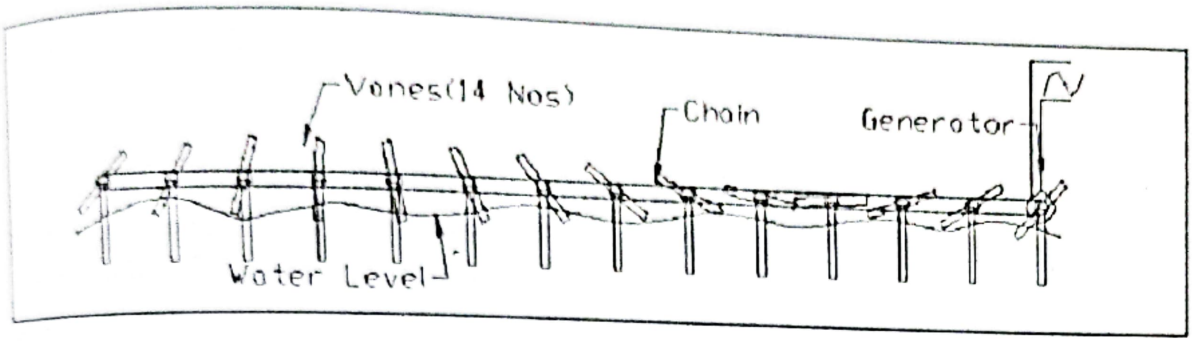
Electricity from waves: An innovative idea of Musaliar

T. K. Abdul Karim Musaliar



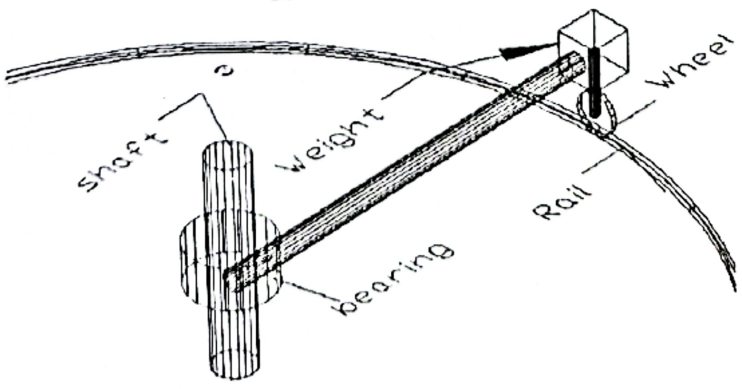
During 1960s, Janab Thangal Kunju Musaliar, whose ideas were always far ahead of his time, devised a unique way to generate electricity. The above figure shows the details of this attempt by Musaliar to generate electricity cheaply and efficiently from an all pervading and renewable non-conventional source of energy, namely wave power. It is significant that this attempt was made at a time when power production from waves was but a budding dream in even developed countries.

The principle is simple. It attempts to use a number of paddles (14) which are placed at increasing angles of attack with respect to the wave surface so that there is contact with water for a longer part of the cycle for a maximum number of vanes. The vanes are hinged at the midpoint where each is connected to a pinion gear that in turn is in mesh with a continuous chain not unlike a bicycle chain. At one end there is a freewheel or main gear which is propelled by the chain. The main gear is coupled to a generator which delivers electricity.

Although certain design technicalities prevented the attempt from succeeding, even today it is worth a fresh look at the idea in an energy starved economy like ours.

This mechanism was erected in one of the tributaries of Periyar, at Choornikkara, Alwaye, during the early 1960s.

Device to store energy using the principle of flywheel



This was an attempt by Musaliar to store energy using the principle of flywheel