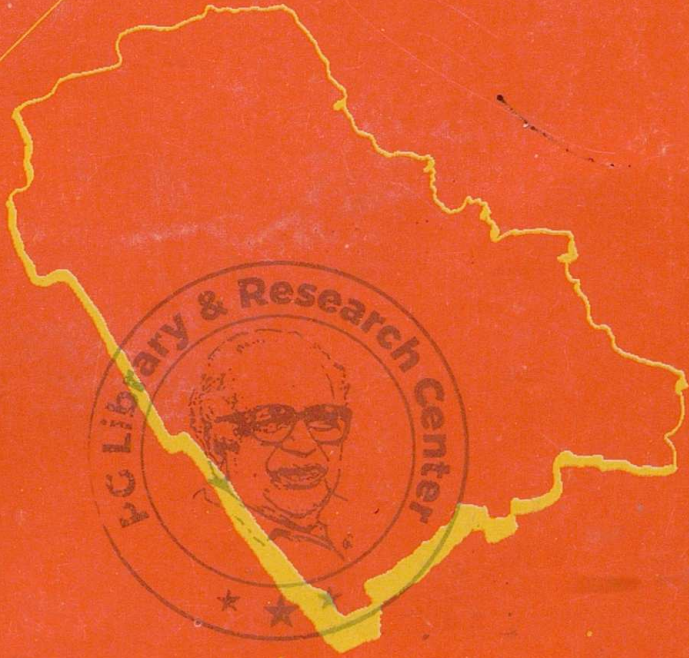


Kannur

*DISTRICT
HANDBOOKS OF
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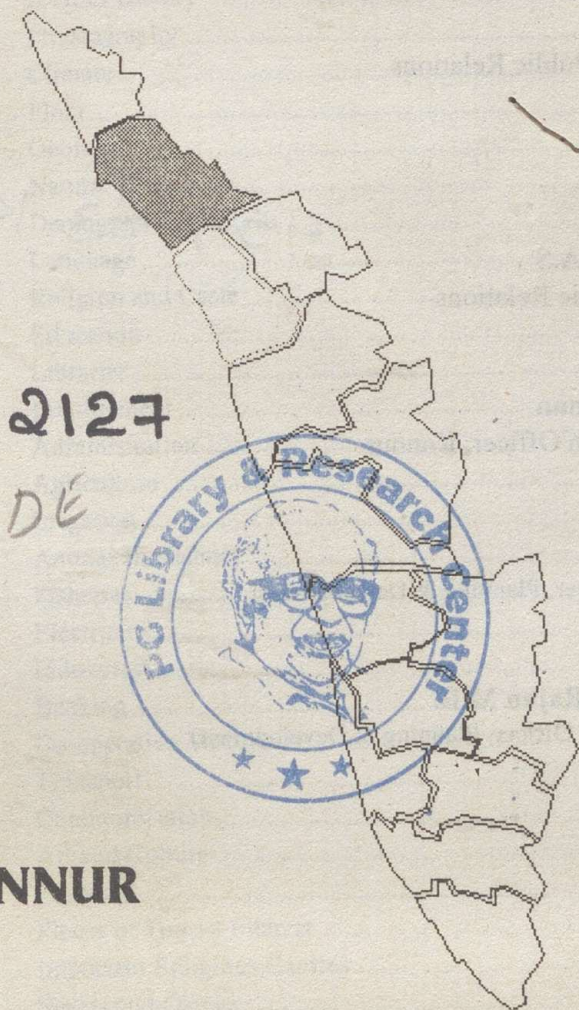


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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA



**DISTRICT
HANDBOOKS OF
KERALA**



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KANNUR

District Handbooks of Kerala

KANNUR

Department of Public Relations

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FOREWORD

The need for a handbook on the districts of Kerala has been felt for some time, especially with the existing ones of the Department getting out of print. With the advancement on the travel, tourism and communication fronts, the demand for updated handbooks on the districts has been on the increase. It is in this context that a new series of district handbooks have been decided upon, by the Department of Public Relations.

It is hoped that this book would cater to the requirements of the tourists as well as the general public who seek a handy booklet containing basic information about Kannur district.

Suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Thiruvananthapuram
3rd March, 1997

L. NATARAJAN I.A.S.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

KANATHUR - KANNAN'S UR - KANNUR

Kannur district derived its name from the location of its headquarters at Kannur town. The old name 'Cannanore' is the anglicised form of the Malayalam word Kannur. According to one opinion, 'Kannur' is a derivation from Kanathur, an ancient village, the name of which survives even today in one of the wards of Kannur Municipality. Another version is that Kannur might have assumed its name from one of the deities of the Hindu pantheon, a compound of two words, Kannan (Lord Krishna) and Ur (place) making it the place of Lord Krishna. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the deity of the Katalayi Srikrishna temple was originally installed in a shrine at *Katalayi Kotta* in the south-eastern part of the present Kannur town.

A BRIEF HISTORY

There is no evidence of the Palaeolithic man having lived in this region. Nevertheless, rock-cut caves and megalithic burial sites of the Neolithic age have come to light in certain parts of the district.

The Thaliparamba-Kannur-Thalassery area abounds in rock-cut caves, dolments, burial stone circles and menhirs, all of megalithic burial order.

It can be assumed that the first batch of Aryan immigrants into the State entered the district through the *Tuluva* region.

Mooshaka Kings and Kolathiris

Early in the 9th century A.D., the Cheras re-established their political supremacy in Kerala under Kulasekhara Varman. This second

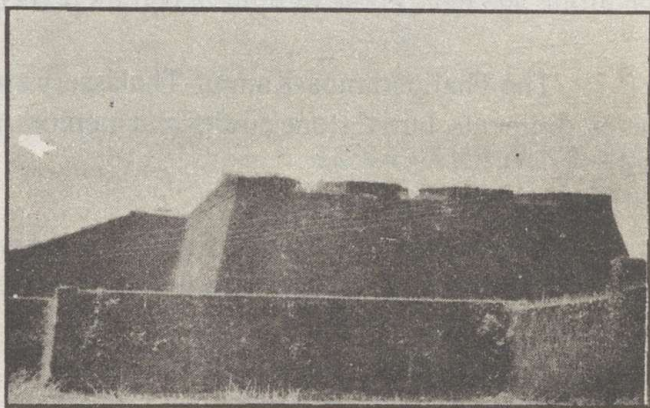
line of Chera emperors ruled till 1102 A.D with their capital at Mahodayapuram. The bulk of the area, comprising of the present Kannur district, seems to have been included in this empire. A separate line of rulers known as the *Mooshaka* kings held sway over Chirakkal and Kasaragod areas (*Kolathunad*) with their capital near Mount Eli. It is not clear whether this line of rulers were attached to Mahodayapuram or whether they ruled as an independant line of kings in their own right. By the 14th century A.D., the old Mooshaka kingdom had come to be known as Kolathunad and the rulers known as Kolathiris and had come into prominence in north Kerala.

The Kolathiris were a power to reckon with at the time of the arrival of the Portuguese towards the end of the 15th century. They were political and commercial rivals of the Zamorins of Kozhikkode.

During the medieval age, several Arab scholars visited the west coast. Baliapatam, Srikantapuram, Dharmādom, Bekal and Mount Eli (Ezhimala) are some of the places which figure prominently in their travelogues.

Vasco Da Gama

Though Vasco Da Gama, the famous Portuguese navigator, did not visit Kannur on his way to Kozhikkode in May 1498, he established contacts with the Kolathiri



Fort St. Angelo or Kannur Fort, constructed by Francisco de Almedia of Portugal in 1505

ruler. His ships which had left Kozhikkode on August 29, 1498 were contacted by the boats sent by the Kolathiri and Gama was invited to visit the palace. The aim of the Kolathiri was to gain wealth and power with the help of the Portuguese, the same way the Zamorin had acquired with the help of the Arabs. In winning the alliance of the Kolathiri, Vasco Da Gama, in turn, had successfully exploited the jealousies of the native princes and won for the Portuguese a virtual monopoly of the pepper trade.

Francisco De Almedia was sent from Portugal with specific instructions to erect forts at strategic points. He started constructing the Kannur Fort in 1505 and it was named St. Angelo.

On March 16, 1506, the Portuguese effectively intercepted an armada of Turks and Arabs, whom the Zamorin had launched against Kannur. The Portuguese navy under Lorenzo Almedia engaged the Zamorin's fleet in battle and the Portuguese ships won a decisive victory. This naval victory resulted in the establishment of Portuguese naval supremacy in the Indian seas.

Portuguese Ascendency

An important political development which took place at this juncture was the alliance between the Kolathiri and the Zamorin who were till then sworn enemies. The Zamorin was able to convince the Kolathiri of the real motives of the Portuguese in India and the perils inherent in his policy of befriending them.

The Portuguese followed a policy of religious persecution and forcible conversion. They therefore clashed with most of the native princes and chieftains.

In 1558, the Kolathiri came openly into the field against the Portuguese by providing active support to the Kunjali Marrikkars of Kozhikkode. The Kolathiri and the Zamorin fought a common war against the Portuguese and they besieged the fort of St. Angelo at Kannur,

in 1564. But the Portuguese continued to maintain a precarious foothold at Kannur till 1663 when the fort was captured by the Dutch in February that year.

Arrival of the English East India Company

The English East India Company got its first foothold in the district towards the closing years of the 17th century, when it acquired a site at Thalassery for the erection of a fort and a factory.

The disintegration of the Kolathiri's dominion started in the latter half of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century following dissensions in the royal family by the extensive surrender of territory to consorts of the ruling members.

In spite of the many difficulties it had to face in the initial stages, the trade of the English East India Company prospered during the latter part of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century, by their liberal trade policies. Further, unlike the Portuguese, they refused to interfere in the religious and caste affairs of the local population.

Mysorean Conquest

In 1725, the French captured *Mayyazhi* and renamed it as Mahe in honour of the French captain Francois Mahe De Labourdonnais.

The most important episode in the political history of north Kerala in the second half of the 18th century is the conquest of Mysore by the two muslim rulers, Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan. Haidar Ali conquered Malabar in 1773.

In January 1788, Tippu Sultan descended on Kerala with a large army and founded a new capital at Feroke for his Malabar province.

The treaties of Seringapatnam, signed on February 22 and March 18, 1792, formally ceded Malabar to the British.

The British entered into agreements with the rajas of Chirakkal, Kottayam and Kadathanand and all of them acknowledged the full sovereignty of the Company over their respective territories.

The British Government divided the province of Malabar into two administrative divisions - the Northern and Southern, presided over by a superintendent each at Thalassery and Cherpulasseri, under the general control of the supervisor and chief magistrate of the province of Malabar who had his headquarters at Kozhikkode.

Pazhassi Revolt

While the British were busy with the political settlement of the district, a serious revolt was headed by Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja of the Padijare Kovilakom of the Kottayam family. The potent cause of the revolt was the unpopular revenue policy followed by the East India Company in Malabar. He stopped all collections of revenue in Kottayam. The Raja further threatened to cut down all the pepper vines if the Company's officers persisted in revenue collection.

In April 1796, a determined effort was made by the British to capture the Raja in his own palace at Pazhassi. This was in vain.

On December 18, the British Commissioner issued a proclamation forbidding the people to assemble or to assist the Pazhassi Raja and warning them that if they did so, they would be considered as irreconcilable enemies of the Company and that their property would be confiscated.

On December 30, a futile attempt was made to reconcile the differences between the Raja and the Company.

On 8th January 1797, Pazhassi Raja's men launched daring attack on the havildar's guard stationed at Pazhassi and the whole party except one man was killed. In the battles fought on three successive days, - 9th, 10th and 11th March 1797, the detachment made by the Company forces was overpowered by the swords, spears, bows and arrows of Pazhassi

Raja's men. As the situation was full of perils, a reconciliation with the Pazhassi Raja became a matter of political expediency.

While South Canara and other parts of South India were being brought under British imperial control, following the fall of Seringapatnam (1799), Pazhassi Raja raised the standard of revolt a second time and shook for a while the very foundations of British power.

Colonel Stevenson's efforts early in 1801 cut off the Pazhassi Raja from his adherents in South Malabar and by May the British troops had made much headway and with every port both above and below the ghats in British hands and the whole country disarmed, the Pazhassi Raja became a wanderer in the jungles accompanied by his wife and immediate attendants.

On May 24, 1804, Colonel Macleod issued a proclamation warning the people that they would be treated as rebels if they failed to furnish information about rebel movements and if they helped the Pazhassi troops with arms, ammunition or provisions. Finally the proclamation of June 16 offered rewards for the apprehension of Pazhassi Raja, two other members of his family and his principal lieutenants and declared their estates and properties confiscated from that date.

On 1st November, Baber took direct charge of the operations and on November 30, 1805 he surrounded and shot the Raja dead in an operation on the banks of a nullah. The Raja's body was cremated with "customary honours". With the death of Pazhassi Raja, the resistance movement in north Kerala came to an end.

Freedom Movement

Kannur district has played an important role in all the political movements of recent times. The Indian National Congress, which was founded in 1885, captured the attention of the people of this district from its very inception. A district committee came into existence in Malabar in 1908. A branch of the All India Home Rule League, founded by Dr. Annie

Beasant, functioned in Thalassery during this period and among its active workers was V.K. Krishna Menon.

The decision of the Nagpur Congress to give up constitutional methods of agitation and resort to Non-Violent Non Co-operation as a means of achieving *Swaraj*, led to widespread boycott of foreign goods, courts of law and educational institutions in Kannur.

Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Shaukat Ali toured the district to carry the message of the Non-Co-operation and Khilaphat Movements. The Khilaphat movement coincided with the famous Malabar Rebellion of 1921 which was put down by the British with an iron hand.

Payyannur Conference

Kannur district came into the lime light of Kerala politics in May 1928, when the fourth All Kerala Political Conference was held at Payyannur under the auspices of the Kerala Provincial Congress. This conference was presided over by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Payyannur Conference passed a resolution requesting the Indian National Congress to adopt 'Complete Independence' instead of "Swaraj" as its goal at the annual session which was scheduled to take place at Calcutta during that year.

Salt Sathyagraha

Payyannur was the main venue of the Salt Sathyagraha in Malabar. On April 13, a batch of Congress volunteers under the leadership of K. Kelappan started on foot from Kozhikkode to the beaches of Payyannur and broke the salt laws there on April 21. The Satyagraha camp at Payyannur was raided and the campers were beaten up. There were widespread demonstrations in Kannur, Thalassery and other parts of the district and a number of Congress workers were arrested. The district was always in the forefront in Civil Disobedience Movements and all

along Congress workers broke salt laws and picketed foreign good dealers and liquor shops.

The period following the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement witnessed the emergence of a radical wing in the Kerala Provincial Congress. Some of the radical elements in the Kerala Provincial Congress organised a Kerala unit of the Congress Socialist Party in 1934 and functioned as a separate group within the Provincial Congress. The leadership of this group was in the hands of persons like P. Krishna Pillai, A.K. Gopalan and E.M.S. Namboothiripad. An extremist group of Nationalist Muslims also emerged within the Congress during this period under the leadership of Muhammad Abdur Rahiman. The Congress Socialists and the Nationalist Muslims made common cause against the Gandhian group known as the Right Wing which was led by such leaders as K.Kelappan, C.K.Govindan Nair and K.A.Damodara Menon.

A notable development in the politics of Malabar during the thirties was the rise of the Muslim League as a district political party. It was the Muslim leaders of Kannur and Thalassery who played the lead role in forming this organisation.

The leftist elements in the Kerala Provincial Congress were also active in the politics of Malabar in the late thirties. They took active part in organising the workers, peasants, students and teachers of Kannur district under their banner. In the election held to the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee in January 1939, the Rightists suffered a severe setback. Muhammad Abdur Rahiman was elected as the president of the K.P.C.C. and E.M.S. Namboothiripad as its general secretary. Towards the end of the same year, a branch of the Indian Communist Party was formally founded in Malabar. The Congress Socialist Party workers joined the Communist Party block.

Morazha Incident

The K.P.C.C. gave a call to the people of Malabar to observe

September 15, 1940 as Anti-Imperialist Day. The action was disapproved by the Congress High Command, but there were meetings and demonstrations all over Malabar on this day. Kannur district was the centre of this agitation. There were violent clashes between the people and the police at several places and lathicharge and firing were resorted to by the police to meet the situation. Two young men were killed in a clash between a mob and a police party at Morazha. In connection with the latter incident, K.P.R. Gopalan, a prominent communist, was arrested on a charge of murder and later sentenced to death. But, owing to the intervention of several top ranking political leaders including Mahatma Ghandhi, the death penalty was not carried out.

The 'Quit India' Movement of August 1942 also had its echoes in Kannur district. A socialist group among the Congress workers under Dr. K.B. Menon, provided leadership to the movement.

In 1945, at the end of the War, the Congress leaders were released from prison. The Muslim League had by this time become a decisive force in Malabar politics. It supported the demand of the All India Muslim League for the partition of India.

Famine and Peasant Struggles

The War period, especially from 1943 to 1945, had its ravages on the district. Famine and cholera epidemic took thousands of lives from the lower strata of society. On the initiative of the people under the leadership of the Kisan Sabha, commendable services were rendered to tide over the crisis.

The "Grow More Food Campaign" organised at Mangattuparamba by the Kisan Sabha was a new chapter in the history of mass movement. More than fifty acres of government land was brought under cultivation. But the government suppressed the movement by force and destroyed the farm.

Though the War ended in 1945, famine continued to haunt the

people. Karivellore, the northern most village of the present kannur district, made a historic stride in the struggle against poverty and famine. The transporting of paddy from Karivellore to Chirakkal Kovilakom was blocked and distributed to the people of the village. The movement was led by peasant leaders like A.V.Kunhambu and K.Krishnan Master. One Kannan and Kunhambu became martyrs in the struggle when police opened fire.

During the month of December 1946, the people of Kavumbayi, an eastern village of the district, raised their demand for *punam* cultivation. A strong police contingent was sent to the spot. The peasants resisted the armed forces which led to the killing of five peasants in the firing.

The rise of the organised working class in the industrial sector was another important phenomenon of the period that changed the course of the anti-imperialist movement. The struggle of Aron Mill workers in the year 1946 is noteworthy in this regard.

Even after independence, the struggles of the peasantry formed an important part in the history of the State. They fought against landlords and their exploitation. Places like Thillankeri, Manayankunnu, Korom and Paddikkunnu are memorable in the annals of the peasant struggles in the post independence era.

The All India Conference of Kisan Sabha, held at Kannur in 1953, resolved to initiate struggles for new tenancy legislations. The movement for Aikya Kerala (united Kerala) also got momentum during this period and all sections of the society rallied under the movement.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Kannur district lies between latitudes $11^{\circ} 40'$ to $12^{\circ} 48'$ North and longitudes $74^{\circ} 52'$ to $76^{\circ} 07'$ East. The district is bound by the Western Ghats in the East (Coorg district of Karnataka State), Kozhikkode and Wayanad districts, in the South, Lakshadweep sea in the West and Kasaragod, the northern most district of Kerala, in the North.

The district can be divided into three geographical regions - highlands, midlands and lowlands.

The highland region comprises mainly of mountains. This is the area of major plantations like coffee, rubber, tea, cardamom and other spices. Timber trees like teak, veetty, etc are grown in plenty in this region.

The midland region, lying between the mountains and the lowlands, is made up of undulating hills and valleys. This is an area of intense agricultural activity.

The lowland is comparatively narrow and comprises of rivers, deltas and seashore. This is a region of coconut and paddy cultivation.

CLIMATE

The district has a humid climate with an oppressive hot season from March to the end of May. This is followed by the South-West monsoon which continues till the end of September. October and November form the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season. The North East monsoon which follows, extends upto the end of February, although the rain generally ceases after December.

During the months of April and May, the mean daily maximum temperature is about 35⁰ celsius. Temperature is low in December and January -about 20⁰ celsius. On certain days the night temperature may go down to 16⁰ celsius.

The annual average rainfall is 3438 mm and more than 80 percent of it occurs during the period of South - West monsoon. The rainfall during July is very heavy and the district receives 68 per cent of the annual rainfall during this season.

FLORA

Kannur district is very rich in vegetation. Natural vegetation,

except in some coastal regions, consists of different types of forests. But, in spite of generally favourable climatic conditions, vegetation is not uniform. In restricted regions, with their own micro climate or special edaphic features, plant formations assume different characters. Thus, plant communities, ranging from psammophytes and mangroves to evergreen forests are seen in this district.

The coastal region is a comparatively narrow zone, characterised by secondary soil which is rather loose and sandy. The sterile sandy tract supports only a poor vegetation of the psammophyte type. Plants are few and mostly prostrate. Erect species are small and short. Owing to very poor water holding capacity of the soil, these plants are provided with special xerophytic adaptations. Another conspicuous feature of this area is the mangrove vegetation, found at the estuaries of rivers and backwaters, and often extending to the interior along their banks. Human interference has much changed the vegetation of the coastal region.

Major part of the district comes under midland region with numerous hills and dales and it presents an undulating surface gradually ascending and merging into the slopes of Western Ghats. Soil is secondary and lateritic with underlying rock of laterite or disintegrated greiss. Typical flora of this area is a most deciduous forest consisting of a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees. Undergrowth consists of a variety of annuals and perennials.

The mountains are a continuation of the midland region, gradually ascending to the main ridge of the Western Ghats. Soil in the western slopes is a ferruginous red, sandy loam. Vegetation over the whole area is of the forest type. Irregular distribution of teak, localised areas of bamboo dominanace, change of good quality forest into open grass lands, etc are characteristic.

GEOLOGY

The geological formations in the district are of Archean and

recent age. Archean formations comprise of greisses and charrockiates. Recent formations are alluvium and laterite. Archeans occupy the midland and highland regions of the district having rock types of basic charrockiates and hornblende-biotite greiss. The remaining portions in the coastal area are covered by laterite, alluvium, lime-shells, lignified woods, etc. Archean formations like foliated horn-blende-biotite greiss (gray or white in colour) is one of the main rock types in the northern portion of the district. Recent formations like laterite is developed on a limited scale along the coastal areas.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Minerals

China clay is found in abundance in Thaliparamba and Kannur taluks of Kannur district. These resources are not fully utilised in the district.

The district is endowed with rich deposits of clay of which various types are mined at many places for potteries, tiles and ceramic industries. The most important areas where clay has been found are Pattuvam, Korom, Perumba and Karivellore. Good quality kaolin occurs below the laterite capping around Pilathara and Thaliparamba.

There are a number of tile manufacturing centres along the coastal areas. Because of the abundant availability of clay, there is great scope for development of clay based industries in the district.

Laterite is quarried for bricks throughout the district on a small scale to meet the local demand. Extensive quarrying is done in Kambil, Kalyassery and Cheruthazham areas.

Thin horizons of lignite are noted in the cliff sections at Kannur coast, Pazhayangadi and Meenkunnu.

Beach sands containing ilmenites, monazite, zircon, thoriumite occur along the coast, especially to the south of Valapattanam river mouth and near Azhikode. Other minerals discovered recently are sillimanite near Chandirukunnu, graphite near Payyavur, Manakadavu and minor bands of iron ore near Cherukunnu Railway Station.

Many occurrences of bauxite deposits have been brought to light in the district at Madayi, Korom, Payyavur and Pattuam near Thaliparamba. They may find use in the manufacture of refractories and cement as they are not of high grade.

Limeshells used for the manufacture of white cement and for industrial purposes are found in the backwaters of Eranholi river, Dharmadam puzha, Anjarakandi river around Thalassery and Dharmadam as well as Valapattanam river in the east of Azhikkal ferry.

Water

Kannur district is endowed with a fine river system. Except for a few minor ones, most of the rivers are perennial and provide good scope for irrigation and controlling floods through minor irrigation works.

With a length of 110 kms., the Valapattanam river, which originates from the Western Ghats, is the longest river in the district. The main tributaries of the river are Valiapuzha and Aralampuzha.

Kuppam river originates from reserve forests and has an area of 539 sq. kms. The length of the river is 82 kms. The other rivers in the district are Mahe (54 kms.), Anjarakandy (48 kms.), Thalassery (28 kms.), Ramapuram (19 kms.) and Perumba (51 kms.).

Most of the rivers are navigable. The Valapattanam river has the longest navigable length followed by Anjarakandy.

Because of the peculiar topography, the bulk of rain water, which is the only source of ground water recharge, escapes as run off. Only 10 per cent of the total rainfall can be considered as contributing to recharge.

It was observed that the water found in the wells was of good quality and could be used for domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes.

Preliminary studies indicate that ground water resources of the coastal sandy tract was fairly good for development, whereas, in the laterite covered areas it was very limited.

DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The population of Kannur district as per the 1991 census is 22,51,727 which is 7.74 per cent of the total population of the State. Of this, 10,98,838 are males and 11,52,889 are females. The district is in the eighth position among districts of Kerala in terms of the total population.

Kannur ranks ninth in the State with regard to the density of population which is 759 persons per sq.km. and the State average is 749. In Kannur district the population density per sq. km. is highest in Kannur taluk (1627) followed by Thalassery taluk(741) and Thaliparamba taluk (502).

The district is predominantly rural in nature; but only 49.13% of the population inhabits the villages.

The average population size of a district is 20.78 lakhs in the State as against 18.72 lakhs for the whole country. Kannur district crosses both the averages in population size.

The growth rate of the district is 16.63% (5th position) which is above the State's figure of 14.32%.

POPULATION FIGURES - 1991

District/ Taluk	Total Rural Urban	Area sq. kms.	Population								
			Total	Male	Female	Scheduled caste			Scheduled Tribe		
						Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Kannur District	T	2966.00	2251727	1098838	1152889	91223	45418	45805	18243	9167	9076
	R	2318.86	1106251	545613	560638	48202	24252	23950	17640	8839	8801
	U	647.14	1145476	553225	592251	43021	21166	21855	603	328	275
Taliparamba Taluk	T	1330.56	668046	330810	337236	38638	19468	19170	1830	894	936
	R	1232.85	543788	270045	273743	32465	16417	16048	1659	799	860
	U	97.71	124258	60765	63493	6173	3051	3122	171	95	76
Kannur Taluk	T	430.80	701074	340182	360892	38107	18789	19318	261	146	115
	R	126.05	124264	59848	64416	8860	4405	4455	71	38	33
	U	304.75	576810	280334	296476	29247	14384	14863	190	108	82
Thalassery Taluk	T	1206.61	882607	427846	454761	14478	7161	7317	16152	8127	8025
	R	961.93	438199	215720	222479	6877	3430	3447	15910	8002	7908
	U	244.68	444408	212126	232282	7601	3731	3870	242	125	117

(Population Figures - 1991 Census)

POPULATION FIGURES OF DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS

Development Block	Area Sq. Km.	Total	Male	Female	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		Literacy	
					Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Payyannur	471.90	269604	130694	138910	7759	7984	24	24	105607	101801
Taliparamba	555.17	310756	152613	158143	11749	11586	56	45	125111	118541
Irikkur	433.62	212553	106413	106140	5737	5429	782	843	56524	78156
Kannur	47.71	146785	72185	74600	4386	4557	28	18	61494	60209
Edakkad	142.43	235106	113255	121851	3240	3447	38	34	95220	95887
Thalassery	99.03	200776	94722	106054	1707	1745	34	26	79554	85407
Koothuparamba	214.34	223974	106723	117251	1457	1455	1310	1209	87040	89431
Iritty	372.91	160277	80433	79844	1508	1557	2219	2140	65091	59310
Peravoor	425.42	124588	62121	62467	884	853	4516	4574	50512	47496

(Population figures - 1991 Census)

POPULATION FIGURES OF MUNICIPALITIES

Municipality/ Contonment	Area Sq. Km.	Total	Male	Female	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		Literacy	
					Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Payyannur Municipality	54.63	64032	30971	33061	3616	1770	1846	1	1	-
Taliparamba Municipality	43.08	60226	29794	30432	2557	1281	1276	170	94	76
Kannur Municipality	11.00	65238	32043	33195	4415	2183	2232	23	16	7
Koothuparamba Municipality	16.76	28907	13806	15101	353	180	173	41	20	21
Thalassery Municipality	23.96	103579	49879	53700	1996	955	1041	62	18	44
Mattannur (*) Municipality	54.15	40506	20162	20344	963	470	493	21	10	11
Kannur Contonment	1.79	4820	3024	1796	283	152	131	5	1	4

(Population figures - 1991 Census)

LANGUAGE

The language spoken by the people of the district is Malayalam. Tamil, which is next in importance in most of the districts of Kerala, is not of much importance here. Hindi, Marathi, Gujarathi and Konkani are also spoken by the minorities. Those who have languages other than Malayalam as their mother-tongue, can generally understand and speak Malayalam.

RELIGION AND CASTE

The Hindu community in this district, as elsewhere in the country, is organised on the basis of castes and sub castes. The broad divisions of the community are Thiyya, Nairs, Ambalavasis, Brahmins and Kammalan.

The Thiyyas form the majority among the Hindu community in Kannur district. Though they correspond to the Ezhavas in the southern parts of the State, both the communities disclaim any such connection.

The Muslims, here known as Mappilas, form the second largest community. Majority of them are Sunnis.

Maliq Ibn Dinar of Arabia is believed to have founded mosques at Valapattanam, Madai, Sreekantapuram and Dharmadam. Large number of conversions were made into Islam from various sections of the population and before long, it became an influential religion.

The district has the unique distinction of having had the State's



*Entrance to the Arakkal
Beevi's palace - The lone
Muslim royal house
in the State*

lone Muslim royal house - the Arakkal royal family. The royal family played an important role in the political as well as Islamic history of the district.

Though Christianity is believed to have been introduced in Kerala by the Apostle St. Thomas in 52 AD, the religion made progress only with the advent of the Portuguese towards the close of the 15th century. The Christians belong mainly to four Churches; the Syro-Malabar Church, the Latin Catholic Church, the Church of South India and the Orthodox Syrian Church.

During the last few decades, there has been a large influx of Syrian Catholics from the Travancore-Cochin area of the State.

The Protestant Missions have been at work here since the first half of the 19th century when the Basel German Evangelical Mission was founded by Dr.H.Gundert. Most of their converts were from the Thiyya community.

Scheduled Castes and Tribes

The population of scheduled castes and tribes is 1,09,466 which is 4.86 per cent of the total population of the district. Of them 91,223 are scheduled castes and 18,243 are scheduled tribes.

The major scheduled caste is Cheruman and the important tribe is Kurichiya.

Other important scheduled castes are Paraya, Nayadi, Mavilan, Valluvan, Adiyan, Chingathan, Kader, Karimpalan, Kattunayakan, Kudiya, Kurichiya, Malayalar, Malayan, Mulla Kurumbar and Paniya.

Urali Kurumbars are the major scheduled tribes.

EDUCATION

In the 14th and 15th centuries, during the regime of the Kolathiri

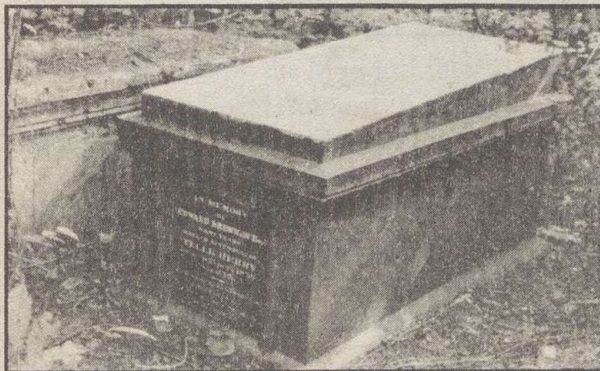
Rajas, Thaliparamba was renowned all over Kerala as a seat of learning, enlightenment and culture.

In the early days, the *Ezhuthupullies* under the Ezhuthachan or village school master, provided facilities to pupils to acquire elementary education. After undergoing the preliminary course of study in these institutions, the children were sent to the *kalaries* for acquiring training in gymnastics and in the use of arms and then they were sent to study Sanskrit in Vedic schools under well-trained teachers. This district had in the past, its share of such *Kalaries* and Vedic schools. The art, *kalarippayattu*, is particularly associated with this district.



Kalarippayattu - The martial art - particularly associated with Kannur district

The beginning of western education in the district may be traced back to the middle of the 16th century. The first English school, known as the Basel German Mission



Grave of Edward Brennen at Thalassery - Edward Brennen, Master Attendant, with whose generous donation, the Brennen school, the present Govt. Brennen College, Thalassery, was started in 1862.

English School, was started on 1st March 1856 at Thalassery. The Brennen School at Thalassery, the nucleus of the present Govt. Brennen College, was started in 1862 with the generous donation made by Mr. Brennen, Master Attendant at Thalassery.

The literacy rate of 91.48 per cent in Kannur district is above the State average of 89.81 per cent for 1991. 95.54 per cent of males and 87.65 per cent of females are literate. Among the taluks, Kannur has the highest literacy rate of 92.26 per cent, followed by Thalassery, 92.16 per cent and Thaliparamba taluk, 89.75 per cent.

Literates (*)

Name of C.D. Block	Effective Literacy rate in %		
	Males	Females	Total
Payyannur	94.27	84.17	89.03
Thaliparamba	94.80	85.79	90.19
Irikkur	94.45	85.28	89.86
Kannur	97.32	91.33	94.26
Edakkad	96.99	89.44	93.05
Thalassery	97.28	91.42	94.16
Koothuparamba	95.70	87.81	91.47
Iritty	94.40	86.46	90.44
Peravoor	94.22	87.46	90.82
Municipalities	96.03	88.86	92.35
District	95.54	87.65	91.48

(*) According to 1991 census.

The number of schools during 1995-96 was 1239 with a strength of 1,87,918 students.

Enrollment of pupils in primary schools was 49,526 and in high schools, 1,38,392. In primary schools, there are about 11,090 teachers and in high schools, about 6539 teachers.

There are three Kendriya Vidyalas; one each at Kannur, Payyannur and Mangattuparamba.

In the higher education field, there are 11 Arts & Science



Old T.B. Sanatorium at Pariyaram recently converted into the Academy of Medical Sciences, popularly known as Pariyaram Medical College

Colleges, eight Higher Secondary Schools, 14 Vocational Higher Secondary Schools, four Technical High Schools, four Teacher Training Centres (for B.Ed course) and three Poly Technics.

The district has a Govt. Engineering College at Thaliparamba, a Govt. Ayurveda College at Kannur and a Medical College at Pariyarm.

LIBRARIES

The library movement in Kannur district received an impetus with the passing of the Madras Library Act in 1948 and the constitution of the Malabar Local Authority with headquarters at Kozhikkode in 1951.

After the re-organisation of states, a separate Local Library Authority was formed for the district with its headquarters at Thalassery. Along with this, Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom extended its activities to this district. The Sanghom is a non-official body devoted to the promotion of the library movement. Most of the libraries in the district are now affiliated to the Sanghom. There are two renowned libraries in Kannur town, viz, Kannur Public Library and Jawharlal Nehru Public Library. The Kannur Public Library was started in 1929 by a society called "Kannur Public Library Society" of which His Highness Rama Varma Valiya Raja of Chirakkal was the patron.

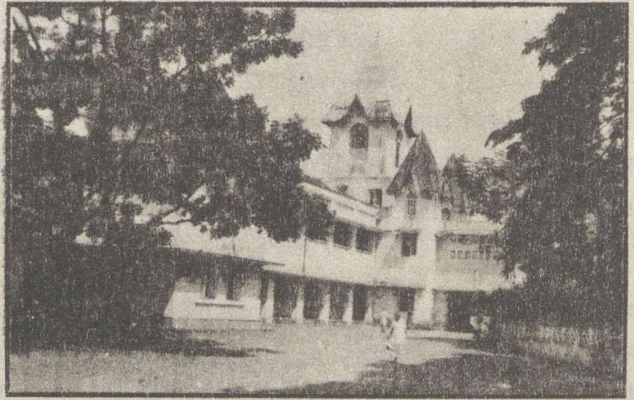
The Jawaharlal Nehru Public Library was started in 1985 by the Kannur Public Library and Research Centre.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment seekers who have registered their names in the employment exchange in Kannur district are more than 2.25 lakhs. Every year about 17,000 persons are added to the live register and the number of placements is below 1300. About 47.35 per cent of job seekers are women. 65.74 per cent of the job seekers are S.S.L.C. holders.

ADMINISTRATION

Kannur district came into existence as an administrative unit on 1st January 1957, when the erstwhile Malabar district and Kasaragod taluk of Madras State were reconstituted into three revenue districts, viz; Kannur, Kozhikkode and Palakkad. At the time of its formation, the district consisted of seven taluks, viz, Kasaragod, Hosdurg, Thaliparamba, Kannur, Thalassery, North Wayanad and South Wayanad. Subsequently, the South Wayanad taluk was included in Kozhikkode district with effect from 15th March 1957. Later, on 1st November 1980, Wayanad district was formed carving out South Wayanad and North Wayanad taluks. Two northern most taluks of Kannur



Kannur Civil Station - seat of the district administration

district, viz., Kasaragod and Hosdurg were separated on 24th May 1984 for the formation of Kasaragod district.

Now Kannur district has three taluks, viz., Kannur, Thaliparamba

and Thalassery. The taluks are subdivided into eight firkas and 129 villages.

Taluk	No. of Villages	Firka
Thaliparamba	47	Payyannur Thaliparamba Irikkur
Thalassery	48	Thalassery Kuthuparamba Mattannur
Kannur	34	Kannur Madai

The villages in Thaliparamba taluk are Arivellur, Vellur, Payyannur, Ramanthali, Korome, Kankole, Peralam, Peringome, Eramam, Kuttoor, Thimiri, Alakode, Naduvil, Vellad, Kooveri, Pariyaram, Kuttiyeri, Punniyoor, Pattuvam, Thaliparamba, Kurumathur, Chuzhali, Chengalayi, Andoor, Morazha, Alappadamba, Perinthatta, Vayakkara, Vellora, Kolacherry, Cheleri, Kayaralam, Mayyil, Kuttiyattoor, Maniyoor, Irikkur, Padiyoor, Vayathur, Kalliad, Nuchiyad, Malappattam, Thirumeni and Pulingome.

Thalassery, Thiruvangad, Dharmadam, Eranholi, Kadirur, Eruvatty, Pinarayi, Pathiriyad, Kottayam, Chockli, Peringathir, Kodyeri, Pazhassi, Kolari, Keezhallur, Chavasseri, Keezhur, Payam, Vilaman, Aralam, Ayyamkunnu, Koodali, Pattannur, Māṅgattidam, Paduvilayil, Kuthuparamba, Kandamkunnu, Manantheri, Kolayad, Kannavam, Cheruvancheri, Pattiam, Mokeri, Pañniyannur, Puthur, Panoor, Triprangottur, Kolavallur, Tholambra, Sivapuram, Thillankeri, Muzhakunnu, Vellarvalli, Manathana, Vekkelam, Kanichar, Kerlakam and Kottiyoor are the villages in Thalassery Taluk.

The villages in Kannur taluk are Kannur I, Kannur II, Puzhathi, Pallikkunnu, Chirakkal, Baliapattam, Azhikode South, Azhikode North, Elayavoor, Valuyannur, Munderi, Kanhirode, Anjarakandi, Iriveri, Chelora, Chembilode, Kadambur, Mavilayi, Makreri, Muzhappilangad,

Edakkad, Kunhimangalam, Cheruthazam, Panappuzha, Kadannappally, Madai, Ezhome, Mattool, Cherukunnu, Kannapuram, Kalliasseri, Pappinisseri, Kannadipparamba and Narath.

There are three Parliamentary constituencies - Kannur, Vadakara and Kasaragod. The district has ten State legislative constituencies viz; Irikkur, Payyannur, Thaliparamba, Azhikode, Kannur, Edakkad, Thalassery, Peringalam, Kuthuparamba and Peravoor.

The Municipal towns in the district are Thaliparamba, Kannur, Thalassery, Kuthuparamba and Payyannur. There is also a cantonment in Kannur.

There are nine development blocks comprising of 82 panchayats (including Mattannur panchayat). The development blocks are Kannur, Edakkad, Irikkur, Iritty, Kuthuparamba, Payyannur, Peravoor, Thaliparamba and Thalassery.

Development block wise names of grama panchayats are listed below.

Payyannur Block (11)

Cheruthazham, Ezhome, Kunhimangalam, Madai, Mattool, Ramanthali, Kadannappally-Panappuzha, Karivellor - Peralam, Kankole-Alapamba, Eramam Kuttoor, Peringome Vayakara.

Thaliparamba Block (14)

Pattuvam, Cherukunnu, Kalliasseri, Kannapuram, Chengalai, Kurumathur, Pariyaram, Narath, Chapparappadavu, Naduvil, Udayagiri, Alakode, Pappinissery, Andur.

Irikkur Block (9)

Eruvessy, Irikkur, Malapattom, Payyavoor, Kolachery, Kuttiaattoor, Mayyil, Sreekandapuram, Padiyoor Kalliad.

Kannur Block (5)

Chirakkal, Pallikkunnu, Puzhathi, Valapattanam, Azhikode.

Edakkad Block (9)

Ancharakandy, Edakkad, Elayavoor, Kadamboor, Muzhappilangad, Chelora, Chembilode, Munderi, Peralasserri.

Thalassery Block (10)

Dharmadam, Eranholi, Kadirur, Kottayam, Pinarayi, Chockli, Kariyad, Peringalam, New Mahe, Kodiyeri.

Kuthuparamba Block (9)

Mokeri, Panniyannur, Pannoor, Tripprangottur, Chittariparamba, Kunnothuparamba, Mangattidom, Pattiam, Vengad.

Iritty Block (8)

Aralam, Ayyankunnu, Keezhallur, Thillankery, Koodali, Payam, Keezhur Chavassery, Mattannur.(*)

Peravoor Block (7)

Kanichar, Kelakom, Muzhakkunnu, Kolayad, Malur, Peravoor, Kottiyoor.

AGRICULTURE

Majority of the population of the district are dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood. According to the Census of 1991, 53,877 persons are engaged in cultivation and 12,193 in agricultural labour.

The main crops grown in the district are paddy, coconut, pepper, cashew, tapioca, arecanut and plantation crops like rubber.

** Decision on the status of Mattannur, a panchayat - turned Municipality, is yet to be taken.*

Paddy occupies the largest area among annual crops. The first crop of paddy is mostly a wet land crop and it covers twice the area under the second crop and the four times the area under the summer crop. Under high yielding variety programme, substantial increase in paddy production has been achieved, even though the percentage of area sown under paddy is decreasing year after year, due to conversion of paddy fields to other purposes.

The average yield of paddy is recorded as 2146 kg. per hectare. But, according to field observations, the yield ranges from 2200 kg. to 3200 kg. per hectare, depending upon the variety of seeds sown and the quantum of input such as fertilizer, manure and plant protection chemicals are used.

Next to paddy, coconut is the most important crop in the district. Its cultivation spreads over 88,143 hectares. Coconut is extensively grown throughout the district. The average yield, as per field observation, is 45 per tree.

An important cash crop grown in the district is cashewnut. The district plays a unique role in its cultivation and production. The vast stretches of suitable waste lands with low fertility status extends scope for expansion of cashew cultivation and its allied industries.

Among spices, pepper occupies an important place covering an area of 17,235 hectares. Pepper is mostly grown as an intercrop with coconut, arecanut and various fruit trees. In the hilly areas of the district, the inter-cultivation is done with rubber and cashew. It is also grown in the homestead of marginal farmers.

Rubber is the most important industrial cash crops among the plantation crops. Nearly 46,072 hectares of land is under rubber cultivation.

About 55 per cent of the rubber cultivation of Kannur district is in Thaliparamba taluk, followed by Thalassery and Kannur taluks. The yield of rubber per hectare varies from 2000 kg. to 4000 kgs.

Crop Production

Crop	Area covered (in ha)	Production (in kgs.)	Yielding (in kg/ha.)
Paddy I crop	10031.50	23482612.50	2340.89
Paddy II crop	6554.90	22215340.00	3389.12
Paddy III crop	253.00	616550.00	2436.96
Cocoa	167.10	350207.50	2095.80
Nutmeg	58.60	54654.00	932.66
Cinnamon	131.60	76000.00	577.51
Beetle vine	138.90	56400.00	406.05
Vegetables	2553.49	12611245.00	4938.83
Ground nut	8.10	5455.00	673.46
Sesame	367.75	86866.50	236.21
Coconut	85278.20	523048277.00 Nos.	6133.43 Nos./Ha
Coffee	131.70	1482980.00	11260.29
Rubber	48109.00	79663474.10	1655.90
Tapioca	4934.70	61084209.00	12378.51
Black pepper	14815.80	7308980.50	493.32
Ginger	1480.65	6120200.00	4133.45
Turmeric	436.20	2191805.00	5024.77
Arecanut	17530.80	1207857534.00 Nos	68899.17 Nos./Ha
Cardamom	119.20	2000030.00	16778.78
Clove	24.50	6271.85	255.99
Mango	1884.60	9537602.00	5060.81
Pine apple	842.60	11681250.00	13863.34
Banana	7073.00	97721965.00	13816.20
Jack fruit	1049.30	2617950.00 Nos.	2494.95 Nos./Ha
Cashew	53901.90	53058096.00	984.29
Sweet potato	119.30	774110.00	6488.77
Pulses	3263.84	1566463.00	479.94
Mic. crops	2967.52	503700.00	169.74

(*) During 1993-94

Central State Farm at Aralam

The Central State Farm located at Aralam about 60 kms. from

Kanuur town, is a unit of the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi under the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. The farm was started in the year 1971 in an area of 3060 hectares. It has an undulating topography with hillocks and valleys.



Central State Farm at Aralam

The main objective of starting this farm is for large scale production of seeds and planting materials of all important plantations and horticultural crops of Kerala and neighbouring states .

The farm is one of the main centres of production of hybrid coconut seeds in the country. In addition, large scale production of seed coconuts of the straight varieties like West Coast Tall, Loddive, Ordinary, etc. are also being undertaken.

Seed nuts and seedlings of crops are also been adopted to achieve maximum returns from the unit area.

The farm has a dairy unit also. A rabbit rearing unit is also maintained for the production and distribution of kids.

Pepper Research Station at Panniyur

The launching of a small scheme by the erstwhile Madras State at Mattannur on 23rd December 1949 marked the beginning of the Pepper Research Station. It is aimed at augmenting production and productivity of pepper cultivation and its research. During 1950-51, the station was shifted to Thaliparamba. Consequent on the formation of the State, it came under the Government of Kerala.

The institution is located in the hilly terrain, six kilometres away from Thaliparamba on the Thaliparamba-Alakode route and it spreads over 25.55 hectares.

Research on various aspects of black pepper (*Piper Nigrum L*), including production of new high yielding varieties, is being conducted here. It has developed the first ever hybrid pepper in the world and has named it *Panniyur I*. Now the station is well known for its production of rooted cuttings. The highest germplasm collection of about 900 accessions of pepper vines is maintained in the research station.

Brown's Plantation at Anjarakandy

Asia's largest plantation of cinnamon, the famous Brown's Plantation, is situated at Anjarakandy near Thalassery. It has an area of nearly 500 acres. The plantation was started by the English East India Company in 1767. Spices like pepper, nutmeg, clove and cinnamon were cultivated here, but finally cinnamon alone flourished.

IRRIGATION

Kannur district has 16,835 hectares under irrigation, which is 3.24 per cent of the gross irrigated area in the State. In terms of total area under irrigation, Kannur district ranks last among districts in the State. Well density per sq. km. is 160 in coastal area, 90 in midland area and 48 in high land area and it is estimated that there are 1.59 lakh wells in Kannur district. Only five per cent of the ground water potential is utilised at present for irrigation.

There are about 8609 minor irrigation schemes consisting of lift irrigation, wells and tanks in the district. The district does not have any major or medium irrigation scheme in operation. The two irrigation projects, viz., Pazhassi and Kattampally projects, are incomplete. The Pazhassi project is expected to irrigate 16,200 hectares of land when completed. The Kattampally project which is multi purpose project for irrigation, flood control etc. will protect 3168 acres of land from flood and intrusion of sea water and is expected to irrigate 1080 acres of land.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Cattle wealth is of considerable importance to the people of the district whose main occupation is agriculture. In Kannur, as in other parts of the State, bullocks and he-buffaloes are being used for agricultural work on the fields and cows and she-buffaloes are being reared for breeding and milk production. In rural parts of the district, more importance is attached to the draft animals and in the towns to the milch animals. The livestock population in the district as per livestock census of 1987 are given below.

<u>Category</u>		<u>Figures</u>
Buffaloes	-	12808
Cattle	-	272011
Dogs	-	49746
Ducks	-	8426
Fowls	-	887104
Goat	-	91284
Horses/Ponies	-	10
Pigs	-	14230
Rabbits	-	3852
Sheep	-	797
Others	-	2568

The district has six veterinary hospitals, 32 dispensaries, five poly clinics, one mobile dispensary, two mobile farm-aid units and one District Veterinary Centre.

Regional Poultry Farm at Mundayad, Goat Farm at Kommeri and Broiler Farm at Mattannur are the other veterinary institutions in the district.

Milk Production

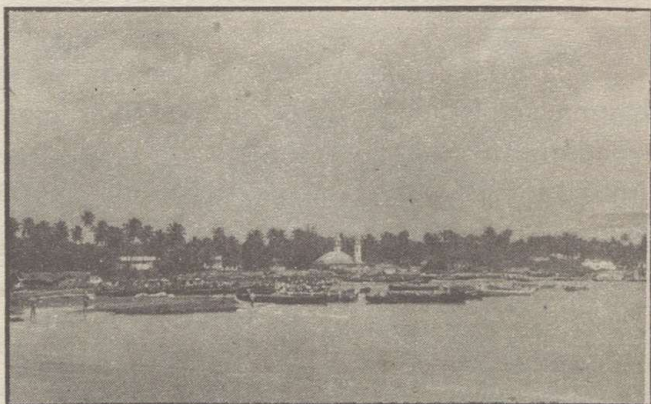
The district does not produce enough milk to meet the domestic requirements. Traditionally, milk and curd have been brought in from

Tamil Nadu to this region. Milk is also brought in from milk co-operatives of other districts of the State. The per capita consumption of milk has also gone up from 50 gms. to 180 gms. daily during the last decade. But the availability should ideally be increased to 250 gms per day per capita.

There are 150 milk co-operative societies with about 50,000 members in Kannur district. MILMA has a pasteurization plant with a capacity of 10,000 litres of milk at Puzhathi and a chilling plant with a capacity of 2,000 litres of milk at Thundiyl in Peravoor block. The Kannur dairy has a handling capacity of 10,000 litres per day.

FISHERIES

Kannur district has a very important place in the fisheries map of Kerala. It has an 82 km. coastline from Kavvayi in the north to Kurichiyil in the south. Several rivers like Valapatam and Anjarakandy and their tributaries, swamps, irrigation tanks, paddy fields and household tanks offer vast potential for fisheries development in the inland sector. The inshore waters of the district have immense potential for fishing, especially for the commercially important varieties such as oil sardines (mathichala), mackerel (ayila), prawns (chemmeen) and silver bellies (mullan).



Moppila Bay, Kannur - a fishing harbour with facilities for launching, landing, mooring and repairing. There are also facilities for processing and marketing of fish, in this bay.

Formerly the indigenous methods which were in vogue, employed only big, medium and small size country crafts, nets and lines for fishing. Since the last few decades, mechanized fishing has become increasingly popular. However, the impact of mechanization is yet to be felt.

The fishing harbours at Valapatam and Mappila Bay provide facilities to fishing crafts for launching, landing, mooring, repairing, processing and marketing. Kavvayil, Palakkode, Puthiyangadi, Mattool, Azhikkode, Azheekkal, Kannur city, Thayyil, Edakkad, Ezharakkadappuram, Palissery, Chalil, Gopalapetta and Thalasseri are some of the important fishing centres.

The district is blessed with rivers, streams and backwaters. But there has been little organized development of fishery resources. Beside these, the district has a number of perennial tanks of varying sizes. These tanks are yet to be exploited fully.

The government is successfully implementing many schemes with the co-operation of various agencies. The Fish Farmers' Development Agency (FFDA), Brackish Water Fish Farmers' Development Agency (BWFFDA), etc are but a few of them.

The F.F.D.A was established in the year 1986 under the chairmanship of the District Collector, to promote scientific fresh water fish culture in the district. The objectives of the agency are to identify fish farming areas, to encourage the public for reclamation of old and neglected ponds, to construct new ponds for fish culture by providing financial assistance.

The B.W.F.F.D.A came into existence in 1990 under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. This agency promotes prawn farming activities in two revenue districts Kannur and Kasaragod. Its affairs are managed by a managing committee under the chairmanship of the District Collector.

The agency conducts macro and micro level survey of brackish water sites and prepares projects for brackish water fish farming. Proper guidance is being given to the farmers for pond-making, stocking, pond management, harvesting and marketing.

The MATSYAFED takes care of fishermen's welfare. Its district office is at Kannur.

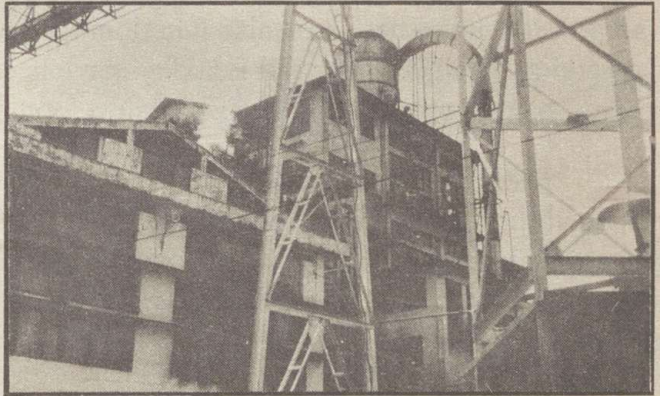
The coastal fisheries belt is divided into 11 fisheries villages and each of such village has a fishermen welfare society, formed under the Kerala Fisheries Welfare Society Act of 1980.

ELECTRICITY

There is no major power project in the district and the main source of electric power is the Kuttiyadi Hydro Electric Project in Kozhikkode district. Electricity has reached all panchayats in the district. However, Low Tension Electric Line has to be extended to several remote pockets.

INDUSTRIES

Kannur district has had its industrial importance from very early days. Being blessed with a variety of factors such as good soil, salubrious climate, rich forests, enormous fishing potentials, minerals as well as infrastructural facilities like road, rail, inland water transport, etc., the district offers ample scope for the development of industries.



The Western India Plywoods, Valappatanam, perhaps, is of the biggest wood based industrial complexes in South West Asia.

Nevertheless, Kannur is an industrially backward district in the State. There are only one major and five mini industrial estates in the district. Keltron Complex, Mangattuparamba and Western India Plywoods, Valappattanam are the two major industries. The Western India Plywoods is one of the biggest wood based industrial complexes in South East Asia. The district has 12 medium-scale industries, most of which are either cotton textile or plywood manufacturing.

Textiles, beedi and coir are the important traditional industries in the district. About one lakh people depend on the textile industry for livelihood. The textile industry which accounts for 40 per cent of all SSI units in the district, was introduced in early 19th century by the German Basal Mission.

The first ready-made garment unit in Kannur and the first hosiery unit in Kuthuparamba were started around the end of the 19th century. The beedi industry provides employment to about 50,000 people. Famous beedi co-operatives like 'Dinesh Beedi' are in Kannur district.

The coir industry which uses traditional technology provides employment to about 11,000 workers.

There are 6934 small scale industrial units in the district. The district has 202 sick units which is about 9.3 per cent of the sick units of the State. Only 4828 units are working ones. 162 industrial societies and four powerloom societies are also functioning here. Kannur, Thalassery, Payyannur, Thaliparamba and Edakkad have been identified as growth centres, having potential for industrial development.

The Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board is vested with the responsibility of organising, developing and promoting khadi and village industries in the district. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is extending financial assistance like loans, for the development of khadi and village industries.

The Board is extending financial assistance in terms of grants and loans to artisans engaged in khadi and village industries, through co-operative societies, charitable societies and individuals.

Handloom

Handloom industry is the most important and the largest in the district. The handloom cloths of Kannur have won international reputation.

The industry was confined to the production of coarse varieties of dhoties and the like, in the past. Production of quality and exportable

varieties of handloom fabric was started when the Basal Evangelical Mission entered the field.

The handloom industry, which was once the monopoly of private enterprise, has since been organised on cooperative lines. It provides employment to more than a lakh persons directly and indirectly.



Kerala Garments, Kannur - a sister concern of HANVEEV. About one lakh people depend on the textile industry today, which was introduced in early 19th century by the German Basal Mission.

The hosiery industry, allied to the handloom and cotton textile sectors, is one of the oldest and important branches of the textile industry in this district.

The first hosiery factory in Kerala was set up at Kannur by the German Basel Mission at the close of the 19th century. Stiff competition from other states, non-availability of raw materials, high labour cost, etc. have contributed to the present low level of production and closure of several hosiery units.

Handloom Training Institute

This institute was established in April 1990 under the Societies Registration Act. The objective of the institute is to undertake research and development activities in the field of handlooms. It conducts short and long term training programmes on weaving, dyeing, designing and printing on handloom fabrics and on management.

The institute has a laboratory for testing raw materials, consumables and finished handloom goods.

The Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation

The Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation, popularly known as HANVEEV, started functioning in 1968, with its headquarters at Kannur, for the effective development of the handloom industry in the State. This corporation has been entrusted with the implementation of handloom development schemes of the Central and State Governments.

The export oriented ready-made garment unit, Kerala Garments Ltd., is a subsidiary of HANVEEV.

Beedi

The beedi industry is next to the handloom industry, in terms of employment potential. Though none of the raw materials required for this industry, like beedi leaves and tobacco are grown in the state, this industry has grown into an important one with a traditional image.



Beedi making - a traditional industry of the district

The Kerala
Dinesh Beedi

Workers Central Co-operative Society and its 22 primaries were sponsored by the State Government to rehabilitate the 42,000 workers in 450 small factories who were thrown out of employment, when the employers from outside Kerala abruptly closed down their factories during 1968. These factories were run for decades in the erstwhile district of Kannur and Badakara taluk of Kozhikkode district. The society is now producing and selling beedies worth about Rs. 30 lakhs every day.

Electronics

The Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KELTRON), a wholly owned corporation of the State Government, as part of its development plan to promote the electronics industry in the State, established four vital component units at Mangattuparamba in Kalliasseri panchayat. The factories are located on the NH17, 15 kms. from Kannur town.

Keltron Component Complex Ltd

The company was incorporated in 1974 to manufacture Aluminium Electrolytic Capacitors in technical collaboration with Sprague Electromag, Belgium. The installed capacity was 18 million capacitors per annum. The company commenced commercial production in August 1978. Subsequently, the installed capacity was expanded to 150 million per annum. The total employees number 363.

Keltron Crystals Ltd

This company was formed in 1974 for making Piezo Electric crystals. Commercial production commenced in January 1977. The present installed capacity is 2.13 million. Total employees number 126.

Keltron Resistors Ltd

The Keltron Resistors Ltd was set up to produce carbon film and metal film resistors. It commenced commercial production in April 1980. The present installed capacity is 142 million. Total employees number 40.

Keltron Magnetics Ltd

Though the company was originally formulated to manufacture colour TV delay lines, the company is now manufacturing Servo Controlled Voltage Stabilisers and Uninterrupted Power Supply Systems. Total employees number 32.

Statistics of Small Scale Industries

Year	No. of units Registered	Investment Rs. in Lakhs	Employees
1990-91	291	266.53	1171
1991-92	440	673.92	2054
1992-93	439	481.35	1554
1993-94	516	661.02	1938
1994-95	681	1000.21	2631

BANKING

Kannur is one of the developing districts in the State. To meet the economic needs of the people, 205 bank branches spread over nine Development Blocks operate in the district. These include 70 branches of North Malabar Gramin Bank, the head office of which is in Kannur town itself. The blockwise number of commercial bank branches is shown below.

Block	SBI and associates	Nationali- sed Bank	Other Sche- duled Banks	NMGB (RRB)	Total
Payyannur	5	10	5	12	32
Thaliparamba	5	8	5	12	30
Irikkur	3	7	2	8	20
Kannur	7	20	9	5	41
Edakkad	1	6	-	6	13
Kuthuparamba	2	5	1	8	16
Iritty	3	2	3	8	16
Peravoor	-	3	1	6	10
Thalassery	4	12	6	5	27
Total	30	73	32	70	205

Over and above these, the district has a strong co-operative banking sector with branches spread over remote areas in the villages. The co-operative sector has been a pioneer in extending credit under government sponsored schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme and to agricultural and tertiary sectors.

The Lead Bank of the district, Syndicate Bank, is the co-ordinating agency for the implementation of all Government sponsored schemes and priority sector credit under District Credit Plan. The total deposits of the banks (including co-operatives) as on 31st March 1995 was Rs.973.45 crores and total advances Rs.328.78 crores. The Credit Deposit Ratio is 34% only. The low level of Credit Deposit Ratio is due to the low level of credit absorbed by the industrial sector.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The co-operative movement had its beginnings in Kannur district as early as 1912. But the movement did not make any headway till the year 1940. With the advent of Independence, the co-operative movement got great impetus from the National Government. The important land marks in the progress of the movement during the post-Independence period are the starting of special type societies, milk supply societies and the conversion of Agriculture Credit Societies with unlimited liability into multipurpose co-operative societies and then into service co-operative societies with limited liabilities and wider spheres of activities. There are 1027 co-operative banks and three Primary Agricultural Rural Development Banks. The detailed break up is given below.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies - 124; Urban Banks - 7; Rural Banks - 9; Harijan Service Societies - 15; Girijan Service Societies - 7; Employees Credit Co-operative Societies - 48; Wholesale Consumer Co-operative Society - 1; Primary Consumer Co-operative Societies - 171; College Co-operative Societies - 9; School Co-operative Societies - 297; Primary Marketing Societies - 48; Housing Co-operative Societies - 29; Hospital Societies - 27; Farming Co-operative Societies - 7; Poultry Breeders Co-operative Societies - 10; Labour Contract Co-operative Societies - 14; Educational Co-operative Societies - 10; Autorickshaw

Drivers Co-operatives - 3; Women Co-operative Societies - 96; Printing Co-operative Societies - 17; Canteen Co-operative Societies - 18 and Miscellaneous Co-operative societies - 56.

Though the co-operative societies cover almost the entire area of the district, the movement has still to go a long way.

TRANSPORT

The West Coast road from Mahe to Talapady is the backbone of the road system in Kannur district. This is part of the National Highway. Thalassery - Coorg road and the Thalassery - Mysore road are the other important roads.

The length of Public Works Department roads in Kannur district is 1421 kms. The black topped roads have a length of 1061 kms. There are 6848 panchayat roads. The length of the national highway in the district is 80.5 kms.

Thalassery, Kannur and Azhikkal are the minor ports in the district. Kannur is an ancient port.

The nearest all-weather sea port is Mangalore, presently in Karnataka State.

The inland water transport system connecting Perumba and Thaliparamba was constructed in 1766 by the Ali Raja of Kannur. This 3.8 kms. long canal is known as the Sultan's Canal. The west flowing rivers are used for navigation. The Kuppam river has 244 kms of navigable length; Valappattanam, 55 kms. and Anjarakandi, 23 kms.

The nearest airport is Kozhikkode. The airports at Mangalore in Karnataka and Kozhikkode are about 125 kms. away from Kannur.

Vehicles in the district as on 31.03.95

Two Wheelers

Motor Cycle - 8608; Scooter - 9891;

Moped - 1365.

Non-Transport Vehicles:

Motor Car - 3987; Jeep - 2644;
Ambulance - 67; Omni bus - 605; Others - 248.

Transport Vehicles:

Autorickshaw (3 seat) - 3109; Autorickshaw (4 seat) - 5436;
Motor Car - 684; Jeep - 978; Taxi Motor car - 1223.

Contract Carriages : 213

Stage Carriages:

Ordinary - 1607; F.P. Express - 60.
Educational Institution Bus - 5

Goods carriages:

Three Wheelers - 507; Light Motor Vehicle - 2671;
Medium Goods - 2298; Heavy Goods - 362;
Others - 492.

Railways

The Railway plays a vital role in the district in the transportation of men and materials. The Railway line runs through Kannur for 57 kms. starting from Jagannath Temple Gate station in the south to the Payyannur station in the north.

There are 13 Railway stations in Kannur district. Dharmadom and Chirakkal stations are run by agents. Elimali, Pappinisseri and Jagannath Temple Gate stations are run by clerks-in-charges. They are known as CIC stations and other stations are block stations.

This section runs 20 Express trains and 10 Passenger trains daily. The biggest station in Kannur district is Kannur, the headquarters of Kannur. The Railway station of Kannur was built in 1902. Two express trains and eight passenger trains originate from this station.

This station deals with around 3750 passengers daily and has a computerised Passenger Reservation system with a self printing ticket machine.

This station has a modern waiting room with a capacity of two hundred persons. Good retiring rooms, refreshment rooms, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, are also available.

Further, Kannur Railway station also has a major goods shed and parcel office. Goods shed line has a facility for loading/unloading of 60 wagon units at a stretch. Commodities like cement, fertilizers, beedi leaves, etc. are handled in the goods shed, while handloom cloth, vegetables, electronics goods and newspapers are handled with, in the parcel office.

Thalassery and Payyannur are the other two major stations in the district. This portion of the Railway line is the Mangalore-Shoranur section of Palakkad Division of the Southern Railway.

COMMUNICATIONS

Postal Services

There are two Postal divisions in Kannur district and they are Kannur Postal Division and Thalassery Postal Division.

Kannur Postal Division constitutes of Kannur, Thaliparamba taluks and a small portion of Thalassery and Hosdurg taluks. The total area covered by this division is 1761.40 sq.kms. There are 227 post offices under this division among which five are in Hosdrug taluk. There is a speed post counter working at Kannur Head Post Office, from where articles can be booked to Kozhikkode, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram. This counter functions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A philatelic counter also functions here.

The Thalassery Postal Division covers the areas in Thalassery, Kuthuparamba and Manathavady (in Wayanad district).

This division has one head office and 46 sub offices covering an area of 1952.15 sq. kms.

Telecom

The Kannur Telecom Secondary Switching area comprises of Kannur and Kasaragod Revenue districts and the union territory of Mahe.

The Kannur SSA controls 105 telephone exchanges with a working connection of 59927 lines. These exchanges have been equipped with STD facility. All the panchayats in the SSA have also been provided with public telephones. Out of the 105 exchanges, 98 exchanges are electronic.

The Telecom department also provides manual trunk facility, telegram, fax, telex, data circuits, etc.

In the new development programme, there are 12 new Telephone Exchanges in Kannur SSA at Melparamba, Ichilangod, Kalichanadukka, Kaniyala, Miyanadavu, Nekraje, Padiyoor, Peruvamba, Vaniappara, Vaninagar, Varam and Perumbatta.

Newspapers

The pioneering venture in the field of Malayalam journalism is associated with Kannur district. Dr. H. Gundert, the famous lexicographer, started two of the earliest Malayalam newspapers from Thalassery in 1847. They were the *Rajyasamacharam* and *Paschimodayam*. The former commenced publication in June 1847 and the latter, in October the same year.

The *Rajyasamacharam* was devoted mainly to Christian missionary activities. Most of the articles in the *Paschimodayam* were written by Dr. Gundert himself and they were later collected and published by him in book form in *Kerala Pazhama*, *Pazhama*, *Keralolpathi* and *Malayalarajyam*.

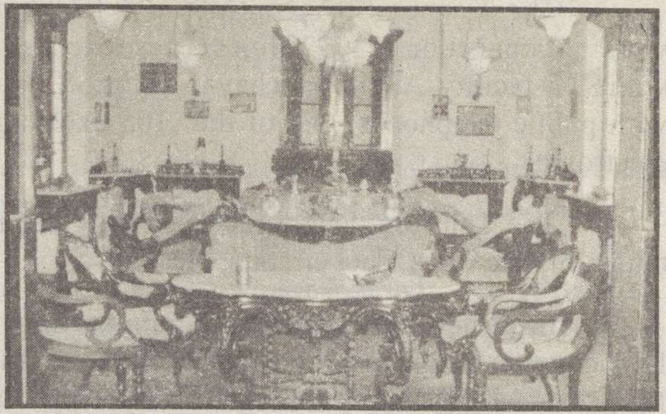
With the advent of modern electronic communication technology, the major dailies in the State, viz., *Mathrubhoomi*, *Malayala Manorama*, *Deepika* and *Deshabimani* have started their units here, in recent years.

The evening dailies are very much alive and popular. *Padayani*, *Sudinam*, *Spotanam*, *Cannanore Times*, *Suchana* and *Chethana* are some of them.

ART AND CULTURE

The Kolathiri kingdom deserves special mention with regard to the cultural heritage of the State.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, under the Kolathiri Rajas, Thaliparamba became a famous centre of learning, enlightenment and culture. The story of this place developing into a cultural centre is intimately linked with the famous Thaliparamba temple.



Conference Hall in the Arakkal Beevi's palace

With the transfer of the capital of Kolathiri from Thaliparamba to Chirakkal, Chirakkal also rose into prominence as a great centre of the arts.

The gift of the district in the field of art and culture is its folk arts. The social situation that prevailed here gave rise to various folk art forms. The assimilation of different styles of Aryan and non-Aryan culture and the influence of Jain and Buddhist philosophies kindled its growth further.

Though the social set-up has been effaced by time, the cultural life of the folk remains unchanged.

Folk Dances

A large number of folk plays and dances are prevalent among the scheduled castes and tribes. They believe that dancing and singing make their gods happy. Each tribe has its own glorious collection of folk plays and dances which are performed during festivals. Among the Adiyans there is a folk play in which a senior man plays on a *Thundi* (drum) and the men sing and dance to the beating of the drum. Though their women do not participate in the dance, they join in the community singing.

The Malayalers had among them an interesting form of mock

fighting called *Vishanti*, in which they used wooden shields supplied by members of other castes and the actual *Vishanti* or blowing was done with the stems of plantain leaves. This kind of mock fighting has now practically disappeared.

The Malayans have the *Thiyyattom* ceremony which consists of dancing with masks and singing and the *Ucchavali* ceremony which is symbolic of human sacrifice. THE *Paniyar* have their characteristic devil dance.

Godaveri or Godamuri

Godaveri or *Godamuri* is an entertaining folk-play of a quasi-religious nature which is performed in the central parts of Kannur district by the Malayans who are experts in devil dancing.

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The central figure in the performance is a boy in a girl's make-up, enclosed in a frame-work of the spathe of the arecanut tree modelled in the shape of a cow with head and tail. The boy is accompanied by a drummer and a number of men who wear fantastic masks and their bodies smeared with ashes. The performers recite a song, the theme of which is the sacredness and the virtues of the cow and its benefits to mankind. The cow is called *Godaveri* from which this ceremonial play derives its name. The *Godaveri* group of players confine their visits to agricultural families, thus emphasising the character of the play as a fertility rite.

Vedan Padal or Vedan Pattu

Vedan Padal (*Vedan Pattu*) is a peculiar ceremony observed in certain parts of the district in the month of Karkidakam (July-August) which coincides with the season of scarcity in Kerala.

The Vedan or hunter is impersonated by a boy, in a peculiar make-up, who is armed with bow and arrows and accompanied by an attendant who carries a small drum on his shoulder. The vedan gets a ceremonial welcome in each household. In the course of the welcoming ceremony, the drummer chants a folk song which has for its theme, the precarious life of a hunter in the forest, his attempts to make a living by taking to

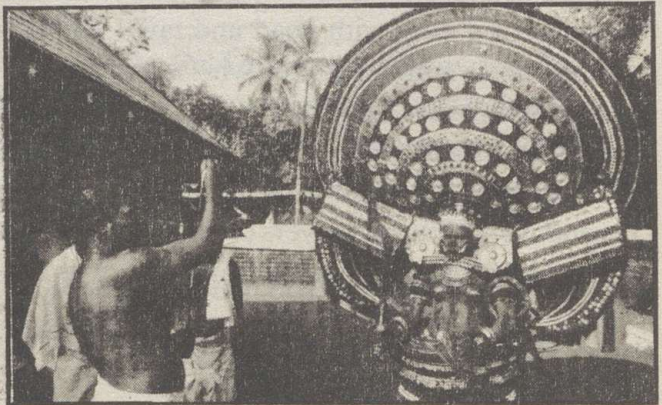
agriculture, the difficulties of cultivation in the hilly tracts and the wild nature of the country, teeming with animals. He describes particularly the story of the pursuit of a wild boar by the hunter and his triumphant encounter with Arjuna.

The performance ends with the disclosure of the *vedan* as Siva who blesses his devotee Arjuna. The Malayans who figure in the *Vedan Padal* are given some rice and curry provisions such as salt and chillies from each house. It is the popular belief that the ceremony would avert the evil tendencies of the month and assure happiness and prosperity to the household.

Theyyam

This is a highly ritualistic dance, well preserved with its rare and grotesque make-up and costume, lively foot work and gymnastic fervor. It represents a glorious period of folk-life in Kannur as well as in Kerala.

The gods and goddesses are supposed to come in our midst through the medium of the possessed dancers and converse with us on matters of even contemporary significance. It is sometimes found that *Theyyams* pronounce



Theyyam - A ritualistic folk art

judgements on temporal matters and give blessings to the believers. The performers belong to *Mannan*, *Velan* and *Malayan* communities. They were patronised by the feudal chiefs of *Ezhinadu*, *Puzhinadu* and such other places where the Dravidian culture was maintaining its supremacy.

The *Theyyam* dance is performed during the festivals of the shrines known by names like *muchilode*, *kavu*, *palliyera mundya*, *tanam*, *madhappura* etc. It had grown through centuries to its present form.

Theyyam is essentially a human creation; it has an absolute relationship with man in giving vent to his strong feelings against injustice and wickedness and his desire to maintain the well-being of the society.

The head gear or the mask, made of locally available materials from nature and painted with natural colours, assumes a grotesque and architypal image with the blending of highly artistic and emotive display.

The folk singer, while he sings out in a loud voice, accompanying *Theyyam* or along with his own dancing steps, uses simple, but effective language and straight, but thought-provoking, images.

The rudiments of the dance music which later developed and evolved into the art of "Krishnanattam" and "Kathakali" can be clearly found in *Theyyam* music. *Theyyam* songs belong to a literary tradition of the farthest past which had not evolved through any conscious process of sophistication, but served as a life-giving vehicle of the feeling of village communities.

Marathukali

Marathukali is a fusion of two different styles of cultural arts that prevailed in this region. One of them is of arguments and counter arguments of two groups which comprise of scholars in scientific subjects and the other is *Poorakkali* demonstration of their supporters.

It is a competitive "game art" conducted in temple yards. So, naturally it gained ritualistic importance.

The game lasts for a long time; at times it extends to even a day or more.

Poorakkali

Poorakkali is a temple festival held in the Bhagavathy temples in the month of Meenam. In this festival which lasts for nine days, we find rejoicing on the rebirth of Kama, the god of love, and the enjoyment of people in regaining the feelings of love.

It has a dramatic folklore touch and its literature is embellished with glorious deeds of Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu.

Vadakken Pattukal

Ballads sung in praise of the exploits of local heroes form an important source of inspiration for the community. These ballads are sometimes connected with deities. Some of them are on the miraculous life and deeds of heroes and heroines.

The ballads which originated in the northern parts of Kerala, known as "Vadakken Pattukal", are the most popular among them. Almost all Vadakkaen Pattukals are closely associated with *Kalari* (martial) and *Payattu* (fight). Most of the songs in this category are in praise of the members of two families in North Kerala namely *Potturam Veedu* and *Tacholi Manikkottu Veedu*, of which the former belonged to Tiyya and the latter to Nayar sub castes of the Hindus.

Evidently, these ballads of Kannur, which belonged to the 16th century A.D., portray a social system which demands every youth to undergo martial training.

Kalaripayattu

Kalari meaning school and *Payattu* meaning combat, Kalaripayattu is one of the advanced combat sciences of the world and has reproduced many a hero whose exploits are celebrated in legends and folk songs.

In the past, each desom or locality had its kalari or gymnasium, presided over by the guardian deity called *Kalari Paradevatha* or Bhagavathi. Most of the heroes of medieval Kerala were products of the kalari system. Both boys and girls received training in the kalari. It is the training and practice in kalari that are known by the term kalaripayattu and this is valued very much from the point of view of physical culture. The whole philosophy underlying kalaripayattu is that the system is to be used only for noble causes and never for self aggrandisement. The glorious days of kalaripayattu had set with the dawn of the 17th century, with increasing use of guns and cannons.

Todikkalam Mural Paintings

The Todikkalam temple near Kannavam in Thalassery taluk has some beautiful mural paintings which represent scenes from Hindu mythology like *Rugmini swayamvarm*, *Ravana vadham*, etc.

The style of the pictures appear to be related to the pictures in the Mattancheri Palace and have the common features of South Indian murals.

The pictures, spread over 700 sq.ft. in about 40 panels, were drawn on the four walls of the temple sanctum using natural colours and primarily based on Saivic-Vaishnavic stories.

The panels are arranged between beautifully decorated pillars.

Charm, cheerfulness and comeliness of countenance are common features of the paintings. Contemporary village life during the 16th to 18th centuries are beautifully depicted along with the idea of epic life.

Cherusseri

The famous epic author and Vaishnavic devotee, Cherusseri Namboodiri belonged to Kolathunad (now in Vadagara of Kozhikkode district). The consensus among scholars is that he lived and wrote in the 15th century. He adorned the court of Udaya Varma Kolathiri.

The popular song of Sree Krishna, *Krishnagatha*, is his composition. It is an epic written in a popular Dravidian metre which has evolved from a folk metre. There is also an entrancing freshness about his description of domestic life. The naturalness and ease of his lines account for Cherusseri's popularity. He excels by the simplicity and limpidness of his diction and imagery. Bhakti, Vvatsalyam, karuna and sringaras are the dominant moods in Cherusseri's poetry.

Kottayam Thampuram

The major development in the cultural field in Kerala in the 17th century was the growth of a new form of visual art called Attam or Kathakali which brought into being a new genre of poetry called Attakkatha.

The greatest fillip to the growth of Attakkatha as a literary form and Kathakali as a performing art came from Kottayam Thampuram, a prince in the royal family of Northern Kottayam of the district, who is believed to have lived in the late 17th century. His main Attakkathas are *Bagavadham*, *Kalyana Saugandhikam*, *Kirmiravadham* and *Kakkeyavadham*. Their success led to the phenomenal popularity of this form of literary composition. Kottayam was a more gifted poet and scholar than Kottarakara and in his hands Attakkatha attained a position of respectability. His quatrains are invariably in Sanskrit, but the padas are in Malayalam. Several of his padas are extremely popular not only with the Kathakali audiences, but also with the general public.

Malayala Kalagramam

Malayala Kalagramam (MAKAM) at New Mahe is a centre for arts and ideas. It aims at providing children and youngsters a 'Kalari' to practise and perform all forms of fine arts.

Kalagramam offers classes for music, dance, painting, sculpture and handicrafts. It envisages to impart knowledge in Sanskrit and yoga.

The views and ideas of personalities like M. Govindan, M.P. Damodaran, K.A. Kodungalloor, Dr. K.B. Menon and A.N. Nambiar, are the sources of inspiration for the setting up of the *Kalagramam*. Each of these men has proved their worth in different fields, contributing to humanity.

The Malayala Kalagramam, sponsored by the A.P. Kunhiraman Trust Madras started functioning in January 1994 with regular and part-time courses in painting, sculpture, music, dance and art pottery.

The objectives of the courses are to familiarise the trainees with classical and contemporary trends and techniques in the respective field of art to teach them art application and history of art and to enable them to utilise art better, in their daily of life.

The Fraternity Centre of the Kalagramam conducts seminars, symposia, extension lectures, in-service programmes and special projects in different fields of art and humanities.

FESTIVALS

The traditional Hindu in the district, observes a number of religious festivals. Among them the prominent ones are *Vinayaka Chathurthi* (in the month Chingam, August-September), *Ashtami Rohini* (in Chingam), *Navarathri* (in Kanni, September-October), *Mahasivarathri* (in Kumbhom, February-March), *Onam* (in Chingam), *Vishu* (in Medom, April-May) and *Pooram* (in Meenam, March-April).

The *Navarathri* festival is a nine day festival and a favourable period for the worship of Sakthi. The last day of the festival, *Vijayadasami*, is regarded as auspicious for the begining of children's education - *Vidyaramba*.

The festival of *Vishu*, the vernal equinox, is observed in this district on a grant scale. The most important ceremony connected with this is the Kanikanal (literally means the first sight). The Malayalee believes that if he sees suspicious things like gold ornaments, a measure of rice or paddy, mirror, flowers of kanikonna tree, etc arranged on the previous night in the home, in the first day of the New year, the whole of the year will be lucky for him.

Children and poor people get gifts of money from elders on the Vishu day. This custom is called *Vishukaineettam*. An indispensable element in the celebration of Vishu in this district is the extensive display of fireworks.

The *Pooram* festival of nine days begins on the day of Karthika

asterism and ends on the day of Pooram. During the festival days the image of Kamadeva is installed in every Hindu home and unmarried girls offer pooja. The Pooram season is an occasion for rejoicing and merry-making. An interesting feature of the Pooram festival is that it is accompanied by the *poora vilakku* (illumination) and *poorakkali* in the temples.

The festivities associated with *Deepavali* (in Thulam, October-November) in Tamil Nadu or North India are, however, missing in this district.

Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, is celebrated in Kannur also but the traditional myth here with regard to its origin, is different from what it is in central or south Kerala. The festival is limited to two days viz., Uthradam and Thiruonam days.

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

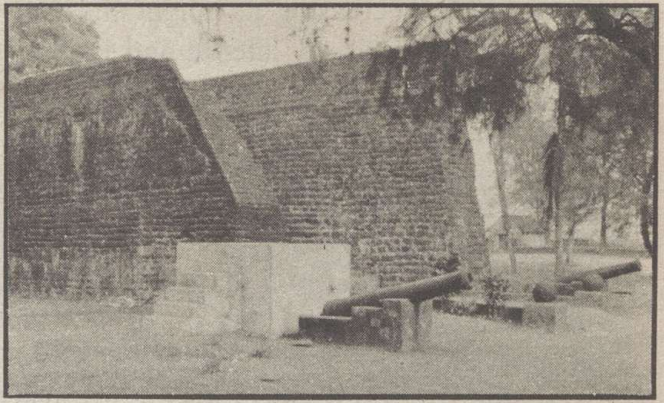
The tourism potential for Kannur district is high. The St. Angelos Fort in the Kannur Cantonment, which was constructed in 1505, is a symbol of Portuguese architecture and attracts plenty of tourists. The Thalassery Fort is an important tourist centre. Kannur beach and Ezhimala are known for scenic beauty. Places of historic importance, like the house of Gundert, who composed the first Malayalam-English Dictionary and the mosque at Madayi constructed in 1124, using marble brought from Mecca attract many tourists.



The House of Herman Gundert - a German missionary, who composed the first Malayalam - English dictionary

Fort St. Angelos

Fort St. Angelos is in the west of Kannur town. It was built in 1505 by the first Portuguese Viceroy, Don Francisco De Almeida, with the permission of the Kolathiris, on a promontory jutting into the Lakshadweep sea.



Interior of Fort St. Angelo, built by the Portuguese, in 1505 AD

The Dutch captured the fort in 1663 and sold it to the Ali Raja of Kannur in 1772 and in 1790 it came into the possession of the British.

The British rebuilt it and made it their most important station in Malabar.

This fort is in a fairly good state of preservation, though parts of it have collapsed. A few obsolete guns are seen at the place. The fort is a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India.

Thalassery Fort

The British arrived in Thalassery in 1683 and erected a goods shed there. They shifted their commercial capital to Thalassery from Kozhikkode, following obstruction from the Dutch.

In 1700, the British built the Thalassery Fort on a small hill called Tiruvellapadkunnu and in 1708, it was



Thalassery Fort, distinguished by its massive ventilated walls and strong flanking bastions, was built by the British, in 1708.

strengthened by increasing its height and with bastions. The fort is a square structure built of laterite and is distinguished by its massive ventilated walls and strong flanking bastions. It was here that Haider's captain was imprisoned.

The famous St. John's Anglican church is behind this fort.

Snake Park at Parassinikkadavu

The Snake Park at Parassinikkadavu is situated 18 kms. away from Kannur town. It is one of the known snake parks in the country.

The park is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of snakes, most of which are becoming extinct gradually.

There is a large collection of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.

Payyambalam Beach Resort

The Payyambalam beach is one of the beautiful beaches in this State and is an ideal place to spend evenings, irrespective of seasons. It is very near Kannur town.

The mortal remains of Swadeshabhimani Ramakrishna Pilla, A.K. Gopalan, K.P. Gopalan, Pamban Madhavan and K.G. Marar are laid to rest near this resort.

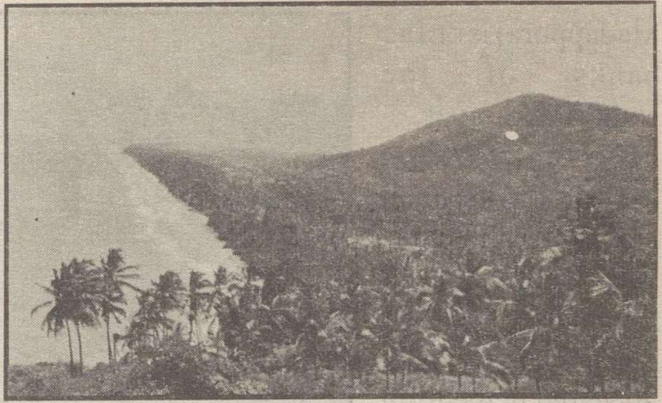
Ezhimala

Ezhimala, the capital of the ancient Mooshika kings, is considered to be an ancient historical site. It is a conspicuous, isolated cluster of hills, forming a promontory, 38 kms. north of Kannur.



*Swadeshabimani
Ramakrishna Pillai's
memorial at Payyambalam*

A flourishing sea port and centre of trade in ancient Kerala, it was one of the major battle fields of the Chola-Chera war of the 11th century.



Ezhimala - the capital of ancient Mooshaka Kings, a flourishing ancient sea port and the proposed site for the Naval Academy

It is believed that Lord Budha had visited Ezhimala. An old mosque, believed

to contain the mortal remains of Shaikh Abdul Latif, a Muslim reformist, is also located here. The hill is noted for rare medicinal herbs.

Bordered by sea on three sides, Ezhimala is set to occupy a prominent place in the naval history of the country, consequent to the proposal for commissioning the Naval Academy here.

Moppila Bay

Moppila Bay is a natural fishing harbour, lying near Fort St. Angelos. A sea wall projecting from the fort separates the rough sea and inland water.

The bay was famous during the Kolathiris' regime as a commercial harbour that linked Kolathunadu with Lakshadweep and foreign countries, in imports.

Today, Mopilla bay has turned into a modernised fishing harbour, developed under the Indo-Norwegian Pact.

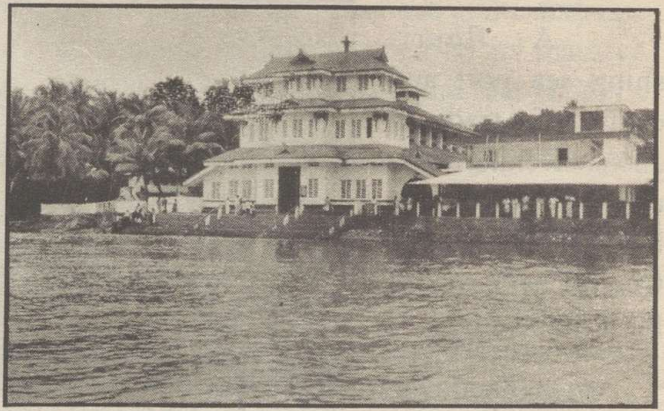
IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS CENTRES

Parassinikadavu Muthappan Temple

The famous Muthappan (Siva) Temple (Parassinikadavu

Madappura) is on the banks of the Valapatnam river.

According to tradition, the main abode of Muthappan was Puralimala near Mattannur. The story goes that Muthappan appeared in the form of a child before one Padikutti Amma. The child had an



Parassinikadavu Sri Muthappan Temple - on the banks of Valapattanam river

insatiable appetite for liquor, fish and meat and became a nuisance to the family and was therefore turned out from the house.

Armed with a bow and arrow Muthappan wandered from place to place and eventually reached Puralimala. At Kunnathurpadi, on his way to Puralimala, he climbed on to the top of a palmyra tree in the house of one Chandan and drank toddy.

Chandan who happened to arrive on the scene, is said to have been turned into a rock at the gaze of Muthappan. Here Muthappan completely disappeared from the scene and nothing more was heard of him. It is believed that he came down to Parassinikadavu.

According to tradition, a member of the Vannan community at Parassinikadavu found a metallic arrow on the trunk of a Kangira tree and having felt something divine about the place, reported the matter to the senior member of an ancient Thiyya family in the neighbourhood. The latter, who felt the divine presence of Muthappan, immediately performed the necessary ceremonies and offered worship to him.

It is an accepted dictum here, that whatever is received by way of gifts or offerings should be spent for the benefits of the pilgrims. The daily offerings made to Muthappan are also different from what they are in other temples. It has been customary to offer toddy, fish and meat as 'nivedyams' to this deity. People of all castes and communities including

members of the Muslim as well as Christian communities are known to donate sums of money as *vazhipadu* to Muthappan. The annual festival which falls on December 1st, provides a special occasion for pilgrims to throng the Parassinikadavu temple.

The temple is situated 20 kms. north of Kannur town.

Thiruvangad Temple

The Thiruvangad temple, dedicated to Sri. Rama, is an important temple. The temple is generally known as the Brass Pagoda from the copper sheeting of its roof.

A part of the temple was damaged by Tipu's troops in the 18th century, but the temple itself is believed to have been saved from destruction by a miracle.

It was one of the outposts of the Thalassery fort in the eighteenth century. In its precincts were held many conferences between the officials of the East India Company and local leaders, at which political treaties and agreements were signed.

The temple contains some interesting sculptures and lithic records.

The annual festival of temple commences on Vishu day in Medam (April-May) and lasts for seven days.

Trichambaram temple

The Trichambaram temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The pratishtha here was performed by Sambara Maharshi and hence the temple is known as Trichambaram.

The presum-



Trichambaram Srikrishna Temple, Thaliparamba - dedicated to Lord Krishna

ption is that the temple is situated in Dwaraka. It is significant that all around the temple, the water level is high. There is an elinji tree just in front of the temple which bears no fruits but only flowers.

The annual festival at Trichambaram takes place during Kumbham-Meenam months (March).

The temple vazhipadus like payasam and thousand breads are believed to bless the devotees with *santhanavardhanavu*.

The temple is located about 5 kms. south of Thaliparamba.

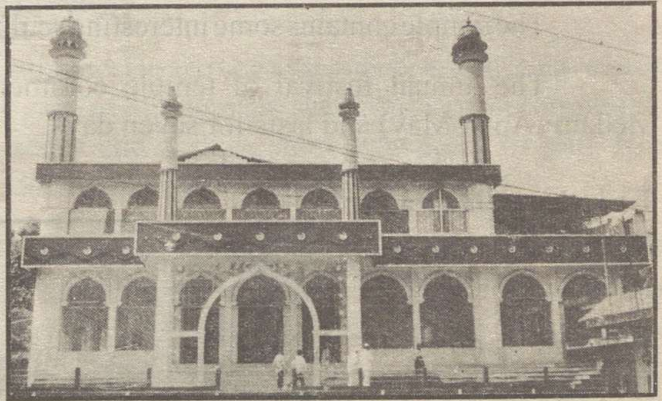
Mosque at Thalassery

The Juma Masjid situated near the Maidan in the heart of Thalassery town is one of the most beautiful mosques in the district. It is said to be more than a thousand years old and has been rebuilt in the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture.

Mosque at Madayi

The most interesting building at Madayi is the beautiful old mosque which was founded by Malik Ibin Dinar.

A block of white marble in the mosque is believed to have been brought from Mecca by the founder himself. The grave of an Arab divine, who renovated this mosque, is also seen here.



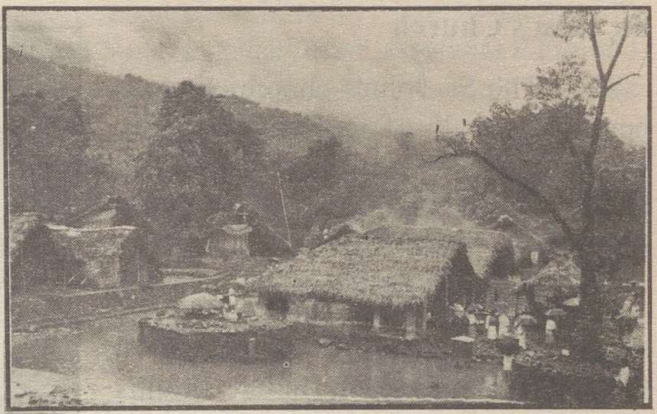
Mosque at Madayi - founded by Malk Ibin Dinar - one of the oldest in the State

Kottiyur

The most important pilgrim centre in this district is Kottiyur, otherwise known as the 'Varanasi of the South'.

There are two temples at Kottiyur, viz., *Akkara Kottiyur* and *Ikkara Kottiyur*, lying in the deep forests.

The annual festival commences with Neyyattam on the swati day in Edavam (May - June) and ends with *Thirukalasattu*, after 28 days.



Kottiyur - "The Varanasi of the South" - one of the most important pilgrim centres of the district.

A sword from the Muthirikavu, Tavinal village, is brought to Ikkara Kottiyur and this marks the beginning of the festival. It is believed that this sword is the one with which Daksha is believed to have been hacked to death and it is an object of daily worship of Muthirikavu. This festival is akin to the yaga performed by Daksha.

The special ceremonies connected with the festival are Neyyattam and Elaneerattam, literally meaning the pouring of ghee and water of tender coconut respectively.

Jagannatha Temple

The Jagannatha Temple, set up by Sree Narayana Guru in 1908, is another important temple. It is situated on a raised ground in the midst of paddy fields and was built by raising funds from the rich and the poor alike.

The Harijans were admitted to this temple in 1924.

Pooja is performed here by non-Brahmins, according to ancient Hindu rites. Marriages including inter-caste marriages are conducted inside the temple.

Annual festival falls in Kumbham (February - March).

St. John's Church

The St. John's church, situated beneath the walls of the Thalassery Fort, was built in 1869 with the funds provided by the Master Attendent, Mr. Edward Brennen.

Situated on a summit near the sea, this church is one of the most beautiful Anglican churches in India. In this churchyard lies the tomb of Edward Brennen.



Holy Trinity Church - one of the oldest churches in the district

Annapurneswari Temple

The Annapurneswari temple, situated at Cherukunnu near Thaliparamba, is believed to have been constructed by Parasurama.

According to tradition, Annapurneswari of Kasi (Banaras) came to Cherukunnu in a ship with three maid servants and a number of their followers.

Later, the goddess proceeded to the spot where the temple is now situated.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Many well-known personalities in the field of sports and games have adorned Kannur in their respective fields. The Englishmen of the Military Centre brought hockey, cricket, football, etc to Kannur during the pre-independence period. The famous Fort Maidan and Police Maidan provide ample facilities for youths to excell in this field. The CDRE Football team and Hockey team excelled in those days. At the same time, the traditional martial art 'Kalaripayat' has also been here, majestcally, all along.

After independence, the football clubs helped spread the spirit of the game in Kannur. Spirited Youths, Lucky Star, Brothers Club and Gymkhana Club were popular and produced well known players like D'cruz, Soman, Dasan, etc.

In Hockey too, apart from the military team, there were good teams in Kannur and Thalassery. Cricket, ball-badminton, weight-lifting, gymnastics, wrestling, volleyball, etc have been widely played in both urban and rural areas. Volleyball has been concentrated upon by youths in rural areas.

When Sports Divisions were started in schools in 1976 to tap talents, one of its divisions was started in the district. The Sports Division attached to Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kannur, produced international stars like P.T. Usha and M.D. Valsamma in athletics, Leelamma Thomas and Moly Benedict in basketball and Anitha Retnam and Anandavalli in volleyball. The Police Maidan was the venue for M.D. Valsamma and Mercy Mathew to practise athletics; P.K. Balachandran, V.P. Sathyan, D'cruz, Rajan, Ramanan, Sugunan, Chithanandan and George in football and Ford and Olympian Federics in hockey. Westline & Leslie in cricket had their training at Fort Maidan.

Kannur became famous in South India for ball badminton, when T.K. Ramakrishnan and Kumaran were playing. A.M. Bharathan created history in weight lifting in the early fifties.

Outstanding Sports Personalities of Kannur

- C.K. Lakshmanan** - First Cannanorean to represent India in Athletics in Olympics.
- Mercy Mathew** - Represented India in the Invitation Athletic Meet held at Karachi in 1980.
- M.D. Valsamma** - Represented India twice in Asian Games and once in Olymics in Athletics.
- P.T. Usha** - Asian Games Champion and Olympian in Athletics.

- D'Curz** - Footballer; represented India and played against a foreign team on their visit to India.
- P.K. Balachandran** - Represented India in the pre-Olympic Football tournament held at Singapore in 1980.
- C.P. Soman** - Football player; represented India when the Indian team visited USSR.
- C.P. Ratnaraj** - Represented Indian School Team in 1969 against Ceylon Schools in Football Team.
- Devadas** - Represented India n Olympics in football.
- K. Raghavan** - Represented Indian Services team when played against visiting foreign football team.
- Leelamma Thomas** - Represented India in Asian games in 1986 in basketball.
- Molly P. Benedict** - Represented India in Asian Games in 1986 in basketball.
- A.M. Bharathan** - Famous weight lifter of India.
- Fredrics Ford** - Hockey player represented India in 1984 Olympics.
- T.Sreedharan Nair and C.V. Narayanan** - Well known artists of ancient warfare and kalaripayat.
- T.K. Ramakrishnan** - An outstanding ball Bbadminton player of South India who won many laurels for Kannur.
- Jimmy George** - Represented India in Asian Games and many other International volleyball matches.
- Ford, Leslie Aron, Babu Acharath and Madendra** - Well known cricket players.

SAG Gymnastic Centre

The Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme was conceived by the Sports Authority of India in 1985 to tap talents from areas which have

either some genetic or geographic advantage for excellence in a particular sports discipline. The scheme envisages scouting of talents from tribal, hilly, rural and coastal areas keeping in mind the physical attributes of the people required for a particular sport.



*Sports Authority of India's Gymnastic Centre,
Thalassery - under the Special Area Games Scheme
of the Sports Authority of India.*

Considering the circus parentage of Talassery, SAI proposed a gymnastic centre there. The Special Area Games Scheme Gymnastic Centre was inaugurated on 6th May 1990. The concept of the scheme is to scout the talented children from circus families in the age group of 7 to 12 years and train them in gymnastics in a homely atmosphere.

Circus

An art in which the Keralite has distinguished himself is the circus. Kannur-Thalassery region is the home of circus, not only in Kerala, but in the whole India. The Indian circus as a show-business came into existence in 1880 with Vishnu Pant Chartre's 'New Indian Circus'. But it was with the entry of Kerala into the field early in this century that Indian circus got a new life and look.

Keeleri Kunhikkannan, the great circus acharya of Kerala, evinced a keen interest in such arts as kalaripayattu and wrestling. He also enriched his knowledge by a study of the mode of gymnastics and sports practised by the British officers, stationed at Thalassery. Keeleri introduced several radical innovations in the circus art by originating and accomplishing a variety of thrilling feats and creating circus stars out of

village urchins. He established the first circus institute in Kerala and the second of its kind in India in 1901.

IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS

Territorial Army's 122 Infantry Battalion

The Territorial Army is a citizens army which comprises of civilians who are eager to contribute their might to the defence of the country, while pursuing their own vocation. Although it does not offer a regular career it provides an ideal opportunity to the youth of the country to receive military training in their spare time. The Territorial Army inherits all the magnificent traditions of the services.

The Territorial Army's 122 Infantry Battalion was initially raised as the 51 Light Armoured Regiment at Ambala in 1949. In 1956 the Battalion was redesignated and initially affiliated to the Punjab Regiment. Consequent to its move to Malappuram in 1966, it was reaffiliated to the Madras Regiment.

The unit saw active service during the Chinese aggression of 1962 and both the Indo-Pak Wars of '65 and '71.

The Battalion was embodied for services from 10 September '89 to 25 February '90 in Sri Lanka as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force. It was a successful shoulder to shoulder operation with the regular army at Kankesanthurai, Palali and Trincomalee. The contingent returned without suffering any casualties.

This force was also drafted for *Operation Rakshak* during 1991-92 and it moved to Kashmir valley.

The Battalion was adjudged both as the Best Infantry Battalion (T.A) in the country and has won the Chief of Army Staff Silver Trophy, consecutively thrice during 1986 - 87, 1987-88 and 1988-89.

Defence Security Corps

The Defence Department Constabulary Centre now known as Defence Security Corps (DSC) was raised on 25th April 1947 at Mathura

in Uttar Pradesh. The centre moved to Delhi on 3rd May 1947. It was formed in the form of a semi-police force with police title and badges of ranks. In 1948, military titles and badges of ranks were given to the DSC.

In August 1958, the Corps was re-organised and redesignated as Defence Security Corps- DSC and brought under the control of Army Headquarters.

The DSC and Records moved from Delhi to Chakrata in UP in April 1959 and then to Kannur on 21st November 1961.

The Centre imparts training to ex-service personnel of Army, Navy, Air Force and Territorial Army and recruits them to various agencies under the Army, Navy, Air Force and Territorial Army and to the Directorate General of Ordnance Factories and Directorate General of Research and Development.

The role of Defence Security Corps is to ensure the protection and security of designated Defence Installations against sabotage and pilferage.

The centre is the mother depot to all platoons in the country.

KAP camp, Mangattuparamba

Kap Camp, Mangattuparamba is the headquarters of Kerala Armed Police 4 Battalion. In Kerala, there are 7 armed police battalions viz., the Malabar Special Police with headquarters at Malappuram, the Special Armed Police and KAP 3 at Thirivananthapuram, KAP 1 and 5 at Thrissur, KAP 2 at Palakkad and KAP 4 at Mangattuparamba.

At the time of its formation in 1963, the present KAP Camp was a detachment camp of the Malabar Special Police. The camp was handed over to the district Police, Kannur in 1968 for accommodating the District Armed Reserve.

KAP 4 Battalion was formed in 1980 with headquarters at Aluva. In 1982, the headquarters of the Battalion was shifted from Aluva to Kozhikkode. The same was further shifted to Mangattuparamba in 1983.

Armed Police Battalions are independent units of the police

department like District Police. The battalions are duty bound to deal with serious law and order and communal problems more efficiently and effectively. The strength of the battalion is 1038, including civil staff. The battalion is headed by an Indian Police Service officer in the rank of a Superintendent of Police. He is assisted by a Deputy Commandant, 4 Assistant Commandants, 7 Inspectors, 18 SIs, 6 ASIs, 1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Manager in the day to day administration.

This camp is situated at Mangattuparamba, about 16 kms. north of Kannur, beside the NH17. This is a lovely camp, blessed with the beauty of nature. It comprises of 87.78 acres of land. There is a beautiful garden in the camp.

The battalion has a proficient brass band which performs for civilian ceremonial functions also. There is a tele-communication wing which works in the camp round the clock.

Kannur Cantonment Board

Kannur Cantonment Board is one of the 62 cantonments in the country and the only one in the State. Cantonments were established during the British era usually in their military areas where both civilian and military personnel resided.

The Kannur Cantonment is included in the Class II category. It came into existence in 1938. This cantonment constitutes of 2698 civilian population and 2121 military population. The Board consists of 8 members. Four of them are elected from the civil population. Officer in Command is the chairman.

Central Prison

The Central Prison, situated at Pallikkunnu, three kilometres away from Kannur town, is a cynosure of historical importance. Many leaders of National Freedom Struggle and various local peasant revolts were either brutally imprisoned or mercilessly executed here.

The greeny colonnades of huge trees, model sericulture units and

vast mulberry gardens under the lingering silence of the serene, picturesque surroundings help one forget the painful memories.

A sales counter functions in the prison premises for the sale of jail produces, especially the artistic carvings and weavings of prisoners.

RAIDCO

The Regional Agro Industrial Development Co-operative of Kerala Ltd. popularly known as RAIDCO Kerala Ltd. was started in 1972 with its jurisdiction confined to Kannur district only.

In 1973 it was converted as a regional co-operative, extending its area of operation to eight northern districts of Kerala and in 1992 it was elevated as a state level co-operative.

The aim of the RAIDCO is to cater to the needs of farmers by supplying agricultural machinery and implements and to help the farmers in new ventures in the co-operative sector.

The co-operative has its headquarters at Kannur with 26 branches all over the State.

All India Radio, Kannur

The F.M. Radio station of All India Radio at Kannur was set up on 4th May 1991. The station provides quality programmes to a population spread over an area of about 12,000 sq.kms. with a radius of about 60 kms. in and around Kannur. The station operates on 101.5 MHZ in the F.M. Band.

Field Publicity Office

The Field Publicity Office of the Government of India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has completed 35 years of fruitful service in Kannur and all along, it has made significant contributions to disseminate various governmental information through film shows, oral communication programmes, photo exhibitions, song and drama programmes, etc. Its programme activities are not only confined to Kannur district, but also spread over the neighbouring Kasaragod district and Mahe of the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

BARE FACTS

Area (sq. kms.)	:	2966
Population (in 000's)	:	2252
Percentage to State population	:	7.74
Males (in 000's)	:	1099
Females (in 000's)	:	1153
Sex ratio : females/1000 males	:	1049
Density of population	:	759
No. of households	:	371
Average size of family	:	6.07

(Population Statistics - 1991 Census)

Projected population as on 1st March

Year	:	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Population (in 000's)	:	2376	2407	2440	2473	2506	2540

(Source : Dept. of Economics Statistics)

Average monthly rainfall -1991 (m.m.)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Rainfall	0	0	8	31	170	1052	1317	614	62	233	80	0	3569

Gross area under irrigation (cropwise) 1990-91

Crops	Paddy	Tubers	Vege- tables	Coconut	Areca- nut	Cloves & Nutmeg
Area (in hects)	6078	33	609	6088	2228	8

Crops	Other Spices & Condiments	Banana	Betel leaves	Sugar- cane	Others	Total
Area (in hects)	-	1697	7	11	659	33756

Live Stock Population (1987)

Cattle	Buffaloes	Goats	Sheeps	Pigs	Others
272011	12808	91284	797	14230	2568

Total Livestock: 393698 Total poultry : 898098

No. of registered working factories (1992) - 1322

No. of SSI Units as on 31.3.93 - 7137

Distribution of PWD Roads (in kms.) as on 1.4.93

State	Major Dist.	Other Dist.	Village	Total
Highways	Roads	Roads	Roads	
55.13	290.02	915.09	283.36	1543.60

Schools (1992-93)

Section	No. of schools	No. of Students	No. of teachers
LPS	735	198225	7312
UPS	356	167722	5701
HS	153	137077	4822
Total	1244	503024	17835

Arts & Science Colleges

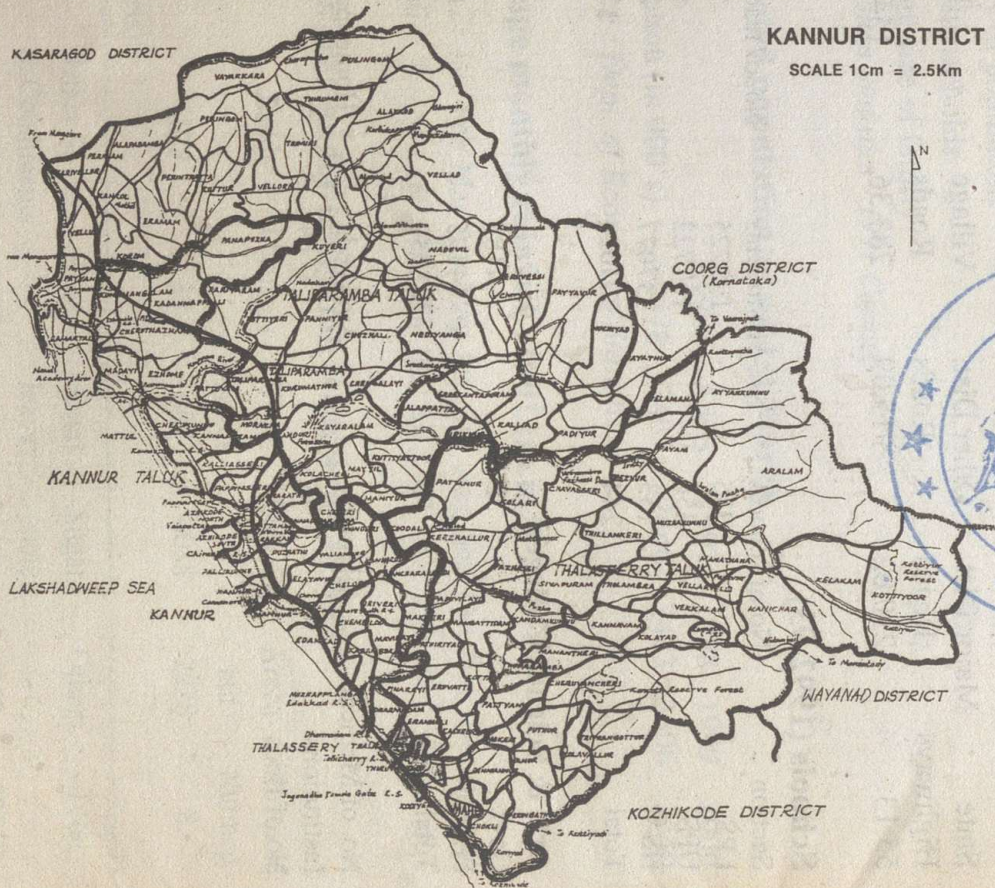
Govt.	2	4187	170
Private	7	14195	525
Total	9	18382	695

No. of Medical	Allopathy	Ayurveda	Homeopathic
Institutions	98	84	24
No. of Beds	2399	211	25

KASARAGOD DISTRICT

KANNUR DISTRICT

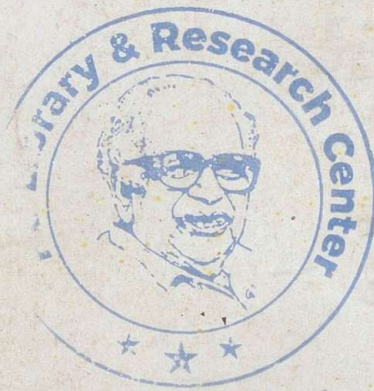
SCALE 1Cm = 2.5Km



REFERENCE	
State Boundary	=====
District Boundary	-----
Taluk Boundary	-----
Village Boundary	-----
Railway Line with Station	-----
National Highway	=====
Other Roads	-----
River	~~~~~
Village Name	EDAKKAD







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Kannur

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