

DISTRICT HAND BOOKS OF KERALA



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

District Hand Books of Kerala KOTTAYAM

Department of Public Relations November 1995

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FOREWORD

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

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

Suggestions on the revised series are welcome.

Thiruvananthapuram 3 rd November 1995

V.B.PYARELAL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kottayam is a compound word - Kotta + Akam which means the interior of a fort. Rulers of Munjanad and Thekkumkur had their head quarters at Thazhathangadi in the present Kottayam town. Marthanda Varma of Travancore attacked Thekkumkur and destroyed the palace and the Thaliyil fort. The remnants of palaces and forts are still seen here.

Short History

The present district of Kottayam was previously a part of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. Earlier, the Travancore state consisted of two revenue divisions viz. the Southern and Northern division, under the administrative control of a 'Diwan Peshkar' for each. Later, in 1868, two more divisions, Quilon and Kottayam, were constituted. The fifth division; - Devikulam, came next but for a short period, which in course of time, was added to Kottayam.

At the time of the integration of the State of Travancore and Cochin in 1949, these revenue divisions were renamed as districts and the Diwan Peshkars gave way to District Collectors, marking the birth of the Kottayam District.

The beginning of the 9th century A.D. is the age of the Kulasekharas. At that time, Kottayam was a part of the Vempolinad, which belonged to the Kulasekhara Empire (1090-1102 A.D.). The Vembanad Lake itself, derives its name from Vempolinad

The kingdom of Vempolinad, split itself into the kingdoms of Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur by about 1100 A.D. and later these two kingdoms were annexed by Marthanda Varma of Travancore (between 1749 and 1754).

The Portuguese and the Dutch had their business relations with both Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur kingdoms, pepper and other spices, being the main attractions.

In addition to Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur, Marthanda Varma brought two more petty principalities in Kottayam under his control. These were Poonlar and Meenachil.

After Marthanda Varma, Dharma Raja (1758-1798) placed Kottayam in a key position in the new defence stratagy against Haider Ali and Tippu Sultan of Mysore. Apart from this, Kottayam afforded asylum to a number of refugee princes who left Malabar in the wake of Mysore invasions.

Kottayam occupied a pre-eminent position in the cultural life of the Travancore princely court, the main reason being the migration of Ramapurathu Warrier, the famous poet of Vadakkumkur, to Thiruvananthapuram, following the annexation Kottayam by Marthanda Varma.

Kottayam has played its role in all the political agitations of modern times. The "Malayali Memorial" agitation may be said to have had its origin in Kottayam. The Malayali Memorial sought to secure better representation for educated Travancoreans in the Travancore civil service against persons from outside. The Memorial, which was presented to the Maharaja Sri Mulam Thirunal (1891) was drafted at a public meeting held in the Kottayam Public Library. The event marked the begining of the modern political movement in the state.

It was here that the famous Valkom Satyagraha, (1924-25) an epic struggle for eradication of untouchability, took place. Scheduled castes and other backward classes in Travancore were not only denied entry into temples, but also access to temple roads. Vaikom, the seat of a celebrated Siva Temple, was the venue of the symbolic satyagraha. It is of immense historic significance that national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, C. Rajagopalachari, Acharaya Vinoba Bhave and E.V., Ramaswami Naykar, associated with this struggle.

The 'Nivarthana' agitation of the early thirties, to secure adequate representation for the non-caste Hindus, Christians and Muslims in the State Legislature, enjoyed considerable support from this district.

The district was also a centre of the agitation led by the State Congress for responsible Government in Travancore. The agitation had a triumphant end, with the overthrow of Sir.C.P.Ramaswami lyer, the then Dewan of Travancore.

Physiography

Lying a little south to central Kerala, Kottayam district is bordered on the north by Ernakulam district, on the east by Idukki district and on

the south by Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts. The Vembanad lake forms the western boundary. Kotayam. lies between Latitude 9°,15' and 10°, 21' and Longitude 76°. 22' and 77°, 25'. The district is naturally divided into highland,



histrict head quarters, a view

midland and lowland; the bulk being constituted by the midland regions. Tauks of Meenachil and Kanjirapally have Highland and Midland areas, while the other three taluks have Midland and Lowland areas.

Kottayam district has a total area of 2204 sq.kms, which forms 5.7% of the total area of the State.

Climate

The district has a tropical humid climate with an oppressive hot season in the plains and plenty of rainfall throughout. The hot season from March to May, is followed by the South-West Monsoon from June to September. October and November constitute the post-Monsoon or retreating Monsoon season, when day temperature increases gradually and the heat is nearly as intense as in summer. December to February forms the North-East Monsoon. Rains cease early in January.

Rivers

The important rivers of the district are the Meenachil River, the Muvattupuzha River and the Manimala River

The Meenachil River flows through the taluks of Meenachil,

Vaikom and Kottayam. it is formed by several streams orginating from the Westem Ghats in Idukki district. At Erattupetta, Poonjar River also joins it, takes a sharp turn and flows towards the west. At Kondur, it is joined by the Chittar and at Lalam it receives the Payapparathodu and flows in a south-west direction till it reaches Kottayam. Here, it branches into several streams before emptying into the Vembanad Lake. The important towns in the basin are Pala, Poonjar, Ettumanoor and Kottayam.

The Muvattupuzha River orginates from Emakulam district, flows through Vaikom taluk and empties into the Vembanad Lake. The most important town in the basin is Vaikom, the famous pilgrim centre. The Manimala River flows through Kanjirappally and Changanacherry taluks. The Chittar joins it on its course further down the west as it flows to Alapuzha district. The important town in the basin is Mundakayam.

Population

There is a total population of 1828271 according to the Census of 1991. Male population is 9,12, 860 and female population is 9,15,411. The density of population is 830 per sq. km. The number of occupied residential houses in rural area is 2,98,104 and in urban area is 61781. The number of farmers is 79762 and agricultural labourers, 1,13,766. The total number of workers come to about 4.5 lakh.

Administration

Kottayam District has two Revenue divisions viz.,Kottayam and Pala, each under the control of a Revenue Divisional Officer. Vaikom, Kottayam, Changanassery, Meenachil and Kanjirappally are the taluks in the district. There are four municipalities, 11 development blocks and 73 panchayats. Kottayam, Vaikom, Pala and Changanacherry are the municipalities. Madappally, Pallom, Ettumanoor, Kadauthuruthy, Vaikom, Uzhavoor, Lalam, Erattuppeta, Kanjirappally, Vazhoor and

Pampady are the development blocks.

Agriculture

Agriculture forms the livelihood of the majority in the district. It is also



the main factor influencing the economy. Food crops as well as cash crops are cultivated here. Paddy and Tapioca are the main foodcrops while Rubber, Coconut and Pepper are the main cash crops. Annual crops like Plantain and Pineapple, seasonal crops like Ginger, Tubers, Vegetables and a wide range of perennial crops like Jack, Mango etc., are also grown.

Paddy is the most important foodcrop. The area under paddy cultivation is 36392 hectares. An average of 2325 kg/ha paddy is produced.

Next to paddy, is Tapioca. It is cultivated in 11620 hectares and 267260 tonnes of tapioca is produced per annum. Now its improved varieties are popular among the farmers.

Rubber is the major cash crop. It is grown in 1.07 lakh hectares, the largest area under Rubber cultivation in the state and its production is going up gradually. Here105198 metric tonnes of Rubber is produced per annum. Meenachil taluk of this district has maximum area under Rubber cultivation. A big Rubber centre, Kottayam has been chosen as the headquarters of the Indian Rubber Board.

Coconut, another important, cash crop, has a total area of 46012 hectares under cultivation. Production is being raised by adopting modern farming methods, enhancing irrigation facilities and distributing quality seedlings

Other Crops

Pepper, Tea, Coffee. Ginger. Arecanut. Pulses, Plantains, Pineapple. Sugarcane. Cocoa etc. are also cultivated in this district. The area under cultivation in hectares, is as below. Average production kg./ha. is in brackets. Pepper 10546 (282) Cof-



Rubber Plantations

fee 10000, Arecanut 23412 Ginger 610 (800) Turmeric 297 (1910) Mango 2442. Banana 2370 Plantain 3251 cashew 1011 vegetables 11620. Fruits 11272 (3500). There are 74 Krishi Bhavans under the Dept. of Agriculture, in the district,

Rubber Board

The Indian Rubber Board, constituted under the Rubber Produc-

tion and Marketing Act. 1947, has its headquarters Kottavam. Board has been implementing various schemes from 1957 onwards, for expansion and modernization of Rubber Plantation industry in India. With the financial assistance of Rs.



Rubber Research Institute at Puthuppally

445.21 crores from the World Bank, the Board is moving ahead with new plans and projects. The Board gives aid to farmers as cash incentives, plant insurance schemes, distribution of agricultural materials including crop seedlings and promotion of fencing and irrigation facilities.

As a part of advisory and extension services, the Board runs Rubber tapper training schools. It has also set up seven processing and eight trading companies in Kerala to strengthen the Rubber Producers' Societies.

Another important institution associated with the Board, is The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) which has eight catagorical divisions of detailed study and research. The Institute is located on a hillock at Puthuppalli, 8 km east of Kottayam town.

Animal Husbandry

The main species of illvestock in the district are cows, buffaloes, goats and pigs. Majority of the cattle still found in the district are Rangayam, Hallikyr and cross breeds of Jersey, Sindhi and Swiss Brown. Following the introduction of artifical insemination schemes and Intensive cattle development projects of the Animal Husbandry Department, there is a fairly large number of cross-bred Jersey and Swiss Brown animals here. Two other breeds found here are Murrah and Surabhi.

The goat population consists of *Kalabari*, a few cross breeds of *Jamanapari* and the local breeds. Fowls, Ducks, Turkey etc. form the poultry.

There are 11 veterinary hospitals, 4 veterinary polyclinics 43 dispensaries and 3 mobile farm aid units In this district. 69 artifical insemination centres, one popultry farm and two pig breeding units are also functioning here.

Fisheries

Deprived of a sea coast, but abundant in lakes & rivers, inland fishing flourishes here, providing livelyhood to around 5000 families. To popularise inland fishing, various programmes are being implemented for giving assistance to fish growers. Fingerlings of new varieties of fish like *Catla, Robu,* etc. are distributed to the farmers according to the suitability of their ponds. Farmers are also given Government subsidy.

Forests

Forest plays an important role in the economic development of the district by influencing various sectors like Agriculture, industry, Employment, Climate etc.,

There are two groups of forests, viz, the natural forests and the man-made forests. The man-made forests mainly consist of Eucalyptus, Teak, Softwood, Rubber, Cashew and other plantations. Forest Resource Development programmes are carried out by the Forest Development Corporation.

The Kottayam High Range Circle is divided into four Forest Divisions. They are Kottayam, Munnar, Kothamangalam and Mangulam. The Directorate of Tiger Project, established for the protection of Tigers, is at Nattasseri.

Industries

The growth Kottayam has achieved in the industrial sector during the past few years, is considerable. Now there are 11 large and medium scale industries, 12 mini industrial estates and 12,000 small-scale industrial units.

Significant growth has been achieved in the agro-based industrial sector. The increasing output in Rubber production and the advent of modern processing techniques ,has resulted in the establishment of Rubber-based industrial units like Latex, Crepe Rubber and Latex diversifying into items such as M.C. sheets, footwear, etc. There is a major industrial estate for Rubber and Plastics at Changanassery. The Travancore Cement factory, which manufactures the unique white cement, is located at Nattakom, not far from the town.

The district has a rich forest wealth with good availability of soft wood and other varieties of timber. As a result, many industries like plywood, packing cases, splints and veneers, furniture, etc., are thriving. The Hindustan Paper Corporation has set up a factory at Velloor in Vaikom taluk, for the production of News print. The coir industry in Kottayam district is more or less confined to Vaikom taluk.

Education

Kottayam is the first town in India to achieve cent percent literacy. According to the 1991 census, the literacy percentage of the district is 90.52. The district has been maintaining its lead till the state achieved total literacy, subsequently.

There are 478 Lower Primary Schools, 204 U.P. Schools and 238 High Schools in the district. The Central School at Puthuppally and Navodaya School near Vadavathoor are worth mentioning. There are also twenty one Arts and Science Colleges, four Training Colleges, three Co-Operative Colleges, Two Polytechnics, Seven Teacher Training Institutes, two Industrial Training Institutes and a number of private barallel colleges.

Out of the five medical colleges in the State, one is at Kottayam. Another unique feature is that three out of the seven sports divisions attached to high schools, are allotted to Kottayam. The district also has one school for the handicapped; the School for the Blind at Olassa.

In the 17th Century, a Dutch school was started at Kottayam, which lowever proved to be short-lived. The first English school in Kerala was started by the missionaries of the Church Mission Society(CMS), at Kottayam, in the begining of the 19th century. To this humble beginning, can be traced, the pre-eminence of Kerala, in education. The Mahatma Sandhi University is at Kottayam. Rajiv Gandhi Technological Institute was started at Puthupally In 1991. Lai Bahadur Sashtri Science and echnology sub-centre and the south Indian branch of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication have also been started at Puthuppally and /adavathoor respectively. The Nair Service Society, founded in 1914, which run several educational institutions in the state, has its head luarters in Changanassery.

Social Welfare

There are five Integrated Child Development Projects in this istrict (at Madappally, Lalam, Pampadi, Valkom and Kanjirappally) hich come under the Social Welfare Department. There are also two, ay care centres at Karappuzha and Kallara. Besides these projects

a Central Urban Social Nutrition Programme for children is also being carried out.

Housing

The Revenue Department, State Housing Board and Co-operative Housing establishments have launched various housing schemes through out the district, mainly for the benefit of the weaker sections. The State Housing Board is constructing 400 houses at Kanjikuzhi, Gandhinagar, Changanassery, Pala, Erumeli and Velloor under its public housing scheme. A project for completing more than 600 houses under Rajiv Million Housing Scheme, is also In progress. Housing scheme for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe colonies are also being implemented under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub plan.

Kottayam District Nirmiti Kendra, a government agency to propagate cost-effective techiniques of house construction, is also at the service of the people. The production centre and the administrative office of Nirmiti Kendra is at Poovanthuruthu, 6 Kms away from Kottayam town.

Co-operative Sector

The Co-operative sector plays an important role in intensifying the growth of agriculture and development of rural economy in the district. There are 760 Co-operative establishments in Kottayam. The District Cq-operative Bank and its 39 branches, have a deposit of Rs. 150 crores.

The Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham a unique cooperative venture of authors & writers, is in Kottayam. It publishes and markets books, in the Co-operative sector

In the district, there are 138 Primary Agricultural Co-operative societies and seven Co-operative Marketing societies with Rubber processing facilities.

Public Health

The field of public health gives a fair picture. Apart from the Medical College Hospital, there is one District Hospital. There are also four Taluk Hospitals, one children's hospital, 56 Primary Health Centres and seven other hospitals in the district. The Primary Health Centres are wide spread over the district and are distributed proportionally in urban and rural areas. In the government sector, there are 3500 health staff including doctors. Around 4000 inpatients can be treated in the hospitals mentioned above, excluding the Medical College Hospital. A number of private hospitals and health staff are also there, in the district. All modern treatment facilities are available here, both in the government and private sectors. This includes the ultra modern whole body scanning system and open heart surgery facilities in the Medical College Hospital.

Kottayam Medical College Hospital

The Kottayam Medical College Hospital, the third of its kind in the state, was inaugurated on 14 th April 1970. Over six lakh outpatients and fifty thousand inpatients get the service of the hospital every year. The bed strength of the hospital is 1,101. There are 17 major and four minor operation theaters in the hospital and there is a modern blood bank functioning round the clock. The surgery department admits maximum number of patients with Medicine and Radiology departments in the second and third places. There are 105 general rooms and two NGO nooms in the pay wards attached to the hospital.

The Medical College was inaugurated on 30th December, 1962 and from 15th January 1963, clinical training was imparted to students by converting the District Hospital into a Medical College Hospital.Later, all the departments were shifted to the campus in Gandhinagar. The tampus itself was named Gandhinagar in 1969 on the eve of the tentenary celebrations of the Father of the Nation. The Institution imparts training to 100 MBBS students. Fifty post graduate degree students and 33 post graduate diploma students in different specialities. Fifty Nursing students, 30 Medical Laboratory students, 15 Opthalmic Assistants, 30 Pharmacy diploma students and 15 Radiography students are admitted every year. Institute of Child Health, College of Nursing and

the
Primary
Health
Centre,
Ettumanoor,
are the
other
three
institutions
attached



Cancer Care Centre at the Kottayam Medical College Hospital

to the Medical College.

For the first time in the country, a Cancer Care Centre was established with the investment of the public, in Kottayam. A highly sophisticated institution with Cobalt unit and most modern facilities, has already been commissioned. Under the Savings for Cancer Care scheme of the central government, the centre has been authorised to execute cancer care and preventive actions, not only in the district but also in the adjoining districts. This centre functions in the Medical College hospital

Transport

Kottayam district is fairiy well networked in the matter of transport. The main transport modes in the district are roads and railways. Inland water transport is neligible. Out of the two main transport modes, road transport caters to a major part of the traffic. A notable fact is that the passenger road transport is mainly in the private sector. However the State-owned K.S.R.T.C. is also expanding its operations in the district by taking over new routes, providing additional schedules and stabilising the existing services.

The Railways, with 49 kms of railway line, runs through Changanassery, Kottayam and Vaikom taluks. Meenachil and Kanjirappally taluks are not reached by rail. There are 7 railway stations - Changanachemy, Chingavanam, Kottayam, Ettumanoor, Kuruppanthara Piravam and Vaikom Road.

A part of the traffic and cargo is borne by the Vembanad lake and the rivers flowing Into it. There are also a few navigable canals in Changanassery, Kottayam and Vaikom taluks.

Kottayam town is connected by a canal to the Vembanad lake.

Mass Media

In the history of journalism, Kottayam occupies a prominent place. The origin of journalistic activity in the district can be traced back to the middle of the last centry. *Jnananikshepam* the first newspaper published by the natives, was brought out from CMS Press at Kottayam in 1848.

Vidyasamgraham a publication of the CMS college, was started in 1864. Many of the then famous writers, had contributed to this publication. In 1867, Sandishtavadi another newspaper, was started at Kottayam by W.H.Moor, which was later banned. Malayala Mithram, started in 1878, was in circulation for about 12 years.

In 1887, Nasrani Deepika was started at Mannanam near Kottayam by the Carmelities of Mary Immaculates (CMI) missioneries, which later became the Deepika and continues to be one of the leading vernacular dailies of the State. The Malayala Manorama, the largest circulated daily in India, was started at Kottayam in 1890 by K.C. Mammen Mapila. Bhashaposhini, the literary magazine, was also started by K.C. Mammen Mapila, in 1892. After a long break, this publication has been revived by the Malayala Manorama group of publications. Contributions of vetrans like Kerala Varma Valiya Koyi Thampuram, Mooloor S. Padmanabha Panicker, Kattakayathil Cheriyan Mappila and Moorkothu Kumaran, had appeared in the pages of these publications.

Kottayam is the centre of newspapers and periodicals. Four major dailies; Viz. *Malayala Manorama*, *Mathrubhumi*, *Deepika* and *Mangalam* are being published from here. The number of periodicals come to about thirty.

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), a Central Government Institution, with its headquarters in New Delhi, has opened

its second branch at Kottayam. The site of the Kottayam branch is at Vadavathoor, 3 km. away from Kottayam Town. IIMC is engaged in improving professional knowledge and technical skill of the personnel working in various media, information & publicity departments of the Government and Public Sector undertakings.

Cultural Contributions

Kottayam has its place of honour in the cultural map of Kerala. Kunchan Nambiar, the father of *Thullal*, a popular temple art form, was supposed to have lived at kidangoor.

Unnineeli Sandesam, the exqusite Malayalam poetical work, is supposed to have been written by one of the Vadakkumkur Rajas. Ramapurathu Warrier (1703-53) is one of the celebrated names in Malayalam literature. The Christian missionaries enriched Malayalam literature by their valuable contributions, in the 18th and 19th centuries. Varthamana Pusthakam (1778), written by Paremmakkal Thoma Kathanar, on a travel to Rome, is the first travelogue in Malayalam. The first autobiography in Malayalam, by Vaikom Pachu Moothathu was published from Kottayam in 1870.

In the closing decades of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Kottayam shot into limelight as the nerve centre of all literary and cultural activities in the erstwhile Travancore State. Kottarathil Shankunny, Kandathil Varghese Mappilai and Kerala Varma Valia Koi Thampuran are dignitaries worth mention. K.C. Mammen Mappilai, Kattakayathil Cheriyan Mappilai, Vaikom Muhammed Bashir,

Vadakkumkur Raja Raja Varma, Ponkunnam Varkey, Karur Neelakanta Pillai and M.P. Paul, are some among the many notable personalities from the district. The great film maker, late G. Aravindan, also belongs to Kottayam.



The first Malayalam printing press, set up by Benjamin Beily in 1821

Kottayam can claim many firsts;- in the field of education, mass communication printing, book publication etc. The first English school in the state was started here. The first printing press was set up here by Rev. Benjamin Beily in 1821. The part played by *Deepika, Malayala Manorama* and *Bhasaposhini* for the cultural and literary development, is of immense significance. There are many printing presses and book publishing companies in Kottayam.

Libraries

The library movement has taken deep roots in the district and there are 382 libraries here.

Kottayam Public Library

The Kottayam Public Library, is one of the oldest in Kerala. Started in 1882 with the initiative of Shri. T. Rama Rao, the then *Peshkar* of Kottayam, this library attracts book lovers in and out of the district. There are about 4000 members and a collection of 1,25,000 books. The children's library and the Balabhavan attached to it were started in 1972. About 14,000 books have been collected here, for children Coaching classes in music, dance, painting and crafts are also conducted at the Balbhavan

Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham

The Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham or the Writers 'Co-operative Society, founded in 1945, with its head quarters at Kottayam, is a unique co-operative of men of letters.

The main objective of the society is to ensure economic and cultural stability to the writers. Authors get the highest royalty from this society. National Book Stall (NBS) is the sales department of the society and has its branches in almost all district of the state. The Society has its own printing press at Natakam, which was started in 1953 and is named, India Press. Now the society has more than 863 members and a capital of Rs. 20 lakhs, it is governed by a director board, comprising

of 12 members.

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS CENTRES

TEMPLES

Erumeli

Situated about 60 Kms from Kottayam town, this is the biggest pilgrim centre in the district. There is an ancient temple where *Sri Dharma Sastha* is the presiding deity. There is also an ancient mosque dedicated to *Vavar*, who is considered to be the friend of Lord *Ayyappa*. During *Mandala* and *Makaravilakku* seasons, lakhs of pilgrims arrive here on their way to Sabarimalai. Erumeli is famous for '*Pettathullai*'. Before the devotees start Pettathullal, they offer prayers at the mosque of *Vavar*. Thus Erumeli portrays a spiritual picture of Hindu-Muslim harmony

Vaikom

Situated about 40 kms, from Kottayam town, Vaikom is famous for the Siva temple. Here, two Ashtami festivals are held annually, one in Kumbham (February-March) and the other in Vrischikam (November-December) of



Thaliyil Temple; one of the ancient temples of Kerala

which the latter is more famous. The celebrations last for 12 days and end with an *Arat* at the Subrahamanya temple at Udayanapuram, on the day after Ashtami. *Panchavadyam* is an attractive item of the festival. *Prathal* is the main *Vazhipadu* here. There is a school teaching temple arts, known as *Kshethrakalapeedhom*, attached to the temple.

Thirunakkara

The Siva temple at Thirunakkara is in the heart of Kottayam town, The sanctum - sanctorum is covered with pictures from the epics. Three festivals are celebrated here;- in *Thulam* (October-November) *Mithunam* (June-July) and *Meenam* (March-April) of which the last one is the most important. The *Arat*, conducted on the last day of the festival, is the festival of Kottayam, irrespective of castes and creeds

Ettumanur

Ettumanur is famous for the Mahadeva temple which is 12 km. away from Kottayam town. The golden elephants (7 large ones and a small one) here, are well known. Though actually 8 in number, these are only considered as seven and a half. These were presented to the Lord

by Sri
Karthika
Thirunal, Maharaja of
Travancore.
The festival
here, is in
Kumbham
(FebruaryMarch). On
the 8th day of
the festival,
the golden elephants are



The famous Ettumanur Temple

taken out of the temple in a procession, which attracts thousands of devotees.

Kumaranelloor

Six Kilometres away from Kottayam town, Kumaranelloor is famous for the Karthyayani (Devi) temple. Here *Trikarthika* day is important and is celebrated in the month of Vrischikam (November-December). The display of lights in the evening (Karthika Vilkku) is the highlight of this celebration.

Pallippurathu Kavu

Situated in the southern part of Kottayam town, this temple is devoted to *Devi*. The *Kumbhakuta Mahotsavam* here, attracts a large crowd. It is held on the day of *Pathamudayam* (Tenth day of the month *Medam*). The *Garudan Thukkam* at night, is also famous.

SaraswathyTemple, Panachikkad

Situated 18 kms. away from Kottayam town, this temple is famous for Saraswathy Pooja in the month of Thulam (September-October). Saraswathi is worshipped as the goddess of learning. On the day of Durgashtami, the Pooja veppu is performed with books arranged in a decorated room and all sorts of study and work are given up for the day. The Mahanavami day is devoted to the worship of Saraswathi. The Vijayadasami day is observed as the day of the conclusion of the Pooja (Pooja eduppu). On that day, thousands of people arrive at this temple to initiate their children to learning.

Thiruvarpu

Situated 6 kms. away from Kottayam town, this temple is devoted to Lord Krishna. Offerings start as early as 3 o'clock in the morning. The festival here, is in the month of April, which lasts for ten days. The Vilakkeduppu i.e. carrying lighted lamps by virgin girls during the festival, is famous. Thiruvarpu is also famous for Usha (Payasam) which is the main Vazhipadu

Kidangoor

Twenty three kms. north-east of Kottayam, the Subrahmaniya swamy temple here, attracts a large crowd of worshippers on the day of *Shashti*, every month. In *Kumbham* (February-March) a 10 day long festival is celebrated here. The *Chakiarkooth* performed here, is a speciality.

Perunna (Changanassery)

Situated about 20 kms south of Kottayam town, this is also one of the famous Subrahmania Temples. The festival is in *Dhanu*, which lasts for 10 days Hundreds of worshippers, especially ladies, attend the shashti here.

Temples at Ramapuram, Kadappattur, Vazhappalli and Udayanapuram, are also famous.

CHURCHES

Valiyapally at Kottayam (St. George's Church)

Situated at Thazhathangadi near Kottayam town, this Church attracts people from different parts of the country. Christians from Kodungallur and Kaduthuruthy jointly constructed this church in 1550. The cross made of stone and the writings in ancient scripts on it, are attractions. The feast of St. George is on 26th April.

Good Shepherd Church

Situated behind the civil station at Kottayam, this is the first church of the Diocese of Vijayapuram. The construction of this church, which is in Italian style, was completed in



The very ancient persian cross with primitive scripts, enshrined in St. George's Church (Valiyapalli)

1882 and was since renovated in 1964. The feast of St. Sebastian is on 20th January and that of Good Shepherd, is from 10th to 12 April

St. George's Church, Aruvithura

Aruvithura is 35 Km. away from Kottayam town The St. George's Church here is one of the oldest churches in Kerala. It is believed that this church was constructed by St. Thomas. The reconstruction of this church was done in the 16 th century A.D. The feasts of Aruvithura Church fall on 23rd, 24th and 25th of April, every year.

St. Mary's Church, Manarcad

Situated 10 kms east of Kottayam town, Manarcad Church is famous for the *Ettu Noympu*, i.e. the eight day retreat and fast which begins on the 1st of September every year. The feast falls on 8th and 9th of September. Pilgrims participating in the retreat, stay in the church these days, fasting and praying. The church has a tank and a cross which are considered sacred.

St. George's Orthodox Church, Puthuppally

Puthuppally is 8 kms. away from Kottayam Town. The church in the name of St. George is located at the centre of the famous temples of Vennimala, Kadamuri, Iravinelloor and Vazhakkulam. It is believed that the kings of Thekkumkur had constructed this church when they ruled Vennimala. The feast which is in the month of May, attracts a large crowd.

St.Mary's Church, Athirampuzha

This ancient church is situated 10 kms. north of kottayam town. Though dedicated to Mother Mary, It is the feast of St. Sebastian which attract a large crowd to this church.

The statue of St. Sebastian installed here, is considered very ancient. During the days of the Portuguese, three figures were brought to Kerala. Legend says that the smallest of them was brought to

Athirampuzha by local traders. This is known as 'Adiyelpicha Roopam' (torchered-figure)

The original church, it is said, was constructed in 1080 A D. The feast lasts for 5 days. Display of fireworks in connection with the celebrations, is most attractive.

Valiya Palli at Pala

Valiya Palli (big church) is situated in Pala, about 39 kms from Kottayam town. It is generally accepted that this St. Thomas church, was

built in 1002. The chuch was destroyed by the Muslim invaders in the 17th century A D. and was reconstructed in the next century. The important festival of this church is the Rakkulithirunal which is celebrated on 6th January, every year.



The Altar of St. Thomas Church, Pala One of the oldest Churches in Kerala, which dates back to 1002 A.D.

Bharananganam Church

Also known as Anakkallu Palli, is an important pilgrim centre in Kottayam district. The mortal remains of Sister Alphonsa who died on 28 th July 1946, is kept here. This church is now internationally known. Thousands of devotees come here on 28th July every year to pray on her death anniversary. Bharananganam is 5 kms from Pala.

Church at Mannanam

This St. Joseph's church is another important pilgrim centre. The mortal remains of Fr. Chavara Kuriakose Elias is kept here.

Thousands of believers come here to offer their prayers at this tomb.

Vimalagiri Church, Kottayam

Vimalagiri (Angathattu Palli) is the cathedral of the Diocess of

Vijayapuram. The foundation stone of the church was laid in 1956 and the construction was completed in 1964.

This church, constructed in Gothic style, is an example of excellence in architectural beauty. The main steeple has a height of 172 ft., which is considered as the highest church steeple in the State. Vimalambika is the deity here. The main feast is in December. This church is situated near Kottayam railway station.

The chief eccelsiastical dignity of the Orthodox Syrian Church, the Catholicos of the East, has his head quarters in Devalokam Aramana at Muttambalam in Kottayam. The Bishops of the Knanaya Catholic Church, Latin Catholic Church and the Church of South



Vimalagiri or "Angathattu palli", the Cathedral of the Diocess of Vijayapuram.

India have their Head quarters in Kottayam. The Arch Bishop of Changanassery who follows the Syro-malabarrite, has his Head Quarters in Changanassery. The Bishops of Knanaya Jacobite and the Church Mission Society have their headquarters at Chingavanam and Kurichy respectively.

MOSQUES

Erumeli

At Erumeli, there is a famous mosque in the name of Vavar a friend of Lord Ayyappa. The *Chandanakkudam* festival is celebrated here in January every year. This coincides with the *Makaravilakku* of Sabarimala. At night, there is an attractive procession with caparisoned elephants and *Panchavadyam*. This is an important festival which exudes the spirit of Hindu-Muslim unity.

Changanassery.

At Changanacherry there are two famous mosques; Pazhayapalli and Puthurpalli. The Pazhayapalli is said to be more than 1000 years old and it is constructed at the site which was donated by a king of Thekkumkur. A Bhagavathi temple and a Catholic church are situated in the vicinity of this mosque, bearing true testimony to the religious unity of the people here. The Puthurpalli is about 400 years old. The Chandanakkudam festival is celebrated by the followers of different religions.

Erattupetta

The mosque at Erattupetta is famous. Here also, the Chandanakkudam festival is celebrated every year. The procession attacts the people of the locality as a whole.

Thazhathangadi (Kottayam)

The mosque at Thazhathangadi is one of the ancient mosques in India. it is believed that Malik Dinar had built this mosque about 1000 years ago.

Now it is an important pilgrim centre at Kottayam. The artistic value of this mosque is of special interest to the tourists.



Thazhathangadi Mosque ,believed to have been built by Malik Dinar , a thousand years ago.

Calender of Religious Festivals.

1.	Suryasamkramam of Thirunakkara temple	- 3rd week o
		March
2.	Manarcadu Church Ettunoimbu	- 1st to 8th
		September
3.	Chandanakudam at Changanassery	- 25th Dec
4.	Bharananganam church Festival	- 28th July
5.	Astami at Vaikom Temple	- 4th March/
		26th Nov
6.	Arat at Ettumanoor temple	- 22nd Feb
7.	Petta Thullal at Erumeli	- Dec - Jan
8.	Navaratri celebarations and Vidyarambam	
	of Panachikkad temple	- October
9.	Kumaranloor temple festival	- Nov-Dec
10.	Utsavam of Thiruvarppu temple	- April / May
11.	Aruvithura St. George Church Perunal	- 22nd, 23rd
	•	24th April
12.	Deepam Festival of Thrikkodithanam	- Nov - Dec
13.	Parayil Church perunal, Changanassery	- 8th Dec
	, minguitable,	-111 200

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Kottayam, with its landscape, rivers, lakes, bird sanctuaries, temples, churches, mosques and historic remnants attract tourists. Sea shores denied, the western parts of the district are embraced by the Vembanad lake.

Kumarakam

Kumarakam is a small village 12 kms west of Kottayam town. It is a part of Kuttanad, which is a 'wonder land',lying below sea level, comprising of a number of islands, in the backwaters. An attraction of Kumarakom is the bird sanctuary, spreading over 14 acres of land

Birds like Egrets, Darters, Herons, Teal, Waterfowl, Cuckoo, Wild ducks etc. are seen here in abundance. Siberian storks migrate to Kumarakom every season. 'Coconut lagoon' is a beautiful resort, here.



Boat train; one of the many boating facilities offered the K.T.D.C. at Kumarakom

In the last Century, Henry

Baker, an English man, attracted by the beauty of the place, selected Kumarakam as his residence and built a bunglow, obtaining 104 acres of land from the then Maharaja of Travancore. He also made a beautiful garden. Preserving the old style, the beautiful Bungalow of Baker, has now been modified into the 'Taj Garden Retreat', a hotel with modern living facilities. The Kerala state Tourism Development Corporation is converting this place into a tourist complex. Boating facilities are also provided by the corporation.

Traditional cargo boats called *Kettuvallams* are modified into cruise boats and house boats, with all basic facilities like kitchen, toilet, bathrooms, sit outs etc. These boats gracefully move around the backwaters, providing facilities to tourist to enjoy the beauty of the Vembanad lake in a relaxed pace.

Boat Races

In the festive months of August and September, the rivers in and near Kottayam are turned into festival centres. In the Kumarakom Boat Race, conducted at Kavanar and Kottathodu rivers, about 50 types of boats, viz. Veppu, Ody, Churulan and few snake boats, participate.

Elaveezha Poonchira.

Elaveezha Poonchira, a hill station near Melukavu Mattom 60 kms from Kottayam, is gaining tourist importance. Located among three beautiful hillocks; Mankunnu, Kudayathoormala and Thonippara, Poonchira is a place of picturesque charm. Legends say that the pool here was a bating place for *Panchali* the heroine of *Mahabaratha*. The District Tourism Promotion Council is developing this place into a trekking spot. A tourist bungalow with rooms and dormitory to accommodate 15 people, has been constructed.

Thomman Kuthu, Kurisumala, Vagamon, Marumala and waterfalls of Pazhukkakanam are the other tourist spots in the district.

Accommodation

Kottayam

- 1. Guest House, Nattakom,
- 2. P.W.D.Rest House,
- 3 Hotel Iswarya (KTDC)
- 4. Hotel Aida, M.C. Road,
- 5. Hotel Anjali, K.K.Road,
- 6. Hotel Green Park.

- 7. Hotel Nisha Continental, Sasthri Road,
- 8. Vembanad Tourist Resort(Kodimatha)
- 9. Venad Tourist complex,
- 10. Sakthi Hotel.
- 11. Coconut Lagoon Resort, Kumarakom
- 12. Taj Garden Retreat, Kumarakom

Changanassery

1. Vani continental, 2. Breeze International, 3. Hotel Maharani

Pala

1.Rest House, P.W.D, 2. Hotel Maharani

Vaikom

Kanjirappally

Rest House

Tourist Bungalow

Important Hospitals

1.	Medical College Hospital	Gandhi Nagar
2.	Institute of Child Health, Amma	ancheri
3	District Hospital,	K.K.Road,
4 .	Ayurveda Hospital,	Vayaskara hill
5	Homeo College Hospital,	Kurichy
6.	Bharath Hospital,	Azad Lane
7.	City Hospital,	Temple Road
8.	Medical Centre,	Nagampadam
9.	E.S.I. Hospital,	Muttambalam
10.	Carithas Mission Hospital,	Thellakom.

Distance to major centres of the state from Kottayam

Place	Distance	•	tation time taken Train	Boat
Aluva (Alwaye)	91 Kms	3hrs	1hr 30 min	
Alappuzha (Alleppey)	50 "	1hr	50 min	2hrs
Changanacherry	18 "	30 min	20 min	
Devikulam	155 "	5 hrs	-	
Elaveezha Poonchira	60 "	2 hrs	-	-
Ettumanoor	13 "	25 min	15 min	
Ernakulam (Kochi)	76 "	2 hrs 10 min	1hr	-
Guruvayoor	171 "	5 hrs	-	-
ldukki	130 "	5 hrs	-	-
Kanyakumari	243 "	6 hrs 30 min	6 hrs	-
Kannur (Cannanore)	3 52 "	8 hrs 30 min	8 hrs	
Kozhikode (Calicut)	265 "	6 hrs	6 hrs	-
Kaladi	83 "	2 hrs	-	
Kattappana	116 "	3 hrs 30 min	-	-
Kollam(Quilon)	106 "	3 hrs 10 min	2 hrs	-
Kumily	112 "	4 hrs	•	-
Kumarakom	15 "	30 min	•	-
Madurai	250 "	8 hrs	•	-
Malampuzha	22 6 "	6 hrs 30 min	6 hrs	-
Munnar	146 "	5 hrs	-	-
Pala	30 "	50 min	-	_
Palakkad (Palghat)	214 "	6 hrs 30 min	6 hrs	
Pathanamthitta	57 "	1 hr 45 min	-	-
Sabarimala (pampa)	129 "	6hrs	-	-
Thekkady	115 "	4 hrs 45 min	-	
Thodupuzha	57 "	1 hr 45 min	•	-
Thrissur (Trichur)	134 "	4 hr	3hrs 30 min	-
Thiruvananthapuram				
(Trivandrum)	154 "	4 hrs	3hrs 3 0 min	-
Vaikom	42 "	1 hr		-

NTER-STATE BUS SERVICES

TΛ

:rom

-rom	10	Corporation	Via
Cottayam	Bangalore	K.S.R.T.C	Moovatupuzha, Thrissur ,Kozhikode,
			Sultan Batery, Mysore.
Changanassery	Thirunelveli	K.S.R.T.C.	Punaloor,Shenkotah Tenkasi
Changanassery	Madras	Jayalaitha Transport	Kanjirapply Perumade,Kumily Kambom,Theni Dindigal,Trichi
INTER-STATE E			R DISTRICT STATIONS
From	То	Corporation	Via
Ernakulam	Madurai	K.S.R.T.C	kumali
Kottarakara	Palani	K.S.R.T.C	Moovatupuzha Adimali ,Munnar

Cornoration

Ernakulam Madurai Jayalalitha Marayur, Kumali Transport

Kottarakara Mookambika K.S.R.T.C. Moovatupuzha, Thrisur(Trichur)

Kozhikode,Kasaragod

\/ia

Thiruvananthapuram Mangalapuram K.S.R.T.C Moovattupuzha, (Trivandrum) (Mangalore) Thrisur,Kozhikode Kasaragod.

Kottarakara Bangalore K.S.R.T.C Moovattupuzha, Thrisur, Kozhikode, Carbikode Carbikode, Carbikode Carbikode, Carbikode,

Thrisur,Kozhikode Sultan Bathery, Mysore.

Kottarakara Coimbatore K.S.R.T.C Thrissur, Palakkad

Distance to Major destinations of India from Kottayam by rail.

Ahammedabad	2530(K.M.)
Bangalore	690
Bhopal	2243
Bombay	1915
Calcutta	2421
Delhi	2944
Jammu Tawi	5861
Coonor	987
Madras	760
Mangalapuram(Mangalore)	473
Vijayawada	1193

TRAIN SERVICE(To the Southern Side)

Train	From	То
No.		
6348	Kannur -	Trivandrum Express
6038	Mangalore -	Trivandrum (Malabar Express)
351	Kottayam -	Kollam (Quilon) Passenger (except Sunday
6303	Ernakulam -	Trivandrum (Vanchinad Express)
6319	Madras -	Trivandrum Mall
1081	Bombay V.T	Kannyakumari Exp
6335	Gandhi Dham -	Trivandrum Express (Thursday only)
6333	Rajkot -	Trivandrum Express (Monday only)
341	Cochin -	Kottayam Passenger
6526	Bangalore -	Kannyakumari Express
6018	Jammu Tawi -	Kaniyakumari (Himasagar Express)-
		Thursday.only
6022	Guwahati -	Trivandrum Express (Wednesday only)
2626	New Delhi -	Trivandrum (Kerala Express)
6350	Mangalore -	Trivandrum (Parasuram Express)
353	Kottayam -	Quilon Passenger
6301	Shornur -	Trivandrum (Venad Express)
343	Ernakulam -	Kottayam passenger (Except Sunday)

FRAIN SERVICES(to the Northern Side)

Γrain	From	То
Vo.		
3347	Trivandrum -	Kannur Express
342	Kottayam -	Ernakulam Passenger
3302	Trivandrum -	Shornur (Venad Express).
3349	Trivandrum -	Mangalore (Parasuram Express)
352	Quilon -	Kottayam Passanger (Except Sunday)
1082	Kanyakumari -	Bombay VT - (Kanyakumari Express)
2625	Trivandrum -	New Delhi (Kerala Express)
3525	Kanyakumari -	Bangalore Express
3321	Trivandrum -	Gauhati Express(Thursday only)
5336	Trivandrum -	Gandhi Dham Express(Saturday only)
5017	Kanyakumari -	JammuTawi (Hima Sagar Express)Friday only
6320	Trivandrum -	Madras Mail
6334	Trivandrum -	Rajkot Express (Wednesday only)
334	Kottayam -	Cochin Passenger(Except Sunday)
6304	Trivandrum -	Ernakulam Junction (Vanchinad Express)
364	Quilon -	Kottayam Passenger
6029	Trivandrum -	Mangalore (Malabar Express)

REVENUE DIVISIONS

TALUKS

1.Kottayam 2.Pala

1.Kottayam 2.Meenachil(Pala) 3.Kanjirappally4.Vaikom

5.Changanassery

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

- 1.Kottayam
- 2.Moovattupuzha (Certain parts of Kanjirappally,Poonjar,Pala assembly constituencies)

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

- 1 Kanjirappally 2. Vazhoor 3. Changanacherry 4 Kottayam
- 5 Ettumanoor 6 Puthupally 7 Poonjar 8 Pala 9 Karduthuruthy 10 Vaikom

MUNICIPALITIES

1 Kottayam 2. Changanassery 3. Vaikom 4. Pala.

PANCHAYATS

1.	Aymanam	3 7.	Koottical
2.	Arppookara	38.	Manimala
3.	Akalakkunnam	39.	Mundakkayam
4.	Kumaranalloor	40.	Payippadu
5.	Nattakam	41.	Thrikodithanam
6.	Puthupally	42.	Vazhappally
7.	Thiruvarppu	43,	Karukachal
8.	Vijayapuram	44.	Kurichi
9.	Ayarkkunnam	45.	Madappally
10.	Athirampuzha	46.	Nedumkunnam
11.	Ettumanoor	47.	Vakathanam
12.	Neendoor	48.	Vazhoor
13.	Kumarakom	50.	Kangazha
14	Kooroppada	51.	Karoor
15.	Meenadam	52.	Mutholi
16	Pampady	53 .	Bharananganam
17.	Panachikkad	54.	Meenachil
18.	Pallicathode	55.	Erattupetta
19.	Thalayazham	56.	Poonjar
20.	TVPuram	57.	Poonjar Thekkekkara
21.	Udyanapuram	58.	Thalappalam
22.	Chempu	59 .	Thidanadu
23.	Kaduthuruthy	60.	Kadaplamattom
24.	Kallara	61.	Marangattupally
25.	Manjoor	62.	Kadanadu
26.	Mulakkulam	63.	Kuravilangadu
27.	Velloor	64.	Kidangoor
28.	Maravanthuruthu	65.	Kozhuvanal
29.	Thalayolaparambu	66.	Melukavu
30.	Njeezhoor	67.	Moonilavu
31.	Vechoor	68.	Ramapuram
32.	Kanjirapally	69.	Theekoyi
3 3.	Parathodu	70.	Thalanadu
34.	Chirakkadavu	71.	Uzhavoor
35.	Elikkulam	72.	Kanakkari
36	Erumeli	73.	Veliyanoor

BLOCKS

Block	Headquarters	Block	Headquarters
1.Uzhavoor	Kozha	7.Erattupetta	Aruvithura
2.Kaduthuruthy	Kaduthuruthy	8.Vaikom	Udayanapuram
3.Pallam	Vadavathoor	9.Lalam	Anthinadu
4.Kanjirappally	Mannarkayam	10.Vazhoor	Chamampathal
5.Madappally	Madappally	11.Ettumanoor	Ettumanoor
6.Pampady	Pallikathodu		

BARE FACTS

Area (Sq. kms)	-	2203
Population (in 000's)	-	1828
Percentage to State Population	•	6.28
Males (in 000's)	-	913
Females (in 000's)	-	915
Sex ratio :- Females / 1000 Males	-	1003
Density of Population	-	830
Per capita Income (1992-93)	-	5173(Rs.)
No. of households	-	362
Average Size of family	•	5.05

(Population Statistics -1991 Census)

Projected population as an 1st March

Year 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 Population(in ooo's): 1929 1955 1981 2008 2035 2062

Average monthly rainfall - 1991 (m.m)

Month	: Jan_	Feb	Mar	Apı	May	Jun	
Rainfall	: 0	12	49	86	164	1258	
	Jul	Aua	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
	587	436	57	243	60	2	2954

Gross area under irrigation (cropwise) 1990-91(in hect.)

Crops: Paddy Tubers Vegetables Coconut Arecanut Cloves & Nutmeg

Area :10368 6 431 171 1 96

Other Banana Betel Sugar others Total condiments leaves cane
17 281 20 2 560 11953

Live Stock Population (1987)

Cattle Buffaloes Goats Sheep Pigs others 2,76,044 5,972 1,26,040 1,333 42,013 7,395

Total live Stock: 4,58,797 Total Poultry: 15,72,041

Employment generated (1992) - 17,197
No. of Registered working factories - (1992) - 1080
No. of SSI Units as on 31-3-'93 - 9180

Distribution of PWD Roads (in Kms) as on 1.4.'93

State Major Dist. Other Dist. Village Total
Highways Roads Roads Roads
258.39 731.99 944.12 39.61 1974.11

Schools(1992-93)

A ALL MAIN	1.1.4.4.M.X.X.1			
Section	No. of	No, of	No of	
	schools,	students,	teachers.	
LPS	478	127652	4029	
UPS	204	103996	3638	
H.S.	<u> 238</u>	98893	<u>4205</u>	
Total	920	330541	11872	
Arts & S	Science Colleg	es(1992-93)		
Govt:	1	2881	96	
Private	20	<u>46392</u>	<u> 1895</u>	

No. of Medical

21

Total

Institutions	Allopathy	Ayurveda	Homeopathic
	82	51	30
No. of Beds	4017	150	175

49273

1991

SHOWING PANCHAYATS Not Final Subject to Alterations ERNAKULAM 3 IDUKKI ALLEPPEY **PATHANAMTHITTA**

KUTTATAM DISTRICT