



KERALA TODAY

Oru Bhasha, Oru Nadu

*"Padam Padamurachu Nam
Padippadi Povuka
Parilaikya Keralathin
Kahalam Muzhakkuvan
Nam Navarenangalil
Nammal than Thyagangalil
Nam Rachikkumapputhiya
Keralam Manoharam"*

P. Bhaskaran

As part of awakening and arousing of the Malayalam speaking people of Kerala, songs of this type became popular. Malabar was then a part of Madras province. Literary and cultural activities, along with the rise of nationalist movement, helped to make Malayalees aware

of the need for unity. The people of Kerala craved for a new Kerala, a united Kerala. Everywhere there was a ardour for the fulfilment of the dream of a united Kerala for the Malayalam speaking people.

What are the gains expected from the unification of Kerala as a state?

- Geographical unity
- Economic progress
- Growth of language and culture
- Administrative unity
- Extending the benefits of administration, law and justice to the common people.
- Local development
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Have these expectations been fulfilled later?

Let us have a discussion in the class. Record your assumptions in My Enquiry Note.

What about a historical inquiry into the formation of Kerala state? What are the events that might have influenced it?

- The agitations envisaged at the joint meeting of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee, Kochi Rajya Prajamandalam and Travancore State Congress for the formation of Aikya Kerala.
- The Aikya Kerala conventions of 1947-48,
- Collection of evidence by the State Reorganisation commission appointed by the Constituent Assembly in 1948. (S.K. Dhar Commission)
- The Aikya Kerala convention of 1949 held at Palghat
- The unification of the princely states of Travancore and Cochin
- Potti Sri Ramulu's satyagraha and his martyrdom for the formation of the linguistic state of Andhra Pradesh
- Report of the States Reorganisation Commission of 1955
- The State Reorganisation Act of 1956

The Kerala today is the realisation of the Aikya Kerala movement. Kerala came into existence on 1st November, 1956, by amalgamating the states of Travancore - Cochin and Malabar on the basis of the States Reorganisation Act. The Taluks of Tovala, Agastheeswaram, Kalkulam, and Vilavancode of the Kanya Kumari District and a portion of Chenkottai were separated from Travancore-Cochin and integrated with Tamilnadu. The district of Malabar and Kasargode Taluk of Canara district were merged with Travancore - Cochin.

Compare the map of Kerala before and after the reorganisation of the state in 1956 and

point out the differences and add in My Enquiry Note.

The First Government of Aikya Kerala

The ministry under the leadership of E.M Sankaran Namboothiripad came to power following the general election held after the formation of Kerala in 1957. It was the first Communist ministry which came to power in India through a general election. The ministry introduced many reforms in the fields of land distribution and education.

The land reforms and education bills introduced by the ministry caused a furore. The Agrarian Relations bill of 1958 recognised the right of tenants for ownership of land. The education bill was the first step towards establishing social control in the field of education. The protest against this bill led to the Liberation Movement in the state and the ministry was dismissed by the central government in 1959.

Find out and record the reasons that led to widespread protest against the first ministry which came to power after the formation of Kerala state.

Beginning of the Coalition Government

The Liberation Movement was an important landmark in the political history of Kerala. It led to the formation of coalition ministries. It was in Kerala that the system of coalition government was tried first

Prepare an Edition on the formation of political alliances, ministries and important legislations since the formation of Kerala.

- ★ *The collected information can be used for 'Our Times'*

Land Reforms for Social Change

The changes which took place in Kerala during the medieval period and later in the feudal system and in the field of agriculture have already been discussed in the previous chapters. These legislations could not offer permanent solutions to the problems of peasants.

Different types of feudal relations existed in Travancore-Cochin and Malabar at the time of the formation of the state. Let us find out the developments that have taken place in these fields thereafter.

The landless farmers and those who were evicted from their land wanted to get their grievances redressed. The clamour for changes gathered strength. The government which came to power in 1957 introduced the Land Reforms Bill in the Legislative Assembly.

Land Reform Legislations

Let us have a look at the land reform legislations in Kerala.

The Agrarian Relations Bill introduced in 1958 was passed with minor amendments. Subsequent land reform bills were passed during 1960, 63, 64, and 69 respectively. But the historical land reform act which put an end to the feudal system and ensured the rights of the tenants on land came into force on 1st January, 1970.

What was the main objectives of land reform acts?

- To bestow on tenants ownership of a minimum of ten cents of land
- To end the old feudal relations by legitimising the right of real peasants to own the land they cultivate.

- To introduce land ceiling and distribute excess land among the landless agricultural labourers.
- To abolish exploitation and inequalities in the agrarian sector.
- To ensure the consistent progress and transformation of society.
- To achieve economic development and modernisation
- This legislation helped to put an end to the era of feudalism.

* *Discuss the other benefits of these legislations to the people of Kerala. Shall we inquire into the impact of the land reform acts on the ownership of land?*

- Leasing of land became unlawful.
- The Jenmis who lived by collecting lease became extinct.
- The lease holders were given ownership of the land.
- A few big farmers who had cultivated on the leased lands also became owners of that land.
- Land owners sold their excess land
- Lakhs of people got dwelling places of their own.

What were the changes which took place in the agricultural field as a result of the land reforms?. The following factors may be included in the discussion.

- ◆ Variations in production
- ◆ Paddy cultivation
- ◆ Cash crops
- ◆ Production cost
- ◆ Profit and loss
- ◆ Changes in the extent of land cultivated.
- ◆ Crisis in the agricultural sector.

The conclusions that emerge from the discussion may be included in My Enquiry Note. Hope you will collect necessary information relating to the agricultural sector to be included in the Enquiry Note Let us examine the status of Kerala in the socio-economic field.

Retarded Pace of Industry

Kerala is rich in natural resources. But we have not been able to achieve economic progress in proportion to this.

It was the German missionaries and the British plantation owners who started modern industries in Kerala. Heavy industries like metal industries and machine manufacturing are rare in Kerala

Industries in Kerala can be divided into two, viz; traditional and modern. Coir, cashew, handloom, beedi, handicrafts, tiles, burned bricks etc are the traditional industries. Aluminium, fertilizers etc. can be included in the modern industries. Industries can also be categorized as small scale, medium industries and large scale industries. There is no feasibility of sustaining such big industries which require large scale consumption of electricity. There is acute energy shortage in Kerala.

Kerala can no longer depend on the grandeur of Idukki hydel project alone. In the

changing world scenario, no industry can sustain on local resource only. The backwardness in this field will definitely affect the progress of the state adversely. Find out the crisis in our industrial sector

The social issues thrown up by industries shall also be discussed at this point. Find out what are those issues and what measures can be taken to solve them.

You may find out and record the difficulties faced by the state due to industrial backwardness.

- ◆ Large scale unemployment
- ◆ Reduction in percapita income
- ◆ Import of food items on the increase
- ◆ Changing in to a new consumer society.

What are the remedies you suggest?

Health Sector

In spite of the economic backwardness Kerala could make notable achievements in the health sector. Kerala Health Model is Internationally recognised and was upheld by the World Health Organisation as a model before the developing countries.

What have we achieved in the health sector?

- High expectancy of life
- Low infant mortality

Crises in the Industrial Sector

Traditional	Modern
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unemployment ● Goods remain unsold ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of Electricity ● Competition in the market ● National and International circumstances

- Low birth rate.

Let's collect more information on this. What are the circumstances which led to this achievement?

- ◆ Universal and free public health system
- ◆ The land reforms which put an end to the Jenmi system
- ◆ The steps adopted by the government for the supply of food items at cheap prices through public distribution system
- ◆ High literacy rate
- ◆ The work done by the various organisations for the upliftment of the poor and the destitute.

Prepare a note on the basis of the above points for discussion.

Rectifying defects - Empowerment

Social and economic factors have helped the growth of our health sector. Are we able to sustain these achievements? Do they lose lustre now a days? The return of the once eradicated diseases and the appearance of new disease pose threat to the health sector.

The stagnation in the public health activities and the increase of expenditure in the field of health have led to a crisis in this field. Does health sector face any other problems? What solution do you suggest for those problems? Hold a discussion on "The health sector in Kerala - problems and solutions"

Make a record of the problems and suggestions that come up.

Knowledge is Power

Kerala has made significant achievements in the field of education compared to other states. Let us take a look at the factors which helped us to achieve it

- ◆ Educational activities under the leadership of missionaries
- ◆ The patronage given to education by the governments of Travancore and Cochin.
- ◆ The activities of different social organisations.
- ◆ At the time of the formation of Kerala the schools of Malabar were under the control of Madras government.

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The introduction of Kerala Educational Rules (KER) marked the beginning of uniform laws in the field of education. University laws were also brought into effect at this time.

Universalisation of Education

The right to education was restricted to upper classes only for centuries. Let us have a look at the steps taken by the government. In order to overcome this limitation and to extend education to all, the following measures were adopted. Importance was given to education at school level.

- A major share of the general revenue was spent on the development of education sector
- All children under the prescribed age limit were brought under the purview of educational programmes.
- Education was made compulsory and free.
- Noon meal programme was implemented in schools.
- Economic assistance was given to weaker sections of the community.
- Reservation for SC/ST communities in the government and aided institutions.
- Economic assistance and free tuitions to the students of SC/ST

- Increase in the number of educational institutions and universities.
- The number of technical educational institutions increased
- Direct payment was introduced by the government to the employees of all the aided institutions from primary schools to college level

Compared to other states, we have gone far ahead in the field of education. This is the result of the various activities carried out by the formal and non formal agencies in the field of education

A Leap Forward

Kerala attracted the attention of the world through non-formal education and achieved total literacy. The attainment of total literacy is the result of the joint activities of the government officials, the people's forum and also of the wide spread propaganda at the grass roots level. On 18th April 1991 Kerala was declared the first state in India to achieve total literacy. In tune with the instructions of the national literacy mission continuing education is being implemented in the state.

- ★ *Discuss literacy programmes in the classroom. The following topics may be included in the discussion*
- Literacy and society
- Growth and significance of literacy
- Continuing literacy programme
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Soaring Higher

A huge amount of money is spent from the state exchequer for education. But there is widespread criticism that the quality of education is poor. What can be done to increase the quality of education?

- ★ *Discuss and collect information for 'Our Times'*

Cultural Institutions

The ultimate aim of education is to create a society of citizens with cultural excellence. Academies were established in the state to give a fillip to literature, music, painting etc. The cultural institutions are established with a view to perpetuating the development of language, literature and culture.

Many institutions sprang up in the field of literature and education. The democratisation and growth of literature enabled the common man to have access to art and culture. Shouldn't we be able to perpetuate and protect our basic culture and heritage?

We must be aware of the dangers of not keeping our culture and humanity above narrow minded and partisan interests. How will you react to the evils that we find in our cultural field? What are your suggestions to improve the situation?

- ★ *Collect pictures and reports about a few cultural institutions, art forms and add them to 'Our Times'*

To the Main Stream

The tremendous development in the field of education and health in Kerala has led to an improvement in the status of women. Equality of men and women is being seriously discussed at the national level. It is true that equal status for men and women has become more or less accepted in theory. But still majority of our women have not been able to enjoy equal status with men.

There are social organisations and government agencies working to ensure the social status of women. Their activities have helped a lot to remove the backwardness in this field

The Miserables

All of us have the responsibility to undertake the protection of the weaker sections of the society and to bring them to the mainstream. Adivasis, who have an economic system based on forest land and life and culture based on their own habitat, have found it difficult to continue their life in their own land. People of coastal area, and artisans who employ themselves in their ancestral work, face many problems in their day to day life. Illiteracy, ill health and unemployment haunt them. The poor who are subjected to exploitation shall be protected by more laws.

The democratic governments have made many legislations to put an end to the economic backwardness and social stratification suffered by the weaker sections of the society.

Make an enquiry into the backward classes, the various assistance being given by the government departments like Social Welfare Department and other welfare departments.

On the Path of Development

We have achieved notable progress in certain areas but can we be proud of our comprehensive development of the state?

Present your opinion in the discussion in the class. What were the shortcomings in the activities aimed at the development of the state till date?

- Centralised and bureaucratic planning process existed.
- A number of projects were undertaken without considering the resources available.
- Delay in evaluation of the activities
- What are the measures adopted to overcome these shortcomings?
- When did we start an attempt to make the benefits of development available to the people?

An Experiment in Development

The Kerala Panchayat Raj bill which was passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1994 was a landmark in the process of decentralisation of power. The 9th five year plan began in 1997-98 which functioned with the active participation of the people led to an awakening and enthusiasm in the field of development. This programme was known as Janakiyasuthranam and it was a new attempt in development. Collect information regarding the Kerala development programme which is implemented now. The following points may be bore in mind

- The method of executing the project
- Period of execution of the project
- Priorities in the development sector.

Is there any thing more? Record your findings in 'My Enquiry Note'.

- * *Hold a discussion on the development crisis and suggest remedies.*

Project

How far have the land reform acts and other changes led to agricultural development in Kerala?.

The projects we have been doing in the preceeding two chapters end here. What are the information to be collected for the project from this chapter.

- Agriculture and land reform activities, their merits and demerits.
- Changes that have taken place in the agricultural field (seed, fertilizers, mechanization)
- Fall in the price of agricultural produces
- Increase in the cost of production

- Import of goods and its consequences
- Utilization of agricultural land for other purposes
- Changes in food habits

Let us arrange the information collected so far in the following format. It would help in analysing the information correctly. You can make changes if necessary

What activities and laws have led to the prosperity in agricultural field? What activities reverse our growth? Are changes in the field of agriculture progressive? Form assumptions regarding this Discuss the, ways for agricultural improvement. You can prepare a project report now.

Period	Changes in agricultural field/laws	Results
Medieval Kerala		
Period of centralised monarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marthanda Varma • • 		
British period		
After the formation of Kerala		

Summary

- Aikya Kerala was formed due to the pressure of so many circumstances.
- Coalition ministries and united front influenced the administrative set up considerably.
- The land reforms implemented in Kerala played an important part in social development.
- The exemplary reformers in the field of health, education and development which served as a model resulted in social changes.
- Cultural institutions play an important role in the growth of art and culture.
- Formal and nonformal activities are essential for the upliftment of women, Dalit and Adivasis.

Questions

- ◆ What were the factors which led to the formation of Aikya Kerala?
- ◆ Explain how land reforms influenced social changes?
- ◆ What are the main objectives of land reforms in Kerala?
- ◆ What are the effects of land reforms in Kerala?.
- ◆ What are the crisis that our industrial sector face?
- ◆ Prepare a note on the acitivities implemented in the field of education since the formation of Kerala?
- ◆ How did the health system in Kerala attract the attention of the world?

