekhara Pillai was the Deputy President.
- At the first meeting itself, the Assembly expressed the desire to be invested with powers and functions of a Legislative Assembly and to have a ministry responsible to it.
- In accordance with that desire, the Maharaja promulgated the Travancore Interim Constitution Act on March 24, 1948, with provision for a Council of Ministers headed by a Prime Minister and collectively responsible to the Assembly. The Maharaja became the Constitutional Head.
- A Council of Ministers with Pattom Thanu Pillai as Prime Minister assumed office on March 24, 1948.
- In October 1948, T. K. Narayana Pillai succeeded him as the Prime Minister.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

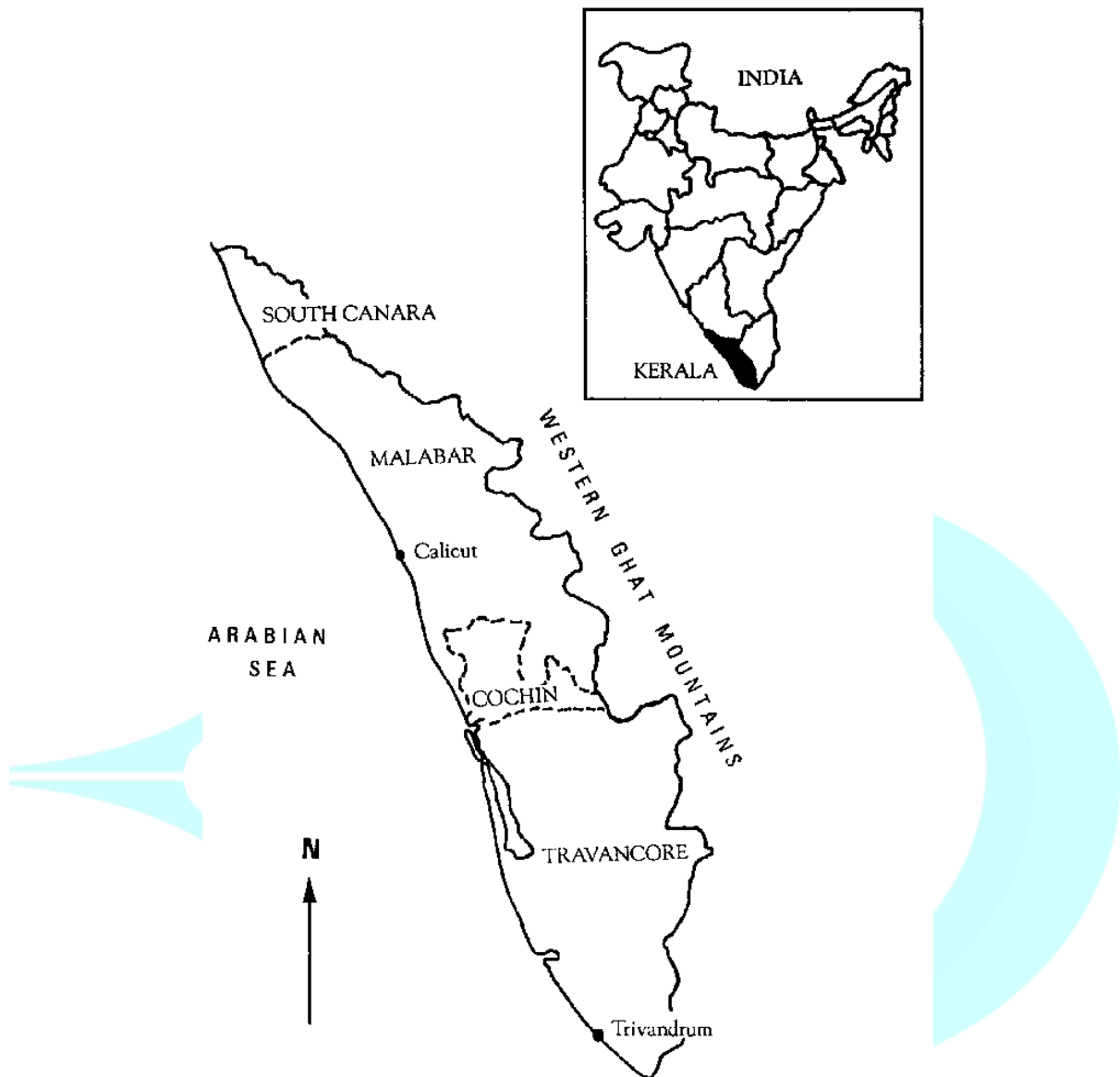
- The first Legislative Council in the Princely State of Cochin came into being in April 1925 under the Cochin Legislative Council Regulation promulgated in 1923.
- The Council was allowed to introduce Bills, elicit information from Government through interpellations, and move resolutions and to discuss and vote on the Budget demands. Diwan T. S. Narayana Aiyer was its president.
- The strength of council was 45. Out of 45, 30 were elected and 15 were nominated.
- Rama Varma XVII was the King of Cochin at that time. He was also known as Dhaarmika Chakravarthi.
- In 1938, Kochin Legislative Council was reformed by introducing a system of diarchy. R K Shanmukham Chetty was the Diwan of Cochin at that time.
- Under diarchy, a member of Legislature was appointed as Minister to administer certain subjects including rural development. Cochin was the first among the princely States to appoint a Minister.
- Ambat Sivarama Menon was thus chosen as Minister for Rural Development. He was the first popular minister in Kerala. On his death, Dr. A. R. Menon was sworn in as Minister. Dr. Menon, who assumed office on September 5, 1938, resigned on February 25, 1942, in the wake of a no-confidence motion.
- He was succeeded by T. K. Nair. Nair could continue till July 1945 as the term of the Council was extended because of the World War II.

A R Menon was the first minister to face a no-confidence motion in the history of Kerala legislature. He later became a member in the first EMS Namboodirippadu Minsitry in 1957 with Health portfolio. He was the eldest member and only member with prior experience in that cabinet. He was also the first person to die while being a member of legislative assembly.

- Unsatisfied with these reforms, some young people founded Kochi Rajya Prajamandalam in 1941, under the leadership of V R Krishnan Ezhuthachan.
- Prajamandalam won majority seats in the election to Cochin Legislative Council held in 1941 but did not claim ministership. Instead, Parambi Lonappan became minister.
- In 1946, the number of ministers was raised to four. All portfolios except Law and order and finance were transferred to them by the King.
- The first popular ministry of Cochin consisting of Panampilly Govinda Menon, C. R. Iyyunni, K. Ayyappan and T. K. Nair assumed office on September 9, 1946. A Public Accounts Committee was also formed in the same year.
- On August 14, 1947, the Maharaja of Cochin announced his decision to grant full responsible government. Following this, Council of Ministers with Panampilly Govinda Menon as Prime Minister assumed office.
- L M. Pylee became the President of the legislative council.
- Later this ministry was resigned from office over an issue of police lathicharge at Rajendra Maithan. T K Nair became the Prime Minister of Cochin on October 27, 1947.
- In 1948, adult franchise was introduced and Legislative Council was renamed as Legislative Assembly. After the general elections a popular ministry headed by Ikkanda Warriar was formed on September 20, 1948. The legislative assembly consisted of 58 members
- It remained in office till the integration of Travancore and Cochin on July 1, 1949.

Mary Poonnen Lukose was first woman member in the Legislative Council in India. She became a member of Travancore Legislative Council in 1921. She was also the first woman from Kerala to get a medical degree. The first caesarean delivery in Kerala was done in 1920 march at Thycaud Govt. Hospital under her supervision. She founded the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Nagercoil and the X-Ray and Radium Institute in Thiruvananthapuram. She was the first female surgeon general in India.

Thottakkatt Madhaviyamma was the first woman to be a member in a legislative council from its beginnings. She became a member of Cochin Legislative Assembly in 1925. She is the wife of social reformer Mannathu Padmanabhan.

KERALA: BEFORE 1949**TRAVANOCRE-COCHIN INTEGRATION**

- As a first step towards the unification of Kerala, Travancore and Cochin were integrated to form a new state named Travancore-Cochin or Thiru-Kochi. The new state was formed as a Part-B state on July 1, 1949.
- It was originally called United State of Travancore and Cochin but later renamed as State of Travancore-Cochin in January 1950.
- The King of Travancore, Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma became the Rajapramukh of the newly formed state. The King of Cochin, Rama Varma Pareekshith Thamburan renounced his crown for the general interests of the people.

- Paravoor T K Nrayana Pillai, the Prime Minister of Travancore became the first Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin.
- The members of the Travancore Representative Body and the Cochin Legislative Assembly became the Members of the Assembly of the United State of Thiru - Cochin. The membership of Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly became 178 (120 of Travancore and 58 of Cochin).
- T M Varghese was the first Speaker of Travancore-Cochin. He was also the first person to be called Speaker, instead of President or Presiding Officer.

When T M Varghese was resigned, AM Thomas became the Speaker. He was later replaced by K P Neelakanta Pillai. V Gangadharan was the last speaker of Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly.

- When Paravoor T K Narayana Pillai was resigned in 1951, C Keshavan became the Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin.
- A J John was the first elected Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin after the elections conducted in 1951-52. He remained in the office till 1954 when he was resigned.
- In 1954, Patton Thanu Pillai of Praja Socialist Party became Chief Minister till 1955. He was the first non-congress Malayalee to be a Chief Minister.
- Panampilly Govindamenon was the fifth and last chief minister of Travancore-Cochin state (1955-56).
- When he was resigned in 1956, State came under President's rule.

AIKYA KERALAM

- Congress in 1920 Nagpur Session decided to form Provincial Committees based on language, not on provincial division of British rulers.
- Kerala Provincial Congress Committee came to existence in 1921 January. K Madhavan Nair was the first Secretary and U Gopala Menon was the Joint Secretary of KPCC.
- An All Kerala Political Conference was held in 1921 April under the aegis of INC. Andhra Kesari T Prakasham inaugurated and presided over the conference.
- In 1928 April, All Kerala Tenants Conference and All India States Peoples Conference were held in Ernakulam. Delegates attended both these conferences.
- All Kerala Tenants Conference was presided by Lala Lajpat Rai. In the All India States Peoples Conference, Aikya Kerala resolution was adopted.
- The Political Conference held under the auspices of the Travancore district Congress Committee at Trivandrum in 1938 with Dr Pattabhi Sitharammiyyah in the Chair passed a resolution favouring a Sub-Federation comprising of Malabar, Travancore and Cochin.
- In 1946 July 29, Raja of Kochin declared that he accept the proposal for forming a unified Kerala consisting of Travancore, Kochi and Malabar.
- A meeting of the KPCC Sub-committee was held at Cheruthuruthi late in 1946 under the Chairmanship of K P Keshavamenon, with leading figures from all

parts of Kerala, including Mahakavi Vallathol, participating in it. The decided to convene an All Kerala Conference.

- They famous Aikya Kerala Conference was held at Trichur in April 1947 under the Chairmanship of K Kelappan. Kerala Varma, Raja of Kochi (Also known as Aikya Keralam Thampuran) participated in the Aikya Kerala conference
- The conference passed a resolution, moved by the Veteran congress leader, E Moidu Maulavi demanding the early formation of Aikya Kerala. Aikya Kerala conference also elected an Aikya Kerala Council of 100 members to take appropriate steps for the achievement of the goal.
- In a memorandum submitted before the Dhar Commission set up to consider the question of reorganization of states in India, the Aikya Kerala council demanded the formation of new Kerala State comprising of Malabar, Travancore, Cochin, Coorg, Nilgiris, Guddalore, South Canara, Mahe and Lakshadweep.
- But the Travancore Government under Pattom Thanu Pillai did not co-operate with the work of the Dhar Commission.
- JVP Committee formed in 1948 Jaipur congress session also did not support the formation of linguistic states.
- But the political situation became volatile after the death of Potti Sreeramalu, who was fasting unto death for the formation of Andhra state for Telugu speaking people by carving out from Madras.
- Government decided to form Andhra with capital as Kurnool in 1953. It was the first Indian state to be formed based on linguistic basis. Government then appointed State Reorganisation Commission under Fazal Ali as the Chairman and Hridayanath Khunzru and Sardar K M Panikkar as members to look into the matter of linguistic states formation.
- The SRC submitted their report in 1955. Based on their report, 14 States and 6 Union Territories came to existence in 1956 November 1.
- The long term demand of Keralites to form Kerala state for Malayalam speakers thus became a reality.
- Malabar was carved out from Madras and given to already merged Travancore-Cochin state. Kasargode of Sothern Canara District of Madras was also given to kerala. But the southernmost four thaluks – Thovala, Agastheeswaram, Vilavancode and Kalkkulam – known as Nanchinadu, was separated from Kerala and given to Tamil Nadu.

P S Rao was the Acting Governor of Kerala during the state formation. He served from November 1, 1956 to November 21, 1956. First Governor of Kerala, B.Ramakrishna Rao assumed office on November 22, 1956 and served till July 1, 1960.

MAHARAJAS OF TRAVANCORE (FROM 1888)

NO.	KING	TENURE
1	Sree Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma	1885–1924
2	Sethu Lakshmi Bayi (Regent)	1924–1931
3	Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma	1931- 1991

MAHARAJAS OF COCHIN (FROM 1914)

NO.	KING	TENURE
1	Rama Varma XVI (Madrasil Theepetta Thampuran)	1914–1932
2	Rama Varma XVII (Dhaarmika Chakravarthi)	1932–1941
3	Kerala Varma VI (Midukkan Thampuran)	1941–1943
4	Ravi Varma V	1943–1946
5	Kerala Varma VII (Aikya Keralam Thampuran)	1946–1947
6	Rama Varma XVIII (Parikshith Thampuran)	1948-1964

DIWANS OF TRAVANCORE

- T. Rama Rao (1887-1892)
- S. Shungrasobyer (1892-1898)
- K. Krishnaswamy Rao (1898-1904)
- V. P. Madhava Rao (1904-1906)
- S. Gopalachari(1906-1907)
- P. Rajagopalachari (1907-1914)
- M. Krishnan Nair (1914-1920)
- T. Raghavaiah (1920-1925)
- M. E. Watts (1925-1929)
- V. S. Subramanya Iyer (1929-1932)
- Thomas Austin (1932-1934)
- Muhammad Habibullah (1934-1936)
- C. P. Ramaswami Iyer (1936-1947)
- P. G. N. Unnithan (Acting, 1947-1948)

DIWANS OF COCHIN

- T. S. Narayana Iyer (1925 - 1930)
- C. G. Herbert (1930 - 1935)
- R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (1935 - 1941)
- A. F. W. Dixon(1941 – 1943)
- G. T. Boag (1943 - 1944)
- C. P. Karunakara Menon (1944 – 1947)