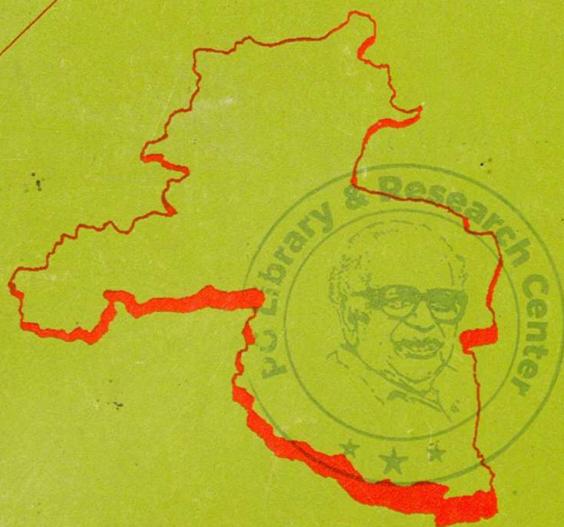


Palakkad

**DISTRICT  
HANDBOOKS OF  
KERALA**



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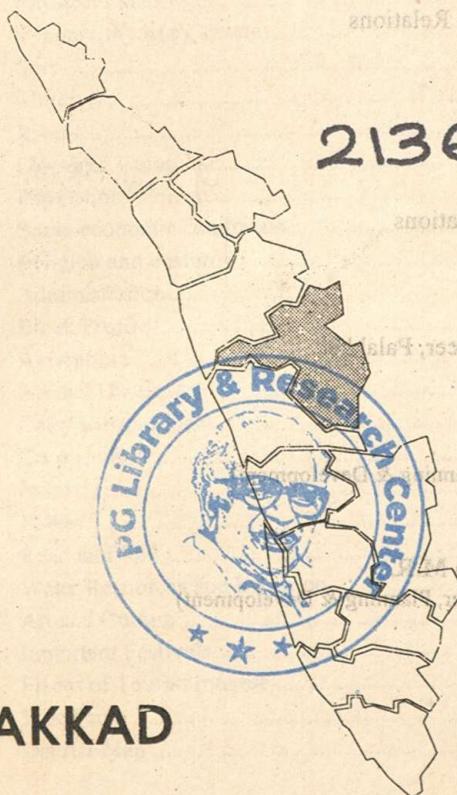


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA



# *DISTRICT HANDBOOKS OF KERALA*

*PALAKKAD*



**PALAKKAD**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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*District Handbooks of Kerala*

**PALAKKAD**

Department of Public Relations  
February 1997

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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 Palakkad district.

Suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Thiruvananthapuram  
5th Feb. 1997

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

**P**alghat or Palakkad is one of the fourteen revenue districts of Kerala. Its geographical position, historical background, rural nature, educational status, tourist attractions and above all, the developmental activities that are carried out, are wide and varied.

This district, situated almost in the centre of the State, has no coastal line. The district opens the State to the rest of the country through the Palakkad gap. This 32 to 40 kms. wide natural gap in the 960 kms. long Western Ghats is perhaps the most influential factor for the unique characteristics of the district such as climate, commercial as well as cultural exchanges between the State and the rest of the country. Palakkad witnessed invasions of historical importance that have left indelible impressions on the history of Kerala. Bharathapuzha, the longest river in Kerala, originates from the highlands and flows through the entire district.

The district is one of the main granaries of Kerala and its economy is primarily agricultural. Agriculture engages more than 65 per cent of the workers and 88.9 per cent of the district's population is rural in nature. The proximity and easy approach to Tamil Nadu have caused the admixture of Malayalam and Tamil culture, here.

This district is perhaps the foremost in fostering Carnatic music. Great musicians like Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar and Palakkad Mani Iyer, who have enriched Carnatic music by their contributions, hailed from this district.

Forests, numerous streams, several dams and the gardens in them have made this district a tourist paradise.

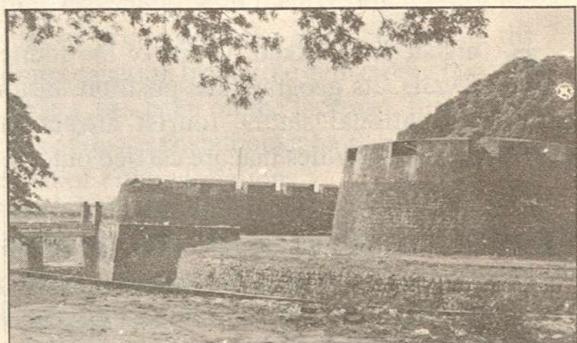
## HISTORY

Historically too, Palakkad district has its own special characteristics. The fort of Hyder Ali tells us the story of Mysore invasions and the advent of the British to this part of the country. The Victoria College, started in 1866, marks the beginning of higher education in Malabar. The Jain temple near Chunnamputhara speaks of the magnanimity of the King of Palakkad who provided shelter to the people who escaped the religious persecutions of the King of Mysore, five hundred years ago.

The ancient history of Palakkad is shrouded. According to William Logan, the author of the *Malabar Manual*, the Pallava dynasty of Kanchi might have invaded

Malabar in the second or third century. One of their headquarters was a place called *Palakada* which could be the present-day Palakkad. Malabar had been invaded by many of the ancient South Indian rulers. For many centuries, it was ruled by the Perumals. They had under them some powerful *Utayavars* who held authority in their own respective territories. After the rule of the Perumals, the country was divided among these chieftans. The *Valluvakonathiri* (ruler of Valluvanad), the rulers of *Vengunad* (Kollengodu Rajas) and *Sekhari varma* (Raja of Palakkad) were the prominent rulers of this region, after the Perumals.

When the Zamorin of Kozhikkode invaded Palakkad in 1757, the Raja of Palakkad sought the help of Hyder Ali of Mysore. Hyder Ali's help forced the Zamorin to retreat. Later Hyder Ali subjugated all territories in Palakkad which were under the possession of Zamorin. Thus the whole area possessed by the Raja of Palakkad passed into the hands



*The fort built by Tippu Sultan - reminiscent of the Mysorean conquest*

of the Mysore rulers - Hyder Ali and his son Tippu Sultan. The war between Tippu and the East India Company ended with the treaty of 1872 and all the possessions of Tippu in Malabar were ceded to the British. Gradually these formed part of the Malabar district of the Madras Presidency.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES

Based on the physical features, the district is divided into two natural divisions - midland and highland. The midland region consists of valleys and plains. It leads up to the highland which consists of high mountain peaks, long spurs, extensive ravines, dense forests and tangled jungles. While Ottappalam taluk lies completely in the midland region, all other taluks in the district lie in the midland and highland regions. The road and rail links between Kerala and Tamil Nadu pass through the Palakkad gap.

The Western Ghats has an average altitude of 5000 ft. except for two peaks of more than 6000 ft. The important peaks above an altitude of 4000 ft. are Anginda peak (7628 ft.), Karimala peak (6556 ft.), Nellikotta or Padagiri peak (5200 ft.) and Karimala Gopuram (4721 ft.).

## TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Palakkad district lies between north latitude  $10^{\circ} 46'$  and  $10^{\circ} 59'$  and east longitude  $76^{\circ} 28'$  and  $76^{\circ} 39'$ . It is bounded on the east by the Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu, on the north and north-west by Malappuram district and on the south by Thrissur district.

The climate of the district is tropical. The obvious



*Vast stretches of fertile paddy fields.....  
Palakkad - the granary of the State*

fact which strikes an observer, according to Logan, is the uniformity of temperature in the Malabar area. During dry weather, hot winds blow from the burning plains of Coimbatore through the Palakkad gap. Palakkad district has uniform rainfall as well.

## SOIL

The soil of Palakkad district is mainly of four types, namely, peaty (kari), laterite, forest and black soil. Peaty soil is found only in Thrithala firka of Ottappalam taluk. Laterite is seen in the major portions of all taluks. Forest soil is confined to Mannarghat and Ottappalam taluks, the narrow strip of land along the western boundaries of Palakkad and Alathur taluks and along the southern boundary of Chittur taluk. Black soil is seen mostly in the eastern sector of Chittur taluk and a small part of Palakkad taluk.

## MINERALS

Low grade iron ore (magnetite) is found at Kollengode, Mannarghat and Muthalamada. Limestone deposits are found in the Chittur and Kozhinjampara firkas. Muscovite mica is reported to be present in the Sholayar villages. A large quantity of limestone deposit is found in Walayar forest area where the government has started a cement factory.

## RIVERS

Bharathapuzha, with her tributaries, sprawls across the entire district. The river takes its origin from Anamalai hills and flows through the districts of Palakkad, Malappuram and Thrissur before emptying into the Arabian sea at Ponnani. Its four main tributaries are Gayatripuzha, Kannadipuzha, Kalpathypuzha and Thuthapuzha.

### **Gayatripuzha**

This river originates from Anamalai hills and after traversing through Kollengode, Nenmara, Alathur, Wadakkancherry and Pazhayannur, joins Bharathapuzha at Mayannur. This tributary has five main sub-tributaries. They are Mangalam river, Ayalurpuzha, Vandazhipuzha, Meenkara puzha and Chulliyar.

## Kannadipuzha

It is also known as Chitturpuzha or Amaravathi puzha. This river, which also starts from the Anamalai hills, flows through Thathamangalam and Chittur and joins the main river at Parli. Three main streams combine to form this river. They are Palar, Aliyar and Uppar.

## Kalpathypuzha

This river starts from the place called Chenthamarakulam in the hills, north of Walayar. This is also known as Korayar. Kalpathypuzha is formed by four streams, viz., Korayar, Varattar, Walayar and Malampuzha.

## Thuthapuzha

Thuthapuzha, otherwise known as Pilanthol river, starts from the Silent Valley hills and joins the main river about two kms. off Pallipuram railway station. The important streams which feed this tributary are Kunthipuzha, Kanjirapuzha, Ambankadavu and Thuppanadipuzha.

The length of Bharathapuzha is 374.40 kms. and its catchment area is 6186 sq. kms.

The Bhavani river originates from the Kunda mountains in the Nilgiris, makes a circuitous course through the Attappady valley and returns to the shadow of Nilgiri mountains. The catchment area of the Bhavani river within Kerala is 220 sq. miles yielding an annual run off of 27,000 million cubic feet of water. Of the rivers of Kerala, Bhavani river is one among the three which prefers Bay of Bengal to the Arabian sea.

## FLORA AND FAUNA

The flora of Palakkad district is characteristically tropical, owing to the seasonal rainfall, moderate temperature and the mountainous eastern border. Major portion of the district comes under the midland region and is under cultivation. Some of the dominant trees in the region are Eppothi (*Macaranga Indica*), Mavu (*Mangifera*), Parangimavu (*Ancardium Occidentale*), Pilavu (*Artocarpus Integrifolia*), Elavu (*Cieba Pentandra*), Ezhilampala (*Astomia Scholoris*), Urakkam Thoongi (*Enterolobium Saman*), Mullumurikku (*Erythrina Indica*) and Aranamaram (*Polyalthia Longifolia*). Intermingled with these are other

trees like *Osboekia Ostandra*, *Lantana Sculeata*, etc. Rubber and teak plantations are common in the hills. The midland region gradually merges with the hilly forests.

No animal can be mentioned peculiar to this district. Elephants are common in almost all parts of the forest. Tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Bear, etc., are sometimes found in the thick forests. Sambar and Spotted Deer are seen in large numbers.

Nilgiri langur, bonnet monkey, slender loris, jungle cat, different types of mongoose, jackals, squirrels, hares, etc. are found in the forest. Birds are represented by the jungle crow, king crow, myna, woodpeckers, sunbird, king fishers, skylark, paradise fly catchers, parrots, peacocks, pigeons etc. Poisonous and non-poisonous snakes are common in the district.

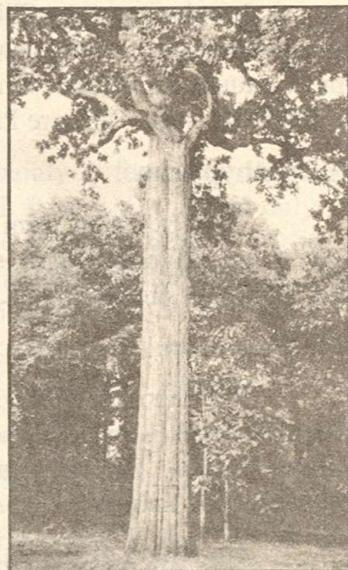
The Silent Valley area, 40 kms. from Mannarghat town, has the distinction of being a rain forest, very rare in the world. It is spread over an area of about 9000 hectares. This thick forest is rich in some of the rare species of plants and animals.

## POPULATION

The total population of the district according to 1991 census is 23,82,061 of which, the male population is 11,56,028 and female population is 12,26,033. The density of population is 532 per sq. km.

## SOCIO- ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In Palakkad district 8,77,809 people are workers. Of them 5,72,539 are males and 3,05,270 are females.



*A teak tree - gigantic and old  
Parambikulam*

As in any other part of the State, the social and economic status of the people in the district is undergoing changes. The breaking up of the joint family system and the increasing partition of old *tharavads* have led to the disappearance of the importance of high-caste Hindus in the society. A survey of the social and economic scene shows that the values based on caste and land have been replaced in recent times by those of education, employment, trade, commerce and industry.

## RELIGION AND CUSTOMS

Hinduism is the predominant religion in the district. Nearly 76 per cent of the population belongs to the Hindu community. All the sub-castes of Hindu community are well represented in the district. The *Vellodis* and *Nedungadis*, two sections of the Nair community, peculiar to Malabar area, are represented in this district also. Sections of the Hindu community, peculiar to this district are *Muthuvan*, *Mannadiar*, *Guptan* and *Tharakan*.

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Vishnu and Siva are popularly worshipped. *Kshethrams* and *Ambalams* are dedicated to these major deities. The *Kavus* and *Kovils* are dedicated to deities like *Ayyappan*, *Subramonyan*, *Bhadrakali*, *Hanuman* and even malignant demons. Snake worship has been widely prevalent in these part. The worship of ancestors is also practised by Hindus. Offerings are made to departed souls on new moon *Sankranthi* days.

The Muslim community is the second largest, forming 21.2 per cent of the population. A particular section of the Muslim community whose mother tongue is Tamil, are known as *Ravuthars*. These people came here as traders and soldiers. They belong to the *Hanafi* sect of Islam. Most of them reside in Alathur, Chittur, and Palakkad taluks. The way of life of this particular section is much influenced by the Tamil culture, especially in marriage customs and food habits.

There is another sect of Muslims known as *Pattanis*. They are also called *Decanese*. They came from Decan with the Mysore rulers and settled here. Traditionally, they are well-trained horsemen. Their influence in Palakkad can be seen from the fact that a street is named after them as *Pattani* street. They also belong to 'Hanafi' sect of Muslims. The rest of the Muslim community is known as *Moppillas*.

The numerical strength of the Christian community in the district, according to 1971 census, is 45,426. Almost all sections of the Christian community are represented. A good number of Christians have moved to the hilly tracts of the district in search of land and a living.

The ceremonies connected with birth, marriage and death differ from one community to another. The restrictions based on caste and religion are observed generally by all communities.

The forest region of Palakkad district is notable for its tribal population. *Irular, Kurumbar, Mudugar, Eravals, Malamalasar, Malasar, Kadar, Malayar*, etc. are the tribals living in these forests. Attappady is an important centre of tribal people. The beliefs, customs and ways of life of these tribal people are distinct; each class having its own traditional customs and ways of life.

## ഭരി

## ADMINISTRATION

The present Palakkad district, as an administrative unit, was formed on the first of January 1957, comprising of Palakkad, Perinthalmanna, Ponnani, Ottappalam, Alathur and Chittur.

When the Malappuram district was formed on the 16th of June 1969, Ponnani taluk excluding Thrithala firka and the villages of Vadakkekad, Punnayur and Punnayurkulam and Perinthalmanna taluk consisting of Mankada firka and Perinthalmanna firka excluding Karkidakam-kunnu and Chethalloor amsoms were transferred to Malappuram district. A new taluk, namely Mannarghat, was formed by grouping 19 villages of the erstwhile Perinthal-



Palmyra lined landscape - typical of Palakkad district

manna taluk. While retaining the Thrithala firka with Ottappalam taluk, the villages of Vadakkekad, Punnayur and Punnayurkulam were brought under Chowghat taluk of Thrissur district. The Paradur village of Tirur taluk was added to Ottappalam taluk. Recently some portions of Karavarakund village of Malappuram district were also added to Palakkad.

At present the Palakkad district consists of two revenue divisions, five taluks and 145 villages. The revenue divisions are Palakkad and Ottappalam. Palakkad, Alathur and Chittur taluks form the Palakkad revenue division and Ottappalam and Mannarghat taluks form the Ottappalam revenue division. There are thirteen development blocks and ninety panchayats in the district. The total area of the district is 4480 sq. kms.

## BLOCK PROFILE

The Revenue Divisions and Development Blocks are as under:-

Taluk	Block	Area (in sq. kms.)
Alathur	Alathur	312
	Kuzhalmannam	315
Mannarghat	Attappady	827
	Mannarghat	359
Chittur	Chittur	290
	Kollengode	328
Ottappalam	Nenmara	640
	Ottappalam	220
Palakkad	Pattambi	224
	Srikrishnapuram	219
Palakkad	Trithala	172
	Palakkad	723
	Malampuzha	-

### Alathur

The block is situated in the south central part of the district. It covers an area of 312 sq. kms. The total population as per 1991 census is 2,61,385. Paddy is, by far, the most important crop. Canals irrigate a net area of 7470 ha.

## Attappady

Attappady is the largest block in the district and is situated on the north eastern side over an area of 827 sq. kms. It is covered by hilly highland region endowed with the tributaries of the river Cauvery. The population is 62,033 as per 1981 census. Density of population in this area is very low. The block being predominantly a tribal belt, an Integrated Tribal Development Project was launched for Attappady on 15th August 1975. Even though agriculture is the main activity, the net area sown is only about 12% of the total land.

## Chittur

Chittur block has an area of 290 sq. kms and is situated in the south of the district. It has 19 villages, 6 panchayats and one town. The population stands at 1,81,869. The density of population is above 560. About 75% of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Industry employs less than 8% and the remaining find their employment in the tertiary sector. The block has a geographical area of 29,000 htrs. There is hardly any forest in the block. It is endowed with good irrigation facility from the Chitturpuzha project.

## Kollengode

The block, located in the south central part of the district, covers an area of 328 sq. kms., with 13 villages, constituting of 5 village panchayats. The population is 2,09,849. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood and employment for the majority. Paddy is the main crop, followed by groundnut and coconut. Of the cropped area, 10,725 htrs. are irrigated. Canals account for 7,200 htrs; tanks 2,600 htrs; and other sources of irrigation 425 htrs; Nearly 70% of the workers are employed in the primary sector, whereas the secondary sector accounts for 15%. Dairying is a significant subsidiary occupation.

## Kuzhalmannam

Kuzhalmannam block covers an area of 315 sq. kms. It contains 17 villages and 8 panchayats. It has a population of 2,15,751. Density of population is 542 per sq. kms. The population primarily depends on

agriculture for livelihood. Paddy is the most important crop covering a gross area of 21,500 htrs. The main source of irrigation is canals and it accounts for 27,600 htrs.

### **Malampuzha**

The newly created Malampuzha block is carved out of Koyalmannam, Palakkad and Kollengode blocks. It comprises of 8 panchayats and has a population of 1,68,358. Most of the people are agricultural labourers.

A large number of industrial establishments like the Indian Telephone Industries, Instrumentation Ltd., Fluid Control Centres, Malabar Cements etc., are situated in this block. A large number of other SSI units are also springing up in Kanjikode area.

The famous Malampuzha Gardens is situated here.

Paddy is the major crop of the block which sustains the majority of the people.

### **Mannarghat**

Mannarghat block has one town, 16 villages and 8 panchayats, covering 359 sq. kms. The block is traversed by a network of rivers and rivulets. Thuthapuzha and its tributaries are a source of irrigation. It has a population of 2,46,877, the density being 526 per sq. km. About 35% of the geographical area is brought under the plough. Cultivable waste land constitutes more than 20% of the area. Rice is cultivated in 11,540 htrs followed by rubber (2,840 htrs) and cashew nut (2,270 htrs.). Industrially the block is backward.

### **Nenmara**

The block, on the south of the district, covers an area of 640 sq. kms. and has a population of 67,411. The block consists of hill ranges and hence the density of population is very low. The area available for cultivation is limited due to the undulating surface of the hills. There is scope for development of dairying. Nelliampathy range is said to be ideal for rearing exotic breed of milch animals.

## **Ottappalam**

The block, on the west of the district, covers an area of 220 sq. kms. It consists of 9 villages and 6 panchayats. The block is inhabited by 1,67,992 persons. Agriculture continues to be a major economic activity. Paddy is the leading crop followed by tapioca, coconut and cashewnuts. Irrigated area is only 1,016 htrs; rivers contributing over 50% followed by wells and tanks.

## **Palakkad**

Palakkad ranks second only to Attappady in area and covers 723 sq. kms. The block, with two towns, 20 villages and constituting 12 panchayats, has a population of 3,87,911. The density of population is 472 per sq. km. Economic activities are sustained by a labour force which forms 34% of the population. Agriculture occupies the foremost position in providing employment and as a source of livelihood. The net area sown is 17,200 htrs., whereas forests cover 4,500 htrs. and cultivable land (waste) 7500 htrs. Paddy occupies the foremost place in terms of cropped area accounting for 11,219 acres. Irrigation is available from canals for 17,656 acres, from wells, 531 acres and from other sources, 168 acres.

## **Pattambi**

Pattambi is one among the small blocks of the district and has an area of 224 sq. kms., comprising of 11 panchayats, 13 villages and 2 towns. The block is inhabited by 2,71,975 persons and the density of population is 841 per sq. km. which ranks highest among all blocks of the district. Rural population accounts for more than 1,53,300. Agricultural sector continues to be the main source of employment. Apart from paddy, coconut occupies a very important place from the income point of view. It covers an area of over 2,800 htrs; of which only 106 htrs are brought under irrigation.

## **Srikrishnapuram**

Srikrishnapuram covers an area of 219 sq. kms. with ten villages

and six panchayats. It is inhabited by 1,44,928 persons. Paddy is the important crop, followed by tapioca, cashewnut, vegetable and coconut.

## Trithala

Trithala lies to the east of the district and is the smallest among all the blocks. Having an area of 172 sq. kms, it comprises of 8 villages and 7 panchayats. According to the 1991 census, it has a population of 1,64,254, of which 78,408 are males and 85,846 are females. Agriculture is the major economic activity and is also a source of employment. About 7,803 cultivators are engaged in agriculture and this sector employs about 17,400 agricultural labourers. The net area sown is over 44% of the geographical area. Paddy is the major crop in the block. The next important crop is arecanut which is grown in 2,500 htrs. Presently, irrigation is available to more than 4,400 htrs. Industrially the block is backward.

## AGRICULTURE

“Rice bowl of Kerala” is the synonym for Palakkad. The net cultivated area of the district is 284 lakh hectares, ie., 64% of the geographical area. Major portion of the cultivable land is used for raising food crops. All food crops together account for about 80% of the gross cropped area and paddy alone accounts for about 60% of it. Coconut, groundnut, cotton, sugarcane, pepper, banana and cashew are some of the major cash crops raised.

The Intensive Agricultural Development Programme, popularly known as the Package Programme, was started in the district in 1962-63 in five development blocks. The programme was implemented in stages in the entire



*A Golden Harvest of Paddy*

district, except the Attappady tribal block. Introduction of high yielding varieties of paddy seeds has augmented the production of paddy considerably.

The Intensive Paddy Development Unit Programme, or the "Ela" programme, and the T and V Programme were introduced in the district in 1971 and 1982 respectively. These programmes were discontinued and Krishi Bhavans started functioning in 1987 in all panchayats and municipalities.

There are a number of agricultural institutions like the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Soil Testing Laboratory, Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratory, Mushroom Laboratory and Agricultural Engineering Workshop.

Seeds of different paddy varieties are produced and distributed through the five state seed farms in the district situated at Alathur, Ananganadi, Kongad, Kannanur and Muthalamada. At the 325 hectare orange and vegetable farm at Nelliampathy, orange, coffee, cardamom, mango and vegetables are cultivated. The fruit processing unit in this farm is popular for its squashes, jams and jellies. The Integrated Seed Development Farm at Eruthiampathy is mainly intended for multiplication of green manure, seeds, sugarcane, cotton and groundnut. The Central Orchard, Pattambi and Horticultural Development Farm, Malampuzha are some of the other important institutions where coconut, vegetables, mango and ornamentals are cultivated. Training centres such as RATTC, Malampuzha and F.T.C. Alathur started functioning for imparting training to agricultural officers and farmers respectively. A special rice production programme with financial assistance of Rs. 20 crores is being implemented from 1994-95 for boosting paddy production.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There are a number of animal husbandry institutions to take care of livestock and poultry. The district has one District Veterinary Centre, 4 veterinary poly clinics, 9 veterinary hospitals, 38 veterinary dispensaries, three mobile farm aid units and one mobile veterinary dispensary. There is a Regional Poultry Farm at Malampuzha to rear chicks for the plan

schemes, a Government Goat Farm at Naikerpady in Attappady with a capacity to rear 150 goats and two artificial insemination centres; one each at Vaniamkulam and Irumbakamchola. In addition, there are 13 veterinary sub centres to give first aid and two Regional Artificial Insemination Centres, one at Palakkad and the other at Shornur. The 34 sub centres are under the direct control of I.C.D.P. project, Palakkad. The Project Office covers the entire Palakkad district and a part of Thrissur district. Sanction was also accorded to start a new Regional Artificial Insemination centre at Mannarkkad. The state headquarters of the Rinderpest Eradication Programme is situated at Palakkad. Eight border checkposts are installed to protect cattle from this disease.

## DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

The Dairy Development Department is undertaking programmes aimed at increasing milk production and distribution to meet the per capita minimum requirement of 280 gms of milk per day in the state. The dairy farmers are assisted with necessary inputs under various programmes.

Dairy farm instructors and block level dairy development officers conduct house visits and advise farmers about the various aspects of dairying. Farmers' contact programmes and indigenous milk products manufacture demonstrations are held to benefit dairy farmers and rural consumers. Assistance is provided for setting up model dairy farm units. Cattle shows at block and district levels are organised to provide motivation for the farmers. They are also assisted in the construction of model cattle sheds and supplied with clean milk production kit for hygienic milk production. Mineral and vitamin supplements are distributed to deserving farmers at subsidised prices.

Incentives for fodder cultivation on commercial scale is provided to individual farmers and dairy co-operatives.

There are 140 dairy co-operatives functioning in the district. The dairy co-operatives are assisted in the purchase of modern milk testing equipments, milk cans, chemicals for testing and sanitation, setting up of

cattle feed mixing units, building for small collection cum office rooms, purchase of furniture, working capital, managerial subsidy for secretaries, purchase and sale of fodder etc.

Practically oriented training for scientific cattle rearing practices, milk product manufacture, quality control, fodder production, dairy co-operative managements, etc. are imparted to the farmers at the Dairy Training Centre at Alathur.

The Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers Union runs a 40,000 litre capacity dairy at Kalleppully and 10,000 litre capacity chilling plant at Agali. The 100 ton capacity livestock and poultry feed factory at Malampuzha is under the management of the Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation. There is a bull station and fodder farm at Dhoni, running well, under the control of Kerala Livestock Development Board.

## CO - OPERATION

Co-operative movement plays an important role in the socio-economic sphere of the district. It has flourished in all walks of life.

A District Co-operative Bank, acting as the financing bank to primary co-operative institutions, five Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks, intended for financing agricultural and allied activities and eight Co-operative Urban Banks for meeting the financial needs of urban population, are working in the district. There are 86 Service Co-operative Banks and three multipurpose co-operative societies to finance and serve the agriculturist.

Sixty five Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Co-Operative societies serve the SC/ST class in a big way. Three Joint Farming Co-Operative Societies also work in the district.

The 47 Employees Co-operative Societies help the employees of institutions to a great extent. There are 16 co-operative marketing societies which undertake marketing activities to protect the farmers from the exploitation of middlemen. The 42 Primary Co-operative Consumer stores help hold the price line to a great extent.

There are 24 Housing Co-operative Societies to help people in acquiring housing plots and in constructing houses at reasonable rates. People can get inexpensive medical treatment through the four Co-operative Hospitals in the district.

Two hundred and thirty two school co-operative stores and seven college co-operative stores provide educational supplies and other consumer articles to the students at reasonable rates.

The three motor transport co-operative societies, one Autorikshaw Drivers Co-operative Society and one Taxi Drivers Co-operative Society provide employment to a good number of unemployed people. There are 23 women's co-operative societies, which provide employment opportunities to the women folk of rural areas. Five co-operative educational institutions help thousands of students who are unable to get admission to regular colleges, to study up to post graduate level and hundreds of educated persons to get employment with reasonable remuneration. One printing press is also there in the co-operative sector. All together, a total number of 591 co-operative institutions play an important role in the socio economic development of the district.

## INDUSTRY

Traditionally agriculture based, Palakkad is all set to be the industrial capital of the State. The Department of Industries and Commerce has identified the Kanjikode belt, connecting Palakkad and Coimbatore, as an area for industrial development. The excellent infrastructure facilities like N.H. 47, trunk railway line, nearby airport at Cochin, Calicut and Coimbatore, cheap availability of land and labour, cheap power and water etc. are the main attractions to industrialists.

The industries department acquired about 130 acres in Pudussery West village in the '60s for an industrial development area. It is here that the I.T.I, Tata phone, Hendez Electronics, Carborandum, 66 K.V. sub station etc. are situated. Later, the department acquired about 500 odd acres of land in Pudussery Central village for a new I.D.A.. About 120 acres were allotted to KSEB for a 220 KV sub station and wind farm and the remaining land was allotted to prospective industrialists like

KAMCO, MARICO Industries, Rabfila International, Prima Industries, Patodia Syntex and a number of S.S.I units.

### Profile on major industries

M/s. Indsil Electro Smelts Ltd., Pallatheri, Palakkad is engaged in manufacturing ferro silicon with an annual capacity of 7300 M.T. The project cost is Rs. 1034 lakhs and the employment generated is 160.

M/s. B.P.L. Systems & Projects Ltd., Chandranagar, Palakkad manufactures electronic automatic exchanges.

M/s. Tata Keltron Ltd., Industrial Development Area, Pudussery, Palakkad produces push button telephones. The project cost is Rs. 1115 lakhs and the annual capacity is 90 lakhs Pcs. The unit has provided employment to 210 workers.

M/s. Silical India Ltd., Canal Pirivu, Kanjikode employs 200 persons with a project cost of Rs. 1321 lakhs and produces ferro silicon with an annual capacity of 9125 M.T.

M/s. Precot Mills (P) Ltd., Pudussery, with a project cost of Rs. 1477 lakhs and employment generation of 964, produces cotton yarn and M/s. Patspin Ltd., Kanjikode is also engaged in the manufacture of export type cotton yarn.

Marico Industries Ltd. New Industrial Development Area and B.P.L. Systems & Projects Ltd. Chandranagar produce push button telephones.

Rubfila International Ltd., New Industrial Development Area, Kanjikode with an investment of Rs. 2388 lakhs produces heat resistant latex threads.

Bristo Food (P) Ltd., New Industrial Development Area, Kanjikode - manufactures chocolates - confectionaries.

B.P.L. Sanyo Technologies Ltd., Chandranagar, Palakkad with a project cost of Rs. 8386 lakhs produces transformers.

Connectors I.T.I. Ltd., Pudussery, with a project cost of Rs. 6881 lakhs manufactures Telephone PCBs.

M/s. Carborandum Universal, which is the first of its kind in India, is making high alumina electro cost refractories for the glass industry.

The Government venture, Malabar Cement Factory at Walayar, has been producing cement since 1984.

M/s. Premier Spinning Mill, with a capacity of 30,000 spindles and a proposal to expand to 50,000 spindles, has been producing 60s, and 80s yarn in hank and cone since 1964.

M/s. United Brewries, with a capacity of 50,000 hecto litres per annum, is in production since 1973.

B.P.L. India Ltd. manufactures coronary care equipments, precision industrial measuring instruments, electronic test gears, medicinal electronics etc. and the Madras Spinners produce yarn.

The projects under various stages of implementation are M/s. Teaktex Processing Complex Ltd., Pudussery (Rs. 4100 lakhs project) for processing knitted fabrics, B.P.L. Systems and Projects Ltd., Chandranagar, Palakkad (Rs.373 lakhs project) for digital telephone systems, M/s. Prima Industries Ltd., New Industrial Developement Area, Kanjikode (Rs.1000 lakhs project) for solvent extraction, Palakkad Industries, New Industrial Development Area, Kanjikode (Rs.290 lakhs project) for potassium chlorate, B.P.L. Systems and Projects Ltd. for multiview telex, fax etc.

In Palakkad district, Olavakkode area has been having an industrial estate since 1957. More than 15 industrial units are engaged in engineering and rubber goods, wooden furniture, electronic equipments, aluminium alloy utensils, stainless steel tableware, manufacture of splints and veneers, tiles, metal fabrication etc.

At Edathara, there are units engaged in the manufacturing agricultural implements and the biggest among them manufactures 2500 tonnes of implements per year and markets all over India.

M/s. Taj Tile Works, Yakkara, M/s. Common Wealth Tiles Ltd., M/s. Parli Tile Works, M/s. Karnaki Refractories & Ceramics and M/s. Karnaki Ceramic Products are the leading institutions, manufacturing tiles and refractories.

Ottappalam in Palakkad district is the centre of match and veener industry.

Shoranur has a Government press and an industrial estate. Established in 1966, the industrial estate has units making agricultural implements, iron castings, household articles, pharmaceuticals, cutlery, cycle tyres and tubes, vacuum pumps etc.

Chittur is yet another centre busy with industrial activity. The Chittur Co-operative Sugar Mills and Bhagavathy Textiles are prominent industrial units.

There are 43 working industrial co-operative societies. 25 more societies are under various stages of implementation.

The first wind farm in the State for generating electricity from wind has been installed in Kanjikode.

KINFRA has tied up with WISE and formed the company Western India Kinfraltd. for the establishment of "WISE Park" at Kanjikode in an area of 750 acres.

## POWER

Though blessed with a number of irrigation projects, there is no hydro-electric project in Palakkad district. The energy required for the district is transmitted from other power generating projects of Kerala. The Silent Valley Hydro-electric Project, envisaged for construction across Kunthipuzha, did not materialise for ecological reasons. However, an alternative project to produce power, utilising the Silent Valley waters at Kunthipuzha, is under consideration.

## ROAD & RAIL

The district is networked with 1247 kms. of roads; sixty seven kms. of National Highway, 143 kms. of State Highway, 899 kms. of district roads and 138 kms. of village roads. It has about 150 kms. of railway lines of which, 122 kms. are in the broad gauge and 27 kms. are in the metre gauge. Olavakode is the head quarters of the railway division.

## **WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION**

Palakkad district is blessed with irrigation facilities. Dams have been constructed across almost all the important tributaries of the Bharathapuzha to provide irrigation facilities to the district. Six out of the ten completed irrigation projects of Kerala are in Palakkad district. They are Walayar, Malampuzha, Cheerakuzhi, Gayathri (Meenkara, Chulliar), Mangalam and Pothundy. The total ayacut of all these completed projects is 77,306 hectares. In addition to this, the construction of two major irrigation projects, viz., Chitturpuzha and Kanhirapuzha are in progress. The total ayacut of these projects is 54,200 hectares.

### **Walayar Dam**

This dam is constructed across the river Walayar, a tributary of Bharathapuzha. The ayacut is 6476 hectares. This project was started in 1953, partially commissioned in 1956 and completed in 1964.

### **Malampuzha Dam**

The Malampuzha dam is a 6,066 ft. masonry structure built across Malampuzha, a tributary of Bharathapuzha, with a net-work of canal systems. It has an ayacut of 42,090 hectares. The dam and reservoir are located about eight kms. from Olavakode railway station and 13 kms. from Palakkad town. The project was started in 1949 and commissioned in 1955. Having a catchment area of 145 sq.kms., the reservoir has a capacity of 8000 m.e.ft. of water. There are two canal systems. The left bank canal traverses a distance of 32 kms. to irrigate cultivable areas in the taluks of Palakkad, Chittur and Alathur. The right bank canal with a length of 32 kms. irrigates areas in Palakkad taluk. The reservoir also provides drinking water to Palakkad town.

### **Gayathri Project (Meenkara-Chulliar Dams)**

This project consists of two storage reservoirs; Meenkara dam across the Meenkara river and Chulliar dam across Chulliar river. Both these rivers are tributaries of Bharathapuzha. There is a net-work of canal systems with a total ayacut of 10,930 hectares of land in Chittur taluk. The first stage of the projects, viz., dam across Meenkara river with

canals, was sanctioned in 1956 and opened for irrigation in 1960. The total cost of the project is Rs. 220 lakhs.

### **Mangalam Dam**

This dam is constructed across the Cherukunnapuzha, a tributary of Mangalam river. There is a canal system with an ayacut of 6,880 hectares, in Alathur taluk. The project and left bank canal were completed and opened in 1956. Further extension of the right bank canal was continued and the project was fully completed in 1966.

### **Pothundy Dam**

This dam is constructed across the tributaries of the Ayalur river (sub-tributary of Bharathapuzha), namely, Meenchadypuzha and Padipuzha. It has an ayacut of 10,930 hectares in Chittur and Alathur taluks. The Project, started in 1958, has been completed and commissioned.

### **Chitturpuzha Project**

The Chitturpuzha Project envisages extension of irrigation facilities to an additional area of 9,200 hectares by remodelling and reconstructing, wherever necessary, of the four ayacuts in Chitturpuzha and the existing canal system. The ayacuts are at Moolathara, Thembaramadakku, Kunnakattupathy and Narnee. The total ayacut will be 32,400 hectares.

### **Kanhirapuzha Project**

This project on completion will provide irrigation facilities to an area of 9,720 hectares. This is being constructed across Kanhirapuzha, a sub-tributary of Bharathapuzha. An expansion programme of the scheme by constructing a reservoir across the Thuppanadupuzha is also on the anvil. This will benefit an additional area of 4700 hectares in Ottappalam taluk. The total ayacut of the project will be 21,800 hectares.

The Attapady Valley Irrigation Project is under construction to provide irrigation facilities to 12,140 hectares.

## ART AND CULTURE

Palakkad district has a glorious cultural tradition. It is said that Thunchathu Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam literature, spent his last days in Chittur. To commemorate this, there is the "Thunchathu Acharya Madom" at Chittur. Kunjan Nambiar, the most popular poet of Malayalam and the founder of *Thullal*, purely a Kerala art form, had his birth in a small village called Killikurissimangalam (Lakkidi) in this district.

Worthy contributions have been made by talented artistes of this district for maintaining and enriching the classical dance forms of Kerala, such as *Chakkiar Koothu*, *Thullal*, *Kathakali* and *Mohiniyattom*. Mani Madhava Chakkiar for 'Koothu' and Vazhenkada Kunju Nair for *Kathakali* are the two names to be remembered in this context. The "Kalluvazhichitta", the most popular school of 'Kathakali' had its origin in Palakkad district and its exponent was the late Shri Vazhenkada Kunju Nair. The musical tradition of Palakkad district is unchallenged. The district has been blessed with the birth of the late Shri Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, the exponent of Carnatic music and Shri Palakkad Mani Iyer, the inimitable maestro of mridangam. Shri C. Sankaran Nair also belongs to Mankara, a place in this district.

Among the eminent personalities of the district are the late K.P.S. Menon, diplomat and author who won the Lenin Prize and late K.P. Kesava Menon, the great freedom fighter, celebrated author and journalist. Swadeshabhimani Ramakrishna Pillai spent his life in exile at Vadakkanthara near Palakkad town. Some of the old temples in the district have in them beautiful paintings and sculptures of great artistic value.

## IMPORTANT FESTIVALS

### Chittur Konganpada

Konganpada is a grand festival of historical importance, celebrated in the Bhagavathy temple at Chittur, ten kilometres from Palakkad town. It is held every year on the first Monday after the new moon night in *Kumbhom* (February-March), to commemorate the victory

of Nairs of Chittur over the militia of *Konganadu* (Coimbatore) led by the Chola King, *Rajadhi Raja*.

The festival starts with 'Chilambu' on Sivarathri in Kumbhom which reminds Kongan's (*Chola kings*) declaration of war and the frightened people worshiping Bhagavathy and beseeching her help. .

### **Jain Festival**

There is an ancient Jain temple at Jainamedu, near Palakkad town. According to a legend, one *sutar* (head of the Jains) built this temple 500 years ago for the Jain sage, Chandranathaswamy. The Jains who came here from Mysore fled from this place during the invasion of Tipu Sultan.

### **Nellikulangara Vela**

To invoke the blessings of Nellikulangara Bhagavathy, the people of Vellanghi and Nenmara conduct a festival on 20th *Meenam* (March-April) every year. This is the famous *Vellanghi Vela*. This beautiful temple is in the Vellanghi village of Chittur taluk.

The flag hoisting ceremony in connection with the vela is held jointly by the residents of Vellanghi and Nenmara on 9th *Meenam*. On all days following the flag hoisting till the eve of the vela, *Kummatti*, *Karivela*, *Andivela* and similar other folk rituals are performed. These three ceremonies together are known as *Kanyar*. The pomp and splendour of the festival would put it in second place, perhaps only to the Pooram festival of Thrissur.

### **Ottappalam Nercha Festival**

Juma prayers are held in Ottappalam mosque on Fridays. To commemorate the death anniversary of a saintly person by name Uthman Auliya, an annual festival is held in January-February. The special feature of this festival is the grand procession which ceremoniously brings various things such as rice, coconuts etc. to the mosque as offerings. On the next day, a feast is held where the various articles received will be cooked and distributed to the poor.

## Sivarathri festival at Kallekulangara Bhagavathy temple

This festival is conducted for nine days and ends with an *arat* of the deity Hemambika in Kalpathy river.

### Kalpathy Ratholsavam

Kalpathy Viswanatha swamy temple is the oldest Siva temple in Malabar. It was built in 1425 A.D. by H. Kombi Achan, the then Raja of Palakkad.

Kalpathy is linked to Kasi, because the main deity is Siva and the temple is on the banks of the *Neela Nadhi* just as Kasi is on the banks of the Ganges.

The other deities consecrated in the temple are Sri Visalakshi Sametha Viswanathaswamy, Vinayaka, Valli Devayani Sametha Subramanyaswamy, Gangadhara, Dakshinayana Murthy, Simhanasundari, Nataraja, Surya Bhavara, Kala Bhairavan, Chandikeswaran, Nandeeswaran and Pradesh Handi.

The rituals in the temples were conducted earlier by Kerala Brahmins, the *Nambudiris*. But now, Tamil Brahmins are in charge. The centre of attraction of the festival is Kalpathy Sri Viswanatha swamy temple. The festival is celebrated in the month of November.

On the seventh day (28th day of *Alpasi*), the deity from Viswanatha swamy temple is taken out and installed in the chariot. There are three chariots in this temple; one for the main deity Shri Viswanatha swamy and Goddess Parvathy, the second for Visweswara and the third for Lord Subramanya swamy.



*The chariot of Lord Viswanatha Swamy bedecked for the Kalpathy Ratholsavam*

## Manappullikavu Vela

The important festival of Manappullikavu at Yakkara is the annual *Vela*.

## Arat festival in Kachamkurichy Temple

Kachamkurichy temple is an important Vishnu temple. The *arat* festival here in the month of May attracts many people.

*Navarathri* festival in Pallavur Siva Temple, *Amavasi* festival in Thrippalur Siva Temple, *Pooram* festival in Kongad Bhagavathy temple and *Radhotsavam* at Kodumbu Subramanya temple are some of the important festivals which attract a large number of devotees. *Mahamakom* is also held in the Kodumbu temple once in twelve years.

## PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Palakkad, which lies at the foot of the Western Ghats, the dreamy land of misty mountains with its ever green tropical forests, dams, wild life sanctuaries, rivers, rare birds and animals, historical monuments, places of worship and traditional Ayurvedic treatment centres, has tremendous scope and immense potential to become one of the best tourist destinations in the country. The district is gifted with the beauty of virgin and verdant Nelliampathy hills, the precious and unique Silent Valley National Park, the famous Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Aitappady hills and more than half a dozen dams like Malampuzha, Mangalam, Pothundi, Kanjurappuzha, Siruvani and Parambikulam.

### Nelliampathy

The beautiful cool hills of Nelliampathy is in the midst of the majestic Western Ghats. It is the queen of Palakkad hills, clothed with the original beauty of picturesque mountains and enchanting valleys, interspersed with the panoramic tea, coffee, cardamom and orange plantations. The bracing climate and green magic of nature will provide an exhilarating and unforgettable experience.

Nelliampathy, 52 kms. from Palakkad town and about nine kms from Nenmara, adjoins the Parambikulam wildlife sanctuary where leopards, elephants, bisons and deers abound.

The total area is about 82 sq. kms. The highest peak in the range is Nellikotta, also called Padagiri. It is 1585.08 metres above sea level. The other major peaks are Vellachimudi, Valiyavana, Mayanmudi and Vela Vanchan, each about 1200 metres high. The annual average rainfall in the area is 47.244 mm. The temperature varies between 15° C in December and 30 °C in April, the mean temperature being 22° C.

The Pothundi reservoir glints in the distance like sapphire in a sea of emerald.

Seethakundu at Nelliampathy offers a fantastic view of the valley below. The 1000 metre high waterfall is one of the major attractions. Seethakundu got its name from the legend that *Sita Devi*, during the *vanavasa* period with *Sri Rama*, took a bath here. During Deepavali, a large number of devotees gather here.

## Malampuzha

Malampuzha is the biggest tourist attraction in the district. It is 13 kms away from Palakkad town. Since the completion of Malampuzha dam in 1956, the place has been beautified into a tourist resort.



Neck Chand Saini's rock garden - Malampuzha

The dam is located in picturesque surroundings with a hilly background. There is a beautiful garden with green turf, multicoloured flowerbeds, children's park and a miniature zoo. A swimming pool with an attractive bath house is nearby. The fish-shaped aquarium is an added attraction. The vastness of the garden and the illumination of the fountains make it exceptionally beautiful. There is also a snake park.

Rock garden by the master sculptor, Padmashree Neck Chand Saini is another attraction. His rock garden in Chandigarh is world famous and attracts thousands of tourists every year.

The most interesting feature in the making of this wonder garden is that the whole place is made of unwanted and broken pieces of bangles, tiles, used plastic cans, tins and other waste materials.

### **Pothundy**

Pothundy is 38 kms. south of Palakkad town. An irrigation project was commissioned here in 1968 with an estimated cost of Rs. 234.25 lakhs, consisting of an earthen dam with a spillway section across the tributaries of Ayalur river. Its 10 kms. right bank canal and 8 kms. left bank canal irrigate an area of 5,465 hectares in Chittur and Alathur taluks. The project also provides water supply to Nenmara and Ayalur villages.

### **Ottappalam**

This was the centre of political as well as tenant movements in south Malabar of the erstwhile Malabar province of Madras Presidency. The festival at Chathan Kandar kavu is very famous one in Ottappalam. The legend goes that the temple was built by the local Kanjoor Namboodiri family at a place where a scheduled caste person called Chathan found a stone bleeding while he was sharpening his knife on it. The deity of this temple is *Durga*. The annual festival is *Thalapoli* which is celebrated on *Avitam* day in *Meenam* (March-April).

*Nercha* festival in the Ottappalam mosque attracts the local muslims in large numbers. It is said that a saintly person by name Uthaman Auliya had lived and died at this place. An annual festival is held at this mosque on his death anniversary.

### **Silent Valley**

The Silent Valley National Park, with an area of 90 sq. kms, is situated in the north eastern corner of the district. It rises abruptly to the

Nilgiri Plateau in the north and overlooks the plains of Mannarkkad in the south. The river *kunthi* descends from the Nilgiri hills above, an altitude of 2000 m., traverses the entire length of the valley and rushes down to the plains through a deep gorge. River Kunthi never turns brown; it is crystal clear, perennial and wild.

The core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the *Silent valley National Park*, is probably one of the most magnificent gifts of nature to mankind, a unique preserve of tropical rain forests in all its pristine glory with an almost unbroken ecological history. Thanks largely to its difficult terrain and remoteness, the extent of degradation is minimal in comparision with other sanctuaries.

*Sairandhri Vanam*, meaning the forest in the valley as refered to in the Mahabharatha and the River Kunthi give a mythological dimension to the National Park. The Silent Valley is seldom silent; it has an inexplicably unique character about it, with the dense forest, the music of the birds and its quiet majesty.

The forest belongs to the biogeographical class of the Malabar Rain Forests and harbour about 1000 species of plants. The flowering plants here include 966 species belonging to 134 families and 599 genera. The dicotyledons are 701 in number distributed among 113 families and 430 genera; monocotyledons are 265 distributed among 21 families and 139 genera.

The valley has a fair representation of all peninsular mammals. They are Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Bonnet Macaque, Tiger, Leopard (Panther), Leopard Cat, Jungle Cat, Fishing Cat, Common Palm Civet, Small Indian Civet, Brown Palm Civet, Ruddy Mongoose, Stripe necked Mongoose, Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Otter, Flying Squirrel, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Indian Pangolin (Scaly ant eater), Porcupine, Wild Boar, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Gaur and Elephant. Birds include rare species such as Indian black-crested Baza, Bonellis Hawk Eagle, Rufous Bellied Hawk Eagle, Shaheen Falcon, Short-Eared Owl, Peninsular Scops Owl, Ceylon Frog Mouth, Great Indian Hornbill, Nilgiri Laughing Thrush, House Marin, Rufous Bellied-Shortwing, Malay Bitten etc. About 170 species have been recorded, of which 31 are migrants.

The tropical evergreen forests occurring within a narrow strip above the equator is perhaps the most endangered natural habitat. Extremely fragile, it has suffered most from human interaction. In species diversity, it is the richest habitat. That there is very little soil erosion and that the rains are transformed into perennial streams and rivers may be attributed to the thick canopy and closely packed tree stumps. In fact, scarcity of water is rarely felt. The evapotranspiration from these forests is much higher than from any other surface. This cools the atmosphere, helping easy condensation of water vapour - the origin of the much-awaited summer rains.

### **Mangalam**

Located 48 kms. south of Palakkad town, Mangalam is mainly occupied by settlers from other parts of the State.

Mangalam dam is located near the NH 47, about 14 kms. south of Wadakkanchery village. The dam is constructed across Cherukunnapuzha, a tributary of Mangalam river. It is located in picturesque surroundings. The reservoir fringes on the forest area where there are deer, wild elephants and a variety of birds. There are beautiful parks and lawns adorned with statues.

### **Siruvani Project**

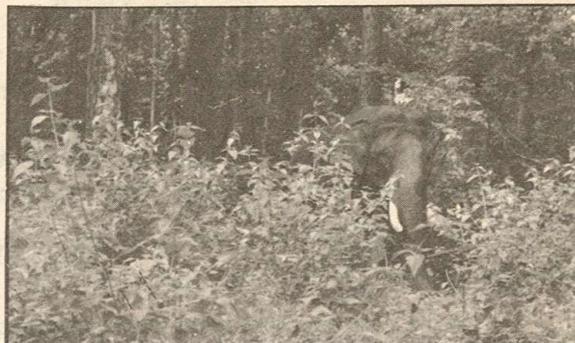
The Siruvani Project is in Sholayur panchayat. The dam, constructed across Siruvani, is for supplying drinking water to Coimbatore Municipality. The dam is surrounded by reserve forests. The distance from Edakkurissi to Siruvani Dam is 22 kms. The scenic beauty of Siruvani is simply enchanting. Muthukulam hill is situated on the eastern side of the dam. There is a natural water fall in the hill.

### **Meenkara**

Meenkara is a fascinating spot by virtue of the dam, garden, fish ponds and natural beauty. It is 32 kms. south east of Palakkad town.

## Parambikulam

Parambikulam in Western Ghats is about 125 kms. from Palakkad. It is a wild life sanctuary with an area of 272 sq. kms. There is also a reservoir and the place is famous for teak plantations. The oldest Teak tree, *Kannimaram*, stands here.



*An Elephant in the wild - Parambikulam  
wild life sanctuary*

## Kanjirapuzha

Kanjirapuzha dam is situated 24 kms. from Palakkad. The water spread of the dam lies in a single stretch. An evergreen forest, by name 'Vettilachola', is immediately beyond the reservoir which is surrounded by hills and during rainy season, the mountain will be covered with mist. All this makes the area extremely beautiful and picturesque. There are three islands in the reservoir with plenty of fish (including commercial varieties) grown by the Fisheries Department.

## Thunchan Gurumadom

Across the lush green fields, two kms. from Chittur town on the banks of river, *Sokanashini*, an old building where Thunchath Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, regarded as the father of Malayalam language, lived in the 16th century.

People call it *Gurumadom* and it is here that he transcreated the two great Sanskrit epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, for the common people with the subtle and meaningful mingling of Sanskrit and Dravidian streams of the then prevailing language and literature. Ezhuthachan evolved an altogether new texture for the Malayalam language.

As the story goes, Thunchath Ezhuthachan, on his way back from his sojourn in Tamil Nadu, had a stop-over here with his disciples. The tranquility of the place made him settle down here for the rest of his life. Occupied by Tamil Brahmins who perhaps are the descendants of the disciples of the Acharya, the *gramam* still has an old look and on both sides of the building are temples of Sree Rama and Siva.

The street with long arrays of *Agraharams* has all the charm of antiquity that we should love to preserve.

At the Gurumadom, a *Srichakra* and a few idols worshipped by him, the stylus, the wooden slippers and a few old manuscripts are exhibited. It is on *Vijayadasami* day that the memorial gets the maximum number of visitors with hundreds of children brought here for a ritualistic initiation into learning.

## Kunchan Smarakam

Kalakkath Kunchan Nambiar represents an age and its culture in the field of Malayalam literature. He was the native of Killikurissimangalam in Palakkad. Now, the Kunchan Smarakam is a national monument and is being governed by a committee appointed by the Government.

A three year course on *Ottam Thullal*, *Seethamkan Thullal* and *Parayan Thullal* was started with the help of artistes attached to this monument. The smarakam celebrates Navarathri festival with much pomp and grandeur. Every year, May 5th is celebrated as Thunchan Day. A library and an auditorium are attached to this monument.



*Killikurissimangalam Kalakkathu Bhavanam - The house where Kunjan Nambiar, the creator of 'Thullal' a pure art form of Kerala, was born.*

## BARE FACTS

Area (sq. kms.)	:	4480
Population (in 000's)	:	2382
Percentage to State population	:	8.19
Males (in 000's)	:	1156
Females (in 000's)	:	1226
Sex ratio : females/1000 males	:	1061
Density of population	:	532
Per capita Income (1992-93)	:	5376
No. of households	:	445
Average size of family	:	5.35

(Population Statistics - 1991 Census)

### Projected population as on 1st March

Year	:	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Population (in 000's)	:	2547	2582	2616	2652	2687

(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	12	0	4	91	49	612	842	374	72	239	108	0	2402

### Temperature (degree Celcius)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Max.	32.0	32.7	36.5	36.5	32.9	30.1
Min.	21.7	22.3	24.7	24.5	24.1	23.1
Month	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max.	28.8	29.4	31.8	33.2	32.1	31.9
Min.	22.5	22.9	23.5	23.6	23.4	23.1

(Source : Meteorological Centre, Thiruvananthapuram)

## Relative Humidity (in %)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Max.	67	72	76	75	67	91
Min.	44	43	44	50	73	81
Month	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max.	95	90	85	81	79	67
Min.	84	79	70	72	65	51

(Source : Meteorological Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.)

## Gross area under irrigation (cropwise) 1990-91

Crops	Paddy	Tubers	Vege-tables	Coconut	Areca-nut	Cloves & Nutmeg
Area (in heccts)	68822	12	779	6483	1861	9
Crops	Other Spices & Condiments	Banana	Betal leaves	Sugar-cane	Others	Total
Area (in heccts)	404	1407	24	1292	2349	83,442

## Live Stock Population (1987)

Cattle	Buffaloes	Goats	Sheeps	Pigs	Others
303935	70099	134110	3864	1675	7567
Total Livestock: 721250			Total poultry : 1283920		

No. of registered working factories (1992) - 1467

No. of SSI Units as on 31.3.93 - 6403

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

State Highways	Major Dist. Roads	Other Dist. Roads	Village Roads	Total
143.51	748.93	463.24	199.71	1655.38

### Schools (1992 - 93)

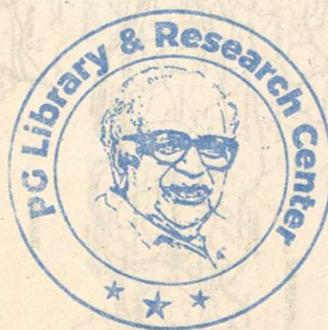
Section	No. of Schools	No. of students	No. of teachers
LPS	546	2,24,353	5,766
UPS	227	1,67,339	5,424
HS	141	1,19,840	4,064
Total	914	5,11,532	15,254

### Arts & Science Colleges

Govt.	3	8,628	411
Private	7	10,608	432
Total	10	19,236	843

### No. of medical institutions

	Allopathy	Ayurveda	Homeopathic
No. of Institutions	105	60	24
No. of Beds	1,705	130	25



## PALAKKAD DISTRICT

SHOWING PANCHAYATS

SCALE 1 Cm = 25 Km

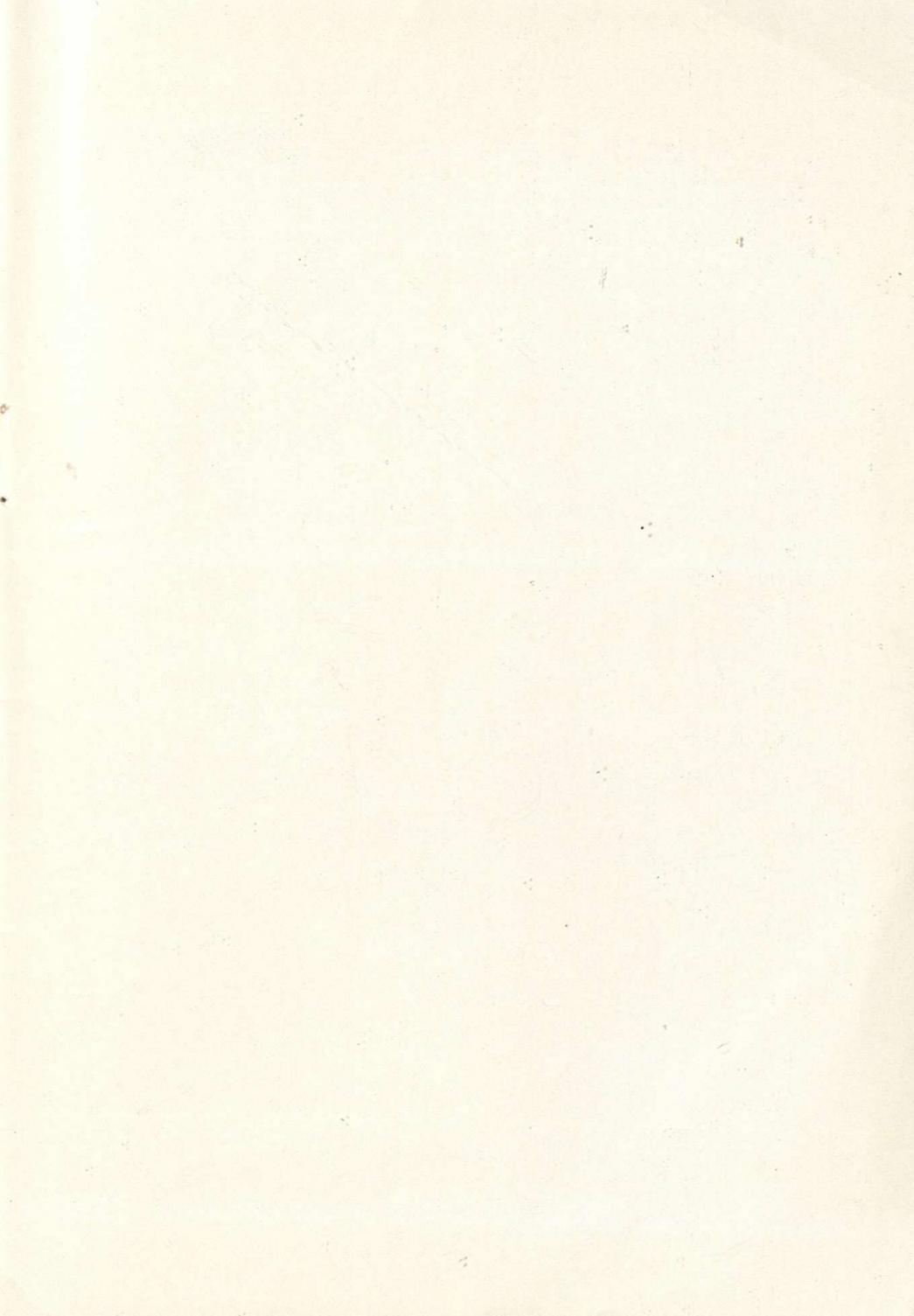
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**MALAPPURAM** *Pithapuram*  
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Tiruchirappalli  
Trichinopoly  
Nellore  
Kanchipuram  
Cuddalore  
Cuddalore  
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Tiruchirappalli  
Vellore  
Madras  
**COIMBATORE**

TRIGON

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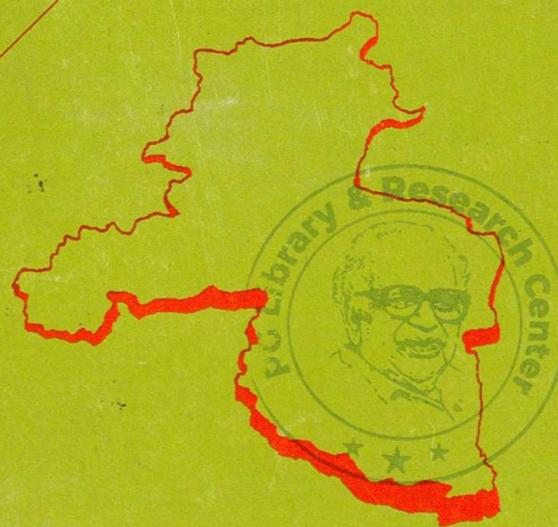
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Palakkad

*DISTRICT  
HANDBOOKS OF  
KERALA*



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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