

CONTEMPORARY KERALA

MODULE I-POLITICAL EXPERIENCES



TOPIC:LIBERATION STRUGGLE
REMYA MT
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
VI SEMESTER

VIMOCHANA SAMARAM



- Liberation Agitation(Vimochana samaram) of June-July 1959 was an anti-communist political agitation against the first elected government of Kerala
- It was organized primarily by the Catholic Church in Kerala, along with the Nair Service Society and Muslim League, and the congress party
- The attempts of the government to introduce fundamental changes in the social and economic conditions of the state intensified the gravity of shock and they retaliated vehemently, which resulted in the liberation Agitation
- Two significant progressive legislations-The Land Reform Bill and the Education Bill were presented by the communist government and were passed by the Assembly in early 1959
- The land reform bill proposed to put an end to the feudal structure in land relations and to free the poor peasants from their age long exploitation by the landlords



- The Education bill imposed restrictions and control in the administration of the educational institutions, financially aided by the government
- There was a provision for the take over of the management of the educational institutions, financially aided by the government
- The NSS was not happy with the Land Reform bill- adversely affect the landowners, many of whom belonged to the Nair community
- Besides the socio-religious organizations, all the major opposition parties including Congress, PSP, Muslim League, RSP and KSP rallied together demanding the dismissal of the elected government
- The combined group was known as the 'Anti-Communist Front' (Communist virudha Munnani)
- The active participation of the leaders like Kumbalath sanku Pillai, Mathai Manjuran, Fr. Joseph Vadakkan, B. Willington, P T Chacko, N Srikantan Nair, R. Shankar. C.H Muhammed Koya and Bafaqi Thangal increased the momentum of the movement



- Mannath Padmanabhan, the NSS leader was the overall leader of the movement
- The Vimochana Samaram or the Liberation Agitation started on 12 June 1959 with massive demonstration under the leadership of Mannam
- One notable feature of the movement was the participation of school and college
- students supporting the movement; the Kerala Students Union, the student wing of the Indian National Congress also played a role.
- Soon after the dismissal, a state election was declared and the United Front, led by the INC
- Indian National Congress, won with a majority and a ministry under Pattom A. Thanu Pillai took office.