

Theme 15.KERALA: TOWARDS MODERNITY

Colonization in progress

- By the beginning of the 19th century, the British subjugated the three regions of Kerala-Malabar, Kochi and Travancore. With the Treaty of Srirangapattanam signed in 1792, Malabar came under British rule. By the treaty of 1791, the Kochi Raja became a vassal of the English and in 1800 Kochi was placed under the control of the Madras government. In 1805, British signed a subsidiary treaty with Travancore ruler. By this treaty Travancore lost its political Independence.

Development of colonial economy

Changes in land relations

- The British transformed the revenue system of Malabar.
- The Nambudiri Brahmins were recognized as the owners of the land.
- The intermediary tenants (kanakkars) were placed between landlords and tenants.
- Both land lords and the kanakkars exploited the tenants.
- An elaborate administrative system was introduced to collect revenue.
- British officers were appointed for tax collection.

Development of new industries and investment of capital

- Under the ownership of British, Plantation industries began in Kerala.
- The major plantation crops were tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom
- Availability of land suited for the growth of plantations led to the development of plantation industry in Travancore area.
- Free trade controlled by colonial capital was established.
- Numerous trade laws and regulations were introduced
- The British invested their capital in the field of plantations.
- The development of plantation favoured non-local as well as local investors.
- Migrations began from Travancore to Malabar. This helped the expansion of commercial cultivation in Malabar
- The banks advanced credit to purchase land, extend trading and processing agricultural products.
- As a result of the expansion of commercial agriculture, Indigenous production declined.
- A number of agro-processing industries including coir were developed
- These industries were export oriented and under European capital.

Role of the state in industrial development

- By the middle of the 1930s the state played an important role in the industrial development in Travancore and Kochi.
- The Government gave financial assistance to private initiatives to start new industries.
- The govt. invested in industrial sector and ensured marketing facilities.
- Infrastructural facilities like education, health, transport, banking etc. developed.

Growth of transport system

- For the development of trade, State implemented scheme for the development of Cochin harbour, building of roads, canal network etc.
- The British also introduced railway in Kerala.
- The first railway line was commissioned on 12th March 1861 from Beypore to Tirur.

Modernization through reforms

- British government and the rulers of Kochi and Travancore introduced substantial changes and reforms in Kerala.

Travancore	Kochi	Malabar
Each land holder was given Pattayam	Subordinate courts, Huzur court were established	District, provincial courts were established
Slavery was abolished in 1812	Slavery was abolished (1845)	Spice plantation at Ancharakkandi
Established 5 district courts & 1 court of appeal	The Survey and settlement of land conducted	Municipalities were established
Devaswoms came under govt. control	Cochin Tenancy Act was passed	Teak plantation at Nilambur
Poll tax, Uzhiyam, feudal levies were abolished	Staff selection board was set up	Weaving mills, tile and factories were started
Factories, bridges, canals, post offices were built	Railway lines were constructed	Roads, railway lines canals were constructed

Spread of knowledge

- The Portuguese established printing in Kerala in 1577.
- The first printed book in Malayalam language was 'Samkshepavedartham' in 1772.
- German missionary, Arnos Pathiri, prepared the first lexicon and a grammar work in Malayalam.
- In 1846 Benjamin Bailey of Church Mission Society Published an English-Malayalam lexicon.
- The first authentic book in Malayalam grammar was prepared by Herman Gundert.
- He started two Malayalam news papers in 1847 called 'Rajyasamacharam' and 'Paschimodayam'.

Missionary Education.

- Missionary organizations like London Mission Society (LMS) and Church Mission Society (CMS) and Basel Evangelical Mission (BEM) etc. inaugurated the spread of modern education in Kerala.
- The London Mission Society's area of activity was largely Travancore. The Church Mission Society worked in Travancore and Cochin while the Basel Evangelical Mission was active in Malabar.
- Church Mission established a college and seminary Kottayam in 1813 under the leadership of Rev. Mead.
- The first school in Kochi was started at Mattanchery by Dawson in 1818
- Twinkle Tab, a Spanish missionary of the Salvation Army group established English schools in southern part of Travancore.
- In 1841 Rev. Habik set up an English school at Barnasseri in Kannur
- BEM established primary school at Kallayi near Kozhikode in 1848 and Thalasseri in 1856

State initiative

- In 1817 Gouri Parvathi Bhai, introduced free and compulsory education system in Travancore.
- In 1839, Swathi Thirunal, set up first English school at Ernakulum.
- In Malabar, Brennen school was started at Thalasseri in 1862 and it developed as a first grade college
- In 1866 the Victoria High school started in Palakkad and it became the Victoria College.
- Thiruvananthapuram Maharajas College (1866) and the Ernakulam Maharajas College (1875) University of Travancore (1937) which became the University of Kerala (1957) were also established.

Legal system

- Prior to the British period, the legal system was based on caste system.
- An important aspect of this system was Trial by Ordeal (Satyapareeksha)
- The caste of the offender determined trial as well as the nature of punishment.
- The British introduced concepts like Rule of Law and Equality before Law.
- A hierarchy of civil and criminal courts was established.
- The British combined the prevailing laws of the land into a uniform civil code.

Early resistance against colonialism**The Pazhassi Revolt**

- Kerala varma pazhassi Raja was the leader of the Pazhassi revolt.
- The pazhassi revolt had two phases
- The first phase was from 1793-1797
- The British revenue policy was the cause of the first revolt
- Pazhassi supported the British against Tipu sultan.
- After the treaty of srirangapattanam, the British gave Veera Varma of Kurumbranad, the right of revenue collection.
- This infuriated Pazhassi and with the help of Mappilas, Nairs and the tribals, he gave a stiff resistance against the British forces.
- Finally the British forces withdrew from wayanad and compromised with Pazhassi.
- The second phase of the revolt began in 1800.
- The Kurichiyas and Kurumbas of wayanad had formed the militia of the Raja.
- Thomas Harvey Baber, the sub collector of Thalasseri led a native force of Kolkars against the Raja at Pulpalli.
- On the 30th November 1805 Pazhassi was killed at Mavilathodu in Wayanad

Velu Thampi and Paliath Achan

- In 1800 Col. Macaulay was appointed as the British Resident for Travancore and Kochi.
- In 1805 the British signed a treaty with the ruler of Travancore. By this treaty Travancore lost its political independence.
- The Resident began to interfere in the internal affairs of Travancore.
- The Resident demanded the payment of tribute.
- Resident cancelled the order of the Dalawa attaching the property of Mathu Tharakan who was a defaulter.
- This forced Dalawa to organize an armed revolt against the company.
- He entered into a secret deal with Paliath Achan, the chief minister of Kochi.
- He also sought French help from Mauritius
- The native armies attacked the camp of Macaulay at Kochi in December 1808. Macaulay escaped from Kochi.

- Velu Thampi came to Kundara and issued the famous Kundara Proclamation in January 1809.
- It made a call to the people to get their support.
- The British attacked Kochi and Paliath Achan was defeated.
- Ummini Thampi, the new Dalawa ordered to capture Velu Thampi.
- Velu Thampi took asylum in a house at Mannadi.
- He was surrounded by the forces of enemy.
- He committed suicide to avoid the disgrace of being captured alive.

Kurichya Revolt

- The Kurichyas and the Kurumbas were the tribals of wayanad.
- They were forced to pay the revenue in cash rather than in kind.
- The Kurichya revolt was started in 1812.
- Rama Namby was the leader of the rebels.
- The British captured him and suppressed the Kurichya revolt.

Mappila Revolts

- There were a series of violent disturbances occurred in south Malabar throughout the nineteenth century.
- These disturbances are known as Mappila outbreaks.
- William Logan was appointed to enquire into the agrarian problems of Malabar.
- He reported that these outbreaks were results of the agrarian discontent and poverty caused by the revenue policy of the British

The social reform movement during the 19th and 20th centuries

Society in Kerala was based on Caste system. Abuses and superstitions were existed in all castes. Social reform movements arose in order to eliminate such evils.

Reformer	Movement	Publication	Reform
Vaikunda Swamikal	Samatva Samajam	Akhila Thiruttu, Arulnol	Mirror consecration, path of the father (Aiyavazhi)
Sree Narayana Guru	SNDP	Atmopadesa satakam, Daivadesatakam, Darshanamala, Siva satakam, Navamanjari	Abolition of superstitions and caste system, western education, one caste one religion one god for man, aruvippuram consecration in 1888
Chattampi Swamikal		Prachina Malayalam, Adibhasha, Vedadhikara Nirupanam	Opposed caste system, irrational practices, challenged Brahmin monopoly in Vedic scriptures.
Ayyankali	Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham		Stood for opening public roads, civic rights, education for lower castes, Organised Kallumala agitation
Vakkom Abdul Khader Maulavi	Travancore Muslim Mahjana Sabha	Swadeshahimani, Al-Islam	Discard un-Islamic practices, advised western education
Vagbhathananda	Atmavidya sangham	Abhinava Keralam, Atmavidya Kahalam	Favored temple entry right of the lower castes, took interest in the economic progress of weaker sections, promoted rationalism, critical thinking

Mar Kuriakos Elias Chavara		Atmanutapam,Idayanadakangal,Dhyanas allapangal,Naalagamangal	Established schools,orhanages,sanskrit school at Mannanam,Kottayam.
V.T Bhattathirippad		Adukkalayil ninnum Arangathekku	Ridiculed the ill-treatment felt by the Nambudiri women, opposed dowry system, practice of young girls married off to old men

Struggle for a Democratic Society

Shanar Agitation

- The Shanar Agitation was held in southern Travancore for the right of their woman to wear dress like that of the higher caste women.
- The converted shanar women to Christianity were permitted to cover their bodies with jackets.
- They began to appear in public, wearing jacket and scarf.
- A Royal proclamation was issued on July 26,1859
- Abolished all restrictions in the matter of dress.

Vaikom satyagraha 1924-25

- The vaikom Satyagraha was the first major struggle for the eradication of untouchability.
- The main leaders were T.K Madhavan,Mannath Padmanabhan,C.V Kunhiraman and K Kelappan.The satyagraha demanded for granting of right of the untouchables to walk on
- The approach roads of Vaikom temple.
- The Savarna Jatha organized under Mannath Padmanabhan was one of the highlights of Vaikom SatyaThe jatha came to the capital and submitted a memorandum demanding temple entry rights to the Avarnas.
- At last the Satyagraha ended in success by the intervention of Gandhi.
- The Govt. declared open all the roads to the templegraha.

Guruvayur satyagraha 1931-1932

- Guruvayur Satyagraha was a milestone in the history of social reform movement in Kerala.
- The satyagraha aimed at opening the Guruvayur temple to all Hindus.
- The Satyagraha began on 1st November 1931
- The prominent leders were K.Kelappan,Mannath Padmnabhan,A.K Gopalan,P.Krishna Pillai etc.
- K.Kelappan began an indefinite fast unto death infront of the temple.
- On Gandhiji's advice, the satyagraha was ended.
- A limited referendum was held in the Ponnani Taluk to ascertain public opinion on the issue of temple entry for the Avarnas.
- The majority of the people approved the proposal for temple entry
- The Guruvayur Satyagraha failed to achieve its immediate objective, namely temple entry for the Avarnas.

Temple entry proclamation

- The Temple Entry Proclamation issued by the ruler of Travancore on 12thNovember 1936 was the crowning achievements of the movement for temple entry to the Avarnas.
- It opened all the temples of the state to all Hindus irrespective of caste.
- The Proclamation is important as the first of its kind in India.
- Gandhiji hailed it as a 'miracle of modern times'
- It brought about a silent and bloodless revolution in Hindu society

Paliyam satyagraha

- The Paliyam Satyagraha tookplace in 1947 to March 1948.
- The satyagraha was organised to open paliyam road to all the Hindus.
- Cochin State Prajamandal,the Communist Party and SNDP Yogam joined together to organise a satyagraha.
- The satyagraha was launched by C.Kesavan .
- The temples of Kochi were thrown open to all the Hindus in 1948.
- The Avarnas got freedom to walk along the paliyam road.

National movement in Kerala

- The activities of Indian National Congress were comparatively weak in Kerala during early stage.
- A few Keralites like G.P Pillai and C.Sankaran Nair were active participants of the Congress movement.
- C.Sankaran Nair was the president of the Amaravati session of the congress in 1897.
- As Malabar was directly under the British, the national movement was stronger there than in the Princely states of Travancore and Kochi.

Year	Events
1920	Manjeri political Conference, non –cooperation and khilafat movements
1921	The first All Kerala Provincial conference at Ottappalam , president T.Prakasam Malabar Rebellion ,Pookkottur incident, Wagon Tragedy
1927	Peoples movement for Responsible government in Travancore
1929	State People Conference in Travancore
1930	Salt Satyagraha led by K.Kelappan and Civil Disobedience Movement
1932	Nivarthana Agitation demanding right to vote to the Srimulam popular assembly
1936	Electricity Agitation in Trichur ,Pattini Jatha of A.K Gopalan-Kannur to Madras
1938	Responsible Government in Travancore Pattom A Thanu Pillai as President
1941	Cochin State Praja Mandal –president V.R Krishnan Ezhuthachan
1942	Quit India Movement ,Kizhariyoor Bomb case
1946	Agitation for responsible government in Kochi under Praja Mandal
1948	Praja Mandal ministry in Kochi under E.Ikkanda Warriar as Prime minister

Popular Struggles

- An important feature of freedom movement in Kerala was the development of communist ideology.
- During the 1930's, the leftists of the congress, known as Congress Socialists gave leadership to the national movement.
- They organized peasants and workers.
- The peasants and workers of Malabar organized Anti-Repression Day on 15 September 1940
- The police action against the peasant conference held at Morazha in Kannur led to riots
- The peasants organized themselves under the communist party.
- There was an open fight between a local mob and the police at Kayyoor and a Police constable was killed on 28th March 1941.
- Four young peasants were arrested and hanged to death on 29 th March 1943.
- The workers and Peasants of Punnapra and Vayalar organized themselves under the leadership of communist party.
- They held demonstrations and engaged in severe fighting against the police.
- In police firing that followed, about 150 persons were killed.
- The Punnapra-Vayalar provided a strong base for the communist movement in Kerala.

Malayali identity & Aikya Kerala movement

- The Malayalam language served as an important factor in the cultural integration of the people of Travancore, Kochi and Malabar.
- The roots of Malayali identity can be traced back to Leela thilakam, a grammar work of 14th century.
- It speaks about a single speech community of Malayalis.
- **Factors that fostered sub nationalist feeling**
 - 1. Spread of Modern education
 - 2. Introduction of printing technology.
 - 3. Establishment of vernacular news papers.
 - 4. The Malayali Memorial
 - 5. Spread of nationalist movement
- The Kerala Provincial congress Committee started functioning in 1921 on linguistic basis.
- The first All Kerala Provincial Conference held at Ottappalam in 1921. The representatives from Malabar, Travancore and Kochi attended this conference. It created a sense of Malayali identity in the minds of the people.
- The urge for sub national identity was reflected in works like “Onnekalkodi Malayalikal” written by E.M.S Namboothirippad.
- The famous Aikya Kerala conference was held at Thrissur in April 1947 under the Chairmanship of K. Kelappan.
- It passed a resolution, demanding the formation of Aikya Kerala.
- The merger of Travancore and Kochi and the formation of Tiru-Kochi on July 1, 1949 was an important step towards the realization of the Kerala state.
- The States Reorganization Commission under the Chairmanship of Syed Fazl Ali recommended the formation of Kerala state comprising Travancore, Kochi and Malabar.
- The new state of Kerala formally inaugurated on November 1, 1956.