

# HISTORY OF MODERN KERALA

## MODULE I-HISTORICAL FOUNDTION



**TOPIC-AIKYA KERALA MOVEMENT AND  
PROCLAMATION OF STATE**

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# BACKGROUND



- The '**Aikya Kerala Movement**' was aimed at the integration of Malabar, Kochi and Tiruvitamkur into one territory- Kerala.
- Same language shared common cultural tradition and shared same aspirations.
- Malabar was under the direct rule of the British, while Kochi and Thiruvitamkur remained as princely states were under the indirect rule of the British.
- The **Nagpur conference of the Indian National Congress in 1920** had resolved that the state congress committees should be organised on linguistic basis and not an existing territorial basis.
- The **kerala pradesh congress committee [KPCC]** was organised for Malabar, Kochi and Thiruvitamkur.



- The formation of KPCC turned out to be the significant land mark in the process of Kerala state formation.
- The **Kerala Pradesh political conference held at Ottapalam in 1921** was attended by people from these three territories.
- The princely state peoples conference and all Kerala Kudiyan(tenant) conference, in 1928 adopted separate resolutions demanding ‘Aikya Keralam’ (Unified Kerala)
- The **payyannur conference** of the congress under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, through a resolution requested the national leadership of the congress to form a separate state of Kerala, after getting independence
- The movements of the workers, peasant and students organized by the socialist party in Kerala in the 1930s developed in the wider background of the whole of Kerala



- The **All Kerala students conference in 1937** and the **All Kerala Trade union conference of 1935** also had strengthened the demand for the unification of Kerala
- The combined meeting of the **KPCC, Kochin state peoples Congress and Tiruvitamkur state congress held in 1945** discussed the plans and programmes to be adopted for the formation of Kerala into a separate state
- The Sub-committee held its meeting at Cheruthuruthy in October 1946 and decided to organize wider meeting of representatives from all over the state
- The **‘Aikya Kerala Convention’ was held at Thrissur in April 1947**, which was attended by the representatives from all over Kerala
- The meeting was presided by the congress leader, **K.Kelappan** and inaugurated by the king of Kochi- Demanded that the Kerala state should be formed with the princely states of Kochi and Tiruvitamkur and the British occupied Malayalam speaking areas and Mahe, considering the geographical, linguistic, cultural, economic and administrative aspects



- After Independence, a **petition committee** under the leadership of K.Kelappan went to Delhi in 1948-Nehru-Formation of Kerala
- The constituent Assembly appointed a state language commission, called the **‘Dhar Commission’** to enquire into the problems related to new state formation on linguistic basis and to submit proposals to the government
- Another **‘Aikya Kerala Conference’** was held at Aluva in 1949
- The Thiruvitamkur State congress leader, Pattom Thanu pillai opposed the formation of a unified Kerala state
- The princely sates of Tiruvitamkur and Kochi were integrated into one state on 1 July, 1949
- By this time, Thiruvitamkur and Kochi had already joined the Indian Union and had established responsible governments



- The Tiru-Kochi integration was made a reality by the work of V.P Menon, the then secretary of central states ministry
- The capital of Tiru-Kochi state was fixed as Thiruvananthapuram and the high court at Ernakulam
- The Tiruvitamkur king became the ‘Rajapramukh’ of the integrated state of Tiru-Kochi
- The prime minister of Tiruvitamkur, T K.Narayana Pillai was made the prime minister of the newly formed state-1950
- The next ‘**Aikya kerala conference**’ was held at **Palakkad in 1949**, after the formation of the Tiru-Kochi state
- In 1952, the KPCC split into the Malabar Pradesh congress committee and Thiru-kochi pradesh congress committee
- MPCC-on the question of the state formation-opposion



- Several similar struggles were going on in the different parts of India for the formation of states on linguistic basis
- The new commission with K.M Panikkar as its head was formed and it visited Kerala to receive several memorandums for and against the formation of Kerala state
- On the basis of the report submitted by **the Panikkar commission**, the Kerala state **Re-organization Act was passed in 1956**
- Malabar was added to Tiru-kochi and the state of Kerala came into being on 1 November 1956
- The post of Rajapramukh was abolished and the head of the state executive was renamed as ‘Governor’



- The state Reorganization Act, 1956 transferred the Tiruvitamkur areas of Agastheeswaram, Thovala, Kalkulam and Vilavankode to the Madras state which comprised the Kanyakumari district of Madras