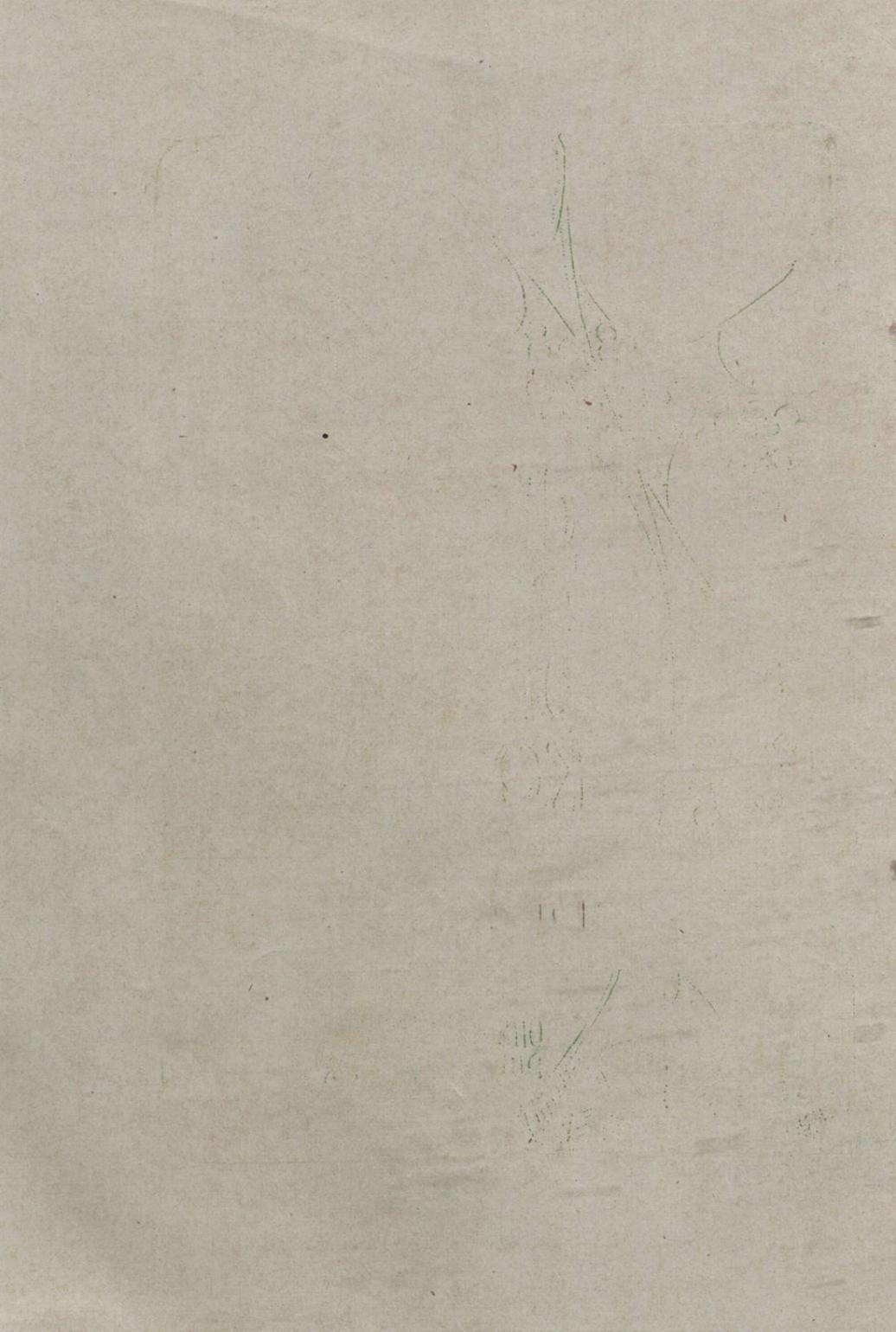


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DISTRICT HAND BOOKS OF KERALA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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CHAPTER I

THE ORIGIN OF IDUKKI

The word Idukki is derived from the word "Idukku" which means a gorge. The perennial river Periyar flowed through a narrow gorge between two granite hills where the Idukki Arch Dam is constructed. From this hydro-electric Project the name was extended to the district.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The district was formed on January 26, 1972 out of Devicolam, Peermade and Udumbanchola Taluks from Kottayam District and Thodupuzha Taluk from Ernakulam District. It extends by 115 kms. from south to north and 67 kms. from east to west. The area of the District is 5150.8 sq. kms. For revenue administration the district is subdivided into four taluks viz., Devicolam (1774.1 sq. kms.) Peermade (1307.8 sq. kms.), Udumbanchola (1071.4 sq. kms.) and Thodupuzha (997.5 sq. kms.) For purposes of developmental activities it is divided into four Blocks viz., Arudai, Devicolam, Elamdesom and Thodupuzha. The district is bounded by Kottayam and Quilon districts on the south, Trichur and Coimbatore districts on the north, Madurai, Ramanad and Thirunelveli districts on the east and Ernakulam and Kottayam districts on the west.

Though the district cannot boast of a history of the rise and fall of a few dynasties, it played a significant role in the spiritual development of the country, especially the south. The Ramayana gives a graphic description of the flora of the Pamba Valley. It is believed that the Ashram of Sri Sabari, a woman monk whom Sri Rama visited in his wanderings was located somewhere in Sabarimala which got the name from her. The Lord Ayyappa Temple is supposed to be

the place where a great Jain or Buddhist monk attained Nirvana. The archaeological evidence of the Mangaladevi Temple 15 kms. from Thekkady in the dense forest bespeaks of an equally shrouded antiquity. May be, with its undulating hills and valleys and the perennial rivers the district formed a recluse for the spiritual seekers of ancient India.

But the history of the present population of the district is very recent. It is a history of colonisation braving inclement weather, wild animals and epidemics. It is also a history of the exploitation of labour and labour struggles. Settling in the district began in all seriousness during the Ministry of Sri T. K. Narayana Pillai, before the formation of Kerala, as a sequence to the grow-more-food campaign in the State. These migrants who constituted a few planters and a cross section of the people became the nucleus of the present population. In the days of Sri Pattom Thanupillai it became systematic colonisation. Kallar Pattom colony in Udumbanchola Taluk bears the imprint of his name. That the earliest human habitation of the district started from Tamil Nadu in the first two decades of the present century can be gauged from the story that while Maharaja Sri Mulam was personally supervising the construction of the Dam on Mullaperiyar river he felt thirsty and a shepherd called Ankur Rautar gave him milk hot from the udder of the sheep. The delighted Maharaja gave him title over extensive forest land which his descendents sold to land owners in Tamil Nadu and with the help of cheap labour they were converted into Cardamom or Tea Plantations. The area around Munnar developed from the time when the British made it their summer resort. Here too the immediate accessible population was from Tamil Nadu, and Munnar became a Tamil pocket in Kerala.

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Sprawling over an area of 5150 sq. kms. the district is marked by undulating hills and valleys. The high ranges vary in altitude from 2500 ft. mean sea level in Kulamavu

to more than 5000 ft. m.s.l. in Munnar. The highest peak in Kerala, Anamudi, lies in the district. It is 8841 feet high. The different levels of elevation promote the growth of a diverse flora. Except a bit of midland region in the western portions of Thodupuzha Taluk, all the remaining areas consisting of Devicolam, Peermade and Udumbanchola Taluks and the eastern portion of Thodupuzha Taluk is entirely of highland region. Granite hills reaching the skies and being skirted round with thick rain-fed sylvan forest render a terrific charm to the district. There are eleven peaks in Idukki which exceed a height of 6000 feet above mean sea level.

The highland region is having a comparatively cold climate. In peaks above an elevation of 2400 metres the temperature at times falls down to freezing point in the winter. Occurrence of mist is usual in the highland regions lying over an elevation of 1300 metres above m.s.l.

The annual rainfall in the district varies from 250 to 425 cm. But, it is recorded that the annual rainfall had gone up to 700 cms. in certain years. The eastern and north-eastern regions of the district get very low rainfall in contrast to other areas. This may go up to 150 cm. Marayur, Kanthalloor, Vattavada and Thalayar regions come under this group. Marayur and Kanthalloor are virtually rain-shadow areas, lying in the eastern side of the Western Ghats.

Rivers and lakes

Periyar, Thodupuzhayar and Thalayar are the three important river systems of the district. Though the Pamba originates from the district it runs through the district only for a while. Devicolam, Eravikulam and Elaveezha Poonchira are three fresh water lakes in Idukki.

FAUNA AND FLORA

The district has at present about 1580 sq. kms. of reserved forests and this is approximately 30 per cent of the total

area of the forest. However, the forest wealth of the district and the animal life are fast disintegrating due to deforestation, indiscriminate felling of trees and encroachment. All kinds of wild animals with the exception of lions abound in the forests of Idukki. The grasslands of Peermade are a haven of carnivores like the tiger and leopard. This is chiefly so as they are a natural habitat of deer, wild goats and similar genre which the carnivores prey upon. Bison, wildbear, langurs and monkeys are a few other common denizens of the jungle. The striped goat seen in Marayur region is found nowhere in the world. The forest glades of Idukki resound in day time with the sweet voices of birds. They include the small wild parrots, mynas, red-horned sparrows and a host of other non-descript species.

The valuable trees growing in the forest are teak, rose-wood, deodars, sandal etc. The Forest Department has reared large Eucalyptus plantations.

PEOPLE

The population of the district according to 1971 census was 765,608. The present estimate is 983,150. Density of population is 190 per sq. km. Density of population is high in Udumbanchola and Thodupuzha Taluks. It is the lowest in Devicolam. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes together constitute 16 per cent of the total population. Tamilians are the linguistic minority of the district and have a population of two lakhs.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

There are about 75,000 Harijans and 30,000 Tribals in the district. The Harijans work as agricultural labourers in the tea and cardamom estates. Ayyappancoil and Pampadumpara of Udumbanchola Taluk, Kumily of Peermade Taluk, Kuttampuzha, Mannamkandam and Marayur of Devicolam Taluk, Vannapuram, Vazhathope

and Velliyamattom of Thodupuzha Taluk are the Panchayats which predominate in Harijan population. Mannans, Mala Arayans, Urali, Muthuvans, Hill Pulaya, Paliyan and Ulladan are the different groups of tribals in the district. All these tribes are not aborigines. The Muthuvans of Marayoor, Kanthalloor and Vattavada Panchayats speak Tamil dialects. Their tribal legends show that they were the loyal servants of a section of the royal dynasty of Madurai and they carried the idols of Madurai Meenakshi for the fleeing royal members on their backs which are known in Tamil as "Muthuku". Thrown out from power at Madurai the surviving members of the Madurai royal family established the Poonjar dynasty in Kerala, and the servants who came with them with the idols on their backs settled in the forests near Tamil Nadu, and are now known as Muthuvans. They are agriculturists. The Mala Aryans of Vannappuram, Velliyamattom, Udumbannoor and Arakulam Panchayats also live as agriculturists. They look like the plains-dwellers, and they believe that they were a section of the Arayans of the coastal belt of Kerala who migrated to the forest and came to be known as Mala Arayans.

Christians

They constitute the majority among the population of the district. They settled in the High Ranges in the course of their search for pastures anew. Behind the agricultural development of Idukki there is the untold hardship of this hardy people in the early days of settlement. Though there are many rich estate owners among them the majority are middle class farmers earning from their struggle against the soil and climate.

Muslims

They are restricted to certain pockets of the district. The municipality of Thodupuzha has a large Muslim population. They are mostly small traders and businessmen. In Munnar there are a few rich Muslims engaged in flourishing business.

The Muslims of Kumily hailed from Tamil Nadu. Some of them have cardamom estates of their own and the others are engaged in trade. In Peermade there is a good number of Muslim families. The name "Peermade" is derived from the name of a Muslim Saint "Pir Mohamed".

Nairs

They form a small portion of the population of Idukki. The eastern part of Thodupuzha has a considerable Nair population. They are mostly engaged in agriculture.

Ezhavas

In Udumbanchola Taluk they are numerically second to the Christians. Most of them are small farmers. In Thodupuzha and Peermade Taluks too their numerical strength is considerable.

Tamil minority

Devicolam and Peermade Taluks have a large concentration of Tamilians who are mainly labourers in Tea and Cardamom estates. This population is slightly of a floating nature as they are having their permanent settlements in Tamil Nadu. Most of the Cardamom estates are owned by Tamilians living in Cumbum, Gudalur and other towns in the adjoining Madurai District.

CHAPTER II

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS CENTRES

Sabarimalai Sri Ayyappa Temple

This is the greatest pilgrim centre in Kerala and is located on a hill at whose foot flows river Pamba. Sri Ayyappa or Sri Dharmasastha the deity of the temple was conceived as the symbol of "Tharaka Brahma" or cosmic consciousness. There are many stories about Ayyappa and the most popular one is that he was the son of Siva and Vishnu who enraptured the former in the form "Mohini", an ethereal form of luscious beauty. The Raja of Pandalam got the child from the forest and he grew up as a prince. However archaeologists and historians believe that Sabarimalai Temple was originally a Jain or Buddhist Centre. Pilgrims coming to holy places with "Saranam Vili" or the cries of dedication bepeaks of a well known Buddhist practice. "Makaravilakku" is the main festival at Sabarimalai. On this day the devotees of Lord Ayyappa see a strange ethereal luminiscence atop a peak adjoining Sabarimalai. Vishu and Mandalapooja are two other festivals at Sabarimalai and on these occasions too pilgrims come in thousands to get the 'darsan' of Sri Ayyappa.

Mangala Devi Temple

Built in the Pandyan style of architecture this temple is centuries old and it stands in the thick forest. The high peak on which it stands is 13 kms. from Thekkady and can be approached along a jeep road. This peak commands a panoramic view of the eastern slopes of the Western Ghat and the towns and villages of Tamil Nadu. Its charm is inexplicable. The presiding deity of the temple is Mahalakshmy, the divine consort of Vishnu and a symbol of "Moolaprakriti".

The Maheswari temple at Vellappara

In the hectic days of the construction of Idukki Dam a sensational discovery was made of the idol of "Maheswari" from a large granite cellar on a hill, opposite the dam site. The temple is renovated and it has ever since become a busy centre of worship.

Sree Krishna Temple of Peermade

It was built by Sri Mulam the Maharaja of Travancore for worship near the summer palace of the Kings.

Ayyappancoil

The temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa at Ayyappancoil is submerged in the Idukki reservoir. A new temple is built near Kattappana and the idol of Lord Ayyappa from Ayyappancoil is installed there.

Pir Mohammed Mausoleum

This mausoleum was built at Peermade by Rani Lakshmi Bai, the regent of Travancore in the first decade of this century. This was built on the burial ground of Pir Muhammed, a Sufi saint who attained Samadhi on the top of a high peak that overlooks the sea. The mausoleum is a place of veneration for all communities. It is believed that the name Peermedu is derived from the mausoleum. (Medu means hill, Peermedu means hill of Peer).

Thenkasi Easwaran Coil

Located on the banks of Thalayar and half way in the Marayur-Kanthallur Road, this Temple is 2000 years old. Lord Siva is the presiding deity and Sivarathri is celebrated every year.

Mount Carmel Church at Munnar

This belongs to the Vijayapuram diocese, Kottayam. Rev. Fr. Alphonse from Spain arrived at Munnar in 1854 as missionary and founded a chapel in 1898. The present church was built by Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonaventure in 1938. He was, then, the Bishop of Vijayapuram.

The Roman Catholic Church at Kumily

This church is a model for the new style of church building. This style has evolved more in Idukki district than anywhere in the State. Fr. Marinose was the designer and architect of the modern church at Kumily.

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Agriculture

The main income of the district is from this sector. In the 1977-78 financial year the gross income from agriculture was Rs. 76 crores. Cardamom, Tea, Tapioca, Rice, Pepper, Rubber, Coconut, Sugarcane, Coffee, Arecanut, Ginger, Lemon grass and Vegetables are the most important agricultural products of the district.

The economy of the district is thus purely dependent on agriculture. Crop husbandry and animal husbandry are thus the main occupations of the people. Agriculturists and agricultural labourers form the bulk of the population. About 10 per cent of the total population are estate labourers.

The total cultivated area in the district is 1,45,620 hectares. The total number of landholdings are 1,35,550. The size of average holding comes to 1.07 hectares. Small and medium farmers predominate in the district. They possess 37.55 and 36.11 per cent of the total number of landholdings respectively.

Cardamom

It is cultivated in 27103 hectares. Most of the Cardamom estates are in Udumbanchola Taluk. The Cardamom plant grows at an elevation of 2000 to 3000 ft. from sea level, under the shade of evergreen trees. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the Cardamom Board and the co-operation of cultivators and labourers the crop of Cardamom has reached an all time high. Efforts are also being made to improve the living conditions of the labourers of the cardamom plantations.

Tea

The tea bush is planted in 23978 hectares. Most of the tea estates are located in Devicolam and Peermade Taluks. The Tea estates of Munnar are of big highly organised companies. But in Peermade and Vandanmettu areas there are small estates and small individual holdings. Kannan Devan in Devicolam Taluk and Malayalam Plantations in Peermade Taluk are the biggest tea estates in the district. The Kannan Devan is now owned by the Tata Finlay Company while the Malayalam Plantation is owned by British nationals.

Tapioca

It is grown in 17796 hectares. The main problem of Tapioca growers is the difficulty in marketing their produce. The discovery that silk-worms can grow on the leaves of Tapioca and yield the valuable silk yarn and the proposal to start a factory for extracting starch from Tapioca may give a fillip to the tapioca growers.

Rice

It is cultivated in 11208 hectares. The rice fields of the district are basically double crop ones except in Vattavada and Kanthalloor. An additional 800 hectares will be brought under paddy cultivation. This is a part of the Mankulam Co-operative Farming Project, under the guidelines of the Western Ghat Development Scheme.

Coffee

It is grown in 4404 hectares. The cultivation of coffee provides an additional income to growers of other kinds of crops.

Sandalwood

It grows on 1600 hectares of forest land and also on titled and untitled holdings of private individuals in the

Marayoor Region of Devicolam Taluk. The Sandal Tree is declared as State property and the commercial extraction of sandal oil is yet to be started.

Coconut

All the areas under yielding coconut plantations are in Thodupuzha Taluk and in Kokkayar and Peruvanthanam Panchayats of Peermade Taluk.

Rubber

It is a rewarding crop and it is extensively cultivated in Peruvanthanam and Kokkayar Panchayats of Peermade Taluk and Muttom, Arakulam, Vannappuram, Kodikulam, Velliyamattom, Alakode and Karikode Panchayats of Thodupuzha Taluk.

Sugarcane

It is grown in Marayur and Kanthallur.

IRRIGATION

There are no major irrigation projects in the district. The Malankara Irrigation Dam meant to impound the tail-waters of the Idukki Project, would irrigate the western portion of Thodupuzha Taluk. However the benefits of the project would largely accrue to Ernakulam and Kottayam districts. The ground water resources of the district as a whole is reported to be very poor except in certain localities.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The whole district, especially the highland region is highly suited for economic dairy farming. This is made possible by the availability of fodder and of vast areas of pastures for free grazing of cattle and buffaloes. There

are about 1400 hectares of land under permanent pastures besides the forest lands. Fodder, mainly green grass, can be cut and fed to the cattle or the cattle can be let to free grazing in the pastures.

Indo-Swiss Project:

The Indo-Swiss Project now merged with the Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board has done admirable work in the field of economic dairy farming in the district. This project came into being during the later half of 1963 on the basis of a bilateral agreement executed between the Swiss confederation and the Government of India. The headquarters of the project is at Mattupatty in Devicolam Taluk. It is at an elevation of 1700 metres and 15 Kms. away from Munnar. The overall control of this project is now vested with the newly formed Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board. The Extension Unit of the Project located at Kolahalamedu near Elappara in Peermade Taluk serves as a supporting bull mother farm. Also the Regional Semen Bank is functioning at Base Station, Kolahalamedu. The Indo-Swiss Project has evolved the Swiss Brown Cross breed of cattle suited for the State. New and intensive programme is being launched to upgrade the local cattle. There are about 86 artificial insemination centres in the district, and through them the upgrading programme is carried out. The State Dairy Development Department, the Animal Husbandry Department and K. L. D. and M. M. Board are identical in their function.

The highland region is also suited for economic goat rearing.

POWER PRODUCTION

80 per cent of Kerala's power production is from Idukki District. It is generated from the different hydro-electric projects situated here.

IDUKKI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

It consists of three major dams. The Idukki Arch Dam is constructed across Periyar River in a narrow gorge between two granite hills. It is 550 feet high and at the base its thickness is only 65 feet. This is a double curvature Arch Dam and in height it comes second in the country. Not far off from the Idukki Arch Dam, across River Cheruthony is built a concrete gravity Dam. It is known as Cheruthony Dam and its height is 454 feet. The Spillway of the Idukki Reservoir is in the Cheruthony Dam. To prevent the water escape through a rivulet, called "Kilivally" 30 kms. west of Idukki Arch Dam, a free masonry Dam is constructed across Kilivally at Kulamavu. It is 328 feet high.

The water impounded by these three dams has formed a single reservoir spread over 36 miles on a height of 2300 ft. above mean sea level. Along a power tunnel from the Kulamavu basin water flows to the pressure shafts in the underground power house beneath the Nadugani hills at Moolamattom. There are three huge generators in the power house, of 130 MW capacity each. After the generation of electricity water flows through a 4000 feet long tunnel to a tributary of Thodupuzha River. The Idukki Project was completed with economic and technological assistance of Canada in accordance with the Colombo Plan of Commonwealth countries.

Kallar-Irattayar Diversion Scheme

To augment the catchment of Idukki Reservoir and to increase the power generation at the power station the waters of Kallar and Irattayar will be diverted to the reservoir. A forebay dam of storage capacity 280 Mc Ft. is being constructed across river Kallar. The water is to be diverted to Irattayar forebay through 8975 feet long unlined tunnel. At Irattayar also a small diversion dam of 189 Mc.

feet storage capacity is being constructed. The waters of Erattayar and Kallar will then be diverted to the Idukki reservoir through an unlined tunnel of 12375 feet length. The work on this scheme is well in progress and it will be completed in 1979.

Pallivasal Stage I

The first Government Hydro-power station in the State utilising the waters of the Mudirapuzha river was commissioned in 1939 at Pallivasal with an installed capacity of 13,500 KW. The acute power shortage as a result of increased industrial activity during the war-time gave rise to the second stage of development of Pallivasal Project.

Pallivasal Stage II

Under this stage a storage Dam was constructed at Mattupatty across Mudirapuzha for regulation of water supply to the power station and two sets of 7500 KW each were installed. During the first Five Year Plan one unit of 7500 KW and three more units of 5000 KW each were installed. The storage capacities of Kundle and Mattupatty reservoirs are 270 Mc. feet and 1950 Mc. feet respectively. A barrage built across the river at Munnar diverts the water through a tunnel 10,235 feet long and through four pipe lines to a power station on the right bank of the river at Pallivasal. This water is used to generate 32.5 M. W. power.

Sengulam Hydro-Electric Project

Under this scheme completed during the first Five Year Plan, the tail race waters from the Pallivasal Power Station are led along a 2000 feet long open channel to a pump house forebay. Water is pumped from this forebay to the inlet of a 5700 feet long tunnel which takes water to four generating units of 1200 KW each. The power generation at this station is 21.25 MW.

Neriyamangalam Hydro-Electric Project

The project utilises the tail waters of Sengulam Power Station and Panniar Power Station and the excess catchment of the Mudirapuzha river below Munnar. The diversion dam constructed across Mudirapuzha at Kallarkutty has a live storage capacity of 230 Mc. feet. The power station is at Panamkutty, a little downstream of the confluence of Mudirapuzha with Periyar river. The power generation of this station is 27 M. W.

Panniyar Hydro-Electric Project

It is developed on Panniar, a tributary of the Mudirapuzha river. Two reservoirs, an upper reservoir at Anayirankal and a lower reservoir at Ponmudi have a storage capacity of 1730 Mc. feet and 1674 Mc. feet respectively. The water is led through a 9615 feet long tunnel and two 2495 feet long pipe lines to a power station situated on the left bank of Mudirapuzha opposite to Sengulam Power Station. The power generation is below 10 M. W.

CHAPTER IV

INDUSTRIES

The district is industrially backward. Lack of infra-structural facilities, vastness and the resulting remoteness of the district and the diversity in climate are all factors limiting the establishment and growth of industries in the district. At present there are 145 small industrial units functioning in the district.

<i>Name of Industry</i>	<i>No. of units</i>
Chemical	9
Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	2
Electronics and Electrical Engineering	3
Food and Allied Products	16
Glass and Ceramics	3
Leather products	1
Mechanical Engineering	19
Oil and Wax	22
Plastic P. V. C.	1
Printing paper and paper products	6
Rubber products	16
Textile, Coir & Coir products	13
Wood Based Industries	21
Sports Goods	1
Other Items	16

There are four milk chilling plants in Idukki. But the main difficulty in processing milk into milk products is the difficulty of bringing it to the marketing centres. With the development of better transporting facilities the surplus milk in the district can be used for making cheese, butter and milk powder.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Indian Railway does not touch the district of Idukki. So also is the national highway. The Cochin-Munnar Road, Kottayam-Kumily Road, Thodupuzha-Idukki Road and Kumily-Munnar Road are the major roads in the district. Jeeps are the chief means of conveyance in the interior areas.

Post and Telegraph Offices in the district are as given below:

Head Post Office	1 (At Thodupuzha)
Sub Post Offices	50
Branch Post Offices	138
Telegramme Offices	51
Telephone Exchanges	22
Public Call Offices	53

EDUCATION

Educational facilities are very poorly developed in the district. Kuttampuzha, Vattavada and Kanthallur of Devicolam Taluk, Udumbanchola, Chinnakanal, Senapathy, Erattayar, Kamakshy and Vathikudy of Udumbanchola Taluk and Kanjikuzhy of Thodupuzha Taluk are panchayats lacking educational facilities, especially at the high School level. There are only two colleges in the district. They are the New Man College, Thodupuzha and the Government Junior College at Kattappana. College education is a costly affair for the people of the High Ranges. There are also two Industrial Training Institutes in the district.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Medical amenities are very poorly developed in the highland region. The tea estate companies maintain their hospitals and dispensaries where outsiders are not admitted.

There are 41 Government Allopathic Hospitals and Dispensaries in the district. There are also 19 Government Ayurvedic Hospitals and 6 Government Homeo Dispensaries in the District.

TRADE

There are about 10,000 small trading concerns in the district. Majority are dealing mainly in consumer goods. There are 22 Public markets and 8 private markets. The Government will shortly set up a regulated marketing system.

TOURISM

With its matchless scenic beauty the district has tremendous tourist potentialities. The Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary is at Thekkady in the district and it ranks the foremost among the places of tourist attractions in Kerala.

Organised around the Periyar Lake, formed by the damming of the Periyar river, this tourist paradise cushioned into the lush tropical forests of the Western Ghats can never fail to strike any tourist as a spot of unrivalled sylvan splendour. The sanctuary spreads over an area of 673 sq. kms. and is located at a height of 900 to 1800 metres above mean sea level. The cruise on the lake itself is an experience. Though the lake covers a large area, in many parts it appears to end just round the next bend. Then as the motor launch wends its way further the tourist gasps with wonder as he sees the lake suddenly grow, as it were, into a large expanse or into a vista of an endless fringe of bays and curves.

The wild animals generally seen are elephants, bisons, sambhur, monkeys and wild bear. There are tigers foraging in the area but seeing them is a matter of luck for the visitors. However, on a sunny summer day, herds of Wild elephants

numbering sometimes fifty or sixty are sure to be seen grazing on the hills or bathing in the lake. The bisons, however, are a wary and hardy lot and hardly ever allow any intruder to approach them. The noise of the cruising boat is picked by their sensitive ears and they withdraw. At certain places beside the lake there are observation towers. Those who are staying at Thekkady for a few days can make use of these for watching the animals.

A visit to this sanctuary offers many sided attractions. Some of the famous tea gardens are located around this place. Peermade, 43 kms. below Thekkady on the road to Kottayam, offers a delightful golf-course, and if a stopover is desired, the Tourist Bungalow at Peermade offers excellent facilities and good cuisine. The folds of hillock are delectable for hike and trek.

The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation has provided different types of accommodation for visitors. They can choose either the Western style hotel Aranya Nivas at Thekkady or the Edappalayam Tourist Bungalow which is located right inside the sanctuary. The Periyar House at Thekkady is an economy-type lodging and catering specially to group tours and is located near the Aranyanivas Hotel. Boat-cruising on Idukki Reservoir too is a pleasant experience. The different colours of the forest glades changing with the shifting sun and shade make the land around the reservoir a strange world. Munnar town is a summer resort. The English Club there, is a remnant of its bygone glory. Three rivulets namely Mudirapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala join together to form "Munnar" near the town. The peak of Anamudi atop Rajamalai is another centre for tourists. Trekking the peak is very strenuous to the body but when one is on top of it the light airs there would soon ease him. From there one can see the sea around Cochin, the entire Cochin city and on the east the slopes of the Western Ghats descends to the vast dry plains of Tamil Nadu. Watching the striped goat is an attraction here.

IDUKKI TOWNSHIP

The Idukki Township Development Authority has been constituted to plan a nexus-type township for Idukki, the district headquarters. The proposed township would cover an area of 32 sq. kms. It would comprise Kuyili Malai where Civil Station is under construction, Painavu which will have the quarters of the employees, Paremavu and Vellappara areas where the transport bus station, commercial complex and theatres will be constructed and the Cheruthoni and Vazhathope areas which will be opened to the public. Each locality of this novel township will be about 1 km. away from the other.

The details of the outlay for the township are given below:

	Rs.
Housing Colony	225 lakhs
Office Buildings	120 "
District Hospital, College, Stadium etc.	75 lakhs
Commercial Complex	20 "
Industrial Centre	18 "
Tourism Development	32 "
New Roads	50 "
Water Supply	40 "
Electricity Supply	15 "

SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

The district is divided into four Blocks: Arudai, Devicolam, Elamdesom and Thodupuzha. Social Welfare activities and developmental schemes intended for Social Welfare are carried out at the block level.

As the district has a big tribal population there are many projects for their welfare. The Government conducts 10 schools for tribal students. One of them, located at Adimaly is a Residential Basic School. For the sake of Tribal and Harijan students, 4 Welfare Hostels are there in the district. They are at Adimaly, Nariyampara and Thodupuzha, meant for boys. There is another Hostel at Thodupuzha for girls. For the upbringing of the Tribal children five nursery schools are already functioning in the district. Four craft centres are also working for their benefit.

CHAPTER V

PLACES OF IMPORTANCE

Idukki

This is the area surrounding the Idukki Arch Dam. It comprises portions of the Vazhathope and Mariyapuram Panchayats. Besides the Idukki Arch Dam, the first of its kind in India and the Cheruthoni Dam the place has abundant natural beauty in its glades and dales. Tourist amenities are yet to be developed. Annexus type township is planned and is being executed. It will have separate locations for Government Offices, quarters for the Government Servants, Shopping Centres and so on.

Kulamavu

Deep-set in the cool forest, Kulamavu is a colony of the K. S. E. Board, blessed with natural beauty and a salubrious climate.

Moolamattom

The underground powerhouse of the Idukki Hydro Electric Project is located here. It is at the foot of the Nadugani hills.

Thekkady

The Wild Life Sanctuary, Thekkady is spread over an area of 673 sq. kms. of forest around the Periyar Lake. There are elaborate arrangements for boat cruising, watching the wild animals in their habitat and other amusements. The 'Aranyanivas' a posh hotel, and the moderate Periyar House accommodate a large number of tourists. The Mangaladevi temple, a relic of historical and archaeological importance is only 13 km. away from Thekkady.

Munnar

This was the summer resort of the British Government in the south. The town is situated on the confluence of three mountainstreams, Muthirappuzha (Kannimalayar, Nallathanni and Kundala). The Kannan Devan Tea Plantations, not far off from Munnar town is one of the biggest tea plantations in the world. The town is more than 5000 ft. above sea level. It has some old churches of which the Mount Carmel Church, built in the year 1898 is the most important.

Pallivasal

The first Power Station of the erstwhile Travancore State was constructed here on the Muthirappuzha river.

Marayur

This remote village on the eastern slopes of the Western ghats, is in the out skirts of Munnar. The relics of new stone-age civilization have been unearthed here. It is the only place in Kerala having a natural growth of the sandal tree.

Mattuppetti

Fifteen kms. away from Munnar, it is at an elevation of 1700 meters. The Indo-Swiss Project devoted to the improvement of the cattle breed functions here.

Peermade

The headquarters of the Taluk with the same name has a hoary past. The summer palace of the erstwhile Rajas of Travancore is an important monument here,

BLOCKS IN THE DISTRICT.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Panchayats included</i>
1.	Arudai	Peermade	Peermade & Udumbanchola Taluk	Kokkayar Peruvanthanam Upputhara Elappara Ayyappancoil Vandiperiyar Kumily Vandenmedu Kattappana Kamakshy Erattayar Pampadumpara Mariyapuram Chakkupallom Kanchiyar Karunapuram Heavenvally
2.	Devicolam		Devicolam & Udumbanchola Taluk	Nedumkandom Udumbanchola Santhanpara Rajakumari Rajakkad Bysonvalley Vellathuval Konnathady Vathikudy Mannamkandom Kuttampuzha Pallivasal Munnar Kanthallur Marayoor Chinnakkanal Senapathy

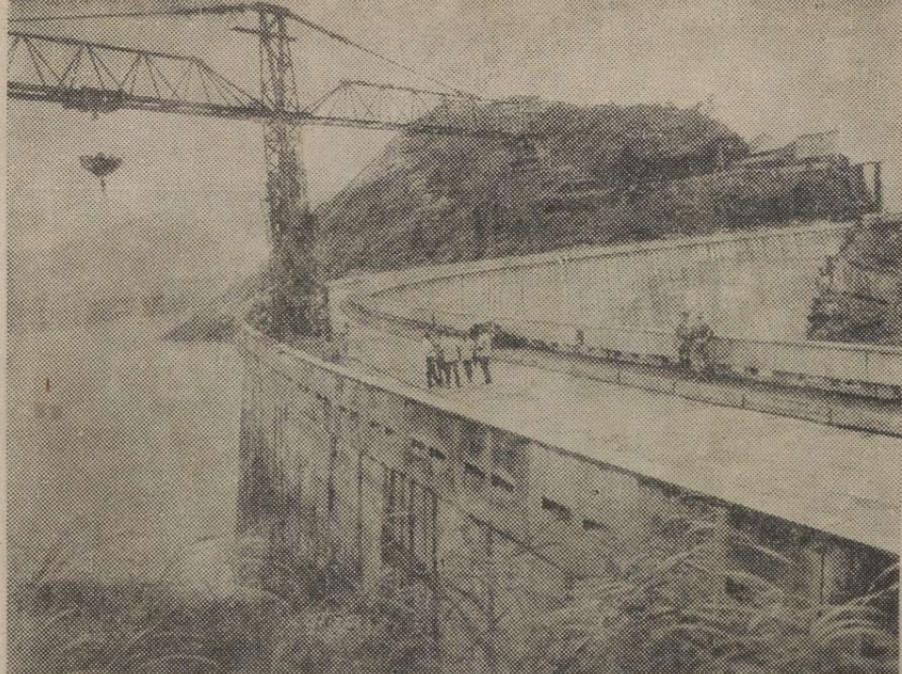
<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Pannhayats included</i>
3.	Thodupuzha	Thodupuzha	Thodupuzha	Karimkunnam Purapuzha Manakkad Thodupuzha Kanjikuzhy Vannappuram Kumaramangalam
4.	Elamdesom		Thodupuzha	Muttom Karikkode Kudayathoor Arakkulam Velliyamattom Karumannur Udumbannoor Alakkode Kodikulam Vazhathope

IMPORTANT CROPS IN IDUKKI DISTRICT

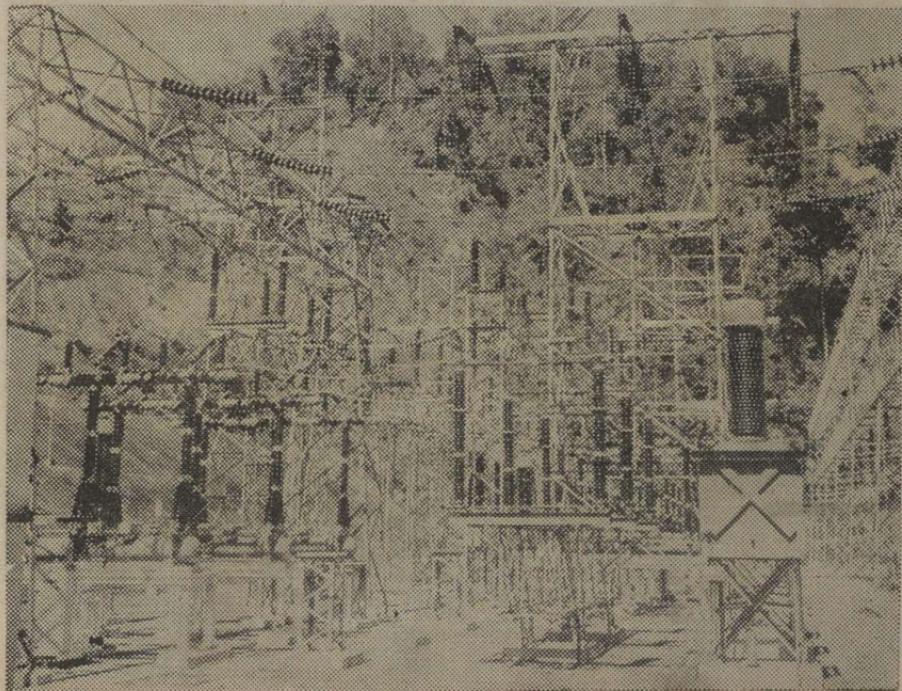
<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Crop</i>	<i>Area in hectares</i>	<i>Percentage of the area to the total cropped area in the District</i>	<i>Average yield per hectare</i>
1	Tea	27,610	18.96	1000 kg.
2	Cardamom	27,210	18.69	40 kg.
3	Tapioca	18,000	12.36	7 tonnes
4	Rice	11,300	7.76	1300 kg.
5	Pepper	10,400	7.13	250 kg.
6	Rubber	10,000	6.86	500 kg.
7	Coconut	9,000	6.18	6000 nuts
8	Sugarcane	4,200	2.88	5000 kg.
9	Coffee	4,850	3.33	400 kg.
10	Arecanut	4,000	2.74	2 lakh nuts
11	Ginger	4,000	2.74	1000 kg. (dry)
12	Lemongrass	2,500	1.72	45 kg. (oil)
13	Vegetables	2,500	1.72	5 tonnes
14	Garlic	1,000	0.68	8 tonnes
15	Potato	400	0.27	5 tonnes
16	Orange	100	0.07	15000 fruits
17	Wheat	150	0.10	1100 kg.
18	Ragi	200	0.14	1000 kg.
19	Onion	100	0.07	7 tonnes
20	Bannana, Mango, and other fruits	8,100	5.60	..

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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Idukki Arch Dam



Power House Moolamattom



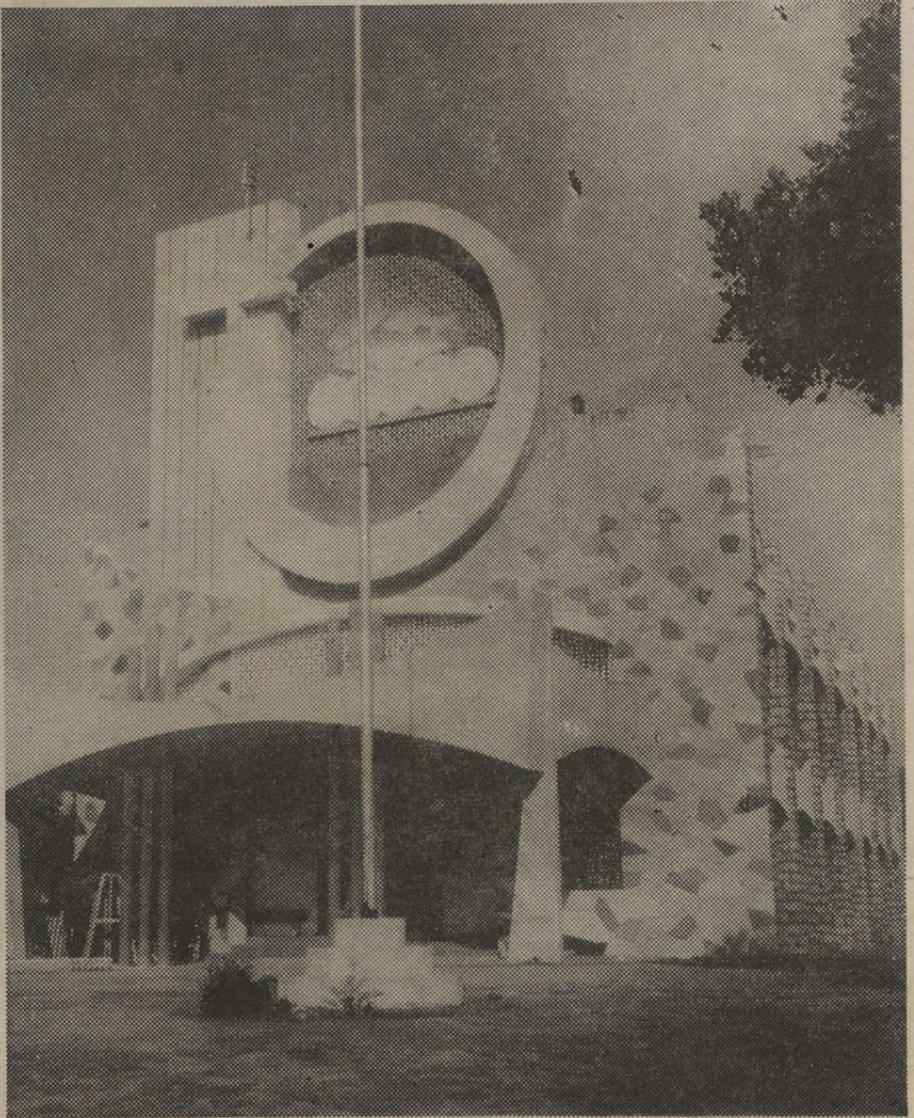
Cardamom Plants



Aranyanivas Thekkady



Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary



The Roman Catholic Church Kumili



Indo-Swiss Project Mattuppetti



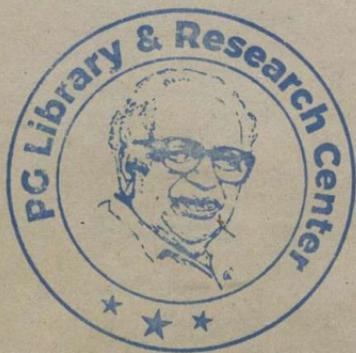
Tea Plantations

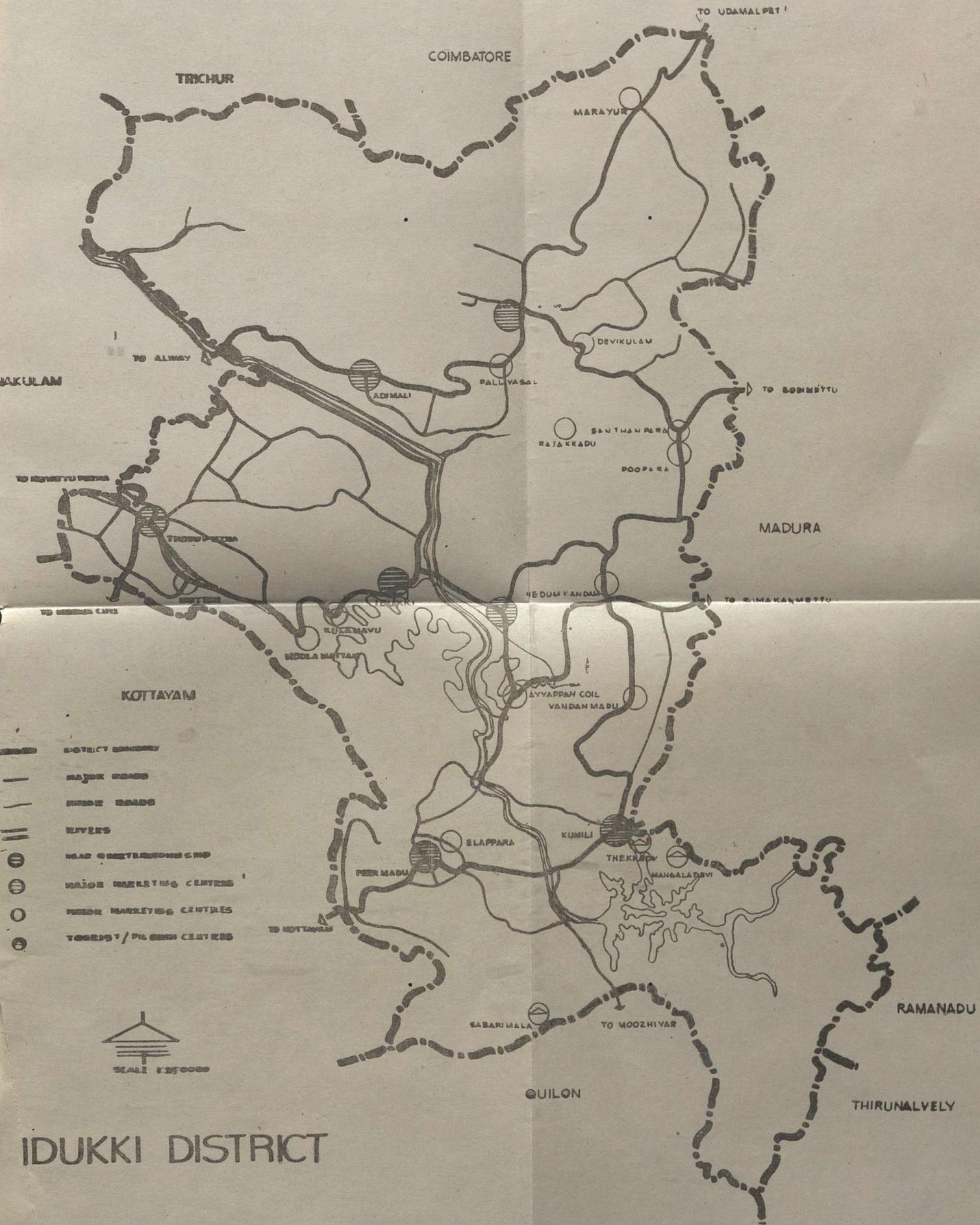


Pir Mohamed Mausoleum.



Mangaladevi Temple

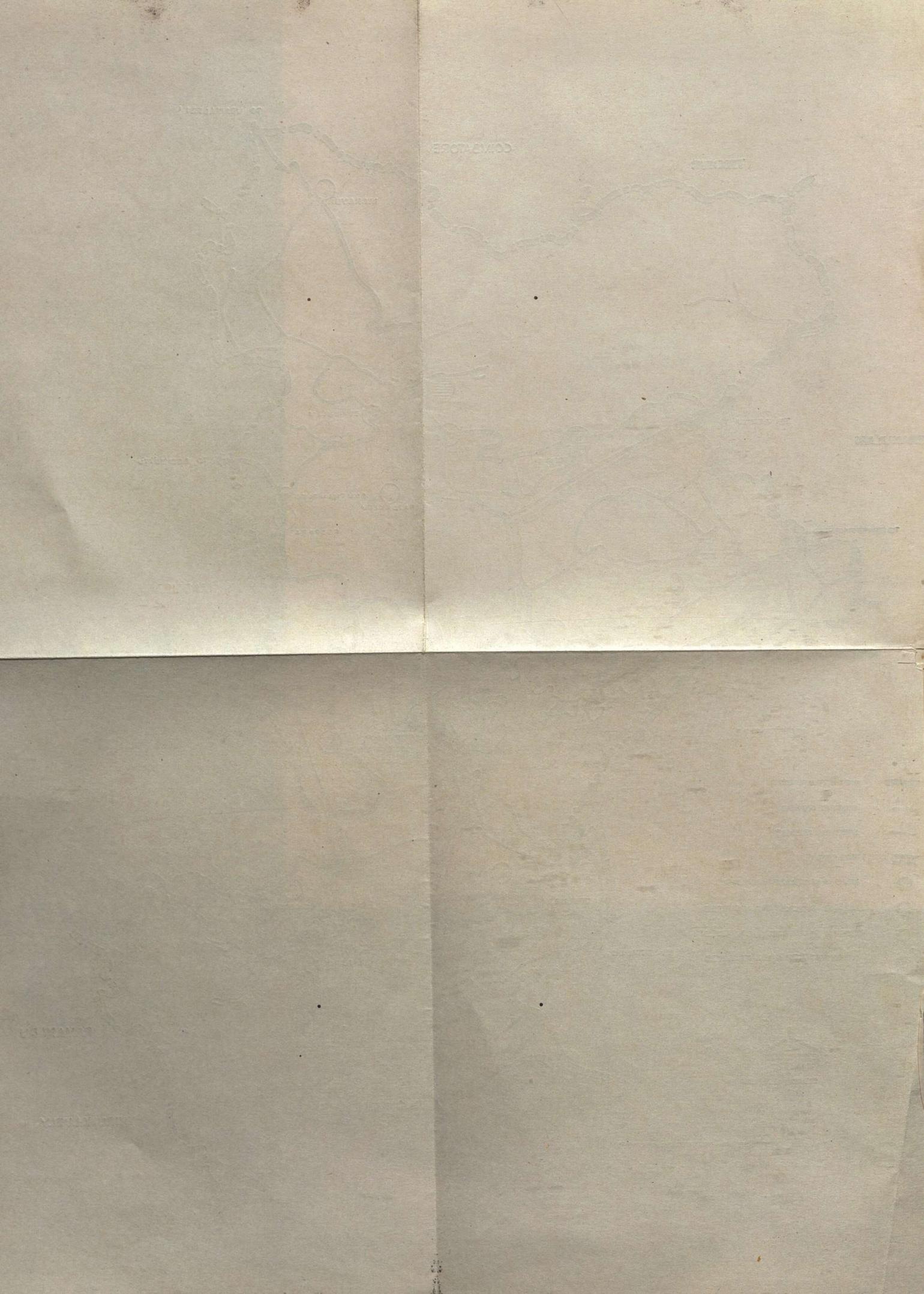


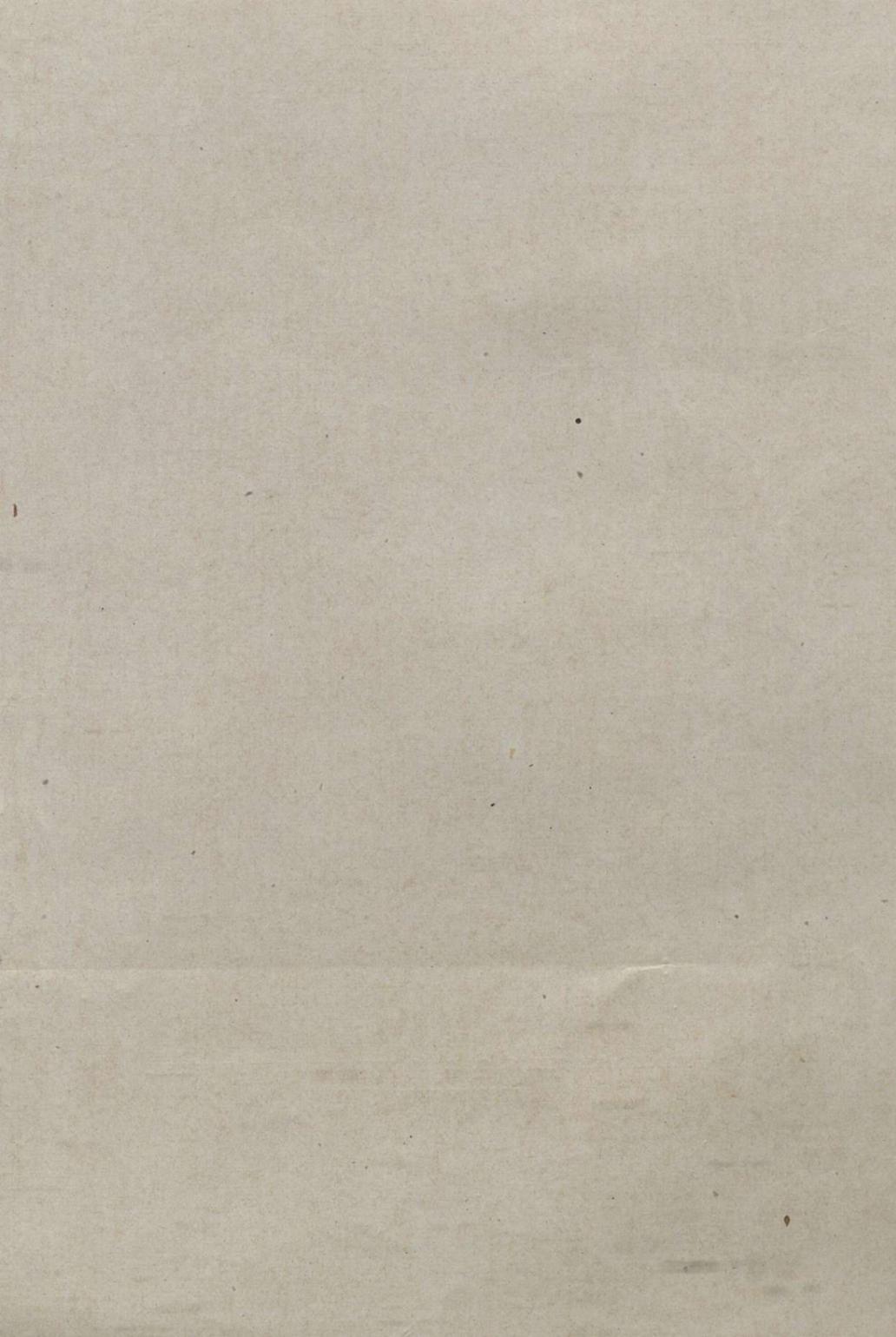


IDUKKI DISTRICT

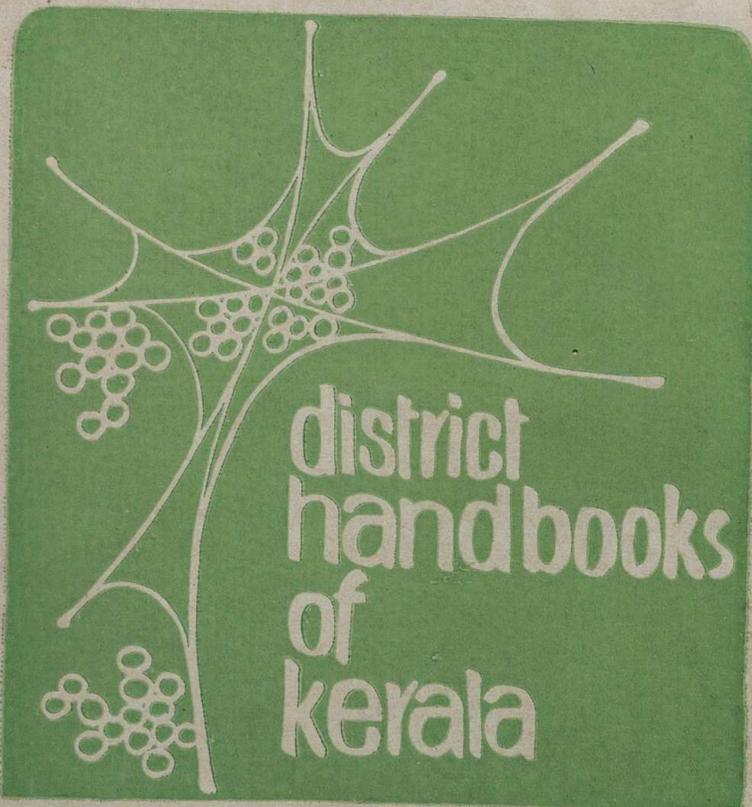
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- MAJOR ROADS
- OTHER ROADS
- RIVERS
- NEAR COMPLETION CAMP
- MAJOR MARKETING CENTRES
- MEDIUM MARKETING CENTRES
- TOURIST / PILGRIM CENTRES

SCALE 1:250,000





PRINTED BY THE S. G. P. AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS,
TRIVANDRUM, 1980.



IDUKKI



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