



*Chief Ministers  
Ministers  
and  
Leaders of Opposition  
in Kerala*





*Chief Ministers, Ministers  
and  
Leaders of Opposition  
in Kerala*

*Biographical Sketches  
and other data*

*Secretariat of the Kerala legislature  
Thiruvananthapuram  
2006*

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## FOREWORD

April 5, 1957 is a day to be written in golden letters in the history of Kerala. The first democratically elected Government was sworn in with Shri. E.M. Sankaran Namboothiripad as the Chief Minister. Twenty two days later, on April 27, 1957, the first sitting of the Kerala Legislative Assembly was held. The Kerala Legislative Assembly is nearing its glorious 50th year of functioning.

The Kerala Legislative Assembly is the offspring of a cycle of democratic evolutionary changes that fostered the various political, social, cultural and economic phases of development in the State.

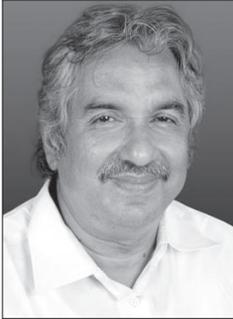
In a vast democracy like ours, the younger generation and all those interested in the legislative history and democratic evolution of the state will be interested to know the veterans of the political galaxy who steered the State, since its formation in 1956. To add glitter to the ensuing Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Kerala Legislative Assembly, efforts are on the anvil to document its glorious and pristine tradition by the publication of a book 'Chief Ministers, Ministers and Leaders of Opposition in Kerala'. This publication includes a brief description of all the ten eminent Chief Ministers, one hundred and fifty two Ministers, and the present Leader of Opposition.

I am sure this book will certainly serve as a valuable reference document in the legislative history of Kerala which will benefit the present and future generations.

**Therambil Ramakrishnan**  
Speaker  
Kerala Legislative Assembly

Thiruvananthapuram  
2-1-2006





## PREFACE

History rests on firmer foundation of events, which stand the test of time and truth. Like the rest of the nation, Kerala too has a splendid history of its own making. During the formative period of India's republican history, Kerala had the unique distinction of laying the foundation of a pluralistic political space, replete with innovative coalitions and compromises. It was ploughing a lonely (political) furrow, which by its very nature and performance contributed to the enrichment of history.

Several epoch making reforms were initiated. The international community closely watched the Kerala model of development. Kerala stood as a role model for other states to emulate. The towering personalities of Kerala steered the revolutionary changes in the State.

The sub-continent itself gradually began borrowing from Kerala's experiences.

I am happy that on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Kerala, the Legislative Assembly recollects the service of the Chief Ministers, Ministers and Opposition Leaders in a commemorative volume of everlasting merit. The idea is to provide an insight into the composition of the Ministries since the formation of the State. This book would be an authentic reference material. I wish all success for the endeavor.

**Oommen Chandy**  
Chief Minister  
Kerala

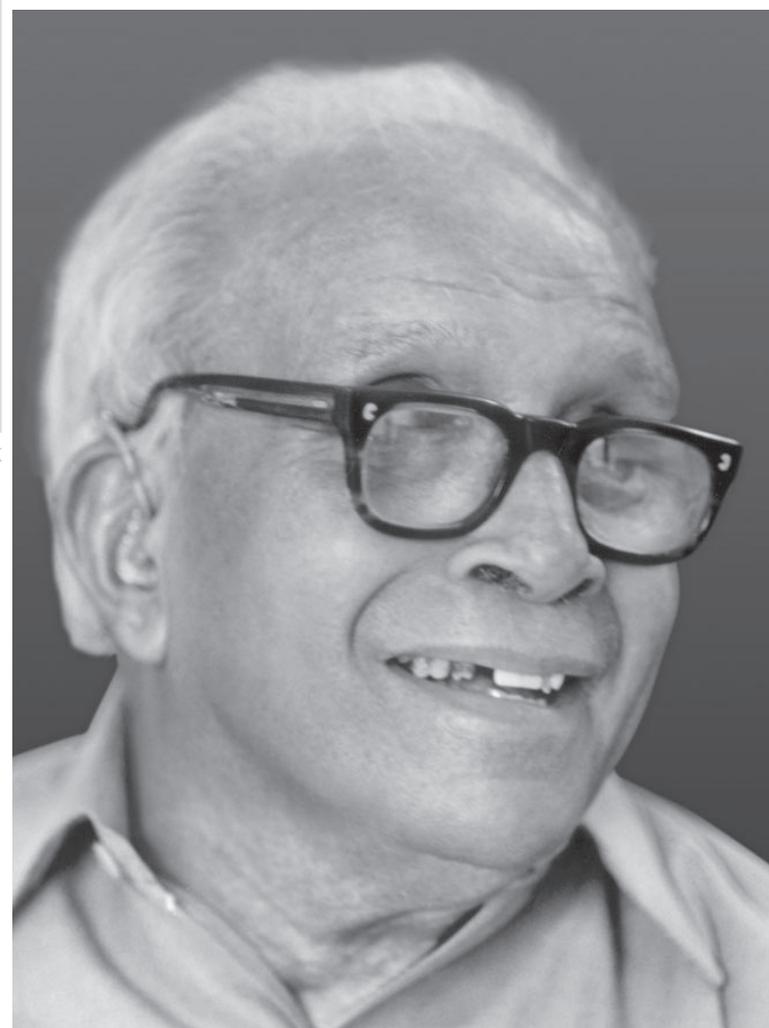
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*Chief Ministers  
of Kerala*



## E.M.S. NAMBOODIRIPPAD



Shri E.M.S. Namboodirippad, popularly known as EMS, holds pride of place as the first Chief Minister of unified Kerala. A staunch and committed socialist, historian and Marxist theorist, he had the rare distinction of having led to power, through the ballot, the first democratically elected Communist government in the world.

Shri EMS was born on June 14, 1909 in Perinthalmanna taluk of Malappuram district. His father was Shri Parameswaran Namboodirippad, whom he lost in the early years of his life. His mother, Smt. Vishnudatta Antharjanam, played a vital role in his life and deeply influenced him. Even though his formal education started very late, he studied Sanskrit, the Vedas and the Upanishads with the help of a tutor at home.

Even from his early age, Shri. EMS was associated with the activities of 'Yogakshemasabha', the progressive reformist movement led by V.T. Bhattathirippad, which sought to fight against the casteism and reactionary conservatism that was prevalent among the Namboodiri community. At the tender

age of 15, EMS became the Secretary of Valluvanadu 'Upayogakshema sabha', which was the stepping stone to a long and distinguished political life, which lasted decades and greatly influenced both the state and national politics.

Shri EMS began his school education in 1925 in Perinthalmanna High School in the third forum. In the last year of school, he left Perinthalmanna High School and joined the High School in Palakkad. His acquaintance with the student leaders of Victoria College, which was adjacent to the school influenced him profoundly, and began to mould his outlook towards the ongoing national struggle for independence from British rule.

Shri. Nampoodirippad's college education was in St. Thomas College, Thrissur, which he joined in 1929 for the Intermediate level. During the eventful two-and-a-half years that he spent there, he acquired the practical experience necessary to become a political leader. His association with the magazine "Unni Namboodiry", a progressive publication under the auspices of V.T. Bhattathirippad, helped him immensely not only to mould his political outlook but also to hone the writing skill inherent in him.

During his college days, Shri. EMS was deeply associated with the Indian National Congress and the national movement for independence. He attended All India Congress meeting in Madras and State level meetings at Payyannur and Vadakara. He abandoned college studies in 1932, to take part in the Civil Disobedience movement. He was arrested in Calicut and sent to jail. With this arrest, the transformation from a politically aware student to a full-time political activist became complete. His association with prison mates having socialist ideals, enabled him to get closer to the Congress Socialist Party, a socialist wing of the Indian National Congress. He was elected as the State Congress Secretary in 1934. In 1936, Shri. EMS was given membership in the Communist party, then secretly formed. The entire Congress Socialist Party wing became the Communist Party of India at the meeting held at Pinarayi in 1939. The very same year Shri. EMS was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly.

Shri EMS travelled to many north Indian cities to organise socialist groups within the Congress party. After independence, he devoted his life to the Communist movement and even when the party was banned, he continued to work in hiding.

In the election that followed immediately after the formation of the State of Kerala, Shri. EMS was elected from Nilaswaram. He led the Communist Party to electoral victory and became the first Chief Minister of Kerala in 1957. The progressive legislations enacted by his government somehow invited the wrath of certain sections of Kerala society. Shortly afterwards the "Liberation Struggle" was launched leading to the dismissal of the Ministry.

Shri. EMS was elected to the KLA three times from the Pattambi constituency in 1960, 1967, and 1970 and from the Alathur constituency in 1977. When the Communist Party split in 1964, Shri EMS chose to stand with the CPI (M). He served again as the Chief Minister of Kerala from 1967 to 1969. As Chief Minister, he chaired the Committee of Privileges twice. He was also the General Secretary of the CPI (M) for many years.

Through his several books, writings and speeches Shri. EMS changed the outlook of Kerala society and helped lay the foundation, for what later came to be known as the "Kerala Model" of development. Even during the twilight of his life Shri. EMS continued to inspire and influence many people through his visions on decentralisation and people's planning.

A gifted writer also, Shri. EMS has to his credit many noteworthy works. His famous works include his autobiography "How I became a Communist", "Kerala Society and Politics: A Historical Survey", "Nehru, Ideology & Practice", "The Mahatma and the ism", "Problems of National Integration", "Kerala Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", "India Planning in Crisis", "A History of Indian Freedom Struggle" etc. and many essays and travelogues.

Smt. Arya Antharjanam was his wife and they have two sons and two daughters. Shri. EMS Nampoodirippad passed away on 19-03-1998 at the age of 89.

The Assembly paid its homage to him on 23.03.1998.

## PATTOM.A. THANU PILLAI



PATTOM.A. THANU PILLAI PATTOM.A. T

M.A. THANU PILLAI PATTOM.A. THANU

Known as the 'Bhishmacharya' of Kerala politics, Shri. Pattom Thanu Pillai a veritable doyen among the State's political leaders was born on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1885 at Thiruvananthapuram. His father was Shri. Varadharajan, a Sanskrit scholar and mother was Smt. Easwari Amma. From childhood, Pattom who grew up hearing the valiant tales of national leaders like Thilak, Gokhale and Annie Besant, was attracted to the political views of Gandhiji. His in-born leadership quality and debating skills earned him fame, even during school education.

He passed matriculation from Maharaja's College, Thiruvananthapuram. His friendship with Kesari Balakrishna Pillai, who was his classmate influenced him deeply and helped to instill in him an abiding sense of patriotism. A very studious student as well, he also won a gold medal for academic excellence in the BA examination. After graduation, he taught in a private school in Thriuvananthapuram for a

while . Even though subsequently he was appointed as Deputy Chief in the state Agriculture department, he continued his job as a teacher and studied law simultaneously.

After graduating from Law College, Thiruvananthapuram in 1917, he started legal practice in Thiruvananthapuram which proved to be a turning point in his political career. His colleagues at the bar were leaders of freedom struggle such as Paravoor T.K. Narayana Pillai, Ponnara Sreedhar, K.P. Neelakanta pillai , G. Chandrasekhara Pillai and C. Narayana Pillai. Under Pattom's leadership, lawyers protested against the cruel police brutality meted out to students agitating against the Diwan's rule. He resigned even his councillorship in the city corporation to participate fully, in the 'Nivarthana Agitation'. Right from the beginning of the State Congress, Shri. Pattom was very active in awakening public opinion through his inspiring speeches against British rule.

In the meanwhile Shri. Pattom was invited to preside over the meeting of Congressmen in the princely states, held at Hariharapuram. Elected as the State Congress President in 1938, Pattom continued to shoulder the responsibility for almost 14 years.

Shri Pattom .A. Thanu Pillai was elected to the Sree Moolam Popular Assembly in 1921 and to the Travancore Legislative Council during 1928 - 1932 during the Regency rule. He was again elected to the Sree Moolam Assembly in 1933 and 1937 and to the Travancore Assembly in 1948. Shri. Pattom was also a Member of the Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1949 to 1956. His fearless criticism of Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, the then Diwan, though it elated the longing for freedom of many people, irked the Diwan, which led to his arrest. However, he was released soon as he fell sick while in Jail.

After India's independence , the first democratic government in Travancore was formed under the Prime Ministership of Shri. Pattom Thanu Pillai in which Shri C. Kesavan and Shri. T.M. Varghese were also members.

However, due to difference of opinion within the party, Shri. Pattom severed ties with the Congress and formed the Praja Socialist Party. In 1954 he formed a new front against the Congress Party with the help of the Communists, Revolutionary Socialist Party and Kerala Socialist Party. Pattom became the front's leader and the Chief Minister during 1954-1955.

Shri. Pattom Thanu Pillai was elected, to the 1<sup>st</sup> K.L.A in 1957 from Thiruvananthapuram constituency. In the election held in 1960, after the 'Liberation Struggle', the alliance headed by Congress with P.S.P. and Muslim League won the majority vote, and Pattom became the Chief Minister of Kerala on February 22, 1960.

However, the changing political equations caused the fall of the ministry, leading to his resignation on September 25, 1962. Soon he was appointed as the Governor of Punjab in 1962. He was also the Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 1964 to 1968.

Being very outspoken, Shri Pattom never feared to speak out his views, which earned him friends and foes alike. Known for his great administrative skills and statesmanship, he gave emphasis to many development activities, especially in the capital city.

His wife was Smt. Ponnamma, whom he married , after the demise of his first wife, Smt. Sumukhi Amma.

Shri. Pattom has three daughters.

Shri. Pattom Thanu Pillai passed away on 27 July 1970.

The Assembly paid its homage to him on 26 October 1970.

## R. SANKAR



One of the towering figures in Kerala politics with his courageous and inimitable style of functioning, Shri R. Sankar became the third Chief Minister of Kerala during one of the most turbulent periods in the State's political history.

Shri. Sankar was born in the village of Kuzhikkalidavaka in Kottarakkara Taluk on April 30, 1909 as the fifth son of Shri Raman and Smt. Kunchali Amma. Though born in a large family and despite the not so favourable conditions, he was fortunate enough to get good education. Shri. Sankar's formal education began in the Puthoor Primary School and later continued in the English School, Kottarakkara. In 1924 he passed from the High School.

Shri. Sankar joined Maharajas College, Thiruvananthapuram, the present University College, with the

help of a wealthy and benevolent relative, as his father could not afford the expenses for his education. After graduating from Maharajas College, he joined Law College, Thiruvananthapuram in 1933.

After studies, Shri. Sankar took to teaching to earn a living. He joined Sivagiri High School as Principal. It was during those days, that he associated himself with the activities of the SNDP Yogam. A very good orator, he impressed many with his inspiring talks on the social injustice prevalent in those days, particularly the discriminatory attitude shown towards backward class communities. He also raised his voice for equal opportunities for backward classes, in all sectors. He studied Kumaran Asan's poetry deeply and attended many literary meetings throughout Travancore.

Having started public life as a teacher and lawyer, he was drawn to politics with the birth of the State Congress. The end of the 'Nivarthana agitation' and the gradual growth of the State Congress, accelerated Sankar's rise as a political leader. He participated in the freedom struggle and was arrested and put in jail. After India's independence he focused his attention on strengthening the Congress party. Later, taking a break from the Congress party, he began to work in the SNDP Yogam. His work during this period served a great deal to bring backward class communities into the fold of the Congress party.

During his long association with the SNDP Yogam of over 13 years, he served the Yogam as its General Secretary, President and Chief of the SN Trust. Under his leadership the SNDP Yogam gave emphasis to the field of education and started many educational institutions.

Shri Sankar returned to the State Congress at a crucial juncture, when it was going through one of its worst periods. His organising skills and leadership qualities became evident in the election held after independence. He was elected to the Travancore Assembly in 1948. He also became a member of the Travancore-Cochin Assembly from 1949 to 1956. Shri. Sankar was a member of the Constituent Assembly and also a member of the Franchise and Delimitation Commission and the Reforms Committee constituted after the introduction of the Responsible Government. He led the Congress party as KPCC President during the 'Liberation Struggle'. The Congress won the elections in 1960 under Shri. Sankar's leadership and he became the Deputy Chief Minister in the Pattom Thanu Pillai ministry. He handled Finance portfolio from 1960 to 1962. When Shri. Pattom Thanu Pillai was appointed as Governor, Shri. Sankar became the Chief Minister of Kerala from September 26, 1962 to September 10, 1964.

Shri. R. Sankar was an able administrator and statesman. His track record as the Chief Minister of Kerala is ample proof of his administrative skills. He brought about many economic reforms while handling the finance portfolio. He served as the Chairman of the Committee of Privileges from 1960 to 1964. He was also the editor of a newspaper called 'Dinamony'.

His wife was Smt. Lekshmikutty Amma and they have one son and one daughter.

Shri. Sankar died at the age of 63 on November 6, 1972.

The Assembly paid its homage to him on November 13, 1972.

## C. ACHUTHA MENON



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CHUTHA MENON C. ACHUTHA MENON

Shri C. Achutha Menon, a renowned leader of the Communist Party of India and a stalwart among the line of administrators, was born to Madathil Veetil Shri. Achutha Menon and Smt. Lekshmykuttyamma at Puthukkad, Thrissur on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1913. Being a brilliant student, he studied on merit scholarship throughout his student life, and stood first in the SSLC examination in the then State of Kochi. After finishing the intermediate level in St. Thomas College, Thrissur, he continued his college education in Madras. There he won a gold medal for academic excellence and was a role model for other fellow students.

Shri. Menon, then went on to study Law in Law College, Thiruvananthapuram and scored the highest marks in Hindu Law. After the B.L. degree, he started legal practice in various courts of Thrissur, during which time he began to get involved in many social issues.

Shri Achutha Menon started his political career by associating himself with the State Congress, and actively took part in the Congress meeting held at Thrissur. He subsequently became a member of the Kochi Praja Mandalam and later the Communist Party of India.

Shri. Menon became a Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India and a member of its Executive Committee and Central Secretariat. He continued his political activities, even when the Communist Party was banned. He was imprisoned for many years, during which time he was elected to the Travancore-Cochin Assembly in 1952.

Shortly afterwards Shri. Achutha Menon became elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly, after the reorganisation of the States, thus becoming the first Finance Minister of Kerala in the Ministry headed by Shri E.M.S. Namboodirippad in 1957. He was again elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1960. Shri Menon also became member of the Rajyasabha during 1968-69.

When the Communist Party split, he continued to remain with the CPI. The political instability during the late sixties had paved the way for a realignment in coalition politics, which had far reaching implication on the political history of the state.

Shri Achutha Menon assumed charge as the Chief Minister of Kerala on 1-11-1969 and continued till the dissolution of the III KLA. He was not a member of the Kerala Assembly then, but subsequently got elected from Kottarakkara in the bye-election held in April 1970. In the mid-term poll conducted in 1970, he was again elected from Kodakara in Thrissur and was sworn in as Chief Minister on 4-10-1970 and continued in that chair till 1977. During his regime, many institutions like the Sree Chithra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and the Centre for Development Studies were established in Kerala, which later became centres of excellence. He was elected as the State Secretary of C.P.I. too, many times, and was also a member of the National Council of the C.P.I.

A talented writer, Shri. Achutha Menon had authored many books on Kerala. He also translated H.G. Wells' "Brief History of the World" into Malayalam. "Soviet Land", "Kissan Padha Pusthakam", "Keralam - Prasnangalum Sadhyadhakalum", "Smaranayude Edukal", and "Manushyan Swayam Nirmikkunnu"(Translation) are his other famous works. Along with, he has contributed many noteworthy articles in newspapers and periodicals.

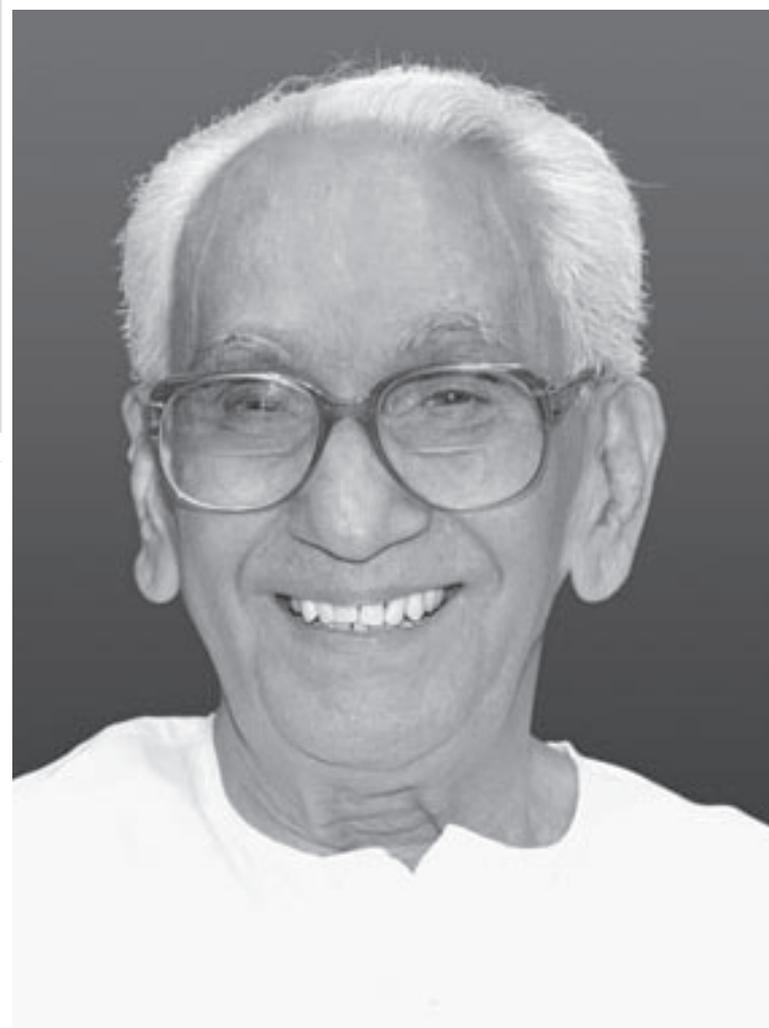
A leader known for his sincerity, integrity and uprightness in public life, Shri. Achutha Menon retired from active politics in 1977.

His wife was Smt. Vellappallil Ammini Amma and they have one son and two daughters.

Shri C. Achutha Menon expired on 16-8-1991.

The Assembly paid its homage to him on 28.8.1991.

## K. KARUNAKARAN



K. KARUNAKARAN K. KARUNAKAR

RUNAKARAN K. KARUNAKARAN K.

Shri. K.Karunakaran, being a stalwart in the political arena, occupies leading role in the contemporary political history of the state of Kerala.

Shri. K.Karunakaran was born on July 5, 1918 at Chirackkal in Kannur District to Shri.Thekkedathu Ravunni Marar and Smt. Kannothe Kalyani Amma with birth star “Karthika”, which blessed him with its inherent characteristics of good health and dynamism, and also unstinted support, in plenty, from people. He brings with him a long parliamentary experience spanning over seven decades.

Shri.K.Karunakaran gave up his school education at an early age and started his political career through the Indian National Congress. A staunch patriot, he had zealously participated in the freedom

struggle as well as in trade union activities, right from the beginning of his political career, and was arrested and jailed on many occasions. His political life was seldom peaceful. It was full of imminent storms and challenges warranting immediate retrieval. His ability to face and deal issues spontaneously in the best manner, is praise worthy. He rose to the top in politics and has been acclaimed as the senior most Leader of the Indian National Congress because of his studiousness and untiring dynamism.

Shri. Karunakaran was elected to Trichur Municipality way back in 1945, and subsequently to the Cochin Legislative Assembly in 1948 and Travancore –Cochin Legislative Assembly three times, i.e. in 1949, 1952 & 1954. He has been elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly from Mala Assembly Constituency seven times consecutively, i.e. in 1967, 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987 & 1991.

He was the Chief whip of the Congress Legislature Party in the Travancore –Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1952-1953 and the leader of Congress Legislature Party in the Kerala Legislative Assembly for a very long period from 1967 to 1995. He was elected to 7<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly simultaneously from Mala and Nemom constituencies in 1982. However he resigned his Nemom seat on 1.6.1982. He was the Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1969, 1980 to 1981 and from 1987 to 1991. He is a founder member of Indian delegation to ILO in 1957.

He has served in a number of Committees in the Kerala Legislative Assembly and was the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts from 1968 to 1970. He chaired the Committee of Privileges from 1982 to 1986.

Shri. K. Karunakaran has been a member of the Congress Working Committee since 1969 and the Member of Parliamentary Board from 1970 onwards.

Shri.K.Karunakaran is the founder of United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1970. He evinced utmost care in ensuring cordiality, unity and understanding among the constituent parties, and he commanded absolute control and due respect from them.

His closeness to the Nehru family begins from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and culminated and pinnacle during the tenure of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri. Rajiv Gandhi. The leading role he played in enthroning Shri. Rajiv Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India within hours after the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi is part of the History of India. This opportune action helped to call upon the world that people of India are committed to democracy and are capable of protecting it without any iota of doubt and threat.

Shri. K. Karunakaran could add another feather to his cap by repeating the role of King Maker in finding out a successor to Rajiv Gandhi; but for him it would have been normally delayed and made difficult; or perhaps even changed the destiny of India. Being the senior most leader of Congress, he convened its parliamentary party meeting and got elected the late Shri. P.V. Narasimha Rao as the next Prime Minister of India. Shri. K. Karunakaran could manage it only because of his prompt intervention, political acumen and invaluable treasure of experience, and above all, the respect, the regard and the reputation he owned in the party and among the Congress Members of Parliament, as well as the eminent leaders of other prominent political parties of India. This enviable position he made use of, again, while he successfully managed to ensure majority to the Confidence Motion to Narasimha Rao Ministry. Shri. K. Karunakaran was the Chairman of the committee constituted for amending the Constitution of Indian National Congress. He was also the head of the Committee for revamping the Congress Party. It was he, who proposed the tangible solution for reservation, at a time, when this sensitive issue rocked the Nation. His ability to prompt proposition of apt panacea to iron out the burning issues and stalemate and to give spontaneous replies to disquieting questions are unparalleled.

Shri. Karunakaran was the Home Minister from 25.09.1971 to 24.03.1977 in the Ministry headed by Shri. C. Achutha Menon. While the emergency was declared in 1975, he took utmost care in administering the state without giving any room for complaint of any excess of the emergency powers and this was recognized by the people of Kerala when they returned the UDF to power with record majority in the ensuing elections of 1977.

Shri.K. Karunakaran has been the Chief Minister of Kerala four times. He took charge as Chief Minister for the first time on 25-3-1977. However he tendered his resignation on 25-4-1977, immediately following certain references by the Kerala High Court in what came to be known as 'Rajan case'. He took charge as Chief Minister again on December 28, 1981. However, this ministry did not last long. He resigned on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1982, following the withdrawal of support by a member of the Kerala Congress (M). Midterm elections to the 7<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly was held on May 19, 1982. The Ministry with Shri. K.Karunakaran as Chief Minister assumed office on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1982 and continued till 1987. On June 24, 1991, Shri.K.Karunakaran took charge as Chief Minister of Kerala for the fourth term, and resigned on March 16, 1995, making way for Shri. A.K.Antony to take up the Chief Ministership.

As a veteran Parliamentarian, whose career stretches over five decades, Shri. K. Karunakaran has been elected three times to Rajya Sabha and to Lok Sabha twice. He was a member of Rajya Sabha during 1995-97, 1997-98 and 2004-2005. He has been elected to Lok Sabha from Thiruvananthapuram in 1998 and from Mukundapuram Constituency in 1999. Shri. K. Karunakaran served as the Minister for Industries in the Union Cabinet for one year in 1995.

Widely respected within the country as 'leader' and administrator, Shri. K. Karunakaran has contributed much to the development of the state. The Kerala State Film Development Corporation, Nedumbassery Airport, Gosree Project, Guruvayoor Railway Line, Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium and NTPC Kayamkulam are among them. It was during his Chief Ministership that two districts viz Kasargod and Pathanamthitta were formed. During his tenure as Chief Minister from 1982-87 he retained the portfolio of SC/ST Development Department and this period was considered as golden days for them.

Shri. K. Karunakaran has been a mentor of plethora of leaders of younger generation, irrespective of caste, creed or community. They could fortunately hold prominent position and play vital role in political arena of Kerala & India.

Shri. Karunakaran, a true Gandhian throughout his personal and political life, has been respected and praised by all as an ardent secular leader both in words and deeds.

Smt.Kalyanikuttyamma was his wife and they have 1 son and 1 daughter. The son, Shri. K. Muraleedharan, former KPCC President and former Minister for Electricity is now the President of the Democratic Indira Congress. The daughter, Smt. Padmaja Venugopal was Chairperson of Kerala Tourism Development Corporation.



## A.K. ANTONY



A.K. ANTONY A.K. ANTONY A.K. ANTONY

.NTONY A.K. ANTONY A.K. ANTONY A.K.

Shri. A.K.Antony, known for his simple living, has made indelible imprints in the social and political life of our society. As a seasoned political leader of the masses and three time Chief Minister of the state, Shri. A.K. Antony has relentlessly been pursuing high principles in his public as well as private life, right from the beginning of his political career spanning over 40 years.

Shri.Arakkaparambil Kurian Antony was born on December 28, 1940 at Cherthala in Alappuzha district to Shri. Arakkaparambil Kurian Pillai and Smt. Aleykutty.

His interest in politics came early in his life and he ventured into this field as an activist of the Kerala Students Union (KSU) while studying at the Govt High School, Cherthala. He was the Councillor of the School Union in 1956 and became the Secretary of the school union during 1957-58. While doing his graduation at the Maharajas College, Ernakulam, he was elected as General Secretary of the College Union in 1962. He became the Treasurer of Kerala Students Union the next year, and went on to become the State President of KSU during 1964-'66.

After taking his degree in Law and enrolling as an Advocate, he assumed the leadership of Pradesh Youth Congress Committee in 1966 and was elected as its President and continued as such till 1969. Being an ardent supporter of the Nehruvian socialist ideals, he organized various agitations for the common cause. He went on hunger march twice by foot from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram. While participating in the fishermen agitation at Veluthulli near Cherthala, he was seriously injured and hospitalized due to police lathi charge.

The next phase of his political career started in 1969, when he was elevated as the General secretary of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) that year. He was the Convenor of the State Liaison committee of the ruling coalition as well from 1970 to '77. Meanwhile, he was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly for the first time from Cherthala constituency in 1970. Shri. A.K. Antony has been the President of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) during 1973-77, 1978-82 and 1987-92.

Shri. A.K. Antony was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Kerala for the first time on April 27, 1977 following the resignation of the Ministry headed by Shri. K.Karunakaran. He was then elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly through a bye-election from Kazhakkuttom constituency. However, in the wake of differences of opinion with regard to the Parliamentary bye-election at Chikkamagalore in Karnataka, he resigned his Chief Ministership on October 27, 1978.

When there was a split in the Congress party in 1978, he associated with the faction led by the late Devaraj Urs. Later he rejoined the Congress party at the Merger Convention inaugurated by Smt. Indira Gandhi at Cochin on December 13, 1982. He was appointed General Secretary, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in 1984 by Smt. Indira Gandhi and continued as such till 1987.

He was elected as a member of Rajya Sabha thrice during the period from 1985 to '91 and 1991 to '95 and again in 2005. He also served as the acting Treasurer of All India Congress Committee for one year in 1994. He was a member of the Union Cabinet led by Shri. P.V. Narasimha Rao as Cabinet Minister for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for two years from 1993 to '95.

On March 22, 1995, he took charge as the Chief Minister of Kerala for a second term, following the resignation of Shri. K.Karunakaran. He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly again in a bye-election from Thirurangadi constituency in 1995. He led the Ministry for the remaining term of nearly 14 months of the 9<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly with a good track record. He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly from Cherthala in 1996 and was the Leader of Opposition throughout the term of the 10<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly (1996-2001).

Election to the 11<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly was held on May 10, 2001. Shri. A.K.Antony was elected from Cherthala Constituency and the United Democratic Front (UDF) under his leadership was able to have a handsome victory of 99 seats out of 140. On May17, 2001, he took charge as Chief Minister of Kerala for a third term. Later he tendered the resignation of his Cabinet on August 29, 2004. While continuing as MLA, Shri.A.K.Antony was unanimously elected to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala in the bye-election on 27-5-2005 and he resigned his Membership in the Kerala Legislative Assembly on 8-6-2005.

Presently he has been serving as the Member of the Congress Working Committee (from 1992), Member of the Central Disciplinary Committee of the AICC (from 1993), Member of the Central Election Committee of the AICC (from 2001).

He has made remarkable contributions to the state. It was at his behest that the decision to construct the new Legislature Complex was taken in 1977. The introduction of Unemployment Allowance, Festival Allowance for the State Employees, Prohibition of arrack and the steps initiated to revive the economy of the State are some among them. He also took bold initiatives in the field of Higher Education, Science & Technology, Bio-Technology, Information Technology and other related areas.

Shri. Antony has his accomplishments in the field of journalism as well. He was Editor, Kalasala (weekly) during 1964-65 and was Editor, Printer and Publisher, Veekshanam (daily) during 1978- 82.

Smt.Elizabeth Antony, a Bank Officer is his wife and they have two sons, Mr. Anil Antony and Mr. Ajith Antony.

## P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR



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Shri. Padayattu Kesava Pillai Vasudevan Nair popularly known as PKV, personifies probity as well as purity in public life. Born on March 2, 1926, at Kidangoor in Kottayam District to Shri. V.M. Kesava Pillai and Smt Nanikutty Amma, Shri. P.K. Vasudevan Nair who pursued the Communist ideology relentlessly, brings with him a long political service that spans more than half a century. He was the Chief Minister of the state from October 29, 1978 to October 7, 1979.

Shri. P.K. Vasudevan Nair entered politics during his student days. He has been a member of the Communist Party of India since 1945. While studying, he was the president of Travancore Students Union in 1947. He was elected as President of All Kerala Students Federation in 1948. After graduation in Physics, he came to Thiruvananthapuram and joined Government Law College. By that time he was

so deeply involved in politics that he gave up his law studies to venture into the political arena. Soon he became a youth leader of national and international repute. He was President of Kerala Youth Federation and was the founder President of All India Youth federation (AIYF). He also served as the Vice- President of World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

Owing to his deep involvement and commitment towards the political organization, he took part in the underground activity of the party during 1948-51. He was arrested in 1951 in connection with a student struggle. He had also undergone prison life in New Delhi in connection with an agitation against price hike. He continued in the CPI after the split in 1964 and held prominent positions in the party including the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI)

A veteran parliamentarian, Shri. PKV has been elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly twice and Lok Sabha four times. He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly from Alleppey in 1977 as well as in 1980. He served as the Minister for Industries in the cabinet of both Shri. K. Karunakaran and Shri. A.K. Antony during the period from April 1977 to October 1978. He succeeded Shri. A.K. Antony as the Chief Minister of Kerala on October 29, 1978. However, he resigned on October 7, 1979 in order to create a favourable atmosphere, for the formation of a Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala. While being a member in the KLA, he was the Chairman, Committee of Privileges from 1978 to 1979 and Chairman of PUC during 1980-82.

Shri. PKV was elected to Lok Sabha from Thiruvalla in 1957, from Ambalappuzha in 1962 and from Peerumedu in 1967. He had come to the election fray again in 2004 and had been elected to the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Thiruvananthapuram with a considerable majority, for a fourth term. Previously he was also in the panel of Chairmen, Lok Sabha during 1967-70. He was Secretary, CPI Parliamentary party in Lok Sabha for a long period from 1957 to 1970. He has served in a number of important Committees of Parliament as well. He was also the leader of CPI in Parliament and had chaired the Committee of Labour during 2004-05.

Widely admired as an efficient organiser, PKV apart from being a political leader, has participated in various social and cultural activities. He was at the helm of affairs of some widely known cultural organizations and institutions like KPAC. He served as the President of the prestigious Vayalar Ramavarma Trust. He has left an indelible mark in the field of journalism as Editor of 'Janayugom' daily during 1954-57. He has published a number of books on political issues and has also authored a biographical work. He had also served as the Editor of 'Navayugom' political weekly of CPI, Kerala State Council.

Smt. Lekshmikutty Amma is his wife and they have 3 sons and 2 daughters.

Shri. P.K. Vasudevan Nair passed away on July 12, 2005.

The Assembly paid its homage to him on July 15, 2005.

## C.H. MOHAMMED KOYA



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Shri. C.H. Mohammed Koya who adorned the chair of Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker and Minister was one of the most outstanding personalities in the history of modern Kerala.

His was a clear case of "From the Log House to the White House", as is often said of the late Abraham Lincoln. Shri. Koya rose from humble beginnings and reached the top rung of the ladder of fortune by sheer dint of hard work and perseverance.

Born on July 15, 1927 in an obscure village called Athole in Quilandy Taluk of Calicut, as the son of Payampunathil Shri. Ali Musaliar and Smt. Mariyumma, he had his early education in the Kongannur Aided Elementary School, Velur Mappila Elementary School and later the Quilandy Board High School. Though he joined Zamorin's College, Calicut later, on successful completion of the school leaving certificate exam, he had to bid farewell to his educational career soon.

In those early days of struggle, CH served for a short term in the Kurumpranad District Muslim League Committee, and then in the Municipal Office in Calicut. Shri. Koya's fortune took a turn for the better when he joined "Chandrika" the voice of Malayali Muslims, in its editorial Staff. In 1951 he became elected to the National Executive of the Indian Union Muslim League. Soon he was elected Councillor of Calicut Municipality.

On the dismissal of the first ever democratically elected Communist Government, fresh elections were ordered in 1960 and Shri CH was elected to Kerala Assembly from the Tanur constituency. Made the leader of the eleven member Muslim League Party in the Assembly, Shri. CH became the Speaker on June 9, 1961 on the demise of Shri. Seethi Saheb.

Shri. Koya however resigned Speakership on November 10, 1961 and contesting the ensuing Parliamentary poll successfully, entered the portals of Parliament House too, from the Calicut Constituency.

During the election to the State Assembly held in 1967, C.H. won from Mankada constituency by a vast majority. In the ministry headed by Shri EMS Namboodiripad, Shri. CH became a Minister for the first time, becoming the Education Minister. C.H. continued as Minister for Education in the succeeding ministries headed by C. Achutha Menon, K. Karunakaran and A.K. Antony right upto the Ninth Ministry headed by P.K. Vasudevan Nair.

It was during this long and enviable tenure that the University of Calicut came into existence. Also as Minister for Education, C.H. was instrumental in formulating many progressive reforms. With the abolition of the system of detention in college classes, he was instrumental in the High School stage education being made free and the student community getting their representation in the administrative and academic bodies such as Senate, Syndicate and Academic Council. The system of direct payment by Government to lecturers in private institutions was also introduced by him.

In October 1979, Shri. Mohammed Koya became the Chief Minister of Kerala. Though his cabinet had only a short life, it was indeed the high water mark of a long and arduous public life.

However, in the next UDF ministry headed by Shri. K. Karunakaran, Shri. Koya adorned the seat of Deputy Chief Minister. Continuing in the seat even after the Ministry was reconstituted in 1982 after the General Election, Shri. Koya stayed there till his untimely demise while on a trip to Hyderabad to attend a Ministerial conference.

Shri. Koya had served as the Chairman of two esteemed Legislature Committees too, in his career. He was the Chairman of Assurance Committee during 1958-59 and Public Accounts Committee during 1980-82.

In the midst of a tight schedule as an administrator Shri Koya took time off to indulge in his literary aspirations and is the author of no less than eight delightful volumes, like "My Haj Pilgrimage", "Caux-London-Cairo", "The Malaysia I saw", "How Legislative Assembly Works", "Soviet Union", "Muslim Rule in India through stories", "Five days in Srilanka" and "Travel around the world". Shri. Koya's amazing sense of humour and scintillating wit in the most despairing situations could be seen in the pages of these works. Shri.Koya continued to remain Chief Editor of "Chandrika" even when he was in full swing as an administrator and statesman.

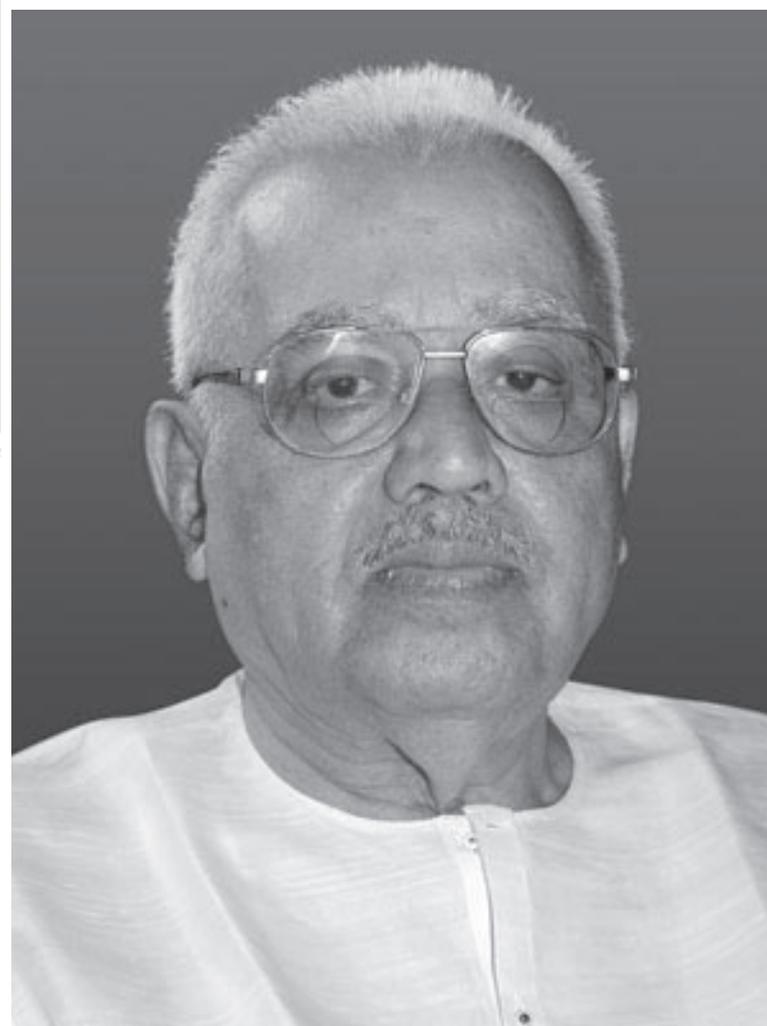
A man of great affability and personal charm, Shri CH had played many roles and in every role he gave a stellar performance.

Married to Smt. Amina, they have three children. Dr. M.K. Muneer who is presently the Minister for Works, is his only son.

Shri. C.H. Mohammed Koya passed away on September 28, 1983.

The Assembly paid its homage to him on November 25, 1983.

## E.K. NAYANAR



Eranpala Krishnan Nayanar, affectionately called E.K. Nayanar claims the distinction of serving for the longest term as the Chief Minister of Kerala State. A real stalwart and people's leader, Shri. Nayanar was born on December 9, 1919 as the son of Shri Govindan Nambiar at Kalliassery in Kannur District.

A staunch believer in Marxist ideals, he was drawn into the fold of the Communist Movement, at a relatively young age. He was in the forefront of struggles against oppression, at all times, and was instrumental in organising strikes and agitations of industrial and agricultural workers. And in the historical struggle of peasants in Malabar, which came to be known as "Kayyur struggle" he was an active participant. He was also part of the "Morazha" episode, a memorable revolt against British Rule in Malabar. His involvement in these two struggles resulted in him being compelled to carry out his activities, underground, for about six years.

A committed revolutionary, in the full sense of the term, Shri. Nayanar had been arrested and imprisoned several times , the first being in 1940 , for organizing a strike in the Aaron Mills, Kannur. He had to undergo imprisonment , again for a period of three years, later, when the Communist Party was banned in the country. And, during 1964-67 he was detained for three years under the PD Act. Further ahead, he had to go underground also during 1975-77, in connection with the Emergency, to further the cause of the Left Democratic movement.

Shri. E.K. Nayanar became elected to the Lok Sabha in 1967 from Palghat and served as an MP till 1970. Subsequently in 1974, he became elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly too, for the very first time, contesting from Irikkur constituency, through a bye-election held on May 3, 1974.

Shri. E.K. Nayanar was re-elected after that in 1980, 1982, 1987 and 1991 . In the year 1996 too, Shri. Nayanar was part of the Kerala Assembly, when he was elected for the fifth time in a row, through another bye-election held on October 13, 1996 from Tellicherry constituency.

Shri. E.K. Nayanar came to occupy the Chair of Chief Minister , for the first time on January 25, 1980 and continued upto October 20, 1981. He occupied the chair again from March 26, 1987 to June 17, 1991 and from May 20, 1996 to May 13, 2001. During the period from 1981 to 82 , 1982 to 1987 and 1991 to 1992 Shri. Nayanar also served as Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

Shri. E.K. Nayanar's tenure as Chief Minister was witness to several progressive reforms, especially in the Land Reforms and Labour Welfare sectors. The Kerala Coir workers Welfare Fund Act, 1987, The Kerala Khadi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1989, The Kerala Abkari Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1989, The Kerala Construction workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1989 and the Kerala Ration Dealer's Welfare Fund Act 1998 were some of the landmark labour related legislations enacted during his stewardship. The establishment of the Kannur University is also another hallmark in his administration.

In the course of an illustrious career spanning more than six decades, Shri Nayanar has also held several high positions within the Communist Party. He had served as Secretary, State Committee of CPI (M) during 1972-80 and 1991-96. He had also been a Member of the CPI (M) Polit bureau.

A gifted writer with an amazing sense of humour , which, no doubt, proved helpful to him in tiding over tiring situations, Shri Nayanar also had a commendable stint as the Editor of "Deshabhimani" daily, during 1982-86 and 1991 – 96, contributing innumerable articles on political, socio - economic and literary issues.

And alongwith writing poems in his early days, Shri. Nayanar also has to his credit about twenty volumes on various subjects including literature and journalism;

“പുരോഗമന സാഹിത്യ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ വളർച്ച,” “മാർക്സിസം ഒരു മുഖവുര,” “പാർലമെന്റും ചില വസ്തുതകളും”

“നെഹ്രു - ഗാന്ധി - ഒരു പഠനം,” “കാരൽ മാർക്സ്” to name just a few. In addition, he has authored a bio-graphical work, ‘My struggle .’

A man of great affability and personal charm there was nothing that he touched, that he did not adorn.

And Shri. Nayanar's ability to see humour in the most despairing of situations was, perhaps, the factor which proved instrumental in grooming him into an orator of the highest calibre and crowd puller, when it came to standing before the mike.

Smt. Sarada Teacher is his wife and they have two sons and two daughters.

Shri. E.K. Nayanar passed away on May 19, 2004 .

The Assembly paid its homage to him on June 25, 2004.

## OOMMEN CHANDY



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Shri. Oommen Chandy , an able organiser and a leader of the masses, is the present Chief Minister of Kerala, occupying the chair since August 31, 2004, coming as successor to Shri. A.K. Antony. Shri. Oommen Chandy was born on October 30, 1943 at Kumarakom in Kottayam district to Shri. Karottu Vallakkalil K.V. Chandy and Smt. Baby Chandy.

An ardent follower of Indian National Congress with an inherent yearning for social service, Shri. Oommen Chandy has climbed the party echelons through the KSU and Youth Congress. Starting as the Unit President of KSU at St.George High School, Puthupally, he went on to become the State President of the organisation during 1967-69. He completed his college education from CMS College Kottayam, S.B. College, Changanassery and Government Law College, Ernakulam. Besides bestowing knowledge, these campuses moulded the career of a mass leader.

Shri. Oommen Chandy became the President of Youth Congress in 1970-71. He was also a member of the AICC. His leadership qualities were evident in trade union activities as well. He was the President of the INTUC, Kottayam District Committee, and the Vice President of All India Youth wing of the INTUC and acted as President of various trade union organizations affiliated to the INTUC. During those days he led several mass movements addressing causes concerning the workers and the common man.

Shri Oommen Chandy whose social and political career stretches over four decades, has been elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly eight times. He has the rare distinction of representing the same constituency, Puthuppally in Kottayam district, for a record period of 35 years continuously. He was elected to the KLA in 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1991 and 2001. During his long legislative career he had also served as the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee during 1996-98.

Shri. Chandy was the Minister for Labour from 11.4.1977 to 25.4.1977 in the Karunakaran Ministry and continued holding the same portfolio in the succeeding cabinet headed by Shri. A.K.Antony, till 27.10.1978. He was the Home Minister also in the Cabinet of Shri. K.Karunakaran from 28.12.1981 to 17.3.1982. Again, he was sworn in as a minister in the Karunakaran cabinet with Finance portfolio on July 2, 1991. However, he resigned from the cabinet on 22.6.1994 owing to turn of events and the differences with the then Chief Minister.

Shri. Oommen Chandy served as Convenor of the UDF twice i.e. during 1982-86 and 2001-2004. A long time associate of Shri. A.K. Antony, Shri Oommen Chandy subsequently took charge as the Chief Minister of Kerala on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2004, following the resignation of the former.

He has made his indelible mark during his long career in public life. Sanctioning of Unemployment Allowance, introducing welfare measures for the labourers, uniform modification of police personnel are some of them. As the Chief Minister, Shri. Oommen Chandy brought forth innovative measures like "Fast-Forward" and new initiatives like "Mass Contact Programme" for the timely redressal of people's grievances.

Shri. Oommen Chandy has also attended the Thirtyfifth World Economic Forum held at Davos, Switzerland in January 2006.

Smt. Mariamma Oommen is his wife and they have one son and two daughters.