
CH MOHAMMED KOYA

# C.H. MOHAMMED KOYA

First Published 1987 by MACMILLAN INDIA LIMITED, Madras

Second Edition : September 2013

© C. H. Mohammed Koya Memorial
Publication Committee, University of Calicut, 1987

All rights reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form
or by any means, without permission.

Published by
**C. H. Mohammed Koya Chair**
**for Studies on**
**Developing Societies**
University of Calicut
Calicut University P.O., Kerala - 673 635
www.chchair.org Email: chmkchair@gmail.com
₹150/-
Cover & Printing : entermedia, calicut

# C. H. MOHAMMED KOYA

Compiled and Edited by
**C. H. Mohammed Koya Memorial**
**Publication Committee**
University of Calicut

**C. H. Mohammed Koya Chair**
**for Studies on**
**Developing Societies**
University of Calicut

2013

## PREFACE

C.H.Mohammed Koya (1927-1983) still lives in our memory despite the passage of decades after his demise. He had lead such a wonderful life leaving indelible foot prints on the sands of time.

This volume is a collection of reminiscences of C.H. by eminent persons closely associated with him. This was published in 1987, thanks to the initiative of Sri.T.N.Jayachandran, the then Vice Chancellor of the University of Calicut, as a tribute to C.H.who was the Education Minister of Kerala at the time of the establishment of the University in 1968.

We record our gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of the University for giving us permission to republish this book, copy of which has not been available since many years. C.H.Mohammed Koya Chair for Studies on Developing Societies which is constituted recently, brings out this volume so as to acquaint the new generation with the hallowed legacy of C.H.Mohammed Koya.

We sincerely thank everybody for their valuable help to bring out this.

P.A.Rasheed
*Director*
C.H.Mohammed Koya Chair
for Studies on
Developing Societies
University of Calicut

September 2013

# CONTENTS

Preface ---------- 11

C.H.Mohammed Koya (1927 - 83) ---------- 15
C. T. THOMAS

C.H.Mohammed Koya: An Appreciation ---------- 25
P. RAMACHANDRAN

O Rare Koya ---------- 28
M.M.GHANI

A trusted colleague ---------- 33
C. ACHUTHA MENON

Mohammed Koya -I miss him now ---------- 38
V. R. KRISHNA IYER

C. H. Mohammed Koya ---------- 43
N. A. NOOR MUHAMMED

Founder and sustainer of Calicut University --------- 48
K. A. JALEEL

Mohammed Koya as Pro-Chancellor ---------- 55
A. AIYAPPAN

The big-hearted man ---------- 59
A. K. ANTONY

Harbinger of a new era ---------- 61
B. V. ABDULLA KOYA

C. H. Mohammed Koya and
the University of Calicut ---------- 63
K.C. CHACKO

The search for the first Vice-Chancellor ---------- 73
N. A. KARIM

C. H: the educationist ---------- 77
U. A. BEERAN

An irresistible personality ---------- 82
E. AHAMED

Reminiscences ---------- 87
PADMA RAMACHANDRAN

Secret of C. H. Mohammed Koya's success ---------- 90
T. M. SAVANKUTTY

C.H -A great Indian ---------- 95
MALAYATOOR RAMAKRISHNAN

C. H. Mohammed Koya-the Muslim
League Minister ---------- 98
T. P. KUTTIAMMU

C. H. Mohammed Koya: Some Memories --------- 103
K.MADHAVA MENON

C. H. Mohammed Koya reminiscences ---------- 107
E. K. IMBICHI BAVA

Homage to the founder ---------- 109
S. SIVAPRASAD

C.H. - A multi-faceted personality ---------- 114
HAMID ALl SCHAMNAD

Founder of the Calicut Law College ---------- 119
P. SREEDHARAN NAIR

A spokesman of progressive ideas ---------- 122
P. SEETHI HAJI

C. H. Mohammed Koya ---------- 126
SIVARAM

A progressive leader of the people ---------- 128
RAHEEM MECHERI

C.H. era and the educational scene ---------- 133
C. A. ABDUSSALAM

A rare phenomenon ---------- 141
M. ABDUL AZIZ

C. H. Mohammed Koya-a disciplinarian ---------- 146
P. ABOOBACKER KOYA

The leader who moved the wheels of revolution - 151
C. K. THANOOR

C. H. Mohammed Koya as a man of letters -------- 155
M. M. PURUSHOTHAMAN NAIR

C. H. Mohammed Koya and Calicut University -- 159
C.K.RAMACHANDRAN

Man without a mask ---------- 163
E.P.MOYINKUTTY

C. H.- A versatile genius ---------- 165
P. K. KUNHALIKUTTY

Man without shadows ---------- 167
M. M. BASHEER

Those memories never die ---------- 172
AMINA MOHAMMED KOYA

*Appendix*

Speech by C. H. Mohammed Koya at the
first meeting of Calicut University Syndicate ----- 177

About the contributors ---------- 181

A Brief note on C. H. Mohammed Koya Chair
for Studies on Developing Societies ---------- 183



- M.V.DEVAN

# PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

I have great pleasure in presenting this compendium of memoirs on the late C. H. Mohammed Koya, one of the most distinguished sons of Kerala. Statesman, social reformer, parliamentarian, administrator and writer, Mohammed Koya left an indelible mark on the public life of Kerala, and, indeed, of the whole country.

His sudden and unexpected departure from our midst on 28 September 1983 has left a void which will take a long time to fill. We at the University of Calicut have a special reason to remember him with gratitude. As the founder of the university and as its godfather during its infancy, Mohammed Koya took an abiding interest in its establishment and development. As a token of the high esteem in which we hold Mohammed Koya, the university decided to bring out two volumes in English and Malayalam. A Committee with the Vice-Chancellor of the university as Chairman and Dr. C. T. Thomas, Dr. M. G. S. Narayanan, Dr. M. M. Basheer, Dr. M. M. Purushothaman Nair, Dr. Moosa A. Backer, Mr. K. Kunhukrishnan, Mr. E. P. Moyinkutty, Mr. M. A. Abdul Aziz and Dr. S. Balaraman as members was constituted to bring out the volumes.

Even though the proposal for bringing out the books initially met with a good deal of enthusiasm, it was soon realised that it was not going to be an easy task. While most of the people whom we contacted were sympathetic to the proposal their sympathy and enthusiasm could not easily be converted into concrete shape. Renewed efforts were made many a time and, luckily at long last, our efforts have come

to fruition. This volume consists of memoirs by eminent people who had come into contact with Mohammed Koya as colleagues, fellow workers and admirers. We are grateful to Shri. P. Ramachandran, His Excellency the Governor of Kerala who contributed an appreciation on Mohammed Koya. The contributors to this volume include all the former vice-chancellors of the University of Calicut, Mr. C. Achutha Menon and Mr. A.K. Antony, former Chief Ministers of Kerala, Mr. Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, retired Supreme Court Judge and Mrs. Amina Mohammed Koya. Our gratitude towards them knows no limits. I thank all the other contributors for sparing their valuable time to jot down their reminiscences of such a colourful personality like Mohammed Koya. Some of the articles are translations from Malayalam into English. While care has been taken to be faithful to the original it is possible that there are lapses. We crave for the indulgence of the authors in this regard. Special thanks are due to the members of the committee particularly to Dr. C. T. Thomas and Dr. M. G. S. Narayanan who had taken upon themselves the task of editing the articles and translating many of them from Malayalam to English. Thanks are due to Mr. V. K. Bhaskaran who ungrudgingly took upon himself the task of facilitating the smooth functioning of the committee.

The University is conscious of the fact that this project has been delayed. But even delays have their positive aspects. We are able to release this volume on the 60th birthday of C. H. Mohammed Koya which falls on 15 July 1987.

Mohammed Koya was an incurable optimist. Our own optimism in being able to compile this volume has been rewarded, though a little late. The articles in this volume present a picture of the many faceted personality that Mohammed Koya - was educationist, parliamentarian, social worker, disciplinarian, writer and last but not least, a great humanist. Mohammed Koya had the remarkable ability to laugh at himself and inspired many a cartoonist while he was alive. We have been able to present cartoons of Mohammed

Koya by practically all the wellknown cartoonists of Kerala. The response of the cartoonists to our request for cartoons of Mohammed Koya was quick and genuine. A special word of thanks is due to all of them for their generosity and understanding. Our special thanks are due to Messrs. Macmillan India Ltd., but for whose co-operation, this publication would not have become a reality. I also thank all the noble souls who made this effort possible by contributing their mite in some form or other.

Thenhipalam
15 July 1987

**T. N. JAYACHANDRAN**
*Vice - Chancellor*
*University of Calicut*

# C.H.Mohammed Koya (1927 - 83)

**C. T. THOMAS**

C. H. Mohammed Koya was born with no silver spoon in his mouth. Indeed, few men destined for high office later in life, could have come into the world under more unpromising or more unpropitious circumstances than those that accompanied the birth of Mohammed Koya. The saga of his gallant struggle from obscurity and poverty to celebrity should serve as a beacon of hope and reassurance to the deprived and disadvantaged millions of our countrymen.

C. H. Mohammed Koya was born in the obscure village of Atholi in Quilandy Taluk of Kozhikode District on 15 July 1927. His father Payampunathil Ali Musaliar earned a precarious livelihood as a practitioner of native and unani systems of medicine along with a modicum of magic. In those days of meagre medical facilities, Musaliar's 'mobile dispensary' consisting of a sachet tucked under his arm was a boon to the feckless folk of the village. In 1923 Ali Musaliar married Mariyomma of the same village and set up home in a nondescript mud-built hut. Koya was the first fruit of their union and being the eldest son, in keeping with a time-honoured tradition among Muslim families, the boy was named Muhammed after the Prophet.

Malabar as a whole lagged far behind other parts of Madras Presidency in educational facilities and Atholi and its environs

were no exception. However, the village did have a primary school-Kongannur Aided Elementary School-and the young Mohammed Koya, his clean-shaven, shining pate draped in a silk scarf, was duly enrolled in the first standard in October 1933 when the school reopened after the Pooja holidays. But the very next year he joined Velur Mappila Elementary School. Isakutty, the school headmaster played a significant role in the development of the lad. He nurtured in his young ward the wholesome habit of general reading. More-over, he fostered a sense of social consciousness and responsibility in his pupil. Very early in life Mohammed Koya had acquired the reputation of being a good public speaker. While still a mere lad of thirteen he had the rare distinction of sharing the platform with the distinguished speaker and debator Swami Vaghbadandan at a school anniversary. Mohammed Koya was no mere book worm. After the school hours the young scholar showed a keen interest in helping his father on his tiny farm.

Time passed and as war clouds were gathering over Europe, Mohammed Koya passed out of the upper primary school with highly creditable grades. Owing to his straitened financial circumstances Ali Musaliar was not enthusiastic about sending his son for further studies at the high school. However, Koya was able to join Quilandy Board High School owing to the munificence of Sayed Abdurahiman Bafaki Thangal who offered to support him financially. Later when he was awarded a government scholarship, Thangal's assistance was dispensed with. The school literary and debating society was Koya's favourite forum where he shone as a rare luminary by his skill in verbal pyrotechnics. Though a good student on the whole he possessed no special aptitude for science. Alongside the school curriculum Mohammed Koya pursued a vigorous programme of general reading. His favourite haunt was Lala Lajpat Roy Memorial Library in Quilandy. Koya facetiously quipped in later life that he had read every single book in that library-because there were so

few of them! Along with his proficiency in public oratory, he tried his hand at writing articles which appeared in *Chandrika* under the pseudonym M. K. Atholi.

While he was a high school student, Koya took active part in the programmes of the Muslim Student Federation and was one of the two vice-presidents of the local unit and he was one of the two joint-secretaries of the district level committee.

In the school leaving certificate examination held in March 1943 Koya secured a creditable success. In June he joined Zamorin's College, Calicut, for the intermediate course with physics, chemistry and logic as his optional subjects. But he was compelled to bid farewell to his educational career when he failed in the intermediate examination of 1945. Chemistry was a bug-bear to him and therefore he did not write the supplementary examination.

Looking around for a means of livelihood Koya secured an appointment as office assistant of the Kurumpranad District Muslim League committee at a salary of Rs. 30 per mensem. Later he got an appointment as a Lower Division Clerk at the Calicut Municipal Office and thus was successful in keeping the wolf from the door. But soon he joined the staff of *Chandrika.* Established to serve as the voice of Malayali Muslims, *Chandrika* made its maiden appearance as a weekly published from Tellicherry in 1934. Though transformed into a daily in 1939, it had to be reverted to a weekly again. In 1946 the printing of *Chandrika* was transferred to Calicut and resumed publication as a daily newspaper. Koya joined the editorial staff of *Chandrika.* In 1948 there appeared the first ever book written by Mohammed Koya. It was a biography of Liquat Ali Khan and was published by Jinnah Bookstall, Tellicherry, with foreword by K. M. Seethi Sahib and priced at five annas.

On 22 september 1949 Koya's life of single blessedness came to an end when he married Amina, the daughter of Kammottil Abubacker Haji. Though the *Nikah* was over then,

the wedding was celebrated only in April 1950. It was a very modest affair attended among others by Muslim League leaders Bafaki Thangal and Seethi Sahib. Wedded life was no bed of roses to the young Koya and his bride. They were often plagued by financial problems. For the first *Id* after the wedding the proud husband to his chagrin discovered that his slender pecuniary resources wouldn't permit him to gift his wife a set of new clothes as prescribed by custom. Throughout the period of his stewardship with *Chandrika* and even later when he adorned many a distinguished position in party and government his financial situation was far from comfortable. Koya used to remark humorously that he would give 'malikhan' to his father implying that all the assistance he could give him was some token annual gift of cash. Despite the relentless battle with the wolf at the door the Koyas enjoyed serene domestic felicity. They have three children, two daughters Fauzia and Fareeda, Muneer being their only son.

In 1951 Mohammed Koya was elected to the national executive of the Indian Union Muslim League. The same year he discovered that he was a diabetic and that for the rest of his life he had to be sustained by doses of insulin. For his maiden talk over All India Radio, Calicut, he received a fee of Rs. 25 with which he had intended to buy a saree for his wife. But the cash had to be used to buy insulin to sustain his life. Though a diabetic and probably because of it, Koya had a craving for rich foods, especially sweets. Even when doctors had forbidden him from eating certain foods, he would defy them. Once at a banquet while he was lavishly consuming sweetmeats, a friend mildly remonstrated, and Koya shot back saying whether he had heard of anyone dying of eating too many sweets!

In 1952 the first general election after India became a republic was held and the Muslim League leaders such as Bafaki Thangal, Seethi Sahib and Chakkeeri Ahmedkutty wanted Koya to contest the election. They felt rather sore

when he was disqualified as under-aged. However, Koya fought for the Muslim League candidates via the columns of *Chandrika.* Soon afterwards he was elected councillor of the Calicut municipality. In December 1952 a rare honour was conferred on Koya when he was invited to address the annual conference of the Sahitya Parishad, a distinction he .shared with the luminaries of Malayalam literature. In 1959 he undertook *Haj* and wrote an account of his experiences in *My Haj Pilgrimage.* 1959 was the year of the historic *Vimochana Samaram* and on one occasion when he was on his way to Putharikandam Maidan, in Trivandrum to address a public gathering, his car was blocked and he was threatened with dire consequences. Later while addressing the gathering he made light of the whole affair when he said that he realized that Mundasseri was not alone but had the support of Goondasseris also. Koya's wit was always scintillating and his sense of humour was astounding. These qualities made him a platform artist of the highest calibre. The year 1959 did not pass without inflicting on him his first bereavement in life: his dear father passed away in November leaving the son grief stricken as his busy public life gave him but little leisure to nurse and succour his ailing father. With the father's demise, the burden of supporting a large household descended upon his shoulders.

On the dismissal of the first ever democratically elected communist government, fresh elections were ordered in 1960 and C. H. Mohammed Koya was elected to the Kerala State Assembly from the Thanur constituency. On the election of Seethi Sahib as Speaker, Koya was made leader of the 11 member Muslim League party in the Assembly and on 9th June 1961 he was elected the Speaker of the Kerala State Legislative Assembly on the untimely demise of Seethi Sahib. Though the youngest of presiding office bearers Koya conducted the business with flair and distinction. The speakership afforded him sufficient leisure to pursue his favourite pastimes of reading and writing. On friction arising

between the Congress and Muslim League over the forthcoming parliamentary poll, the Muslim League quit the political alliance at the state level too and consequently Koya resigned the speakership and contested the election. He was returned to parliament from the Calicut Constituency.

At the invitation of Moral Rearmament Association (MRA) Mohammed Koya paid his first ever visit to Europe, and first overseas trip since the Haj. He flew to Geneva, said to be the spiritual heart of Europe, where MRA has its headquarters. He participated in a worldwide conference of MRA members and well-wishers. At the conference attended by leaders and intellectuals from the four corners of the globe, Koya was given the unusual honour of being made the Chairman of one of the sessions. On his way back he stopped over at London participating in several functions, both public and private. After his pleasant London sojourn he visited Cairo before returning home.

C. H. Mohammed Koya undertook a tour of Malaysia to solicit funds for the orphanage at Tirurangadi which was later written as a delightful travel account *The Malayasia I saw.*

Being an MP was a novel experience to Mohammed Koya. Realizing that good parliamentarians are those who master the process through incessant work, Koya read widely on the subject. He read voraciously and had the reputation of having borrowed more books than any other MP from the Lok Sabha library. He was no mean debater and always made his mark whenever the opportunity arose. Once during a debate on food problem, Koya remarked that the quota of food was insufficient even to feed the state's chickens. To the food minister's irascible retort that the member was more interested in chickens than in people, Koya quipped back that the minister was interested in neither!

The relentless pursuit of public business left Koya little leisure and resources to attend to his personal life and family business. However, in 1965 he built a modest home-'Crescent House' in East Nadakkavu, Calicut. Meanwhile he had been

made Chief Editor of *Chandrika,* a position specifically created to accommodate him.

During the election to the state Assembly held in 1967, Mohammed Koya won from Mankada Constituency by a vast majority, both his opponents having lost their deposit amounts. In the ministry formed by the United Front headed by E. M. S. Nambudiripad, Mohammed Koya was appointed as Minister for Education. The citizens of Calicut accorded him a tumultuous red carpet welcome during his maiden visit to the city as minister. He laid the foundation stone for a permanent structure to house the Arts and Science College at Meenchanda and visited the orphanage at Tirurangadi. C.H. being invited to inaugurate the programmes commemorating the 95th birth anniversary of the poet Kumaran Asan was a singular tribute conferred on him by men of letters in Malayalam.

The establishment of the University of Calicut was the realization of Mohammed Koya's long-cherished dream. His heart was bound to this institution with the silken chords of his tenderest affection.

To Vice-Chancellor T. N. Jayachandran who paid him a courtesy call before assuming office in 1983, Mohammed Koya is said to have remarked that he was greatly pleased with the appointment, as the University of Calicut was his baby! Koya's involvement with the notion of a university for the educationally backward Malabar area goes back at least to the days when he was a member of Parliament. A golden opportunity to achieve his aim arrived when he was assigned the education portfolio. The idea gained additional support from the report of the Kothari Commission which had expressed itself strongly in favour of an additional university to accommodate the ever growing number of affiliated colleges in the State. In the light of the Kothari commission remarks the government appointed a study group with vice-chancellor Samuel Mathai as Chairman which recommended the establishment of a university for Malabar with Calicut as

headquarters. The recommendation was duly endorsed by the University Grants Commission. By an ordinance issued by the Governor of Kerala the University of Calicut came into being on 22 July 1968. Subsequently on 12 August 1968 the University moved to its present campus at Tenhipalam about 25 kms southeast of the historic city of Calicut on the Calicut- Trichur National Highway. The University was finally inaugurated on 13 September by Trigun Sen, Minister for Education of the Government of India.

In his capacity as Minister for Education Mohammed Koya had the occasion to tour many countries of the world. In 1968 he visited the U.S.A., Japan, Egypt, France, Britain and Hong Kong. His varied experiences in the course of his sojourn gave him materials for his interesting and informative travel account *Travel Around the World.*

To the immense gratification of Mohammed Koya the Government of Kerala carved out a new district, district of Malappuram. As minister of education he was instrumental in formulating many progressive reforms. He abolished the system of detention in college classes. Education upto the end of the high school stage was made free. Moreover the student community was given representation in the administrative and academic bodies such as the Senate, Syndicate and Academic Council. Under his stewardship the ,universities in Kerala were the first among Indian universities to implement such a progressive and radical piece of reform. The system of direct payment by government to lecturers in private institutions was also promulgated during his tenure as Minister of Education, which portfolio he continued to handle in the subsequent two ministries headed by C. Achutha Menon and the one headed by K. Karunakaran and still later by A. K. Antony. In October 1979 C. H. Mohammed Koya became the first Muslim to adorn the seat of chief minister of the state of Kerala. It was indeed the proudest moment of his life and the high watermark of his long and arduous public life. But his cabinet had a short life as

dissension among the constituents of the coalition developed and in December Koya submitted his resignation to the Governor.

C. H. Mohammed Koya was an inveterate voyager. Struck by wanderlust he toured the Gulf states and his engaging tour diary originally published in Malayalam has been translated into English under the title *Camel to Cadillac.* Later he visited the Republic of Libya. In 1981 he toured the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In the United Democratic Front ministry headed by K. Karunakaran which assumed office on 28 December 1981, Mohammed Koya was the Deputy Chief Minister. Consequent on the Assembly election held in May 1982 the ministry was reconstituted. However, C. H. continued to hold the position of Deputy Chief Minister in the reconstituted Cabinet too.

Meanwhile Mohammed Koya's health had deteriorated as he suffered the onslaught of two or three major ailments. He had been a diabetic since his prime. Now it was found that he suffered from high blood pressure. Though the embodiment of discipline in political and party affairs, Koya neglected his health and disobeyed doctors' orders regarding dietary regulations. Accompanied by his wife he went to London for medical treatment but the specialists there could do little to ameliorate his poor physical condition. The end came suddenly and unexpectedly on 28 September 1983. He had gone to Hyderabad to attend a conference of ministers of industries from all over India. After attending a banquet hosted by Chief Minister N. T. Rama Rao of Andhra Pradesh, Koya retired for the night around 10 p.m. leaving instructions with his staff to awaken him at 6 a.m. next morning. But he did not wake up to see the light of day. A momentous life bristling with achievements ended sometime during the night. Mohammed Koya had joined the ranks of the immortals.

Thus ended an illustrious life crowded with achievements.

Mohammed Koya had played many roles and in every role gave a stellar performance. There was nothing that he touched that he did not adorn. Editor, writer, parliamentarian, orator- Mohammed Koya was a man of great affability, suavity and personal charm.

Abraham Lincoln the distinguished president of the United States rose from a log cabin to the White House. C. H. Mohammed Koya's achievement was no less.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Foot prints on the sands of time.

# C. H. Mohammed Koya: An appreciation

**P. RAMACHANDRAN**

One unmistakable mark of a great man, it has been said, is the power of making durable impression upon people he meets; a second is to have handled matters in such a manner that the course of events is continually influenced by what he did. Judged by these yardsticks C. H. Mohammed Koya was beyond question one of the most outstanding personalities in the history of modern Kerala.

Mohammed Koya was truly a phenomenon in Kerala politics, making up for its paucity of statesmen amidst the plethora of politicians. He played many parts with great distinction-journalist, editor, author, orator, legislator and administrator. He was close to the centre of power for decades. He ran the gamut of high public offices in the state. But Koya Saheb was untouched by the corroding power of power.

C.H. rose rung by rung up the ladder of fortune. The responsibilities of public life were thrust upon him at an early age. He made his way up by sheer dint of hard work. There was in him a driving urge to excel in whatever he undertook. Mediocrity in performance or achievement was alien to him.

Mohammed Koya made an early impression on his elders in the Muslim League by the flair of his pen as a young journalist with The *Chandrika* and the power of his tongue as

a speaker at party meetings. His rise was meteoric. C.H. soon became a darling of the Muslim masses.

Soon after the formation of Kerala he was elected to the state Assembly in 1957. Even in a House of seasoned stalwarts,- there was no doubt that the young Muslim League legislator had all the markings of a parliamentary genius. His was a voice that aroused, and held, attention. There was ample evidence of the subtle thrust and the swift cut in debate and of wit and repartee.

The transition from politician to statesman was quick and sure, but it did not go unnoticed. For almost two decades, Mohammed Koya was a towering presence in the State Assembly. The House sat up with rapt attention whenever he intervened in the debates. The treasury benches and opposition alike listened to his voice of sanity and wisdom.

In the Lok Sabha also C.H. was able to make an impressionable mark within a short time. No problem was ever too big for his capacity or too small for his attention. With his enormous powers of deep thought and precise expression it was easy to carry conviction in the national legislative forum.

The adolescent who was weaned in the cradle of politics in the early fifties was catapulted to the state's Chief Ministership as a mature statesman in less than thirty years. In between he handled the arduous portfolios of home and education with delicate finesse and envious success. His interaction with the educational sector, especially, yielded rich and healthy dividends. The University of Calicut, as it now stands, owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mohammed Koya's dynamism and farsightedness. These were perhaps his most memorable years in politics. With an unerring eye for detail he gave a new direction to the administration.

Power did not smother the lovable human being in Mohammed Koya. He always exuded love and affection. He was tirelessly kind and considerate. He was lavish with his energy. As an administrator he was popular with all sections

of the people because he shared their sorrows, understood their difficulties and anticipated their wants.

C. H. Mohammed Koya was known as Kerala's great communicator. He will also find a place in history as a great leveller. Without any rancour or malice or the faintest hint of partisanship he attempted to eliminate the vestiges of discrimination and correct social imbalances and economic disparities. For this task he summoned every resource of oratory, character, action and administrative skill. C.H. was unique in that against overwhelming odds he tried so much, dared so much, toiled so much and gave so much to his people.

# O Rare Koya

**M.M.GHANI**

'If you ask me what specifically is my single greatest achievement during the course of my fairly long term of Education Ministership in the Government of Kerala, I would answer without any hesitation, the establishment of the Calicut University'. That was C. H. Mohammed Koya, writing in the issue of *Calicut University News* published in 1975 soon after my retirement from the University. So it was the Cali cut university that became a special object of his interest and care. Not just for itself, though. The establishment of the university was again, in his own words- 'inspired by a definite, clear, educational vision'. That vision was of the University acting as a lever to lift up the backward region of Malabar to the same level as Travancore and Cochin, educationally and, through education, economically. The finest tribute the University can pay to his memory is to translate that vision into reality. I believe this is what the University has been trying to do since its formation and will, I am sure, continue to do in the years ahead.

The manner in which I first met 'C.H.' (as he was fondly referred to by all who knew him) was thoroughly characteristic of the man and his administrative style. Consider the situation he was in at the time: He had brought the university into existence, housed it temporarily in the Calicut Polytechnic, approved a fine site for its permanent location, provided the funds for the infrastructure at the

campus, which was rapidly taking shape owing to the energy and drive of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. K. C. Chacko. So far so good. But the Prince of Denmark was still missing. The Minister had hunted far and wide for an eminent educationist to adequately fill the Vice-Chancellor's gadi. He had drawn blank everywhere. Having failed to land the whale of his desire he seems to have agreed to consider a small fry like me at the suggestion (according to his own version) of a person who knew me.

I was then in Bangalore, heading the Regional Institute of English and quite in the dark about the goings-on in Trivandrum. How was I to be brought into the picture? Had it been any other Education Minister I would probably have received a D.O. letter from his Secretary in a double envelope, profusely sealed and marked 'strictly confidential', announcing that my name was being considered for the Vice-Chancellorship of Calicut University, and perhaps asking for my biodata and in any case requesting me to meet the minister 'in his chambers' on a specified date and time. But that was not the C.H. style. What I did get was a private letter from a person who had known me and was close to the minister. It simply asked would I please have lunch with the education minister at his residence in Trivandrum and went on to say what the minister had in mind in extending this invitation.

It was a pleasant day in February 1969 when I drove in to the minister's official residence and was greeted by him with his ineffaceable friendly smile. I was instantly charmed-and surprised. My surprise was on three counts: he looked too young and too handsome for a minister; the warmth of his reception was overwhelming considering that we had never met before; the courtesy he showed me was so extraordinary that he addressed me as 'Sir', obviously out of a well-bred respect for a man twenty years older than himself (a quality in very short supply these days). A surprise of another kind was, however, waiting for me in the wings. For when we got

down to talking business, after the few guests at the lunch had left, he wanted me to accept the vice-chancellorship of Kerala (not Calicut) university and 'try to improve its administration'. The implied compliment was flattering but nontheless unwelcome to me. I showed my reluctance and later confirmed it in writing. I made it clear that as far as I was concerned it was Calicut or nothing. Thus it was that I came to have the wholly unexpected honour and privilege of being the first Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University.

My later contacts with C.H.-which, in our respective official positions, were naturally numerous-left me in no doubt that his informality, friendliness and courtesy at our first meeting were not put on for the occasion; they were inherent elements of his character and temperament. He was just the same to me throughout my time in Calicut as on the first day.

There will be others writing with better knowledge about his ability and wisdom as an administrator, about his unflappable response to problems in a state where crises were a part of the people's daily diet. However, there was one unique feature which, I believe, set him apart from the rest of the tribe. He refused to take offence at an honest difference of opinion. Not that there were many occasions for such difference between him and me. In fact I can recall only two. One was a rather serious divergence of views on an appointment, which was entirely within the province of the Chancellor (so, in effect, of the Minister). Constitutionally the university or the Vice-Chancellor had no say in it. Nevertheless I expressed my own differing view to the minister. He listened patiently but stuck to his choice. I must confess that later events proved that I was wrong and he was right. The other occasion was the sanctioning of P.G. courses to a few affiliated colleges including two or three government colleges. The government, obviously at the instance of the minister, issued orders sanctioning the courses 'subject to the approval of the university'. This was queering the pitch for

the university. It led to agitation by students and teachers of the colleges concerned; especially the government ones. The University had by then come to an understanding, based on an inspection of P.G. courses in affiliated colleges by commissions of external experts, that P.G. courses in most (not all) of the affiliated colleges were sub-standard, for three reasons: lack of competent staff with the exception of a few; lack of the necessary facilities; constant turbulence caused by the overwhelming undergraduate population. It was therefore thought that P.G. courses would flourish better at university centres than in affiliated colleges. In pursuance of this line of thinking, the syndicate, strongly supported by me, did not permit the colleges to open the P.G. courses sanctioned by the Government. A lesser man than C.H. would have been gravely offended by what could have been interpreted as an act of defiance of the Government and of disrespect to the Minister. But he was far above such petty-mindedness. Indeed when I had occasion to see him soon after this incident, to my amazement, he did not even refer to this subject. Being a man of liberal understanding he was able to see that the Syndicate had not acted out of pique or prejudice but only out of its concern for high academic standards.

I have reserved for last and special mention what I consider to be C. H.'s greatest virtue as a minister, and for which I admired him most. Academics everywhere bewail ministerial interference in the affairs of universities. Not without justification. Ministers, avid for power, in several states have trespassed unblushingly upon what was once considered the sacred precincts of university autonomy. University Acts have been amended out of recognition to convert universities virtually into departments of the government. In some states, appointments - even academic ones have to be approved by the minister. The motives are plain enough and need no explanation. In complete contrast to this C.H. scrupulously respected the autonomy of the University. Never, not even

once, did he seek to influence the decisions of the university, least of all in the matter of appointments. I have mentioned this in university circles in several states but nobody is willing .to believe it. Apparently it is too rare a quality to be expected of politicians in power.

Here then was a model minister. When comes such another!

# A trusted colleague

## C. ACHUTHA MENON

My association with Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya began by the end of 1969 when I was inducted into the Chief Ministership of the state. By that time he had already matured into a seasoned administrator, besides being a brilliant debator, which he always was from the very beginning of his legislative career.

Mohammed Koya became the Minister for Education in 1967 by deliberate choice. Both from his own personal experience and that of his community as a whole he knew the importance of education to the Muslims. One of the reasons of the backwardness of the Muslim community, he knew, was their failure to make use of the educational opportunities provided by the state to all classes of citizens in Kerala. Although it cannot be said that he introduced radical changes in the educational system of the state, he certainly made it more broad-based and extended its benefits to a larger number of people among the poorer sections of the population. It is well worth remembering that the policy of making education free upto the 10th standard for every boy or girl (before that it was free only upto 8th standard) who wished to study upto that stage was implemented during his tenure as Education Minister. Perhaps even more important from the standpoint of the Muslim community was the provision of scholarships to Muslim girls in the High School stage. The bastions of conservatism and obscurantism, Koya

knew, were entrenched among the uneducated women of his community and the easiest and least painful way of demolishing them was to make the light of education more easily accessible to the girls. Any' comparison of the number of Muslim girls enrolled in the primary and secondary classes between the early 1970s and the 1980s will bear witness to the result of this policy.

As one belonging to the minority community and a convinced upholder of the policies of his party, the Muslim League, he always fought for the right of the minority communities to establish educational institutions of their choice. But he was conscious of the distortion that might creep into the educational system if it is unduly weighted in favour of the private sector. He was therefore always for a proper balance between the two. I recollect very well how he resisted all pressures brought upon him for allowing a large number of recognised schools. It was some time in 1972 or so, I do not remember exactly. For quite some years the Government had not given sanction for recognised schools and so a large number of applications running upto about 60 *or* so came up that year. Koya thought that this was too much. He told me in confidence that in the case of these recognised schools there was always the danger of their being mismanaged and pressure subsequently brought upon the government in such case to take them over. That would certainly be a big burden for the public exchequer. He could not connive at that. Therefore he resisted all pressures and finally sanctioned only about a dozen recognised schools.

The Calicut University has been described by some as the 'brain child' of C. H. Mohammed Koya. Some others, have called it the 'Aligarh' of Kerala. It is however well to remember the history of its origin. When the administration of the Kerala University became unwieldy owing to the very large number of colleges it had to control, the necessity was felt for decentralising the administration of the university affairs. By the mid-sixties, a large number of colleges had come up in

the Malabar area and naturally a clamour arose that Malabar also should have an affiliating university. A committee was appointed by the government of the time to go into the question of the control of the affiliated colleges under the Kerala University and to make suitable recommendations about the advisability *or* otherwise of bifurcating the Kerala University and setting up one *or* more new universities. The committee was headed by the late Sri K. P. Kesava Menon. It recommended the splitting up of the Kerala university and establishing in the first instance a second University with Cali cut as its centre and subsequently another at Cochin. It was as a result of the recommendation of this committee that the Calicut University was founded.

The credit for piloting the Calicut University Bill and getting it passed into law certainly goes to Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya, and he did it with competence. But in the drafting of the bill the services of Sri P. Subramanyan Potti, at that time Advocate General to the Government of Kerala were available. Sri Potti's legal acumen was of immense help in the drafting of the bill. The teachers of the affiliated colleges had already organised themselves and they pressed upon the government for incorporating into the law, various measures for their protection. All such measures which could be accommodated were incorporated in the bill, but all the demands of the teachers, could not be accepted, because some of them were not sustainable under the constitution. Even some of the clauses approved by Potti and incorporated in the bill were subsequently struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional, as for instance the provision for taking over the management of colleges, temporarily for a period of two years, for mismanagement. On the whole however the Calicut University Act was a much more progressive piece of legislation than the Kerala University Act. Subsequently both the acts were made to fall in line.

My relations with Mohammed Koya had always been happy because he was a loyal colleague who knew the worth

of working as a team. Even in matters which were entirely within the competence of his ministry and he was not bound in accordance with the Cabinet rules of business to consult me, he used to seek my opinion and even bow to it although he had a different view in the matter. Only in certain rare cases in which he felt he could not reconcile his views with mine would he insist that the matter be placed before the Cabinet for a decision. Such trust, such loyalty, such spirit of give and take I have seldom seen, especially in a colleague belonging to a different political persuasion from mine.



**- VENU**

# Mohammed Koya, I miss him now

**V. R. KRISHNA IYER**

C.H. and I belonged to the same small town-Quilandy. That -principled political figure with a touch of primitive naivete, Bafakki Thangal, who too was from Quilandy, was his patron and leader and my friend and client (in my days at the bar). Koya was a class fellow of my sister and brother and was a fine public speaker from his early days. His felicitous phrases and pungent humour lent charm to his Malayalam oratory but what was best in this Muslim leaguer was his freedom from communal allergy and his large-hearted commitment to public good regardless of creed and other crude or narrow loyalties. Koya enjoyed unusual popularity among all sections of society because he loved the small man, lived like a small man and unreservedly appreciated merit wherever he found it, religious jaundice, political clout, nepotism and favouritism never clouding his assessment. These are spiritual qualities in a political animal, rare these days when statesmen are an endangered species.

C.H. and I were ranged on opposite sides in the legislature but our personal relations have been enviably excellent. On his visit to the U.S. he met my sister, who then was teaching there, and gladly accepted the tips she gave him regarding food and other small but important things while travelling in America. He always referred to her and my brother with

affection. When I was Minister and he was in the opposition, and later, when he was minister and I sat in the opposition, politics never marred our relationship in public life or personal dealings and our mutual respect was always high. Anecdotes flood my mind to prove this remark. A couple of small instances will do here.

The Kerala Fine Arts Society, Ernakulam, was building an auditorium. I was its president and the society was then a pauper. Koya was the minister concerned for 'culture'. I stopped his car while he was passing by my house, presented a petition for a government grant, explained briefly what we wanted, and it was granted. It was as simple as that. He generously accepted my integrity, instantly appreciated the justice of the case and hardly permitted the red tape to procrastinate the sanction. On another occasion, my wife, who was a member of the Executive Committee of a Women's Home run by government, had strong complaints about its management. C.H. was at his residence, not being well. She drove to his place, gave him her account of the mismanagement and in a few days the committee was restructured displacing some political heavy-weights. The complainant was made the chairman but she resigned shortly after, for personal reasons.

K. P. P. Nambiar, once the great builder of Keltron, was astonished at the lovely tribute Minister Koya deservedly paid him at a public function although Nambiar was a controversial technocrat who trod on the toes of the bureaucrats and motivated political operators. Mohammed Koya did not grudge praise where it was due nor fear to criticise where he felt it was needed. I have faced and survived his oral arrows of flowery frown in the Assembly.

He was a Muslim leaguer but not a communalist. He was a senior minister whose soul was not lined with large sums of swiss francs or benami land. He was a home minister who kept his human sensitivity intact. He lived in public office and before political foot lights but never allowed himself to

become illiterate and hubristic, glamourous or vain. He was a good mussalman but not a fundamentalist. He was widely travelled and refused to be a frog in the well. He loved Arabic and did much to spread it in Kerala's schools but always held Sanskrit in high regard as his Malayalam vocabulary showed. He was simple even while in office a contradiction in our times. He had his weaknesses and incompetencies and communal limitations. The Calicut University was rightly well-conceived as an educational resource in a backward region but projected in *its* infant years the image of Muslim philistinism and fanaticism.Or so it was thought by Hindus. Malappuram district was designed to promote development in a most neglected area of Malabar but was born under a communal star. A really neglected geographical and educational sector where people largely belong to a religious label with an aggressive history is apt to misconstrue as an appeasement of fundamentalism. Koya and Thangal (I mean the late Bafaki) were not fanatics nor exploiters of Muslim bigotry unlike some of their successors. A sense of justice enlivened their views. But a bad odour dies down only slowly, once propaganda has created it. Wisely oriented but perversely executed, these two measures (Malappuram district and Calicut University) have been misunderstood. Hopefully, later years will, given creative intelligence and secular sensibility in the administration, demonstrate the justice of developmental districts and universities as lighthouses in dark regions.

The degeneracy of politics has made it difficult to say a good word except with one's tongue in one's cheek, about a minister or legislator or politicker. And Kerala politics is miasma; its ministers by and large, by-words of vices. Perhaps they are not as wicked as represented. C.H. was an angel, judged by the performance pages of his successors. Even by higher standards, Koya was a success.

During the last phase of life, Koya was a sick man. To see a good man suffer is a sad spectacle. I met him and his wife

in Bangalore on one such occasion. It was a moving personal meeting. When the history of Kerala comes to be written-remember, Mohammed Koya as Minister for Education was in every way a great supporter of the Kerala History Association-C.H. will justly claim several pages while many others, despite their present huge size, may be swallowed by oblivion. The sea of common people, gathered at Calicut from all over when his bodily remains were brought, is an unforgettable homage and tribute. A villager from Quilandy from an indigent family rose to be respected by millions of commoners. That C.H. I miss.



**- SUKUMAR**

# C. H. Mohammed Koya

**N. A. NOOR MUHAMMED**

I deem it an honour and a privilege to have the opportunity of placing on record my humble tributes to late C. H. Mohammed Koya.

C.H. was a multi-splendoured personality. He dominated the political scene in Kerala for well over a quarter of a century and had left a deep impression in all walks of life-social, economic and political. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that the Calicut University has come forward to issue a commemorative volume to honour this illustrious son of India.

My acquaintance with C.H. started in 1972 when I returned to India on completion of my United Nations assignment in Somalia. The Islamic Cultural Association of Nagercoil, for which I was made the president, resolved to conduct the Prophet's Day celebrations on a grand scale. We invited Speaker Pulavar Govindan from Tamil Nadu and minister C.H. from Kerala. On the day of the meeting, there was torrential rains in Trivandrum and Nagercoil. Some of us doubted whether C.H. would come for the meeting at all. C.H., who returned to Trivandrum from Madras by the evening flight, drove direct to Nagercoil braving the inclement weather, and delivered a memorable speech. The exultant crowd gave him a thunderous ovation.

C.H. used to come to Nagercoil occasionally to participate in public functions. During one such visit, he casually mentioned to a friend of mine that Kerala Government was

considering utilising my services. In which field and in what capacity that was going to be, I hardly had any idea at that time. What C.H. said came true in, November 1975 when the then education minister Chakkeri Ahmed Kutti Haji offered me the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calicut University.

Among the many achievements of C.H., the most noteworthy is the Calicut university established with a twofold objective of extending the frontiers of knowledge with due emphasis on teaching and research, and of giving an impetus to the educational advancement of the Malabar region, which for long remained a backward area. Throughout his long official career, C.H. evinced a keen interest in the university and assiduously nurtured this nascent institution.

When I took charge as Vice-Chancellor, the big problem that confronted me was financial stringency. Prof. M. M. Ghani, the first Vice-Chancellor, had laid solid foundations for the growth of the university. He had constructed a few important buildings including the spacious library, the guest house and the indoor stadium, the pride of the university. The work on other buildings and the outdoor stadium had come to a standstill, as the contractors had stopped work demanding enhanced rates. Additional accommodation had to be found for the nine new departments sanctioned by the U.G.C. under the five year plan. Unless the new departments were started in time, the U.G.C. grants would lapse. To complete the unfinished work and commence new construction for housing the sanctioned departments, funds were urgently needed; but funds were not available in the budget. I approached C.H. for help. He called the Special secretary and other secretaries for a conference., and they came out with the usual plea of paucity of funds. At the end of the conference, C.H. told me 'Please go ahead with your plans. Funds would be provided'. As he had promised, more than twenty lakhs were allotted to the University. We completed the unfinished work and constructed some additional buildings including the administrative block.

Foundation was also laid for the senate building. It need hardly be stated that timely help came from the government because of the intervention of C.H.

Special mention should be made about the support extended to me by C.H. in solving a grave crisis that faced the university during my tenure.

The Kerala Government established a Homeopathy College in Calicut without obtaining the prior approval of the Calicut University. After starting the college, the Government approached the University for the requisite approval as well as the approval of the Syllabus for the Degree Course. The Government had also suggested that the degree to be awarded be called M.B.S. (homeo). The Academic Council approved the syllabus submitted by the Board of Studies, and in the teeth of heated opposition from the representatives of the medical faculty, the Council also approved the award of M.B.S. (homeo) degree.

The following day, when myself and the Pro- Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sukumar Azhicode were discussing some important matters in my office, students from the medical college, ,Calicut, came in a group and represented to us that, if M.B.S. (homeo) degree was awarded to homeo students, it would create confusion in the minds of the public, who would not be able to distinguish between M.B.B.S. and M.B.S. (homeo) Degrees. They further represented that the decision in question of the Academic Council had been taken in haste. They, therefore, wanted that the matter be reconsidered. I thought that there was force in their argument, and I agreed to convene a meeting of the Academic Council. But the students wanted that I should give my assurance in writing, which I refused saying that they should believe my word of honour. There upon hundreds of Medical College students both boys and girls, poured into my office and gheraoed me and the Pro- Vice Chancellor shouting slogans such as 'sign or resign'. They continued the gherao from 10.30 a.m. till 5.30 p.m., and seeing that we did not comply, they themselves

produced a statement on their own stating that the V.C. had agreed to convene a meeting of the Academic Council to reconsider the question of the homeo degree, and lifted the gherao. Following this, the students in all the Medical Colleges in Kerala struck work and launched an indefinite strike. They also took out public processions and demonstrations in various parts of the state.

The problem that I had to face was how to prevent disturbance of the Academic Council meeting which I had called as promised.

I met C.H. and explained the position to him and asked for police protection for the safe conduct of the meeting. Being an astute administrator, C.H. cautioned me that calling the police was a double-edged weapon, it might help me, or it might harm me. I told him that I would take the responsibility. He introduced me to Home Minister Mani, who agreed to give the requisite police protection.

On the eve of the Academic Council meeting, hundreds of medical college students from all over the state converged at the University Campus. They sent word to me that they would hold only a silent demonstration, that they would stand in two rows from the university gate to the assembly building, and that on my way to the Academic Council meeting I should march past them, which I did. Of course. Police force came, but camped outside the campus. The students behaved admirably well, and caused no inconvenience to the conduct of the meeting. The Academic Council, after a prolonged discussion, authorised the V.C to appoint a 'committee to suggest an appropriate name for the homeo degree.

For the support that I received from C.H. on that and other occasions, I am very grateful to him.

One thing I would like to place on record. During the three years when I was the Vice-Chancellor of the Calicut University, C.H. neither interfered in the day-to-day administration nor made any recommendation for any appointment. That speaks volumes about his integrity and

the respect with which he held persons like me.

C.H. was a self-made man. Starting his life as a journalist, he very soon emerged as a public figure with a name and a fame, and eventually blossomed forth as a powerful writer, a silver-tongued orator, a popular politician, an able administrator and an exemplary statesman.

Throughout his life, he proved to be an ardent nationalist, gifted with a social passion. He gave expression to the unspoken thoughts of less articulate people as well as to the dreams and aspirations of the oppressed and suppressed for a better social order. He firmly believed that the new social order could be ushered in only through the spread of education and speedy industrialisation, for providing which he tirelessly toiled, irrespective of considerations of caste, colour or creed. Perhaps he was one of those who joined with Browning in praying 'Make no more heroes, God, but elevate the race'. Truly the life of C.H. was a saga of service and sacrifice, and he had rightly earned 'the right of eminent domain, in the bright fields of fair renown'.

It is said that 'a man is judged by the spirit in him, by the way in which he is able to raise himself, above himself'. C.H. was pre-eminently a man - a man who succeeded in raising himself above himself. That was the reason why people loved him and adored him.

C.H. is no more with us. His demise has caused a vacuum very difficult to fill. But the noble ideals he had cherished and the shining example that he had left will continue to illuminate the path tread by like-minded men and women, help them avoid the pitfalls of, narrow communalism and casteism; and lead them on to the heaven of peace and prosperity. '

# Founder and sustainer of Calicut University

**K. A. JALEEL**

Measure your mind's height by the shade it casts!
(Robert Browning)

Every great institution is the result of a noble dream. There were many who cherished the dream of a university in Malabar. In the realisation of this dream, C. H. Mohammed Koya played the most crucial and significant role. But for his great and sustained enthusiasm and skill in handling men and affairs, Calicut University would not have come into existence at that point of time with universal consent and acclaim.

There were rumblings in the early sixties for setting up new universities in Kerala. But the idea was not well received in all quarters. There was no unanimous acceptance. There was great reluctance among the ruling circles to reduce the sphere or activity of the Kerala University. Conservative opinion was in favour of a single university for the state. This, they thought, would alone ensure uniformity of standards in higher education in the state. Though there was no open hostility to the idea, there was a strong under current of thought particularly in the capital in the ruling and intellectual circles against the formation of another university.

Both as a concession to the demand and as a damper, two university centres were set up by the Kerala university at Calicut and Ti:ikkakkara (Cochin). There were four departments of studies at Calicut and an equal number at Cochin. They were housed in different colleges, in the meagre space spared by the colleges for housing these departments. Sites were acquired both at Calicut and Cochin for setting up the University Centres. There was some progress by 1967 in Cochin, but there was no progress in Calicut, beyond acquisition of land. This was the stage when C. H. Mohammed Koya became Minister for Education in the coalition cabinet formed at that time.

Kerala University had acquired by 1967 the dubious distinction of being the largest University in India, excepting Calcutta university, in sheer number of student population. It had 149 colleges and 25 departments of study under it, with a student enrolment of 1,42,000. Even though Calcutta University had a larger enrolment it had lesser number colleges, most of them working in three shifts. Unlike Kerala which had only one university for the whole state, West Bengal had seven universities, three of them being in the city of Calcutta, at that time. Uttar Pradesh had ten universities and they had taken steps to start two more universities, viz. Meerut and Kanpur. Though this was the pattern in the rest of the country, in Kerala, particularly at Trivandrum in the circles that mattered, there was no strong feeling for setting up new universities in the state. The general approach in these circles was against the duplication of universities.

During a visit to Calicut and to Farook College by the new Education Minister, some of us raised the issue of a new university in Malabar both in the open meeting and during private discussion. In fact, I distinctly remember to have invited the attention of the minister to the observations in favour of an additional university for Kerala in the report of the Education Commission 1964-66, which had just been published at that time. The following were the passages:

> 12 : 35. In view of the expansion visualized for the under-graduate and post-graduate stages, the establishment of some new universities is inevitable. It is even desirable for reducing the size of some existing universities. This problem has already become acute in big metropolitan cities and is likely to become so in several other universities within a few years. Moreover we feel administrative regrouping of existing colleges through the establishment of new universities would be necessary in certain cases. (pp. 314-315).
> 12 : 38. Additional universities would also be needed in other states. For instance there has been a strong and justifiable demand from the State of Kera1a for an additional university . . . .(p. 315).

The Minister was quick to grasp the implications and the opportunity and he assured that he would give the highest priority to the matter.

Obviously he mooted the question in the highest forums and though there was support he would have also sensed the under current of opposition. He wanted to avoid any possible controversy and to evolve a consensus in the matter. So he appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Samuel Mathai, then Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala university 'to advise the Government on the formation of new universities in the state.' The Committee consisted of many eminent public men like K. P. Kesava Menon, Kalathil Velayudhan Nair, R. Sankar, Joseph Mundassery, C. Achutha Menon, L. M. Pylee, P. P. Hassan Koya, Father Joseph Vadakkan, as well as some educationists. The present writer was also a member of this committee in the capacity as Principal of Farook College along with two other principals. The committee was constituted in November 1967 and was to submit its report in February 1968. During the discussions a variety of proposals were canvassed as can be normally expected. Unto the last, there was the plea for a single university with several campuses, from a very influential section. The model of the University of California with its nine autonomous campuses was repeatedly pressed before

the committee and though it did not gain acceptance a paragraph was devoted for it in the final report as a possible alternative for the rest of the state, after Calicut university was established in the north *(vide* VI d of the Report of the Committee). The committee recommended the immediate establishment of the Calicut University as a teaching and affiliating University with a federal set up for the city colleges of Calicut. It also recommended the eventual establishment of a university in Cochin as a federal university for the greater Cochin area. More than the recommendations, the committee served a greater and more significant purpose, namely, that of creating a consensus in the matter of immediate establishment of Calicut University. Herein lies the great statesmanship displayed by C. H. Mohammed Koya and his forethought.

Armed with the report, he met the Education Minister at the centre, Dr. Triguna Sen and the Chairman of the University Grants Commission Dr. D. S. Kothari and secured their preliminary consent to proceed with the establishment of the university. The U.G.C appointed a commission, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Abdul Aleem, Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. The commission visited Calicut some time in May 1968. There was a public reception arranged at Farook College for the commission and in the presence expressed themselves in favour of the immediate establishment of a university in order to strengthen higher education in north Kerala. . Soon after, the draft of Calicut University Bill was published. In this bill, as in the earlier KeralaUniversity Bill 1967 there were quite a few sections involving 'prior approval of government' and other restrictions, severely restricting the autonomy of the university. There were objections on this score from the U.G.C. There was obviously a wide gulf between the philosophy guiding the state government and its bureaucracy on one hand and the accepted notions then prevailing with the U.G.C. It was left to C. H. Mohammed Koya to bridge

the gap and secure the approval of the U.G.C. and the state cabinet by proposing suitable changes. The Calicut university was brought into existence in July 1968 with the consent of the Central Government and the concurrence of the U.G.C. and with acclaim from all sides and without any hitch or controversy. When the Union Minister Dr. Triguna Sen formally inaugurated the university at a memorable public function held at the heart of the city of Calicut, the happiest man on the stage was, no doubt, the beaming and ebullient Mohammed Koya.

A university came into being. But it had no seat of its own. It had four departments. They were housed in different colleges around the city as a purely temporary arrangement. There were fifty colleges affiliated to it and immediate administrative functions were to be carried out and examinations conducted. It took some time to find a Vice-Chancellor. Prof. K. C. Chacko was appointed Special Officer and Pro-Vice-Chancellor subsequently and he managed all the chores, with a zeal and enthusiasm rarely to be found elsewhere. The administrative office was housed in a block of the Government Polytechnic for some months.

Kerala state was not accustomed to spend in crores for university education and research. It was easy to secure approval for the establishment of a university, but when the birth pangs were over and the baby was safely in the cradle, thereafter the care was scanty. When the baby cried, little attention was paid, and it was left to fend for itself. Mohammed Koya tried his best, within this milieu, to provide for the minimum needs of the university. Block grants and special grants for specific projects were made available to the infant university. Temporary buildings to house the departments and the administrative and examination buildings were constructed with these grants. So also many other facilities particularly a large number of quarters for the staff and hostel buildings were also provided. There was no difficulty in securing grants from the U.G.C. as the University

was started with the full approval or the U.G.C. and therefore right from the inception grants were received for all approved schemes in accordance with the U.G.C. pattern of assistance.

But these were never sufficient to meet the evergrowing needs of the new University. As long as Koya was in power, he devoted special care to keep the university out of financial stringency. He managed to provide special grants for the water-supply scheme and similar schemes. The last special grant sanctioned by him, I believe, was for construction of the senate house.

When he was out of office, or when he was in the Government in other ministries, he continued to have the same interest and concern for the welfare of Calicut University. The university was a great passion for him, even an obsession. He had not acquired a University degree but he was a scholar in his own right, and deeply sensitive to the problems and issues in higher education. He was a statesman and a scholar and a gentleman to the core. And to the university and its Vice-Chancellors, he was 'sweet as summer'.

He was a scholar and a ripe and good one;
Exceeding wise, fair-spoken and persuading;
Lofty and sour to them that loved him not;
But to those men that sought him, sweet as summer.

(Shakespeare, Henry VIII)




**- NAMBOODIRI**

# Mohammed Koya as Pro-Chancellor

**A. AIYAPPAN**

My contacts with Mr. Mohammed Koya were only for a short period when I was at Trivandrum as Vice-Chancellor of Kerala university and he was education minister and pro-chancellor. People with inside knowledge of university politics and the manner of appointment of Vice-Chancellors of Indian universities nowadays know very well that invariably there is a good deal of wire-pulling and the successful candidates are usually the most skillful in the behind-the-curtain work. It is an open secret now that Vice-Chancellors are actually selected by the governments and the committees they appoint to suggest names are all just window dressing. This was not the case two or three decades back. Having been trained as a young man by a very good British Quaker in clean and ethical conduct, I was against stooping to low levels in the effort for self advancement. Moreover I was working from 1959 to 1966 in far off Bhubaneswar as professor of anthropology and had few friends in Kerala as I had earlier spent most of my best years in Madras city as director of the Madras museum. I am not ashamed to confess that I requested two friends of mine, one an Ezhava and the other a Muslim to write or speak about my interest to the chief minister, Sri E. M. S. Nambudiripad and education minister, Mr. Koya. When the appointment letter came, I was not sure which of the two was responsible for my choice as the first Vice-Chancellor under the new

University Act. I had more than once the temptation to ask Mr. Koya this question but resisted it.

My first meeting with Mr. Koya was at Madras shortly before I went to Trivandrum. He invited me to go with him to his host's place in Vepery where I had lunch with him and his hosts. Though we were meeting for the first time, Mr. Koya's behaviour was most informal and cordial. He was indeed vivacious and full of charm. I told him that I was mortally afraid of Trivandrum and would have preferred Calicut. Then Mr. Koya told me that the first Vice-Chancellor's term of office under the new Kerala University Act was only for one year and he preferred a Muslim to be the first Vice-Chancellor at Calicut. I was blissfully ignorant of the new University Act and had I known before accepting it that the job was for such a short period, I might not have accepted it as I was trying for a Job in America. Kerala University, however, had its own charm and high prestige and was an on going concern while Calicut was undergoing its birth pangs. The association of Kerala University with the names of Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, of my distinguished teacher, Dr. John Mathai, and of. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer lent it an aura which few other Indian universities could claim.

Soon after taking charge at Trivandrum, I had to invoke the education minister's help as a trouble shooter. The university coffers were almost empty. Bills of examiners remaining unpaid amounted to several lakhs. Examiners from Bombay, Madras, etc. were writing nasty letters to me. I told the minister that I have never in my life been a debtor, never owed anyone even a paisa and being abused by creditors was to me a new experience. He then told me that for various reasons he had to be vindictive against the university and that my troubles would be eased as quickly as possible. He was as good as his word and special grants were liberally and expeditiously sanctioned. I seldom saw him at his office in the secretariat, but preferred to see him at his residence. My wife came with me during one of my visits and even now

she remembers the charm and hospitality of Mrs. Koya. When one of the University Professors, a very influential man, wanted to continue beyond his sixtieth year and as I was not inclined to go against the rules to oblige him, he pulled many wires. Five members of the syndicate were his old students and most of them pleaded with me in his favour. Mr. Koya told me later that some of his colleagues in the Kerala government also had requested him to speak to me about this case, but he did not. The aggrieved professor went to the court, but the court's judgement went against him. Similarly when a very influential Principal of a Women's College was about to attain her 60th year, a brisk campaign was launched but in vain for the extension of her period of service. A third man, even after these two cases, made an infructuous attempt to get extension; he does not seem to have forgiven me yet for not obliging him. To the credit of the two Chief Ministers, Nambudiripad and Achutha Menon, it must be said that they too never interfered; their respect for the office of the Vice-Chancellor was appreciable. High standards were set up by my predecessors Dr. John Mathai and Sir.A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and their halo effect seems to have continued for some time to my great advantage. Even the older University of Madras did not have the good luck to have a Vice-Chancellor like Dr. John Mathai. Those in the know of things say that Sir A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor Madras University for a quarter of a century, had to work hard behind the curtain, and play the usual masterly game with the result that the Madras University lost its place among the front-ranking universities of India. Becoming a pocket burrough is no good even for a university.

One of the university professors who happened to be a good friend of mine did not want a certain young man, an old student of his, who was selected as a lecturer by a properly constituted committee, to be given the appointment. He told me that the committee was influenced in this candidate's favour by some big-wigs in the government. I made careful

enquiries and found that his charges were unfounded and that he was himself interested in another student of his getting the job. I then asked the registrar to send the appointment order to the selected candidate. The professor went on a hunger strike, evidently in protest against my action. though I had nothing to do with the selection as it took place ten months before my appointment as Vice-Chancellor. The professor's hunger strike made front page news in the Trivandrum papers. Sri Achutha Menon, the then Chief Minister, rang me up and I briefly explained the case to him. I met Mr. Koya and told him the whole story in detail. He assured me that what 1 did was correct. The Professor broke his fast after three days. To the credit of this professor, I should add that he did not bear any grudge against me; even after I left Trivandrum he used to invite me for conferences which he organised and has been sending me the *Newsletter* which he has been publishing. His Department and the Department of Sociology are the University departments with which I have happy contacts even now.

After I left Trivandrum, I had no opportunity to meet Mr. Koya. In 1981 we travelled together in a train going to Trivandrum. Gone were his youthful vigour and buoyancy. I was not at all prepared to see him so changed. He made kind enquiries about me before we went to sleep. I shall long remember with gratitude his graciousness to me and his help to make my brief tenure of office as Vice-Chancellor the success that it was, not only according to my self evaluation but according to other members of the university senate, and the teacher community of Kerala. The student member of the senate said, 'In Dr. Aiyappan we had a Vice-Chancellor of whom we could say our Vice-Chancellor'.

I am grateful to Sri T. N. Jayachandran for the opportunity he has given me to place on record the episodes in my life at Trivandrum which are a green patch in my life linked with that of a noble son of Kerala.

# The big-hearted man

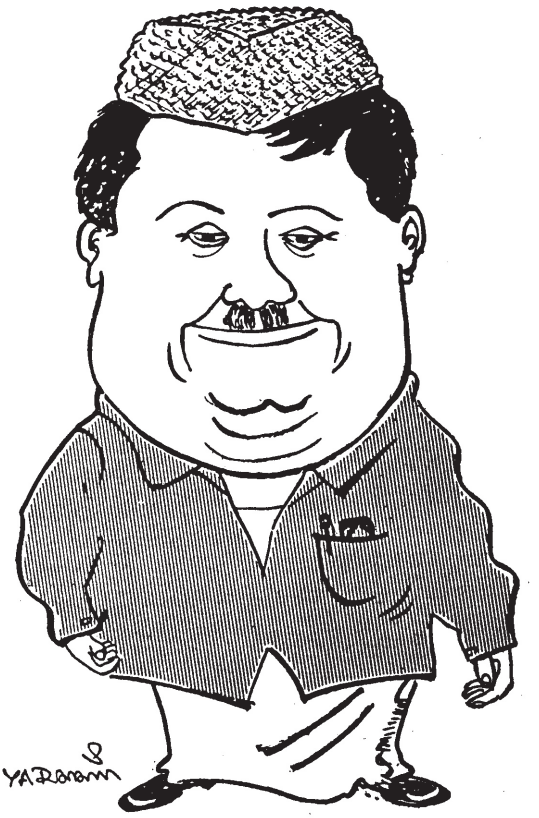
**A. K. ANTONY**

The services rendered by Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya to the public life of Kerala will be cherished for ever. He made his mark in several fields of human endeavour as Assembly Speaker, Minister, statesman, Member of Parliament, man of letters etc. Above all, he was a good friend and lover of mankind. He could tackle any difficult problem through negotiation. Even when he tried to stick to his own convictions, he could accommodate the views of other people as well. Though he was the leader of a political party aimed at guarding the interests of a particular community, there was no bias or prejudice in his attitude towards the members of other communities. This was known to the persons who were close to him.

At times, he even had to go out of the way to help his colleagues, friends and admirers. Friends and admirers were always his weakness. Even though he was in power for a long time and helped his friends generously, the public career of Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya was unblemished. This is evident from the financial difficulties borne by his family.

When we were together in the ministry and in the political field, he showed much interest in me. There were some misunderstandings in the meantime, but they were all cleared in due course. Again we became close associates and that continued till his death. More than being a renowned political leader, I remember him as a big-hearted man who showered love on his people.

(Translated by S. Josh)



**- Y.A.RAHIM**

# Harbinger of a new era

**B. V. ABDULLA KOYA**

'Iquraa! Read In the name of thy Lord who createth'

Quran (sharif) the holy text was revealed with this commandment. My community has forgotten to read a great deal. It is no wonder that the followers of Prophet Mohammed ('May God bless Him') who advocated learning even visiting China lagged far behind in education.

C. H. Mohammed Koya was an exception to it. C.H., who eventually became an Education Minister in a state having the highest rate of literacy in India was born in a poor family in Atholi, between Elathur and Quilandy, near Calicut city. This was achieved by the knowledge which he gained through his reading.

Cheriyankandy Mohammed Koya, who learned the Arabic alphabets from Munnuvel Islam Madrassa in Atholi and primary lessons in Malayalam from Veloor higher elementary school was a voracious reader even in childhood. He showed equal excellence in Mathematics, Malayalam and English. Later he studied at Quilandy high school and Zamorine's college, Calicut. Failing in his attempt to qualify in chemistry, he gave up his studies at the intermediate level and signed up as a clerk with Calicut Municipality and later joined the editorial board of *Chandrika*. C.H. who became the Editor of *Chandrika* at the tender age of twenty two used to read everything that came his way. Even his interest in politics was the result of this wide reading. He became the councillor of the municipality in 1952, where he had worked as a mere

clerk. Having completed his apprenticeship as a representative of the people in the Municipal Council, he entered the Legislative Assembly. He was quite successful as a member both in the ruling front and in the opposition and even as a Speaker. His meteoric rise to ministership, deputy Chief Ministership and Chief Ministership was astounding. While in power he had handled almost all portfolios of home, public works, tourism, social welfare, wakf and revenue. However, his success in the sphere of education is written in golden scripts. C.H. who exhibited a unique and individual style in reading, writing and speaking proved beyond doubt that he was next to none in practical politics too. Undoubtedly, it must have been the backwardness of his own community in the sphere of education that prompted him and the Muslim League to take up the portfolio of education. But he was very particular that the most efficient people from his own community should be entrusted with the task of the administration of education. He was governed by the same criterion in the appointment of teachers and vice-chancellors and in the nomination to the high power committees like the Senate and Syndicate. The reforms that he introduced in the arena of education could only be viewed with envy by educationists as well as his political opponents. He came out with legislation giving concessions to students and protection to teachers. He gave a new dimension to the educational system by a thorough revision of text books. C.H. who delved deep into the Kothari Commission report took the initiative in setting up new universities and exploring new spheres in the field of technical education.

He was an exemplary genius who had a Midas touch-a man who reaped victory in all fields of activity. He refused to be defeated in any of the elections he contested. He broke many fresh grounds in all the fields he had tried his hand. He countered all sorts of opposition and came out victorious. He was never a fortune-seeker. Fortune always came in search of him. No age can produce a second of his kind.

# C. H. Mohammed Koya and the University of Calicut

**K.C. CHACKO**

> I haven't shown any impropriety in giving the name of a world famous city to a university which, I hope, would become world famous one day-indeed, there is a great possibility, that this university would become world famous in future.

I am quoting the above from the proceedings of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, the words uttered by the then education minister Mr. C. H. Mohammed Koya in a tone that reverberated inside the assembly hall for a number of years.

Yes, that was his wish, his dream-a university that would become world famous.

I was elated on hearing that statement on that occasion. When the Assembly was discussing the University Bill, I was present in the visitor's gallery. It was my lot then to be the organiser of the university and its temporary administrator in the initial stages.

'A university that is likely to be world famous'-there was hope, self confidence and determination in the words of its far sighted founder. I am recording my memories here with the sad thought that he could witness its growth only for a short period of a decade and half.

He enjoyed a great sense of satisfaction, a feeling of a great

victory when he was piloting the bill in the Legislative Assembly. There was no model before him for a new university having been established in Kerala. However he had no misgiving about the need for such a university. He told the Assembly:

> Every one knows that the northern districts of Kerala are educationally backward. I believe that the establishment of a new university would certainly be a remedy for that situation.

I wish that somebody would write a complete history of the university of Calicut. My aim is just to indulge in reminiscences, pointing out, at the same time, a few relevant facts. It was in accordance with the recommendation of a public committee with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kerala or its chairman, that the Government of Kerala decided to establish an affiliating University in Calicut and a federal university in Cochin.

The making of university legislation was a complex problem in Kerala. It was a matter of common knowledge that private managements were considered to have vested interests and teachers were taken as an organised group perfectly demanding their rights. The relationship between the management and the teachers was taken to be one like the relationship between capitalists and the proletariate. This state of affairs led to all sorts of conflicts. Many provisions in the Kerala University Bill were questioned in courts. In these circumstances it was not an easy job to make a university bill which would satisfy the administration, teachers, students and the management. Moreover, framework of the existing university bill, in toto had to be followed as a model. Taking these limiting factors into consideration, an act was drafted and to avoid delay the University was established after having got the act passed as an Ordinance.

Sri Koya wished that the new university should have a new approach that would facilitate growth in consonance with his dreams. An expert committee was thus appointed with

Sri Koya himself as its Chairman. Its members were experienced men like Dr. Nag Choudhary, Planning Commission member, Dr. Tayabji who had been Vice-Chancellor in several universities, Dr. K. G. Saiyiddeen, who was Secretary for Education to the Government of India. I was the member, Secretary of the Chief Executive Officer of the University. We met several times at Calicut and prepared many long term projects. The U.G.C. appointed an expert committee to examine them. The committee, in turn approved the projects. In the light of the development of the new campus at Thenhipalam the U.G.C. recorded that the University of Calicut would be a model for new universities.

The practice of granting exemptions for teachers in qualifications and age limit was stopped forthwith. It was suggested that the university departments should not be satisfied with traditional M.A./ M. Sc. courses and that they should engage themselves in original research. It was also envisaged that teachers in the University Departments should go and teach, occasionally, in affiliated colleges. However, these programmes could not be implemented as there was opposition to these moves from some quarters.

New projects were planned, in which the educational and industrial sectors could cooperate. These too were short-lived. However, later experience proved that these projects could be revived.

The development of the Thenhipalam campus received high priority. In all these the Minister himself showed a personal interest and provided all help and cooperation.

Two years later, when the University of Cochin was established, Mohammed Koya was anxious about the growth and shortcomings of the University of Cali cut. Whatever may be his dreams and expectations, it is true that the delay in the implementation of projects, the unavoidable obstructions and the negative response from many who were expected to help disheartened him. This could be seen in the speeches that he made in the Assembly on the occasion of the passing of Co

chin University Bill.

> Nobody should expect that this would change the face of the country and that as if with the help of Aladdin's magic lamp, all unemployed young men and women would get jobs. This is just a small beginning to solve a big problem that our country faces. As the poet says,
>
> > In this small boat do I cross the waters.
> > To reach the other shore of the ocean.
>
> This is just an earnest attempt to find solutions to our problems. Education should be linked with industry. The University of Calicut had, right from its inception, made some attempts to generate employment opportunities by linking education with industry. I hope this university would also follow suit. No doubt it would have some effect.

When a new university is established and it passes through teething troubles, the society would not take into consideration all the factors when it passes its judgement. Even two years after its establishment, the University of Calicut and its activities were not well known to the public. The people were ignorant of its achievements. As such there was a lot of adverse criticism in the mass media. Keeping all these things in mind, Mohammed Koya was outlining the future programme of the university. Mr. Triguna Sen, the then Union Minister for Education said a few things to the thousands of people assembled at Mananchira maidan on the occasion of the unveiling of a plaque to commemmorate the founding of the university. One of the things that he suggested was when a new university was being established it should be through proper legislation and not through an ordinance. He also expressed genuine doubts about the promulgation of another ordinance aimed at the improvement of the new university. He also queried whether the same dull routine processes to establish outdated departments, curricula, and the meaningless ritual of research could be unimaginatively repeated here too Just to boast of the size and stature of the university perhaps even about the

number of universities in the state. The Education Minister C.H. the architect of Calicut University, obviously must have been pained by these stringent observations.

In his characteristic way he remarked that to do something new was really difficult though it was customary to be criticised for the lapses. In Kerala, education ministers had been changing at short intervals and hence the educational policy too.

A general complaint is that experimental and innovative educational policies are harmful. So there has ever been a cry for pursuing the tested and trusted path in matters of education. However, C.H. made it very clear in a statement that after the formation of the Calicut university, within a very short period it could do something original at least in the form of new attempts.

What were those new experiments? Calicut university was not formed just with the intention to reduce the size and problems of Kerala University. Northern Kerala, as hinted earlier, has ever been backward in education. But it is blessed with boundless natural resources, tradition, history and culture and highly imaginative people gifted with creative talents. The prime aim behind the formation of Calicut University was to transform the people of this region into educated people of action with an abounding sense of dedication. A meaningful rapport between the university and the industrial sector and a pioneering effort to transform the whole mass were woven into the very concept of Calicut university.

The introduction of an Adult Education Department, not very common in other universities, was a step in this direction. The hope was to make use of the service of college and University Professors and Teachers to spread education and information among the older people, men and women through evening and night classes. C.H. himself took part in many such classes and inspired others to further this project.

Another effort was to link the educational experiments

and the industrial sector. He thought, a degree in technology or engineering was important but it was more important for such personnel to gain actual work experience. He firmly believed that industries could provide the base for this and in turn receive the benefits of new found, sound technological knowledge. The appointment of Sri Kaderkutty, a proven industrialist of north Malabar, as the first Dean of technology Faculty, was a bold step in this line. A mere degree was not reckoned as a must for this appointment. On the contrary, the organisational ability, vision and planning evinced by that industrialist were the sole criteria. We tried to solicit the co-operation of the industrial sector as a whole to educate and evolve a set of high calibre technologists and scientists. The very same point he highlighted in his later speech at the Assembly. Bachelor of technology courses in four subjects-forestry resources and development, fisheries, harnessing and utilization of chemicals, use of iron and steel. These courses of four years duration (8 semesters) were expected to be practical and actual work experience oriented under the prevailing conditions in factories. Western India Plywoods, Western India Steel Rolling Mills, Gwalior Rayons, Kerala Soaps Factory, etc. gave the facilities for practical training and actual work experience. The students also worked in distant and different processing, preserving, developing, and sales depots pertaining to fisheries, forestry, chemicals and iron and steel.

At a time when big factories were unwilling to take even qualified engineers and scientists as apprentices on a meagre stipend basis, the Education Minister used his own personal influence to train more than fifty students in the above mentioned prestigious and fully developed factories. Perhaps this vital factor was not known to many. Some central institutions with the backing of Indian government objected to the courses on forestry and fisheries and even threatened that the degrees conferred by Calicut University would not be recognised. C.H. stuck to his guns at least during his tenure

and masterminded the running and completion of these innovative courses; even granting its experimental nature and the inherent inevitable drawbacks.

But all obstacles were overcome and all the four degree courses were started. Subject experts of neighbouring institutions, factories and governmental departments were appointed as teachers on a temporary basis. Classes were held in places like the Y.M.C.A. On every working day students received lectures for two to three hours, besides vocational training. Koya himself inaugurated the courses at an informal gathering. It was a new experiment at the university level of education, innovative and exciting. All those who joined the courses secured good jobs and are well placed now in their respective professions. Koya had these experiments in view when he claimed that there were some new ventures at the University of Calicut.

Endeavours of this kind were not easy. In the meantime, we had to find a new location for the university and also provide essential facilities for its smooth functioning. In tackling these problems too, we had Koya's unstinted moral support and encouragement so that-we could be bold and innovative.

Professor Samuel Matthai happened to visit Thenhipalam where Kerala University had planned to develop a centre of learning. He was the chairman of the committee constituted for this purpose and among other members who visited the spot were Prof. Mundasseri and myself. That day I secretly shared one of my doubts with Mundasseri.

'Why should this great centre of learning be established in a locale so isolated and cut off from the haunts of social activities ?' Indeed the place was desolate. Mohammed Koya himself described it as a 'God-forsaken barren land'. That is another story to which I shall return later.

The administrative offices of the University were shifted from the Government Polytechnic, Calicut to Thenhipalam on October 2; 1969-the day of Gandhiji's birth anniversary.

Arrangements had been made for housing all the employees of that time on the campus itself. The supply of water and electricity was ensured right from the beginning. Facilities for travel, communication and shopping were and also been made available prior to the shifting of the office. In due course the Head Office and the Teaching Departments were moved into the campus. These were accomplished at -an incredibly short space of time thanks to Koya's foresight and timely guidelines as well as the confidence that he reposed in me. It may not be out of place to cite here a brief note that he wrote about the role that I had in effecting these changes: 'The Calicut university he built up from scratch. It was Alladin's wonderful lamp. He planned it and managed the execution of the plans. In no time, the God-forsaken barren land at Thenhipalam became a model university'. As a matter of fact he himself was the Alladin who gave me the magic lamp. With a dignified humility he was only concealing his role while complementing me.

All the experiences of the new campus were not sweet. Some were bitter. But Koya shared our problems by visiting the campus almost every week. He was very fond of the University Guest House. During his journeys to north Malabar he often halted en route at the guest house. He would discuss our problems with us for hours together.

A major charge repeatedly levelled in the Legislative Assembly, as well as in the various academic bodies of the universities and sometimes by the press and other mass media against those in power has been that the universities of Calicut and Cochin were established with the selfish motive of conferring honours and covetable positions to their friends and relatives. In reply to this allegation let me quote one of his epoch making statements, which bears testimony to his integrity:

'Even though Mr. Chacko had been empowered to recruit staff according to requirements, he did not abuse that right by appointing anyone of his own accord. As a matter of fact,

most of the controversial appointments were made by the syndicate. Among those who secured jobs there were marxists too. Mr. T. K. Ramakrishnan's (and he is a brother to me) sister is one of them. But I would not ever want to describe such recruitments as improper or deny someone a job on the ground that he or she happens to be a Marxist's brother or sister. Such attitudes are false.

Well! my own brother had applied for a job at the university. I advised him not to seek an appointment there as it would give room for scandalous criticism. I can now state boldly that none of my relations has been appointed in the University of Calicut. None from my poor family has joined there as a peon or clerk. As I have insisted on my hands being clean in these matters, I had instructed those concerned not to appoint any of my kith and kin, with the result that those who had associations with me were often the losers.

(Vol. XXIX-17-8-71 Kerala Assembly Proceedings)
(Translated by C. P. Sivadasan, R. Viswanathan and
N. Ramachandran Nair)




**- MALAYATOOR RAMAKRISHNAN**

# The search for the first Vice-Chancellor

**N. A. KARIM**

Who should be the first Vice-Chancellor of the Calicut university? The founder pro-Chancellor of the University of Calicut, late Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya was clear in his mind about it. Undoubtedly, the first Vice-Chancellor should be a reputed academic with proven administrative ability. And he had begun his search for a suitable man who fully conforms to his concept of an eminent Vice-Chancellor even before many other matters connected with the establishment of the university could be finalised. I then thought that his standards in the matter were a little too high. One day when I saw him he discussed the matter with me and asked me to suggest a few names. What did I think of Dr. Malcom Adiseshiah being invited to be first Vice-Chancellor of the university, he asked me that day. If he was available, undoubtedly a very good choice, I replied. I know that Dr. Adiseshiah was his personal friend and he was trying to get him for the new University. It was a matter of great disappointment to Mr. Mohammed Koya that Dr. Adiseshiah declined the offer due to certain personal inconvenience he had at that time. All the same the search continued. The next name in his list was that of Nawab Ali Yavar Jung. As he had some political ambitions at that time he also excused himself. However he promised the new University all the help and guidance in any honorary capacity. In the early stages he

served on the Development Committee of the University. I had suggested to the education minister the names of professor K. G. Saiyadin who was for sometime the educational advisor to the Government of India and Dr. Amalendu Bose, professor of English of the Calcutta university. Both of them were known to me. At my instance, Dr. S. Salamatullah of the Jamia Millia held a small get-together at his house in Jamianagar when Mr. C. H. Mohammed Koya was in Delhi to which professor K.G. Saiyadin, professor Mujib and Dr. Abid Hussain were invited. I knew all of them as I was for sometime on the faculty of the Teachers College of Jamia Millia. Professor K. G. Saiyadin regretted his inability to accept the offer as he had at that time an assignment of the UNESCO. Moreover, the then Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mr. G. M. Sadiq who was an intimate personal friend of professor Saiyadin, was compelling him to accept the Vice-Chancellorship of the Kashmir university. There fore to come to Kerala when a long-standing request from Sadiq Sahib was pending was out of the question. For health reasons Dr. A. Bose also requested to be spared.

Apart from all these persons a few other names also came up for consideration. For various reasons none of them could be fitted in. Meanwhile some aspirants for the position were applying political pressure to get it. In these days when Vice-Chancellor come in all sizes, shapes and colours it might appear that Mr. Koya was a little too fastidious in his choice. But he believed that if the first Vice-Chancellor was not a man with a clear vision and great administrative skill, the standards that were set would be low and that would retard the growth of the university in the years to come. This was what prompted him to look for a really eminent man who would rise above petty interests. He was not prepared to yield to political pressures, and appoint anyone in the position.

But the search for the ideal man was long and seemed unending. He was almost at the end of his tether. The question

of the Vice-Chancellor naturally came up when I met him one of those days, and I hesitantly suggested the name of Professor M. M.Ghani whom I knew as a member of the advisory Committee of the Kerala University's Institute of English in its very early years. I was on the faculty of the institute right from its very inception. In fact his name was in my mind earlier. However I was reluctant to suggest his name as 1 was a little doubtful whether he would answer the Pro-Chancellor's slightly unrealistic requirements. To my pleasant surprise the suggestion seemed to be acceptable to him. But he did not say anything categorically on that day. After a couple of days when I met him, he told me that all had agreed on professor Ghani being made the first Vice-Chancellor.

Though the choice fell on Professor Ghani after a long search, never had Mr. Mohammed Koya any occasion to regret the selection. On the other hand, professor Ghani's style of functioning and the record of his achievements proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the choice was wisely made. Professor Ghani during his tenure allowed no undue external interference in the administration of the University. But the pro-chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor worked in tandem for the development of the university without a single moment of friction between the two. The fact that Professor Ghani was offered a second term as Vice-Chancellor was proof positive that Mr. Mohammed Koya always respected the concept of the autonomy of the university and gave full freedom to the vice-chancellor to shape the destinies of the infant university according to his vision.



- RAJU NAIR

# C.H., the educationist

**U. A. BEERAN**

Culture founded on moral values and the promotion of fine arts are two factors which are inseparably bound with education. Education should bear the stamp of culture. Neither literacy nor fluency in language really indicate the quality of education. They may be described as the outward symbols of education. It should be a kind of thapasya (penance) without reference to rewards. The aim of education will be fulfilled only through the promotion of fine arts, science and technology. It creates the environment for the flowering of natural genius. When this is accomplished in all sectors of society in a comprehensive manner a new generation which stands for ideals and broad outlook and reflects social commitment and compassion for the poor, will arise. The strength, survival and development of a nation depends on the power of such people.

C. H. Mohammed Koya Saheb was a minister for education who understood fully the basic principle that the ultimate goal of education is to restore the values and to promote duty consciousness. It is not difficult to perceive that such an insight was responsible for making him greater than his predecessors who were great in their own way.

A Minister for Education cannot be an indifferent spectator of the condition in which certain sections of society or certain communities are backward in education. One has to try sincerely to bring up those areas and those sections in such a

way that they catch up with others. The educational policy of C.H. was formulated against this background, on the basis of the clear understanding that the educationally backward Malabar region and some minorities deserved particular attention. He dismissed unceremoniously those who labelled such efforts in the direction of the uplift of the downtrodden as regionalism or communalism. The administrator in him went forward courageously with such efforts. The Calicut university is a permanent monument of this enterprise. The educational institutions which came up in the God-forsaken corners of Malabar bear witness to the mature results of this attitude. His goal was not confined to the betterment of individuals or even society of his own age. He saw before his eyes an educated society which was to take shape in future. The newly educated generations coming out of schools and colleges, and yet to come out of them, are to be counted among his achievements.

The allegation that he showed exclusive consideration for the Malabar region cannot be hurled against him. Is not the Cochin University also a great contribution of C.H.Mohammed Koya?

He served for a long period as Home Minister, as the Deputy Chief minister, in charge of the Public Works and for a brief period as Chief Minister. The truth is that there was no department which he did not handle. He had occasion to supervise different departments in the period of the ministry with two ministers, the ministry with three ministers and the ministry with eight ministers. Nevertheless, he was able to shine brilliantly as the minister for education, in which capacity he worked for the longest period and with the greatest enthusiasm.

Joseph Mundasseri and C. H. Mohammed Koya were Education Ministers who were also writers. It was C.H 'who undertook the *Bhageerataprayatna* to clean the Augean stables of the Department of Education. He also deserves the credit for having bound together this department which many

people described as a book consisting of loose sheets. C.H. often used to say that scarcity of funds always created a great headache. When I succeeded him as Minister for Education within eight months the truth of the statement was brought home to me in a convincing manner.

After a study tour during which he observed directly the facilities for education in America and Europe, he spoke in this manner: 'I have no doubt that if you import a dog from America and put him in chains in one of our dilapidated school buildings, which would collapse at the slightest touch of a breeze, he will certainly break the chains and run away'. The department of education has a large number of intellectuals. Unless the Minister for Education is a mature person he will be in for a lot of trouble. A wall notice which appeared in several colleges when C.H: took charge of education as minister deserves to be remembered. 'We want an educated Education Minister'. He was capable of proving the irrelevance of this slogan in a short while. Many scholars of reputed wisdom had to bow before the extraordinary brilliance of C.H. who had accumulated knowledge of great depth as well as width. He made it clear to them with his own talents that the true mark of a genius did not require the degrees which universities confer at the end of examinations. Our educational experts were astounded by his capacity to speak scholarly on many subjects even in foreign universities.

The works of C.H. proclaim the fact that as an author of travelogues he could stand shoulder to shoulder with S. K. Pottekkat. Kerala is yet to see an orator of his calibre.

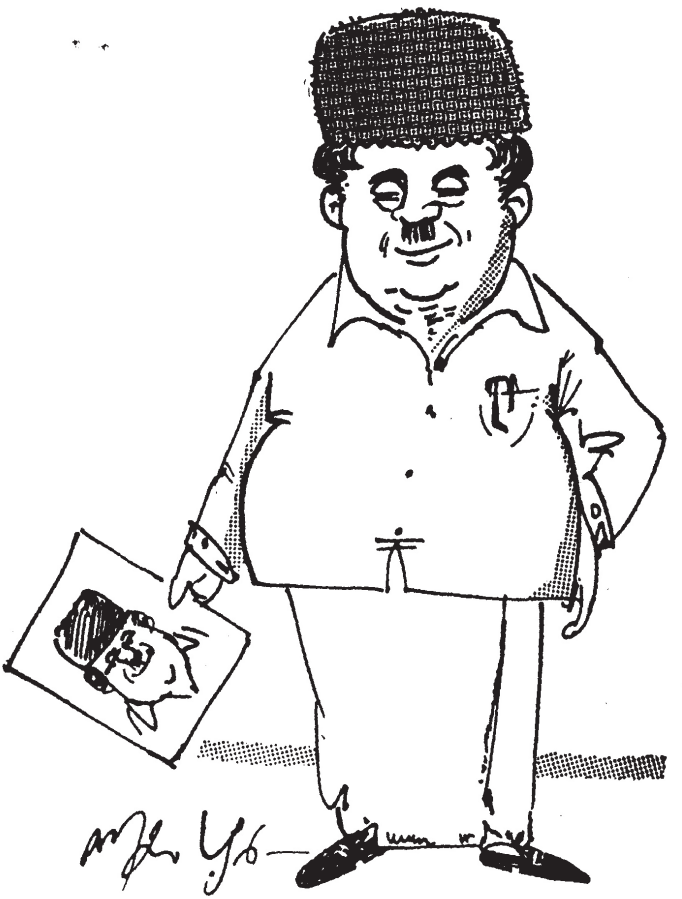
C.H. possessed a sharp pen. The leading articles and essays which C.H. wrote in the 50s are a source of wonder even during the 80s in our own times.

Writing about the agricultural prosperity of Alexandria C.H. says 'Is it not stupid to imagine that all problems can be solved with the use of the loop rather than through constructive endeavour leading to prosperity?' In these words

he was pointing his finger towards the weakness of India's planning against the background of Alexandria. (*Lokam Chuttikkandu*-I Went Round the World). He says in another place 'The cows of Manchester are" Kamadhenus" in the literal sense. What do we know about it? Do we know how to look after the cows; except to worship them?' C. H. was in the habit of expressing his views frankly with a light coating of jokes. How many jokes of natural charm and profound wisdom were interspersed in his writings and speeches! In fact C. H. was a fountain of wit and wisdom in the real sense.

The genius called C.H. was an aesthete, a writer an administrator and a rare phenomenon. We are now experiencing the magnitude of the loss of such a personality in the midst of contemporary problems related to 'Shariyat' and many other issues confronted by our party and our community but the lessons of statesmanship and political strategy which he imparted to us are still before us acting like an eternal flame which gives light and guidance.

(Translated by M. G. S. Narayanan)



**- B.M.GAFOOR**

# An irresistible personality

**E. AHMED**

C. H. Mohammed Koya Saheb-no day passes without some reference to him. There occur many occasions on a day when one wishes his presence. Every small incident reminds one again and again that the influence exerted by him was profound. Memories about him are a thrill and an inspiration even now for thousands of his colleagues, friends and followers.

C.H. was a wonderful phenomenon-literally a many-faced genius. His personality persuaded all the fields of activities he touched upon.. He was an invaluable treasure which the Muslim community of Kerala gifted to the public life of the country. That personality will remain ever bright, in our memory.

C.H. was a believer in religion, but never hated any religion. He was a lover of the community, but never a communalist. He showed that by working for the glory and progress of one's own community which was held back in the process of history one could stand for the country and its people. Identifying himself with the community into which he was born and loving his brethren immensely, to use his own words, by living in the 'heart-palaces they built with their flesh and blood', he continued to work and working continuously he passed away.

The influence exerted by C.H. in the public life of Kerala

has already been analysed by this time. Many assessments have already been made about him in the form of biographical notes and reminiscences. Even now such assessments are forthcoming. C.H. who was able to exert an undeniable influence upon all those who made friends with him, by his eminence and loving manners, accomplished in a short span what is normally possible only in a long life. There is no doubt that Keralites would remember this great son of Kerala for ever.

For many like me, C.H. was a guide who kept us in his company through a spiritual relation and showed us the way of action. He entered the public field through journalism and political activity. However to start with he was known as a student-leader. He was one of the pioneering leaders of the Muslim Students' Federation. The brilliance of his personality attracted hundreds of people to that field.

Had C.H. not become a full-time political leader, it could be said with certainty that he would have made his imprint as a front-rank leader of the journalists of Kerala. He was a great success as a journalist. C.H. did really shine as the editor of *Chandrika*. Some of the editorials he wrote in those days were such as would prove the power of his pen. *Chandrika* was everything to him. At all times his heart was concerned with its progress. Wherever he met any literary figure, one of that large circle of his friends, he would find time to request him to write for *Chandrika*. I have heard many remembering that loving compulsion.

C.H.'s literary activity as travelogues also kept him apart from the ordinary political leaders. His travelogues giving an account of the countries visited by him, their historical, political, economic and social backgrounds are the best examples of his ability for narration and talent for analysis. It is doubtful whether the wide reception won by his work 'My Pilgrimage' would have been received by any other travelogue in Malayalam. Not only travelogues, innumerable articles and stories of Islamic history have flowed from his pen. Obituary

notes which C.H. used to write in *Chandrika* as and when great public figures or his own dear colleagues died were brilliant literary pieces in themselves.

It seems that political leaders who could employ the art of oratory with so much command were few and far between. C.H.'s speeches were heard from thousands of platforms like the roaring of a lion. It was C.H. whom Qaid-e-Millat Ismail Saheb, Seethi Saheb and Bafakhy Thangal used to entrust to explain the many political decisions of the Muslim League. Once C.H. presented those decisions in his own style no more doubts or sub questions would be raised on the matter. A picture of the Muslim League workers who waited for the speeches of C.H. till the late hours of the night comes to my mind even now.

As and when the Muslim League faced crises the lecture tours conducted by C.H. strengthened the party. He would speak combining laughter and fiercy criticism. The fast and humours similes used by him amused even his opponents. C.H. fared well in any forum with his scholarship and integrity. It was a rare gift possessed by C.H. to win over any audience by his speech.

C.H. faced anything with a cool mind. But this was never due to an 'easygoing'. When those decisions which were later referred to as very much decisive were lightly presented by C.H nobody would consider them as serious. He had an unusual ability to take decisions. It was due to this ability that he was able to succeed as an administrator. He would find out and undo the knot of the problem. It was this sharp commanding power that made him indomitable.

C.H. loved people and people loved him. He was a man for all the people. It appears to me that the fact that C.H. is the first person from the Muslim community of Kerala to rise to the Chief Ministership of Kerala is a big truth in history. He started political activity not by seeking positions and power. C.H. was the only leader from the opposition of Kerala who became the Speaker as well as Chief Minister. He became

a member of the Municipal Council, the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha. He also occupied the positions as the State General Secretary and All-India General Secretary of the Muslim League.

He would always occupy a great position in the history of Kerala. His role in the educational progress of Kerala was momentous. In the seventies when this State showed wonderful growth in the fields of education and social welfare the concerned portfolio was handled by C.H. There are many public institutions, private institutions and religious institutions that evoke memories about him. The University of Calicut which is shedding light with its motto *nirmaya karmana-sree* is itself his lasting monument.

(Translated by S. M. Mohammed Koya)



**- YESUDASAN**

# Reminiscences

## PADMA RAMACHANDRAN

I worked in the education department of the Government of Kerala as additional secretary and secretary for several years in spells in the sixties and early seventies. I consider that one of the most fortunate aspects of this assignment was the fact that the department was led by the late Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya. Here was a person who lightened the load of his department by his cheer, good humour and, above all, administrative dexterity. His grasp of matters was exceptionally quick and sharp. For him, every problem was surmountable all that was required was a fresh and unconventional way of looking at it. Whether it was the sanctioning of new schools or disciplinary action to be taken against an erring official of the department, Shri Koya showed an unusual objectivity. Democratic values, giving every chance for evidence and explanation were a sine qua non of his style of functioning. The school of experience had been his greatest trainer in the art of administration for he used to tell us that he had had no time to pursue education beyond 'intermediate'. I recall the difficult days when the issue on direct payment for staff in private colleges was being discussed. His strategy of give and take and how ,he balanced the long term interests of government with that of higher education and of the staff, were self-evident in the ultimate .decision of government.

The quality which made an indelible impression on one

and all was his ready wit and humour. He had a very agreeable way of disagreeing and was very good at cutting out a suggestion without offending the suggester. He had the most appropriate and apt quotes for every occasion drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharatha, Pancha Tantra and other great works. He would defuse a most serious and grave moment with a well chosen quotation, proverb or joke.

On all occasions his humane qualities came to the fore. His interpretation of rules and regulations showed that he never forgot they were intended to facilitate administration and not to harass individuals or agencies.

As a minister, he was decisive and knew the art of delegation. There came a time when we had to organize a meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission Trivandrum which meant that we had to make several arrangements for a large number of people for accommodation, food, transport and group meetings. Having entrusted the task to us, he left us in complete freedom to accomplish it without interference.

He was easy to work with. His orders were to the point-in files, they were in pithy sentences in his own hand in green ink. One was never left in doubt, even in the most complicated cases, of what was to be done. And he never stinted on giving the devil its due. If any of us anywhere down the line did a job well, he would say so without wasting time. All that is taught in 'interpersonal relations', he practised. If he wished to pull up a person for anything, he always did it without violating his or the other person's sense of dignity.

I owe a debt of gratitude to him in a particular case. A new minister took charge of another department in which I was then holding the post of Secretary to Government. The new minister wanted me out immediately after he took charge as he could not agree to working with a woman as the Secretary in his department! There was no slot in which I could be posted as no post of secretary was vacant. At this point, Shri Koya suggested to the Chief Minister to bifurcate his

department (the Education Department) into General Education and Higher Education and I was taken in, as secretary of one of these departments. This was just one of his many good deeds.

I visited him in his home in Calicut when he was very ill about a couple of years before he died. His gentle wife had a tough time with so many visitors, but she took me in to see Shri Koya. Even in sickness, he insisted on my having a cup of tea and asked about each member of my family.

To me and to many others of the Education Department, Shri Mohammed Koya was a true friend, philosopher and guide.

# Secret of C. H. Mohammed Koya's success

**T. M. SAVANKUTTY**

There are a few contemporary leaders in Kerala who have been successful in all fields of their activity and the late C. H. Mohammed Koya is one among them. He made an indelible impression of his personality in the educational, social and political fields. He was second to none in literary and journalistic activities. He was an extraordinary orator, an exemplary legislator and administrator. It is good that, though belated, the University of Calicut has sponsored a commemoration volume which sheds light on the various facets of his rare personality. In the present article I intend to analyse, in the light of my personal experience, the qualities which enabled him to lead a successful public life.

C.H. entered public life during his high school days as a worker of the Muslim Students Federation. He breathed his last while discharging his duties as the Deputy Chief Minister of Kerala. There are some rare qualities which led him from one success to another during this long span of time. Idealism, hard work, readiness to sacrifice, dedication, sense of justice and endurance were the foundation stones of his success in life. Our friendship dates back to a quarter of a century and I have had opportunities to witness several occasions which were illumined by those great qualities.

His position was unique among the leaders of the Muslim

Students Federation. The leaders of the Muslim League saw in him a promising leader. The main qualities of his success were his ability to get involved sincerely in all his undertakings and his oratorial gift. His style and satire helped him in later years as political leader and administrator to disarm his opponents. C.H. who was a MSF leader, afterwards became the Sub Editor of *Chandrika* Daily. With constant reading, writing and thinking, he could become a good journalist in a short time. During those days he worked in the Chandrika under entirely adverse circumstances. Afterwards he rose to the position of chief editor. It was during his ministerial tenure that he had to keep away temporarily from journalism. Even during such periods he used to write under pen names on topics of public interest. As an Editor, total dedication and hard work led him to success. I had occasions to visit *Chandrika* office when C.H. was the editor. It is interesting to watch him while he edited news items. He would be continuing his editorial work even while talking with visitors. He used to discharge his duties as an editor when he was busily engaged as the main speaker of the Muslim League. He never evaded responsibilities even when he was entrusted with numerous duties. Sincerity, sacrifice and sense of responsibility - these are the qualities we saw in him on such occasions.

C.H. entered the field of administration as a member of the Calicut Municipal Council. Before long he became a model councillor. He showed sincere interest in the activities of the Calicut Municipal Council which consisted of expert members and he was able to gain praise from all sections. It was C.H. who moved a resolution in the Calicut Municipal Council which demanded the establishment of a university in the Malabar area. Such an idea had not occurred to many of his contemporaries/colleagues. Later, when he became the Minister for Education, his long cherished hope materialised.

C.H. was coming up as one of the top leaders of the Muslim League. He was well acclaimed as a gifted orator. Kerala state

was formed and the first election of 1957 was declared. C.H. was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly and this was an epoch making incident in his life. He became the Chief whip of the Muslim League in the Assembly. Within a short period he attained the position of a member to be reckoned with in the Assembly which was full of stalwarts. He did not waste a single occasion to raise problems concerning various necessities of the Kerala state, progress of the backward sections including Muslims, and issues connected with education, industry and labour. Many of the present privileges and facilities of the present day MLAs were not there during those days. Moreover, the journey from Malabar to Trivandrum was tiresome. It was under such circumstances that he attended Assembly sessions regularly and participated with utmost sincerity and dedication. The activities of the Muslim League parliamentary party of those days under his leadership are important in the history of the Muslim League. These activities enabled the league to solve several basic problems which concerned the muslim community. I do not enter into details. Muslim League was on the opposition bench. In 1960 C.H. came to the Assembly as member of the ruling party. After the demise of Seethi Sahib, the then Speaker, C.H. acted for a short duration as the Speaker. He could easily command respect both from the treasury bench as well as the opposition as an impartial Speaker. He utilized this brief period to study deeply the parliamentary procedure and he published a book on Assembly procedure.

C.H. achieved real fame after he became a member in the ministry under Sri E. M. S. Nambudiripad in 1967 as the Minister for Education. To borrow his own words, he took that portfolio without lending ears to the advice of his friends and well-wishers not to accept that department. It was a portfolio which was handled by prominent predecessors like Joseph Mundasseri, Pattom Thanu Pillai, R. Sankar etc. and the same was considered a crown of thorns. But C.H. proved to be an able Education Minister since he organised the

Department with justice, honesty and a realistic approach. There were rare occasions on which the education bill was passed even without voting and interference of the opposition.

In 1969 as a member of the Achutha Menon ministry, C.H. had to take up the Home Department too in addition to the Department of Education. Marxist party was on the opposition bench at that time. During this tenure he improved the law and order situation in the state and domestic problems of the Home Department were settled justly and he was able to win the co-operation of all the people he worked with. It was he who put an end to the interference of the workers of ruling parties in the administration of the Police force. Thus the police could act impartially. The press and media praised him. On some occasions even the central home ministry expressed satisfaction in the working of the law and order in Kerala. Even today all remember him as a powerful Home Minister.

The periods in which he handled the portfolios of Education and Home Affairs were extremely busy and also tiresome by that same reason. As the General Secretary of the Muslim League, I had to stay in Trivandrum. One day at midnight an employee in the MLA quarters knocked at my door and informed me that the education minister wanted to talk to me. Attending the phone I understood that it was a matter connected with the Wakf Board. It was the month of Ramzan. He fasted during the day time and at night he had the diet of a diabetic patient. It was during the midnight hours that he went through the files. I asked him why he should work even at odd hours and adviced him to go to bed. His reply was that there were four boxes of files and that the next day also there might be an equal amount of them. 'Each file contained a human problem and the solution was nothing but action. Postponement may create difficulty for people. It would be better if somebody is benefited even if it creates a little difficulty for us'. After hearing this I did not say anything. Always he had this sense of justice.

In 1979 he acted as the chief minister of Kerala for a short period. This smallest and the shortest-lived ministry of Kerala could boast of doing its utmost for Kerala state. He worked as a real democratic leader and administrator. As the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, I could watch him taking decisions. He could settle some long pending issues because he handled them as human problems. His method was not of accumulating correspondence. He took to the method of discussing matters with concerned parties. He did what was possible and rejected the unacceptable. He solved some problems connected with some members of the staff of the Public Service Commission, within a very short time. Briefly, it was bad luck of Kerala that this ministry did not live long. After the election of 1982 he became the Deputy Chief Minister of Kerala under the leadership of Sri K. Karunakaran. It was during this term that he suffered from some ill-health. But he did not consider it as a problem. C.H. showed a special skill in utilizing the available time to discharge his duties in a beautiful manner. It is only natural that this *karmayogi* left this world while discharging his duties.

The great qualities of C.H. which enabled him to rise up step by step from the position of a worker of the MSF and to leave indelible impressions on all fields of activity must be a guiding force for those in public life.

(Translated by M. R. Raghava Varier)

# 'C.H.' - A great Indian

**MALAYATOOR RAMAKRISHNAN**

I first met 'C.H.' in 1962 when I was the Collector of Calicut. The occasion was certainly not a pleasant one. The atmosphere was tension-charged. On the 'Vellayil' beach two communities had clashed. Daggers had been drawn. Several were seriously injured. Both communities lived by fishing. The perils of the sea and the uncertainty of 'catches' had for decades brought them together in the stress and strain of poverty. Yet on this dark night there had been hard words. Someone's fishing net had been damaged, someone pointed an accusing finger at someone else, hot words were spoken and then all hell broke loose. Huts were put to the torch and daggers were drawn.

This was the backdrop against which I first met 'C.H.' -in the Nadakkavu police station.

I had heard about him years ago, as a writer of repute and a forceful speaker. I also knew that he was the editor of the *Chandrika,* the organ of the state Muslim League.

Around 'CH.' stood angry members of his party. Against them stood spokesmen for the other community... and I, the bureaucrat, new to the district had to pacify them all; I had to cool down passions, defuse the ticking bomb. But how?

My unspoken question was answered by 'C.H.'

'Collector', he said, 'I am not blaming anyone. I am also satisfied that you and the police have done the best at your level. But I have one suggestion, tomorrow we must organise

a 'peace-jatha' and go around 'Vellayil'...

I felt most grateful.

The confrontation of groups in the Nadakkavu police station, vanished in handshakes and wreaths of smiles.

This first meeting with 'C.H.' convinced me that this was no small-time local leader. As time proved it, 'C.H.', though for a short term, guided Kerala's destiny as Chief Minister. This is not to suggest that the august office was a benchmark in his life-'C.H.', the 'C.M.'

In the 'divide' of Indian politics, it is easy to dub 'C.H.' as a Muslim Leaguer, whose roving eye wistfully lingered on green pastures outside India. I have heard such hard things said about 'C.H.' I can only say that those who came to scoff-when once they knew 'C.H - stayed to praise 'C.H.' was a great nationalist, even though he wore the League's 'topi'. One very much misses him these days-when the Babari mosque issue and resultant impatriotic decisions cloud heavily the Indian summer.

During my long term in the I A S it was not given to me to work with 'C.H.'

We often met with each other though.

I remember the breakfast he gave me in his official residence - Cliff House - when we discussed the issue of a famous Malayali cartoonist who was always gunning for 'C.H.'—often without grace or the semblance of decency. This cartoonist was also a government servant and he was in the net of disciplinary action. While munching *Pathiri* and chicken curry, I ventured to ask 'C.H.'. . 'Do you want to draw blood? Can't you stand a certain amount of lampooning'?

'C.H.' gave a hearty laugh and very soon action against the cartoonist was dropped.

'C.H.' always treated me as a friend. When he took away his spectacles, I would see a twinkle in the dark eyes. The 'pockets' below the eyes would crease into mischievous and delightful lines. In one corner of the mouth, an intriguing

curve, which would soon expand into a full, disarming smile.

'C.H' had on many occasions asked me to contribute stories to his weekly, Chandrika. Let me confess. . . .somehow it happened that I never did and I still feel guilty about it.

C.H.' died in the prime of his life and the Kerala scene has never been the same. A man of vision and wisdom had passed away.

'C.H.' stood by and fought for the causes of his community real and fancied causes. He was never narrow-minded, never the bigot. Like an excellent sportsman he played the game for his party's sake. But all along he knew that the playfield was India. . . . that the ground rules were Indian.

Can we spot another 'C.H'-on the horizon?

I am afraid, it will take time.

a long, long time.

# C. H. Mohammed Koya-the Muslim League Minister

**T. P. KUTTIAMMU**

C. H. Mohammed Koya was a gentleman to the core, who loved his country and community with all his heart and worked hard for their progress. He started life as a speaker, writer and politician of the Muslim League and ended it as a great statesman. The League is wedded to work for the freedom and integrity of the nation and for the welfare of the people. It stands for the uplift of the backward classes, the protection of the identity of the Muslims and the progress of their culture. In this all round endeavour C. H. succeeded to a large extent. This is due to the goodness of his head and heart.

As a gentleman he earned the love and regard of all those with whom he came into contact. Even his political rivals could not but love him for his sincerity and good manners. Mr. A. A. Rahim once said 'We cannot but love him. Even when he criticises us vehemently in his public speeches, he does it in good humour and shows a smiling face!' He used to go out of the way-without violating rules, regulations and propriety-to help all sorts of people without any distinction whatsoever. Only when it adversely effects some other interests or harms the community at large he cries halt and says 'no'. His interests were very wide-social, cultural, literary and so on.

As a minister and administrator he tried to select the proper

men for the proper places, and having selected, then gave them confidence and freedom of action. So he got the best out of them. His selection of Sri Ramachandran Nair, Smt. Padma Ramachandran and others as Secretaries of the Education Department, Sri Krishna Warriar and Sri A. N. P. Ummerkutty for the language Institute, Dr. C. K. Kareem for the State Gazetteer, Dr. K. M. George for the Encyclopaedia, Dr. K. C. Chacko and Dr. Ghani for the Calicut University is a pointer to this quality in him. He takes keen interest in the progress of the various activities in the Department, understands their needs, works for them in the Cabinet and the Secretariat, presents their case in the Legislative Assembly in a fitting manner, and projects them in public clearly and well. In all this the only consideration was truth, justice and progress. There was no room for corruption of any sort in his dealings.

Of the very many projects he got through during his terms of ministership the establishment of the Calicut University stands out as an outstanding achievement. It was indeed one of his pet schemes and he gave his best attention to its progress at all stages. The sanction, acquisition of land, recognition by the University Grants Commission, steady progress were all his concern. All this was done in good time due to the personal interest shown by him. Today it stands out as a monument of his farsightedness and patient endeavour.

Backward classes and minority communities got a fair share in the development of the University. Prior to this the annals of the universities were the close preserve of one or two communities who had a lead of one or two centuries in English education. This monopoly was first broken by C. H. in the nominations he made to the Syndicate, Senate, Academic Council and Faculties. Names of a few Muslims and Ezhavas came in the selection lists and immediately arose cries of 'wolf' from the vested interests. 'Pakistan', 'Aligarh' etc. were the epithets that were used and even a person of

eminence Sri K. P. Kesava Menon refused to accept the nomination to the Senate! But C.H. was convinced of the right choices he had made and quietly went forward. In due course truth came out as it always does,

And what was wrong with the nomination. Out of 14 Syndicate members three were Muslims, one an M.P. from Calicut, another the Principal of the biggest college in the university and the third one who had very long experience as Chief Engineer, P.W.D. and in the engineering faculties of Kerala university. The nominees to the Senate and various faculties were also proper than representing various interests, but belonging to all communities. Thus Syndicate and Senate continued for seven years and developed the university on correct lines. When Prof. Ghani came as Vice-Chancellor there was again, a cry of 'wolf', but when people saw his work, his dignified demeanor, utter sincerity and unblemished integrity, they all wanted him to continue beyond his term. When Syed Mohammed was posted as Registrar the same thing happened. There was a hue and cry against the appointment. But when he brought to bear on the administration of the university his long experience in administration and financial matters, people saw his integrity, and wanted him to continue till he was sixty years.

The fact was that C.H. did not want Prof. Ghani to become Vice-Chancellor at Calicut. He was trying to get some outstanding educationist to be the vice-chancellor. But his efforts did not succeed. He also wanted to establish a convention of choosing members of the different communities merit being considered of course to the four top places in the four Universities of the state. These were vacancies of the posts of Vice-Chancellor in Kerala and Calicut universities. C.H. got the consent of Dr. Ayyappan and Prof. Ghani to become Vice-Chancellors. C.H. wanted Dr. Ghani to go to Kerala and Dr. Ayyappan to go to Calicut. But for reasons best known to him Prof. Ghani did not want to become Vice-Chancellor of Kerala. He was willing to go to

Calicut only where he would get a clean slate to work upon. He was invited to Trivandrum to lunch with C.H. at which the Minister tried to persuade him to go to Kerala University, but the Professor was reluctant. Later, on the advice of the minister, I contacted Prof. Ghani on the phone and through letter, but he was adamant. That is how he came to Calicut, but it was all to the good of the University.

The University grew on correct lines. And it was in the fitness of things that hon. doctorate were bestowed by the University on Sri K. P. Kesava Menon and Prof. M. M. Ghani and they both took the sanads on the same day and at the same function.



**- NATHAN**

# C. H. Mohammed Koya: Some Memories

**K.MADHAVA MENON**

C. H. Mohammed Koya is the architect and virtually the founder of the University of Calicut and but for his foresight the vast expanse at Thenhipalam would not have flowered into the present hub of academic activity. The one time plains of the present campus houses one of the foremost universities of India and the all round improvement and economic growth of this splendid place is only due to the able guidance of the then Education Minister Sri Mohammed Koya.

He has well and truly laid the foundation of this University on solid ground for posterity to build, improve on and enjoy. The university is ever grateful to Sri C.H. for this valuable contribution.

During the period 1970 when I was Director of Collegiate Education, Kerala, and subsequently Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calicut. I had the unique opportunity to work in close association with this Hon'ble Minister and to understand him. I have found in him an affable person who never interfered in the day to day administration of the departments under his control and who used to take advice from his heads of departments whenever any important policy decision had to be taken relating to such departments. The direct payment system for the personnel in the recognised educational institutions of Kerala is his contribution to the

academic world and this is certainly an example for all other administrations elsewhere to follow. This has really created an academic revolution and the intelligentia of Kerala is certainly grateful to Sri C.H. for the bold decision.

He appreciated good work and never hesitated to eulogise such persons even in public. This endearing quality of his able administrator has been since many are assistant who worked for him devotedly and efficiently. As I was an allotted officer from the erstwhile Madras state Sri C.H. knew that there was every possibility of extending the age limit to 58 in the case of teachers in Madras. I remember him telling me when I was the Director of Collegiate Education, to put in a representation to this effect. But I politely placed it before him that such a move may be embarrassing to the hon'ble Minister and it may bring in more of enemies than friends in the Department itself. He appreciated my stand and before long Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya the able Education Minister posted me as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Calicut university, which post was lying vacant for some time.

When there was an agitation at the Bishop Moore College near Mavelikkara and when there was an unsolved problem at the Rural Institute, Thavanur Sri C.H.'s choice fell upon me to try my hand at the negotiating table for solving these problems. By his blessings and by the grace of God almighty both the problems were satisfactorily solved and I cherish even to this day the memory of his affectionate embrace when the news of the settlement reached him. Here was an affectionate man with a large heart.

When a proposal to start a Government College at Malappuram came up there was apprehension in some quarters about the availability of adequate strength for the proposed college if and when it started. The Education Minister Sri C.H. wanted me to study the problem and then submit a report to the Government on this matter. Virtually I went to these incognite and I went from pillar to post and came to a conclusion that in Malappuram town alone there

were many youngsters who had passed S.S.L.C. examination and who could not even afford to pay the transport to go to Manjeri for higher studies. As soon as the Education Minister received my report, orders were issued for the statute of the Government Colleges at Malappuram and the present temple of higher education at Malappuram owes its existence to Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya. Sri C.H. left his mark when he was in the Indian Parliament also. It was my proud privilege once to be sent by Sri C.H. to the stalwarts of the Muslim League. Sri Abdur Rahiman Bafakki Thangal and Sri M. K. Haji on a very important mission. I am always grateful for the love and affection shown by him and the immense faith that he had in me.

I have many sweet memories about this great man but I must cut short my article. Time alone can play a soothing hand on the grievous loss we have suffered due to the sad and sudden death of this great man who adorned equally the Education, P.W.D. and Home Departments of the Kerala government from time to time and when he left us he was our beloved Deputy Chief Minister. Great men always live, even after they are dead. So also the memory of Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya, the sweet orator and affectionate man will linger in the minds of millions of our people.




**- HARI**

# C. H. Mohammed Koya reminiscences

**E. K. IMBICHI BAVA**

C. H. Mohammed Koya was a good friend of mine. We came to have close acquaintance with each other from the time in 1934 when I was a student in Calicut. However, it was when both of us were members of the third Lok Sabha (1962-67) that we had occasion to know each other intimately. C.H. used to invite myself and A.K.G. frequently to Old Delhi to share Mughal Biriyani.

During the period of the India-China war, I had to go under-ground since there was an arrest warrant against me according to the Defence of India Rules. Nevertheless I sometimes appeared in the Lok Sabha from underground, signed the register and collected the daily allowance. Once I happened to run into C. H. Mohammed Koya during such an escapade. As usual he came smiling and started friendly enquiries when I put on a serious expression. He immediately withdrew, perhaps he suddenly remembered that I was in hiding and ignored me and never mentioned to anybody this meeting with me.

While both of us were ministers in Kerala (1967-69) we moved with great friendship and mutual trust. The students of the Regional Engineering College in Calicut were on strike for some time in 1968. The people also came out with statements in support of the student struggle. Sri Kuttikrishnan Nair, the Janatha leader, offered satyagraha.

On this occasion myself and C.H. were camping in Calicut Guest House. Several friends and student representatives were demanding a compromise. C.H. felt that the students had started agitating about small issues without any sense of discipline. When I also suggested that C.H. should intervene in his capacity as the Hon. Minister of Education, he put a counter proposal and asked me 'will you be able to bring about a compromise?' If he wanted it, I said that I was ready to explore possibilities in talk. At that time Prof. Bahauddin was the Principal of the Regional Engineering College. He was uncompromising in matters related to student discipline. The students also stood firm in their attitude. We reached an agreement after prolonged discussion only. The struggle was withdrawn and the fast was terminated. After a few hours when I returned to the Calicut Guest House, C.H. came to me and enquired with great curiosity 'Are you coming with victory, after effecting a compromise?' He did not forget to congratulate me on hearing about the details. He sincerely wanted to see the end of the struggle. This is only one of the examples that show his great concern for peace in the field of education.

After the United Front Ministry resigned in 1969 on account of difference of opinion, I met him personally only when he was hospitalized in Madras. Then also he talked to me with great friendliness. I participated in the last rites of C.H. After the body was taken for burial I met members of his family and offered my condolence

It was during 1967-69 under the E.M.S. ministry that the Calicut, University was established. There is no doubt that the Government of that time and especially C. H. Mohammed Koya who was Minister of Education in the cabinet will be remembered for ever in this university.

(Translated by M. G. S. Narayanan)

# Homage to the founder

**S. SIVAPRASAD**

To a student of Kerala's political and social history Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya stands head and shoulders above many of his contemporaries and counterparts in the leadership of the state. Born in a lower middle class family, with meagre resources, he did not have the opportunities to secure Higher Education beyond the intermediate stage. Nevertheless he acquired more knowledge than many university graduates in different disciplines all through' his own efforts.

C.H. had always impressed me as a dynamic and magnetic person. His indomitable courage, initiative, indefatigable industry and endurance are all worthy of emulation by those who wish to give the right leadership to any society. Though a staunch and ardent leader of Muslims he was always catholic in his outlook. His continued and steadfast struggle was for the emancipation of the under privileged. It is not my endeavour here to discuss at length his multifarious activities. As one who was associated with the Calicut University as a member of the Syndicate and various other academic bodies' for eight years from its inception I shall confine myself to the invaluable services C.H. rendered that University, which owes its origin and development to him more than to any body else.

Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya was known to me as a forceful orator and journalist and a champion of the rights of Muslims and weaker sections of the society. It was only at the

inauguration of the Calicut University in 1968 that I happened to see him at close quarters. Immediately after the inaugural function he sent word for me and with his characteristic enchanting smile congratulated me on the articles I had contributed to the Mathrubhoomi and the Malayala Manorama. Putting his arm around my shoulders he pulled me away from the crowd and introduced to me a young boy of eighteen and told me that the boy belonged to a poor Muslim family and he would very much like me to offer the boy admission to first year B.A. English literature class in my college at Cannanore. I valued his recommendation most not because he happened to be the Pro-Chancellor but only because of his compassion for the poor. I remember with gratitude that he chose me to represent the Sree Narayana Colleges in the Malabar area and also the predominant community of Thiyas on the syndicate of the newly formed university.

The appointment of Prof. M. M. Ghani, a veteran educationist and profound scholar, as the first vice-chancellor of the university and the nomination of a team of experienced teachers and distinguished public men on the syndicate to guide the destinies of the University during its formative period paved the way for laying sound foundations. It was mainly because of his personal concern for the University and the great interest he evinced in its affairs that the university campus nearly 25 K.M. from the Calicut city, developed into an ideal Higher Educational complex so expeditiously. The University could provide from the early stage itself every facility with all modern amenities to accommodate all the teaching and non-teaching staff and also the students, not to speak of the various other facilities provided for.

Innovations in many fields particularly in the context and duration of the courses, teaching methodology, new disciplines, examination systems and the overall improvements of academic standards were always welcomed and encouraged by C.H. with the result that Vice-Chancellor

Ghani and the Syndicate were able to do something substantial and create really worthwhile traditions. C.H. was also mainly responsible for the construction of a big stadium and also for providing perhaps the biggest indoor stadium in Kerala in the University campus where a number of inter university championships have been held. He was also of immense help in procuring liberal grants from the U.G.C. for the various developmental projects of the university including the magnificent buildings in which the various University departments, administrative and examination offices, library and guest houses, hostels and shopping centres are now housed.

I vividly remember the occasion when I was closeted with him at the Government House, Calicut, when I impressed upon him the imperative need for the appointment of a dean of students to be incharge of student services in the University and affiliated colleges and the importance to be given to guidance and counselling of students. The suggestion, later taken up seriously by the syndicate, resulted in the University getting a dean exclusively for student services. The School of Drama started by the University of Calicut at its Trichur Centre was also another feather in the cap of the distinguished pro-chancellor, who had the vision and imagination to accept the recommendation of the faculty of fine arts and the syndicate.

The Calicut University Act and its statutes under the direction, guidance and supervision of the then Education Minister included several progressive provisions which were 'subsequently incorporated in the Acts and statutes of other Universities in the state. Whereas in the Kerala University, for obvious reasons, even highly qualified and competent persons belonging to the minority and backward communities could hardly get selections to the teaching staff particularly to the headships of departments for nearly three decades, distinguished scholars like Prof. Sukumar Azhikode were selected as professors solely on the basis of their merit

by the Calicut University. The principle of communal representation introduced for the selection of teaching and non-teaching staff enabled many members belonging to the backward communities to get representation in various teaching departments and administrative sections. So also in the admission of students to post-graduate courses the principle of communal reservation was strictly adhered to.

The Calicut University was started with the idea of giving more higher educational facilities to the educationally backward and under developed areas in Kerala, namely the districts in Malabar. Sanction was given by C.H., in his capacity as Education Minister for starting more institutions affiliated to the University, particularly in the private sector, resulting in many denominational colleges springing up under the managements of S.N. trusts, N.S.S., M.E.S. Catholic and other Christian private agencies.

It was in his late forties that I had the privilege of becoming acquainted with C.H. His captivating and bewitching smile, his sparkling and penetrating eyes, his dimpled chin and chubby cheeks all made more handsome by his golden complexion made him a magnetic person. The Calicut University owes a lot to this great man, but for whose personal care, consideration and continued patronage the University could not have achieved its present status and stature in so short a time. The faculty and the students, past and present, of the University will always remember the founder pro-chancellor of this great centre of learning with gratitude and veneration.



**-P.V.KRISHNAN**

# C.H. - A Multi-faceted Personality

**HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD**

When we attempt to describe a great man, we experience the scarcity of words. The same happens in the case of C. H. Mohammed Koya. Even if it can be suggested in one word that he is indescribable that leaves behind some sort of incompleteness, and a sense of limitation.

Late C. H. Mohammed Koya Saheb was an institution by himself, more than an individual. He filled an epoch and became a movement which witnessed the vicissitudes of an age.

The history of the University of Calicut is part of the life of that Educational reformer, cultural luminary and heroic fighter.

The late Koya Saheb was the designer and chief architect of the Calicut University. It was he who contributed to the growth of the University in its present form and his services in this direction are unforgettable. Several beautiful moments which became land marks in history!

One of those unforgettable moments which withered away is that of the first meeting of the University where people spread newspaper sheets and sat on the floor.

It met inside the Government Polytechnic, Westhill, Calicut. The meeting took place on the floor spread with papers. Since that time the growth of the university was enviable.

The first meeting of the Senate! It was the Senate of the newly constituted University of Calicut, hosted in the Town Hall of Calicut. As a nominated member of the Senate this writer had also an occasion to participate in its first meeting.

For further growth of the University, the contributions made by Koya Saheb as a Minister for Education could not be underestimated by anybody.

Koya Saheb nominated late Sri K. P. Kesava Menon as a life member of the University Senate and thereby recognised and honoured that great man. Another personality who enjoyed this fortune was Kunhipakki Saheb. Later he was a member of the Public Service Commission who stood in the forefront of Educational reformers in Malabar.

Koya Saheb was always first to recognise calibre and ability of others.

The evergreen memory of that journey to Madras, the first meeting with Koya Saheb is still cherished. This writer was then a student in the Law College of Madras. It was a destined and unavoidable meeting in the train. The hours which spent along with the genius are still in the memory as they had just taken place. Even it was not realised that the train has come to the final terminal at Madras amidst his eloquence.

Koya Saheb was a master of words which attracted thousands. It was possible for him at once to draw persons to his side by his lively words. Even at midnight in extreme cold, and causing the loss of slumber, the people waited for hearing him with patience. This may probably be due to the great attraction of his discourse.

While some thing is attempted to write on Koya Saheb several incidents rush to the mirror of the mind. It is impossible to describe all of them here. His was a fertile land of multi-faceted personalities.

He was like an encyclopedia. His knowledge knew no boundaries. He had deep knowledge on Indian and World literature. He loved books than those of his children.

Once I could see him immersed in deep thought in the

Parliamentary Library of Western Court where the M.Ps. resided. When he saw me, he showed me *King Lear*, by Shakespeare and stated that he was recollecting the fate of that poor old man. He added, 'Shakespeare is a great genius'. He had an extraordinary ability to substantiate facts with proper arguments.

Once, amidst a heated discussion in the Parliament Koya Saheb quoted an episode of *Mahabharata* and invited severe criticism of the M.Ps. who followed Hinduism. Then he shouted on the floor to treat it as a commentary given by Koya.

He had his contributions to Malayalam literature particularly to the branch of travelogues.

His contribution to journalism is the Chandrika. Its birth, growth and everything involved in that single personality.

Later in a controversial election suit the Justice of the High Court gave a verdict against him stating that Mr. Koya as far as concerned with them was the Chandrika and the Chandrika was Mr. Koya. Later that verdict was set aside by the Supreme Court.

However it reveals the inseparable relationship between the *Chandrika* and Koya Saheb.

He learnt by heart the Muslim sacred books like *Quran*, and *Hadis.* The book written by him after his pilgrimage is a scholarly and useful one for all.

The split in the League was a tragic incident in the history. For a long time we were on different paths. But there was no limitation for our friendship. One incident of that time comes to my mind when we represented different groups of the League.

Koya Saheb, the present writer, another M.P. Mr. Sheriff, and a film producer Mr. Iqbal were seeing a preview of a film. Suddenly Koya Saheb swooned down. With the help of others, this writer carried him on the shoulder and brought him outside and sent him to the hospital. He was a diabetic patient. The shortage of glucose in the blood was the cause of

his swoon. He became alert after receiving glucose drips. When he regained his health and came back he told me: 'Schamnad, if I have died (became Mayyath) the followers of the League in Kerala would have stated that the dissident Leaguer had killed Koya'.

This tiny State of Kerala had witnessed several historical events. After the partition, the first League Minister for education!. The Communists came to power through ballot papers. They had gone out of power also without ballot papers. In such a small state he had the fortune to become a League Minister for Education.

Although it was a short period, he had the fortune to become the Chief Minister with the help of the followers of the Congress who had shown reluctance to make a Leaguer earlier even a Minister.

Plenty of historical incidents! In his last days, he was worried on the merger of the two Leagues. He wanted to bring together the brethren who had departed to different directions. He desired to see them walking together. The demise of Bafaki Thangal was a blow to the League. The people later found in him a leader. He always recollected the late Bafaki Thangal with honour and reverence. He always used to tell that he was made by him what he was.

Before concluding this something from his private talks is recollected. It was the time of his Dy. Chief Ministership. Amidst the private talks he stated; 'Schamnad you might see the film 'Enadu', you can see some of us in that film, the politicians of today'. Even when he was a part of establishment and authority, he was feeling the pricking of conscience. Probably this may be the reason for his statement of those words. Later when this writer had an occasion to see that film his words were recollected. When he expressed those words his wife, Amina, who stood by his back had a laugh. Its meaning was clear to me only later.

He never went in search of power or followed anybody for that. After resigning from the office of Speaker, he came

to the midst of the people and stated; 'I have come to you after giving up the mobile limousine and the palatical mansions. 1 would like to have a place in your heart; that is my palace, that is my wealth'. These words were really enchanting and inspiring. Still they vibrate in the ear.

For several years this writer had occasions to mingle with him as a bosom friend, a co-worker and a devoted follower. There were good number of occasions for this writer to work together with him on the same side or opposite sides in the Senate, Assembly and Parliament. Our late C. H. Mohammed Koya Saheb was a Philosopher, noted Journalist, Orator, far-sighted critic, able Parliamentarian, a perfect administrator, and above all a humanist.

(Translated by K.N.Kurup)

# Founder of the Calicut Law College

**P. SREEDHARAN NAIR**

In 1969, it was the cherished desire of the people of Calicut that, they should have a Law College at Calicut. The students of the Malabar area who desired to have legal Education had to depend on the Law College at Madras or Ernakulam. There had been sporadic representations from different quarters and a committee of citizens of Calicut petitioned the Government for the institution of a Law College at Calicut. The activities of the committee gathered momentum early in 1970 when the late Sri K. P. Kesava Menon, addressed a petition to the Governor of Kerala.

The matter was taken up by the then Education Minister Janab C. H. Mohammed Koya with all keen interest and purpose was caused an application to be submitted to the University for affiliation. But for his enthusiasm and timely action, the college would not have come into existence. The red tape for this matter was untied and every action was taken with promptitude and care. By this time the ministry had resigned and the President's rule was brought into effect. The matter would have received a silent burial destroying the dream and expectations of the Malabar citizens.

There were some of us on the teaching staff of the Government Law Colleges who desired to have another Government Law College in the state so that employment

opportunities would be available to unemployed and frustrated Masters of Law. Avenues of future promotion to the existing staff were also being closed. Some of them met Janab C. H. Mohammed Koya who had been busy with the forthcoming elections and planning for the future of the state. During this period of hectic activities and pressure, he found time to move the concerned authorities to proceed with necessary steps for establishing the Law College. The vice-chancellor of the University of Calicut Prof. Mohammed Ghani, and the members of the Syndicate fully realised and appreciated the need for the law college in this town and fell in step with Janab C.H. to proceed with the steps for granting affiliation to the college, by creating a faculty of Law for the first time in this University and sanctioning the affiliation. This was recommended to the Government by the university.

By the time the steps were concluded, the party including Janab C.H. was voted back to power and Janab C.H. Mohammed Koya took over as the Hon. Minister for Education. The file containing the recommendation of the University came before him for consideration. As a person associated with the activities at the lower level, I am told that he was happy in being able to pass orders himself sanctioning the college. All of us are aware that but for Janab C.H. this institution of legal education would still have been a dream yet to realise.

After the institution was started in the old building at Mananchira, it was his desire to provide it with a house of its own. Within three years he arranged for the acquisition of an 8 acre plot in Silver Hills on the Wynad road. The building, which is one of the biggest Law College buildings in India, was completed in 1982 and we moved into the new house in June '82. Right up to the last days of his career, be continued to evince a keen interest in the development of this temple of law and it was his desire to establish this as a full-fledged Law College complex, complete with hostels for men and women, quarters for teaching and non-teaching staff.

It is our earnest desire that the unfinished work will be completed before long and that the institution will be able to hold itself up as the standing monument to the ability and foresight of an Educationist whose best periods of office as Hon. Minister for education were devoted to the progress of higher education in the Malabar area.

May his soul rest in peace and guide us in our future activities for the development of this institution.

# A Spokesman of Progressive Ideas

**P. SEETHI HAJI**

Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya, who is not at present with us, was an Education Minister who made substantial contributions to the Educational progress of Kerala. We will never be able to forget the role he played as a leader in various fields such as the formation of the University of Calicut, the Educational advancement of the backward areas of Malabar, the literacy programmes for the backward communities, the formulation of the new University Statutes, the efforts to ensure free secondary Education etc.

C.H. is not considered to be an Educational expert. Nor did he adorn himself with high academic distinctions. However, he was endowed with a correct perspective of Education. While making his mark as a politician, journalist, social worker and writer, he endeavoured to develop deep perception of our Educational problems. It was mainly because of this that he gained recognition as one of the best Ministers forEducation that Kerala has ever had.

It is true that C.H. was not a scholar of Education in the academic sense: Nor was he fortunate enough to gain Higher Education for himself. In fact, this was one of the accusations against him when he accepted the Education portfolio. But he himself gave a fitting reply for this accusation: Sri Kamaraja Nadar and Sri Omanthur who were at the helm of

affairs in the composite Madras State were not highly educated; yet they were able administrators. Similar were the cases of Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, who made his mark as a prominent national leader, the first Minister for Education of free India and Congress President and Sri V. P. Menon, the able deputy of Sardar Patel who did yeomen service as Defence Secretary. Neither of them had high academic distinctions, yet they never failed as administrators.

It may be remembered that all those who levelled accusations against him on the occasion of his assumption of Office later on realised their mistakes and recognized his expertise.

No one can deny the role played by C.H. in the formation of the University of Calicut. At a time, when it was generally felt that the University of Kerala was overcrowded with too many colleges and that a new university was required to ensure the Educational progress of Malabar, it was fortunate that we had an Education minister like C.H. to take the initiative for the adventurous task of founding a university. It was only because of his daring act that the dream of a new university came true. He had his own ideas about the commitments of the new university. The question whether all his aspirations came true remains a moot point.

The Educational advancement of backward communities was one of his pet dreams. He made use of all the forums available to him to convince his own community and the backward sections of other communities, of the indispensability of Education. He was a very vocal spokesman of women's Education too. History will never forget this forward-looking man who devised several projects to ameliorate Muslim dom-who-incidentally, held such deep-rooted superstitions as the belief that this globe is perched on the horns of a bull-throughEducation.

Another of his pet dreams was the uplift of backward areas. Future generations will always remember, with gratitude, his role in the Educational advancement of backward areas such

as Malappuram district. Statistics reveal that the rate of increase in literacy in the Malappuram district during the decade 1970-80 is much more than in any other district. Who can forget the fact that this was his achievement? When C.H. took over as Education minister, there were many villages in the Malabar area without even the facilities for primary Education. At present there are high schools in such villages. In theEducationally backward Malappuram district there is, at present, not even a single panchayat without a high school. In several villages there are two or three high schools. There were only two junior colleges in the district when C.H. assumed Office. However, there are at present twelve colleges including first grade college. He encouraged the teaching of Arabic and Sanskrit through the establishment of Oriental High Schools and endeavoured to establish an Arabic college exclusively for women. He had a leading role in the establishment of the colleges at Mampad, Tirurangadi, Kondotty, Ponnani, Mannarghat and Taliparamb. He even undertook a tour abroad for collecting money for the college at Mampad. In short, it can safely be said that it was C.H. who laid the foundation for the social and Educational advancement of Malabar especially the Malappuram district where the University of Calicut is situated.

C.H. worked for the advancement of his community. He did not think that it was being communal if one endeavours for the progress of a community, which, for historical reasons remained backward socially and educationally. On the other hand, he deemed it as his bounden duty as a patriot. It should be remembered that Gandhiji cannot be branded as a communalist for his role in harijan uplift. And there are other stalwarts like Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Palpu who tried to uplift the harijans and other downtrodden people. Great men like Sri Narayana Guru, Kumaran Asan, R Sankar and C. Kesavan who worked for the advancement of the Ezhava community are also not reckoned as communalists. All our national leaders had conceded the fact that if a particular community is

lagging behind the others in social and educational matters, that community should be given a helping hand to come up along with the others. Otherwise, the progress of the nation as a whole will be impossible. Hence it can be said that the services rendered by C.H. to his own community were not 'communal'. On the other hand, it was a service rendered to the nation. He was a genuine patriot in the true sense of the term.

'Free Education upto standard ten' is one of the most progressive items in the directive principles of our constitution. Even the great educationist Prof. Joseph Mundasseri was not able to put his idea into practice. It was during the tenure of C.H. as Education Minister that this was implemented. Moreover, he was of the view that education upto the pre-degree level should be free. He was always thinking about on educational reforms. He was conversent with the educational practices of the West. A perpetual traveller, he always remained a student.

A feather in his cap is the University Bill which secured the service conditions of college teachers which included the provisions for the direct payment of salary and certain clauses which saved the teachers from certain unscrupulous managements. He believed in the policy of reservations as an instrument for the uplift of backward communities. However, he repeatedly asserted that the other communities will never be deprived of their rightful claims. He was sincere enough even to make use of the forums made available to him by the Nair Service Society to plead for the reservation policy!

The very life of C.H. was a message of 'love of all faiths' and religious tolerance. He did not find it difficult to co-operate with the members of other communities even while he remained a spokesman of his own community. Though an adherent to his own faith, he was a secularist too. Future generations have certainly much to learn from, his illustrious life.

(Translated by C. P. Sivadasan)

# C. H. Mohammed Koya

**SIVARAM**

He was Minister of Education at that time. On hearing that he was present at the Alwaye palace, I felt a desire to see him personally. Fixing an appointment over the telephone, I reached there. He received me with a charming smile and outstretched arms and we started talking . . .

I showed him a cartoon series where a few great sayings were illustrated. I suggested that it will be good for students if they were printed as posters and distributed in the schools. He said, 'All right you do one thing, print the posters, then the Government can buy them'. This was not practicable. So this subject was dropped at that stage.

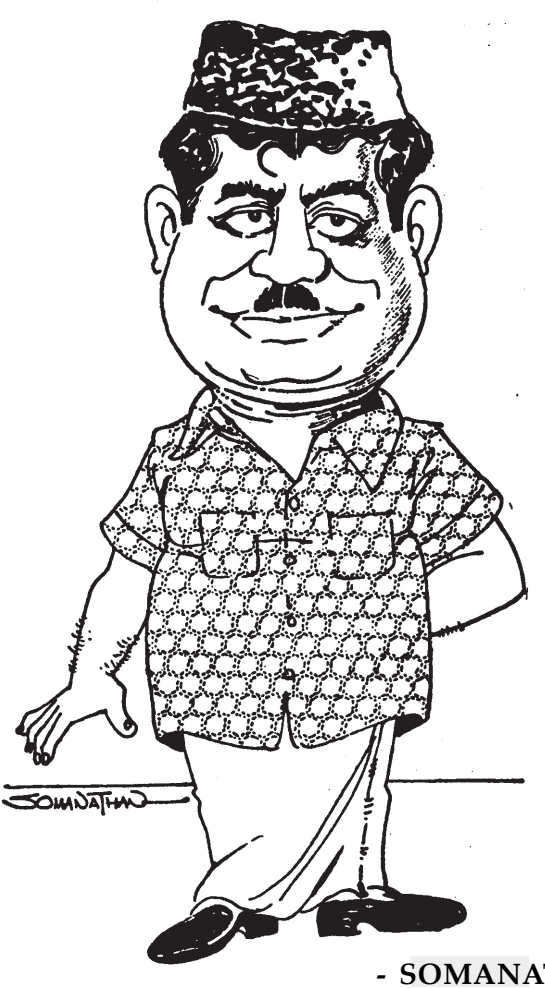
Then the conversation turned to cartoons. He expressed a doubt whether cartoons were intended to be the instrumental on commenting others and exposing them, whether their chief object was to oppose their subjects.

I explained to him my understanding of cartoons. He then showed me some cuttings from cartoons. They were all beyond the limits of decency and calculated to offend his feelings. This was enough to create in him an allergy towards cartoons and cartoonists as a whole.

However, the twenty five minutes interview with him left in me a great respect for him.

He spoke frankly to me and played the host nicely. His pleasing conduct and conversation were such that anyone will be moved. Though he was the Hon'ble Minister, there was no arrogance or stiffness which we usually associate with such an office. I could see a good humanist in him. His spirit will be an inspiration to others in future.

(Translated by M. G. S. Narayanan)




**- SOMANATHAN**

# A Progressive Leader of the People

**RAHEEM MECHERI**

The late C. H. Mohammed Koya was a leader who had deeply influenced the political, social and educational fields of Kerala. The life history of C. H. Mohammed Koya who dominated the diverse fields of life as a social worker, politician, journalist, author, administrator and orator for three decades, is very much a part of the history of Kerala.

This brilliant leader of the masses was the finding of late K. M. Seethi Saheb who gave the clarion call for social educational and cultural progress of Muslims of Kerala. Only a genius can recognise another genius. C. H. Mohammed Koya was the successor of the incomplete mission of K. M. Seethi Saheb, who struggled to uplift people from superstitions and social evils. As N. V. Krishna Varier once said the most important achievement of C. H. Mohammed Koya was that he brought the Muslim masses close to the national main stream. As Roland E. Miller stated in his *Mappila Muslims of Kerala* he was the bridge between the religious leadership and the advocates of modernisation.

C.H. is known as a politician, journalist and the like. But the reality seldom remembered is that he was the man who inaugurated an era of progressive thinking in the Muslim community. In every society social evils were rampant at times. Superstitions had dominated the consciousness of all

the communities. In the case of the Hindu community, great men like Sri Narayana Guru, Vakbadananda Swami, Dr. Palpu, V. T. Bhattathirippad and the like fought against social degeneration. A revolution of equal magnitude took place among Muslims of Kerala also. It was the banner of that social reformation that Makti Tangal, Vakkom Abdul Qadir Moulavi, K. M. Moulavi, Seethi Saheb and Mohammed Abdurrahiman Saheb had carried on. They differed in political ideology. But these messengers of religious, social, educational and cultural reformation in Kerala Muslims, were the Raja Rammohan Roys, Narayana Gurus and V. T. Bhattathirippads of the Muslim community. The influence that these social reformers exerted in his thought were evident in C.H.'s writings and speeches.

He felt sorry for the pathetic conditions of the community and its attitude of turning back from modern education. His speeches and writings therefore invariably contained harsh criticism of this attitude and the call to inculcate the spirit of the changing times.

Examples are many, where C.H. fought with his pen against the leadership of that community which had closed its doors for Muslim girls against modern education. Farook College, the first college, to be started by the community had denied admission to girl students. It was by the persistent efforts of K. M. Seethi Saheb that this attitude was discontinued. Naturally K. M. Seethi Saheb was the social reformer and political leader who had influenced C.H. greatly. In the fifties, he wrote on the conditions of the community in one of his articles in *Chandrika* of which he was the editor.

'Prophet called on his people to acquire knowledge even going to the farthest corners of the world. His followers became the torch bearers of learning even to the Europeans. They mastered all branches of science. But We? We hesitate to see the world around us. We do not see the world beyond the walls of the masjids. We live in the nuclear age; our eyes closed. Our religious scholars, leaders and wealthy people are indulging in utter selfishness'. He asked those who built

their 'world' in the masjids to go out and build masjid in the world. He wrote on women who were prisoners of darkness and superstitions.

'Prophet commanded to do justice to women. He gave them just regards in all walks of life subject to certain limitations. Following that path Fathimah, Nabeesath UI Misriyyah, Rabiyath Ul Adabiyyah and Rasiya Sultanah made their marks in history. But what about our ladies, the kitchen keepers, who cannot make out east and west, ignorant of history and geography'.

He was a writer who used his powerful pen to raise the Muslim women who believe the idea of earth on the bullock horns and the meagre understanding of the world around obtained from certain *malas* and live like frogs in wells to the path of modern education. In his ferocious speeches he shot fierce arrows calling for the progress of the community. His role in the social reforms of Muslims of Kerala is yet to be studied.

He was not satisfied with the life style of the community. In one of his speeches at Cannanore he severely criticised the way how money was squandered for marriages banquests and festivities. He graphically described the tragic condition of the Burmese refugees of North Malabar who now live in the big mansions with the memory of good old days and told the gulf people many a times: 'On the coffins of Christians they scribe 'Me today and tomorrow thee'. The present condition of Burmese refugees is a pointer to your future. Let their fate be an example to all those who waste money in non-productive areas'.

Addressing the Silver Jubilee session of Farook College C.H., the champion of the cause of women's education asked the Muslim girls; 'My dear sisters, do you know how much the progressive leaders of the community' have suffered to bring you in your present status? But what is the result of all those sacrifices! Except the coins of your husbands, gain on purchase of blouse piece for you?

We have already stated that he was the man to complete the uncompleted mission of Seethi Saheb. Truly C.H. had all the qualities of his mentor. Seethi Saheb was a reformist, nationalist, secularist, journalist, writer, orator and a great humanist. Once he presided over the conference of Sahithya Parishat. His command of words was well known as the translator of Mahatma Gandhi's speeches. This political leader was very clever in giving tit for tat. His vast reading and consequent progressive ideas made his personality still more attractive. It was C. H. Mohammed Koya who succeeded K. M. Seethi Saheb as the Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly and those who knew him closely would agree that he had imbibed all the good qualities of his predecessor.

As Kumaranasan, R. Sankar, C. Kesavan and Mannath Padmanabhan, he worked for the upliftment of the community in the larger interest of the nation and that makes C.H. more important. As our Chief Minister once said he was an ardent nationalist and stern secularist and that was why he could easily win the friendship and confidence of the members of all communities.

He became instrumental in the foundation of the Calicut University for the social and educational upliftment of Malabar and his contribution in the cause of education will ever be remembered. Though he lacked high academic qualifications, he had his own grasp and understanding of everything especially on education. Someone has said that we had very few MLAs who had the 'bad habit' of reading something in the library of Legislative Assembly. But C.H. always had, that 'bad habit'. He was a firm believer in the need of educational institutions in the private sector. But his speeches in the Assembly as minister for education showed that he was aware of those who exploited the private sector of education bringing it down to mere business.

The one who could see man as a man above religion or politics; the person who even while being the leader of the community did fight against its degeneration; a man who

inspite of being the leader of one section of the society could maintain his broad vision on problems of the masses and the country; a secularist who had firm faith in his own religion and yet did respect other religions; a politician, seeker of knowledge who did keep his own identity the late C. H. Mohammed Koya was all these in short.

(Translated by V. Kunhali)

# C.H. Era and the Educational Scene

**C. A. ABDUSSALAM**

What is meant here by the term C.H. era is the turbulent period between 1967 when Janab. C. H. Mohammed Koya first joined the ministry and 1983 when the curtain fell on his life. He was not a minister in Kerala during the whole of this period. For some time, he was in the Opposition. Even within the period when he was with the ruling parties he acted as a Member of the Parliament for some years. However, for the major part of this period, he was either serving as the Minister for Education or as the supporter of his colleagues like Janab. Chakeeri Ahamedkutty, Janab. U. A. Beeran and Shri. T. M. Jacob who were in the office. He was also a great friend of Shri. Baby John who was the Minister for Education under the rule of the left parties. He had great personal influence over Mr. Baby John. Viewed from this angle I feel that there is not much impropriety in calling this long period of 16 years as the C.H. era in the educational field of Kerala. It is possible to divide the achievements of C.H. in the field of education during this period into three types - progress of education in Kerala as a whole, educational activity in the backward districts of Northern Kerala and the educational movement among backward communities, especially the Muslim community, in Kerala.

Though Kerala has always been in the forefront of literacy and educational activities among the Indian states, we have not received our due share at the proper time on account of economic problems and the distance to Delhi. When C.H. took charge of the Education Department in 1967, there was only one University in Kerala. All the 100 colleges distributed all over the area between Trivandrum and Kasargod were affiliated to the university of Kerala. Though the relevance of affiliating universities cannot be dismissed in the special circumstances created by the origin and the development of higher education in India the need for limiting the number of affiliated colleges to 30 or 40 has been emphasised by educational experts and the University Commissions from time to time. The growing number should not act as an impediment in establishing effective control over the academic and administrative activities of colleges. First of all C.H. turned his attention to this problem. He was ready to partition the university of Kerala and establish' two' new universities. He invited Dr. D. S. Kothari, the Chairman of the UGC, to Kerala in order to seek his support for such an expensive undertaking and to convince him about the need for establishing two more universities. Though Dr. Kothari was at first prepared to give recognition only to the university of Calicut, he surrendered to the pressure of the rational arguments of C.H. and gave the green signal to establish a university at Cochin also. Thus the University of Calicut which gave affiliation to colleges between Cannanore and Trichur came into existence in 1968 and the University of Cochin which emphasised the development of science and technology came into existence in 1971. Though not directly related to the Education Department, the Kerala Agricultural University also was established in the same period.

The factors which prompted C.H. to establish the university of Calicut were the size of the Kerala University, the increase in the number of affiliated colleges and the 'need for equal expansion in the field of higher education in the

backward districts of northern Kerala as stated in the introduction to the Calicut University Ordinance 1968.

At the same time the interest and foresight exhibited by C.H. in establishing a unitary type of university which gave importance to science and technology and research in the industrial belt of Cochin brings to mind the patronage given by the Abbasiya Caliphs of Baghdad in the 9th century of the Christian Era to the development of scientific studies. In that period when Europe lay steeped in ignorance and darkness Harun-Al-Rashid, Mamun, Mansur etc. played an important role in getting Greek and Sanskrit works translated, in establishing libraries, laboratories and observatories and in producing great men of genius like Ibnu Seina-Ibnu Ruzhd, Albiruni, AI-Khavarismi etc. This example must have inspired C.H. who was a scholar in history also.

Thus while in 1967 Kerala had only one university and under it 24 under-developed departments and 100 colleges, most of which were junior colleges, by the end of the C.H. era Kerala had 5 universities with 66 teaching and research departments and 172 affiliated colleges of arts and science and about 35 professional colleges. The field of higher education has received proper attention and development in these years. If 62,000 students were found in the colleges and universities at that time, the number has reached the level of 2.6 lakhs today. This enormous growth can be understood clearly with the help of table 1. The basic year is indicated as 1967 and the terminal year as 1983, though slight differences are possible due to inadequacy of educational statistics in Kerala.

**Table 1**. Higher education

| Details of Institutions | Basic Year | Number | Terminal Year | Number | Index of Progress (Basic year equal to 100) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Universities | 1967 | 1 | 1983 | 5 | 500 |
| University Departments | 1967 | 24 | 1983 | 66 | 275 |
| Arts and Science Colleges | 1964 | 100 | 1983 | 172 | 172 |
| Number of students in Arts and Science colleges | 1964 | 62530 | 1983 | 2.6 (Iakhs) | 415.8 |
| Number of students in Degree classes | 1968 | 19873 | 1983 | 98231 | 494.3 |

As far as college teachers are concerned they were able to secure two privileges with long-term applications during the period of the ministry of C.H.-The Government started paying salary of teachers directly and stipulated that all lecturers with 15 years of service will be promoted as Grade II Professors. These conditions of promotion were extended later to all other sections and the period for promotion to the higher grade was first reduced to 13 years and then to 10 years. The present writer who was the Secretary of the All Kerala Government College Teachers Association during that period has direct knowledge about the special interest taken by C.H. for granting these privileges to the college teachers and extending these to the teachers of schools of also.

**Table 2.** School Education

| Details of Institutions | Basic Year | Number Amount | Terminal Year | Number Amount | Index of Progress (Basic year equal to 100) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of LP Schools | 1967 | 6940 | 1983 | 6842 | 98.5 |
| Number of UP Schools | 1967 | 2479 | 1983 | 2822 | 116.3 |
| Number of High Schools | 1967 | 1282 | 1983 | 2331 | 181.8 |
| Total Number of student in schools | 1967 | 44.52 (Lakhs) | 1983 | 56.81 (Lakhs) | 127.6 |
| Number of Students in Primary School | 1967 | 36.89 (Lakhs) | 1983 | 43.16 (Lakhs) | 117 |
| Number of High School Students | 1967 | 6.4 (Lakhs) | 1983 | 13.42 (Lakhs) | 209.7 |
| Number of students in xth Std. | 1967 | 1.82 | 1983 | 3.57 | 196.2 |
| Number of teachers in LP Schools | 1969 | 65021 | 1983 | 71480 | 110.00 |
| Number of teachers in UP. Schools | 1969 | 44865 | 1983 | 59773 | 133.2 |
| Number of teachers in High schools | 1969 | 25582 | 1983 | 52385 | 204.8 |
| Total Number of School Teachers | 1969 | 135468 | 1983 | 203638 | 150.32 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Average Amount of Money spent for each student at the Primary stage | 1967 | 65.07 | 1983 | 385.44 | 592.3 |
| Average amount of Money spent for each student in the secondary stage | 1967 | 143.07 | 1983 | 581.21 | 403.9 |
| Money spent by Govt. for General Education | 1967 | 36.66 (Crores) | 1983 | 250.68 (Crores) | 683.8 |
| Number of boys who Passed SSLC | 1967 | 49281 | 1980 | 82259 | 166.9 |
| Number of girls who Passed SSLC | 1967 | 38685 | 1980 | 85250 | 220.3 |
| Total Number of students who Passed SSLC | 1967 | 87966 | 1980 | 167509 | 190.4 |

In the field of school education also the C. H. era was responsible for considerable achievements. He took great interest in spite of financial stringency to establish schools at new centres, to increase the divisions of schools and increase the number of teachers in all institutions.

In table 2 we can have a glimpse of the development in the field of school education. In different spheres of high school education the growth rate was more than double. The fact that the amount spent by the government for general education has increased seven-fold indicates the establishment of more buildings and equipments on a large scale in addition to the establishment of new schools and more teachers in each school.

As the next step let us analysis the Malabar area which was an educationally backward area. This region which had

formed part of the Madras presidency was relatively backward when compared to the states of Cochin and Travancore. Several attempts were made to put an end to this imbalance ever since the Kerala state was established in 1956. However, such an effort was made in the field of education only during the period when Mohammed Koya was the Minister for Education. The fact that he achieved considerable success in this activity is indicated by the statistics given in table 3. It is not a small gain that the number of colleges and high schools increased by 2.5 times, that of high school students increased by 3.5 times and that of students in the 10th standard increased by 4 times. Though Malabar is still backward in comparison with Travancore-Cochin area nobody can deny the fact that there was a great leap forward under the administration of C.H.

**Table 3.** Statistics regarding Malabar Region

| Details of Institutions | Basic Year | Number | Terminal Year | Number | Index of Progress (Basic year equal to 100) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colleges | 1964 | 21 | 1983 | 51 | 242.8 |
| Number of student in Colleges | 1964 | 9869 | 1983 | 71657 | 726.0 |
| High Schools | 1964 | 298 | 1983 | 746 | 250.3 |
| Number of student in High Schools | 1964 | 125083 | 1983 | 448203 | 358.3 |
| Number of student in Xth Standard | 1964 | 27163 | 1983 | 106857 | 393.4 |

Muslims formed one of the most backward sections in Kerala socially, educationally and economically. The Muslim community which comes to 21.25 per cent of the population of Kerala have representation only up to 9.5 per cent in

colleges and 14.1 per cent in high schools today. Even this progress achieved during the C.H. era was the result of these special programmes initiated by him, as is clear from table 4. While the number of Muslim colleges and the number of Muslim students in the 10th standard increased three-fold, the number of Musilm students in colleges increased more than six-fold during the period.

**Table 4.** Kerala Muslims and the educational scene

| Details of Institutions | Basic Year | Number | Terminal Year | Number | Index of Progress (Basic year equal to 100) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Muslim colleges | 1967 | 5 | 1983 | 15 | 300 |
| Number of Muslim students in colleges | 1967 | 3987 | 1983 | 25214 | 632.4 |
| Number of Muslim students in degree classes | 1968 | 1329 | 1983 | 8825 | 664.0 |
| Number of Muslim students in Xth standard | 1968 | 15109 | 1982 | 44291 | 293.1 |

Very often C.H. used to quote a sentence from the Holy Quran- 'Ho! Lord! Kindly give us more'knowledge'-Janab C.H. was a great man who did not merely repeat this prayer but also tried to his utmost ability to implement this message, and achieved success in that venture.

(Translated by M. G. S. Narayanan)

The statistical tables employed in this paper have been prepared with the help of the Economic Review in the respective years (State Planning Board), Statistics for Planning (Bureau of Economics & Statistics, Trivandrum), Annual Reports of Universities, Nettur Commission Report (1968), Kerala Muslim Directory (1960)

# A Rare Phenomenon

**M. ABDUL AZIZ**

C.H. is no more. No one could believe it. Could it happen so suddenly? When the realisation came, the whole of Kerala was shocked. Lakhs of people were felt great sorrow. His admirers were completely lost. They could seek comfort only in God's word that all men in the world were destined to die. We are born without our knowledge; and we die in the same manner. His will prevails!

A hot day in 1967. A room in the M.L.A. quarters in Trivandrum. My close friend and colleague Joseph (E. M. J. Venniyur-he died some years ago when he was Director of A.I.R., Bombay Station) and myself were there to meet C. H. Mohammed Koya. Though it was a first meeting the interview lasted long. Many distinguished personalities were present there. We were discussing contemporary politics. The Muslim League had decided to join the ministry for the first time and discussions regarding the allotment of portfolios had just started. He put me several questions regarding P. K. Kunju Saheb. He wanted to know about Kunju Saheb's activities during the period when he was president of Travancore-Cochin state Muslim League. He did not react to my view that Kunju Saheb who was a member of the Pattom ministry in Travancore-Cochin state possessed mature judgement in political and administrative affairs. But he was listening attentively.

Then we used to discuss in detail many things whenever

we met casually. We discussed for long the question of reservation. He had clearcut ideas about matters. C.H. was among those who strongly felt that the backward sections did not receive just and adequate representation in Government Service. He used to argue with supporting statistical data that backward sections like Muslims did not get even one third of the representation which they could claim proportionate to their percentage in population. Even today we have no document to show that the situation has changed.

He also believed that several factors other than the social and educational backwardness of Muslims were behind the condition in which the Muslims were denied even the small quota of reservation allotted to them. It is no secret that some communities with much less population received two or three times more representation than what they deserved. He did not hesitate to declare that the absence of adequate representation for backward sections in high places, and the tendency to make appointments in violation of rules and regulations contributed to the sorry state of affairs. His real ambition was to usher in an era in which the backward communities could earn by sheer merit what they deserved without depending on reservation.

The position in Government may be slightly better. But it is miserable in autonomous bodies and Corporations with government shares. He was prepared to incorporate a separate clause in the Calicut University Bill as the starting point of a solution to this problem. Introducing the Calicut University Bill in the Legislature in August 1967, C.H. proclaimed:

> In the existing law there is, no provision for reservation of any kind for scheduled castes and backward communities in the universities. The government has no powers in the appointments in universities which spend money given by the government. Therefore, clauses extending the generally accepted reservation principle to university campus have been included in this bill.

This was only a beginning. The sad truth remains that in spite of recognition in principle the clauses regarding reservation have not been implemented in the case of autonomous bodies in practice. The reservation clause included in the Calicut University Act of 1968 was not applicable to the appointment of teachers. Another decade had to pass before the rules could be framed to include all sections. Even then there are complaints that some administrators attempt to by pass the rules.

C.H. was firm in insisting that the interest of other communities should not be affected adversely. His policy was based on the principle that backward sections shall be given only their rightful share. The equal partnership of all in national reconstruction is essential for the creation of a new India. The joint progress of all sections of society and the united efforts of all are indispensable for strengthening the democratic and secular character of India and for further securing our status and respectability among the nations of the World.

I believe that it would be proper to quote in this context the words of former Chief Minister C. Achutha Menon:

> There are people who criticise the encouragement given to the Muslim community in the field of education by suggesting that it amounts to the promotion of communalism and sectarianism. But this is not true. These have to be viewed as the necessary steps to be adopted by a democratic government to bring a backward community to the same level as others. It is due to communal approach that people do not view it in that perspective. He has only tried to confer justly on the deserving what would have been denied to them otherwise.

The position of C.H. as the founder of the Calicut University is unique. Sri Trigun Sen, former Union Minister for Education, had mentioned this specially at the time of the inauguration of the university. He desired that Calicut University should grow and develop as a model institution.

The greatest memorial to C.H. would be this, if each and everyone of us would strive to achieve this noble ambition.

As Vaikkom Mohammad Bashir once observed, C.H. was a whirlwind, but at the same time, gentle. A literary man of genius, a brilliant orator, a humanist with a philanthropical bend and sincerity, a shining star in the firmament of politics, the darling of the people, a firm devotee of religion, the generator .of innovative ideas, the refuge of the poor, the founder of the Calicut University, C.H. was all these and more. Though the light is put out, the halo continues to offer us guidance.

(Translated by M. G. S. Narayanan)



**- SIVARAM**

# C. H. Mohammed Koya - A Disciplinarian

**P. ABOOBACKER KOYA**

It was easy to agree to the revered Vice-Chancellor's request to contribute an article to this prestigious publication. But when I sat down to it the magnitude of the subject astounded me. It is beyond my reach. So vast, wide and deep is the subject that I can only creep on the fringes. Yes, to write about the late C. H. Mohammed Koya is to write about an institution and not about an individual. Where to begin from, what to start with, which trait of his character, what aspect of his life message is to be stressed, I was at a loss to decide, for anything about C.H. is an excellence over anything else about him.

I knew C.H. even when I was a school boy because he was a very close friend of my uncle until the latter shifted his allegiance to the Congress. I had also the good fortune of working with him way back in 1948-50 or so when I was the vice-president of the Calicut Town Muslim Students Federation and himself its chief adviser.

People extol him as an able minister, a great administrator, an orator, a prominent writer, a seasoned parliamentarian, an eminent journalist and so on. But above all he was a stickler for discipline.

A person who is not disciplined himself has no right to command or expect discipline from others. This was the principle he always tried to inculcate in us. Indiscipline,

whatever be its source, he despised and detested. He always maintained that breeding has much to do with discipline. Only a self assuming person or one who is obsessed with superiority complex is prone to indiscipline, according to him.

Once, years back, a friend of mine wanted me to go with him to meet C.H. When we went to *Chandrika* office we were told he was having a discussion with partymen and therefore to wait. We sat down in the adjacent waiting room leafing through the papers kept there. My friend was so impatient he could not simply sit and wait. He went and peeped through the half-door now and then to see whether the people inside were about to leave. When the visitors left, Koya Saheb sent for me, refusing to see my friend. I told C.H. that 1 had only accompanied my friend and what we had gone to him for. He insisted that my friend would wait for another one hour before he could see him. Finally, when we went in we were told that he had noticed my friend peep over the half-door which is impatience, impertinence and therefore indiscipline. Even now my friend, who is now a high ranking government official, remembers it as the best class he had attended on discipline.

It was not for C.H. to satisfy himself with preaching. On all occasions when he was called upon to put to practice what he preached he rose to the occasion and proved himself to be second to none.

His favourite approach to the subject discipline was 'to obey first and then argue, if you must'.

Many may know about his gallant resignation from the Speakership. But many may not know the earlier episode which is more picturesque. When Seethi Saheb expired in April, 1961 the League had to look nowhere else but at the C.H. as the worthy successor for Speakership. But then the Congress, the major component of the then ruling coalition, insisted that the League nominee should resign from his party before assuming charge as Speaker. This was naturally a great jolt to the League, another component of the coalition. The

League found itself in a quandary. More perplexed and worried was C.H. He did not want to do anything with the Congress under such humiliating condition. He went round propagating this view and dissuading the partymen from accepting the Speakership. But the League leaders did not only accept the Speakership as the Congress desired but also nominated C.H. as the Speaker. A stickler for discipline as he was, C.H. readily came forward and accepted Speakership even without a murmur. In fact this made a few people who did not know him fully well suspect his earlier resentment.

Again, the Congress did not stop where they ought to have stopped. They went further and passed 'Durgapur Resolution'. This was the last straw on the camel's back. The League could take no more. The party met at Calicut and decided to withdraw its support to the ruling coalition. This information was passed on to Koya Saheb. No sooner did he hang the telephone down than he resigned the Speakership. That was the disciplinant C.H.. Even my colleague in the Secretariat, Mr. K. J. Haneefa, who was his P.A. came to know of the resignation only after the event. He was so impatient to get back to Calicut that even the unavoidable delay in packing made him uneasy. The *Kerala Kaumudi* which reported the 'return' the next day read like a running commentary of the event.

May be it was this fervent adherence to discipline that made him go out and out against all forms of strike, be it a student strike, a strike by employees or a labour strike. He always exhorted students especially the backward class students and more especially the Muslim students to keep away from politics as long as they are students, According to him the backwardness of the Muslim students has been due to lack of education for their parents and the resultant neglect of the study of their children. This, he did not want to happen to the posterity. So, according to C.H. not to indulge in strike 'is a Desideratum' as far as the Muslim students are concerned. His advice to employees too was not to strike. 'Only because

you are in, you cannot go out and get in as you please' he administered them.

He did not mince words to express his aversion to strikes wherever an occasion arose. Even his last speech in Calicut is a manifestation of this truth. The scene was the inauguration of the Department of Printing Technology at West Hill, Calicut. While narrating the advantages of having a printing technology department in Calicut he said, 'at least this can be a new pasture to the strikers'.

His acceptance of the education portfolio in the first instance was also another glaring example of his discipline. Friends warned him not to take up this portfolio as it was a nightmare for all those who had handled it earlier. C.H. was also not inclined to take it. Nevertheless, when the party asked him to take up the education portfolio, it was a plunge and plunge he did. But he came out with flying colours where the giants failed, thus creating history. Yes, a *Creator of History-that* was C.H.

Blessed be his soul.



**- A.HAMEED**

# The Leader who Moved the Wheels of Revolution

**C. K. THANOOR**

Whatever critics might say, the Calicut university was the personal achievement of the administrator in C.H. Mohammed Koya. He was the author and chief architect of its design.

It was the capacity to discover and place man over and above the political ideas and ideologies that earned respect from everybody for C.H. Even such persons occasionally make enemies, but a true politician must be able to face that fact with a ready smile. This is where C.H. succeeded.

People who knew him at close quarters were wonderstruck when they saw C.H. conquering the most bitter adversaries within minutes. Though I can speak volumes on personal experience, I do not want to digress on this question. All those who know the C.H. within C.H. know these aspects of his nature. Here we have a souvenir to honour him, but it may be claimed that the Calicut University itself has risen as a memorial to this man.

C.H. always referred to Calicut university as 'my university'. Kerala received this gift in the field of higher education as a result of the sustained and well-directed discussions which he conducted with scholars and thinkers in the field of education. He laid the foundations of Calicut University after visiting several universities in Europe and

West Asia and personally observing the educational systems followed by them in all seriousness.

The demand to bifurcate the Kerala university which was the biggest in every sense among Indian universities had been voiced not only by C.H. but by many other intellectuals. There was a special reason for this move. Barring Calcutta university, the Kerala university was enjoying the honour of being counted as the biggest in India. While the jurisdiction of the Calcutta University was confined to the city of Calcutta, that of the Kerala University extended all over the State of Kerala. As a result of this obvious anomaly, there were a lot of administrative academic and technical problems. This increased the importance of the demand that the Kerala university, which had 149 colleges and more than 1,40,000 students, had to be partitioned.

This recommendation was incorporated in the Kothari Commission report also. K. C. K. E. Raja, a former vice-chancellor of the Kerala university, had raised this question on several occasions. The Central minister for education, the University Grants Commission and even the Central government as such were favourable. C.H. showed special interest in promoting the establishment of the Calicut university after taking these factors into account. The idea of having a university for the Muslim community alone, as attributed by some critics, never occurred to C.H. because in that case it would have been reflected in the title. When there was some controversy about the choice of a name for the new university C.H. put an end to it by proposing the name 'University of Calicut' in an unequivocal manner.

After its establishment, at the time of the formal inauguration, the words spoken by Trigun Sen, the Hon. Minister for Education at the Centre, are green in my memory. 'I congratulate Mohammed Koya, Minister for Education, who worked very hard for the foundation of this university'. Those few words are sufficient to emphasise the role played by C.H. in the making of the university.

Nobody will dispute the fact that Malabar is very backward in education. But what is the remedy? How do we work for a shining future for Malabar? C.H. thought that the formation of a university alone could achieve the end. He also realised that it was not feasible to start a university in a calm atmosphere after every other issue was settled.

When the University Bill was passed in the Kerala Legislative Assembly on 28th August 1968, C.H. in his speech stated that the words of congratulations from all quarters made him all the more humble. Not only the ruling party but the opposition parties also praised C.H. at that time. Incidentally I am reminded of the words of K. C. Chacko, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University, that this university was a personal achievement of C. H. Mohammed Koya.

C.H. was also the first Education Minister who introduced student representation in the Senate. In every sense the Calicut University is the biggest memorial for C.H. who was Education Minister for Kerala for about a decade, founded new universities and created a revolution in the field of higher education.

I had the good fortune to be his colleague when C.H. was the chief editor of *Chandrika.* Looking back on that period the 'pain of love' springs up in some corner of my mind and takes the form of tears. I have an unfulfilled ambition in life. As a humble disciple of C.H. I had submitted a resolution in the senate and it was unanimously accepted by the senate- i.e. to institute a chair in the name of C. H. Mohammed Koya.

There are no technical problems involved in this but the chair is being delayed. If only the university authorities would implement this resolution speedily it will be nothing more than fulfilling the obligations of the children towards the father. I hope they will repay the debt without further delay.

(Translated by M.G.S. Narayanan)



**- M.K.MUNEER**

# C. H. Mohammed Koya As a Man of Letters

**M. M. PURUSHOTHAMAN NAIR**

I did not get much opportunity to associate with Sri Mohammed Koya. I know of him through other sources like books, articles and common friends. He was a shining star in the political, social and cultural horizon of Kerala. He was a political leader, statesman, educationist, orator, writer and journalist of high repute. As a member of the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha and as Speaker of the House and also as chief minister he proved to be highly efficient and in the midst of his busy and successful political life, his standing in other fields of activity is not widely known.

C.H. as he was always known rose to the position of a strong leader of the Muslim League at a comparatively young age. He had a very attractive personality which won him many friends. Even his political adversaries liked him. A distinguished feature of his personality was his sympathy for his fellow countrymen.

Sri Mohammed Koya is a writer of great repute. In addition to ten books published within a period of a quarter of a century his articles as editor of *Chandrika* will reveal his great qualities as a man of letters. *Co-London-Cairo, The Malayasia I saw, Five days* in *Srilanka, In Soviet Union, In Gulf Countries, My Haj Pilgrimage, In Libian Jamahiriya, Islamic Rules* in *India through Stories, Rules of Legislative Assembly* are his main

works. Out of these eight are travelogues.

Koya was very fond of foreign travel. He visited many foreign countries and published his impressions of most of them. His description of foreigners and their lives appeals to the common man. He took care to record everything he came across; agriculture, labour, industry, educational systems, monuments and places of historical importance. Details of discussions with dignitaries, heads of states and educationists are vividly described and such descriptions make his travelogues very attractive and quite useful to every kind of reader. Even though he regrets the 'lack of time for a minister in charge of the education portfolio which bristles with problems to find time to visit foreign countries', be records his impressions of a foreign visit for the members of his own community and for his country men who did not have any opportunity to go abroad. His intention to visit foreign countries was due to his desire to educate the common man about the rest of the world. 'I have a lot of friends who loved and liked me. They wanted to read my writings which I consider as mere letters. I came to know of this desire of my friends from the letters I received from Kerala and outside'. The above statement of Sri C. H. Mohammed Koya is seen recorded in his book *(Malayasia I saw).* This is what inspired Sri Mohammed Koya to write about the impressions of his visit.

It is quite natural that many people travel abroad without serving much purpose. C.H. is an exception. He takes note of whatever he has heard and learnt. He made it a point to meet Malayalees abroad. Otherwise Malayalees will meet him. He remembers with gratitude the foreign Malayalees the receptions and sumptuous feasts given to him by them. He specifically records whatever we can emulate. He compares our own conditions with those prevailing in foreign countries and pin points where we stand in the path of progress. His mind was full of Kerala whatever he saw in foreign countries. He compares the panoramic view he enjoyed there with that

of Kerala. His attitude to compare the panoramic view in foreign countries with that of Kerala is a reflection of his home sickness and love of the country.

He does not merely record whatever he heard and saw abroad, he makes assessment of the progress made by the countries he visited. He is also peeping into the pre-history of these countries. He briefly describes the history of Britain, Egypt, U.S.A., Malayasia and Lybia. The small work *In Libian Jamahiriya* cannot be considered merely as a travelogue. It gives a clear picture of the tremendous progress made by Lybia under the leadership of Col. Khaddhafi. Khaddhafi accepted the 'third path' avoiding capitalism and communism. The main features of the constitutional charter of Khaddhafi is vividly described in this work. We find in his works not only C.H. the traveller, but also C.H. the politician, statesman and the administrator.

Language plays an important role in making a travelogue attractive. It is not enough that things are described, it is necessary that they are described properly and correctly. He possessed an uncommon talent in this respect. His travelogues are simple narrators the way a man tells his friend a story. They are written in a simple style easy for a common man to understand and without pretentions of scholarship. This is the justification for the simplicity of the language he employed. He never claimed to be an artist or a man with poetic sensibility. But he was really an artist as evidenced by the usages such as 'an emerald slipped into the sea' for Ceylon; 'a very beautiful girl wearing the greenish silk costume of the nature' for Penang etc. etc.

We come across the sense of humour and rustic language and usages of Mr. Koya when he narrates his experience. His descriptions of customs check, second class journey, the conditions of our roads, the headweight of some of our ministers, the synonyms used for Israel and for foreign exchange and for Henry the VIII are so captivating that one is lost in laughter.

He has so much to say about the continuous sumptuous feast he enjoyed during his foreign trip. He does not forget to mention the vegetarian feast which he enjoyed in US from his class mate Mrs. V. R. Meenakshi, sister of Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer. He cherishes the memory of his Malayasian visit because he tasted a variety of fishes that are very common in Kerala.

He did not forget to record his unpleasant memories too. He has a lot to say about the receptionist in the office of the UAE. Her behaviour prompted him to state that he never thought that an English woman can be so impolite. The words used by him to mention this incident very clearly denotes his wrath on the occasion.

There are certain features which differentiates his speeches and writings. His speeches are exclusively meant for political purposes. Proverbs, sayings, quotations from famous literary and religious works make his speeches charming. Even in a speech delivered by Sri Koya in 1969 in Kerala Legislative Assembly we find a number of quotations from literary works like *Baliakalasakhi* of Basheer, *Indulekha* of Chandu Menon and also from the New Testament. Such usages and quotations and the apt and immediate response to the questions from the audiences interrupting his speeches always make his oratory an unforgettable event.

The literary works of the late Sri Mohammed Koya are not exclusively for literature. They are to be treated as part of his innumerable services to the country. His travelogues were written purposely to give the members of his community and the people of his country an insight into what is going on in other countries. Whatever he does is prompted by a desire to serve his people. Has he not been snatched away by fate, Malayalam language could have expected much from him.

(Translated by M. Abdul Aziz)

# C. H. Mohammed Koya and Calicut University

**C.K.RAMACHANDRAN**

Had C. H. Mohammed Koya not become the Education Minister of Kerala, Calicut University would not have been a reality. To speak of this institution as his living monument is no exaggeration.

Calicut university was only a dream in the fifties-the dream of late Shri K.P. Kesava Menon, who nourished the fancy of an 'Aikya Kerala' (united Kerala) for more than a quarter of a century. On this matter, he had serious discussions with others including late Sri Manjunatha Rao, first mayor of Calicut, Sri E. C. Bharathan and late Sri M. Bavuty Haji, former mayors of Calicut. Sri P. P. Hassan Koya, a close associate of K. P. Kesava Menon, was a member of the Kerala University Syndicate during that period. Kesava Menon made use of his friendship with Hassan Koya to a certain extent to materialize his dream. Thus he succeeded in establishing a centre of the University of Kerala in Calicut.

Still the demand for an independent university went unheeded for some more time. When V. V. Giri became the governor of Kerala, Kesava Menon, an old friend of his made several efforts to convince him of the necessity for setting up a separate University in Calicut. On one occasion, when Kesava Menon requested Dr. K. B. Menon to exert pressure on Giri, I was also present. Finally UGC gave its sanction for one more

university in the state. Dr Samuel Mathai, then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kerala, who was also a former Secretary of UGC, accelerated the process of establishing the new university. Then a new problem regarding the site of the university arose. When facilities including buildings were offered in Ernakulam, nothing was offered in Calicut. Because of the efforts of Kesava Menon, a commission visited Calicut also. All the members of the commission were his friends. Sri P. Kuttikrishnan Nair, then mayor of Calicut, gave a representation to the commission demanding that the proposed university should be set up in Calicut.

C. H. Mohammed Koya then Minister for Education, came to protect the interest of Calicut. He held discussions with K. P. Kesava Menon, P. Kuttikrishnan Nair P. P. Hassan Koya etc in Trivandrum. Menon's argument in favour of Calicut made C.H's task easier. But Kesava Menon didn't aim at Calicut's progress alone. It was his wish to have the new university in the capital of Malabar itself for the overall progress and development of the backward Malabar region.

C.H. himself had to face many protests from different corners when Tenhipalam, a remote, hilly rural area was chosen to establish the university. Some persons suggested that Kottaparamb, where the land was acquired for this purpose was enough. But C.H. thought, in the interest of the future development of the university, Tenhipalam would be better. Now there won't be any two opinions on C.H.'s far-sighted choice. He rejected another argument expressing concern that the construction work would be much delayed if it was in Tenhipalam. For the efficient administration of the new university, his look out ended in Mr. K. C.Chacko. Thus the University of Calicut began to function temporarily on the Government Polytechnic campus, West Hill with Prof. K.C. Chacko as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

C.H. sowed the seeds of education by errecting a few temporary sheds in the vast cashewnut grove at Tenhipalam. His ambition was to see a full-fledged university. To attain

this goal, he picked up the right person Prof. M. M. Ghani as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University.

C.H. was a unique politician who could deal with any matter in a simple manner maintaining its seriousness. He was endowed with humour which he profusely used in his speeches and conversations. In a meeting where I was also present, a heated debate took place on communal reservation. Some of the participants vehemently opposed it. They pointed out that when the nation was progressing collectively, the backwardness of any particular sect would disappear. Reaching to the contention, C.H. said, 'The children of the same parents need not be similar in their physique and intelligence. Some of them may be weak. If the mother feeds the weak children by giving more milk, why should other children oppose it?'

Without belittling the contributions of the late Sri Bafakki Thangal, I would say that C.H. was the brain behind the Muslim League. C.H. always tried to remove the stigma that League was a communal organisation.

Apart from all other qualities, C.H. was a large hearted man filled with love towards all. He was one of the very few Muslims who could recite and explain Hindu scriptures.

(Translated by S. Josh)



**- BALU**

# Man Without a Mask

**E.P.Moyinkutty**

C. H. Mohammed Koya is regarded as the founder of Calicut university not just for sanctioning the university when he was the Minister for Education in the state. The motive behind the formation of the university was to promote higher education and scientific research in the educationally backward regions. He was fully aware of the educational backwardness of the religion to which he belonged. C.H. firmly believed that the uplift of the downtrodden was essential for the progress of the whole nation. It was his mission to promote the Muslim masses educationally, culturally and economically so that they could be brought to the main stream of the nation to play a vital role in the national life. He was a true Indian filled with patriotic feelings unblemished by communalism.

There are people who disagree with the Muslim League as a political movement. His merits are to be assessed not on the basis of his role in the growth of the Muslim League as a political fare to be reckoned with in Kerala. During the post-independence period, atleast for a short time, Muslims were widely misunderstood. C.H. effectively made use of his tongue and pen to remove that misunderstanding. Though he fought for the rights of the Muslim minority, he was considerate to the cause of other sects also. As an administrator, he considered all their genuine demands. His words and deeds were the true reflections of his mind. Deceit and crookedness

were unknown to him. In the field of education, he had done many things that stamped his mark. C.H., who played a major role in the formation of Farook College, Mampad College and Sir Syed College, Taliparamba, had taken keen interest in establishing Government Arts & Science College, Calicut, Malappuram Government College and Government College, Perinthalmanna. Students were given representation in the university bodies Iike the Senate, Syndicate etc. for the first time in the country during his tenure as Education Minister. It was none other than C.H. who initiated steps to grant direct payment for private college teachers.

I never had occasions to maintain close relationship with CH. Still when I approached him a few times in connection with the activities of MES, he accepted my representations then and there. The Government recognized the MES Tailoring Institute at Vandoor when he was the Minister of Education. On another occasion, as Minister for Public Works, he gave instructions to his department to take over the construction of an approach road to Mampad MES college removing all technical objections. To have an access to him, one need not have to be an important person, only the matter has to be important.

CH. was not blessed with higher educational qualifications. Still he learned and understood a lot on education. He was successful in implementing universal primary education in the state. His role in making secondary education free is laudable. Trumpeting his achievements in the field of higher education, 'Calicut University' stands high by the side of the national high way, within calling distance from Calicut as his living monument.

(Translated by S. Josh)

# C. H.- A Versatile Genius

**P. K. KUNHALIKUTTY**

C.H.-nature blessed with an extraordinary personality. Not only in public speeches but in ordinary talks as well there would be ample scope for laughter. Humour was his constant companion, whether he was at the dining table or on travel or even when making public speeches.

On one occasion the Assembly was witnessing noisy scenes, which led the Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman to suspend a few members. The then opposition was adament that they would not be satisfied by nothing short of revoking the suspension order served on the members. The Speaker ordered to shut the door of the Assembly in order to prevent the M.L.As. from entering the hall. But one of the members smashed the glass panes of the door and cut his hand which resulted in profuse bleeding. C.H. said to the member, 'Be careful. The glass pane does not know that you are an M.L.A.' The M.L.A. broke into laughter forgetting his pain and anger for a moment.

On another occasion an M.L.A. who used to wear dhoti came to the Assembly wearing pants. Pointing to the member who was entering the hall C.H. said, 'Our M.L.A. is coming without wearing a dhoti'. All the members began laughing at this humorous comment.

His speeches were replete with humorous remarks. At public meetings C.H. would speak only when all other boring speeches were over which would generate laughter, just as

the attractive fire works would be held only at the end of the Pooram celebrations.

His patriotism was pure and unblemished. He never made any compromises in this respect. He repeated it in private talks, public meetings and in conventions. He always reminded his followers that patriotism was part and parcel of their faith. During the Indo-Pak War he collected money towards the war fund by delivering inspiring speeches.

The moment he concluded his speech by saying 'let silver bullets flow for the brave soldiers shedding their blood for safeguarding the dignity of our motherland', men would give what they have in their hands, and women what they have on their neck and ears.

C.H. was a person who staunchly fought for maintaining communal harmony. He always pointed out in his speeches that his dream was Kerala where Hindus, Muslims and Christians live like brothers.

He held the controversial office of the education department for more than a decade with little controversy. That was a golden period of backward areas. Educational institutions from L. P. schools to centres of higher education still remain as living monuments to his memory.

His role in the development of Kerala is boundless. His able and efficient hands were behind Calicut university and Calicut airport.

He wished to make Calicut the skill capital of Kerala. He devised a scheme, with the help of experts, which was never completely fulfilled.

It is true that he strove for the progress of his own community in educational, economic, social and cultural field. This has been done by all great men in the annals of history.

(Translated by Hemantha Kumar)

# Man Without Shadows

**M. M. BASHEER**

Initially I could not believe Syed Mohammedikka (the late P. A. Syed Mohammed) when he came to my house and informed me that I was nominated to Kerala Sahitya Academy by the government. Then I used to write a lot in southern papers. And I was just beginning to write in northern papers. And it was difficult for anyone to get recognition as a literary man without writing in northern papers. Besides, how could I expect the then education minister, C. H. Mohammed Koya, a committed 'Calicutwala' to know a person like me hailing from Trivandrum.

Syed Mohammedikka told me everything in detail, later. At the time of nomination to the Academy, C.H. suggested my name. But the Academy personnel put a red question mark against my name and wrote the name of another famous writer. When the final list came out that 'famous writer' too was included by C.H.!

My first acquaintance with C.H. occurred much later. But even on our first meeting he talked to me as a close friend with long acquaintance. I was persuaded to believe that he even know my household affairs quite well. He asked me to complete my research work on Kumaranasan. When I was about to take leave, he told me, 'people like you are not writing in *Chandrika.* Probably, like other major publications, *Chandrika* cannot pay now. When the financial position improves, we too shall pay better. But Basheer should

contribute something regularly to *Chandrika'.*

His words really moved me. C.H.'s favourite cartoonist and my friend B. M. Gafoor was already in *Chandrika.* I was asked to write to the editor and Gafoor. Later, I knew that they were instructed to persuade me to write in *Chandrika.* In 70's I used to write a permanent column 'Veekshanam'. The payment was Rs. 15 for every piece. Once when I met C.H. in a meeting I told him, 'only out of the regard for you l am writing in *Chandrika,* not for any solid return'. My payment was doubled after two weeks!

When C.H. came to my house to attend my wedding, his eyes fell on a picture of Karl Marx hung on the wall. He remarked to M. K. Kumaran, O.N.V., N. E. Balaram, T. K. Raju and others. 'Basheer is a Communist'. My close relationship with *Janayugam* and Prabhat Book House was known to him. The fact that I was a regular contributor to *Janayugam, Navayugam* and *Deshabhimani* was also very well known to him. When he put the wedding ring on my finger, he said to Gafoor's uncle, 'whatever be his party, we want Basheer'.

Once an old professor with literary eminence was transferred from Trivandrum to some remote place in the North. He had been lying ill and the transfer aggravated his condition. Sukumar Azhikode, then principal of Muthakunnam Training College accidentally came to Trivandrum. We decided to meet C.H. to discuss the problem of the professor. After fixing the time we called on C.H. He came out of his residence with folded hands, embraced Azhikode and led us into his room. After a few minutes of friendly talk, Azhikode mentioned the transfer issue of the professor and said 'This is the first recommendation, that I make'. C.H. replied: 'Nobody is willing to work in Malabar. There also students should be taught well. They too have a right to come up. However, the case of the old professor-cum-literary man would be treated as a special case. Writers need not be perturbed'. Within a few days his transfer was

cancelled. Even though politically and ideologically C.H. and Azhikode had been at logger heads, I had the chance to hear many times Azhikode remembering the warmth and friendliness of C.H. particularly in the light of that meeting.

In 1972 1 was working as a lecturer in T. K. M. Arts and Science College, Quilon. At that time there was a prolonged severe strike in the college for the reinstatement of a teacher whose service was terminated abruptly. For almost a year I did not have any salary. In that juncture, I applied for a post in an institution at Trivandrum. I met C.H. and explained to him my difficulties. By sheer chance, the director of that institution also came there to see the minister. After the discussion of official matters, in my presence itself C.H. in a very friendly tone told the director, 'Basheer is known to you. I'm sure. In his college a prolonged strike has been going on. An agreement may not be reached soon. The management is very obstinate. . . . I talked to them. For a post in your institution he is applicant. If you find him good for that position, please help him. . . . Not merely because I mention his case. .. . '

After four or five days the director informed me: 'you are selected'. One of my friends too secretly told me that my name was included in the list. Illuck! within two weeks the ministry crashed. C.H. was no more a minister! When the said list was out my name was not there!

Even at that stage I met C.H. He simply said: 'Basheer didn't get that job... .Ah! If the ministry was there he would have given you the post. Never mind. . . . Might be for something better. " . . ' That director was made director mainly through the efforts of C.H. But still he didn't make any harsh remark on him. He only smiled as usual with a full blown face. I was deeply moved in seeing him in such a plight and for having given him some cause for worry on my own.

Time flowed on. The tide changed and once again C.H. became the minister for education. He showed his love to me in many ways. He insisted that since 1 took my Ph.D on

Kumaranasan I should be in the Kumaranasan Smaraka Committee. As he desired, he promptly included me in the committee.

The sister of a colleague of mine in Calicut University, after availing herself of study leave from school years back went for higher studies. Now she received an order from the education department to repay the leave salary claimed by her during that period. I persuaded her to meet the education minister and give a representation. I encouraged her by telling that the minister might set right the matter. After a few days she and her husband met the minister. Within a short time she got her order changed. This incident really changed their set notions about politicians.

A little before his sad and sudden end, once when I met him, he called me to his side and said: 'Basheer, you are now not writing in *Chandrika.* In spite of people like you, its stature is not improving. . . .' I assured him that I would write something regularity in *Chandrika.*

I could never see him again in person... When his 'body' was taken to Kozhikode and laid in the Town Hall in full state honour for his 'final journey' I too stood with intense pain somewhere in the vast ocean of humanity who had come to pay him their homage. But I did not go *into* the Town Hall. My mind is still 'full' with the agile smiling C.H. who I met last!

C.H. essentially was a man of goodness and boundless love. He was broad minded. He never cherished the idea of separating man on the basis of caste, creed, or religion. He wished all people to live happily in amity. Of course, he liked to see his own community and other backward classes to reap the benefit of education and all possible state assistance to come up socially, economically and politically. He yearned to see the budding of writers, intellectuals, technocrats, and scientists among such 'lowly' people. The sight of a potential boy or girl of that strain amidst those classes really thrilled him. As far as possible, he unreservedly helped such likely

geniuses or gifted personnel in the make unfailingly.

Whenever he met me he repeatedly reminded me of only one thing: 'you should write in *Chandrika'.* Now I am doing it. I write in *Chandrika* almost every week now. Whenever an article of mine appears in print in *Chandrika,* unmistakably, through it I see steadily and fully a dazzling spotless Man! Benevolent and besmiling.

(Translated by N. Ramachandran Nair)

# Those Memories Will Never Die

**AMINA MOHAMMED KOYA**

Allah brought us together. He also granted our wish to be together till death, but it was my husband's turn to go first. We lived together for 33 long years with complete satisfaction and happiness, sharing both joys and sorrows in harmony. There was not a single occasion for murmuring or complaining. Life was always full of contentment and full of sweetness for us.

Our relationship was a fulfillment of destiny. His elders had arranged his marriage with a woman in his neighbourhood. My marriage also had been fixed earlier; but the will of God was different. Therefore, I feel that it was God who united us. This came about in quite a strange fashion. My father's younger brother had married his sister. In spite of this, I had never met him, even for a moment. He did not turn up even for the ceremony of meeting the bride. Instead, his sister came to see me. Many of our neighbours who had heard his speeches were full of praise for him, but I who was a country girl had never listened to his lecture. He was a complete stranger to me. It was the will of God that brought us together.

The early days were full of troubles. There was only a nominal salary from the newspaper office. In those days, he

considered the work as social service. Rarely was he able to provide any money for the family. But we were really worried about the absence of little feet to run around the house. This problem agitated me very much in those days. We lost our first four children. This was a great ordeal which Allah had imposed on us. He too was very much troubled on account of this, but he suffered everything in patient silence. He only prayed to Allah. Where else do we have a place to carry our troubles?

Will there be any woman who is not obsessed with the desire to see the feet of a child? He too had intense desire to become a father. l am told that several persons advised him to seek another marriage. They also proposed the names of some highly educated ladies, but he was not prepared for any such move.

Our first daughter Fausia was born in 1957, after eight long years of marriage. Our son Munir was born in 1962, and our daughter Farida in 1965. Both our girls are now married and they have children. I am still continuing to live in 'Crescent House', East Nadakkavu fondling my grand children and feeding on his deathless memory. Some of his devoted followers often come to pay respects at his 'Khaber' (grave) which is very near the house. They declare that his memory will survive death. When I see this, when I look at the 'Khabar', my sorrow breaks through my self control. My only consolation in my lonely sorrow is the fact that his memory keeps me company.

He was not a leader or minister or editor when he was at home. He was merely a householder. He had no time to look after the affairs at home. No public worker will be able to concentrate on home affairs. As he returned home late at night, he could not even have the time to listen to the problems at home. However, I never complained about such things. I who could enjoy the thrill of viewing his growth from a distance, who could have the excitement and the pleasure of seeing him go up step by step along the ladder of success in full

haste would consider himself as being extremely fortunate. That was my experience. Our life was full of hilarity and laughter. How many jokes! His... which ignited the fire works of hilarious laughter-his famous absent mindedness - when I remember these today I realise that even his jokes were embroided with tear drops at their extremities.

Anybody who knows will remember a bunch of jokes. He was full of jokes not only on platforms, in the newspaper office and in the midst of friends engaged in light conversation and he was the same person at home too. I do not remember even a single occasion when I saw anger on his face. I still cherish those sorrow embroided jokes now in my solitude.

How many stories to remember! Once an old neighbour came to the house. My husband whispered in my ears 'Here is your boy friend'.

He was in the habit of inventing names for all sorts of people. We had a village officer in my place. The village officer and his pet mongoose were equally famous. The mangoose would always misplace everything in the house. In the same way Babu who looked after everything in our house once misplaced some important papers somewhere. This gave him an opportunity to give a nick name to Babu -The Village Officer's, Mongoose.

'Suryabhai' (brother of the Sun) was his name for one of his close followers. The real name was Mammookka. Once he entrusted some work to Mammookka. By the time he finished the work it was very late. Therefore he changed the nick name from 'Suryabhai' (brother of the Sun) to Chandrabhai (brother of the Moon). He did not wear shirt and dhoti when he came as the bridegroom, instead he had a Paijama and Kurtha for his dress. He used to repeat the story of the embarrassment of the village people at Kunnasseri when they saw a bridegroom who did not have a dhoti for the occasion.

His absent mindedness is well known. His shirts were often buttoned in the wrong way. Even if the socks on the two legs

were of different colours no one was surprised. It was a common experience. After having put on a dhoti, unconsciously he would fit another dhoti on top of it and go out merrily. He appeared like this in the Legislative Assembly also. At another time, he was getting ready for a trip to Russia. The whole courtyard was full of people. After a few moments, when 1 came to the front of the house he had already walked away, without even bidding farewell to me.

On another occasion he had left home for Trivandrum. After wards there was telephone call from Delhi I am now going to Libya'.

His son went to the railway station once, for a send off. He was taking leave of everybody. In the same way he took leave of his son also 'O.K., we will meet later' the son was not surprised about his father who shook his hands in this manner and said good bye. But others were certainly embarrassed and amused.

Once I compelled him to write a letter to the doctor who was living abroad. When my insistance became irresistible he took a piece of paper and wrote 'I am doing well' and put his signature.

Our daughter Fausia and her husband Sheriff came back from Sharjah after several years, Sheriff was sitting in front of the house. He returned from *Chandrika* Office in a car and got down there. The son-in law stood up ceremoniously. But his 'Ammosan' (father-in-law) briskly went in without even wasting a smile on the son-in-law. The fellow realised that his daughter and son-in-law had come only after sometime when their little daughter came and embraced him.

The grand children were close to his heart. They were his best companions at home. Apart from them, his other chums were the hen, the dove, the parrot etc. in the house.

I remember the day when he returned home extremely happy after the inauguration of the Calicut University. Immediately after that he took me and went straight to Kizhisseri in Malappuram district to address a public meeting.

He spoke for a long time on the Calicut university at that political meeting also. He had gone to the meeting after leaving me in a friend's house. When the meeting was over, we went to Trivandrum immediately. It was one of those days when I saw him at his happiest. All along the journey. I remember that he was talking about Calicut university alone.

(Translated by M. G. S. Narayanan)

APPENDIX - 1

# Speech by C. H. Mohammed Koya at the first meeting of Calicut University Syndicate

I am very happy to be present here today when for the first time, the executive body of the new university is meeting. It would be premature on my part to venture to address you on an occasion like this. You are all mostly veteran educationists who have had almost a life time of experience in looking at the problems of higher education and university administration. As you know I am only a novice in the line. There is therefore considerable diffidence in me. However, there is one saving element; I am very sensitive to your pressing problems and deeply anxious to solve them or at least help to solve them. Whatever help the government machinery can give to render the working of the university more efficient, and more relevant to the current state of affairs, I shall try my best to make available to you. It is more to reassure you in this simple and vital matter that I have decided to come here today.

I have not hesitated to give public expression to my desire and resolve that Calicut University shall not be just one more or another university for the state, but it shall be a new university for the state, Kerala has pioneered in many fields of education and I do feel that we' will be able to evolve the pattern of a dynamic creative, even adventurous system 'of

education, that would draw forth all the natural and material resources of the region and would evidence the infinite capacity of our human potential to rise equal to the contemporary challenges.

Institutions of higher education should be viewed as servants of society; created and maintained to meet the needs of the people comprising the society. Since needs change, colleges and universities: are' expected to change. If institutions through decisions of their faculties, Board members or administrators refuse to modify practices to conform to new conditions, their existence or multiplication is hardly justifiable.

Only such institutions as are alive and open to such timely changes are viable, the others becoming moribund as time goes by.

Now let us look closely at conditions prevailing here and ask a few questions.

1. what is the role of the junior colleges? Should they all, in due course be up-graded as first grade colleges? Is it necessary, is it even desirable? Should they increase in larger and larger numbers, at such terrific cost to the exchequer? Should they continue to be attached to, or controlled by university, or shall it be controlled by an independent board forged out of the secondary educationists and university men. What shall be the qualifications for the teachers there? What about fee levels? I would like you to examine this question in all seriousness and suggest an optimum number and their location during the next plan period.

2. You are aware of the anxiety of all the colleges to start fresh courses at graduate and post-graduate levels. Of course the managements are willing to put up physical facilities with or without the quantum of grants. But the recurring expenditure with deficits more or less subsidised by government, is mounting tremendously. Here again a natural policy of discretionary limitation or selection appears to be called for. There should be a planned approach to such expansion of a routine nature. It is not easy for any single

executive head to tackle this problem. The Syndicate, I hope, would give its anxious consideration to this question. It is here that I hope the university will not be a replica of the older models but will boldly cry a halt to repetitive expansion for parochial or other reasons and should conserve its resources for expansion of a more worth-while type. It is proposed to constitute a Development Council with experts from different parts of India to help us with suggestions in this regard. But remember, their suggestions are to be made relevant and live for our situation by the responsible executive body of this University. I congratulate you for the confidence the Chancellor has placed in you for starting this work of great importance for the future of education in the land.

3. How can the university effectively make a salutary impact on the milieu which ultimately pays for the services thus set up in their midst. What specific steps the members of staff and the senior students can take to make their knowledge the property of the common man? The universities are to be the criticism of the life around them. What practical sustainable form can this criticism take? How far can the medium of the press and publicity concerns like the radio and the cinema and the journals be engaged to co-operate with the work of the university?

4. During the discussion which Mr. Chacko and I had with the University Grants Commission, we have gathered the impression that the University Grants Commission is certainly willing to consider any dynamic process of evolution of the education system. Mr. Chacko has suggested to me that he would like to send some of our youth into the major industrial concerns in this region, provide them with facilities for theoretical instruction there and qualify them to be graduates emerging from actual life environments graduates in technology not coming out of colleges of technology but out of centres of technological excellence. May be it is such men who will be better equipped to exploit the local resources than the usual college type of technologist. I do not want to repeat again and again my hopes on the new faculties we

have proposed for the university. I wish that you take the challenge that nature places before you here and evolve ways and means by which the youth of the land whose prosperity is our aim is enabled to enjoy a higher standard of living.

5. I shall not take more of your time. I shall conclude observing that while I attach great importance to science, technology and research in these lines, I do not minimise the great values of a cultural evolution. The faculties of Philosophy and Oriental Studies and Fine Arts and Extension Services must all grow from any possible role of passivity and speculation to one of tangible action. Greater understanding of our sociological and cultural problems, more enlightened and harmonious acceptance of a fusion of values, an enviable measure of tolerance and spirit of co-existence these must also be the visible contribution of the new University. We are thinking of building up a big unit of intellectuals living together as a homestead or community supra-sectarian in outlook and behaviour. What shape you will give to it is in your hands. The task is not simple. The problems are numerous. Temptations will be too strong. Challenges from a society in ferment may prove too trying for us of the older generation. But the satisfaction from achievement will be high if out of such conditions we can produce and bequeath to posterity a centre of excellence which trading upon the best of values in man will shine forth as a beacon and tell them that out of sincere work prosperity for the brethren will emerge. What will be the intrinsic worth of any project if it cannot ultimately transform the life of all our brethren to one of peace and prosperity?

Thank You for the opportunity you have given me to meet you all on this momentous occasion. I wish you all success. I promise once again the most sympathetic consideration of your problems at the level of Government.

*Source: Minutes of the Calicut University Syndicate Meeting 2 November 1968 Appendix II"*

APPENDIX - 2

# About the contributors

C. T. Thomas was Professor and Head of the Department of English, University of Calicut.

P. Ramachandran was Governor of Kerala and Chancellor of the University of Calicut.

M. M. Ghani was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calicut. For his meritorious services he was awarded the degree of D.Litt.*(Honoris causa)* by the University.

C. Achutha Menon was twice Chief Minister of Kerala.

V. R. Krishna Iyer is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

N. A. Noor Muhammed was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calicut from 1975 to 78.

K. A. Jaleel was Vice-Chancellor, University of Calicut, 1979-83.

A. Aiyappan was a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kerala.

A. K. Antony is currently Defence Minister of India. He is a former Chief Minister of Kerala.

B. V. Abdulla Koya was a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

K. C. Chacko was the first Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calicut.

N. A. Karim retired as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala

U. A. Beeran was a former Minister of Kerala State.

E. Ahamed is Union Minister of State for External Affairs.

Padma Ramachandran was Director, Institute of Management in Government.

T. M. Savankutty was a former Chairman of the Kerala Public Service Commission.

Malayatoor Ramakrishnan, former Civil Servant, was a writer and cartoonist.

T. P. Kuttiammu was a retired Chief Engineer of Kerala State. He was a Member of the first Syndicate of Calicut University.

K. Madhava Menon was a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University.

E. K. Imbichi Bava was a former Minister of the State of Kerala. .

Hamid Ali Schamnad was Member, Kerala Public Service commission.

P. Sreedharan Nair was Member, Calicut University Syndicate, retired as Principal of the Government Law College, Calicut.

P. Seethi Haji was Member, Kerala State Legislative Assembly.

Sivaram was a Cartoonist.

Raheem Mecheri was a Journalist.

M. Abdul Azizis is former Finance Officer, University of Calicut.

P. Aboobacker Koya retired as Deputy Registrar, University of Calicut.

C. K. Thanoor, former Editor, Chandrika was a Member of the Calicut University Senate.

M. M. Purushothaman Nair was Reader, Department of Malayalam, Calicut University.

C. K. Ramachandran is a former Professor, Calicut Medical College.

E. P. Moyinkutiy was Member, Calicut University Senate.

P. K. Kunhalikutty is Minister of Industries, Kerala.

M. M. Basheer was Reader, Department of Malayalam, Calicut University.

Amina Mohammed Koya, wife of late C. H. Mohammed Koya.

APPENDIX - 3

# C. H. Mohammed Koya Chair for Studies on Developing Societies

## UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT

The University of Calicut came into being on 23rd July 1968. C.H.Mohamed Koya, the then Minister of Education, Kerala, took the initiative to establish this University to cater to the higher educational aspirations of the people of Malabar. Now it is confined to Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad districts (except the taluk of Manathavady)

The goals of the university are to develop qualitatively and quantitatively higher education and research in all spheres of human development with thrust on technical and technological sectors, and to promote art and culture particular to Kerala, to uplift the educationally backward, and to expedite the process of human development inthe lesser developed regions of South Malabar.

The University of Calicut is the biggest in Kerala in terms of both affiliation of colleges and student enrolment. Now, there are 31 post graduate departments and 304 affiliated colleges. The total enrolment of students is more than 4 lakhs.

### C.H.Mohammed Koya Chair

C. H. Mohammed Koya Chair for Studies on Developing Societies was constituted vide the order of the University of Calicut No.GAIV/1530/2009 dated 14.09.2010. Its objective is to serve the educational, cultural and developmental interests of the society and to perpetuate the hallowed

memory of the late. C.H.Mohammed Koya (1927-1983) who was a great visionary, leader, writer, statesman and administrator. The Chair has been envisaged as a research centre to conduct studies on relevant topics. These studies will provide inputs for policy formulations and social action.

A full-fledged library and other facilities for research will be provided. Fellowships will be instituted. Eminent social scientists and academicians are associated with the Chair.

The Chair will give impetus to the empowerment of the marginalised. Besides the governing body under the Chairmanship of the Vice -Chancellor of the University, there is an Advisory Committee consisting of reputed scholars and academicians.

The Grace Educational Association under the presidentship of Panakkad Syed Hyderali Shihab Thangal is the donor of the Chair. Well wishers who still cherish the loving memory of the late C.H. Mohammed Koya have contributed to the corpus fund of the Chair.

**Activities of the Chair**

(a) To conduct studies and research on developing societies such as minorities, dalits and tribes with the objective of using the findings for their empowerment.

(b) To collect and maintain useful database for future planning for effective social projects.

(c) To build a resourceful documentation and to network with other institutions similar to the Chair.

(d) To organise courses, classes, seminars, study programs, exhibitions, workshops, get-togethers, outreaches, street plays, theater programs etc. useful to developing societies.

(e) To publish books and periodicals on subjects of social interests.

The C.H.Mohmmed Koya Chair for Studies on Developing Societies is a platform for the intelligentia. It will initiate healthy interactions with scholars, experts and policy makers. The Chair will be a futuristic signpost of thoughts and opinion and a centre to generate and Dissemibate fresh ideas.

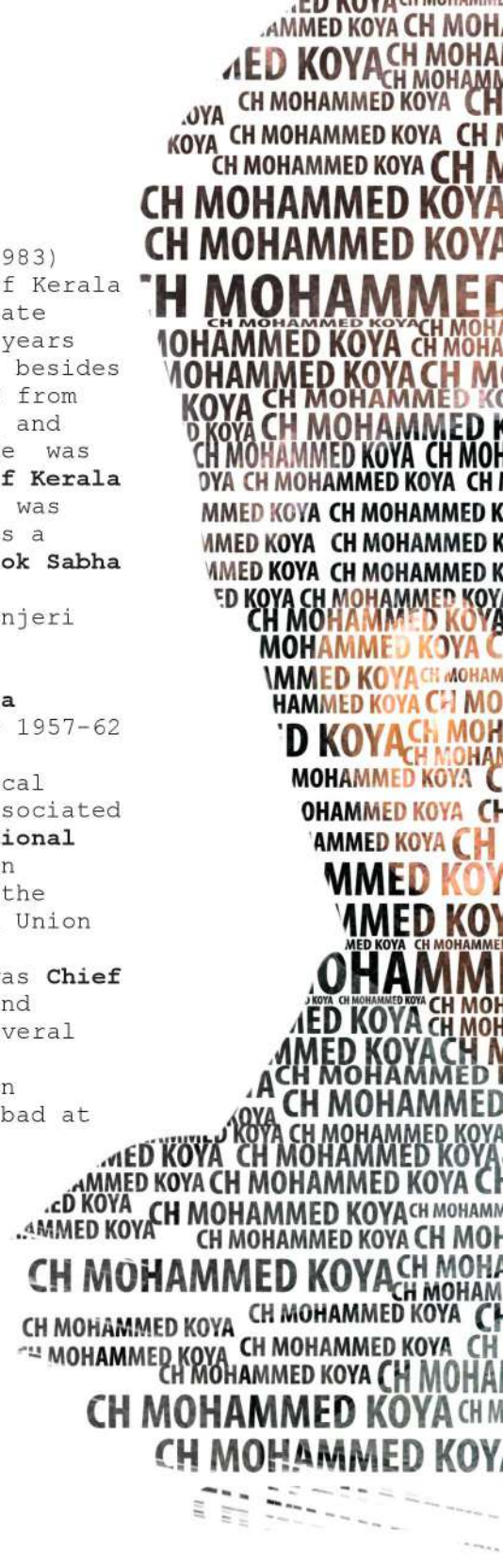
**C.H. Mohammed Koya** (1927-1983) was former **Chief Minister** of Kerala and also **minister** in the State Government for a number of years and held various portfolios besides being **Deputy Chief Minister** from December 1981 to March 1982 and again from 1982 onwards. He was the **Minister of Education of Kerala** when **University of Calicut** was established in 1968. He was a **member of Third and Fifth Lok Sabha** during 1962-67 and 1973-77 representing Calicut and Manjeri constituencies of Kerala respectively.

He was also **Member of Kerala Legislative Assembly** during 1957-62 1967-73 and 1977 onwards.

An active social and political worker Mohammed Koya was associated with several **social, educational** and **literary institutions** in various capacities. He was the **General Secretary** of Indian Union Muslim League.

A versatile **journalist** he was **Chief Editor** of Chandrika daily and weekly and was **author** of several publications.

Mohammed Koya passed away on 28 September,1983 at Hyderabad at the age of 56.




C H MOHAMMED KOYA CHAIR
FOR STUDIES ON DEVELOPING SOCIETIES

₹150.00 2013