

# **SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS**

**FORTY ONE ANNUAL SESSION PROCEEDINGS**

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# **SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS**

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AND EDUCATIONALIST**

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## VAYIKKARA RAIRU NAYANAR: A PHILANTHROPIST, NATIONALIST AND EDUCATIONALIST

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Vayikkara Rairu Nayanar (V K Nayanar) was a true disciple of Gopala Krishna Gokhale, the founder of Servants of India Society. He was a social philanthropist and activist. He organized the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust for the relief activities and social reforms in Malabar. The trust organized numerous relief activities and social reform works in Malabar after the Mappila riots of 1921.<sup>1</sup> Nayanar stood for the poor and marginalized sections of Kerala society. He was also associated with the freedom movement of Kerala. His contributions in the fields of education and social emancipation were indelible, and he is considered a patriotic son of modern Kerala.

V.K. Nayanar was born in 1900, at Kunhimangalam in the modern district of Kannur in Kerala. He belonged to a wealthy and aristocratic *janmi* family of Malabar. His parents were Aiylyyath Rairu Nambiar and Kallyani Amma. His father served as a Tahsildar of the British Government and after retirement served as a manager in an estate.<sup>2</sup> Rairu Nambiar was a well-educated sincere member of a traditional *janmy* family. Nayanar joined for M.B.B.S, out of the compulsion of his parents. He was not satisfied with his medical studies and discontinued his studies of Medicine. He visited many places in India like Bombay and Madras. It was a turning point in his life. During those days he came into contact with Gokhale and his ideas influenced Nayanar. He served as a librarian in the Servants of India