district handbooks of kerala
quilon (revised edition)
department of public relations
1986, april
printed at government press, trivandrum
(not for sale)
PREFACE

This is the revised edition of the District Handbook on Quilon. 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, all updated. It has been designed to satisfy the needs of the average reader as well as the tourist, who may look for a handy volume containing essential information about the district.

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

Trivandrum, April 1986.

T. N. Jayadevan,
Director,
Public Relations Department.
**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History and Heritage</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topography and Climate</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental activities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and Communications</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass communication facilities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilgrim Centres</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of interest</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some important festivals</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District at a glance</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Chinnakada - A newlook 17
Ashtamudikayal 17
Sastamcotta Temple 18
Rest House at Asramom 19
Quilon Railway Station 19
Suspension bridge at Punalur 19
Neeudakara bridge 20
Public Library, Quilon 20
K.S.R.T.C. Bus station, Quilon 21
Mosque at Jonakapuram 21
"Vilakkeduppu" at Kottenkulantara 22
Quilon Boat yard 22
Civil Station, Quilon 23
Kerala Minerals and Metals, Chavara 23
Light House at Thangasseri 24
Neeendakara Church 25
"Palaruvi" waterfall 26
District map showing Panchayats
Quilon is an old sea port town on the Arabian coast. It stands on the Ashtanudi lake. Quilon has maintained a commercial reputation from the days of the Phoenicians and the Romans. Fed by the Chinese trade, it was regarded by Ibn Batuta in the 14th century as one of the five chief ports which he had seen in the course of his travels during a period of twenty-four years.

The rulers of Quilon (Desinganadu) and China exchanged embassies. There was a flourishing Chinese settlement at Quilon. Merchant Sulaiman of Siraf in Persia (9th Century) found Quilon to be the only port in India touched by the huge Chinese junks on his way from Canton to Persian Gulf. Marco Polo, the great Venetian traveller who was in the Chinese Service under Kublai Khan in 1275 visited Quilon and other towns on the west coast in his capacity as Chinese mandarin.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish a trading centre at Quilon in 1502. Then came the Dutch followed by the British in 1795. A British garrison was stationed at Quilon in pursuance of a treaty between the British and Travancore.

Velu Thampi Dalwa of Travancore did much for the development of Quilon Town. He built new bazars and invited marchants from Madras and Tirunelveli to settle here. Quilon later became the capital of the enlightened and liberal rulers of Desinganad. Quilon was also the nerve centre of the rebellion organised by Velu Thampi against the British.

Once a city of palaces, Quilon has been known to the outside world, by the time honoured proverb, "Once you have seen Kollam you would no more need an illam (home)". The word Quilon is the anglicised form of the Malayalam word "Kollam". The district is named after its headquarters town Quilon.

Quilon was a great centre of learning and culture as the capital of Venad. It attracted distinguished scholars from all parts of South India. "Leelathilakam" and Unnumeelisandesam", two outstanding literary works of historical importance, are contributions of 14th century Quilon. The dance form of Kathakali in its new version of "Ramanattam" was the creation of Kottarakkara Thampuran, who also improved "Krishnatam" by substituting Malayalam for Sanskrit.

32/3891/B.
Paravoor K. C. Kesava Pillai, a gifted poet, prose writer, dramatist and scholar inaugurated the musical play in Malayalam through his work “Sadarama”, which is also a contribution of Quilon District in recent times. His “Kesaveeyam”, a Mahakavyam is of outstanding literary importance. In the history of Kerala music, he has a prominent place as a gifted composer of songs. Paravoor Kesavan Asan, the founder editor of “Sujiyananandini”, another prominent literary figure was a journalist and a prose writer of eloquence. His “Saratchandrika” is a contribution to the study of the Ayurvedic system of medicine. E. V. Krishna Pillai another literary celebrity of this district has attained eternal fame in the field of humour and satire. C. V. Kunjuraman, editor of Kerala Kaumudi and Malayalarajyam was a poet, literary critic, prose writer and a journalist of outstanding distinction.

Coming to modern times, Elankulam Kunjan Pillai and Sooranadu Kunjan Pillai, noted literary historians and poets like O. N. V. Kurup, Thirunelloor Karunakaran, Punalur Balan, novelist and poetess Lalithambika Antharjanam are some of the literary luminaries hailing from this district.

Quilon also gave Kerala leaders like T. M. Varughese, G. Kesavan, Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai, N. Sreekantan Nair, R. Shankar, and C.M. Stephan who played prominent roles in shaping the socio-political destiny of the State.

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

The history of the district as an administrative unit can be traced back to 1835 when the Travancore State consisted of two revenue divisions with headquarters at Quilon and Kottayam. At the time of the integration of Travancore and Cochin in 1949, Quilon was one of the three revenue divisions in the State. These three revenue divisions were converted into districts. Shencottah taluk was merged with Madras State consequent on the implementation of the States reorganisation Act of 1956. When Alleppey district was formed in 1957, Shertallai, Ambalapuzha, Mavelikkara, Karthikappally, Chengannur and Thiruvalla taluks of Quilon district were transferred to the new district. For the formation of the new Pathanamthitta district on 1st July, 1983 the entire Pathanamthitta taluk and nine villages of Kunnathur Taluk were also transferred. Now the District has a single revenue division with headquarters at Quilon. Pathanapuram, Kunnathur, Kottarakkara, Karunagappally and Quilon are the five taluks in the district. The district is divided into thirteen development blocks. Quilon and Punalur are the two municipal towns in the district.
TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The District is situated on the south west coast of India. It extends from latitude 9° 28' N to 8° 45' and longitude 76° 28' to 77° 17' N. The district is bound on the north by the Alleppey and north east by the Pathanamthitta districts, on the east by the Thrivunveli district of Tamil Nadu, on the South by Trivandrum district and on the west by Arabian Sea.

Two rivers, Kallada and Ithikkara, flow through this district. The Sasthamcotta lake, the only major fresh water lake in the State, is in Quilon district. Two other major lakes are the Ashtamudi kalyal and the Paravoor kalyal, Edava and Nadayar kalyals lie partly in the district.

The district has a tropical humid climate, with an oppressive summer and plentiful seasonal rainfall. The hot season, lasting from March to May, is followed by the southwest monsoon from June to September. The northeast monsoon occurs from October to November. The rest of the year is generally dry.

POPULATION

Sex ratio (defined as the number of females per 1000 males) shows a fluctuating trend from decade to decade. Taking the population in the district as a whole in 1941, 1971 and 1981, females outnumber males. In all other decades there was a preponderance of males over females. According to the 1981 Census there are 1022 females for every 1000 males. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population of the district come to 2.714 lakhs and 0.031 lakhs respectively.

The density of population of the district has increased from 522 persons per sq. k.m. in 1971 to 871 in 1981. Quilon Municipality has the highest density with 7464 persons per sq. k.m. in 1981. The total population of the district is 21.92 lakhs of which almost 2.71 lakhs belong to the Scheduled Castes.

Literacy.—According to the 1981 census this district has a literacy rate of 72.95% against the State average of 70.42%. Among the districts Quilon stands fourth in terms of literacy, the first being Kottayam with 81.66% and the last being Palghat district with 58.00%. The literacy rate of the district has increased from 64.97% in 1971 to 72.95% in 1981.

Occupational Pattern.—The total number of workers in the district is 6, 5000 of which 1,38,000 are cultivators and 1,74,000 are agricultural labourers.
Irrigation.—With the flow of three rivers the District is endowed with a perennial supply of water. But the water resources have not been adequately exploited so far. In order to augment the irrigation potential, several schemes were evolved during 1953 to undertake river basin schemes. Kallada Irrigation Project and Pamba Irrigation project (now in Pathanamthitta district) were taken up for execution as a result.

The Kallada Irrigation Project, the biggest multipurpose project undertaken by the State Government, is intended to utilise the waters of Kallada river mainly for irrigation purposes in Quilon and adjacent Pathanamthitta and Alleppey districts. There is also a proposal to generate 50 M. W. of electricity from the dam at Thenmala. The Kallada Project comprises a masonry dam of 335 M. in length with a maximum height of 81 M. at Parappar in Thenmala across the river to form a reservoir, a pick up weir and sluices at Ottakkal. The 69 km. right bank canal and the left bank canal (57-75 kms.) take off from the pick up weir.

It is estimated that the two canals together will serve an area of 68,000 hectares of land. As per the revised estimates, an amount of Rs. 164 crores will have to be spent for completing the project, a portion of which will be funded by the World Bank.

Improvements to Perumkulam yelah in Quilon taluk, West Kallada scheme in Kunnathur Taluk, reclamation of Polachira lake in Quilon taluk and Ithikkara yelah scheme are the medium irrigation schemes implemented in the District. At present the irrigated area under various crops in the district comes to 7980 hectares.

Agriculture.—The District has a prominent place in the field of agriculture. The total extent of land under cultivation in the district is 2,94,261 hectares. The principal crops are paddy, tapioca, coconut, rubber, pepper, banana, mango and cashew. Seventy per cent of the workforce is engaged in agriculture.

Coconut gardens extend to nearly 81,765 hectares. Three hundred and forty four million coconuts of the value of Rs. 53.32 crores are produced every year. The five major crops (paddy, tapioca, coconut, rubber, pepper) are cultivated in an area of 2,34,639 hectares. The total value of the produce from these crops is estimated at Rs. 213.39 crores.

There is an oil palm plantation at Bharathcepuram near Auchal in an area of 4000 hectares under the Oil Palm India Ltd., a State Government undertaking.

Animal Husbandry.—Quilon ranks first in livestock population among all the districts in Kerala. There are 0.26 lakhs plough animals, 0.26 lakhs bullocks, 2.01 lakhs cows, 2.03 lakhs goats and pigs and 13.60 lakhs poultry birds in the district. Dairy farming is fairly well developed and a network
of nine veterinary hospitals, 40 veterinary dispensaries and over 250 artificial insemination centres cater to the needs of the district. The number of cows in the district increases annually by five per cent. There are about 65 milk co-operative societies in the district and 3 chilling plants. The chilling plants are located at Quilon, Kottarakkara and Yeroor. The Kerala Livestock and Dairy Development Board has a master plan for increasing dairy activities. The estimated milk production in the district is 3,34 lakh litres per day. Quilon holds third position among districts in poultry wealth.

Fisheries.—Quilon is an important maritime district of the State with a coastal line of 37.3 kms. Fishing has a unique place in the economy of the district. Neendakara and Sakthikulangara are villages thriving in fisheries industry. An estimated number of 23,000 persons are engaged in fishing and allied works. Cheriazheekkal, Alapad, Pandarathuruthu, Puthanur, Neendakara, Thangasseri, Eravipuram and Paravoor are the eight important fishing villages among the twenty three such marine villages. There are 24 inland fishing villages also. Considering the unique location and the infrastructure facilities available, Government have initiated action for establishing a fishing harbour at Neendakara which is expected to augment fish production by 15 per cent. The average fish landing is estimated to be 85,275 tonnes per year. One third of Kerala’s fishery catches are from Quilon. There are 93 producer co-operatives, two credit co-operatives and one marketing co-operative in the fisheries sector.

Community Development.—The implementation of Community Development schemes in the district has been done in a very rare nature of enthusiasm. IRDP and TRYSEM programmes have been extended to all the thirteen blocks of the district. Anchal block is the biggest in extent. It commands an area of 98,535 hectares of which 43,668 hectares come under forest area. Ithikkara, Mukhathala, Anchalamoodu, Chavara, Karunagappally, Sasthamcottta, Oachira, Chittumala, Kottarakkara, Chadayamangalam, Pathanapuram, Anchal and Vettikkavala are the other blocks in the district. Functional Literacy Programme has been extended to Anchal and Mukhathala blocks of this district.

Industries.—There are sixteen large and medium industries in the district of which two are Central Government undertakings i.e. Indian Rare Earths and Parvathy Mills Limited, Quilon.

About 2813 small scale industrial units have been registered in the district.

Cashew.—Cashew processing is a major industrial activity in the district. Cashew factories provide employment to about 1.5 lakh workers. The industry is female labour-oriented. Out of 157 cashew processing units, 27 factories are under the control of the Cashew Development Corporation which is a Government undertaking. The available raw nuts in the State can feed the factories to only a third of their capacity.

Apart from the handloom industry, coir, clay and wood-based industries also contribute to the industrial advancement of the district.

Mineral Resources.—The district is immensely rich in mineral resources. The beach sands of the district have concentrations of heavy minerals like Ilmenite, Rutile, Monosite and Zircon which offer scope for exploitation for industrial purposes. The bulk of the mineral production i.e. nearly one lakh tonnes of ilmenite, is exported.

Forest.—The area under forest in Quilon district is 1100 sq.k.m., and they fall in Thenmala and Punalur divisions. Thenmala Range, Ariankuv Range, Achancoil Range are in the Thenmala Division and Punalur Division includes Anchal and Pathanapuram Ranges. Teak and soft wood form the major forest plantations in the district.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Quilon has a total length of 9127 k.m., of roads. The National Highway No. 47 covers a distance of 57.4 k.m. in the district. The State Highways viz. Main Central Road, Quilon-Shencottah Road and Punalur—Pathanapuram Road (Main Eastern Highway) with a total length of 266.52 k.m. also serve the district.

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation has two district Offices one at Quilon and the other at Kottarakara in the district. There is an Assistant Transport Office at Punalur.

Water Transport.—The Water Transport Department operates boat services to Muthiraparambu (W. Kallada), Guhanandapuram, Ayiranthengu and Alleppey. The Alleppey service opens a vast vista of tourist attraction. The west coast canal system which starts from Trivandrum in the South and ends at Hosdurg in the north passes through the Quilon and Karunagappally taluks. The Trivandrum Shornur canal, which forms part of the above system, runs for a distance of about 62 k.m. The other canals are Paravoor canal, Quilon canal and Chavara canal. The water transport system is gradually losing its importance, as it is slow compared to its counterpart on the road.

Port.—Neendakara and Quilon are the two ports in the district, the former an intermediary and the latter a minor port. Port operations are now carried out only through Neendakara.
Railways.—The District is served by 135 k. m. of railways of which 48 k. m. are broad gauge and 87 k. m. metre gauge. There are 24 railway stations of which nine are on broad gauge line and 15 on the metre gauge line. Quilon is an important railway junction. The Trivandrum-Ernakulam line, the Trivandrum-Madras line and Quilon-Shencotta-Madurai line pass through Quilon.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Educational Institutions.—The district offers well-developed educational facilities. The rate of literacy in the district is 72.95 as against the state average of 70.42 per cent. The total number of educational institutions in the district is 990 of which 490 lower primary schools, 208 upper primary schools, 272 high schools, 13 Arts and Science Colleges, two training Colleges, one professional college, one polytechnic and one Industrial Training Institute. All the colleges, except a Junior college at Chavara are under the private sector. Among the educational institutions, there is a junior technical school also.

• Arts and Science College


Professional College

T.K.M. Engineering College, Quilon, Karmala Rani Training College, Quilon, Mount Taber Training College, Pathanapuram.

Medical Facilities.—There are 118 Government medical institutions with a bed strength of 2069 in the District. Further more, there are a number of allopathic, ayurvedic and homeopathic hospitals and dispensaries run in the private and co-operative sectors.

MASS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

There are a number of daily newspapers published from this district, four of which are evening dailies. Janayugom is the only daily newspaper and Kerala Rajyam, Vartha-Rahasyam, Siyamuna Sahdam and Kerala Malar are the evening dailies. There are eight cultural weeklies, three fortnightly publications and three monthly publications originating from this district. Janayugom, Kerala Sahdam, Kalalayam, Kumukumam, Nana, Kumari, Madhuram, Muthuchippi, are the cultural and film weeklies. Muthassi, Mukuram, Chilamuka are fortnightly publications and Mabilaretumal, Kasthuri Chithra Katha (Malayalam and Tamil) and Pakkamar are the monthly publications.
Pilgrim Centres.—Quilon district has a number of centres of pilgrimage for Hindus, Christians and Muslims. The Sastha Temple at Achencoil, Ariankavu and Kulathupuzha are visited by a large number of pilgrims. The Oachira temple dedicated to Parabrahmam also attracts a large number of pilgrims particularly during the festival called Oachirakali in June—July. The Ashtami Rohini festival at Vadavattukotta Srikrishna Temple also attracts huge crowds from neighbouring places. In addition to these every temple, church or mosque has its own festival which attracts huge crowds irrespective of their religious affection.

Festivities.—In addition to the traditional pasttimes like Kathakali, Koothu, Ottamthullal, Patakam, Harikatha Kaikottikali, Thiruvathirakkali, Kolattam etc. there are certain amusements and festivities, which are unique to Quilon district, are held in connection with festivals in temples. The mock sword fight (Oachirakkali) is one of the most important of such festivals. In Kottamkulangara Temple in Chavara village there is a peculiar custom of men dressing up as women carrying lamps (Thalappoli). The “Uriadi” is a typical festival associated with the Krishna Temples. The annual “Uriadi” festival held at the Vadavattukotta temple in connection with Ashtami Rohini deserves mention. The “Kettukazhcha” festival held at Mahadevar Temple, Thrikkaadavoor in February—March every year, is one of the colourful festivals of the district. There are similar festivals in the temples of Sasthamcotta, Velimallur, Chathanur, Chirakkara etc.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Achencoil.—Achencoil, situated about 80 kms. away from Punalur, is an important pilgrim centre. The sastha temple here is situated amidst dense forests. The idol of Sastha here is supposed to have been installed several centuries before the Christian Era. The two important festivals of this temple are “Mardapooiya” (December—January) and the festival held on “Pavathi” asterion (January—February). The two notable features of this festival are the “Thorottam” (Chariot Festival) and Puspa-bhishekanam (offering of flowers). In no other temple of South India are flowers offered to the deity so lavishly as at Achencoil.

Anchal.—Anchal is located at the 7 kms. on the road from Avoor to Kulathupuzha and is 13 kms. south of Punalur. It is known for its cattle market held twice a month. The “Mudi” festival of the Bhagavathy temple here, which is conducted once in every twelve years, attracts a huge gathering.

Ariankavu.—Ariankavu situated 73 kms. east of Quilon is one of the important pilgrim centres of the district. From very early days, it was an important trade route for merchants from either sides of the Western Ghats,
The chief attraction of Ariankavu is the shrine dedicated to Lord Sastha. Thousands of pilgrims flock to this temple during the "Mandalapooja" and "Thrikalyanan" festivals in December. About 5 k. ms. away from Ariankavu there is a heavy water fall known as "Palanivi" at an altitude of 300 ft.

Chavara.—Chavara is situated 14 k. ms. north of Quilon on the Alleppey-Quilon road. Thousands of tonnes of mineral sands are exported from Chavara to foreign countries. The Koithottam Port is situated within Chavara Panchayat limits. The Premo-Pipe factory is situated near Chavara. In the Kottamkulangara temple, there is a festival which takes place in March—April. An interesting feature of this festival is that men dress themselves as women and carry lamps. This a time-honoured custom which has persisted through the decades.

Karunagappally.—The headquarters of Karunagappally Taluk and Karunagappally Block, Karunagappally is 27 k. ms. north of Quilon, and linked with the latter by rail and road. There is a mini Civil Station at Karunagappally—Pudayarkulangara which forms part of the town was once the military station of the Kayamkulam Rajas. An idol of the Buddha which was recovered from a local tank is now preserved in front of the taluk office. The town has a temple dedicated to Lord Siva and two old mosques and a Mar Thoma Church.

Kottarakkara.—Headquarters of Kottarakkara taluk and NES Block, Kottarakkara is linked with Quilon both by road and rail, the distance between them being 27 k. ms. It was once the capital of Elayadathu Swarupam, a principality ruled by a branch of the Travancore Royal Family. The internationally famous dance drama "Kathakali" had its small beginnings in this town and it flourished under the patronage of a Raja of Kottarakkara who lived in the first half of the 19th century. Kottarakkara has an old temple dedicated to Lord Ganapathi and a church belonging to Mar Thomas. This church is more than 700 years old. Goshew processing and rattan work form the main industries in the town.

Kulathupuzha.—Kulathupuzha is situated at the 64 kms. along Trivandrum-Shencottah road and is 10 k. ms. south of Thenmala Railway Station. Kulathupuzha is an important forest range, well known for its elephants. Reed, an essential raw material for the manufacture of paper at Punalur is partly supplied from Kulathupuzha valley. One of the renowned shrines dedicated to Lord Sastha is found here and large crowds of pilgrims come for worship during festival seasons. The Vishu Mahotsava in April—May is the most important festival here. Besides this shrine, there are three mosques also.

Kundara.—Kundara is linked with Quilon by rail and road the distance between the two places being 14 kms. Large deposits of china clay discovered here have helped the establishment of the Government Ceramics concerns.

32/3891/B.
The Aluminium Industries (ALIND) is one of the leading Indian firms manufacturing aluminium cables. Kundara is famous in history as the venue from where Velu Thampi Dalawa issued the famous "Kundara Vilambaram" in 1809.

Kunnicode.—The main attraction of Kunnicode situated 10 kms. west of Punalur is "Pachilakunnu" a small hillock where a Muslim Saint is said to have breathed his last.

Mayyanad.—Mayyanad, 10 kms. south of Quilon, is noted for its shrines and temples. Of the nine temples the most important is the one at Umayamallcor dedicated to Lord Subramoniya. The shrine is said to have been consecrated by Shri. Sankaracharya of Kaladi. Besides the temple there are three churches and a mosque. Cotton weaving and oil pressing are the main occupations in the village. Mayyanad is the birth place of G. V. Kunjururaman one of the leading literary, socical and political figures of modern Kerala.

Neendakara.—Situated about 8 kms. north of Quilon, Neendakara is the headquarters of the Indo-Norwegian Fisheries Community Project which was established in 1953. The important institutions under this project are the boat building yard at Sakthikulangara, the Fishermen's Training Institute, the ice Factory and the refrigeration plant. Improvements have been made to Neendakara Port which has been thrown open to traffic.

Oachira.—Situated 34 kms. north of Quilon on the Quilon-Alleppey National Highway and on the boundary of Quilon District, Oachira is an important pilgrim centre. The peculiarity of this temple is that there is no temple building as such nor is there any idol. All classes of people worship the presiding deity, the "Parabhrahmam" Oachira draws thousands of Pilgrims for "Oachira Kali" a festival held annually in the middle of June. Another festival held here is "Panthrandu Vilakku" in November-December which lasts for twelve days. The festival is also followed by a fair which attracts thousands of pilgrims from all walks of life. Oachira is also an important handicraft centre where fancy articles of screwpine mats are manufactured.

Paravoor.—Paravoor an important fishing centre is situated 13 kms. South of Quilon. It is the birth place of K. C. Kesava Pillai (1865-1913) and Kesavan Asan. (1869-1917) two leading literary men of eminence.

Pathanapuram.—An important trading centre on the banks of the Kallada river, Pathanapuram is 13 kms. away from Punalur. The "Chandanakkudam" mahotsava of the mosque here celebrated every year in February-March attracts thousands of devotees.

Pattazhi.—Pattazhi is the seat of an ancient temple dedicated to the Bhagavathy. The Mudi is the major festival of this temple.
Punalur.—The headquarters of the Pathanapuram taluk, Punalur is one of the important industrial centres of Kerala. It is 45 kms from Quilon on the Quilon-Shencotta railway line. The main factories are the Punalur Paper Mills started as early as 1885 and the Plywoods Industries.

The suspension bridge spanning the Kallada river erected in 1877 in the only one of its kind in South India and is 400 ft. long. With a new concrete bridge constructed near by the suspension bridge is now of archaeological interest only. The temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappan at Sasthakonam attracts huge gatherings during festival occasions. In addition, there are the ancient temples dedicated to Lord Krishna, Lord Siva and goddess Bhagavathy. There are two Roman Catholic churches. The Meteorological Observatory here is the only institution of its kind in this district. The chief commodities of export here are the hill produces, pine-apple, paper products, plywood and timber.

Quilon Town. -Quilon town, the headquarters of Quilon district and Quilon taluk, has a hoary past. It was once an international emporium of trade and even now a prosperous commercial centre. About 71 kms, north of Trivandrum with which it is linked by road, rail and backwater, the town stands on the Ashtamudi lake. Several foreign travellers visited Quilon in the early medieval periods. Quilon was one of the early centres of Christian activity in Kerala. It is said that the present town of Quilon was built by the Syrian Merchant Sapir Isu in the 9th century. Quilon has been known to the outside world by the time honoured proverb “Once you have seen Quilon you would no more need a home” Quilon is an important commercial, industrial and trading centre. It is also the headquarters of the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation. The 144 ft. Thangasseri Lighthouse, built in 1902, is a centre of attraction, The Ananadavalleeswarm Temple attracts a large number of people on all important days. There are several churches in and around Quilon. The Pullichitra church was established in about 1700 A.D. One of the oldest and most important mosques in the town is the Chinnakkada Palli. The Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering, the first of its kind in the private sector in the State, is situated at Kilikolloor about 7 kms. east of Quilon Town.

Sasthamcotta.—Sasthamcotta is an attractive village situated about 19 kms. from Quilon. It is a beauty spot, a health resort and a centre of pilgrimage. The extensive fresh water lake here is said to be the biggest of its kind in Kerala. The waters of this lake are being used for supplying drinking water to the inhabitants of Quilon town. Now it is the headquarters of the new Kunnathur taluk.

Thangassery. Thangassery is a place of historical importance. The churches here are pretty old having been established in the 18th century. The chief attraction of the place today is the Lighthouse. Built in 1902, the 144 ft. lighthouse stands as a sentinel warning to the sailors of the treacherous reefs of Thangassery.
Thazhava. Thazhava is an important centre of the screw-pine mat industry. An image of the Budha discovered from a tank known as Pallikulam near Maruthoorkulangara is one of the interesting archaeological relics associated with Quilon District.

Thenmala. Thenmala, the meeting point of Quilon-Shencottah road and Trivandrum-Shencottah road is situated 66 kms. east of Quilon. There are a large number of rubber and tea plantations all round. Timber of all varieties are exported from here to all parts of the country.

SOME IMPORTANT FESTIVALS

1. Oachirakkali Oachira Temple Mithunam (June)
2. Karthikavilakku or Pandalrenduvilakku do. Viischikom (November-December)
3. Therottam Sastha Temple Achencoil Dhuru (December-January)
4. Pushpabhisheka do. Makaram (January-February)
5. The Mudi Festival Bhagavathy Temple Conducted once in every 12 years
   Anchel
6. Mandala Pooja Sastha Temple, Anchel December
   Arienkavu
7. Vishamahotsavam Sastha Temple, Medom (April)
   Kulathupuzha
8. Chandanakudam Pathanapuram Kumbhom (February-March)
   mosque
9. Uriyadi Vadayattukotta, Sreekrishna Temple
   Sreekrishna Temple
10. Kettukazhcha Mahadeva Temple, February-March
    Thrikkadavoor

Where to Stay

Rest House, Quilon Phone .. 5418
Tourist Bunglow Phone .. 6455-6567-6567
QUILON AT A GLANCE

Area of the District . . 2518 Sq. k. m.
Population Total . . 21.92 Lakhs
   Males . . 10.84 Lakhs
   Females . . 11.08 Lakhs
Density of Population per k.m. . . 871
No. of females per 1000 males . . 1022
Literacy Rate . . 72.95
   Males . . 78.10
   Females . . 70.21
Percentage of Scheduled Caste to
total population \{ 12.36%
Percentage of Scheduled Tribes
to total population \{ 0.33%
   Males . . 3758
   Females . . 3684
No. of Residential houses . . 502, 635
No. of Taluks . . 5
No. of Blocks . . 13
No. of Firkas . . 14
No. of Villages . . 101
No. of Panchayats . . 75

Municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Place</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quilon</td>
<td>1,37,927</td>
<td>68,567</td>
<td>69,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punalur</td>
<td>43,040</td>
<td>21,404</td>
<td>21,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>Name of Block</td>
<td>Panchayats included in the Block</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ithikkara</td>
<td>1. Poothakulam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Paravoor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Kalluvathukkanal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Chathannur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Adhichanalloor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6. Nedumpana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mukhathala</td>
<td>1. Mayyanad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Eravipuram</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Vadakkevila</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Thrikkovalvatom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Kottamkara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Anchalummood</td>
<td>1. Kilikolloor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Thrikkadavoor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Thrikkaruva</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Sakhthikulangara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Chittumala</td>
<td>1. Perinad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Kundara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. East Kallada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Perayam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Munroe Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Chavara</td>
<td>1. Thekkumbhagom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Chavara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Thevalakkara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Paumana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Neendakara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Karunagappally
   1. Mynagappally
   2. Alappad
   3. Karunagappally
   4. Thodiyoor
   5. Thazhava

7. Oachira
   1. Oachira
   2. Kulasekharapuram
   3. Clappana
   4. Krisnapuram
   5. Devikulangara

8. Sasthamcotta
   1. Sasthamcotta
   9. Poruvazhy
   3. West Kallada
   4. Kunnathur
   5. Sooranad South
   6. Sooranad North
   7. Pallickal

9. Pathanapuram
   1. Vilakudy
   2. Thalavoor
   3. Piravanthoor
   4. Pattazhy Vadakkekara
   5. Pattazhy
   6. Pathanapuram

10. Anchal
    1. Kulathupuzha
    2. Yeroor
    3. Alayamom
    4. Anchal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue set up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firkas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political set up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lok Sabha seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Assembly seats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chinnakkada—A new look

Ashtamudi Kayal
Sasthamcotta Kayal

Rest House—Asramam
"Vilakkeduppu" at Kottenkulangara

Quilon Boat yard
Light House at Thangasseri
Sub. National Sv 20625 U.P.
National Insitute of Hydrology,
Planning and Administration
17-3-SciAnn 20640 Main N.O. D.No.1:2063
Ex. No.………2222………
Date: 26/6/1989