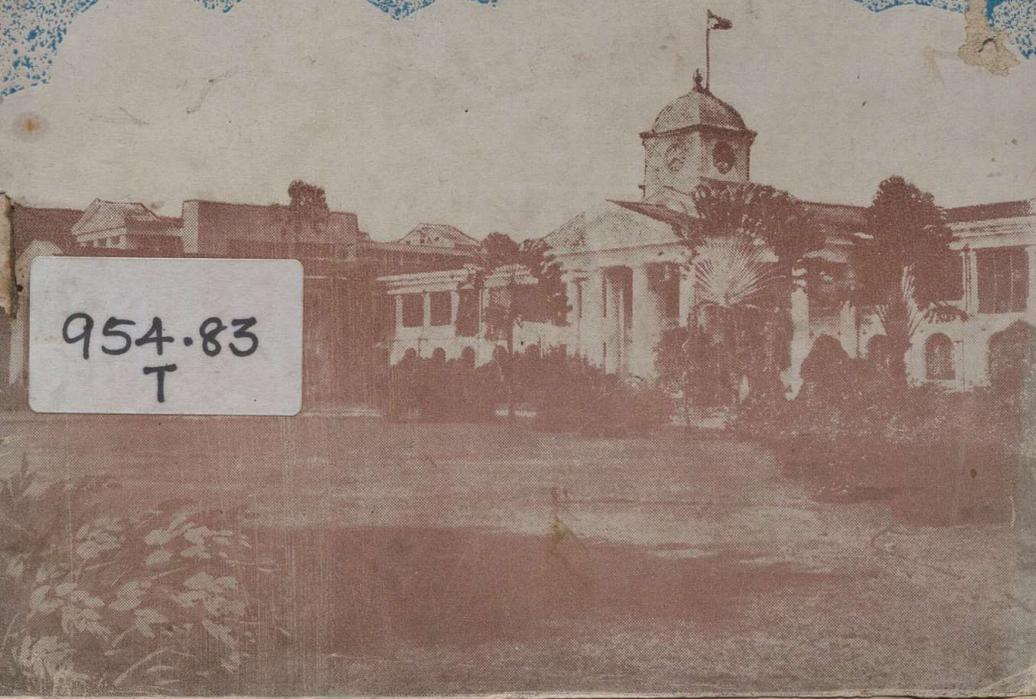
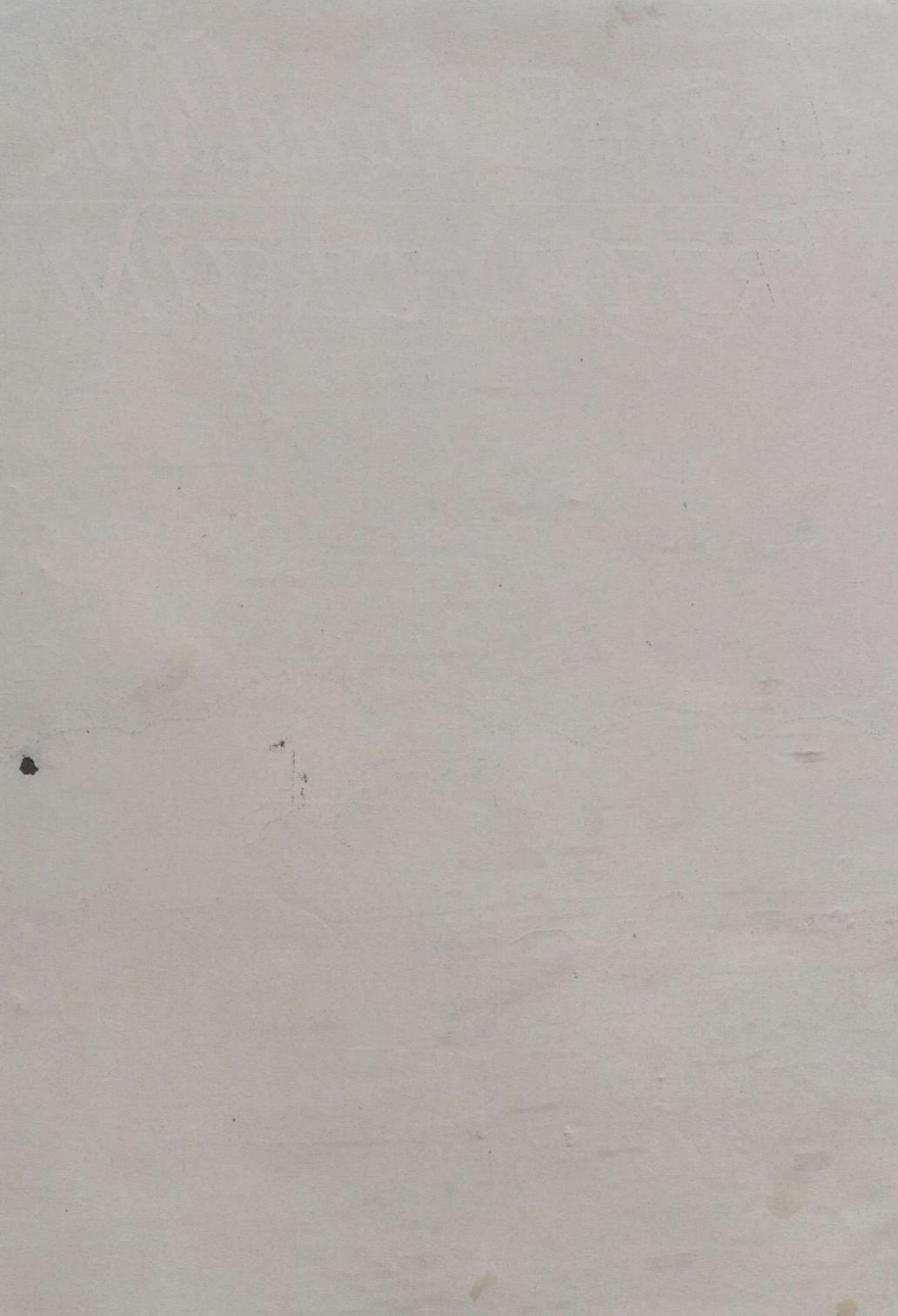


# district handbook TRIVANDRUM

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## PREFACE

This is the revised edition of the District Handbook on Trivandrum. Also, this is part of a series of revised editions of district handbooks of Kerala brought out by the Department of Public Relations. An attempt is made here to collect and present as much information as possible, all updated. It has been designed to satisfy the needs of the average reader, as well as the tourist, who may look for a handy volume containing essential information about the District.

We hope that the book will serve this purpose. Suggestions for improvements are most welcome.

Trivandrum,  
21-6-1988.

T. N. JAYADEVAN,  
*Director of Public Relations.*



REPORT

This is the report of the Committee on the  
Education of the Deaf, which was organized  
in 1917. The report is based on a study  
of the present conditions of the deaf  
in the United States, and on a survey  
of the various methods of instruction  
now in use. It is the result of a  
careful and exhaustive study of the  
subject, and is intended to serve as  
a guide to the various agencies  
concerned with the education of the  
deaf.

The report is divided into two parts. The  
first part is a general survey of the  
deaf in the United States, and the  
second part is a detailed study of the  
various methods of instruction now in  
use.

E. H. HARTWELL

Director of Public Education

Washington

21 2 1928



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# TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT

## PHYSICAL FEATURES

Trivandrum, the southern most district of Kerala State is situated between north latitudes  $8^{\circ} 17'$  and  $8^{\circ} 54'$  and east longitudes  $76^{\circ} 41'$  and  $77^{\circ} 17'$ . With its southern most extremity at Parassala, about 56 kms. up from Kanyakumari the 'Lands End of India', Trivandrum District stretches along the shores of the Arabian Sea for a distance of 78 kilometres with Quilon District on the north and Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu on the east and the south.

Bounded on the east and north-east by the mountain ranges of Western Ghats, the south by the fertile rice bowl district of Kanyakumari of Tamil Nadu and the west by the Arabian Sea, Trivandrum District is having three major rivers, the Neyyar, the Karamana and the Vamanapuram. The district may be broadly divided into three natural divisions, viz., the highland, the midland and the lowland. The region which lies below 7.62 metres above the mean sea level is classified as lowland, between 7.62 metres and 76.2 metres above mean sea level as midland and the remaining region which is covered by forests and mountains as highland. Chirayinkil and Trivandrum Taluks lie in midland and lowland regions while Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara Taluks lie in highland and midland regions. The Western Ghats which range along the eastern and north-eastern borders constitute the highland and it is covered by thick forests in its upper ranges while in the lower ranges the forests are interspersed with plantations. The Ghats maintain an average elevation of 814 metres rising to peaks 1219 to 1829 metres high in certain places. The Agastyakutam,

the southern-most peak in the Ghats is 1869 metres above sea level and figures in the popular tradition connected with Agastyamuni. Mukkunnimalai near Trivandrum (1074 metres) is an important hill health resort in the District. The lowland bordering the sea is densely covered with coconut palms. The soil in this region is sandy. Paddy is sufficiently grown here. In the midland region are valleys, isolated hills, and the plains leading to the forest-clad uplands. This region is rich in agricultural produce like paddy, tapioca, spices and cashew. On the higher elevations of the district are tea plantations on small scale while pepper, rubber, ginger and arecanut flourish in the lower elevations. Among the three rivers in the district, the Neyyar, the southern-most river of Kerala State has its origin in the Agasthyamalai. The length of the river is about 56 kms. The river Karamana which has a length of about 67 kms. has its origin in Chemunji Mottai of the Western Ghats. The Vamanapuram river or the Attingal river has also its source in the Chemunji Mottai of the Western Ghats.

The chief backwaters of the District from south to north are the Veli, the Kadinamkulam, the Anchutengu and the Edavanadayara Kayals. At Varkala where there is a cliff formation, two tunnels of 282 metres and 721 metres were constructed in 1877 and 1880 respectively. Besides these systems of backwaters and canals there is a fresh water lake at Vellayani in Trivandrum Taluk.

The large forest reserves favourably affect climate and induce more rain. In mountain peaks pinching cold is experienced, lower down, the climate is bracing cold and in the plains it is generally hot. Though the mean maximum temperature is only around 90°F it is oppressive in the moisture-laden atmosphere of the plains. Humidity is high and rises to about 90 per cent during the south-west monsoon. The average annual rainfall is around 150 cms. The annual variation of temperature is small. It is significant that the district gets rainfall both from the south-west and the north-east monsoons. The former starts towards the end of May or the beginning of June and fades out by about September while the latter commences in October. Dry weather sets in by the end of December. December, January and February are the coolest months of the year. March, April and May are generally very hot.

The District consists of four taluks viz., Chirayinkil, Nedumangad, Trivandrum and Neyyattinkara. There are 125 Revenue Villages, 12 Development Blocks, 84 Panchayats, four Municipal towns and a Corporation in the District.

Trivandrum District has an area of 2192 sq. kilometres which is only about 5.64 per cent of the total area of the Kerala State. It has a population of 2,596,112 of which 1,279,150 are males and 1,316,962 females. The density of population is 1184 per square km. Literacy percentage, according to 1981 census is 70.50. There are 284,279 scheduled caste and 14,145 scheduled tribe persons in this District. The number of occupied residential houses in 1981 was 460,125 of which 111,931 are in the Urban area.

## A SHORT HISTORY

The antiquity of Trivandrum District is an undisputed fact. Trivandrum city and several other places in the District loom large in ancient tradition, folklores and literature. The name 'Trivandrum' is derived from Thiruvananthapuram, meaning the abode of the sacred snake-god Ananthan, on whom Vishnu, God of Preservation, is believed to be reclining. The Mahabharata testifies to the great antiquity of Varkala, another important place in the District. It makes mention of the pilgrimage of Balarama to the holy shrine of Janardana at Varkala.

South Kerala and particularly the Trivandrum District had in the early past a political and cultural history which was in some respects independent of that of the rest of Kerala. Upto the beginning of the 10th century A.D. the Ays were the leading political power in the area. The disappearance of the Ays as a major political power in the 10th century A.D. synchronised with the emergence of the rulers of Venad. In 1684 during the regency of Umayamma Rani, the English East India Company obtained a sandy spit of land at Anjengo on the sea coast about 32 kms. north of Trivandrum with a view to erecting a factory and fortifying it. The place had earlier been frequented by the Portuguese and later by the Dutch. It was from here that the English gradually extended their domain to other parts of Travancore.

The modern history begins with Marthanda Varma who is generally regarded as the Maker of Modern Travancore (1729-1758 A.D.). The reign of Marthanda Varma also saw the progress of literature and arts. Trivandrum served as a great centre of intellectual and artistic activity in those days. The accession of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal (1829-1847 A.D.) ushered in an epoch of cultural progress and economic prosperity. The beginning of English education was made in 1834 by opening an English School at Trivandrum. In 1836 an observatory and a charity hospital were established at Trivandrum. During the reign of Ayilyam Thirunal

(1860-1880), a fully equipped Arts College was started at Trivandrum besides several English, Malayalam and Tamil schools for boys and girls all over the State. A large Civil Hospital with a Lying-in-Hospital and a Lunatic Asylum was also established. In 1873 the present University College of Trivandrum was opened. During the reign of Sri Mulam Thirunal (1885-1924) a Sanskrit College, an Ayurveda College, a Law College and a Second Grade College for Women were opened at Trivandrum. A department for the preservation and publication of oriental manuscripts was also organised.

One of the significant measures associated with his reign was the inauguration of the Legislative Council in 1888. It was the first legislative chamber started in an Indian State. In 1904 the Sri Mulam Assembly came into being.

It was also during the reign of Sri Mulam Thirunal that the activities of the Indian National Congress found their echoes in Trivandrum and other parts of Kerala. In 1938 an official committee of the Indian National Congress was formed in Trivandrum and a political conference was held in the city under the presidency of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaiyah. The period since the Maharaja Sri Chitra Thirunal Bala Rama Varma took the reigns of administration in 1931, formed an epoch of many-sided progress. The promulgation of the Temple Entry Proclamation (1936) was an act worth mentioning. In 1937 a separate University for Travancore was started with its head-quarters at Trivandrum.

With the accession of Travancore to the Indian Union after Independence, the policy of the State Government underwent radical changes. The first popular Ministry headed by Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai was installed in office on March 24, 1948. Consequent on the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission, the four southern taluks of Thovala, Agasteeswaram, Kalkulam and Vilavancode merged with Tamil Nadu. The Kerala State came into being on November 1, 1956.

## FLORA AND FAUNA

Trivandrum District is noted for a unique variety of flora and fauna. The forests of the district abound in a variety of animals and birds and its adjacent areas are conducive to the growth of wild life. Elephants, bison, monkey and rare species of reptiles seem to have had the place of distinction. The Neyyar reservoir and its adjacent areas are conducive to the growth of wild life. Nestled in the lap of Western Ghats, a wild life sanctuary is fastly growing over an area of nearly 777 square kilometres around this reservoir. It preserves the scenic beauty of the area and provides healthy holiday resort for the tourists. It projects the flora and fauna in the natural habitat and serves as a place for the ecological study of wild life. The forest under Kulathupuzha range is the habitat of rare species of snakes and lizards.

Mammals are well represented in this District but none of them can be said to be peculiar to this District or Kerala as a whole. Yet the Nilgiri Langur (*Kasi Johnii*), the Lion tailed Macaque (*Macaca Silenus*), the Nilgiri brown mongoose (*Herpestes fuscus*) and the Malabar civet (*Moschothere Civettina*) are characteristic of this region. The monkeys include macaques and langurs. Carnivores include tiger, jungle cat, toddy cats and the leopard though tiger has become considerably scanty. Jackal, wild dog, sloth bear, gaur (*kattupothu*), a few species of deer, elephants etc., are also seen.

Only three or four species of birds are peculiar to this area. The reptiles include the lizards, snakes, crocodiles and turtles and tortoises. There are about 75-80 species of snakes in this area.

On physiographic basis, the District may be divided into the coastal area, the middle plain and the eastern mountainous region. The flora of the sandy coast, about a mile broad, is composed mostly of psammophytes, hydrophytes and mesophytes. A major portion of Trivandrum District comes under the middle plain and the region is under cultivation of coconut, paddy, tapioca, tubercrops, plantains and vegetable crops.

The forests of the District abound in some of the rarest species of timber like rose wood. Valuable timber trees like Anjili, Thembavu, Agil, Maruthu, Vengai, Irul etc., and grasses yielding edible grains are plenty in the district. Several useful palms such as toddy palm, arecanut trees, palmra palm and coconut are cultivated in the district. The district has also a rich variety of common hedge plants, tuber crops, plants yielding edible fruits, fibre yielding plants, medicinal plants and spices. The aromatic plants and spices

such as pepper and ginger are cultivated on a large scale on the hilly tracts of the District. The Nedumangad Taluk of the District is one of the biggest centres of cultivation and trade of pepper and other hill produces in the State.

## PEOPLE

### (a) Population

The population of the District, according to 1981 census is 2,596,112 of which 1,279,150 are male and 1,316,962 female. Trivandrum District has got the second highest density of population with 1184 persons per sq. km.

During the past decade, the population of Trivandrum District has increased by 99,225 or 27.50 per cent as against the State growth rate of 25.72 per cent. A total of 655,761 persons of the district live in towns while the remaining 1,940,351 reside in villages. Trivandrum, the capital of the State and the District Headquarters has a population of 483,056. Varkala, Attingal, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara are the municipalities.

According to the 1981 census, this district has got a literacy rate of 70.50 per cent as against the State rate of 70.42 per cent. The literacy rate of the district has increased from 60.42 per cent in 1971 to 70.50 per cent in 1981. There are 491,081 households in the district. The Scheduled caste population in 1981 was 284,279 and Scheduled Tribe 14,145.

### (b) Socio-economic Conditions

More than 50 per cent of the total population of the District depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agricultural labour constitutes 42.05 per cent of the total labour class in the district. Large scale industries are not established in the district. Medium sized industries provide employment only to a small section of the population. Most of the people are engaged in low remunerative pursuits which require very little capital. Non-agricultural workers come to 57.95 per cent of total workers.

According to 1981 census there are 784,275 workers in the District of whom 703,340 are main workers and 80,935 marginal workers.

The district income at current prices in 1984-85 was Rs. 57,500 lakhs and at constant prices Rs. 18,342 lakhs. The per capita income at current prices in 1984-85 was Rs. 2076 and at constant prices Rs. 662.

Political and social consciousness among the under-privileged classes coupled with the efforts of the new religious leaders and social reformers and the increased legislative activity on the part of the State helped considerably to pull down the age-old feudal order. Economic changes have also affected the social life and attitude of the people. The most important economic change was caused by the reforms introduced in the field of land tenure and agrarian relations.

## RELIGIONS AND CUSTOMS

Economic, social and other ties bind the members of different religious groups at the local level. Hindus, Muslims and Christians regularly make pilgrimage to nearby shrines and other holy places in the District.

The population of the District might have been an assortment of different groups of Dravidian stock. The Nairs, the Ezhavas the Muslims and the Harijans form the main group of people in this District. Converts to Christianity also retain some of the customs of their former castes.

Malayalam is the mother tongue of the majority of the people. It is spoken by over ninety per cent of the people. But a small number of people in Neyyattinkara Taluk speak Malayalam mixed with Tamil. People live in peace and amity, each influencing and being influenced by the culture of the other.

## ART, CULTURE AND LITERATURE

Trivandrum District has produced great poets and men of letters even from very early days. One of the early poets of the District was Ayyippillai Asan (15th or 16th century A.D.) of Avvaduthura near Kovalam in Trivandrum Taluk. He wrote his famous work *Ramakathapattu* which represents a stage in the evolution of the southern dialect of Malayalam. Two most outstanding poets patronised by the royal family of Travancore were Unnayi Warriar and Kunchan Nambiar. The reign of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal (1813-1846), the royal composer, saw the golden age of Carnatic music in Kerala. The contribution of Swathi Thirunal in the realms of music have enriched the cultural heritage of India. He left a rich legacy of songs in six languages: Sanskrit, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi. His reign may rightly be called the Augustan age of Kerala music. Irayimman Thampi (1782-1856), a contemporary of Swathi Thirunal, was another composer of great originality and deep learning, the

district could boast of. Vidwan Koil Thampuran was another scholar and poet who belonged to this age. The 20th century witnessed a cultural renaissance. Kerala Varma Valia Koil Thampuran (1845-1914) who spent the major part of his life in Trivandrum rendered Kalidasa's 'Sakunthala' into Malayalam which won him the title of "Kerala Kalidasa". He is also regarded as the father of modern Malayalam prose. The contributions and the lead given by A. R. Rajaraja Varma (1863-1918), popularly known as "Kerala Panini", marked an important stage in the development of Malayalam literature. Another notable Malayalam writer whose name is associated with Trivandrum is C. V. Raman Pillai (1858-1922) who was a novelist par excellence. Mahakavi Kumaran Asan (1873-1924) and Mahakavi Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer (1877-1949) were the two outstanding modern poets of this district. Kumaran Asan was the true representative of the cultural renaissance. Ulloor Parameswara Iyer was primarily a classicist. A product of modern education, Ulloor was not only a poet, but also a great scholar, researcher and historian.

## **PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**

Painting in Kerala is at least a thousand years old and contributions of Trivandrum District to painting are immense. The earliest of murals that can be attributed to the Kerala tradition are found in a small cave-shrine at Thirunandikkara in South Travancore, now a part of Tamil Nadu. Believed to be belonging to the 9th century, the themes of these murals are evidently drawn from Hindu lore but the style closely resembles the Buddhist tradition. Siva, Parvathi and Ganapathy are among the figures represented. Best examples of 16th century Kerala painting could be seen in the Padmanabhapuram Palace (formerly a part of Trivandrum District and now in Tamil Nadu, but administered by the Kerala Government). The old palace contains 41 murals on themes drawn from Hindu mythologies. Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple at Trivandrum has several murals which belong to the 18th century. "Rajarajeswari", "Sastha", "Toilet" etc. are some of the examples. The paintings at Koikkal temple at Attingal bear close resemblance to those in the Padmanabhaswami Temple.

Raja Ravi Varma, an illustrious painter of this district (1848-1905) stands at the cross-roads of Indian art history. Towering head and shoulders above all his contemporaries, Ravi Varma's contribution to Indian painting is substantial and singular.

He was a prince among painters and a painter among princes. His portrait studies and genre studies are flawlessly executed works with drawings and sense of colour of a very mature order. Through his oleographs and exquisitely drawn illustrations of mythological stories he reached a wide public and was the most popular painter of his time.

The Chitralayam at Trivandrum has a rich collection of paintings. Some of the most famous paintings of Raja Ravi Varma are preserved in this Art Gallery. The earliest specimens of sculpture in stone belong to the 8th century A. D. Belonging almost to the same period are the rock-cut-reliefs of Vizhinjom, bearing a close resemblance to later Pallava work. Two Vyali panels depicting dancing figures are presumed to belong to the 12th century A. D. Two figures of Dwarapalas carved with realism and vigour in black granite, are found in the ancient temple at Trivikramangalam, five km. east of Trivandrum. The Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple at Trivandrum has preserved the relics of the best traditions of stone sculpture in the State.

## FESTIVALS

Trivandrum is the home of many colourful festivals. At the famous Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple in Trivandrum are celebrated two annual festivals in October-November and March-April respectively. On the last day of the ten-day festival in October the deity is taken in procession along a five km. route to the sea-beach for a holy immersion. This is known as the famous "Arattu" at Trivandrum.

The *Chandanakkudam* at Beemapally near Trivandrum, one of the most colourful of Muslim festivals is celebrated for ten days in October. The Chandanakudam Mahotsavam as it is called, is said to be the death anniversary of Beema Beevi, a devout pilgrim lady who came to Kerala from Mecca and settled down at this place with her son Mahin Abubacker Chiyulla. The *Chandanakkudam Mahotsavam* at Vizhinjam also attracts large number of people of the adjoining areas.

Christmas is truly a festival season. Among the important festivals of Christians in Trivandrum District, mention may be made of the Christuraja perunal commemorated in the Vettukadu Church near Veli.

It is during this season that millions of pilgrims, clad in yellow clothes, visit Varkala (Sivagiri), the spiritual centre of Sree Narayana Guru.

The Kaliottu in the Bhagavathi Temple at Sarkara, near Chirayinkil, the 'Ponkala' in the Bhagavathi Temple at Attukal in Trivandrum, the Navaratri festival at the Poojamandapam near Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple are also the important religious festivals in the district.

The Onam season is colourfully celebrated as a national festival. During the season the city is illuminated and many cultural programmes and a pageant are organised.

## DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### Agriculture

Agriculture has been the basic occupation of the people of the District. More than 42 per cent of the total population of the district depend on agriculture.

About 2,23,000 hectares of land in the district is under cultivation. The net area sown is estimated at more than 143,769 hectares and the total area put to non-agricultural use is 17,277 hectares. There are 35 hectares of permanent pastures and other grazing lands in the district.

The cultivable lands of the District may be classified as wet, dry, garden and plantations. Paddy is the only wet crop grown in the district. Tapioca is the most important crop grown on dry lands. Pulses like horse-gram, greengram, and blackgram are also grown as dry land crops. Vegetables, Elephantlyam (Chena), Chembu (*Colocasia antiquorum*), Plantain, fruit trees, coconut palm etc. come under garden cultivation. Plantations are confined to the hills or highlands. Tea and rubber are the most important plantation crops of the District.

Under the Kerala Agricultural Development Project with the World Bank aid, coconut rehabilitation programme, Coconut replanting programme, pepper rehabilitation programme and the scheme of installation of pumps are being implemented. In the place of Intensive Paddy Development units, agricultural units have been started in every Panchayat with a view to maximising yield per unit area by exploiting the production potential of paddy fields through development of infrastructural facilities and ensuring input supplies. Seedlings of coconut, pepper and cashew are supplied to the farmers at subsidised rates. Recently kits containing vegetable seeds and garden mixture have been supplied to people to raise vegetable gardens. The new Programme has opened new vistas in the field of agricultural development. The scheme is in

operation under the Agricultural units which provide training to the demonstrators and put them in the field to assist the farmers in adopting modern techniques of cultivation.

## PADDY

In 1985-86, 26,352 hectares were under paddy cultivation in the district. With the commissioning of the Neyyar Irrigation Project paddy cultivation considerably increased. Most of the area under paddy could raise double crop. The annual production of rice was estimated at about 47,106 metric tonnes. With regard to the high yielding varieties of rice the area covered was 4380 hectares where 9124 metric tonnes of rice were produced.

## TAPIOCA

Tapioca is one of the most important food crops cultivated in the District. Lateritic loam is the main soil type on which the crop is grown. The total area under tapioca in this district during 1983 was 55432 hectares and the turn out estimated at 993,896 metric tonnes.

## COCONUT

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Coconut is the most important crop of the District. The coastal belt abounds in coconut palm. In Trivandrum District, coconut was cultivated in 73568 hectares in 1983 and the annual production was 220 million nuts.

## RUBBER

The cultivation of rubber is mainly confined to Nedumangad Taluk. At present there were about 11,574 hectares of rubber plantations and the annual production of rubber was estimated at 6,922 metric tonnes.

## OTHER CROPS

Tea was cultivated in 1,072 hectares and production came to 725 tonnes. In 3,264 hectares of land pulses were grown with an annual yield of 749 tonnes. Fruits were cultivated in 23,129 hectares and production of banana was estimated at 812 tonnes, mango 9979 tonnes, plantains 5458 tonnes and Pappaya 15,810 tonnes.

In 6,485 hectares of land cashew was grown and the production stood at 1,459 tonnes. Pepper cultivation covered an area of 5,394 hectares and the yield was estimated at 620 tonnes. Arecanut and ginger production was estimated at 370 million nuts and 562 tonnes.

## SOIL CONSERVATION

The implementation of soil conservation schemes in the district has helped to check erosion of soil in undeveloped hilly areas. Soil conservation work has made much headway in various places. Soil conservation projects are being implemented by giving subsidy and loans.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The live stock and poultry population of the District is estimated at 1853838. Cows are more popular than buffaloes in spite of the latter's higher milk yield. The total number of cattle comes to 197801 while that of buffaloes comes to 31438. The sheep and goats are estimated at 186545. The number of pigs are 8724 while poultry is 14,29,605.

At present there are 10 Veterinary Hospitals and 42 Veterinary Dispensaries in the District. The Regional Poultry Farm and the District Live Stock Farm at Kudappanakunnu, the Dry Stock Farm at Palode and the Intensive Poultry Block at Pettah, one clinical lab, one broiler farm, one piggery, five veterinary sub centres, one veterinary Biological Institute, one Disease Investigation office, one Live Stock Disease Control Unit and the S. P. C. A. are the major animal husbandry institutions in the district.

## DAIRY

In Trivandrum, milk is being distributed to consumers from the Central Dairy at Pattom which was commissioned in 1961. In 1986 it was selling on an average 44,000 litres of milk daily and the processing capacity was 40,000 litres. There are 239 dairy co-operatives in the District. Besides, 132 Anand model co-operatives are also functioning. Dairy Co-operatives are assisted financially to set up Fodder Banks. Assistance in the form of building subsidy, managerial subsidy, working capital grants, furniture grants, milk testing equipment, etc. are extended to the co-operatives. K. L. D. and M. M. Board and the Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation try to improve the production.

A massive cross-breeding programme was initiated in the district in 1972-73. A noteworthy feature of the programme is the extension of artificial insemination service to the farmers' premises. For artificial insemination, frozen semen of Brown Swiss from Indo-Swiss project, Mattupetti is made use of.

A number of high yielding fodder crops are being cultivated in the district. The Hybrid Napier and Para Grass are a few high yielding perennial grass suitable for the district. The departmental sewage at Valiathura produces high yielding varieties.

## CO-OPERATION

The main objective of schemes in the field of Co-operation is the rebuilding and strengthening of the Co-operative credit structure in the matter of resources, personnel and procedure. The State Co-operative Bank, the Central Land Mortgage Bank and the District Co-operative Bank have been helping the growth of credit structure of the co-operatives in the district.

Apart from the Trivandrum District Co-operative Bank and its branches, there are four Primary Land Mortgage Banks, 101 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, 70 Non-Agricultural Credit Societies and 95 Harijan Societies. Besides them, there are six Farmers Service Societies, 13 Girijan Societies, Six Urban Banks, 114 Employees Credit Societies, 12 Primary Marketing Societies, 11 Poultry Societies, nine Joint Farming Societies, 53 Primary consumer stores, 284 School stores, 42 Primary Housing Societies, 14 Labour Contract Societies and 100 other societies.

Credit for cultivation is distributed to farmers through an agency of three-tier credit structure, consisting of the Kerala State Co-operative Bank at the apex level, Trivandrum District Co-operative Bank at the District level and Primary Societies at the village level.

## IRRIGATION

The Neyyar Irrigation project was commissioned in 1959. It is intended to irrigate an area of 11,665 hectares in Trivandrum District. Apart from this, an area of 3725 hectares (net) in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu will also get the benefit. The Neyyar river is the source of water for the Neyyar Reservoir. A straight gravity masonry dam across Neyyar with four small earth dams spanning adjacent saddles forms the reservoir, capable of impounding 106.20 M. cum of water. The length of the dam is 294.13 metre and the maximum height 50.6 metres. The catchment draining into the reservoir covers 140 sq. km. mainly forest lands receiving an annual average rainfall by about 226 cm. from the two monsoons. The project has two canal systems taking off from the main masonry dam. The right bank canal is 35.40 kms. with a carrying capacity of 250 cusecs and has eight main branches. The gross ayacut area, commanded by it till date is 7535 hectares. The left bank canal system consists of 28.6 kms. long main canal and 12 branch canals having a total length of 76 kms. It commands 7945 hectares in this district and remaining area in the Kanyakumari District of the Tamil Nadu. The total length of main canal and branches is 266 kms.

The Vamanapuram River Valley Project whose current estimate is Rs. 3640 lakhs is expected to complete in 1993. This project envisages construction of two dams, one at Valayanki across the main river, three kms. down stream of the Kallar bridge and the other at Mylammoodu across Chittar and a pick up weir at Pathazhakayam. Under the first stage the dam at Valayanki with a left bank canal is proposed to irrigate an area of about 8900 hectares in Nedumangadu, Trivandrum and Chirayinkil taluks. The project when completed will irrigate a net area of more than 20234 hectares of land under three crops.

## FISHERIES

The vast expanse of the marine waters of the district offers immense scope for the development of fisheries as an important source for earning foreign exchange for the development of the country as a whole. Trivandrum district stretches along the shores of the Arabian sea for a distance of 78 kms. Varkala, Anjengo, Poonthura, Vizhinjam and Poovar are some of the major fishing centres. The fishermen population in the District during 1984-85 stood at 143,042. In 1985 the total fish landing was 23,559 tonnes. Anchovies, Sardine, Catfishes, Cavanx, Mackerel, Tunnies, Carangids are the important species found in this area. Introduction of mechanised fishing crafts and modern fishing gear has augmented fish catch. The inland catch is significant in the district. The Government has constructed five colonies for the fisherfolk.

The total number of households of fishermen according to a recent census is 22205. There are 42 Fishermen Villages. The extent of fresh water ponds for fish cultivation is 61.7 hectares. About 2 lakhs fish seeds were distributed in 1985 to benefit 77 inland fishermen families. An earnest effort is afoot to bring the fishermen under the co-operative fold. It is for this purpose that a legislation has been enacted to implement welfare programmes for their all round progress. Some co-operative societies are already in operation. In 1985 20,997 fishing equipments were distributed to them.

The development activities and welfare programmes implemented by the Kerala Fishermen Corporation, Kerala Inland Fishermen Development Corporation and the Kerala Fishermen Welfare Corporation have been transferred to the Matsyafed. A subsidised housing scheme is being implemented. Under this scheme about 500 houses have already been constructed. There were 10 boat gillnets, 4 trawlers, 5812 country crafts, 584 canoes, 573 plank made country crafts, 753 ordinary nets, 1976 dragnets, 2188 gillnets, 54 drawlnets, 1512 boat scine, 3560 shore scine, 1624 traps, 26,119 hooks and 504 miscellaneous gears in the year 1985.

## HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Thanks to the sound curative health service infrastructure and facilities, we could reduce the infant mortality rate to 37, death rate to 6.7, birth rate to 25.9 and maternal mortality rate below two. This tremendous achievement is attributable to high literacy and the clean health habits of the people etc.

There are 19 major hospitals, 47 dispensaries, 28 primary health centres, one mental hospital, 6 E. S. I. dispensaries, one E. S. I. hospital, one Public Health Laboratory, one T. B. Centre, one mobile Dental unit and 4 grant-in-aid institutions in the district. In the allopathic system of medicine, the Sri Chitra Medical Centre and the Cancer Research Institute maintain a very high standard in providing effective treatment. The combined bed strength of all these hospitals comes to 5930. There is one Filaria Clinic at Parassala. The per capita expenditure on health in 1983-84 was Rs. 54.

The family welfare infrastructure in the district consists of 239 welfare centres. During 1985-86 following achievements were made in the field of family welfare-21,066 sterilization, 5,568 I. U. D., 30,348 cycles of oral pills and Nirodh 911,795.

At the beginning of the year there were 12 Ayurveda hospitals having a bed strength of 225 and 46 dispensaries. Number of patients treated in 1984-85 was above two million.

In the field of Homoeopathy there are four hospitals with a bed strength of 150 and 22 dispensaries. According to the Economic Review, more than 12.5 lakhs patients received treatment in these hospitals during 1984-85.

There are a few grant-in-aid *Vaidyasalas* and *Visha Vaidyasalas*. *Sidha* form of treatment is also popular here. The aided *Vaidyasalas* include a *Marma Vaidyasala* and a *Sidha Vaidyasala*. The Ayurvedic Research Centre at Poojappura has also developed into a major institution.

## POTABLE WATER SUPPLY

During the last three years an intensive effort has been made in providing drinking water not only to the city dwellers but to the rural folk also. As a result several rural water supply schemes and augmentation projects have been started. In 1984-85 there were three urban water supply schemes covering 84% of urban population. With regard to rural water supply 150 schemes were in operation covering 88 villages and 84% of the rural population. The main source of water for distribution in the capital city is the Peppara Dam which has a total capacity storage of 70 million cubic metre.

This Dam has a height of 37 metres from bed level. Water stored in this dam is sufficient for supplying for 200 days in the capital and the nearby villages. The Aruvikkara dam has 10 days storage capacity.

A Rs. 340 lakh water supply project is being implemented at Angengo with the aid of Netherlands. It covers 5 Panchayats viz., Vakkom, Angengo, Azhoor, Chirayinkil and Kizhuvalam providing benefit to about 1.94 lakh people. The construction work of the Vilappil scheme has already been started. The Rs. 132 lakh project is carried out with the aid of the World Bank.

There are some tube wells in Trivandrum District having different capacity. The maximum capacity is 10,000 litres per day. Private tube wells are also in operation in various parts of the district.

### HARIJAN WELFARE

The total Scheduled Caste population in the district, according to 1981 census, is 284,279 which is 10.95 per cent of the total population. The number of literates is 167,747 and the percentage of literacy is 59.01. Of the total Scheduled Caste population 59,302 are agricultural labourers, 1898 cultivators, 2532 household industrialists and 34,850 other workers. There are 55,987 Scheduled Caste households in the district.

The SC colonies in the district are provided with power and drinking water. As a result of the implementation of Special Component and Special Central Assistance Schemes, many families could be brought above the poverty line. In 1985 alone the achievement in this regard was 5000 families. Income generating economic development activities and training and back up services could raise their standard of living. Several schemes are being implemented for the all round development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the district.

### GENERAL EDUCATION

The literacy rate in Trivandrum, according to 1981 census report, is 70.50; 75.29 among males and 65.85 among females. Broadly speaking, 963,063 males and 867,170 females are literates, on the basis of the total population without excluding persons in the age group zero to four. Therefore this cannot be considered as the effective literacy rate. In 1986-87 there were 506 L. P. Schools, 211 U. P. Schools, 226 High Schools, Seven Basic Training Schools and two special schools. The total number of students in the above schools comes to 5,717,457 of which 1,340,827 were in High Schools 1,789,699 in U. P. Schools and 2,586,931 in L. P. Schools.

Adult Literacy Programme is being effectively implemented in the district. There are 130 adult literacy centres and 20 vocational training centres. The Grandhasala movement had developed in the district years back. In every village, nay in wards of Panchayats, there is invariably at least one library and reading room. At present there are more than 400 libraries in the district.

The Trivandrum Public Library which came into existence in 1829 has a sizable collection of valuable volumes of books, periodicals and other important publications.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

The number of Arts and Science Colleges in the District in 1985-86 was 16 where the strength of students is estimated to be 36,995. There were two junior colleges in which 640 students were studying. The two law colleges in the district provide education to 1516 students. The only one Engineering College in Trivandrum accommodates 2188 students. The Trivandrum Medical College provides educational facilities to 1845 persons in different fields of medicine. Similarly the Ayurveda College provides admission to 274 persons. Three training colleges with an admission capacity of 540 and a Homoeo College (147) and a Fine Arts College (121) are also functioning in the capital city. The Swathithirunal College of Music is also a prestigious institution in Trivandrum. The University of Kerala with Trivandrum as headquarters has various research and higher education centres at Kariavattom, just a few kms. away from the capital city. The Trivandrum Press Club conducts a course in Journalism in the Institute just behind the Secretariat.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In the field of technical education, we have to move fast as the number of technical institutions in Kerala is comparatively low. Anyhow many new courses have been introduced recently, for instance a Diploma course in Automobile Engineering and other courses in Television Engineering and Computer application were introduced. The Central Poly Technic in Trivandrum has a capacity of 200 students and the women's Polytechnic has 100 students. There are three technical High Schools, few commercial schools, one food craft institute, five tailoring Vocational Training Centres, three Pre-Vocational Training Institutes, six Tailoring Institutes and one Tailoring and Garment making institute under the Department of Technical Education. Computer programming courses, Computer application courses, training in micro processor for students in Women's Polytechnic and training in modern office equipment for employed women

are being conducted by the Lal Bahadur Sasthri Engineering Research and Consultancy Centre. Training is also given to SCST youths in various modern technology and trades. A computer centre and a water resources management centre are opened in the College of Engineering, Trivandrum.

An Agricultural college with facilities for study and research was started in 1955 at Vellayani, 10 kms. away from Trivandrum. It is affiliated to the Agricultural University of Kerala. A Botanical Research Institute has been started at Palode where different varieties of herbs especially medicinal ones are being cultivated and preserved.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

In a welfare State, the weaker sections, especially poor children, women, destitutes, the handicapped and the aged have to be protected from starvation and deficiency diseases. The social welfare schemes are broadly classified into welfare of the handicapped, welfare of women and children, correctional services and social security. The Child Welfare Programme implemented are health care, pre-school education and nutrition. The school health programme covers a large number of schools and students. In Trivandrum District there are one After Care Hostel, one Home for physically handicapped women, one Home for mentally retarded children, one After Care Home and one vocational care centre for the physically handicapped. Six I. C. D. S. units are functioning at Vallakkadavu, Vattiyoor kavu, Chirayinkil, Nemom, Perumkadavila and Athiyannoor. Up-graded special Nutrition Projects are located in Attingal, Varkala, Neyyattinkara and Nedumangad municipalities and in Trivandrum Corporation. There were 94 feeding centres and 600 Anganawadies. The C. P. W. D. Programmes are also merged with them. In seven Development Blocks maternity and child welfare Programmes are also implemented. Feeding centres are attached to the Mahila Samajams, numbering about 250. Thirty creches are in operation to look after children below three years. Three day-care centres located at Ottoor, Poonkulam and Poovar provide much assistance for fisher folk and coir workers. Widows, unmarried women and wives of convicted persons are given grants to find self-employment. Voluntary organisations having more than three members are given grant upto Rs. 10000 for starting or expansion of business or trade. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2000 by way of grant is given to the couples of inter-caste marriage. Physically handicapped students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families and studying from one to eight standards are provided with scholarships. Pupils studying upto 7th standard are given free noon-meals. Pupils of Standard I are supplied slates, pencils and text book.

There are 12 Development blocks in Trivandrum District. Several welfare Schemes like I. R. D. P., N. R. E. P. etc., are implemented through the Blocks. In the Blocks which are not covered by I. C. D. S. Units, health, nutrition, rural employment, food-for work schemes etc., are carried out by the Blocks directly.

## PANCHAYATS

There are 84 Panchayats in the District, of which 36 are special grade, 41 first grade, and seven second grade. Parassala is the most populous Panchayat in the district. The Panchayats with the help of the Rural Development Board have taken up an eleven point programme that includes construction of roads, burial grounds, community halls, shopping centres, mini stadia, etc.

## PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

There is a wide net work of public distribution units in the District. Retail ration depots numbered 1465 and wholesale 26. The Civil Supplies Department had issued 4,92,000 permanent ration cards to the consumers. Temporary ration cards have also been issued to help the families which could not obtain permanent cards.

The Civil Supplies Corporation has opened Maveli Stores through which all essential commodities are being sold at reasonable prices. There is also one mobile Maveli Store to cover the residents of Trivandrum city. The Super Market in Trivandrum sells almost all kinds of commodities ranging from groceries to wrist watches. Besides the Maveli Stores, Co-operative Maveli Stores are also functioning in various parts of the District.

## COMMUNICATIONS

*Roads:*—The total length of roads administered by Public Works Department in Trivandrum District is 1552 kms. These do not include roads maintained by the Irrigation Department, Electricity Board, Municipalities, Corporation, Forest Department and other bodies. There are 1326 kms. of tarred roads, 185 kms. of metalled roads, and 41 kms. of other roads. The Panchayats maintain 8798 kms. of roads of which 5967 kms. are earthen ones, 150 kms. tarred roads and 2681 kms. are gravelled roads.

The National High Way 47 stretches from Parassala at the southern extremity to Parippally in the north.

*Bridges:*—There are 108 bridges in Trivandrum district. Mavilakadavu, Mandapathinkadavu, Poovampara, Vamanapuram, Thiruvallom, Aruvikkara are the important bridges.

*Road Transport*:—The scheme of nationalisation of transport routes was first introduced in Trivandrum District. Private-managed buses and routes are very remote in the district. Till the end of March 1985, total number of vehicles having valid registration was as follows:

4 wheelers and above (excluding cars)	—	2949
3 wheelers excluding Autorickshaws	—	731
Cars	—	14,861
Taxi cars	—	2441
Jeeps	—	2358
Autorickshaws	—	3422
Scooters bikes etc.	—	21,765
Others	—	6713
K. S. R. T. C. Buses	—	4237

Thus the total No. of vehicles stood at 59,477.

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation had 14 units in the district which operated 1200 buses and 1073 schedules covering more than 10 lakh passengers every day. Nearly 1/3rd of the Corporation's total strength of buses is being operated in the district.

#### *Railways:*

Trivandrum is connected with Quilon by a broad gauge line. A Railway Division with headquarters in Trivandrum has been started. Venad Express, Quilon Passenger, Parasuram Express, Kanyakumari-Bombay Janatha Express, Bangalore Express, Kerala Express, Guhati Express (only on Thursdays), Madras Mail, Ahmedabad Express (only on Mondays), Kottayam Passenger, Vanchinad Express, Mangalore Express, Cannanore Express, Trivandrum-Nagercoil Passenger, Jammu-Tawi Express (sun) are the main schedules being operated by the Trivandrum division.

#### *Airways:*

Air India is operating 16 services from the Trivandrum Airport. These services cover Dubai, Abudabi, Kuwait, Behrin, Sharjah, Ras-Al-Khaima and Sri Lanka etc. The services operated by the Indian Air-lines are to the cities such as Delhi, Bombay, Goa, Madras, Cochin, Trichi, Bangalore, Colombo and Maldives. These schedules number 14. The Air Lanka is operating from Trivandrum eight services to Colombo.

#### *Other Facilities:*

In Trivandrum North and South divisions, there were 392 post offices. Each post office covered an area of 5.95 kms. and a population of 6223 persons. The Trivandrum Telephone district had a

total equipped capacity of 17600 connections of which 16013 were working connections as on April 1985. At that time there were 131 public call offices in the district.

## HOUSING

Of late there has been tremendous progress in housing activity both in the public as well as in the private sector. The Kerala State Housing Board is the main agency which implements the five housing schemes of which the subsidised aided self-help housing scheme is the most important one. Construction of 652 quarters at Poojapura were completed recently. The main colonies constructed by the Board in Trivandrum city and the nearby Panchayats are Prasanth Nagar (84 flats), Kowdiar Gardens (86 houses and 8 plots), Vrindavan Gardens (56 houses, 13 plots and 276 flats), Nedumangad (108 houses and 2 plots), Kadakampally (29 houses and 3 plots), Thycaud (66 flats), N. C. C. Road (33 houses and 66 plots), Pandit's colony (27 houses and 193 plots), Pongummoodu (10 houses, 21 plots), Ambala Nagar (68 plots), K. T. Jacob Nagar (248 houses and 62 plots), P. T. P. Nagar (256 houses and 71 plots), Kalpaka Nagar (112 houses and one plot), Jawahar Nagar (174 houses), Santhi Nagar (42 houses), Muttada (49 houses), Chempakaseri (15 houses), Samadhithoppu (46 houses), Kizhe veedu (20 houses), Seeveli Nagar (42 houses) Templeview (33 houses), Subhash Nagar (53 houses), Indira Nagar (106 houses and 19 plots), Medical College (18 flats and 51 plots), Padma Nagar (62 houses), Nalanchira (166 flats and 113 plots), Nettayam (71 plots), Balaramapuram (76 houses), Muttathara (18 houses), Thirumala (43 houses), Sree-Nagar (46 plots), Punnackal Thoppu (254 flats) shopping-cum residential complex, Pattom (64 plots) and some recent ones.

Under the subsidised aided self help housing scheme 1600 houses had been completed in the district in 1985.

In the heart of the city large flats have been constructed to accommodate the slum dwellers. Of the proposed 700 plots 328 houses have already been constructed and distributed to the poor families.

The Board of Revenue implements seven housing schemes. The Public Works Department carries out rental housing and Quarters construction scheme. The Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation and its affiliated primary societies implement the co-operative housing scheme for the economically weaker sections. The Kerala State Development Corporation for SC/ST, the Kerala Fishermen Welfare Co-operative, the Tribal Welfare Department, Fisheries Department and the voluntary agencies are also engaged in the construction of houses for different sections of the public.

## *Industry:*

Trivandrum is an industrially backward District. In 1984, there were 429 registered working factories providing employment to 18,045 persons. They included 12 oil mills, 11 cashew factories, 12 cotton textiles, 53 saw mills, 55 printing and publishing units, 39 rubber and rubber products units, 13 chemical units, 10 match factories, 71 general engineering units and 31 automobile workshops.

There were 10 large and medium industries in Trivandrum District. Travancore Titanium Products, the Kerala Automobiles, English Indian Clays, Hindustan Latex, T. K. Chemicals, Metropolitan Engineering Company, Trivandrum Rubber Works, KELTRON, Vijaya Mohini Mills and Trivandrum spinning-weaving mills are major industries.

Till the end of March 1985, there were 2979 registered small scale units in the district of which, 1875 were working units employing 8050 persons. Industrial co-operative societies numbered 230.

The age old industries of the district are handloom weaving, ivory, born-wood and coconut shell carvings, rattan works, brass and bell metal industries, coir yarn, oil crushing, smithy, pot making, ornaments manufacture etc. There were 51 handicraft co-operative societies of which 20 alone were in operation.

The S. M. S. M. Institute in Trivandrum is the major institution through which the products of handicrafts industries are sold.

There is an industrial estate at Pappanamcode and an industrial development centre at Kochuveli. In addition to them there are a few mini industrial units most of which are under the co-operative fold.

Traditional industries such as coir and handloom have secured the pride of place in the employment map of the district. But these industries are now faced with several problems. The main varieties of coir produced are the Anjengo variety and the Muppuri variety. Handloom weaving is prevalent at Balaramapuram, Amaravila, Kulathur and Chirayinkil. It is estimated that cloths worth Rs. 600 lakhs is annually produced in the handloom sector. Twenty depots of the Hantex and five showrooms of Hanveev were also functioning in the district.

Electronic industries is fast developing in the district. In the Zybernetics division of the KELTRON which is now engaged in the manufacture of a range of mini and micro computers and computer based systems, took up a project for setting up a production unit in Trivandrum. A number of diversification and expansion projects

including the manufacture of data acquisition system in technical collaboration with renowned foreign companies have been taken up. The project in collaboration with Ms. B. B. C., Brown Bouery, Kent, Switzerland is for the manufacture of high capacity U. P. S. System in the KELTRON Equipment Complex at Karakulam. The Keltron T. V. sets have captured a good market throughout the length and breadth of the nation. The Corporation took over Metropolitan Instruments Limited, a private firm in Trivandrum which produce electromechanical counters.

## FORESTS

Trivandrum District has a reserve forest area of 57058 hectares spreading over three ranges viz: the Kulathupuzha range in the north, the Palode range in the middle and the Paruthipalli range in the south. These forests may be broadly classied under three categories:

- (a) Southern tropical wet ever green forests
- (b) Southren tropical and semi ever green forests and
- (c) Southern tropical moist desiduous forests.

Rose wood, Thembavu, Anjili, Jack fruit tree, Akil, Venga, Venthekku, Manjakadambu and Irul constitute the chief timber species.

The social forestry programme is being implemented under four schemes, viz. World Bank-aided Kerala Social Forestry project, N.R.E.P., Rural Fuel-wood scheme to assist small and marginal farmers. Under the scheme six million seedlings of 80 different species had been distributed in 1985-86. Through 500 centres in the District forestry clubs numbering 19 have been organised in schools and colleges. The sale proceeds in Trivandrum Sales Division was Rs. 6.69 crores.

## LAND REFORMS

The Kerala Land Reforms Act is being implemented expeditiously. Upto the end of October, 1985, surplus lands were distributed to 5226 families of which 2952 belonged to Scheduled Castes. Out of 5203 beneficiaries of house site distribution scheme, 2941 were scheduled caste families. A total area of 9064 hectares of Poramboke lands was distributed to 39,284 families of which 6281 S.C./S.T. families received 1485 hectares. A total number of 24,643 tenancy cases were received and the disposal came to 24,394. In the 'Kudikidappu' cases" 36,539 applications were received and 36,198 cases disposed. Similarly of the 1492 ceiling cases received only three remained to be disposed. The extent of surplus land ordered to surrender was 1692 acres and 867 acres were taken over and 588 acres distributed.

## **POWER**

Trivandrum District has no hydro-electric projects. All the villages in the district have been electrified and power is, therefore available in almost every nook and corner of the district. In order to rectify the defects in transmission, a 220 K. V. line was connected to Paruthipara Sub Station. 366 K. V. Sub stations will be started shortly. There were 2,83,337 consumers in the district and the monthly consumption of power was estimated to be 16,365,588 units. Sub stations in the district number nine. Till 1984-85, 3250 pumpsets were energised.

## **LAND AND ORDER**

The population in Trivandrum District is 2,596,112 and the density comes to 1184 per sq. k.m. In order to provide security to the lives and properties of the citizens, law and order has to be maintained infact. It is with this purpose that 44 Police stations have been established in the district of which 15 are in Trivandrum city. Six out-posts have also been set up. White patrol and mobile units are in operation round the clock and their movements are supervised by one white marshall unit. The traffic in Trivandrum city has of late become very heavy and automatic traffic signal posts have been installed in three places. Three fire force units have been set up at Chakkai, Neyyattinkara and Trivandrum. They have been provided with fire force vehicles. There is a police training camp at Nandavanam and a police training college at Thycaud. Temple squad, counterfeit squad and special investigation team have also been organised. A police computer centre is also working under a D. I. G. The S. A. P. camp is located at Peroorkada and the C. R. P. camp at Pallippuram. At Pangode there is a military camp. The Kazhakuttam Sainik College has earned much reputation for having trained the best cadets in the country. In almost all the educational institutions above the upper primary level there are N.C.C. units. The headquarters of the Southern Air Command of the Indian Airforce has recently been established in the Capital city.

## **PLACES OF INTEREST**

### **Trivandrum**

Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala State and the headquarters of Trivandrum district, is connected by air, rail and road. Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple, the Kanakakkunnu Palace, the Observatory, the Secretariat, the Vikas Bhavan, the Kaudiar Palace, the Senate House, the Karthikathirunal Theatre, the Tagore Centenary Theatre, and the Museum are some of the tourist attractions in the

city. Chitralayam or the Art Gallery with its rich collection of exquisite paintings is another attraction. The S.M.S.M. Institute and the Aquarium attract a large number of tourists. The swimming pool, the Rangasala, the Science and Technology Museum, House of Soviet culture, the Botanical Gardens, The Chitranjali studio are added attractions.

The Raj Bhavan, the New Public Office Building, (Vikas Bhavan) the Central Library, the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, the Residency, the Legislative Chamber, the Legislator's Hostel, the Medical College, General Hospital, Ophthalmic Hospital, Mental Hospital, T. B. Sanatorium, University College, Engineering College, Ayurveda College, College of Fine Arts and the Wellington Water Works are only a few of the imposing structures that adorn the city. There are three big stadia (the University Stadium, the Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium and the Central Stadium) in the city. A Velodrom has been constructed at Kariavattom and an indoor stadium near the swimming pool.

Sanghumughom beach is a striking attraction. The Aerodrome, the Government Engineering Workshop, the Trivandrum Rubber Works and the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., are situated in the vicinity of Sanghumugham beach.

Interesting places worth visiting in the neighbourhood of Trivandrum city are Aruvikkara Water Works, Kovalam Beach and Ponnudi Hills. The Neyyar Dam at a distance of 29 kms. also offers scenic splendour as well as opportunities for hikes and mountaineering.

Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari-now in Tamil Nadu) the land's end of India is only 87 kms. away from Trivandrum. On the way to Cape is Padmanabhapuram an ancient palace with old murals.

### **Kovalam**

This beach, 12 k. ms. south of Trivandrum, is one of the finest in India. A high rocky promontory jutting into the sea has created a beautiful bay of calm waters for sea bathing. The India Tourism Development Corporation has developed Kovalam as an integrated seaside resort. The beach complex includes the Ashoka Beach Resort, a hotel owned by the I. T. D. C. a string of cottages, the Haleyon castle (convention facility), a shopping area, swimming pools, as also a Yoga centre and facilities for medical oil bath and massage under experts. The Hotel Samudra run by the K. T. D. C. is also near by besides the numerous ones managed by private agencies.

### **Ponnudi**

A pleasant resort with an elevation of 912 m. Ponnudi is reached by road from Trivandrum. There are several tea and rubber

estates around the hills. A hill-tribe called "Kanikkars" live in the surrounding areas. Ponmudi is fast developing as a hill resort with accommodation facilities, in rooms and dormitories, catering, hill-trails for hiking and a collection of flowering trees and a deer park. Ponmudi is only 61 kms. away from Trivandrum.

### **Neyyar Dam**

Lying against the southern low hills of the Western ghats, 32 kms. away from the city, the project area offers facilities for boating and mountaineering. A three hour climb on the hills across the reservoir affords the thrill of hiking. There are two beautiful waterfalls on the way. A Lion Safari Park has been started recently. A crocodile rearing centre has also been set up in the reservoir.

### **Aruvikkara**

Sixteen kms. north of Trivandrum and gifted with lavish scenic beauty is Aruvikkara, with an ancient temple dedicated to Durga, on the banks of the river. Trivandrum gets its water supply from Aruvikkara reservoir.

### **Veli Lagoon**

On the outskirts of Kerala's capital, by the side of the placid waters of Veli Lake, the Boat Club attracts the city people and tourists. Veli being developed as a major tourist spot by providing facilities for Pedal-boating, row boating, swimming, get-together etc., is just the right place for an exciting outing.

The Youth Hostel at Veli which is hardly 3 kms. from airport, provides inexpensive dormitory type accommodation. Veli with its palm-fringed lake is easily accessible by road.

### **Varkala**

51 kms. north of Trivandrum by rail or road, Varkala is a pilgrim centre. The Samadhi of Sree Narayana Guru, the great social reformer, philosopher and saint attracts devotees in their thousands. The cliffs and mineral water springs at the beach worth a visit. The internal waterways system connecting Quilon in the north with Trivandrum in the south passes through two tunnels in the hills. The Janardhana Swamy Temple attracts many devotees.

### **Agastyakoodam**

About 1869 metres above sea level, Agastyakoodam is a prominent peak of the Western Ghats. It is a pilgrim centre of the Hindus. Tradition says that the great sage Agastya had his abode in this peak. The place is also noted for its abundant Ayurvedic herbs.

## **Anchuthengu**

Situated 40 kms. north of Trivandrum along the sea-coast, Anchuthengu is a place of historic importance. It was here that the first settlement of the English East India Company was established in 1864 A. D. According to the local folk, the limits of area where five coconut palms stood (Anjuthengu-Anjengo) was given on lease to the Company by the then ruling prince of Travancore for trade purposes. The remains of the old English Fort which had withstood many a siege can be seen here even now.

## **Thumba**

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre on Veli Hills near Thumba, about 10 kms. north-west of Trivandrum is a place of tourist attraction. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has established there numerous units in different fields of space research.

## **Neyyattinkara**

Neyyattinkara is an ancient town, situated about 20 kms. south-east of Trivandrum. The Sree Krishna Swami Temple, founded by King Marthanda Varma of former Travancore in 1757 is of historical importance. Within the premises of the temple, there is a historic jack tree, known as "Ammachi Plau" in the hollow of which Marthanda Varma is believed to have hid himself and escaped death at the hands of his enemies.

## **Aruvippuarm**

The place is about three kms. from Neyyattinkara. There is a small waterfall here. A small Siva temple founded by Sree Narayana Guru attracts a large number of worshippers during the Sivarathri festival. It is a beautiful spot for holiday seekers.

## **Balaramapuram**

A flourishing weaving centre, Balaramapuram is famous for its hand-spun cloth. It is about 13 kms. south of Trivandrum. The Trivandrum Spinning and Weaving Mill is located here.

## **Vizhinjam**

About 2 kms. south of Kovalam, Vizhinjam is believed to have been an ancient port. The Portuguese and the Dutch had commercial establishments here. Vizhinjam is being developed as a modern fishing harbour, with a light-house.

## **Poovar**

Poovar, situated about 29 kms. south of Trivandrum was a trading centre in the early days and was one of the ancient ports of the District. It is said that the famous Jesuit Missionary

St. Francis Xavier visited the place in the 16th century for missionary activities.

### **Thiruvallom**

Thiruvallom is situated about six kms. south of Trivandrum city on the Trivandrum-Kovalam road. There is an ancient temple here on the banks of the Karamana river which is dedicated to the Trimurthis of the Hindu Pantheon. A shrine of Parasuram built entirely of granite stone is found in this temple.

### **Sarkara**

Sarkara is about 35 kms. north-west of Trivandrum and six kms. south-west of Attingal. There is a famous temple which is dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathi. A grand festival is conducted in this temple during March-April.

### **Kombaikani and Meenmutti Waterfalls**

These are two magnificent waterfalls on the upper reaches of the Neyyar Reservoir. A trek of two kms. through dense forests, one would reach Meenmutti Waterfalls and a further two kms. the Kombaikani Waterfalls. The waterfalls and the forests around them are worth seeing.

### **Peppara**

Peppara is about 50 kms from Trivandrum enroute Ponmudi. The sanctuary there with its rich mammalian fauna and birds is emerging as a big attraction to wildlife enthusiasts and ornithologists. It was established in 1983 over an area of 53 sq.m. on the western ghats. Elephant, sambu, leopard and lion tailed macque and cormarand are commonly seen here.

## **MASS MEDIA**

'Kerala Chandrika', the first news paper in the State was published from Trivandrum District in the year 1789. At present 13 dailes are published from the district. They are Chitradesam, Kalapremi, Kerala Herald (English), Kerala Kaumudi, Kerala Patrika, Kerala Samachar, Mathrubhumi, Pothujanam, Prabhata-varta, Sahakarana Mekhala, Southern Star, Malayala Manorama and Yeenadu. Periodicals and journals play an important role in the civic life of the district. Several weeklies, fortnightlies, monthlies, bimonthlies, quarterlies are published from various parts of the District. In addition to them Government Departments, Boards and Corporations are also bringing out fortnightlies and monthlies like the Kerala Karshakan, the Janapadham, the Kerala Calling, the Vyavasaya Keralam, the Grama Deepam, the Gramabhumi, the Sahakarana Veedhi, the Vidyarangam and the Transport Review.

The Public Relations Department is the main agency of the Government to disseminate information to the public and to report the feed back to the Government. It has provided in the Directorate

a well facilitated press room for accredited correspondents. The Tagore Centenary theatre under the control of the Department arranges public and private cultural performances and display of films on almost every day. In the Rangasala open, air auditorium situated in the Museum campus, films are screened in the evening on all days except Monday.

### **RADIO STATION**

Trivandrum Station of the AIR broadcasts and relays programmes from 5.55 a.m. in the morning to 11.05 p.m. in the night. They relate to agriculture, rural development, Women and child care and health sanitation and a host of other activities. Most of the programmes are cultural having an entertainment value. Commercial broadcasts are also being arranged here. The main transmitting radius of the station is 28 kms. and the Secondary Service radius is 39 kms.

### **DOORDARSHAN**

A small transmission unit of the Doordarshan centre was started in the Tagore theatre by the end of 1982 in order to provide facilities to the people of Trivandrum city and the precincts to view the programmes of the ASIAD. A 10 K. W. high power transmitter was later installed at Kudappanakkunnu. It has a normal range of 80 k.m. radius but using boosters, telecast can be received up to 120 kms. The T. V. Centre covers 70 lakh people.

### **FILM INDUSTRY**

The Kerala State Film Development Corporation was constituted in July 1975 with a view to encourage the Malayalam Film Industry. In order to create adequate film production facilities, the Corporation built up a modern self-sufficient film studio complex christened as Chitranjali Studio at Thiruvallom hills near Kovalam where facilities for recording, re-recording, mixing and dubbing work, and editing are available. The indoor studio covers 12,000 square feet, the second largest floor in Asia. It is sound proof and has a ceiling of 50 feet high. Facilities are available to process and print 35 mm and 16 mm colour and black and white film and also for reduction of 35 mm film to 16 mm and for blowing up 16 mm to 35 mm. The fine editing rooms are fully air-conditioned and dust controlled. A 12 channel mixing console, four track pickup recorders, Nagra recorders, a latest technology to transfer sound from 16 mm to 35 mm, optical tone magnetic recorders are other special facilities. There are four outdoor film units. A super mini theatre has also been constructed.

## District at a glance

Area	:	2192 Sq. Kms.
Population	:	25,96,112 (1981 Census)
Male	:	12,79,150
Female	:	13,16,962.
Density of Population	:	1184/sq. km.
Literacy	:	70.5 p.c.
Male	:	75.29 p. c.
Female	:	65.85 p.c.
Taluks	:	4 Chirayinkil Nedumangad Trivandrum and Neyyattinkara
Revenue Villages	:	125
Development Blocks	:	12
Panchayats	:	84
Municipal towns	:	4 Varkala Attingal Neyyattinkara Nedumangad
Corporation	:	1 Trivandrum
Electorate	:	1,706,732



*Government Secretariat*



*Umayamma Rani Palace, Nedumangad*



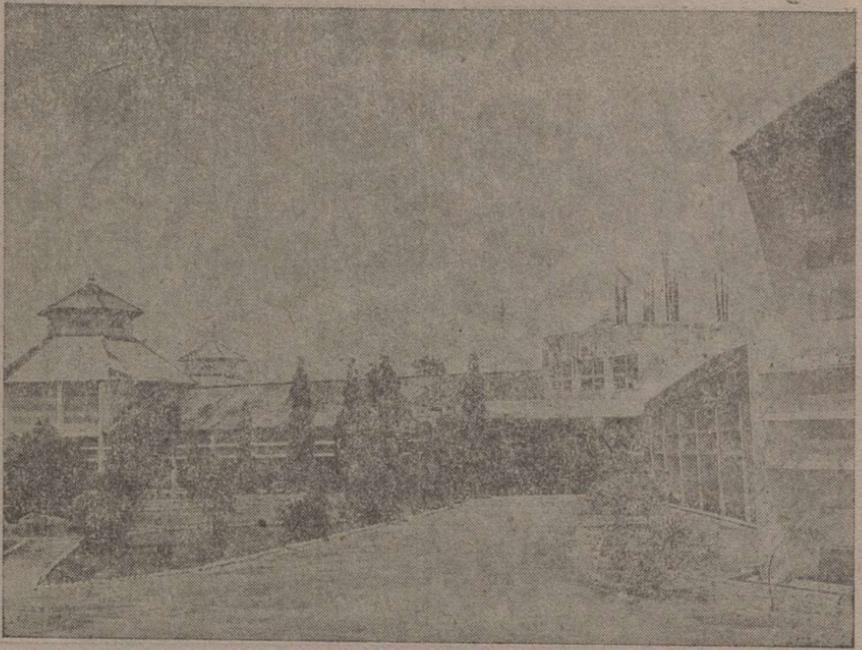
*Kilimanoor Ravi Varma Palace*



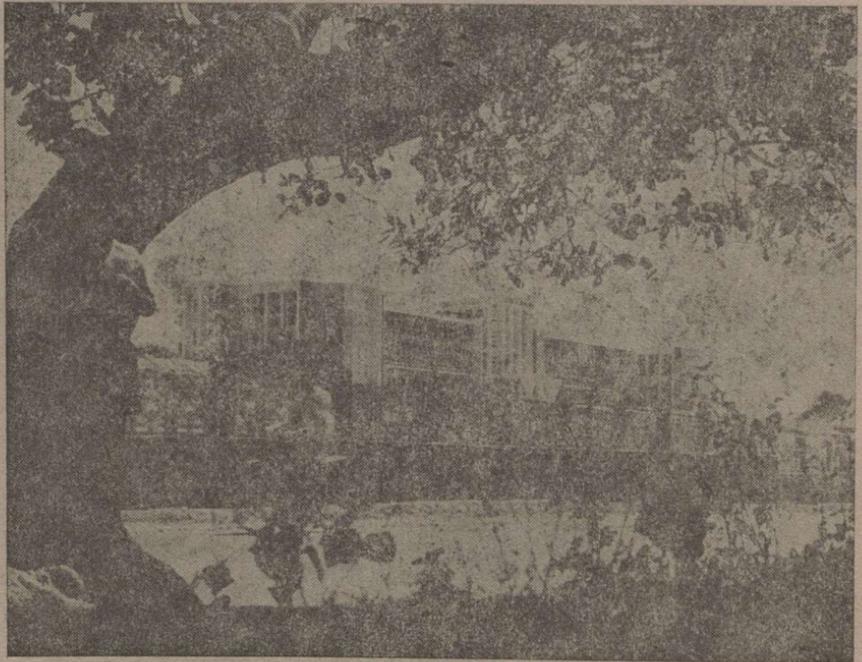
*Museum, Trivandrum*



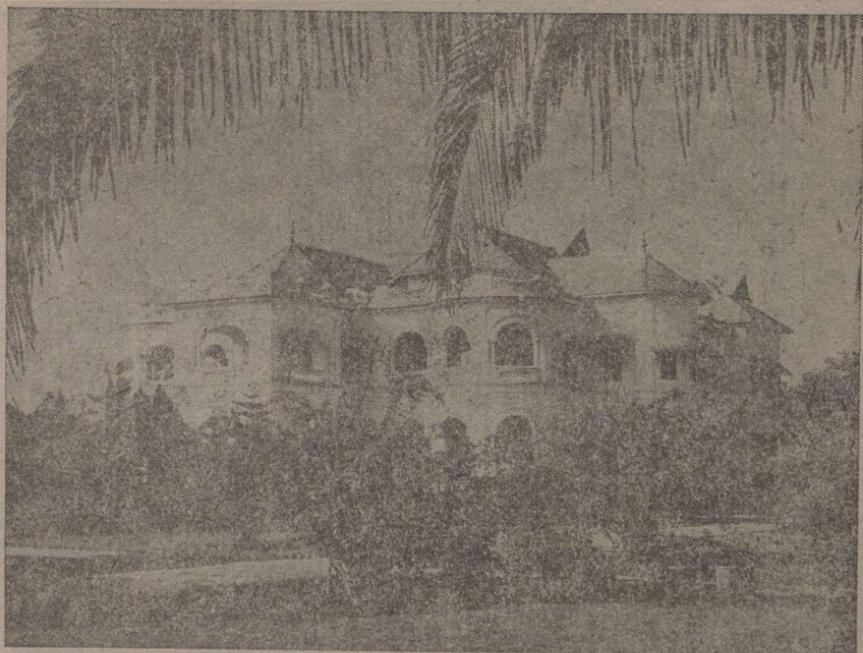
*Government Guest House, Trivandrum*



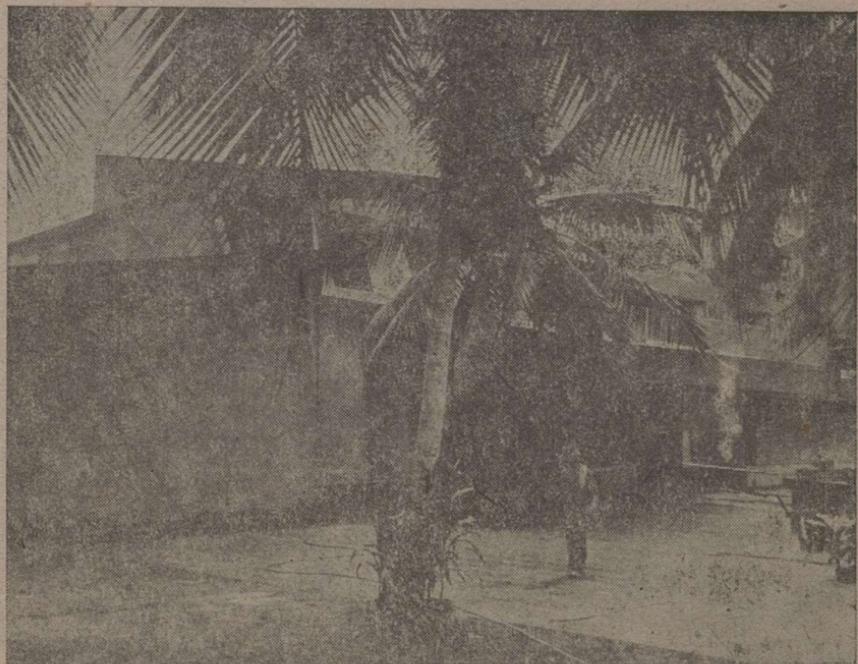
*Sainik School, Kazhakkootam*



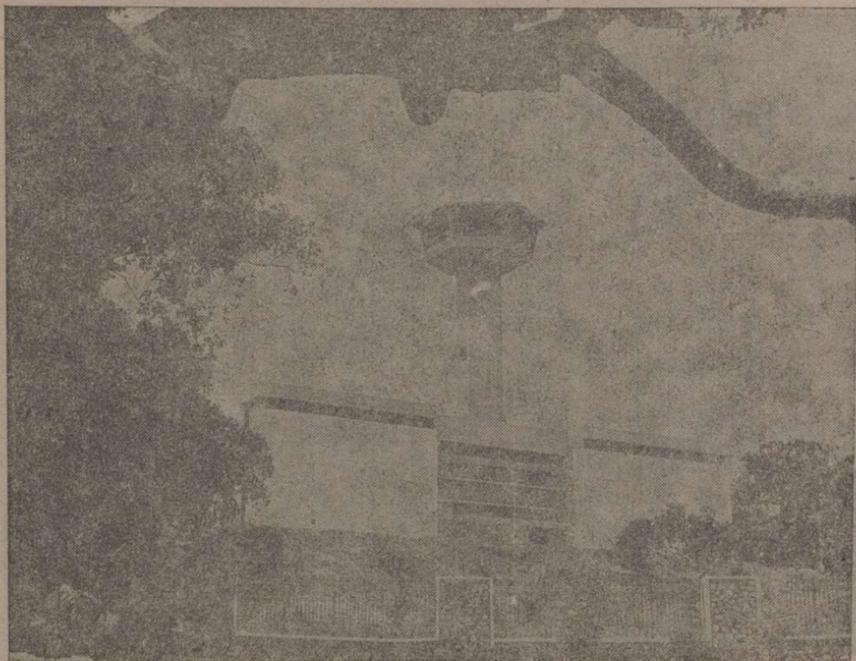
*Engineering College, Trivandrum*



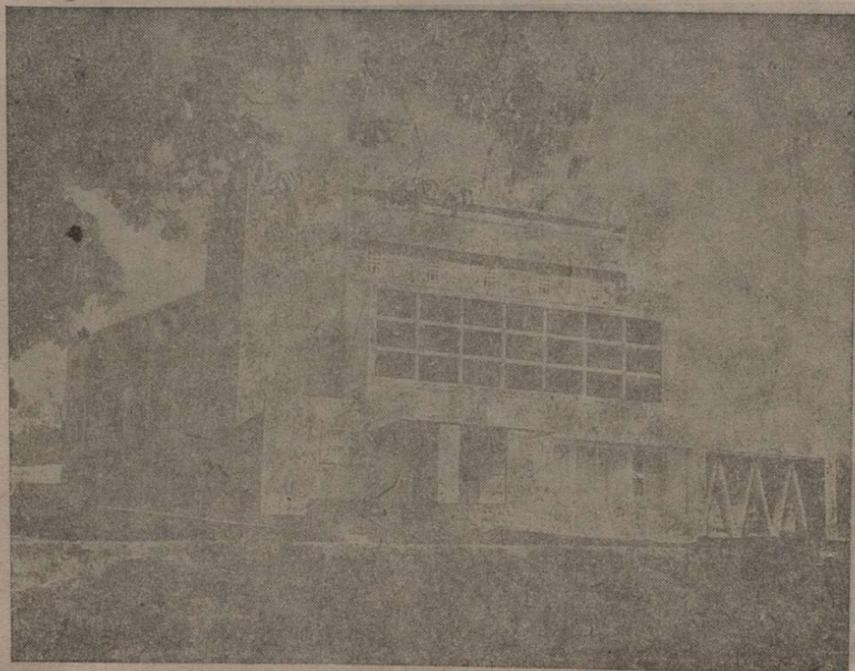
*Agricultural College, Vellayani*



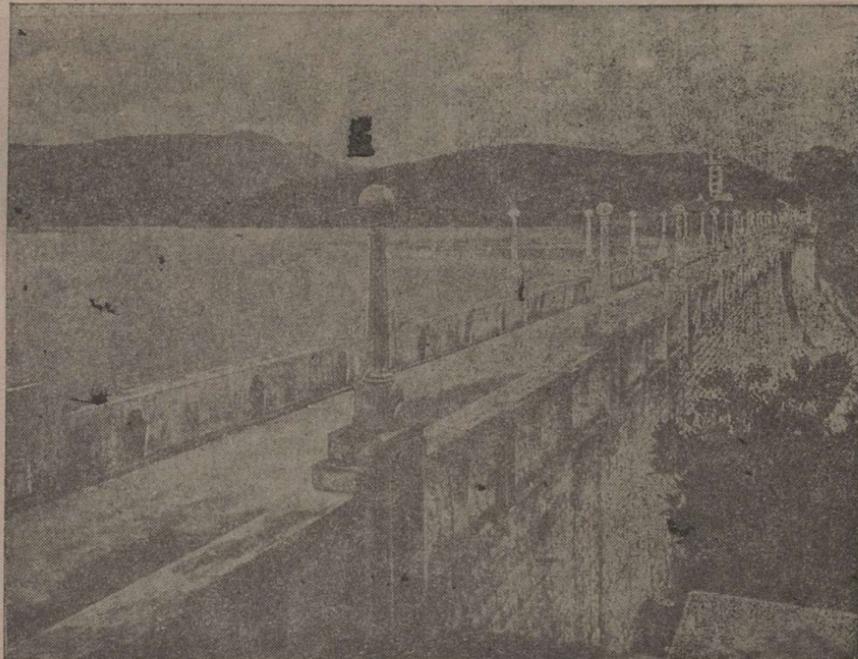
*Chitrangali Film Studio, Thiruvallan*



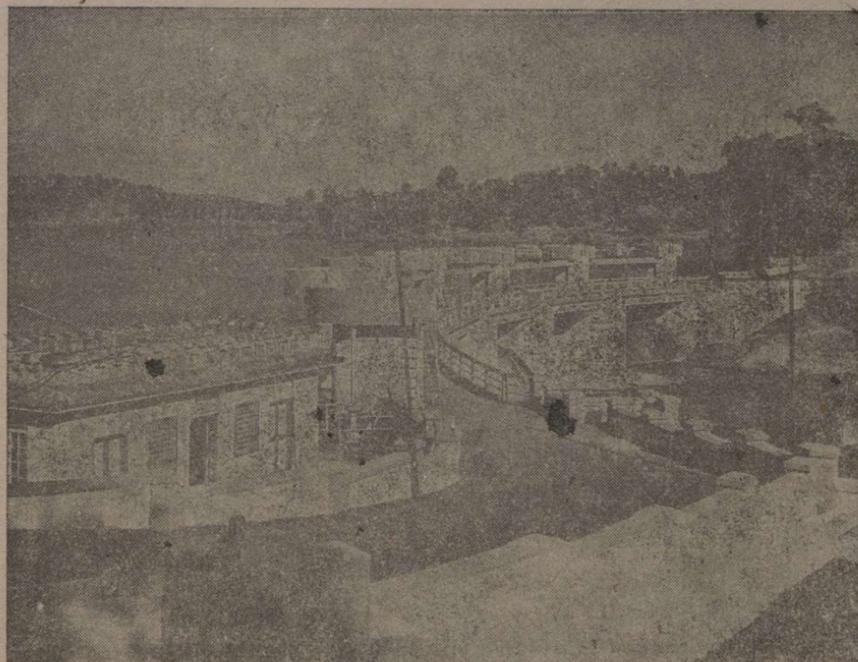
*Doordarsan Kendra, Trivandrum*



*Tagore Theatre, Trivandrum*



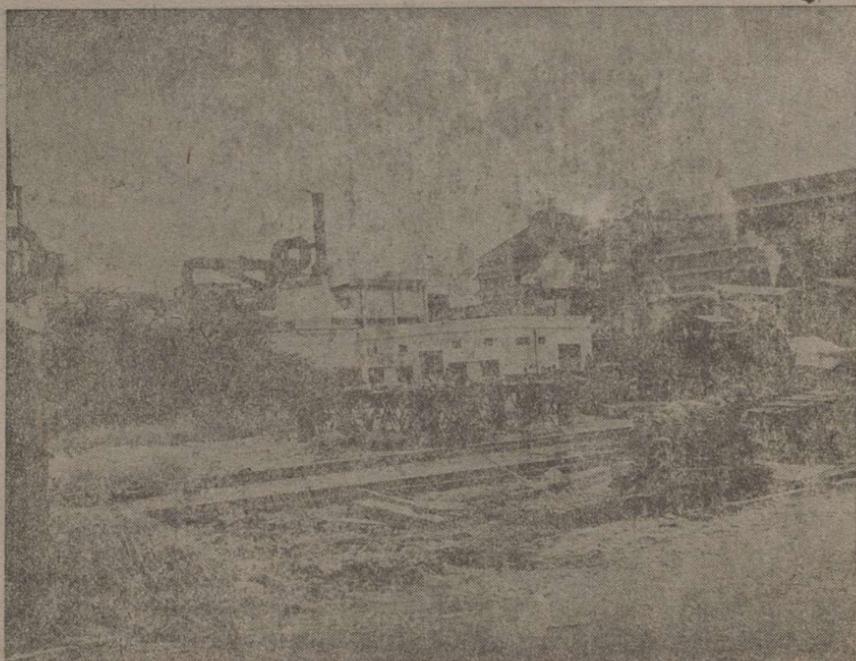
*Neyyar Dam*



*Aruvikkara Dam*



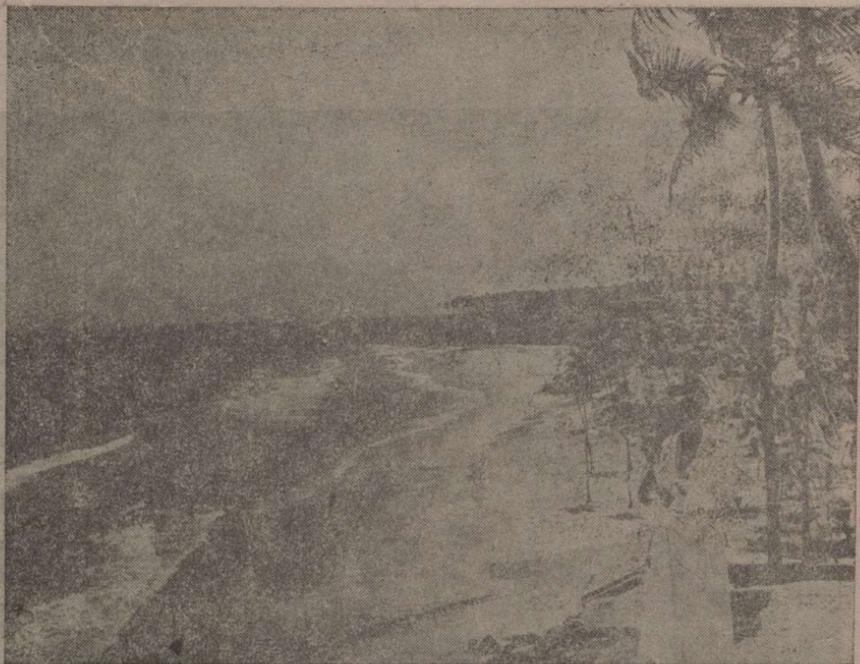
*Peppara Dam*



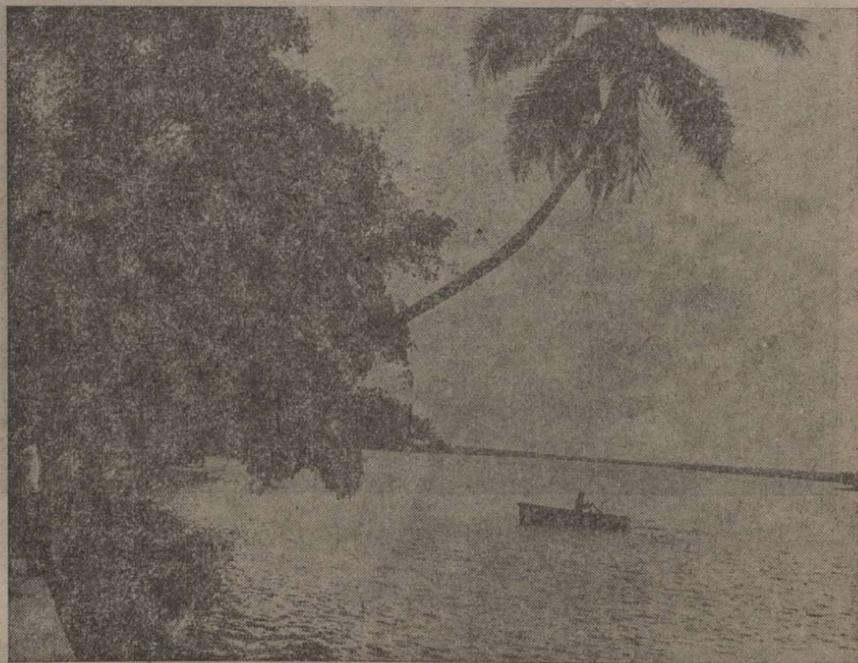
*Titanium Factory*



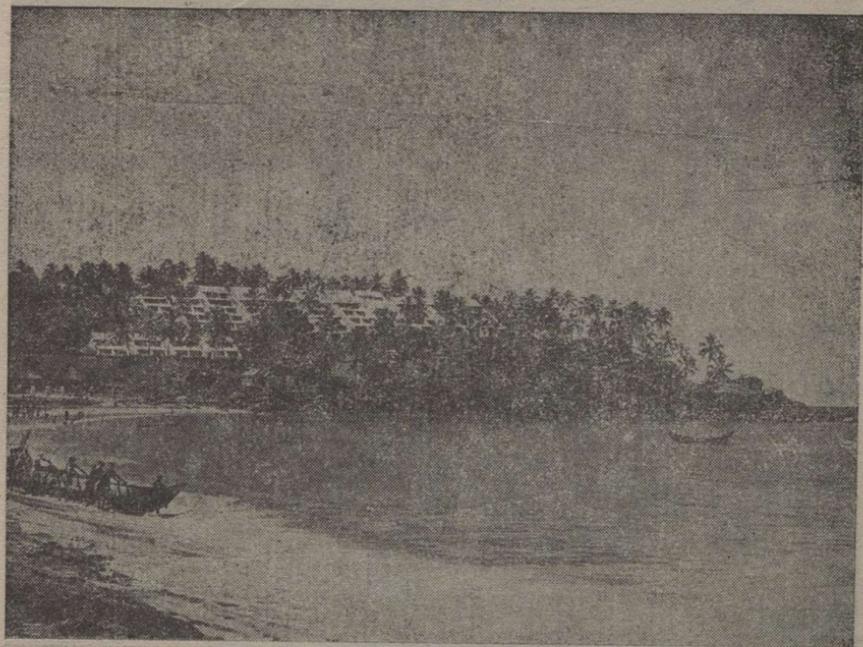
*Kombai Kani Waterfall*



*Varkala Seashore*



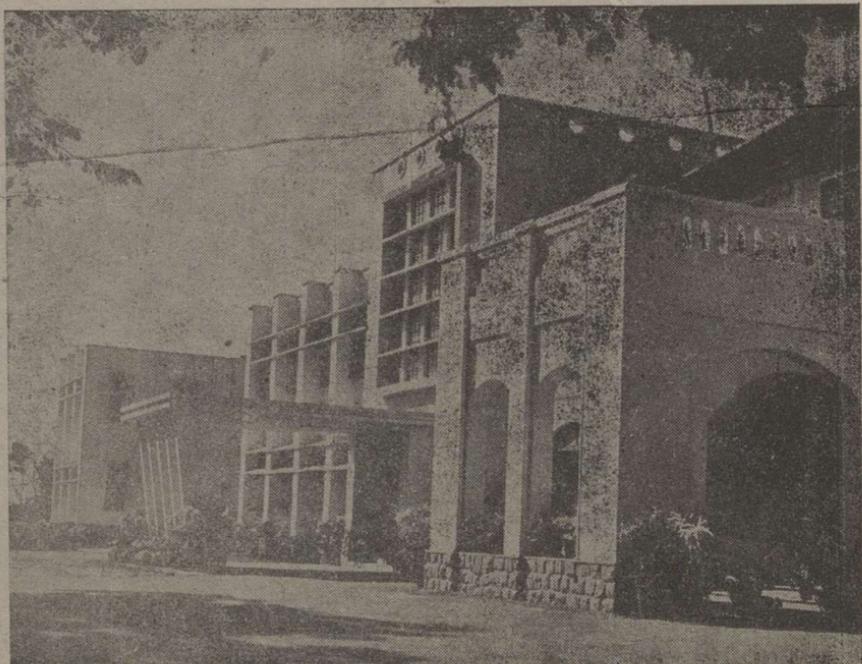
*Veli Lagoon*



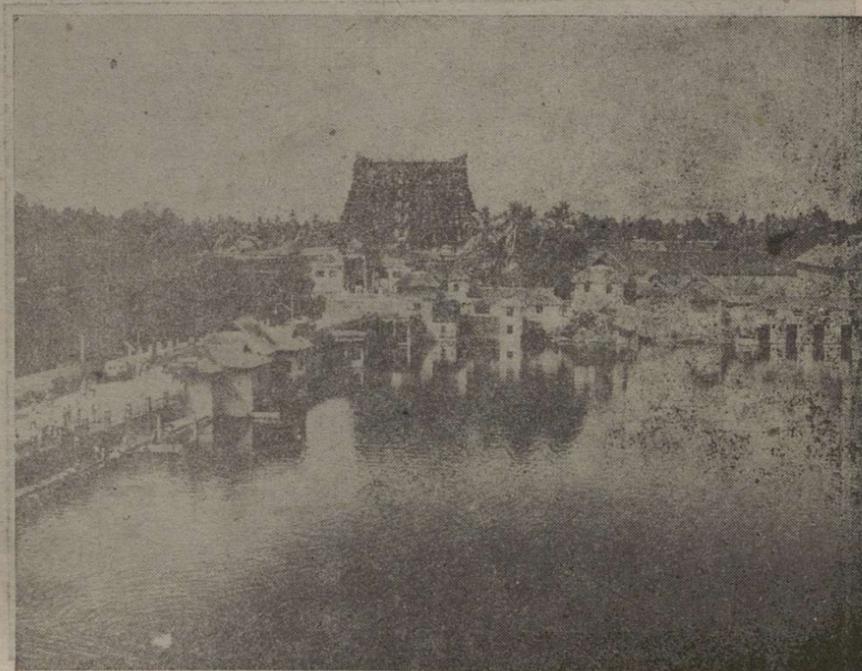
*I. T. D. C's. Ashoka Beach Resort, Kovalam*

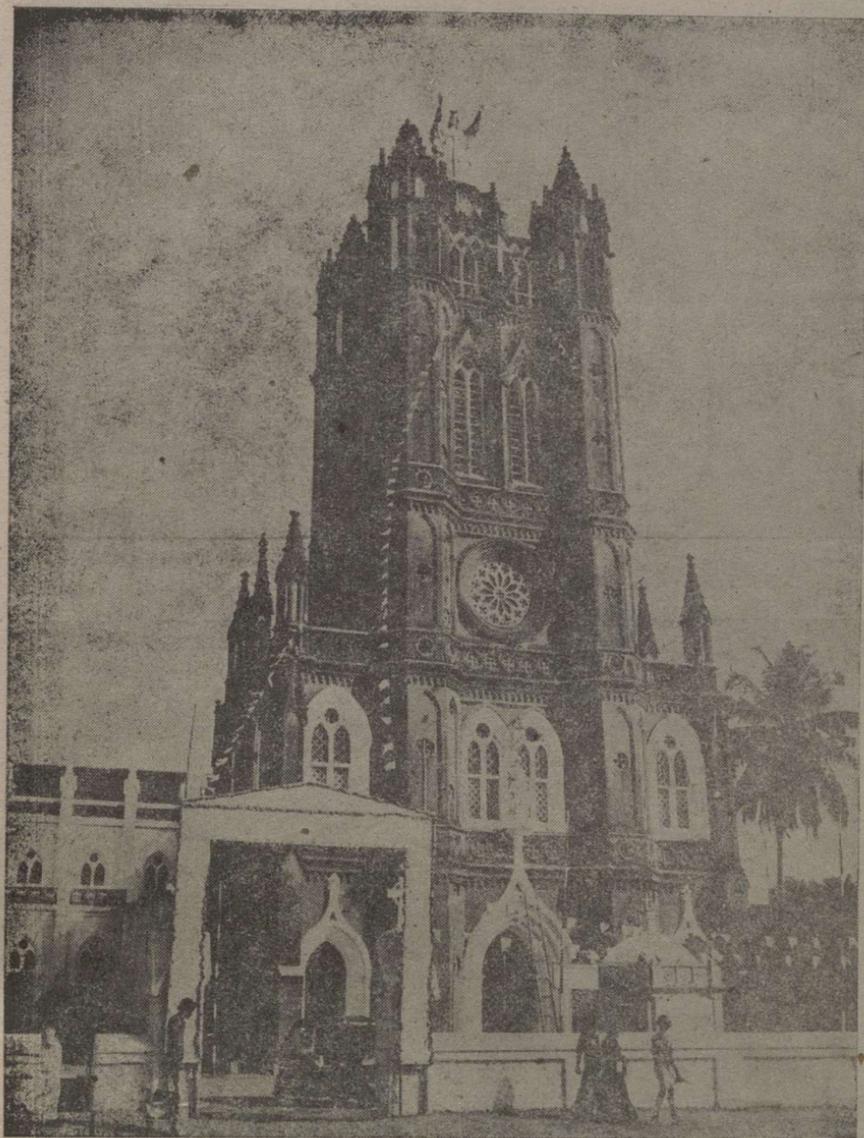


*K. T. D. C's. Hotel Samudra, Kovalam*



*Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum*

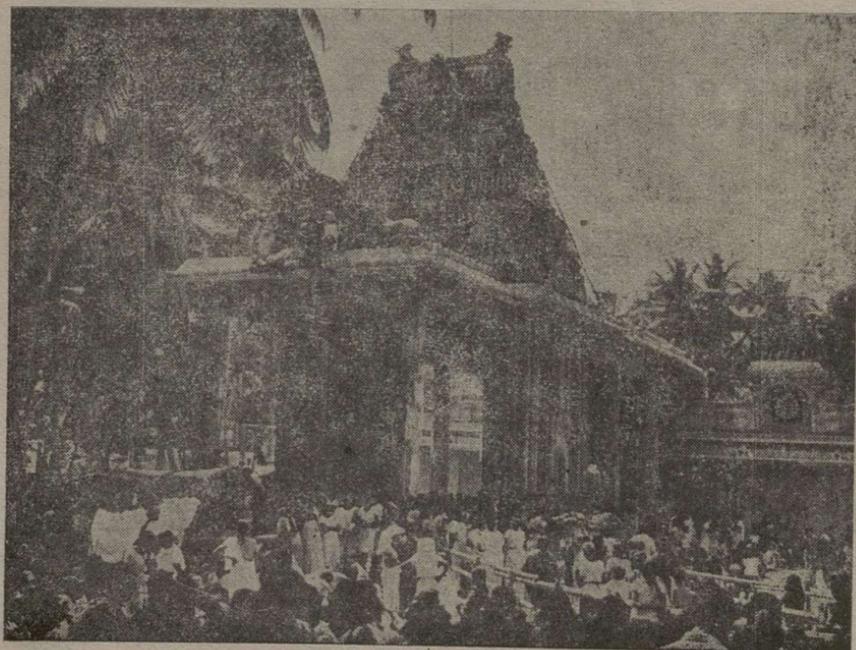




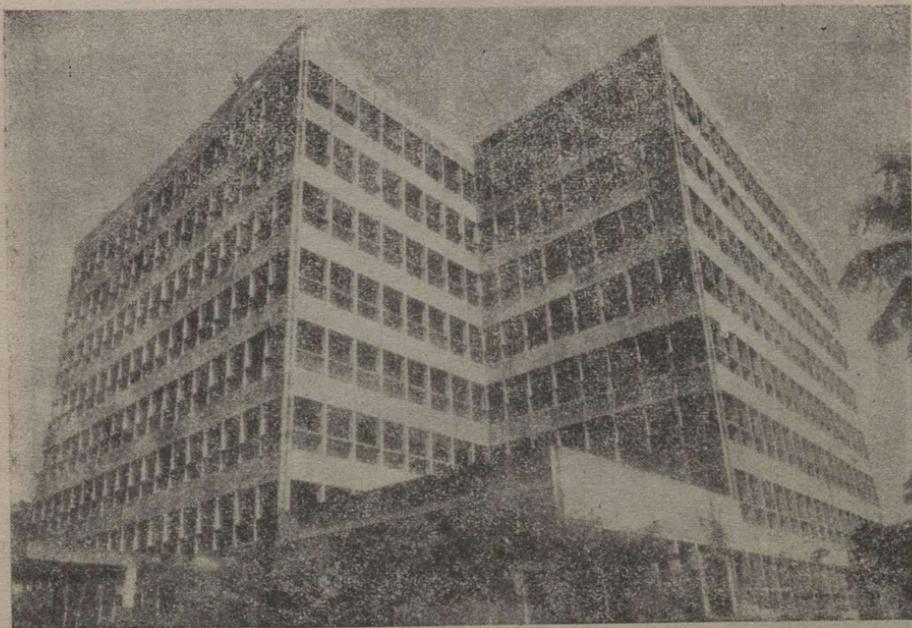
*St. Joseph's Cathedral, Palayam*



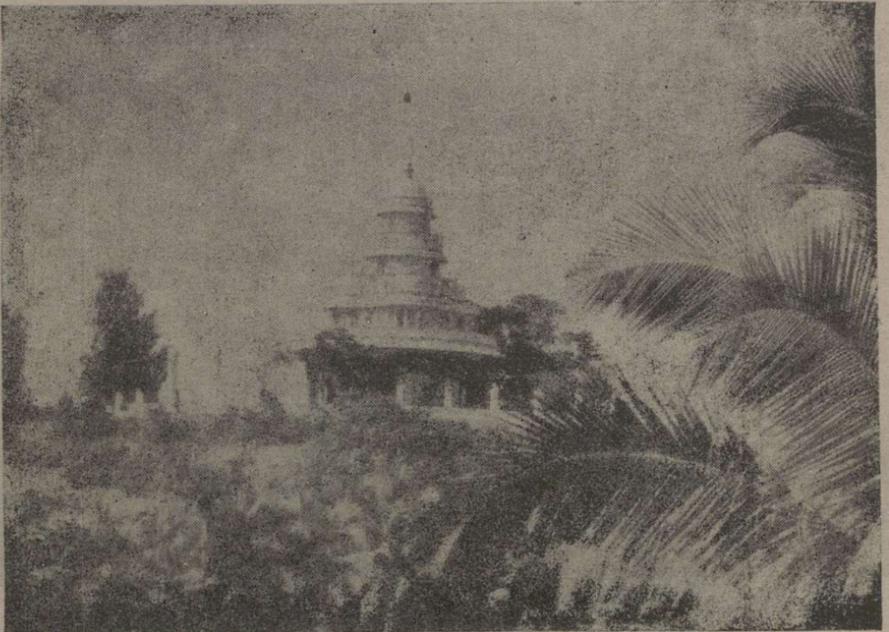
*Juma Masjid, Palayam*



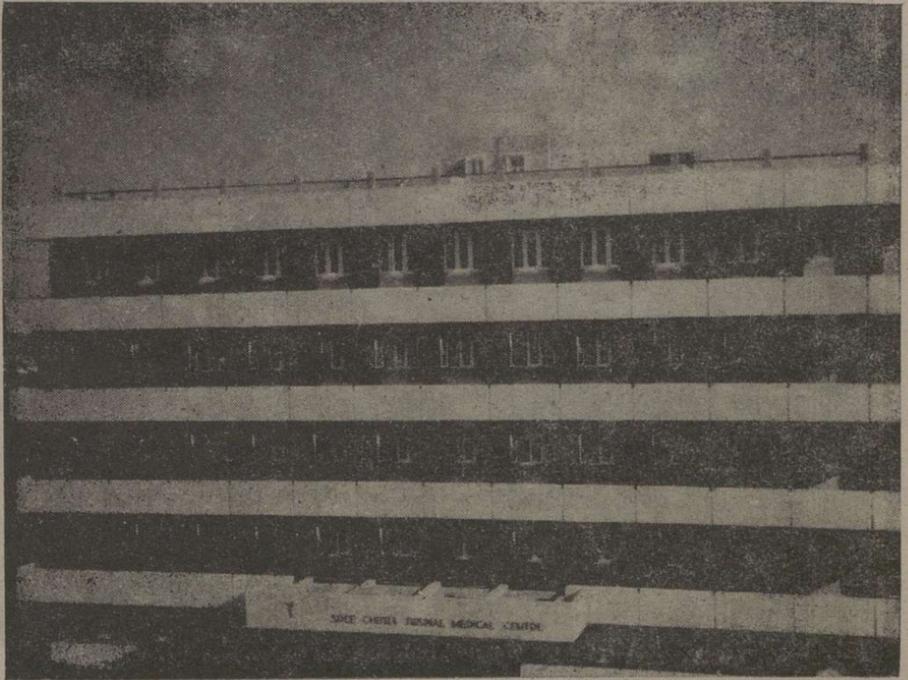
*Attukal Bhagavathy Temple*



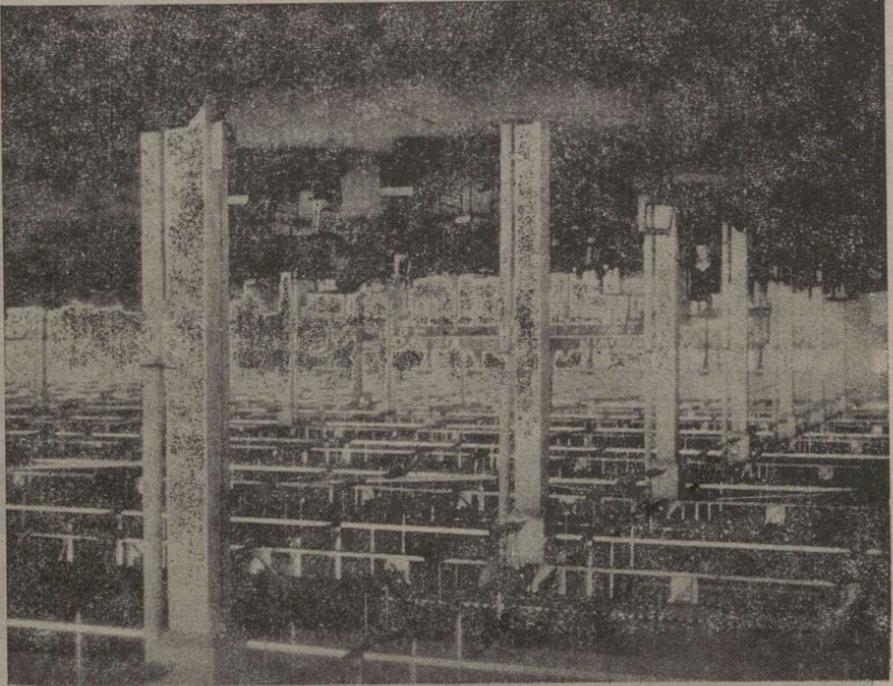
*V. S. S. C., Thumba*



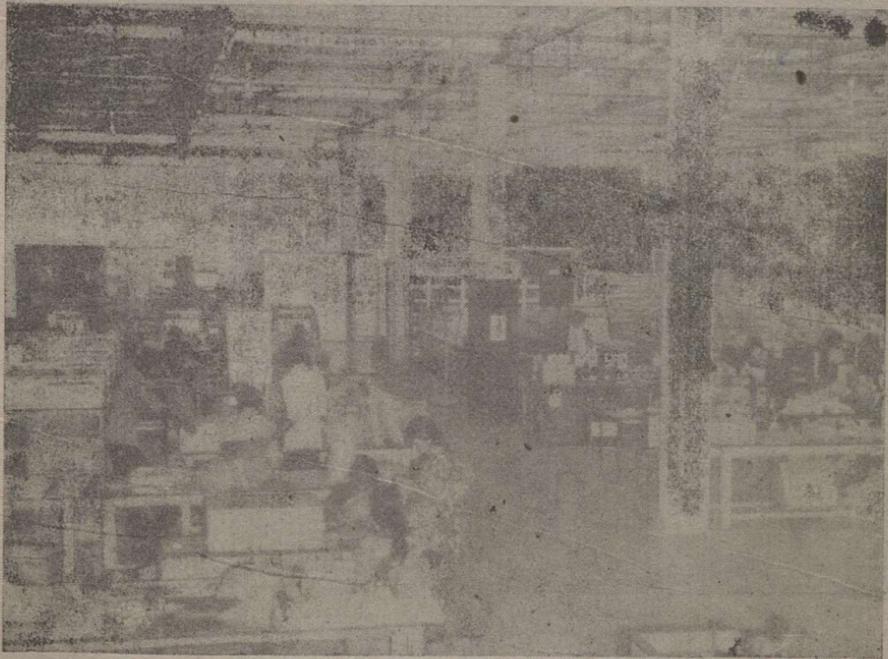
*Sree Narayana Guru Samadhi Mandiram*



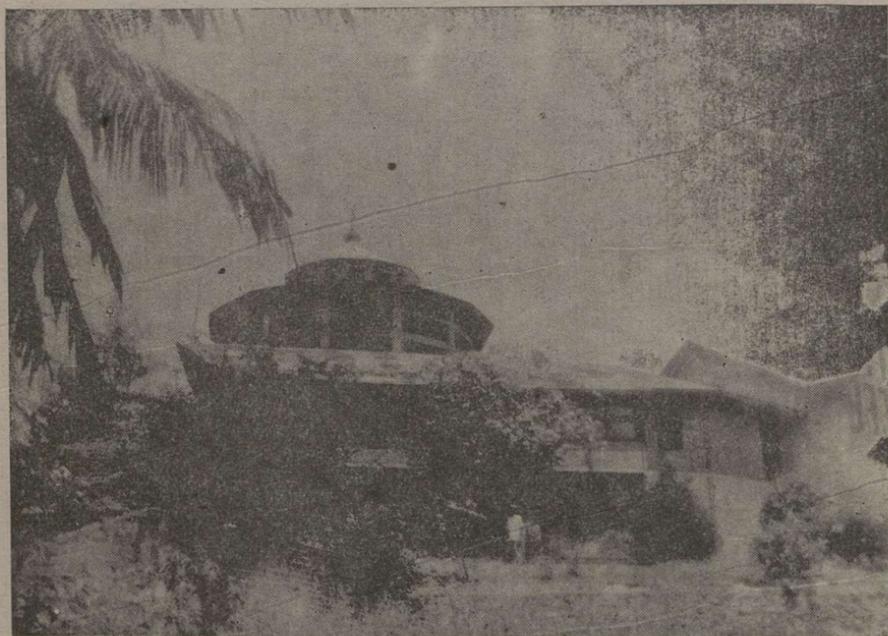
*Sree Chitra Medical Centre, Trivandrum*



*Kerala Automobiles, Neyyattinkara*



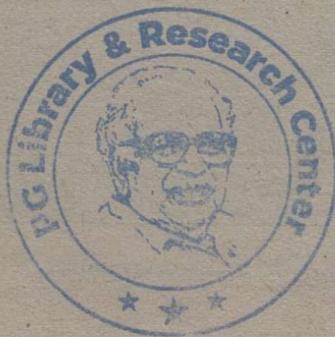
*Keltron*



*Centre for Development Studies*



*Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour*



# TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT

## SHOWING PANCHAYATS

[ Not Final Subject to Alterations ]

QUILON



### REFERENCE

- State Boundary
- District Boundary
- Taluk Boundary
- Panchayat Boundary
- Municipal & Corporation Area
- National Highway
- State Highway
- Other Roads
- Railway Line
- Lake & Rivers
- District HeadQuarters
- Taluk HeadQuarters

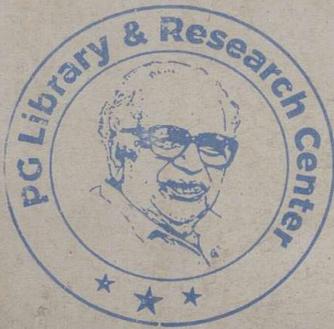
### LIST OF PANCHAYATS

<b>CHIRAYINKIL TALUK</b>	18 ANJENGO	13 KALLIYOOR	16 ARIYAMCODE	7 KARAKULAM
1. EDAVA	19 CHIRAYINKIL	14. THIRUVALLAM	17 PERUMKADAVILA	8 VEMBAYAM
2. ELAKAMON	20. AZHOOR	15. VENGANOOR	18 PERUMPAZHUTHOOR	9 MANIKKAL
3. CHEMMARUTHY	21 KIZHUVILAM	<b>NEYYATTINKARA TALUK</b>		10 NELLANAD
4. NAVAIKULAM	22. MUDAKKAL	1. VIZHINJAM	20 PALLICHAL	11. VAMANAPURAM
5. PALLICKAL	<b>TRIVANDRUM TALUK</b>		21. MARUKIL	12. PULLAMPARA
6. MADAVOOR	1. POTHENCODE	2. KOTTUKAL	22. VILAVOORKEAL	13. PANAVOOR
7. KILIMANOOR	2. MANGALAPURAM	3. BALARAMAPURAM	23. VILAPPIL	14. ANAD
8. PAZHAYAKUNNUMMEL	3. KADINAMKULAM	4. ATHIYANNOOR	24. KATTAKADA	15. THOLICODE
9. PULIMATH	4. ANDOORKONAM	5. KANJIRAMKULAM	25. OTTASEKHARAMANGALAM	16. VITHURA
10. NAGAROOR	5. KAZHAKUTTAM	6. KARUMKULAM	26. AMBOORI	17. NANNIYODE
11. KARAVARAM	6. SREEKARIAM	7. THIRUPURAM	27. KALLIKKAD	18. KALLARA
12. OTTOOR	7. ATTIPRA	8. POOVAR	<b>NEDUMANGAD TALUK</b>	
13. MANAMBOOR	8. KADAKAMPALLY	9. KULATHUR	1. POOVACHAL	19. PANAGODE
14. CHERUNNIYOOR	9. ULLOOR	10. KARODE	2. KUTTICHAL	20. PERINGAMALA
15. VETTOOR	10. CHETTIVILAKAM	11. PARASSALA	3. ARYANAD	
16. VAKKOM	11. VATTIYOORKAVU	12. CHENKAL	4. UZHAMLACKAL	
17. KADAKKAVOOR	12. NEMOM	13. KOLLAYIL	5. VELLANAD	
		14. KUNNATHUKAL	6. ARUVIKKARA	
		15. VELLARADA		



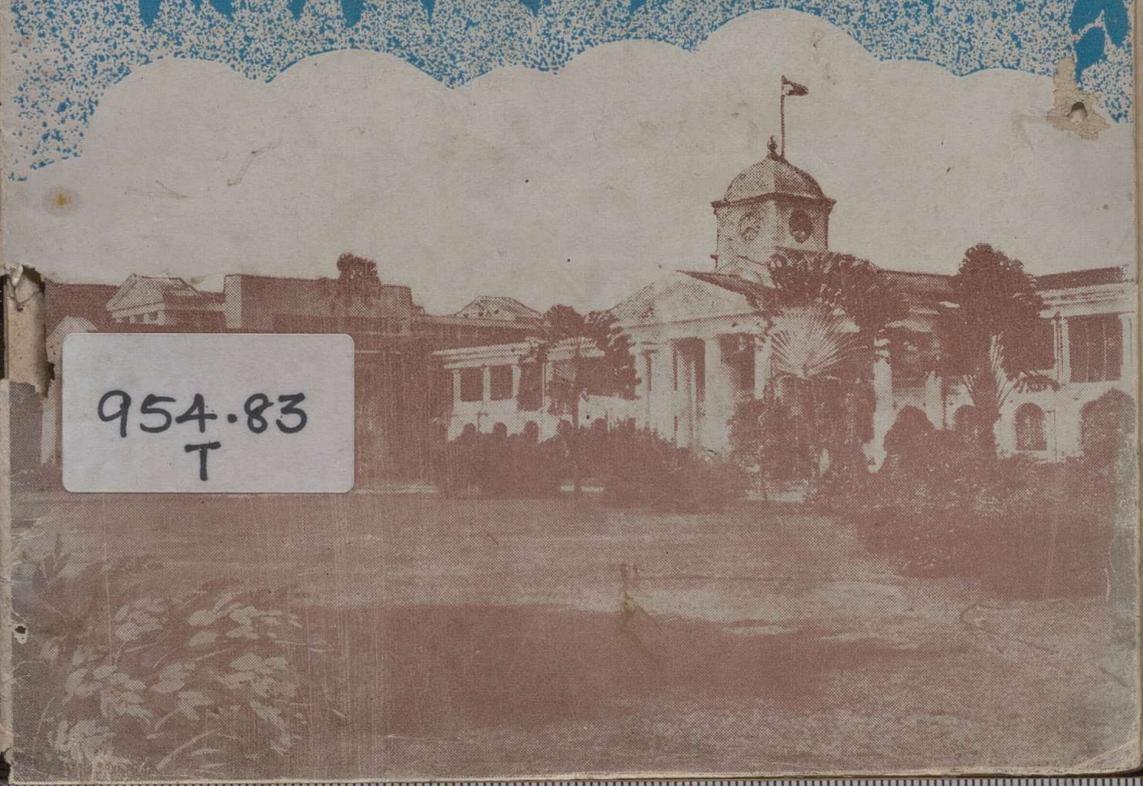
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