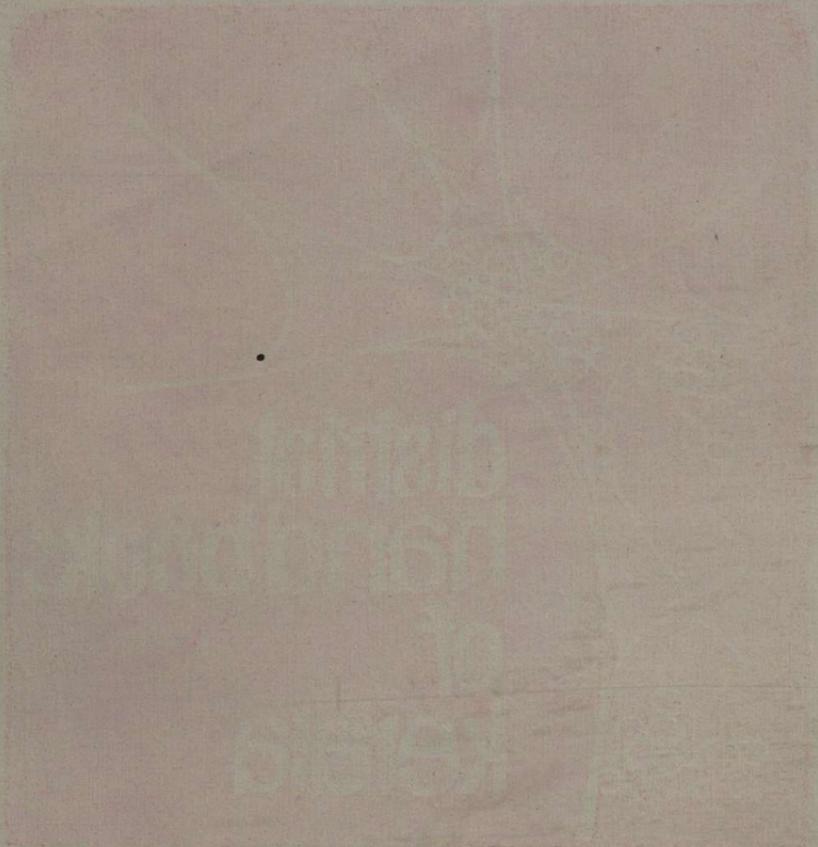


ERNAKULAM

954.83 E



DIRECTORATE OF
PUBLIC RELATIONS



MAILED

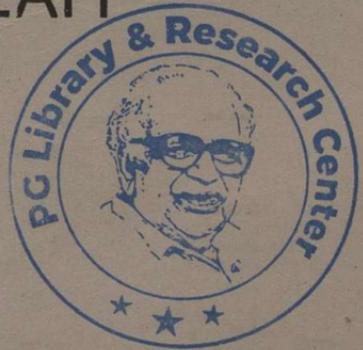




DISTRICT HAND BOOKS OF KERALA

2168 DE

ERNAKULAM



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

District Hand Books of Kerala

Ernakulam District

May 1981

Department of Public Relations

Government of Kerala

Printed at the Government Press

Trivandrum

First Impression 5000 copies

8212

Not for sale

95A.83E

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1. Physiography	1
2. Flora and Fauna	3
3. People	4
4. Development Activities	7
5. Industry	9
6. Cochin Shipyard	10
7. Fisheries and Ports	11
8. Cochin Corporation	13
9. Greater Cochin Development Authority	14
10. Mass Communication Facilities	15
11. Forests	16
12. Places of Tourist Interest	16
13. District at a Glance	19

The Ernakulam District was formed on April 1, 1958. It is bounded by a 30 km. coast line of the Arabian Sea on the west, Kottayam and Alleppey districts on the south, Idukki on the east and Trichur on the north. It measures 38 kms. from north to south and 48 kms. from east to west between latitude $9^{\circ} 42' 30''$ to $10^{\circ} 18' 00''$ north and longitude $76^{\circ} 12' 00''$ to $76^{\circ} 46' 00''$ east. The total area of the district is 2377 sq. km with a population of 25,33,265. The females outnumber the males their number being 12,66,856 and 12,66,409 respectively.

The district owes its name to the erstwhile Ernakulam town. It is said that the town, in its turn, derived its name from Rishinagakulam which is a tank in the heart of the town. Cochin is the headquarters of the district.

Physiography

The district has three well defined parts—highland consisting of hills and forests, midland consisting of plain and the lowland consisting of the seaboard. The hilly or eastern portion is formed by a section of the Western Ghats. The hill near Mullaringad is 1100 feet high. In the northern portion of the high lands are Kurisumudi (1274 feet), and Kattanna (1502 feet). The taluks of Muvattupuzha, Kothamangalam and Alwaye can be called the hilly taluks of the district.

Most of the area is plain land having natural facilities of drainage via backwaters and canals. The Cochin taluk is divided into two blocks by the Cochin *azhi*, viz. Vaipinkara on the northern side surrounded on all sides by water

and the southern portion from Fort Cochin to Chellanam surrounded on three sides by water. The western portion and part of the southern side of the Kanayannur taluk are divided by backwaters. The Parur taluk lies in the flat deltaic region of the Periyar river and cut by several canals, which have resulted in the formation of many islands in the northern part of the taluk.

The main rivers in the district are the Periyar and the Muvattupuzha which empty themselves into the Arabian sea. The Periyar flows through Thodupuzha, Muvattupuzha, Alwaye, Kunñathunadu and Parur taluks. The Chalakudy river flows through the northern boundary of Alwaye and joins the Periyar at Alanthikara. The Muvattupuzha river is formed by the confluence of three rivers viz. Thodupuzha, Kalli and Kothamangalam and hence the name Muvattupuzha—the three rivers. During rainy season the rivers are full and the low lying areas are affected by heavy flood; but in summer they will have very little water. Kodungallur *kayal* and Varapuzha *kayal* are in the northern and southern parts of the district.

The sea coast of the district falls entirely in the Cochin taluk. The Cochin Harbour which is a major natural harbour is also in the Cochin taluk. Malippuram and Njarakkal, which are similar in origin and character to the mud bank at Alleppey, extends about three kms. along the shore and 3.5 kms. out to the sea. With the rise of the Cochin Harbour the importance of Njarakkal and Malippuram has faded.

The backwaters in the Cochin and Kanayannur taluks are dotted with small islands. The main islands in Cochin taluk are Wellington Island, Vypeen and Ramanthuruth. Those in the Kanayannur taluk are: Cheriakadamakudi, Ponjikara (Bolghatty island), Vallarpadom (Panambukad), Valiyakadamakudi, Kumbalam, Panangad, Chellanam,

Nettur, Pizhala, Kankattuthuruthu, Korampadam, Cheranel-
 llur and Chathannur. Most of these islands are very small
 varying in extent from less than a sq. km. to four sq. km.
 Chennamangalam in Parur taluk is also an island which
 is about one square km in extent. Most of the islands in
 the backwaters have been formed by the deposit of alluvium
 brought down by the rivers during the monsoon seasons.
 They are generally fertile and favourable for the luxuriant
 growth of coconut palms.

Flora and Fauna

The flora of the district is characteristically tropical.
 The heavy rainfall combined with moderate temperature and
 fertile soil support a luxuriant vegetation in the district.

The lowland region forms somewhat a narrow belt.
 Almost all common plants are found in the coastal area.
 Coconut is extensively cultivated throughout the region.

The midland is mainly covered by coconut cultivation.
 Paddy, plantain, tapioca, sugar-cane, pepper and pulses
 are also cultivated in this region.

The highland or the mountainous region is mainly com-
 prised of forests. The lower slopes are under teak and
 rubber cultivation. Fodder grass and lemongrass, bamboo
 and cardamom are also grown here.

Ernakulam district has a narrow stretch of sea-coast,
 the greater part of the district being formed by islands,
 Yet it has a backwater system adjoining which are vast
 areas of paddy fields.

These areas are subject to inundation and movements
 of water in accordance with the ebb and flow of the tides.
 This condition is favourable for the growth of a large and
 varied fish population and water birds. A great portion
 of the western part of the district is sandy and clayey land.
 The eastern part of the district has dense forests with their

characteristic fauna. The taluks of Muvattupuzha and Kothamangalam are rich with rare wealth of fauna.

The mammals are represented by the monkeys, carnivores, elephants, ungulates, bats and insectivores. Once 'khedda' operations in Kodanad forests in Malayattur forest division was a feature every year. An item for tourist attraction, this has added very much to the natural beauty and resources of the district.

People

Population of Ernakulam district according to 1981 census is 25,33,265. The decennial growth rate was 27.38% during the last decade. The comparatively higher growth of population can be attributed to a higher growth of urban population.

The traditional feudal society of the district has now almost disappeared. A few decades ago the Hindus like Brahmins, the Kshatriyas and the Nairs held a dominant position in the social set-up. The so-called low castes count for little in the social hierarchy. The progress of education and the spread of liberal ideas, the growing political consciousness among the lower classes and their increasing share in service, the introduction of adult franchise and the dawn of democratic Government, the growth of industrialisation and the increasing pace of urbanisation have contributed to the decline of the old social order. The disruption of joint-family system also set in motion several forces of change in the social order.

The agrarian reforms helped to take away from people their fascination for land as a source of prestige and economic investment. The modern tendency is to turn away from land to jobs. Industrialists and businessmen enjoy a greater status in society than the caste-ridden and landed aristocracy. The new social and economic changes have infused a spirit of independence in all classes of people.

The church plays an important role in the life of the Christians.

In Ernakulam district the Muslims form the third largest community. They are scattered throughout the district.

In Cochin the Gowda Saraswath Brahmins form an important section of the Hindus. They came and settled down in Cochin in 1560 to escape the Portuguese inquisition in Goa. It is claimed that the Saraswaths had their habitat on the banks of the river Saraswathi in the Punjab. The mother tongue of the Saraswaths is Konkani one of the *prakrits* of India. They obtained a rent-free site from the Raja of Cochin, constructed a temple and installed the deity called Thirumala Devan. The Thirumala Devaswom is running a high school which has completed 92 years of service.

The district is cosmopolitan in its population. The Buddhists, the Jains, the Sikhs and the Jews can be found in the district although each of the sects has a few followers. The Jews live mainly at Mattancherry, Ernakulam, Parur and Chennamangalam. Their ancestors came all the way from Jerusalem in 72 A.D. and settled down in Cranganore and Cochin. They built the famous synagogue at Cochin in 1568. Now there are only ten or eleven Jewish families in Cochin with a total strength of 65 members.

All communities have their festivals. Generally festivals are held in the months of February and March. The duration ranges from one day to ten days.

The Siva temple of Alwaye is famous and its *Sivarathri* festival which attracts people from different parts of the country. Temples at Chottanikkara, Thrikkakara, Trippunithura, Ernakulam, Ponnurunni, Palarivattam, Chowwara and Sreenarayanapuram are also equally important. As a temple dedicated to Sastha, the Shri Dharma Sastha temple

at Perumbavoor is next only to the temples at Sabarimalai and Erumeli.

Persian influence found its way to India through Christianity also. A cross brought long ago from Persia can now be seen in St. George Church at Kadamattom on the Erankulam—Muvattupuzha road. It was brought by Mar Abo Metropolitan who founded the church in the fifth century. The church is associated with the Metropolitan who came to Kerala as a missionary and the renowned Kadamattathu Kathanar. The *Vellamkudi Vazhipadu* of the church is very popular.

The church on the Vallarpadam Island facing Cochin port draws people of all religions for its festival on Sept. 14. The icon of Virgin Mary in the church is credited with many miracles. The church was founded by the Portuguese in the 19th century.

St. George's Forane Church at Edappally played an important role in the ecclesiastical history of Kerala. Founded in 593 it is considered to be the oldest church in Kerala after the seven churches founded by St. Thomas.

Feast of St. Joseph is celebrated on March 19 at St. Antony's church at Kannamaly 12 km south of the head quarters of the Diocese of Cochin. People in large numbers are fed on this occasion. The present church building was constructed on the model of the Basilica of Mary Majore of Rome and completed in 1942.

Malayattoor is an important centre of Christian pilgrimage. The St. Thomas Church, built on a hill top is situated eight km from Kaladi, the birth place of Adisankara. The festival of the church lasts for ten days from April 10.

St. Mary's church of the Syrian Orthodox Christians is 1500 years old. It is situated at Piravom on the banks of the Muvattupuzha river. The church festival on Easter is famous.

Development Activities

Agriculture

The district which can claim great development in the industrial and tertiary sectors has made some progress in the agricultural sector also. Agriculture still constitutes the most important segment of the district's economy and is the largest and biggest source of employment. Seventy percent of the total geographical area is under cultivation. More than 27 percent of the sown area is cropped more than once.

Almost all crops are cultivated in the district. Roughly 40 percent of the total cropped area is under paddy and 25 percent under coconut. The crop next in area of coverage is rubber followed by tapioca, pepper, arecanut, cashew and banana.

There are 31 Intensive Paddy Development units in the district. The I.P.D. Unit scheme provides for maximising paddy production in contiguous paddy areas. Integrated agricultural development services are provided in these areas. While the farmers maintain independence of holding, integrated and uniform services are provided by the State Agricultural Department in respect of seeds, fertilizers, plant protection services etc.

A cultivation system called '*Pokkali*' is typical of the Ernakulam district. Only one crop in a year can be taken under this system. After the harvest of paddy, fields are used for pisciculture. It is said that yield from fishing in *Pokkali* fields is many times more profitable than yield from the paddy crop.

The lowland areas of the district are exceptionally suitable for coconut cultivation while in the highlands also the crop grows fairly well. There are seven coconut package units in the district. The centrally-sponsored package programme is intended to maximise production

of coconut by intensive area approach. The scheme envisages extension of credit facilities to the farmers through financing institutions.

Of the total area 20369 hectares of land under rubber cultivation, about 17,000 hectares are small holdings. The largest number of holdings and area are in the Muvattupuzha taluk followed by Kunnathunadu, Kanayannur and Kothamangalam taluks. The Rubber Board is having schemes to finance rubber cultivators.

There are 39 veterinary hospitals, 30 veterinary dispensaries, four veterinary sub centres, four first aid centres and one mobile dispensary in the district.

Under the Intensive Cattle Development Programme there are 24 sub centres, one artificial insemination centre and two artificial insemination sub centres. There is a Piggery Development Unit functioning at Alwaye.

The Kerala State Livestock and Milk Marketing Board is running a milk bottling plant at Edappally and two milk chilling plants at Angamaly and Muvattupuzha. Eighty percent of the milk processed at Edappally is collected from Trichur and Idukki districts. The plant can handle 25,000 litres of milk per day.

There are more than 40 dairy co-operative societies in the district.

The Regional Poultry Farm under Intensive Poultry Development Block, Muvattupuzha, is doing some good service for the development of poultry in the district. There is also a Regional Poultry Farm at Koovapady.

The district has a well developed co-operative structure. The District Co-operative Bank with 19 branches is the apex body. Primary co-operative credit societies, service co-operative societies, urban co-operative societies and service co-operative banks are linked with the District Bank. In 1977 the bank had 400 societies as members. Its share

capital was Rs. 98.69 lakhs of which Rs. 79.26 lakhs was share capital contributed by member societies. Of the total membership about 170 are primary co-operative credit societies working in rural areas.

Industry

Industrially Ernakulam is in the forefront of other districts in Kerala. Industries are mainly centred in Alwaye and Ernakulam. The backwaters and the network of motorable roads provide great facilities for the development of industries. According to the statistical data relating to 1979 out of 7625 working factories in the State 1081 were in the district. The largest number of them were saw mills followed by printing presses, rubber based industries etc. Some of the major industrial firms in the district are the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore, (Eloor and Cochin Division) Indian Rare Earths, Hindustan Machine Tools, Premier Tyres, Ogale Glass Works, Carborandum Universal, Toshiba Anand Batteries, Hindustan Insecticides, Forest Industries of Travancore, Travancore Cochin Chemicals, Ashoka Textiles, Indian Aluminium Co., Cominco Binani Zinc, Periyar Chemicals, Standard Potteries, Toshiba Anand Lamps, Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation (Alwaye) Cochin Shipyard (Cochin) Cochin Refineries (Ambalamugal) Modern Bakeries (Edappally), Kerala Electricals and Allied Engineering Company (Mamala) Traco Cables Co., (Irimpanam) Transformers and Electricals (Angamaly), Travancore Rayons (Perumbavoor) and Premier Cables (Karukutty).

In regular industrial employment the district stands first in the State and in industrial employment it is next to Quilon which has the largest number of cashew factories.

The small industrial sector of the district has witnessed an unprecedented growth during the last decade. Country bricks manufacturing is a seasonal small scale industry prevalent in almost all the taluks in the district, the

largest number of them being in Alwaye and North Parur taluks. Alwaye and Kunnathunadu taluks are noted for bamboo mat weaving which is run as a cottage industry.

The district is considered to be the birth place of sea food industry in Kerala. This industry is concentrated on the coastal areas of the district.

Cochin Shipyard

Cochin Shipyard is the premier green field shipyard in independent India and is also the biggest in the country. It is designed to build bulk carriers upto 85,000 DWT and to repair ships of sizes upto one lakh DWT. It is also the most modern, having installed facilities to achieve high standards of quality and productivity.

The estimated cost of the shipyard is about Rs. 110 crores and the installed facilities can produce two ships of 85,000 tonnes each a year at the optimum level of production.

Built in about 100 acres out of a total of 170 acres of land belonging to the shipyard, the facilities include two docks, three quays and about 50,000 sq.m. of shop area plus other facilities. The yard lay-out and the design of the docks and quays were provided by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan while detailed design of the other structures was undertaken by Indian engineers of the shipyard. The construction of the docks and quays is based on a very intricate design with as many as 8,000 piles going down to various depths ranging from 30 to 50 metres below ground level or even more. Some of the installed machinery are also very sophisticated, the more important among them being the electro print marking machine for automatic marking on plates, the 1200 tonne-press, the 150 tonne Goliath Crane which will span 90 Metres across the assembly shop and the building dock at a height of 65 metres. A well equipped industrial testing laboratory and training school are also the special features of this shipyard.

The first vessel from the shipyard glided out into the Ernakulam backwaters on January 28, 1980. Called Rani Padmini, she is the largest bulk carrier built in the country. The ship is 245 metres long and has nine holds to carry dry cargoes in bulk. The keel for another ship was laid in February, 1980.

Fisheries and Ports

Cochin is an ideal place to provide support to fisheries in its various aspects like education, research and development. A number of institutions are located in Cochin to serve this purpose. These are the Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical and Engineering Training, Cochin Base of the Exploratory Fisheries Project, Export Inspection Council of India, Integrated Fisheries Project, the Marine Products and Export Development Authority, Naval Physical and Oceanographic laboratory (Govt. of India) Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Regional Centre of the National Institute of Oceanography (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), Office of the Fisheries Advisor, Office of the Joint Director of Fisheries, Kerala Fisheries Corporation, Regional Shrimp Hatchery (Government of Kerala), Department of Industrial Fisheries, Department of Marine Sciences (University of Cochin) Fisheries Research Unit (Kerala Agricultural University) and the Seafood Exporters Association of India.

The Cochin port with modern infrastructure and cargo handling facilities was thrown open to vessels in 1930-31 and was given the status of a major port in 1936. With the setting up of the harbour administration by the Government of India, Sir Robert Bristow was appointed the first Administrative Officer of the port.

The modern port started functioning with two general cargo wharf berths commissioned in 1939 in Mattancherry channel. The port had by 1951 provided facilities of four

wharf berths capable of accommodating four vessels of 152.4 metre length, a boat train pier intended for passenger ships and 15 stream moorings in operation. The commissioning of the south coal berth in August 1953, the north tanker jetty in December, 1955 and the south tanker jetty in February 1956 were the important milestones in the development of the port during the first five year plan period (1951-1956).

The main development work undertaken during the second five year plan (1956-61) was the commissioning of the north coal berth in November 1959.

The next stage of the port's expansion was witnessed during the third five year plan period (1961-66) when the construction of four additional wharf berths alongside the Ernakulam channel, fully equipped with cranes, railway lines, transit sheds, warehouses and handling equipment was completed and the wharf was commissioned in May, 1964.

The administration of the port was vested in a Port Trust Board in 1964 under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

At Cochin, container traffic commenced regularly with U.S. ports in November, 1973, as a feeder service, with two sailings every month by vessels of American President Lines. Their Mariner class ships started calling at this port regularly from October, 1975.

While Cochin port is progressing far ahead of other major ports in India as far as containerised traffic is concerned, it has also developed modern standards in port operation by way of general facilities expected of any modern port.

There are two major wharves on the east and west side of Willingdon Island, known as the Ernakulam wharf and Mattancherry wharf.

There are two tanker berths in the Ernakulam channel connecting directly to the mainland, the north and the south tanker berths.

The north tanker berth accommodates vessels upto 213.36 metres in length and of size 30,000 DWT.

The south tanker berth can accommodate 198 metre long vessels, light loaded to 18,000 DWT.

Cochin Corporation

The Cochin Corporation is the biggest of the three corporations in Kerala. It came into existence on 1-11-1976 amalgamating the three ancient municipalities of the State viz. Ernakulam, Mattancherry and Fort Cochin, four panchayats viz. Palluruthy, Vennala, Vyttila and Edappally and some small islands like Gundu deepu, Candle deepu, Ramanthuruthu and Thanthonni thuruthu having an area of 83.341 sq. kms. excluding backwaters. The approximate population as per the 1981 census is 6,85,686. Nestling among the palmtrees swaying in the gentle breeze from the Arabian Sea, the city is served by rail, road, air and water.

The Corporation is running ferry services, ambulance service, relief settlement for beggars, maternity and child welfare centres, libraries, two town halls and parks. The children's traffic park at Ernakulam is the fifth of its kind in India. The Corporation has a scheme of development covering shopping centres, women's hostel, stadium and bus stand.

The Cochin harbour is connected with the Arabian sea through a channel on the banks of which are run the most fascinating Chinese fishing nets. From the harbour landward spreads the extensive backwaters formed by the embouchure of the rivers, the Pamba and the Periyar. This famous coastal city is called "the Queen of the Arabian sea"

Receiving an annual rainfall of about 2670 mm, Cochin is endowed with fertile soil, rich water resource and an impressive fisheries wealth. The blue sea off Cochin is one of the productive treasures of living resources. Equally

well known is the complex backwater system for its aquatic organisms. With these assets and the facilities of a natural harbour, Cochin has developed itself as the foremost fishing centre in the country. With the exploitation of fishery resources, the establishment of modern processing units and the expansion of export trade of marine products Cochin has blossomed into the principal industrial base for fisheries and allied industries. It is now recognised as the fisheries capital of India. Indigenous crafts and sophisticated trawlers and traditional practice of brackish water fish and prawn culture go together in the fishing industry of Cochin.

Greater Cochin Development Authority

Greater Cochin Development Authority was formed to save the city from its urban problems. The Authority has jurisdiction over the municipalities of Parur, Alwaye, Perumbavoor, Ankamaly, Tripunithura and thirty-two neighbouring panchayats and Cochin Corporation covering altogether an area of 679 sq. kms. More than 42 area development schemes have been taken up by the Authority and they are at different stages of implementation.

The area development schemes provide for commercial, residential, industrial and communication developments. Cochin Marine Drive scheme is an attempt to expand the city of Cochin by reclaiming an additional land of about 100 metres width from the backwaters. The Authority has a plan to spare about 10 lakhs sq. m. space for commercial purposes and to construct more than 1000 flats. These are in addition to ample space for parks, transportation etc. Another scheme provides for a highway of about 30m. width along the foreshore. The scheme will also add about ten acres to the city park.

The Authority is building a new township at Thrikkara about eleven kms. away from the city. It will be the administrative headquarters of the district. 'Panampilly Nagar' would be one of the residential areas in the city. The

scheme envisages a self-contained settlement unit catering to the basic needs of the citizens viz. schooling, recreation, medical facilities, shopping etc. The scheme is to reclaim and make available large extent of marshy areas lying in the centre of the city. Ernakulam Ware Housing Centre provides 25 acres of land in the heart of the city for warehousing constructions with railway siding facilities.

The Authority completed the construction of 1500 houses out of 10,000 intended for different income groups. This scheme is also to be cross-subsidised from other remunerative schemes of the Authority to bring it within the reach of the poor. A number of schemes on the above lines are under various stages of implementation.

A number of agencies like HUDCO, KUDEF and nationalised banks have come forward to provide financial assistance for urban development programmes. The Authority received Rs. 315.1 lakhs from HUDCO, Rs. 357 lakhs from Integrated Urban Development Project, and Rs. 420 lakhs from Kerala State Urban Development Finance Corporation. The State Government has given Rs. 105 lakhs as loan and Rs. 25 lakhs as grant.

Mass Communication Facilities

NEWS PAPERS & PERIODICALS

Ernakulam and Cochin have played an important role in the journalistic history of Kerala. The *Satyanadam* published on Sundays from Ernakulam is considered to be the oldest living newspaper in the State. It started publication in 1876. The first newspaper with all its essential characteristics in Kerala was the *Kerala Mitram* and it was published from Cochin in 1881.

Now about a dozen dailies are published from the district. Most of them are small papers published as evening dailies. Three major papers have their Ernakulam edition.

Besides dailies, quite a few weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies are also published from the district.

Forests

The Forest department in the Ernakulam district functions under the Divisional Forest Officer, Malayattoor. The division comprises of three forest ranges. There are four forest depots located at Ernakulam, Mudickal, Kothamangalam and Varapuzha. Wild elephants are captured and trained in Kodanad area.

Places of Tourist Interest

Alwaye:—Twenty one kms north of Ernakulam, Alwaye is a pilgrim centre with its Sivarathri festival. It is a splendid summer resort and an ideal place for swimming in the river Periyar.

Ambalamukal:—It is 16 kms east of Ernakulam and is one of the growing industrial centres of the district. It is the seat of the Cochin Refineries. Ambalamukal commands a fine view of verdure and foliage.

Ankamaly:—Ankamaly is 40 kms north of Ernakulam. It is a place of historical importance to the Syrian Christians. It was the seat of the first Portuguese bishop.

Bolghatty Island:—This palm-fringed long narrow isle is within easy reach of Willington Island and Ernakulam main land. The Bolghatty Palace is on the island. It was built by the Dutch in 1744. Later it became the seat of the British Resident. Now it is a hotel managed by the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation. A golf course is also there in the island.

Chennamanglam:—Chennamangalam is 45 kms north of Ernakulam. It was one of the centres of the Jews. There is an old Catholic Church at Chennamangalam. The old residence of Paliath Achan is also there.

Chottanikkara:—It is famous for its Bhagavathi Temple. The presiding deity is Sri Raja Rajeswari.

Chowwara:—Situated on the northern bank of the Alwaye river it was a summer resort of the Cochin Royal Family. It is the site of the head works of the water supply scheme.

Cochin Harbour and Willington Island:—Cochin Harbuor is one of the best natural harbours in the world.

Willington Island is a man-made one. The island is formed with materials dredged while deepening the Cochin port and channel. Regular ferry services on the lake surrounding the island afford an inexpensive backwater cruise. It is the seat of the harbour and Cochin Port Trust. The Southern naval command has its headquarters on the island. The seaport, airport and the railway terminus are all on the island. The Customs Collector's Office, Foreign Exchange Clearance Post Office, the Tourist Office of the Government of India, Office of the Shipping Corporation, offices of the various shipping companies etc. are on the island.

Cochin Museum:—The Museum contains exhibits belonging to the 19th century. They consist of chandeliers, musical instruments, mirrors, chinawares, photographs of various Maharajahs, marble figures and pieces of arts and crafts of Kerala. Temple models and sculpture representing various deities collected from different parts of Kerala are also exhibited in the museum.

Dutch Palace:—Although called Dutch, it was built by the Portuguese and presented to the Maharaja of Cochin in 1555. It acquired the present name after 1663 when the Dutch added some extension to the building and carried out some repairs. In the centre of the building is the coronation

hall where the Cochin Rajahs held their coronations. The palace contains 17th century murals depicting scenes from the Indian epic, *Ramayana*. Situated at Mattancherry the palace is eight kms away from Ernakulam.

Fort Cochin:—The architectural style of the buildings and lay-out of the town mark out Fort Cochin from other cities and towns of Kerala. The buildings show the influence of European architecture. The chief attraction of Fort Cochin is the St. Francis Church. Built by the Portuguese, it is believed to be the first church built by Europeans in India. Vasco Da Gama was originally buried here.

Close to St. Francis Church is Santa Cruz Church. Some beautiful paintings can be seen in this Roman Catholic Church. The Naval battery is also at Fort Cochin which is ten kms away from Ernakulam.

Gundu Island:—With an area of only five acres Gundu island is the smallest island around Cochin. There is only one building on the island—a coir factory run by a co-operative society. It manufactures beautifully designed mats out of coconut fibre.

Jewish Synagogue:—Eight kms away from Ernakulam the Jewish synagogue at Mattancherry, was built in 1568. The Great scrolls of the Old Testament, the copper plates containing the privileges granted by the Cochin rulers to the Jewish community and the exquisite chinese hand-painted tiles at the synagogue are of great interest. The synagogue will remain closed on all Saturdays and Jewish holidays.

Kaladi:—Thirteen kms from Alwaye, Kaladi is the birth place of Sri Sankaracharya, the great Indian philosopher. Kaladi has got Sringeri Madam, Ramakrishna Ashram and the Sri Sankara Stupa. There is a college at Kaladi named after the philosopher.

Kanjiramattom:—It is 16 kms south east of Ernakulam. There is an old beautiful mosque at Kanjiramattom.

The birth place of Changampuzha, the famous Malayalam poet, Eloor the industrial centre on the Periyar, Kallil famous for the Bhagavathi temple, Kodanad with its Vishnu temple and the elephant training centre, Malayattoor with its St. Thomas church are some other places of interest to the tourists.

District at a Glance

	Sq. kms.
Area of the District	2377
No. of Revenue Divisions	2
No. of Taluks	7
No. of Villages	99
No. of Blocks	15
No. of Panchayats	87
No. of Municipalities	7
No. of Corporations	1
Total population (1981)	2533265
Males	1266409
Females	1266856
Population per sq. km.	1052
Total Woking Force (1971)	734823
Males	532211
Females	202612
Cultivators	155272
Agrl. labours	92224
Working Force with Non-agriculture jobs	59310
Literacy (1) Literacy (without Educational level)	612915
(2) Primary or Jr. basic	213529
(3) Matriculation & above	43286
(4) Illiterate	795312

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

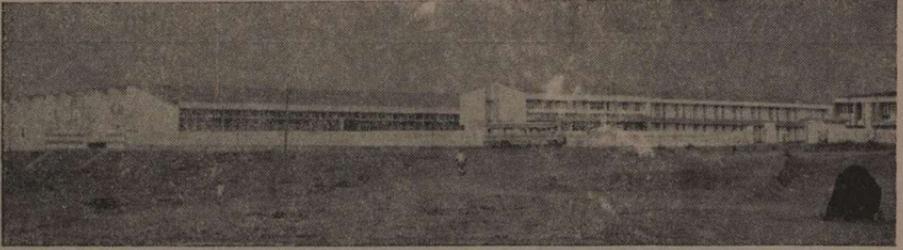
	<i>Page</i>
1. Civil Station, Thrikkakkara	i
2. Cochin Port	i
3. K. B. P. S., Thrikkakkara	ii
4. Archaeological museum, Cochin	ii
5. Mattancherry Palace, Cochin	iii
6. Alwaye Palace	iii
7. Monument to Sri Sankara, Kaladi	iv
8. Temple of Lord Siva, Ernakulam	v
9. Chottanikkara Bhagavathy temple	v
10. Jewish Synagogue, Cochin	v
11. FACT	vii
12. Bolghatty Palace	vii
13. St. Francis Church	viii
14. Kadamattam Church	ix
15. Pallippuram Fort	x
16. Church at Malayattoor	xi
17. Memorial for Changampuzha at Edappally	xii
18. Mosque at Kanjiramattam	xiii



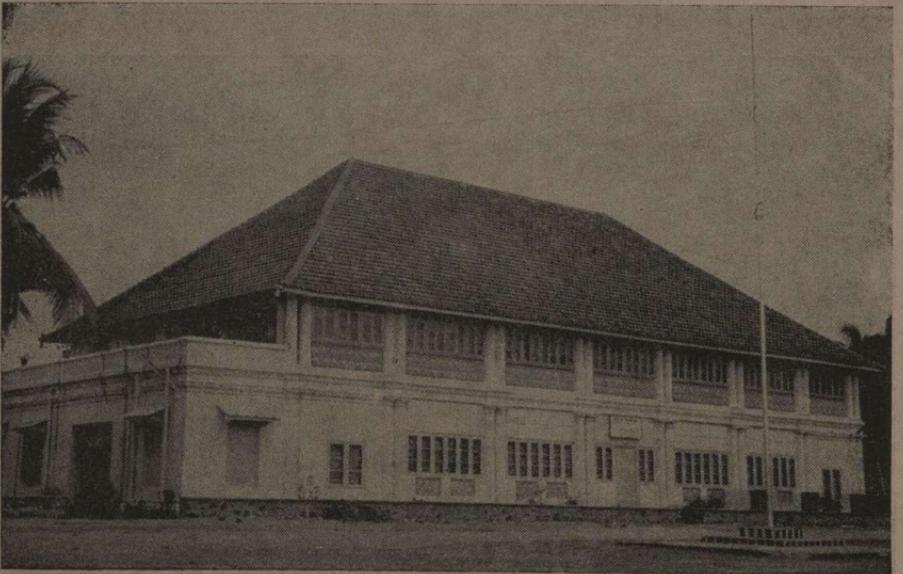
Civil Station, Thrikkakkara



Cochin Port



The Kerala Text Book Press, Thrikkakkara



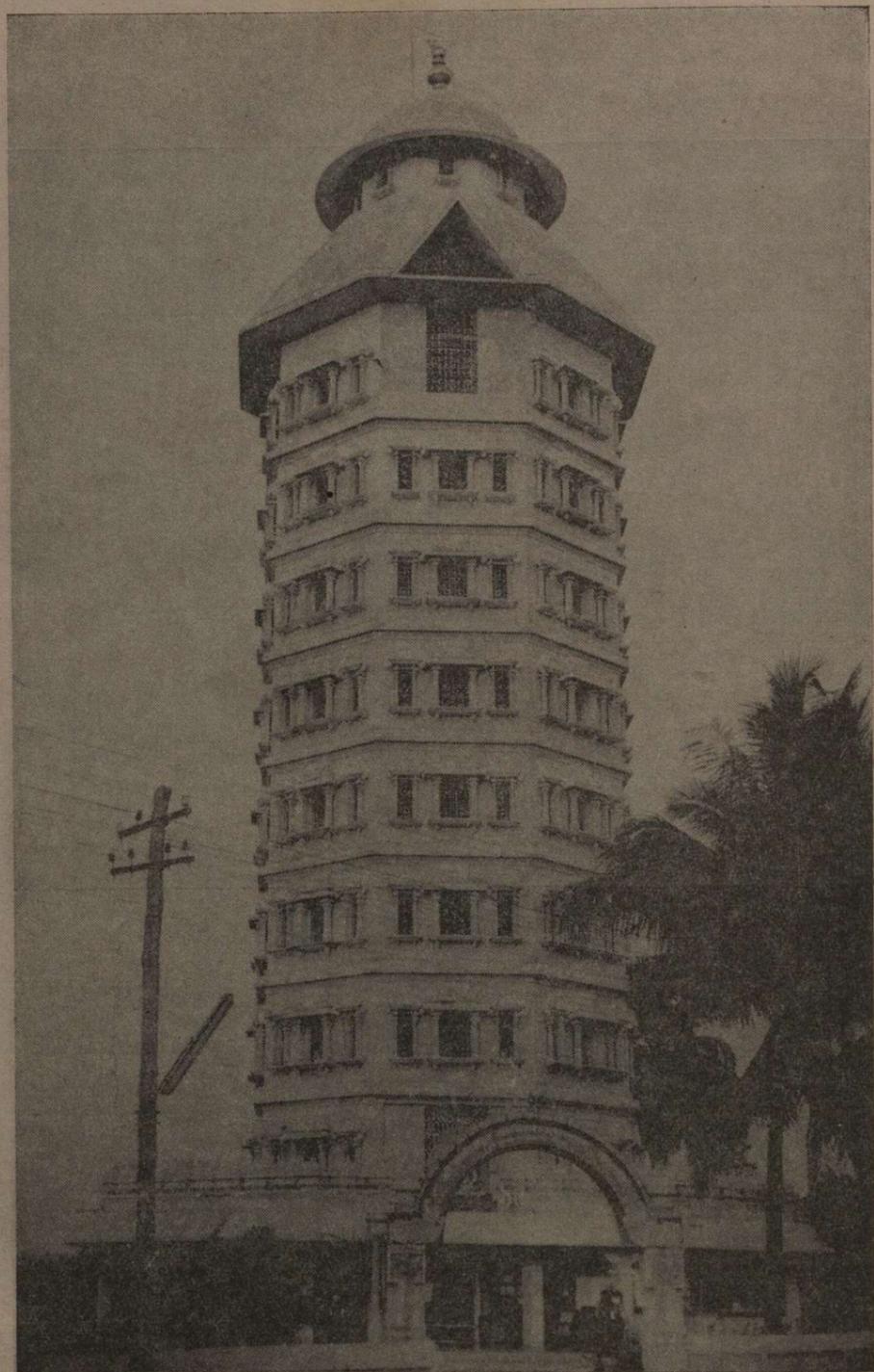
Archaeological museum, Cochin



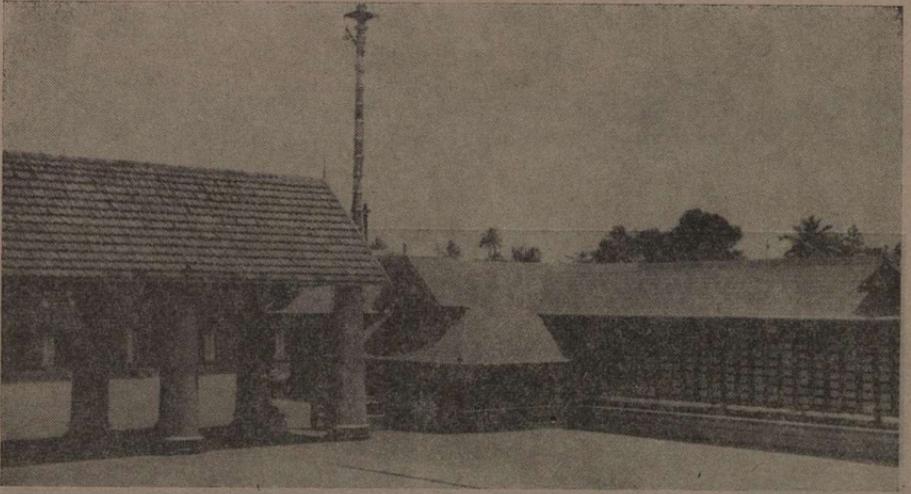
Mattancherry Palace, Cochin



Alwaye Palace



Monument to Sri Sankara, Kaladi



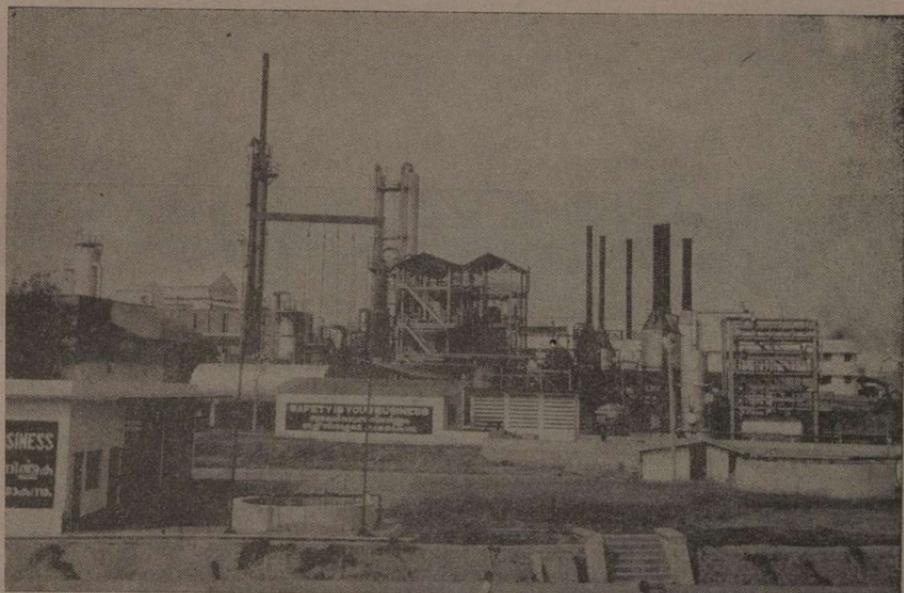
Temple of Lord Siva, Ernakulam



Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple



Jewish Synagogue, Cochin



FACT



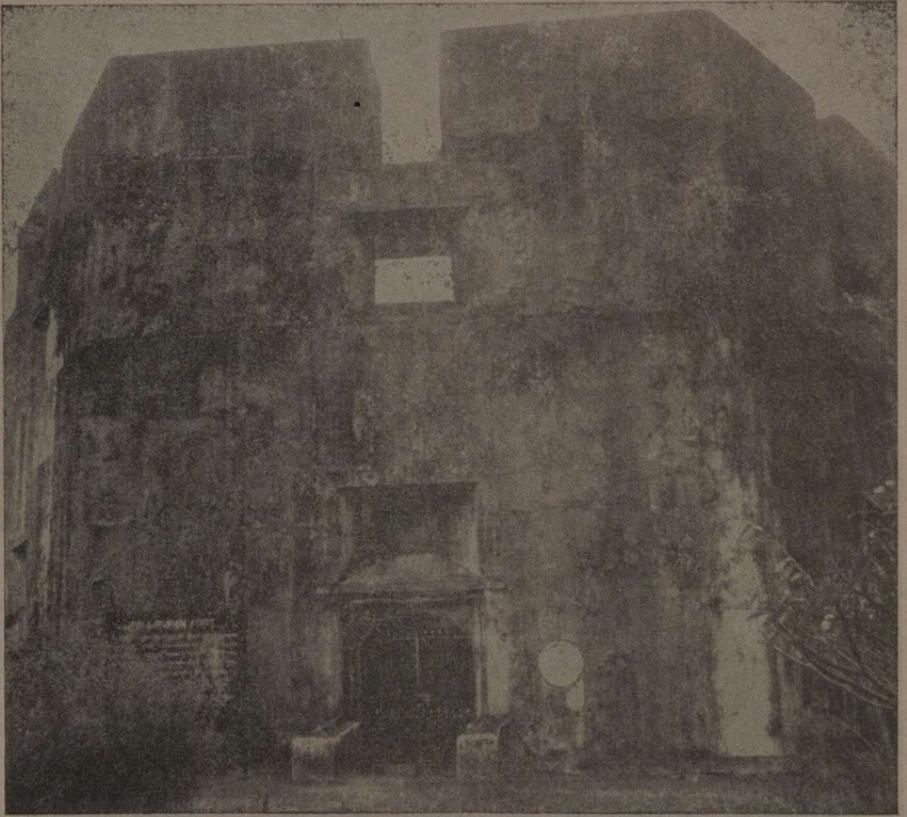
Bolghatty Palace



St. Francis Church, Fort Cochin



Kadamattam Church



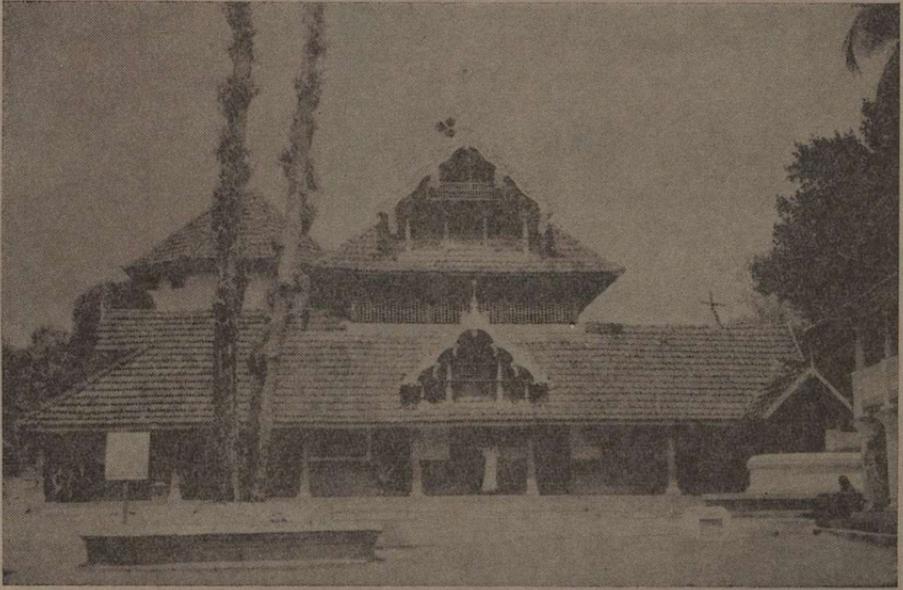
Pallipuram Fort



Church at Malayattoor



Memorial for Changampuzha at Edappally



Mosque at Kanjiramattam

ERNAKULAM DISTRICT

SHOWING PANCHAYATS

SCALE 1CM = 2.5 KM

RF. 1: 2,50,000

TRICHUR DISTRICT

IDIKKI DISTRICT

ARABIAN SEA

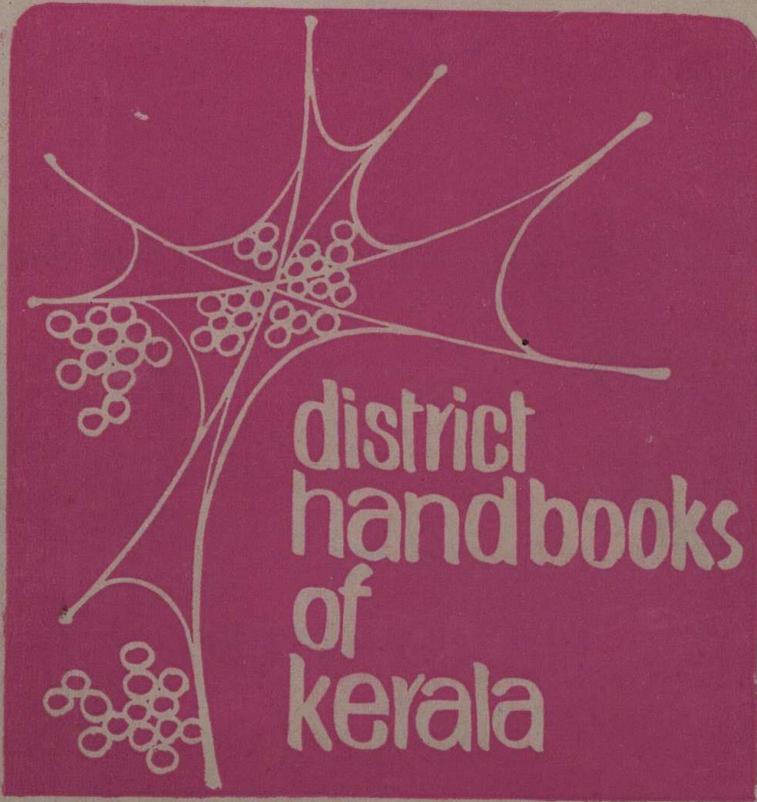
ALEPPEY DISTRICT

KOTTAYAM DISTRICT









ERNAKULAM



954.83 E

