

DISTRICT HAND BOOKS OF KERALA

WYNAD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

NIEPA DC



D04227

District Handbooks of Kerala
Wynad (*revised edition*)

Department of Public Relations
1986, May

Printed at Government Press,
Trivandrum

[*Not for Sale*]

Sub. National Systems Unit,
National Institute of Educational
Planning and Administration
W-B, S.I.A. 1, 4, May, New Delhi-110002
DO. No. 4222
Date 27/5/88

Compiled by:

District Information Officer

Wynad

PREFACE

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

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

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

Trivandrum,
September, 1987.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Salient Features	1
A Short History	2
Topography and Climate	3
Rivers	4
Flora and Fauna	4
People	5
Centres of Worship	7
Developmental Activities	9
Places of Tourist Importance	13
Wynad District at a Glance	14

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	<i>Page</i>
Cardamom Project Sugandhagiri	16
Sultan's Battery	16
Stone carvings at Sultan's Battery	17
Elephant Camp Muthanga	17
Mahaganapathi Temple—Sultan's Battery	18
Thirundli Temple	18
Jain Temple - Puliyarmala	19
Papanasini Spring-Thirunelli	19
Kalloor Mosque—Pana }aram	20
Valliyookavu Bhagavathy Temple	20
Cave Temple of Lord Siva—Thirunelli	21
Jain Temple—Kainatty	21
Sree Rama's Feet—Thirunelli	22
Valliyookavu Temple	23
Asoka Tree in Valliyookavu Temple	24
Processing of Cardamom	25
Pookkodu Lake	25
Burial place of Pazassi Raja—Manantoddy	26
Wynad district—showing Pauchayats—	

A plateau of height between 700 and 2100 metres above sea level encompasses among Western Ghats on the eastern border of north Kerala constitutes Wynad district. Its geographical position is, therefore, peculiar and unique. The difference in altitudes of each locality within the district presents a variation of climatic conditions in different places. Nature has blessed this part of the country bounteously with mist-clad mountains and sylvan valleys. The idyllic nature of Wynad, which could make it a good enough rival for Kashmir, its nearness to Ooty and Mysore, with well-laid roads to these centres offer tremendous tourist potentialities.

SALIENT FEATURES

The name 'Wynad' is derived from the expression 'Wayalnadu' which means 'land of paddy fields'. A visitor may be impressed by the extensive paddy fields of the district. Agriculture in Wynad is equally divided between paddy and plantation crops except coconut. The hills which are deep blue in the bright sun and mist-covered most of the time juxtapose these paddy fields. This, in fact is a splendid spectacle of nature's contrast.

The east flowing rivers of Wynad are in striking contrast to the various river systems of the rest of Kerala. The Kabani river system of Wynad is the perennial source of water to Cauvery. Panamaram rivulet originating from Lakkidi and Manantoddy rivulet originating from Thondarmudi Peak joins together six kilometres north of Panamaram town and after the confluence the river is known as Kabani.

Coffee is ubiquitous in Wynad. It is cultivated in every panchayat both in the form of large estates and small holdings. The economy of Wynad depends mainly on coffee. Pepper is grown as an additional crop on trees that are groomed to give shade to the coffee shrubs. In Pulpally area there are exclusive pepper gardens. Tea is cultivated in large estates. Every year the plantation crops of Wynad nets a foreign exchange worth 47 crores of rupees.

Wynad has the highest concentration of tribals in Kerala. They form one-fifth of the total population of the district. The aboriginals of Wynad have a great political tradition. This area was originally

reigned by the rajahs of the Veda tribe. Later political authority came to the Pazhassi rajahs of Kottayam royal dynasty.

The Kurichyas of Wynad have a great martial tradition. They constituted the army of Pazhassi Veera Kerala Varma Rajah who engaged the British forces in several battles. The descendants of those warriors are still expert archers. The excellence of Kurichya archery has been exhibited recently, at various centres.

In the last decade Wynad shot into media publicity with the violent deeds of the revolutionary desperadoes popularly called naxalites. The fact that most of these young activists were educated youth from the lower middle class families of the neighbouring districts is little elicited. They had little bearing on the impeccable tribal population of the district. By and large, Wynad has a peace-loving social milieu.

Wynad has an agricultural economy and it has no major industry to boast of. Heavy industry will probably tilt the ecological and demographic balance adversely. The idyllic nature of the district together with its colourful tribal life and brazing climate will make tourist activities pay rich dividends.

Development activities are bringing about a change in the poor man's quality of life in the district. Through the co-operative sector Adivasis are given a better deal in the economic life of the district. There are 13 Girijan service co-operative societies catering to their farm and market exigencies. Besides, there are four co-operative collective farms including the famous Sugandhagiri Project for the emancipation of that segment of our people. A labour contract co-operative society for the benefit of Adivasis is also functioning in Wynad.

A notable feature of life in Wynad is that it is touched to its very roots by the operation of the nationalised, commercial and co-operative banks. The branches of these banks located in the remote areas of the district have their field day during the marketing time of cash crops.

A SHORT HISTORY

Wynad lies between north latitude 11° 27' and 15° 58' and east longitude 75° 47' and 70° 27'. It is bounded on the east by the Nilgiris and Mysore districts of Tamilnadu and Karnataka respectively, on the north by Coorg district of Karnataka, on the south by Malappuram district and on the west by Kozhikode and Cannanore districts.

Comprising of an area of 2126 sq. kilometres Wynad has a powerful human history. Historians are of the view that organised human life

existed in these parts at least ten centuries before Christ. Countless evidences about the New Stone Age civilisation can be seen on the hills of Wynad. The two caves of Ampukuthimala located in between Sultan's Battery and Ambalavayal, with pictures painted on their walls and the pictorial writings there speak volumes for the bygone life and civilisation.

In ancient times this land was ruled by the rajas of the Veda tribe. In later days, Wynad came under the rule of Pazhassi Rajahs of Kottayam royal dynasty. When Hyder Ali became the ruler of Mysore, he invaded Wynad and brought it under his sway. In the days of Tipu, Wynad was restored to the Kottayam royal dynasty. But Tipu handed entire Malabar to the British after the Sreerangapattanam truce that he made with them. This was followed by fierce and internecine encounters between the British and Kerala Varma Pazhassi Rajah of Kottayam. When the Rajah was driven to the wilderness of Wynad he organised the war-like Kurichya tribe into a sort of people's militia and engaged the British in several guerrilla type encounters. The British could get only the dead body of the Rajah who killed himself somewhere in the interior forest.

Thus Wynad fell into the hands of the British, and with it began a new turn in the history of this area. The Britishers opened up the Plateau for cultivation of tea and other cash crops. Roads were laid across the dangerous slopes of Wynad from Calicut and Tellicherry. These roads were extended to the city of Mysore and to Ooty through Gudalur. With the laying of the roads poured in settlers from all parts of Kerala and the virgin forest lands proved veritable goldmines with the incredible yields of cash crops.

When the State of Kerala came into being in 1956 Wynad was part of Cannanore District. Later South Wynad was added to Calicut district. In order to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Wynad for development North Wynad and South Wynad were joined once again to form the present district of Wynad which came into being on November 1, 1980.

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The altitude of Wynad varies from 700 to 2100 metres from sea level. The hill ranges of Vythiri taluk, through which the road from Calicut ascends the Wynad Plateau over mind-boggling bends and ridges are the highest locations in Wynad district. From the highest altitude of the Western Ghats on the western border of the district the plateau of Wynad gradually slopes down eastward. Further eastward from Manantoddy it becomes a common plain of paddy fields with the swift flowing Kabani coursing through it.

The dale 'Lakkidi' nestled among the hills of Vythiri-taluk. has the highest average annual rainfall in Kerala.

The average yearly percentage of rainfall in Wynad is 30000 millimetre. The relative humidity of the atmosphere in the season of monsoon is 90%. In summer it comes down to 72%. The maximum temperature during day time is 90.4°F. and the minimum 59.0°F. Thus Wynad offers the climate of a hill station similar to that of Oottacamund.

Elsewhere Wynad offers a panorama of undulating hills and dales which are turned into paddy fields. The hills which might have been thick forest once, are now plantations of coffee, tea or cardamom. There is lushy luxuriant green on all around. On a clear day from the river-board of Kabani, Wynad will seem to be a fairy land with the deep blue mountains juxtaposed with the less blue sky and the white vaagrant specks of clouds amidst them.

The soil of Wynad district is mainly of the forest type. It promotes a lushy luxuriant growth of vegetation which makes Wynad clothed in uniform greenery.

RIVERS

The Kabani and her tributaries constitute a powerful river system on the landscape of Wynad. From a perennial lake called the 'Pookkode' lake Panamaram rivulet takes its origin. It flows swiftly through mountain gorges to be joined by other streams and tumbles down into Panamaram valley. Six kilometres further off from Panamaram, this river joins with Manantoddy rivulet—originating from the lower regions of the Peak 'Thondarmudi'. From the confluence onward the river is known as Kabani, a mighty, perennial river which after entering Karnataka joins with the river Cauvery.

FLORA AND FAUNA

The flora of Wynad are characteristic of the Western Ghats and the plantation crops grown in the available cool climate. A major portion of the district is covered by coffee. Trees of the wild type like rose-wood Anjil (Artocarpus), Mullumurikku (Erthrina), several species of Cassia and many other non-descript varieties are still preserved here and there to give shade to the coffee plants. These trees give a semblance of wilderness to the landscape of Wynad. In a

majority of coffee plantations the age-old species are replaced by a new species suited to cold climate--the silver oak. This tree grows quickly and its cultivation is widespread among coffee plantations for shade and for giving support to pepper. It is used for plywood industry and thus economical for the farmers. Eucalyptus grandis, a shorter variety of eucalyptus whose fragrant smell suffuses the very air around it, is cultivated on a large scale in certain parts of the district. From its leaves eucalyptus oil is extracted on a commercial basis. This oil is used in the manufacture of perfumes. Of the 20864 hectares of reserve forest land, the major portion is used as teak plantation. Arecanut palms and jack trees are also grown in the district. Tea is grown as an industry in large estates like the Malayalam Plantations in Vythiri taluk, Beenachi Estate owned by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in Sultan's Battery taluk and Bhagavathy Estate in Manantoddy taluk.

The soil and climate of Wynad is suitable for horticulture on commercial basis. In order to promote the cultivation of vegetables and the raising of orchards Kerala Agricultural University is running a demonstration farm at Ambalavayal. Orange is grown by many households in the border areas of Sultan's Battery taluk. Marketing of oranges is a problem for farmers in these parts.

With the clearing of forests the diverse and buzzing animal life characteristic of the forests of Western Ghats has vanished from Wynad. One can still see the bonnet monkey, loris, mongoose, jungle cat, squirrels, jackals, hares, etc., in the limited forest areas.

Elephant, bear and other wild animals stray into the Begur range of forests and the forests around Muthanga, which is 20 kilometres away from the town of Sultan's Battery, from the neighbouring wild life sanctuaries of Karnataka and Tamilnadu.

PEOPLE

The population of the district according to 1981 census is 553,348 of which the male population is 283,579 and female 269,769. The density of population in the district is 260 per sq. kilometre. The population of Scheduled Tribes in the district is 95,570 and that of Scheduled Caste is 21,130. Strictly speaking there is no urban population in Wynad. However life in Sultan's Battery and Manantoddy is in the process of gaining urban status. The decadal growth rate in the population of Wynad was 59.17 per cent in 1941-51, 62.60 per cent in 1951-61, 50.35 per cent in 1961-71 and 33.71 per cent in 1971-81. In the first three decades of this century the growth of population in Wynad was less than ten per cent.

This shows that there was an influx of settlers to Wynad after the Second World War. The economic slump and the difficulties and miseries creeping as a result of war into the life of common people prompted them to seek 'pastures anew' on the virgin soil of Wynad from all parts of Kerala and Karnataka. In the first years of settlement thousands perished in malaria and in the attack of wild animals. Those who survived the inhospitable conditions of the forest, cleared it and transformed Wynad into a pastoral paradise.

The literacy rate in Wynad district was 57.33% in 1981 and was only 47.33 in 1971. Thus there is an appreciable growth in the literacy rate in a decade. This is still below the State literacy rate of 69.17 per cent. The literacy rate of women in the district is only 50.55 per cent. Sultan's Battery taluk tops in having the highest literacy rate of 69.90 per cent.

Religion and custom

No religion can be said to be predominant in the district. The different religious groups of the State are more or less equally represented. The most characteristic thing about Wynad is a large Adivasi population. Though they are in the Hindu fold, primitive forms of worship still prevail. Ancestral worship is prevalent among them. Offerings are made to propitiate the spirits of ancestors. Two deities commonly worshipped by the Adivasis are 'Thampuratty' and Vettakkorumakan'. They also worship the Hindu Gods of various temples in the district. Adivasis do not have any temple of their own. Paniyar, Adiyar, Kurichiyar, Kurumar, Kattunaikkar, Kadan and Oorali are the different aboriginal tribes of Wynad. The Kurichiyar are the most developed among the different tribes. They are small landowners whereas the members of other tribes are mostly labourers. Some of the centuries old temples and their Brahmin settlements suggest the earliest attempts that were made to bring the Adivasis under the Hindu religious fold. The Thirunelli and Valliyoorkavu temples which are known outside Wynad as the temples of Adivasis are in fact run by Hindu settlers with the help of Brahmin priests. Adivasis are allowed to worship and to participate in the festivals of these temples. More than anything else the myths woven round the temples including the one about Sita, Rama's consort and her two sons Lava and Kusa have drawn the aboriginal mind to the Hindu system of belief.

Wynad has a small Jain community consisting of the Gounders who came from Karnataka. They have built beautiful temples all over the district.

Almost all sections of Christianity are well-represented in Wynad. The Syrian Catholics have their Bishop's house at Sultan's Battery and the Roman Catholics have their own at Manantoddy. The Bishop's house of the Jacobite Syrian Church is at Meenangadi. The district is rife with Christian missionary activities. One fourth of the population of Wynad is constituted by Christians. They are the largest religious group in Wynad. A section of Kurichyas of Manantoddy has been converted to Christianity.

Muslims constitute another one fourth of the population. They are Moppilas who came from Malappuram and Calicut districts. A large number of them are labourers. Muslim women labourers are a usual sight in Wynad. Hindus of different castes like Nairs, Thiyyas, who settled here from the different parts of Kerala form the rest of the population.

CENTRES OF WORSHIP

Thirunelli Temple

Located in a valley beneath a hill called Brahmagiri in the Reserve Forest, this temple is often referred to as 'Kasi' of the south. The presiding deity of this temple is Lord Vishnu. It is believed that Brahma himself installed the idol of Lord Vishnu in this temple. A little away from this temple is the mountain spring called "Papanasini" which literally means the destroyer of all sins.

Puthari, Chuttuvilakku, Navarathri, Sivarathri and Sreekrishna Jayanthi are the festivals conducted in this temple. The location of this temple has an enchanting natural beauty. Thirunelli is 66 kilometres away from Kalpetta.

Maha Ganapathi temple at Sultan's Battery

This temple is supposed to have been built eight centuries ago. In the past it was under the control of Kottayam royal dynasty. Before the conquest of Tipu Sultan, Sultan's Battery was known as 'Ganapathivattam'. The temple is devoted to Ganapathi.

Valliyoorkavu Bhagavathy Temple

This temple is located about five miles east of Manantoddy town. It is devoted to goddess Durga. Every year a festival that lasts for two weeks is celebrated in February--March. Adivasis from all over the district attend this festival. In the past Adivasi labourers were sold as slaves during this festival.

Sita Temple at Pulpally

This is another centuries old temple, dedicated to Sita Devi. The icons of Leva and Kusa are also installed here.

Ponkili Temple

This is another ancient temple associated with the myth of Sita Devi. It is located on Karnataka border.

The Glass Temple of Koottamunda

Located on the slope of 'Vellarimala' this temple dedicated to Parswanatha Swami, third Thirthankara of the Jain faith is an exquisitely beautiful family temple. The icons of Parswanatha Swami and Padmavathi Devi set in the sanctum of this temple have thousand reflections in beautiful patterns on the mirrors placed on the innerside of the temple walls. It is twenty kilometres from Kalpetta.

Ananthanatha Swami Temple at Puliarmala

This is another beautiful Jain temple devoted to Ananthanatha Swami, one of the saints of the Jaina faith. It is only six kilometres from Kalpetta.

Santhinatha Temple at Venniyodu

Another Jain temple devoted to saint Santhinatha Swami situated 20 kilometres away from Kalpetta.

The Chandranatha Swami temple at Puthanangadi, Vrishabhadeva Swami Temple at Manantoddy, Parswanatha Swami temple at Palkunnu are the other important Jain temples in the district.

Varampatta Mosque

This important mosque of the Muslim community is located at Padinjarethara.

The Maithani Mosque

This is another important mosque located at Kalpetta.

Lourd Church at Pallikkunnu

This church belongs to the Roman Catholics.

St. Peter's Church at Meenangadi

This is an important Church of Jacobite Syrian Christians.
Church at Sultan's Battery

This is another important church of the Jacobite Christians.

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Agriculture

Coffee and paddy are the two most important crops of Wynad. About 70% coffee produced in Kerala is from Wynad. Coffee is cultivated on 49,086 hectares which form more than one third of the total cultivated area. Paddy is cultivated on 22,693 hectares in winter and 7,328 hectares in summer constituting nearly one fifth of the cultivated area. Pepper, tea, cardamom, fruits, arecanut, rubber, cashew, lemon grass, ginger, and coconut are also cultivated in Wynad.

Wynad is divided into 13 agricultural units. Each unit is under the charge of a Junior Agricultural Officer. There is also an agricultural extension scheme at Cheengeri. The office of the Joint Director of Agriculture at Kalpetta with four Assistant Directors and four Junior Agricultural Officers co-ordinate the schemes executed in the district by the Department of Agriculture.

Horticultural Research Station at Ambalavayal

This research station functions at Ambalavayal as a part of Kerala Agricultural University. This centre is trying to develop an agricultural practice suited to the climate of Wynad.

Coffee Board

Coffee Board operates in this district under three sections.

Research section.—A Robesta Research Station is functioning under this at Kalpetta.

Extension section.—There are eight liaison offices at various centres in Wynad under this section which has its office at Calicut.

Marketing section.—Marketing section of Coffee Board functions in Wynad with an Assistant. Coffee Marketing Officer at Kalpetta. Under him there are 15 depots.

Cardamom Board

The Cardamom Board has a unit office at Kalpetta under an Extension Officer.

Animal Husbandry

The livestock strength of Wynad according to the last census is 3,25,349. The number of sheep is estimated to be 37,916 and that of pigs 1,725. There are a number of animal husbandry institutions to take care of livestock in the district. There are two veterinary poly-clinics at Sultan's Battery and Manantoddy, nine veterinary hospitals, three dispensaries and one mobile veterinary hospital. There is an Intensive Cattle Development Regional Centre at Meenangadi and twenty two Intensive Cattle Development Sub Centres in different parts of the district.

Dairy

As a part of Western Ghat Development Scheme an Integrated Silvi Pasture Development-cum-Livestock Production scheme is being carried out from Meenangadi as its centre. This five year scheme is being carried out with a total outlay of one crore and fifty eight lakh rupees. Production and preservation of fodder grass, breeding better varieties of cattle, milk processing, training to tribals are some of the areas of operation of the centre.

Co-operation

The co-operative movement is giving a fillip to development in the district. There is a District Co-operative Bank, two Co-operative Urban Banks, 23 Service Co-operative Banks and one Land Mortgage Bank in the district. There is one farmers' co-operative bank at Manantoddy. Altogether 116 co-operative societies are functioning in the district. Of this there are twenty-six service co-operative societies and nineteen giriyan service co-operative societies. There are four co-operative collective farms at Sugandhagiri, Pookkodu, Makkiyad and Payyampilly. There are also two employees credit co-operative societies, three co-operative housing societies, five consumer co-operative societies and one poultry farming co-operative society. Besides five milk-marketing co-operatives three co-operative dispensaries, one Gramadan Sarvodaya Sangham at Pulpally and one Co-operative Parallel College at Manantoddy are functioning in the Co-operative Sector.

Sugandhagiri Cardamom Project

This project is functioning under South Wynad Girijan Collective Farming Co-operative Society. It has been executed by the Kerala Government with the sanction of the Planning Commission, as a part of the Western Ghat Development Scheme. It is located in the Achuanam Village of Vythiri taluk. Seven hundred and fifty Adivasi families living for generations in the interior forest are rehabilitated in the project area by arranging co-operative collective farming of cardamom, coffee and pepper. This co-operative institution aims at the socio-economic advancement of the tribal people. The project was started in 1976. Till now 1500 hectares has been brought under the cultivation of cardamom. It is to be extended over another 500 hectares.

The Adivasis are rehabilitated in their own houses built for them by the Government. Four balawadis, four creches and two primary schools are functioning in the project area for the benefit of children of the rehabilitated tribal families.

Pookkodu Lake Dairy Project

This project is functioning under the Pookkodu Girijan Collective Farming Co-operative Society. It is spread over an area of 522 hectares near Pookkodu Lake in Vythiri taluk. It aims at rearing 400 cross breed cattle to create one of the biggest dairy projects in Kerala. The Project has rehabilitated 110 Adivasi families. Besides dairying, cardamom, coffee, cocoa and pepper and fodder plants are also being planted on 200 hectares.

Grass lands of the type of Indo-Swiss Project are formed for the grazing of cattle. Different varieties of fodder plants of high nutritive value and the fodder tree, leucaena leucocephala is cultivated over 40 acres.

Industry

There are no important industrial ventures in the district except the coffee and tea processing units in the big estates. In the coffee processing factories employment is seasonal. There is a sandalwood oil extraction factory at Noolpuzha. A watch assembling unit of Keltron has been established at Panamaram.

Power

Work on two hydro-electric projects—the Manantoddy Hydro-electric Project and Banasura Sagar Hydro-electric Project of the district is going on.

Manantoddy Hydro-electric Project.—A dam is to be constructed at a height of 38.5 metres on the Manantoddy rivulet, a tributary of Kabani at a place called Pallivathukkal. The water thus impounded will be taken through a penstock pipe to the generators that are to be established near the Kottiyoor temple. When completed this project will produce 83.3 M. Watt of power.

Banasura Sagar Project. Panamaram Puzha a tributary of Kabani is fed by the stream Choorripuzha. A dam is to be constructed on this stream for the augmentation of Kuttiadi Hydro-electric Scheme. This project will irrigate 2,800 hectares of paddy fields in Wynad district. When completed it will help to produce an additionally 16,600 tonnes of rice annually.

Irrigation

Kabani, the most important tributary of Cauvery, is a perennial source of water in Wynad. The water of Kabani and her tributaries is not utilised for irrigating and controlling flood on the extensive paddy fields of Wynad. The Karapuzha Irrigation Project envisaged for construction on a tributary of Kabani is the first major irrigation scheme in Wynad. A dam is to be constructed at Vazhavatta in Vythiri, taluk. The impounded water taken out through two canals will irrigate 4,650 hectares of paddy. The estimated outlay is 760 lakh rupees. When completed, this project will help to produce 15,000 tonnes of rice additionally every year.

Tribal Development

As Scheduled Tribes constitute one-fifth of the population of Wynad great emphasis is given to the development of this depressed section.

There is an Integrated Tribal Development Project Office at Manantoddy to co-ordinate the tribal development activities in Manantoddy and Sultan's Battery taluks. Integrated Tribal Development Office at Nilambur co-ordinates the activities in Vythiri taluk. There is another Tribal Development Office at Manantoddy with Manantoddy taluk as its area of operation. The Tribal Development Office at Kalpetta has Vythiri, and Sultan's Battery taluks under its area of operation. There are also twelve tribal extension offices and five welfare offices in the district.

Communications

Wynad has no rail line. The only mode of transport of goods and commuters within the district is road ways. The district has a

net-work of roads of 510.933 hectares. There is a State highway—Calicut Vythiri-Gudalur road—passing through Wynad over 40.07 kilometres. The district roads are of 320.00 kilometres. Two important district roads are the Calicut-Mysore frontier road and Tellicherry-Bavali road. The village roads of Wynad are of 27.830 kilometres.

Places of Tourist Importance

Edakkal Cave.—These are two caves on the Ampukuthy Mountain. Popular belief is that the arrows sent by Ieva and Kusa struck this mountain, and hence it is called Ampukuthimala. 'Ampu' means arrow. On the walls of these caves there are many paintings and pictorial writings that relate to the New Stone Age Civilisation. This location of breath-taking beauty is three kilometres away from Ambalavayal which is 25 kilometres from Kalpetta.

Thirunelli Temple.—The location of this temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu has great natural beauty. The temple stands on the valley below Brahmagiri hill. Except in the raining season there is a stream of tourists to Thirunelli through out the year.

Lakkidi. One of the highest locations in Wynad, Lakkidi also commands a pictures quescenery. It has registered the second highest degree of rainfall in the world. Lakkidi is mist-covered most of the time.

Koottamunda. The glass temple of the Jain community here and its beautiful surroundings attract a large number of tourists every year.

Sultan's Battery. Sultan's Battery is one of the earliest human settlements in Wynad. The Mahaganapathi Temple here is supposed to have been built eight centuries ago. In the olden days Sultan's Battery was known as 'Ganapathivattam'. After Tipu Sultan built his battery which too is of tourist interest, this place came to have the present name.

Ambalavayal.—This is a fertile valley in Vythiri taluk, 25 kilometres from Kalpetta. A horticulture research station of Kerala Agricultural University is stationed here.

Muthanga.—The forest around Muthanga not far off from Sultan's Battery has been declared a wild life sanctuary. Flock of elephants, deer, wild pig etc., are seen in this forest.

WYNAD DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Taluks

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Area sq.km.</i>	<i>Population (1981 Census)</i>	<i>Density of population per sq.km.</i>
1	Vythiri		152,810	297
2	Sultan's Battery		204,45	268
3	Manantoddy		166,393	223

Assembly Constituencies

1. Kalpetta
2. Manantoddy
3. Sultan's Battery

Parliamentary Constituencies

Wynad is included in two Parliamentary constituencies, Manantoddy taluk being included in Cannanore constituency and Sultan's Battery and Kalpetta taluks in Calicut constituency.

Density of Population in the Last 80 years*(per sq. kilometre)*

1901	1911	1921	1931	1947
35	39	40	43	50
	1951	1961	1971	1981
	79	129	195	260

Literacy In Percentage

District	57.33	Male	63.78	Female	50.55
Sultan's Battery taluk	60.99	„	66.29	„	55.30
Manantoddy taluk	56.19	„	63.20	„	48.92
Vythiri taluk	54.28	„	61.46	„	46.80

Development Blocks in the District

Sl. No.	Name	Taluk	Number of Panchayats
1	Kalpetta	Vythiri	8
2	Sultan's Battery	Sultan's Battery	10
3	Manantoddy	Manantoddy	7

Taluk-wise Decadal Variation in Population 1971-81

1.	District	+8.26	+15.89	+59.17	+62.60	+50.35	+33.71
2.	Manantoddy	+8.26	+15.89	+59.17	+51.39	+43.39	+28.65
3.	Sultan's Battery	+8.26	+15.89	+59.17	+106.54	+75.90	+11.20
4.	Vythiri	+8.26	+15.89	+59.17	+47.14	+36.05	+30.63

Director, National Institute of Educational
 Planning and Administration
 W-2, Maulana Azad Marg, New Delhi-110026
 Date.....



Cardamom Project —Sugandhagiri



Sultan's Battery



Stone carving at Sultan's Battery



Elephant Camp—Muthanga



Maha Ganapathi Temple—Sultan's Battery



Thirunelli Temple



John Temple Pultaruaia



'Pipem-ini' Spring—Karamella



Kalloor Mosque—Panamaram



Valliyookavu Bhagavathy Temple



Cave Temple of Lord Han at Tharavalli



Jain Temple—Kumbhali



Sree Rama's feet—Thirunelli (a stone-carving)



Valliyorkavu Temple



Asoka Tree in Valliyoor Temple



Pookkodu Lake



Processing of Cardamom

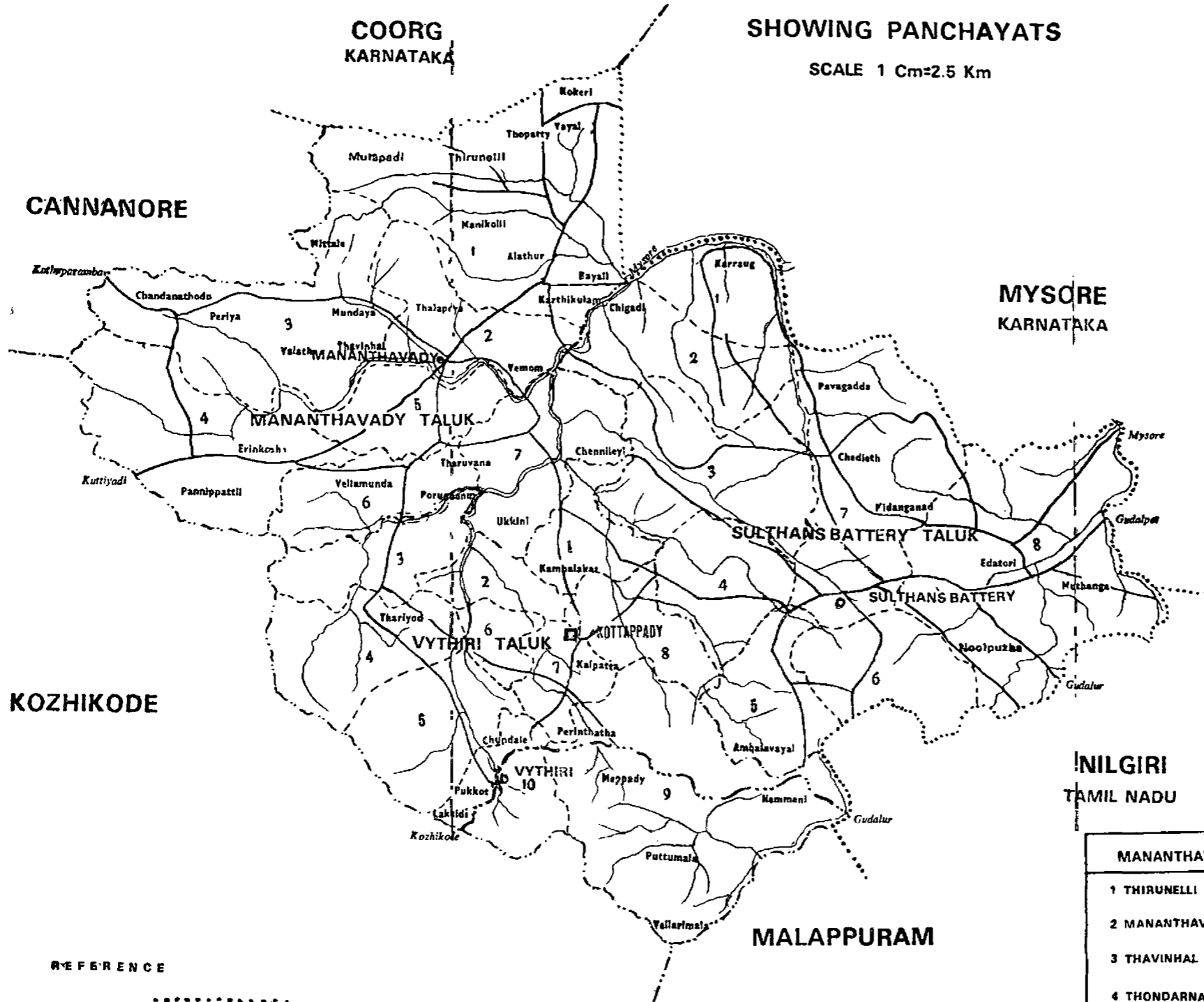


Burial Place of Pazhassi Raja—Manantoddy

WYNAD DISTRICT

SHOWING PANCHAYATS

SCALE 1 Cm=2.5 Km



REFERENCE

- State Boundary
- District Boundary
- Taluk Boundary
- Panchayat Boundary
- State Highway
- Other Roads
- Leke & Rivers
- District Headquarters
- Taluk Headquarters

LIST OF PANCHAYATS

MANANTHAVADY TALUK	
1 THIRUNELLI	7 KALPPATTA
2 MANANTHAVADY	8 MUTTIL
3 THAVINHAL	9 MEPPADY
4 THONDARNAD	10 VYTHIRI
5 EDAVAKA	
6 VELLAMUNDA	SULTHAN'S BATTERY TALUK
7 PANAMARAM	1 MULLANKOLLY
VYTHIRI TALUK	
1 KANIYAMBETTA	2 PULPPALLY
2 KOTTATTARA	3 POOTHADY
3 PADINJARETHARA	4 MEENANGADY
4 THARIYOD	5 AMBALAVAYAL
5 POZHUTHANA	6 NENMENI
6 VENGAPPALLY	7 SULTHANSBATTERY
	8 WOOLPUZHA

Sub. Regional Training Unit,
National Institute of Educational
Planning and Administration
W-8, Smt. Aurbudo Marg, New Delhi-110028
DOC. No. ...
Date 22/1/87

NIEPA DC



D04227

Burial Place of Pazhassi Raja—Manantoddy