

DISTRICT HANDBOOKS OF KERALA

TRICHUR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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PREFACE

This is the revised edition of the District Handbook on Trichur 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 up-dated. It has been designed to satisfy the needs of the average reader ; as well 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.

T. N. JAYADEVAN,

Director,

Public Relations Department.

Trivandrum,

April 1987.

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The term Trichur is the abbreviated anglicised form of the Malayalam word "Trissivaperur" which means the town of the 'Sacred Siva'. The town is built on an elevated ground, at the apex of which is the famous 'Vadakkumnathan Temple'. A place of great antiquity, Trichur was also known as 'Vrisiabhadripuram' and 'Ten Kallasam' in ancient days.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

From ancient times, Trichur District has played a significant part in the political history of south India. The early political history of the District is interlinked with that of the Cheras of the Sangam age, who ruled over vast portions of Kerala with their capital at Vanchi. The whole of the present Trichur District was included in the early Chera Empire.

The District can claim to have played a significant part in fostering the trade relations between Kerala and the outside world in the ancient and medieval period. It can also claim to have played an important part in fostering cultural relations and in laying the foundation of a cosmopolitan and composite culture in this part of the country. Kodungalloor which had the unique distinction of being the 'Primum Emporium India', also belongs to the signal honour of having first given shelter to all the three communities which have contributed to the prosperity of Malabar'. These three communities are the Christians, the Jews and the Muslims.

The history of Trichur District from the 9th to the 12th centuries is the history of Kulasekharas of Mahodayapuram and the history since 12th century is the history of the rise and growth of Perumpadappu Swarupam. In the course of its long and chequered history, the Perumpadappu Swarupam had its capital at different places.

We learn from the literary works of the period that the Perumpadappu Swarupam had its headquarters at Mahodayapuram and that a number of Naduvazhies in Southern and Central Kerala recognised the supremacy of the Perumpadappu Moopil. The Perumpadappu Moopil is even referred to as the 'Kerala Chakravarthi' in the 'Sivavilasam' and some other works.

One of the landmarks in the history of the Perumpadappu Swarupam is the foundation of a new era called Pudu Vaipu Era. The Pudu Vaipu Era is traditionally believed to have commenced from the date on which the island of Vypeen was thrown from the sea.

The 14th and 15th centuries constituted a period of aggressive wars in the course of which the Samorins of Calicut acquired a large part of the present Trichur District.

In the subsequent centuries the Portugese dominated the scene. By the beginning of the 17th century the Portugese power in Kerala was on the verge of collapse.

About this time other European powers like the Dutch and the English appeared on the scene and challenged the Portugese. Internal dissension in the Perumpadappu Swarupam helped the Dutch in getting a footing on the Kerala coast. As the Kerala Chiefs were conscious of the impending doom of the Portugese, they looked upon the Dutch as the rising power and extended a hearty welcome to them.

The decadence and consequential want of solidarity opened the flood gates of aggression. Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan figured very prominently during the period.

In 1705 Raja Rama Varma (1705-1805) popularly known as Sakthan Thampuran ascended the throne of Cochin. With the accession of this ruler the modern period in the history of Cochin and of the District begin. Sakthan Thampuran was the most powerful Maharaja as the very name indicate. He is the architect of Trichur Town.

Sakthan Thampuran ascended the throne just before the conclusion of a treaty with the English East Company. According to that treaty, Cochin threw off all allegiance to Tippu and became a tributary to the Company.

The wave of nationalism and political consciousness which swept through the country since the early decades of this century had its repercussions in the District as well.

Even as early as 1919 a Committee of the Indian National Congress was functioning in Trichur. In the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1921, several persons in Trichur town and other places in the District took active part and courted arrest.

Trichur District can claim the honour of having been in the forefront of the country-wide movement for temple entry and abolition of untouchability. The famous Guruvayur Satyagraha is a memorable episode in the history of the national movement.

The Government of Cochin under the guidance of Sri R. K. Shanmughom Chetti followed a policy of conciliation. By degrees the public demand for the introduction of responsible Government in the State grew strong. In August 1938 Cochin announced a scheme for reforming the State legislature and introducing a system as per the Government of India Act of 1919 in the British Indian provinces. The administration of certain departments was entrusted to an elected member of the legislature to be nominated by the Maharaja. In the elections to the reformed legislature two political parties, viz. the Cochin State Congress and the Cochin Congress won 12 and 13 seats respectively. With the help of a few independents Ambat Sivarama Menon who was the leader of the Cochin Congress Party took up office as Minister under the scheme in June 1938. On his death in August 1938 Dr. A. R. Menon was appointed as Minister. When the State Legislature passed a vote of non-confidence against him, Dr. Menon resigned office on February 25, 1942 and was succeeded by Sri T. K. Nair. Sri Nair was in office till July 11, 1945.

The introduction of dyarchy did not satisfy the political aspirations of the people of Cochin. The idea of full Responsible Government on the basis of adult franchise had caught their imagination. On January 26, 1941 a new political organisation called the Cochin State Praja Mandal took shape on the initiative of a few young politicians under the leadership of V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthachan.

The 'Quit India' Movement of 1942 had its echoes in the District. After the release of the leaders from jail in 1943, the Cochin State Praja Mandal pursued its organisational activities more vigorously. In the elections to the State Legislature in 1945 it won 12, of the 19 seats contested by its candidates. At the annual conference of the Praja Mandal held at Ernakulam in 1946 it was decided to start a state wide movement for the achievement of a Responsible Government. The State Legislature was scheduled to meet on July 29, and it was decided that the day should be observed all over the State as 'Responsible Government Day'. In pursuance of this decision, meetings and demonstrations were held all over the State demanding the end of Dewan's rule and the transfer of full political power to the elected representatives of the people. The Maharaja of Cochin announced in August 1946 his decision to transfer all departments of the

State Government except Law and Order and Finance to the control of Ministers responsible to the State Legislature. In co-operation with other parties in the State Legislature, the Cochin State Praja Mandal decided to accept the offer. Consequently the first popular Cabinet of Cochin consisting of Panambpilli Govinda Menon, C. R. Iyyunni, K. Ayyappan and T. K. Nair assumed office.

The first step towards the achievement of the goal of 'Aikyakerala' was taken with the integration of 'Travancore Cochin' States in July 1949. With the linguistic reorganisation of States in India, in November 1956 the Kerala State came into existence.

II

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Area and Population

It is bounded on the north by Palghat District, on the east by Palghat District and Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu, on the south by Ernakulam and Idukki Districts, and on the west by the Arabian Sea. The area of the District is 3032 sq. kms. while the population is 2,439,543 according to 1981 census.

Natural Divisions

Descending from the heights of the Western Ghats in the east, the land slopes towards the west forming three distinct natural divisions—the highlands, the plains and the sea board.

River Systems

The Periyar, the Chalakudy, the Karuvannur, and the Ponnani (Bharatha Puzha) are the main river systems in the District. They take their origin from the mountains on the east, and flow westward and discharge into the Arabian Sea. There are a number of distributaries also joining these main rivers.

Climate

The District has a tropical humid climate with an oppressive hot season and plentiful and seasonal rainfall. The hot season from March to May is followed by the South West Monsoon season from June to September.

The period from December to February is the North East Monsoon season, although the rain stop by the end of December and the rest of the period is generally dry.

FLORA AND FAUNA

The mountain ranges with thick evergreen forests afford ideal abode for various animals and game including diverse birds while the middle country with hills and low plateau, mostly cleared for cultivation and human habitation, still affords shelter and food for many of the smaller mammals, birds and reptiles and also many lower animals of diverse groups. The lowlands of the extreme west, bordering the coastline are dotted with backwaters and estuaries of rivers, all connected by an interesting system of canals forming a continuous waterway. Its waters abound in fish and afford feeding ground for many water birds, local and migrant, while the plains have a rich fauna representing all groups. Among the mammals the Primates are represented by the langurs and monkeys. Coconut palm and paddy are mainly cultivated in the lowlands.

PEOPLE

✓ The total population of Trichur District according to the census of 1981 is 24,39,543 of whom 11,61,675 are men and 12,77,868 are women.

Hindus constitute the bulk of the population of this District. Other consistants are Christians and Muslims. The Konkani Brahmmins are another immigrant caste and they are found mainly in Cranganore and Mukundapuram Taluks.

The Nairs who till recently followed the Marumakkathayam family system constitute the most important section among the Hindus of Trichur. Now a vast majority of them have taken to agriculture while others have been absorbed in Government service and other professions. Till a few decades ago, the Nairs were divided into several sub-castes and inter-dining and inter-marriages were not permitted among them. The Nairs attached to Namboodiri and Kshatriya houses for certain domestic and religious services were called Illathu Nairs and Swarupattil Nairs respectively. Charna Nairs, Pallichans, Vattekadans, Odathu Nairs, Auduru Nairs and Attikurussi Nairs are other Nair sub-divisions. Every Nair had a title affixed to his name. Achan, Kartha,

Kaimal and Mannadiar were some of the titles of nobility conferred on the Nairs by the Rajas of Cochin while Panikkar and Kurup were the titles of those who maintained Kalaris as their hereditary profession. Menon was the title conferred on the Nairs who followed a literary career. When the country underwent tremendous changes, strict observations of caste rules fell into disuse.

The Samanthans, though very few in number in the District, are said to have sprung from the union of Kshatriya men with Nair women. They have been Marumakkathayis.

The Ezhavas who follow Makkathayam are numerically one of the strongest communities in Trichur. They have attained important positions as merchants, land-owners and cultivators. A good number of them have also taken to learned professions.

Velythedans, Velakkattalavans and Chaliyans are hereditary washermen, barbers and weavers respectively. Ezhuthachans otherwise known as Kadupottans who follow the patriarchal system of inheritance are supposed to be the descendants of Pattar Brahmins. They are hereditary village school masters. The Valans, Arayans and Mukkuvans are fishermen mostly living in the coastal areas of Trichur District. Besides, there are a number of other castes like the Mannans, Velans, Pulluvans and Pattilans in the District.

Another section among the Hindus is the Kammalas who are divided into carpenters, masons, braziers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths etc. As their service is essential, they are till engaged in their traditional occupations. But in recent years a sizable section of them have taken to modern education and made steady progress.

The Devanga Chettis and Kaikolans are weaving castes found in Mukundapuram Taluk. They immigrated into the District from Mysore and Coimbatore respectively. The Vaniyans, Kudumis, Pandithans, Kallans, Pandarams, Ambattans, Vannans, Chakkiliyans and Kusavans are also immigrant castes. The Vaniyans wear the sacred thread and resemble Konkani Brahmins. The Pandarams are engaged in making Pappadam, the favourite crisp cake of the Malayalis. Ambattans are Tamil barbers and Vannans are Tamil washermen.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes form a significant section among the Hindus of the District. The former are mainly agricultural labourers and are found in all the Taluks.

The Scheduled Tribes of the District are the Kadar, the Malayar and the Mathuvans. The Kadar of the area belong to two clans, the Anamala Kadar living at Parambikulam and the West Kadar living at Adirppilli. The Malayar and Kadar are nomadic people.

Christians form the second largest community in the District. It is strange that Cranganore where the Gospel of Christ is believed to have been first preached in India should have the lowest proportion of Christians among the Taluks of the District.

The earliest Church in the District was a Nestorian branch of the Asiatic Church presided over by Bishops usually ordained in Persia. The early Christians were known as Syrian Christians. The Syrian Catholics, Latin Catholics, Jacobites, the Reformed Syrians and Protestants are some of the main sections of the Christian Community in the District. In Trichur and its neighbourhood there is a small community of Christians known as Chaldeans.

The Christians have a predominant place in the social and economic life of the District. Trade and agriculture are the chief occupations of the community. There have been several survivals of Hindu customs among the Christians such as caste prejudice, belief in astrology, omens, witchcraft and charms, the trying of the tali as part of the marriage ceremony and its removal on the death of the husband, the performance of Sradha or the annual ceremony for the soul of the dead etc.

Muslims form the third major community in the District. A majority of them are found in Chavakkad and Kodungalloor Taluks. Most of them are Sunnis. Some of the Muslims are cultivators or traders, while the majority are boatmen, fishermen and labourers of every description.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS

Naga worship and ancestor worship evidently non-Aryan practices have been widely prevalent in the District. The temples here are centres of religious activity. The Vadakkunnathan Temple at Trichur, Koodalmanikam temple at Irinjalakuda, the Kurumba Bhagavathi temple at Kodungalloor, the Sri Rama Temple at Tripprayar, the Sri Krishna temple at Guruvayoor are some of the reputed shrines. The prominent Gods and Goddesses worshipped are Vishnu, Siva, Bhagavathi, Subramonia and Sastha.

Fast is a significant form of religious observance. It is observed on Shashti, Ekadasi, Pradosham, Full Moon and New Moon days. On Shashti viz. the sixth day of the fortnight, fast is observed by those who wish for issue. Ekadasi is sacred to Vishnu and Pradosham to Siva. A fast in honour of the Goddess Parvathi is observed on Full Moon days. The observance of festivals is an important aspect of religious activities. Here special mention may be made of the three major festivals of the Malayalees viz. Onam, Vishu and Tiruvathira.

Mantras constitute an integral part of the ceremonies among the Namboothiris. Some of the ceremonies among Nairs and Ezhavas, which have now become defunct are the Talikettukalyanam, Tirandukuli and Pulikudi.

Among the ceremonies still current may be mentioned Namakaranam, Chormu, Vidyarambham, Upanayanam and Sradha.

The laws of inheritance prevalent in the District have been the Makkathayam (Patrilineal) and Marumakkathayam (Matrilineal system). Marumakkathayam is the dominant one which most of the people were in allegiance. The Ambalavasis, the Kshatriyas, Samantans, Velakkattavans, Veluthedans and a few other castes have followed the Marumakkathayam system in the District. Among the communities that have followed the Makkathayam system may be mentioned the Namboothiris, Ezhavas, Kammalas, Kanakkans, Cherumans, Tanda Pulayans, Vettuvas, Ezhuthachans, Kanisans, Panans, Perumannans, Mannans, Velas, Valans, Arayans, Amukuvans, Mukkuvans, Marakkans and all the Hill Tribes. The Christians and Muslims also have been Makkathayis.

IV

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

The Pooram Festival in the Vadakkumnathan Temple is celebrated annually in April-May. It is a festival in which Gods and Goddesses from various temples are brought in all pomp and pagentry with the play of drums and musical instruments and pyro-technics to the Thekkinkad Maidan. Lakhs of people attend the festival. An all India Exhibition is also conducted every year during the Pooram days under the combined auspices of the Thiruvampady and Paramekkavu Devaswoms at the temple premises.

Olarikara Temple Festival

The Olarikara Bhagavathi Temple is 3 km. to the west of Trichur on the main bus route to Kanjani. The annual festival of this temple is 'Mandala Thalapoli' celebrated on the 10th day of the Malayalam month 'Dhanu' (December-January).

Guruvayoor Temple

One of the famous pilgrim centres in India, the Guruvayoor temple located in Chavakkad Taluk is drawing a vast concourage of pilgrims from all over the country. The important religious festivals are the Ashtami Rohini (August-September), the Sukla Paksha Ekadasi (November-December), the Vishu Kani (April-May), and the 10 days Utsavam (February-March). Of these the Ekadasi draws the largest crowd. Guruvayoor Sathyagraha of historical importance was launched in front of this temple inn. A pillar has been installed here.

Bharani Utsavam in Kodungallur Bhagavathi Temple

Crauganore the ancient capital of Kerala lying about 40 kms. from Trichur has a hoary past. Crauganore had been a known maritime port of India. The temple is located in the heart of the village and dedicated to Bhadrakali. The famous Bharani Utsavam is conducted in Meenam (March-April) for eight days.

Another important festival of this temple in Kodungallur Thalapoli which falls on December-January every year Thousands of people witness these two festivals.

Koodalmanickam Temple Festival, Irinjalakuda

The Koodalmanickam temple is an ancient and historic one situated in Manavalassery Village about 10 km. from Irinjalakuda Railway station. Sri Bharatha is the deity of the temple. The festival is held annually for 11 days in Medom (April-May).

Arattupuzha Pooram

The festival is held in April-May every year. It is one of the most colourful carnivals of Kerala drawing thousands of people from different parts. Idols from 41 temples in the neighbourhood of the village are brought at night in procession to this village on rows of gaily caparisoned elephants. It is probable that Arattupuzha was so called, because the deities, 'arat' in the waters of the Arattupuzha river.

Thriprayar Ekadasi

Thriprayar is a famous temple dedicated to Lord Shri Rama. The important festival here is the Thriprayar Ekadasi held for three days in Vrichikam (November-December).

Perumanam Pooram

Perumanam is famous for its Siva temple and the Pooram festival here takes place in March-April.

Thiruvilwamala Ekadasi

The temple is dedicated to Rama and Lakshmana. The annual Ekadasi festival conducted here in February-March attracts thousands of people.

Feast in the Kunnankulam Sinhasana Church

The festival is celebrated every year on Sunday round about March 19. A large number of Christian and non-Christian devotees congregated on that day to take part in the divine worship.

Feast and fairs of Palayur Church

The Catholic Syrian Church of Palayur is one of the seven churches founded by St. Thomas. The feast falls on July 15 and many pilgrims from different parts of India visit the church.

Feast in the St. Joseph's Church, Pavaratty

The feast of this church which is celebrated in the name of St. Joseph, falls on the 22nd day after Easter.

Feast in the St. Sebastian's Roman Church, Vallapad

The Church is dedicated to St. Sebastian and this patron saint is revered by the people as their chief protector. The festival is on the last two days of January.

Feast in the Mar Thoma Pontifical Shrine, Cranganore

Nineteen hundred years ago, the first missionary of Indian christians, St. Thomas, the Apostle set his foot at Cranganore. Here a monument to him (the Mar Thoma Pontifical Shrine) is situated. It is a historic pilgrim centre of the Indian Christians. The main feast of the church is celebrated on November 21 every year.

Feast in the St. John's Church Parappukkara

The feast in the St. John's church with great pomp and show would last for a week. Pilgrims and devotees from different parts of the country would turn up on the occasion.

Feast in the St. Sebastian's Church, Thazakkad

The St. Sebastian's Church is in Thazakkad village of Mukundapuram Taluk. The festival here is on May 3 every year and pilgrims from different places attend it.

Feast in the St. Mary's church, Koratty

This church is locally known as 'Koratty Muthi's Church. It is an old Catholic Church built in honour of St. Mary. The most important festival here is conducted during the second week of October. It is a great annual fair of the locality.

Festival in the Cheraman Juma Masjid, Cranganore

The Cheraman Juma Masjid constructed in A. D. 629 is famous as the first mosque erected in India and also the first in India and second in the world where the Juma Prayers were started. People from far and near irrespective of caste and creed visit this holy place and pay their homage. Idul pitr (Ramsan) and Idul-Asha (Bakrid) are celebrated here on a grand scale.

Chandanakudam

Chandanakudam Nercha at the Manathala Mosque in Chowghat taluk is an important religious festival in the District. About a hundred elephants with chamayams are lined up in front of the mosque.

V

AGRICULTURE

Rice, tapioca, coconut, arecanut, rubber, cashew and banana are the most important agricultural products of the District.

The most important crop of the District is paddy. In certain areas three crops are raised (Virippu, Mundakan and Punja) in a year.

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The most important crop of the District is paddy. In certain areas three crops are raised (Virippu, Mundakan and Punja) in a year.

One of the striking features in regard to agricultural operations in the District is the kole cultivation. Extensive low-level lakes in Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks are artificially reclaimed and banded.

Tapioca is the food of the poor and the middle class. The reason for the large scale consumption of tapioca is attribute to its high calorific value.

Coconut is one of the important garden crops of the District. Among condiments and spices the arecanut tree stands first. Poor farmers with small holdings are the cultivators of the crop.

Fruits and Vegetables

Trichur is a land of fruits. Perhaps no other District in the State grows a greater variety of fruits or has better facilities for horticulture. Plantain, jack fruits, mangoes, bread fruits, pine-apples, etc., are grown in abundance in most parts of the District. Jack and mango trees are extensively grown in the gardens attached to houses.

Cashewnut is cultivated in almost all parts of the District. The cultivation of rubber is popular.

Animal Husbandry

The District affords the best example to the fact that a damp climate is not conducive to the growth of cattle. The indigenous breed of cattle is weak and stunted in growth.

CULTURAL TRADITION AND EDUCATION

The cultural tradition of the District goes back to very early days. There were great centres of learning and culture in the District in the ancient and early medieval periods. In the early centuries of the Christian era, Mathilakam was a great centre of learning and culture. Buddhist and Jain scholars of repute are said to have lived here and engaged themselves in teaching. At a later District in the ancient and early medieval periods. In the early days. There were great centres of learning and culture in the stage, under the Kulasekhara of the second Chera Empire, Mahodayapuram became famous as a great seat of learning and culture. The greatest literary figure in the District was Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon. Though born in the Malabar region of Kerala, Vallathol made Cheruthuruthy his headquarters. He was

not only a great poet but also a distinguished patron of the arts of Kerala, particularly Kathakali. He founded the Kerala Kalamandalam of Cheruthuruthy to disseminate the art and culture of Kerala.

Literacy

Trichur occupies an important place among the other districts in the matter of literacy and educational standards. The percentage of literacy was 48.16 in 1961 census. The 1971 census revealed that it rose to 61.58. It again rose to 73.59 in 1981 census.

Trichur district is divided into three educational districts: viz., Trichur, Irinjalakuda and Chavakkad each of which is under a District Educational Officer. They are again divided into 11 sub-districts, each under an Assistant Educational Officer.

General Education

General Education is imparted through a large number of primary, secondary and upper primary schools. In addition there are eight training schools in the district. There were 234 High schools in the district out of which 73 run by Government. There are 53 Government UPS, 126 Government LPS, 173 private UPS and 409 private LPS. A Central school has been started in Trichur in 1985.

College Education

There are 19 Arts colleges in the district. They are:

1. M. E. S. Asmabi College, P. Vemballur.
2. S. N. College Nattika.
3. S. H. College, Chalakudy.
4. Mt. Carmel College, Mala.
5. Vimala College, Trichur.
6. Sree Krishna College, Guruvayoor.
7. Little Flower College, Guruvayoor.
8. Vivekananda College, Kunnamkulam.
9. Christ College, Irinjalakuda.
10. St. Alosius College, Elthuruthu.
11. St. Josephs College, Irinjalakuda.
12. Sree Vyasa College, Wadakkancherry.
13. St. Mary's College, Trichur.
14. St. Thomas College, Trichur.
15. Sree Kerala Varma College, Trichur.
16. Mar Dionosious College, Pazhanji.
17. Government College, Trichur.
18. Panampilly Memorial College, Chalakudy.
19. K. K. T. M. College, Pulloot.

Besides this, the John Mathai Centre, Aranattukara, the Economics Department of Calicut University offers instructions in post graduate studies in Economics.

Professional and technical studies

There is a Medical College at Mulankunnathukavu and a network of technical schools in Trichur District. The Medical College was started in the year 1981. This is the 5th Medical College in the State. There is a Ayurveda College at Thaikkattusseri—Ollur in private sector.

The Government Training College, which is located in Trichur town was established in 1945. The Trichur Engineering College was started in 1958 at Ramavarmapuram, The College offers instruction in Pre-Professional (Engg.) course and B.Sc. Degree course in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Colleges of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy was started in 1955 at Ollukkara. The College offers instruction for the B. V. Sc. and M. V. Sc. Degree Courses. The college also provides facilities for research.

College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara was started in 1972. This offers B. Sc. and M. Sc. Degree in Horticulture and Agriculture. The college also instructs for M. Sc. Degree in Agriculture Engineering.

College of Co-operation and Banking, Mannuthy was started in the year 1981-82.

There are four Polytechnic Institutes in the District. They are (1) Maharajas Technological Institute, Trichur (2) Sree Rama Polytechnic, Velappal (3) Polytechnic for Women, Trichur and (4) Thiagaraja Polytechnic, Alagappa Nagar.

There are four junior technical schools at Kunnamkulam, Kodungallur, Trichur and Koratty. Attached to the Junior Technical School at Kunnamkulam and Kodungallur Pre-vocational Training course has also been started.

Industrial Training Institute, is one of the oldest institutions in Trichur District located at Chalakudy. It offers instruction in a variety of trades including Draftsman, Mechanic, Survey, Carpentry, etc.

Institute of Primary Education, Ramavarmapuram which started in 1970 imparts inservice Training to the Primary school teachers of the State.

LITERARY AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES

Kerala Sahitya Academy: The Kerala Sahitya Academy was established on August 15, 1956. It aims at the development of Malayalam Language and Literature and works in co-operation with the Kendra Sahitya Academy in New Delhi. There is a good library attached to the Academy consisting of two sections—the General Section and the Research section.

Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy: It is also located in Trichur town and was established on April 12, 1938. Its aim is to foster and develop Kerala Dance, Drama and Music and to promote through them the cultural unity of Kerala. It works in close collaboration with the Kendra Sangeetha Nataka Academy in New Delhi for the enrichment of Indian culture. A regional theatre is constructed in Trichur with all modern facilities.

Kerala Lahthakala Academy: This was established in 1962. The aim of the Academy is to promote the sculpture, painting, plastic and visual arts.

School of Drama: This was established at Aranattukara in the year 1977. The institution conducts a three year course in Bachelor of Theatre Arts Director, Acting, Children's Theatre etc., are the subjects which are being taught here.

Institute of Fine Arts: This is located in Trichur town and imparts training in Arts, Printing, Sculpture, Engraving etc. Formerly this institution was known as Government Occupational Institute.

Kerala Kalamandalam: Kerala Kalamandalam at Cheruthuruthy was founded in 1930 by Mahakavi Vallathol. Its main objective is to revive, preserve and develop the ancient and traditional art form of Kerala particularly the Kathakali.

FISHERIES

Trichur District has a long tradition in the field of fishing industry. It offers natural facilities for marine and inland fisheries. Its coast line is about 54 km. in length from Azhikode to Puthenkadappuram. Fishing is the main occupation of a large number of people. The main fishing castes are Valan, Arayan, Mukkuvan and Marakkan. Trichur is one of the biggest fish market of Kerala. Fish is an important item in the diet of about 90% of

the population. Oil sardines are used as manure. About 95% of the total catch is marketed within the District. The fishing industry thus makes a sizable contribution to the wealth of the District, and is the main source of income of a large section of the people inhabiting the coastal area.

There are seven major fishing centres in the District viz., Azhikode, Nattika, Vadanappilli, Kadappuram, Blangad, Puthenkadapuram and Chettuva. The District have 18 coastal fisheries villages and three Inland Fisheries Villages. There is a Shrimp Hatchery at Azhikode.

Fishermen's Co-operative Societies:

As the first step towards modernation of the fishing industry, Government have introduced the fishermen's co-operatives. Long term loans are sanctioned to the existing fishermen's co-operative societies for the purchase of boats and nets. Fishermen's marketing co-operative societies have also been organised.

FORESTS

A total area under forests in the District is 1006.72 sq. kms. The forests of the district are mainly seen in the eastern portion of Talappilli, Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks. They extend from the Shoranur river (Bharathapuzha) in the north to the Chalakudy river in the south. The initial works of a wild life sanctuary has been started at Echhippara in the reservior area of Chimmani Dam. A tree park with facilities for to conduct studies on trees and forest for public functioning at Kuthiran under Social forestry is a unique instance in the state. This institution is the second one in the country.

Forest produce:

The Chief forest produce is timber. The principal local markets for timber are Cochin, Ernakulam and Trichur. A large quantity of timber is transported to Coimbatore and Pollachi. High girth rosewood is exported to foreign countries. Other hard wood species which command a steady market are Irul, Pullamaruthu, Koramaruthu, Venga, Venteak, Pongu, Agil etc.

Minor forest products are also abundant in the District. Mattaipal Karuvelampatta, Marotti, Poovam, Zamalporia, Kanjiram, Elavarngam are some of them.

Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) at Peechi is an institution which conducts ecological and Forests Development Research studies. The Institute has a very good Nursery of Medical plants.

IRRIGATION

The present sources of irrigation in the District are natural streams, channels, channel-fed and rain-fed tanks, natural water reservoirs formed by constructing embankments across the line of drainage or natural streams and storage facilities provided by the major, medium and minor irrigation works.

The existing irrigation works in the District can be broadly divided into three major heads: (1) Major Irrigation works (2) Medium Irrigation works including Lift Irrigation, Salinity Exclusion schemes and (3) Minor Irrigation works.

The Keecheri (Wadakkanchery) and the Karuvaanur rivers of the District have immense potentialities for development. The authors of the Master Plan, proposed many schemes in these river basins for irrigation, salinity control, flood control etc.

INDUSTRIES

Power loom Industry

There are six powerloom factories in Co-operative sector in the district. They are at Kodungallur, Aviniseri, Adat, Machad, Nadathara and Manaloor. In addition to this, there is an Institutional Powerloom complex at Keecheri.

Textile Industry

There are six textile mills in the District. They are Alagappa Textiles at Alagappanagar, Kerala Lakshmi Mills at Pudzhi, Trichur Cotton Mills at Nattika, Rajgopal Textiles at Athani, Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills, Trichur and Vanaja Textiles at Kurichikkara. The Mills namely The Cochin Hosieries Kuriachira, Trichur and the Kunnath Textiles, Trichur are engaged in the manufacture of hosiery products. The Madura Coats at Koratty produce cotton sewing threads. The thread produced here is sold throughout the country. Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills the earliest textile mill in the District (1909) caught fire in December 1959. The Mill started functioning later.

Tile Industry

The tile industry is the most important industry in the District employing the largest number of labourers. From a humble beginning early in this century, the industry has grown considerably in recent years. At present there are 160 tile factories in the district. Suitable clay required for the manufacture of tiles and bricks is found in Ollur, Pudukad, Kaluvannoor and Amballur which are the main centres of this industry.

Timber Industry

The timber industry of the District is of considerable importance. It had its beginnings in the first decade of this century when the first saw mill in the State was erected at Trichur (1905) to convert teak and superior hard wood logs into slabs and other sizes. Most of the timber is brought down from the forests to Trichur and Chalakudy, which are the most important timber marts in the District. In Chalakudy, Ollur and Trichur, there are many saw mills with up-to-date plant and machinery.

Soap Manufacture

Soap manufacture is one of the flourishing industries of the District. It is mainly located in Irinjalakuda and Trichur town.

Canning Industry

This is an industry that has recently sprung up and has immense prospects for development. The first unit of the Canning industries (Cochin) was started in Trichur in 1947. The other two units are Darleo Cannings and Kayee Plantation Cannings, both situated at Trichur. Pineapple slices, Pineapple juice, tit bits, jams, squashes, syrups, jellies and marmalades are some of the products of these units. A canning industrial unit is being established at Nadathara by the Trichur Fruits and Vegetables Marketing Society and it is going on very successfully.

Diary Unit

There is a dairy unit at Ramavarnapuram in the public sector.

Chemicals

There are five units engaged in the manufactures of chemicals. Pharmaceutical products like elixirs, syrups, vitamin tablets, trans-fusion bottles, etc. In addition, some of the units manufacture commercial products like ink, paints, and varnish.

Oil Mills

Oil Mills are found in all parts of the District. Coconut oil is the most important product of these Mills. For a long time, the extraction of oil from copra was a cottage industry. Oil is also extracted from lemon-grass, gingelly castor-seed, groundnut etc.

Printing

The printing industry is fairly well developed in the District. Modern methods and techniques in printing are available in the District.

Match Industry

Soft wood required in the manufacture of match sticks is obtained from the local forests. Veneers and splints are also made in the match factories.

Cottage Industry

Handloom weaving is a premier cottage industry of the District. It was practised mainly by hereditary weaving communities like the Chalias, Chettiars, Mudalis and Mudaliars. Poomangalam and Aripalam in Mukundapuram taluk and Kuttamippli and Thiruvilwamala in Talappilli Taluk are well known weaving centres of the District.

Khadi and Village Industries

This industry has made rapid progress in the District. Kerala Khadi and Village Industries, Board is running several Khadi units in the district. Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Association is an important organisation working in this field with its head quarters at Trichur.

Bee-keeping is an important village industry. There is a Model Apiary at Cherpu in Trichur Taluk which is the biggest in the State.

Village pottery units are located at Ramavarmapuram and Kandassankadavu in Trichur Taluk, Nenminikara and Vellangallur in Mukundapuram Taluk and Patramangalam in Talappilli Taluk.

Some other important village industries in the Districts are soap-making, screw-pin, handmade paper, hand pounded rice, Village leather and palm gur.

Coir Industry

Coir manufacturing is one of the important cottage industries of the District. The kind of yarn produced in the District is known as 'Parur Vannan'. The main centres of production of this variety are Chittattukara, Kottapuram and Kodungalloor. Superior varieties of the quality of yarn known as 'Parur Special' are also produced in these areas. Another variety of yarn manufactured in the District is the rope yarn and the main centres of production are Kandassankadavu and Manalur.

Curing of Arecanuts

Arecanuts have to be cured for the market. Arecanut preparation is a seasonal industry of some importance. In the Taluqs of Talappilli, Trichur and Mukundapuram hundreds of men and women are engaged in this occupation from September to January.

Cashew Industry

Trichur District was the largest producer of cashew nuts next only to Quilon District in the State.

Grass mat and Basket Manufacture

The industry is an ancient one and the products of this industry are widely used in Kerala. Very beautiful mats, either plain or with excellent designs are made.

Beedi Making Units

There are three Beedi making units at Ancheri, Chavakkad and Vadanappilly which are run by primary Beedi Co-operative societies under central Kairali Beedi co-operatives of which the headquarters at Shornoor.

Leather Industry

The manufacture of chappals, shoes, suit cases and hand bags out of leather is an important industry of the District. Tanned Leather is mostly procured from outside the District. Work in leather is the hereditary occupation of the "Chakkilins" or "Tholkollans", who are scattered in all parts of the District. Trichur is one of the most important centres of production of leather articles.

The Foot Wear Service Centre at West Fort under the Ministry of Industries, Govt. of India imparts training in Shoe-making.

Engineering Workshops and Foundaries

Small smiths mending agricultural implements are found in rural areas. Repair shops have sprung up in towns.

There are some umbrella manufacturing factories also in the District.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS (HANDICRAFTS)

Bell-metal Industry

Trichur District is the largest producer of bell-metal articles in the State. The industry is monopolised by two castes. Moosaries and Kammalas. The main centres of production are Kadavallur, Kunnankulam, Trichur and Irinjalakuda. "Deepastambams" and a few other articles are highly appreciated and there is great demand for them in North India. A Bell Metal Workers Co-operative Society is successfully conducting large scale production of Bell Metal articles at Nadavaramba.

Polishing of imitation Stones

Trichur, Ollur and Pudukkad are the chief centres of the industry. After being polished and processed the stones are exported to foreign countries. Now the imitation diamond manufacturing workers have been brought under a Central Co-operative society called Diamond India, Trichur.

Wood Carving

Wood carving is an important handicraft of the District. Almost the entire carving is done by carpenters hailing from Viswakarma community. The wood carvers of Cherpu seven miles from Trichur, are well known. The figure of elephants made in this place have a wide reputation. Carvings out of buffalo horn are also made here. The carving of Kathakali dance dolls is also a special feature of this district. With the increasing appreciation of the art of Kathakali, the demand for these carvings has also been increasing. Another important handi-craft is "Alavattam" (pea-cock feather fan) made at Kanimangalam in Trichur.

Industrial Development Plot

There are two Industrial Development Plots at Athani and Kunnankulam. The SIDCO Mohan Tools and its 21 auxiliary

units function in the Industrial Development Plot at Anthani. Steel industries limited Kerala (SILK) is another industrial concern in Athani new plot.

Mini Industrial Estate

There are 10 Mini Industrial Estate in Trichur. They are, at Mala, Chavakkad, Kattoor, Koorkancheri, Arimboor, Ayyanthole, Vallachira, Ollur, Chundal and Pappinivattom.

Large and Medium Industries

1. Alagappa Textiles, Alagappa Nagar. 2. Vanaja Textiles, Kurichikkara. 3 Kerala Lakshmi Mills, Pullazhi. 4 Madurai Coats Sewing Threads Ltd., Koratti. 5 Mittal Steel Re-Rolling & Allied Industries (P) Ltd. Vadakkancherry. 6 Sitaram Spinning & Weaving Mills, Ltd., Trichur. 7 Tapioca Products (P) Ltd., Chalakudy. 8 Trichur Cotton Mills, Ltd., Nattika. 9 Appolo Tyres, Chalakudy. 10 Keltron Power Divises, Athani. 11 Chalakudy Refractories. 12 Eddy Current Controls, Chalakudy. 13 Kerala Chemical & Proteins Ltd., Koratty. 14 Micro-Wave Produces, Puthenchira. 15 Wood House, East Koratti. 16 Steel Industrial Forgings Ltd., Athani. 17 Kerala Solvent Extraction, Irinjalakuda. 18 Keltron Rectifiers, Athani.

POWER

The earliest Power Station in the District was the Trichur Thermal Power House with diesel engines. The peringalkuthu Left Bank Hydro Electric Scheme, one of the four existing Hydro-Electric Schemes in the State harnessing the power potential of the Chalakuy basin, is located in Mukundapuram Taluk. The Peringalkuthu left bank scheme is the first hydro electric scheme in the river basin and the second in the State. Sholayar Hydro-Electric Project is the second power project in the Chalakudy River and the third one is the Peringalkuthu Right Bank Scheme.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Two of the Ashta Vaidyas in the field of Ayurveda viz: Kuttanchery Manu Moose and Thaikkattu Moose belong to Trichur District. The western system of medicine was introduced here in the early part of the 19th century.

In addition to 19 hospitals and 19 dispensaries there are 21 Primary Health Centres and 33 rural dispensaries which attend chiefly to the preventive and curative side of diseases as well as Family Planning works.

Ayurvedic and Homoeo systems of treatments are very popular in the District. Nature cure methods attract a large section of the people to Trichur District. Prakruthi Chikilsa Sahakarana Sanitorium has been established to propogate Nature Cure among public. An Ayurveda Regional Research Institute under Govt. of India is functioning at Cheruthuruthy.

There are seventy one private hospitals in the District. The Jubilee Mission Hospital and Poly Clinic are westh mentioning in this direction.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Both Government and Voluntary agencies play a significant part in safeguarding the health of the mother and child through a network of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres spread through out the District.

Protected water supply in the District

There are four urban water supply scheme in the district. They are (1) Trichur Water Supply Scheme (2) Chalakudy Water Supply Scheme (3) Irinjalakuda Water Supply Scheme and Kunnankulam Guruvayoor Water Supply Scheme. There are more than hundred rural water supply schemes in the District.

A water supply scheme with the assistance of the Dutch Govt. is being executed in the coastal belt of the district namely Nattika, Kodungallore, Pavarty etc.

COMMUNICATIONS

The District is covered by a net work of main roads and village roads.

National Highway No. 47.—The National Higway No. 47 in Trichur District consists of the following two roads.

1. Trichur-Waniampara Road. The road starts from Trichur town and runs eastward to the District limit at Waniampara and enters Palghat District via Alathur.

2. **Trichur-Chalakydy Road.** It starts from Trichur town and goes southward to the District limit at Anjal and enters Ernakulam District via Angamaly enroute to Trivandrum.

National Highway No. 17:—The highway runs from Pudukkottai to Kottapuram in the District.

District and Village Roads

There are 309 District roads having a total mileage of 1419 kms. The village roads in the district have a total length of 8640.733 kms.

Railways

The District is well served by railways. The broadgauge running north to south enters the District near Vallathol Nagar Station and crosses the District for about 69 kms. touching Vettikkattiri, Mullurkkara, Wadakkanchery, Mulankunnathukavu, Poonkunnam, Trichur, Ollur, Pudukkad, Nellai, Irinjalakuda, Chalakydy, Koratty, Angamaly and Karukutty.

Waterway

Before the construction of roads in the latter half of the 19th century inland traffic in the District was through backwaters and rivers. The main canals of the District are: (1) Pennani Canal in Chavakkad Taluk, (2) Canoli Canal lying between Chavakkad and Mukundapuram Taluks, (3) Shanmugham Canal in Mukundapuram Taluk, and (4) Puthenthode in Trichur Taluk. These canals form the main arteries of water communications.

Bridges

The important bridges in the District are: (1) Chalakydy Bridge on the National Highway 47, (2) Kurumali Bridge on the National Highway, (3) Karuvannur bridge in Trichur-Cranganore Road, (4) Karanchira Bridge at the end of the Karanchira Road, (5) Cochin Bridge at Cheruthuruthy, (6) Cheerakuzhi Bridge in Lakkiti road, (7) Vazhachal Bridge in Anamala road (8) Kandasankadavu, (9) Triprayar, (10) Pulluttu-Cranganore, (11) Manalli (12) Edathuruthi Bridges, (13) and Kakkathuruthu Bridge.

The construction of Anapuzha, Manakkadavu, Kottamum Binanipuram, Angadikadavu bridges are going on. The construction of two bridges in the National Highway 17 namely Kottappuram and Pudukkottai have been completed. The construction of Chettuva bridge is in progress.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Adur (Mukundapuram Taluk)

The place is famous for the Annamanada Temple. Annamanada was the venue of two historic interviews between the rulers of Travancore and Cochin in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The famous Nedumkotta or "Travancore Lines" built by Dharma Raja of Travancore to meet the menace of the Mysore invasion passes through Adur.

Arattupuzha (Trichur Taluk)

It is widely known for the annual 'Pooram' festival held in April-May every year. The Arattupuzha Pooram is one of the most colourful carnivals of Kerala drawing thousands of people from different parts of the district and the State. Idols from 41 temples in the neighbourhood of the village including the Arattupuzha Temple, the Amma Tiruvaid Temple at Urakani, Shri Rama Temple at Triprayar and the Bhagavathi Temple at Cherpu are brought at night in procession to this village on rows of gaily caparisoned elephants to the accompaniment of music, trumpets, tom-tom, illumination and magnificent display of fire-works. When the procession meet there before the break of dawn there will be as many as fifty or sixty elephants. It is probable that Arattupuzha was so called because all the dieties taken in procession had their 'Arat' (holy immersion) in the waters of the Arattupuzha river. Mat making and cotton weaving form the major industries of the place.

Arthat (Talappilli Taluk)

One of the oldest Jacobite Syrian Churches in the District is situated at Arthat. The church property was the subject of a prolonged dispute between the Jacobites and the Reformed Syrians. The main cottage industries are mat-making, rattan work and pottery.

Chalakydy (Mukundapuram Taluk)

It is a place of historical importance as it was here that Tipu Sultan established the base of his operations when his army was besieging the "Travancore Lines". It is the centre of communications with the eastern uplands. The town enjoys the reputation of being one of the healthiest spots in the District. It is a place worthy of visit and sight-seeing. A few miles away from Chalakydy is the Chalakydy Irrigation Project and 26 miles east of the town is the Peringalkutu Hydro-electric Project.

Chelakkora (Talappilli Taluk)

It was the seat of the powerful Pisharoti Chief Tottassery Talachennavar who was deprived of his estates in 1767 for submission to the Zamorin. Exactly five years earlier Chelakkara was the theatre of a pitched and decisive battle between Travancore and Cochin forces on the one side and the Zamorin's forces on the other, in which the soldiers of the Zamorin were thoroughly routed.

Cheruthuruthy (Talappilli Taluk)

The Bharathapuzha is here spanned by a fine bridge. On the opposite side is the Shornur Railway Station. Cheruthuruthy is famous as the seat of the Kerala Kalamandalam founded by the Poet Vallathol Narayana Menon, to encourage the study of the ancient arts of Kerala such as Kathakali and Mohiniattam. Now the Kerala Kala Mandalam is functioning at Vallathol Nagar, with its new building complex and Natyagraha. The old Kerala Kala Mandalam is still at Cheruthuruthy on the shore of Nila River (Bharathapuzha). The Samadhi (Tomb) of the Poet Vallathole, the founder of this famous institution is in the premises of old Kala Mandalam.

Chawannur (Talappilli Taluk)

It is said to have been a great centre of education. It had a Subja Mutt where young Namboodiris were given free education in Sanskrit. They were provided with free boarding and lodging. The Cochin Devaswom Board runs the Subja Mutt even today, though the number of pupils receiving instruction is small.

Chavakkad (Chavakkad Taluk)

The mausoleum of Haidross Kuttee, Haidor Alis Lieutenant is situated at the Manathala *desam* near Chavakkad. Disgusted with his masters oppression Haidros Kuttee is said to have revolted and died in the battle. Another site near the mosque was the scene of his death and both places are regarded as sacred centres by the local Muslim population. Because of its association with Haidross Kuttee, Chavakkad is also sometimes called Kuttingal. At Palayar, half a mile from Chavakkad on the Enamakal road is a Roman Syrian Christian Church, which according to tradition is one of the seven churches founded by St. Thomas on the West Coast.

Chenganore (Kodungalloor Taluk)

It is a place of great historical interests. Cranganore was a great emporium of trade even before the dawn of the Christian era

Situated at the confluence of the Periyar river system with the Arabian Sea, it possessed in the past unique facilities for trade and commerce within and without. The Jews, the Phoenicians, the Greeks the Romans and the Arabs came here with their merchandise. From here ivory, sandalwood, peacock's feathers and cinnamon were exported to foreign countries. The Roman colonists are said to have founded here a temple in honour of Augustus. Early Tamil Poets called it Muchiri. The Jews, Christians and Muhamedans all claim it as the place of their first settlement in India. The port and its suburbs figure prominently in early Chera History. According to some scholars Tiruvanchikulam in Kodungalloor was the capital of the Chera kings of the Sangam age.

There are historic temples, mosques and churches in Kodungalloor. The temples of Tiruvanchikulom and Kurumba Bhagavathi are noted for their antiquity. The first mosque founded in India is situated near Cheraman Malik Manzil in Kodungalloor. It is also here that the first church in the State was founded by St. Thomas, the Apostle.

Guruvayur (Chavakkad Taluk)

Nearly two and a half kms. to the east of Chavakkad, is Guruvayur, known as the seat of one of the holy temples dedicated to Lord Krishna. According to tradition the temple is the creation of Guru, the preceptor of the Deva and Vayu the Lord of winds. The Vighraha Pratishtha or the installation and consecration of the idol is believed to have been done by Guru and Vayu and hence the name Guruvayurappan. A series of legends have been woven round the origin of the temple. The temple was famous even in 10th century. The Great Ekadasi festival held annually for five days in the month of Vrischikam (November-December) is very largely attended. The ever increasing influx of pilgrims to this temple indicate its great popularity. Mandalam and Visakam are the two important festival seasons of Guruvayur.

Iriinjalakuda (Mukundapuram Taluk)

The most important institution in the town is the large and well endowed temple of Koodalmanikam. The deity enshrined therein is prince Bharata, brother of Sree Rama. Koodalamanikam is so called because of the belief that a ruby (Manikam) brought near the idol for comparison had been absorbed by it. It is a temple with large landed property.

Kunnamkulam (Talappilli Taluk)

Kunnamkulam is a Municipal Town. It is the chief centre of Jacobite Syrian Christians. There are several old churches in the town and the neighbourhood. The remains of an old fort are found here.

Mala (Mukundapuram Taluk)

In early times Mala was a colony of the Jews. Ambalakat Convent, one of the largest monasteries in the District, is situated near Mala. Close to the monastery are seen the remains of the once famous Seminary of Chombalur (St. Pauls William) founded by Jesuit Priests in the sixteenth century. One of the first printing presses in the country was established in this seminary and the first Malayalam book was printed here by about 1577. The Pambum-mekattumana, a serpent grove under the control of Pambummekattu Namboodiri, is situated a mile away from Mala.

Mullurkkara (Talappilli Taluk)

It was the seat of the Manakot Nair, the chief of Ayirunad who was dispossessed of his estates by about 1740 for accepting the Zamorins suzerainty. The estate then came into the possession of Paliath Achan. Traces of a fort built by the Achan in 1740 to protect the region from the Zamorin's forces can be seen here.

Nelivvai (Talappilli Taluk)

The ruins of an extensive fort built on a line of hills are found in this village. There is temple dedicated to Lord Krishna which attracts worshippers from various parts of the District.

Ollur (Trichur Taluk)

The place is noted for tile industry and packing case business. A large volume of trade in timber including plywood is also carried on. Synthetic stones are imported from Switzerland and they are polished here and exported to foreign countries. The Roman Catholic Church at Ollur is one of the largest and richest in the District and has a belfry over hundred feet in height. The feast in this church which is celebrated every year on a grand scale attracts thousands of people.

Peechi (Trichur Taluk)

The Peechi dam site about 14 miles east of Trichur has developed into one of the main tourist centres of the District. It is a beauty spot offering ample scope for excursions and picnics. It was constructed with the object of harnessing the waters of the Manali river.

Porkalam (Tatappilli Taluk)

Porkalam is of historical importance as it has figured in the wars between the Zamorin of Calicut and the rulers of Cochin. It has great cultural importance also, for it was here that the Payyur Bhattatiris were born. The place is also called "Vedakkad" meaning forest of Vedas. An image of a seated Budha, kept and worshipped over a heap of burial stones in a corner of the temple, also testifies to the antiquity of the place.

Athirappilly Waterfall

This is a beautiful water fall which joins the Chalakudy River with 80 ft. height. This is at 32 km. east of Chalakudy which attracts a large number of tourists.

Sholayar Dam

The Dam is constructed in Chalakudy river and it is 65 km. east of Chalakudy town. The beauty of Athirappilly Water fall and Sholayar Dam can be enjoyed on the way to Sholawar.

Vazhani Dam

This is an Earthen Dam with a length of 792.48 meters constructed in the Wadakkanchery river. The Dam is 10 km. away from Wadakkanchery.

MASS COMMUNICATION

Express Daily is the important news paper from Trichur. Telegraph, Swathantramandapam, General, Elite, Jayakahalam Jeevanalam and Idival are small daily news papers published from Trichur. There are a number of weeklies and periodicals being published from this district. Express weekly, Tharamgini, Navayugom, Vivekodayam, Prabhudha Keralam, Yukthivicharam, Drudyakala, Kerala Vani, Swajana Mitram, Mary Vijayam, Nakshatrasala, Theenalam, Varthasowdham, One India etc., are some of the periodicals published from this District.

All India Radio

The All India Radio opened its 20 K. W. Medium Wave transmitter at Trichur on November 4, 1956 immediately after the reorganisation of Indian states which give birth Kerala State. The transmitter is located at a site covering 50 acres near Viiyoor. It was elevated to the status of a programme originating station on December 24, 1973.

Publishers

The important publishers of the District are: "The Current Books", "The Mangalodayam", "The Amina Book Stall", "The Jwala Publishers", "The Sunsy Stores", (Trichur), "The Vyasa Publishers", "The Lalitha Book Stall", Chavakkad, 'H & C' Stores, Kunnamkulam and "The Sarala Book Depot", Kunnamkulam,. "The National Book Stall" has a branch at Trichur.

IX

TRICHUR DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Administrative Divisions

The District consists of five taluks under one Revenue Division. There are altogether 16 firkas in the five taluks, each firka being under the charge of a Revenue Inspector. The names of the taluks and firkas are furnished below:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>Name of Firka</i>
1.	Talappilli	74	1. Kunnankulam 2. Wadakkanchery 3. Nelluvai 4. Pazhayannur
2.	Trichur	72	1. Trichur Town 2. Trichur Rural 3. Urakam 4. Chittilappilli 5. Anthikad
3.	Mukundapuram	57	1. Irinjalakuda 2. Nellai 3. Adoor 4. Chalakudy
4.	Kodungalloor	9	1. Kodungalloor
5.	Chavakkad	38	1. Nattika 2. Chavakkad

Municipalities

There are six Municipalities in the Dist. Viz. Trichur, Irinjalakuda, Kunnankulam, Kodungalloor, Chalakudy and Chavakkad. Besides there is a township at Guruvayur, the famous pilgrim centre.

Panchayats

The Trichur District excluding the municipal areas has 98 panchayats, 24 in Trichur Taluk, 22 in Talappilli Taluk, 27 in Mukundapuram Taluk, 9 in Kodungalloor Taluk and 16 in Chavakkad Taluk.

Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies

There are 14 Assembly constituencies in the District. They are Chelakara (S.C.) Wadakauchery, Kunnankulam, Cherpu, Trichur, Ollur, Kodakara, Chalakudy, Mala, Irinjalkuda, Manalur, Guruvayur, Nattika and Kodungalloor. The parliamentary constituencies in the District are Trichur and Mukundapuram. The Mukundapuram Parliamentary constituency include the Assembly constituencies of Ankamali, Vadakekara and Perumbavoor of the Ernakulam District. The three Assembly constituencies, Chelakkara (S.C.) Wadakkanchery and Kunnankulam of the Trichur District are included in the Parliamentary constituency of Ottappalam.

Blocks in the District

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of block</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Panchayats included</i>
1.	Kodungallur	Eriyad	Kodungallur	1. Edavilangu 2. Eriyad 3. Methala
2.	Mathilakam	Mathilakam	Kodungallur	1. Kalpamangalam 2. Pappinivattom 3. Perinjanam 4. Sree Narayana- puram 5. Edathuruthy
3.	Mala	Valiyaparamba	Mukunda- puram	1. Alur 2. Annamanada 3. Kuzhur 4. Mala 5. Poyya
4.	Vellangallur	Vellangallur	Kodungallur Mukundapuram	1. Padiyoor 2. Puthenchira 3. Vellgangallur 4. Velukkara 5. Poomangalam
5.	Chalakudy	Chalakudy	Mukundapuram	1. Kodassery 2. Kallur-Vadak- kumari 3. Koratty 4. Melur 5. Pariyaram 6. Vettilappara

6.	Kodakara	Pudukkad	Mukundapuram	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alagappanagar 2. Kodakara 3. Mattathur 4. Trikkur 5. Varandrappilli 6. Pudukkad 7. Nenmanikkara
7.	Iriujalakuda	Mapranam	Mukundapuram	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kattur 2. Muruyad 3. Parappukkara 4. Poorathissery 5. Karalam
8.	Ollukkara	Ollukkara	Trichur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kolazhi 2. Nadathara 3. Ollukkara 4. Pannancherry 5. Puthur 6. Vilvattam 7. Madakkathara
9.	Puzhakkal	Adat	Trichur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adat 2. Arimpur 3. Ayyanthole 4. Avanur 5. Kalparamba 6. Tolur 7. Killannur
10.	Cherpu	Cherpu	Trichur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avannisseri 2. Cherpu 3. Koorkencherry 4. Ollur 5. Paralam 6. Vallachira
11.	Antikad	Peringottukara	Trichur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anthikad 2. Chazhur 3. Manalur 4. Thaniam

12.	Wadakkanchery	Ottupara	Talappilly	1.	Desamangalam
				2.	Erunappetty
				3.	Kadangode
				3.	Mundathikode
				5.	Thenkkumkara
				6.	Varavur
				7.	Melur
				8.	Wadakkanchery
				9.	Mullurkkara
13.	Chowannur	Chowannur	Talappilly	1.	Arthat
				2.	Chowannur
				3.	Choondal
				4.	Kadavallur
				5.	Kandanassery
				6.	Kattakampal
				7.	Porkulam
14.	Pazhayannur	Pazhayannur	Talappilly	1.	Chelakkara
				2.	Vallathol Nagar
				3.	Kondazhi
				4.	Panjal
				5.	Pazhayannur
				6.	Thiruvilwamala
15.	Talikkulam	Talikkulam	Chavakkad	1.	Engandiyur
				2.	Nattika
				3.	Thalikulam
				4.	Vadanappilly
				5.	Valappad
16.	Chavakkad	Manathala	Chavakkad	1.	Orumanayur
				2.	Pukode
				3.	Thaikad
				4.	Punnayur
				5.	Punnayurkulam
				6.	Vadakkaekad
				7.	Kadappuram
17.	Mullassery	Mullassery	Chavakkad	1.	Elavally
				2.	Mullassery
				3.	Pavaraty
				4.	Venkitangu

P. No. ... Registration
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POPULATION

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Talappilly	220809	245905	466714
2.	Trichur	323291	345589	668880
3.	Chavakkad	172637	240029	376666
4.	Kodungallur	119720	133414	253134
5.	Mukundapuram	325218	348931	674149
	Total (Trichur District)	1161675	1277868	2439543

(1981 Census)

Population, Distribution of 1981

Taluks or Districts	Urban Population			Rural Population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Talappilly	19440	9237	10203	447274	211572	235702
Trichur	298014	145459	152555	570866	177832	193,034
Chavakkad	59467	27218	32249	317199	145419	171,780
Kodungallur	58760	28212	30548	194374	91508	102,866
Mukundapuram	79102	38567	40535	595047	286651	308,396
Total (District)	511785	248693	266096	1924760	912982	1,011,778

Population Growth

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Decade variation</i>	<i>Percentage decade variation</i>
1901	683,240	341,007	342,233
1911	769,672	383,167	386,505	86,432	12.65
1921	813,726	396,771	416,955	44,054	5.72
1931	993,875	479,070	514,805	180,149	22.14
1941	1,154,555	554,597	599,958	160,680	16.17
1951	1,403,099	666,439	736,660	248,544	21.53
1961	1,688,271	806,608	881,663	285,172	20.32
1971	2,128,797	1,022,774	1,106,023	440,526	26.09
1981	2,439,543	1,161,675	1,277,868	310,746	14.60

(1981 Census)

Scheduled Castes

<i>Taluks</i>	<i>Scheduled Castes</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Talappilly	74268	35974	38294
Trichur	68886	34011	34875
Chavakkad	52567	25569	26998
Kodungallur	25107	12338	12769
Mukundapuram	81257	39895	41362
Total District	302085	147787	154298

(1981 Primary Census)

Scheduled Tribes

<i>Taluks</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribes</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Talappilly	224	102	122
Trichur	931	495	436
Chavakkad	71	41	30
Kodungallur	2	1	1
Mukundapuram	1999	1027	972
Total District	3227	1666	1561

Literacy

<i>Taluk/District</i>	<i>Literate Population</i>			<i>Percentage of literacy 1971</i>	<i>Percentage of literacy 1981</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
Talappilly	315711	157808	157003	56.41	67.65
Trichur	523661	263773	259888	66.59	78.29
Chavakkad	263050	127006	135984	58.37	69.84
Kodungallur	182697	91610	91087	61.18	72.17
Mukundapuram	510059	257788	252271	62.56	75.66
Total—District	1795178	898045	897133	61.58	73.59

Distribution of Working Population (1981)

	<i>Total workers</i>	<i>Cultivators</i>	<i>Agricultural labourers</i>	<i>Workers other than cultivators and agricultural labourers</i>
Trichur	645334	60878	164845	382620
Kerala	6742967	888955	1900904	3677197

Panchayats and Villages (1981)

<i>Taluk/District</i>	<i>No. of panchayats</i>	<i>No. of revenue Villages</i>	<i>No. of Census Villages</i>	
Talappilly	22	75	227	* These villages lie
Trichur	24	75+1*	271	wholly within towns.
Chavakkad	16	21+1*	*10	
Kodungaliur	9	9	13	
Mukundapuram	27	55.4	236	
Total (District)	98	241	857	

Area (in Hectares) under crops during the year ending 1981-82

Food crops

	<i>Rice</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Cereals</i>	
	<i>Virippu</i>	<i>Mundakan</i>	<i>Punja</i>		<i>Ragi</i>	<i>Total cereals and millets</i>
Trichur	41794	41570	22147	115511	36	1,15,662
Kerala	347098	356073	103700	806871	1455	8,12,283

Condiments and spices

	<i>Cloves</i>	<i>Pepper</i>	<i>Ginger</i>	<i>Turmeric</i>	<i>Arecanut</i>	<i>Total</i>
Trichur	18	4036	123	186	6601	12841
Kerala	711	108242	13447	3200	61251	258478

**Production of important crops during the year ending
1981-82 (Rice-Tonnes)**

	<i>Virippu</i>	<i>Mundakan</i>	<i>Punja</i>	<i>Total</i>
Trichur	54198	81514	26477	162189
Kerala	552322	597975	180894	1331191

Agricultural Credit Societies as on 30-11-1984

(Amount in Rupees)

	<i>No. of Societies</i>	<i>No. of members</i>	<i>Paid up share (Govt.)</i>	<i>Capital others</i>
Trichur	157	431640	5617000	29524000

Industrial Co-operative Societies (as on 30-11-1984)

	<i>Coir</i>	<i>Handloom</i>	<i>Handicrafts</i>	<i>SC/ST Industrial Co-operatives</i>	<i>Total No. of Small Scale units</i>
Trichur	31	29	23	73	3125

Irrigation Projects

<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>Year of start</i>	<i>Year of commission</i>	<i>Year of completion</i>	<i>Cost of completion (Rs. lakhs)</i>	<i>Area srrtgated Net (in hec ares)</i>
Chalakydy stage I	1949	1952	1957	128.25	11495
Chalakydy Stage II	1958	1961	1966	60.00	8195
Vazhani	1951	1957	1962	107.57	3565
Cheerakuzhi	1947	1968	1973	90.76	1620
Peechi	1957	1953	1959	235	15200
Chinmini	1976	(Construction is going on) 2343			

Livestock Population (1982)

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Buffaloes</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Don- Pontes</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Fowls</i>	<i>Ducks</i>
Trichur	233655	54331	482	186370	4	1	2118	1494043	37032
Kerala	3096448	408584	7059	2003795	72	332	127247	14519039	530354

Total area and classification of area (in hectares) during the year ending 1982

	<i>Total Geographical area according to village papers</i>	<i>Forest</i>	<i>Land put to non-agri- cultural uses</i>	<i>Permanent barren uncultivable land</i>
Trichur	299390	103679	22107	2437
Kerala	3885497	1081509	266451	85600

	<i>Permanent pastures and other grazing land</i>	<i>Land under miscellaneous tree crops not included in net area sown</i>	<i>Cultivable Waste</i>	<i>Fallow land other than current fallow</i>
Trichur	157	1425	5493	3090
Kerala	5382	55187	130204	26827

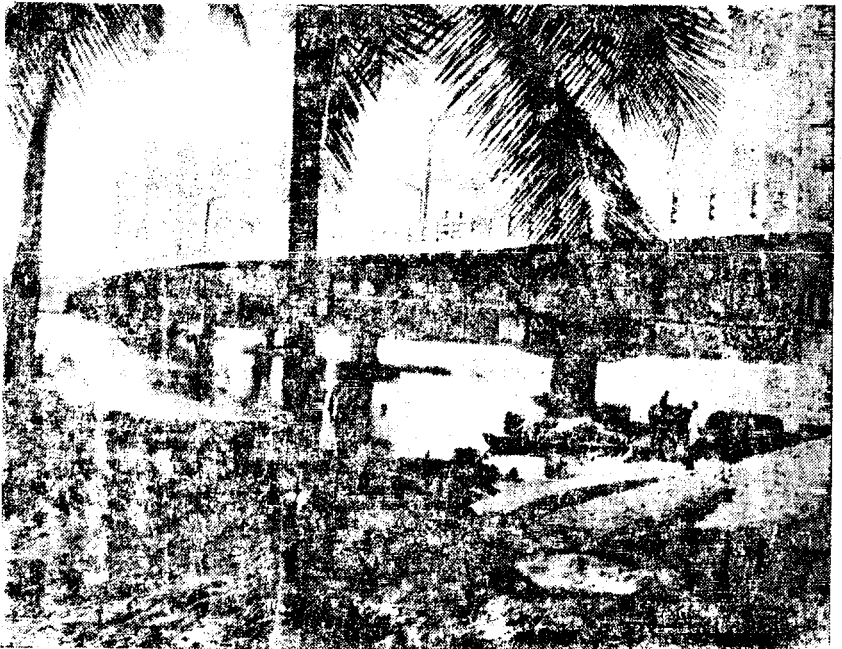
	<i>Current fallow</i>	<i>Net area sown</i>	<i>Area sown more than once</i>	<i>Total cropped area</i>
Trichur	4561	156501	83394	239895
Kerala	44487	2189850	715407	2905357

TRICHUR DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

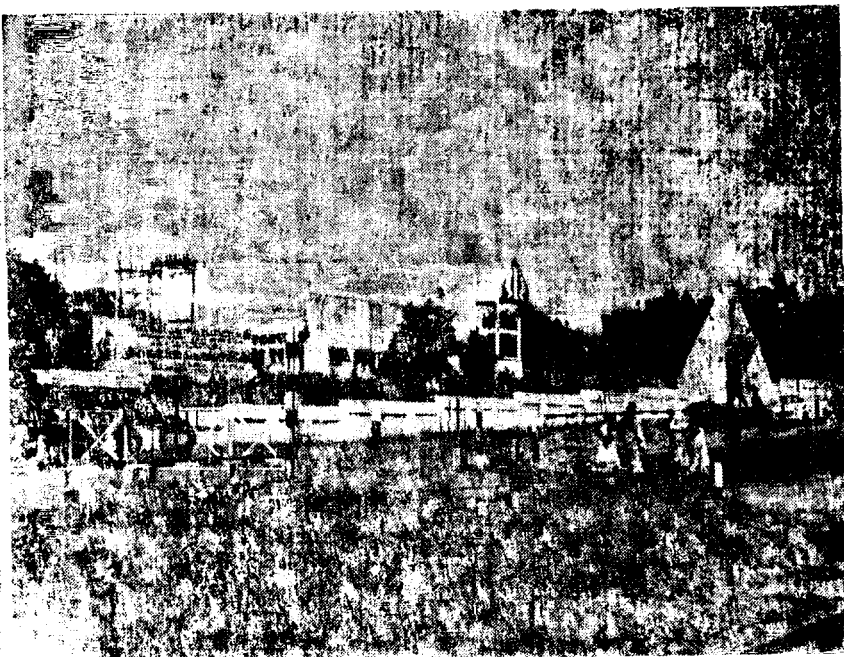
Area	3032 sq. kms.
District Headquarters	Ayyanthole
Population	2,439,543 (1981 Census)
Males	11,61,675
Females	12,77,868
Urban	511783
Rural	1924760
Literate & educated	17,95,178
Males	8,98,045
Females	8,97,133
Percentage of literacy	73.59%
Trichur Town area	12.89 sq. kms.
Population	77,923
Parliamentary constituencies	2
Assembly constituencies	14
Revenue division	1
Taluks	5
Blocks	17
Panchayats	93
Villages	241
Arts colleges	19
Professional Colleges	3



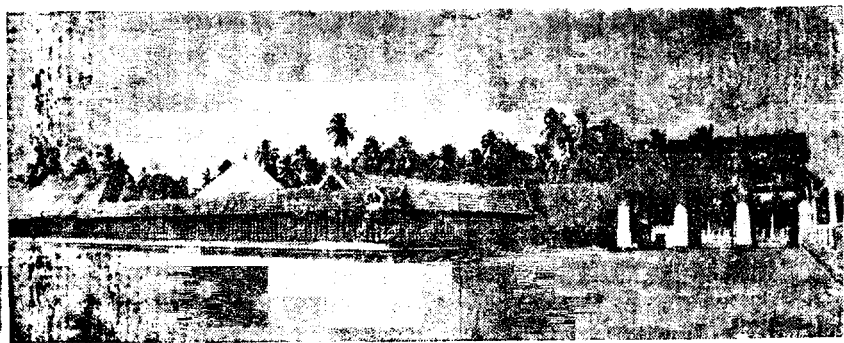
All India Radio Trichur Station



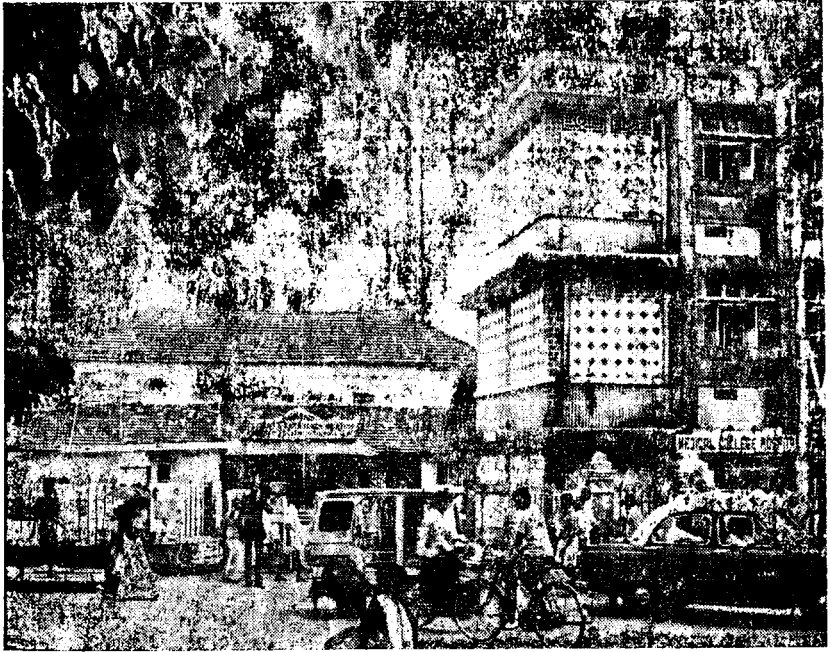
Kottappuram Bridge



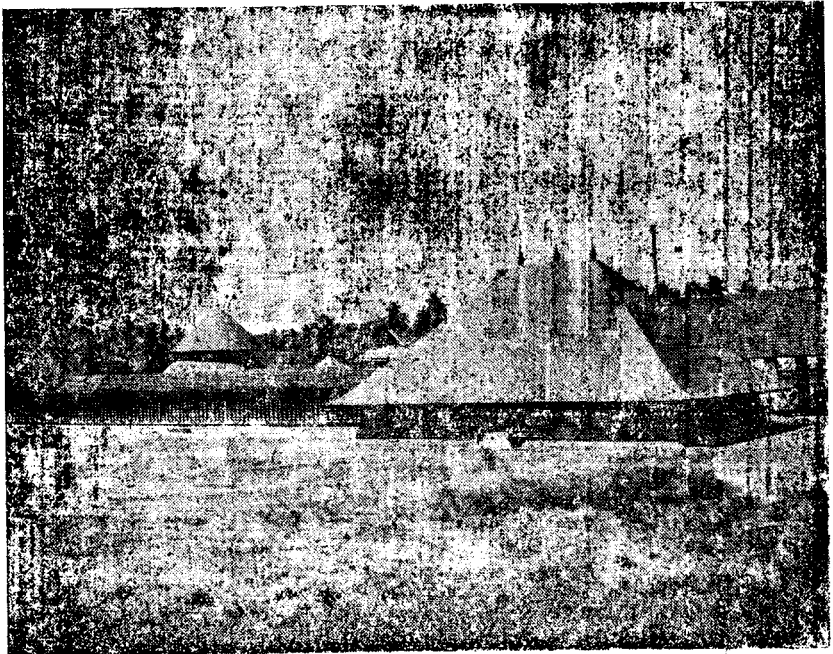
Steel Industries Ltd., Kerala



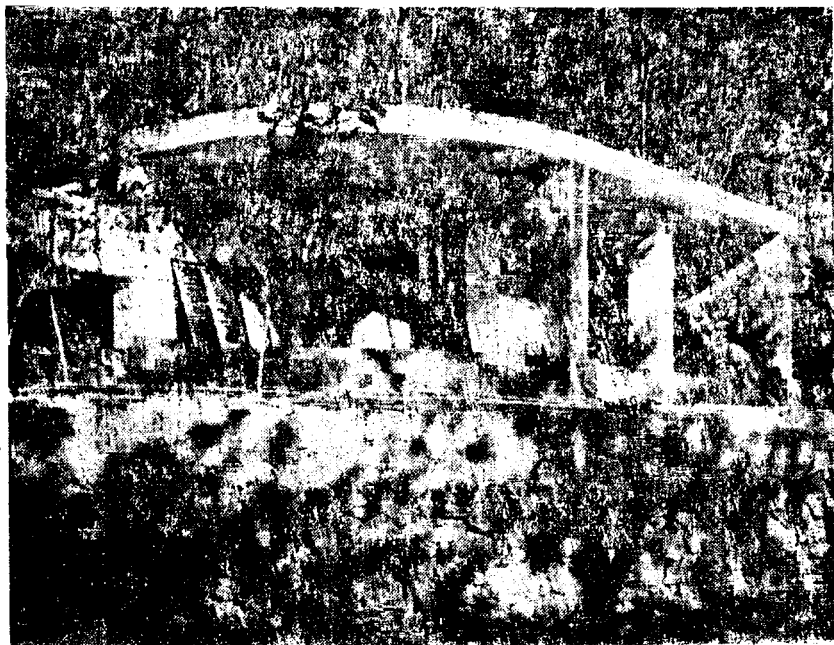
Thriprayar Temple



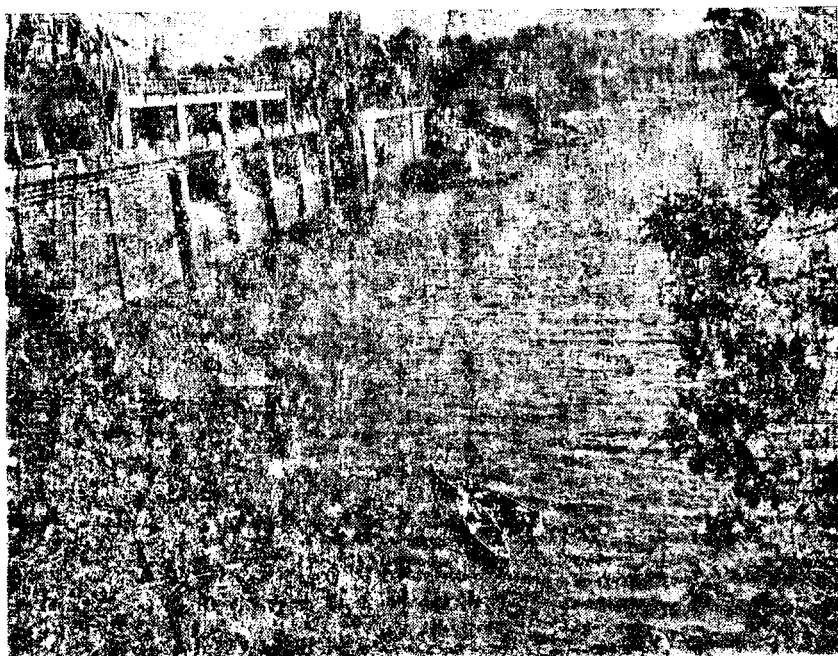
Medical College Hospital, Trichur



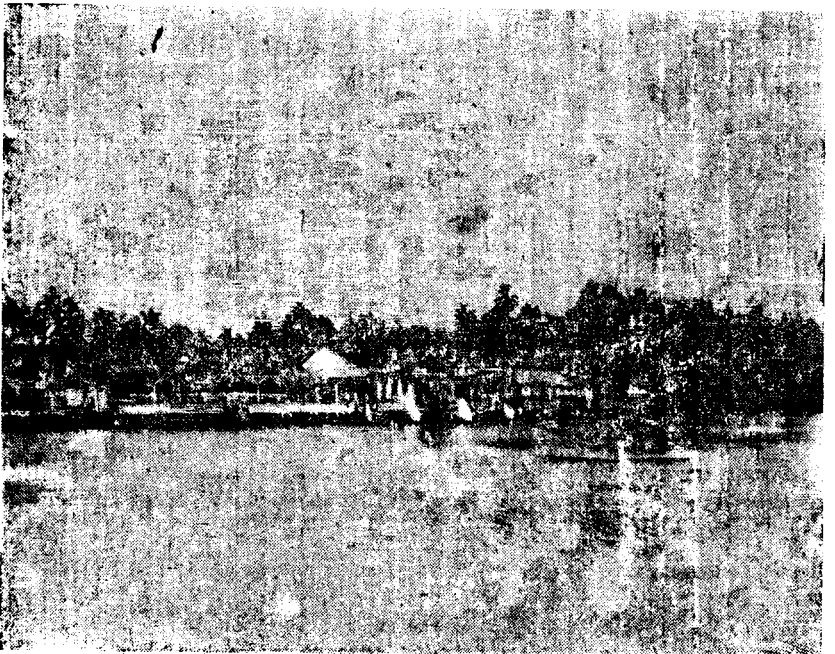
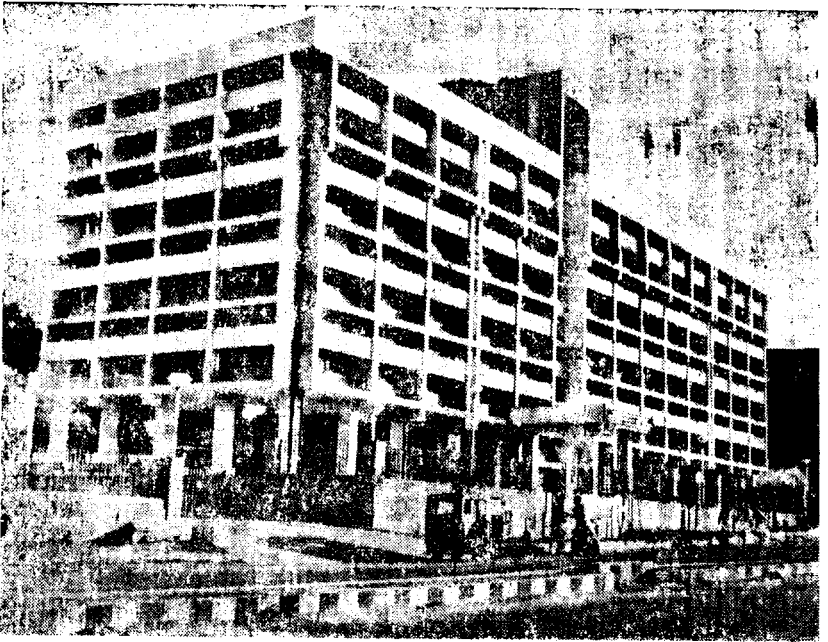
Koodalmanassiyam, Koothampalham



Kuhiran Forest Information Centre

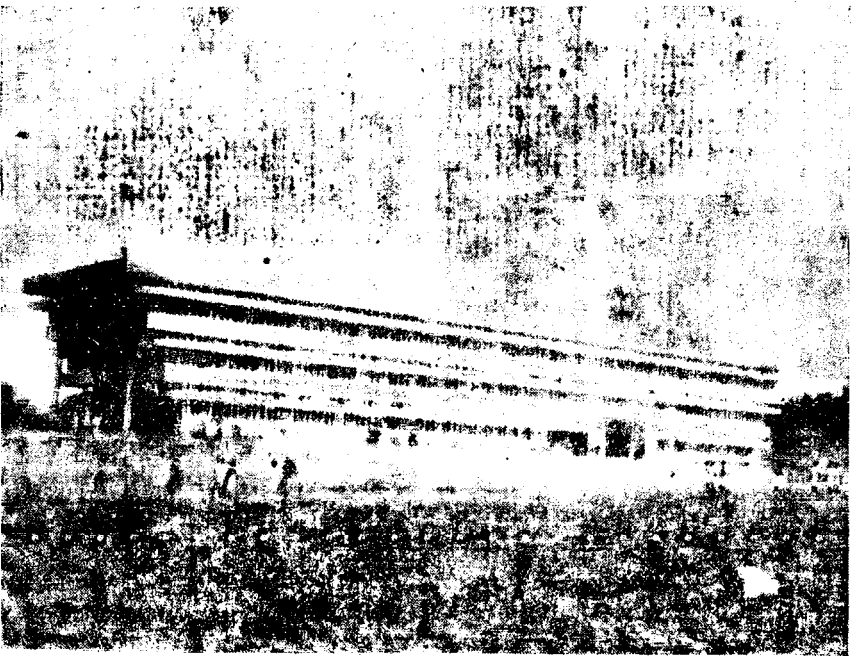


Peechi Dam

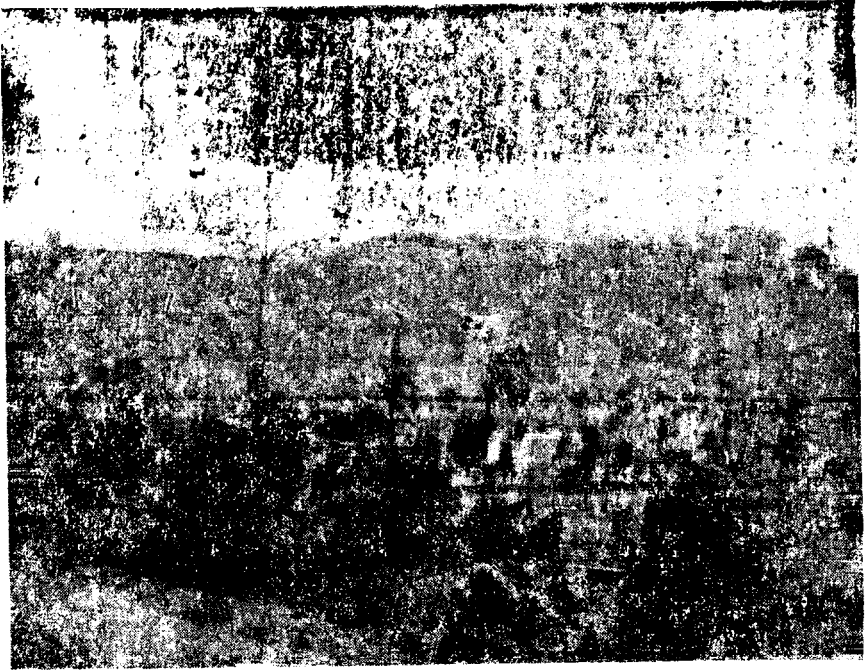




Guruvayoor Temple



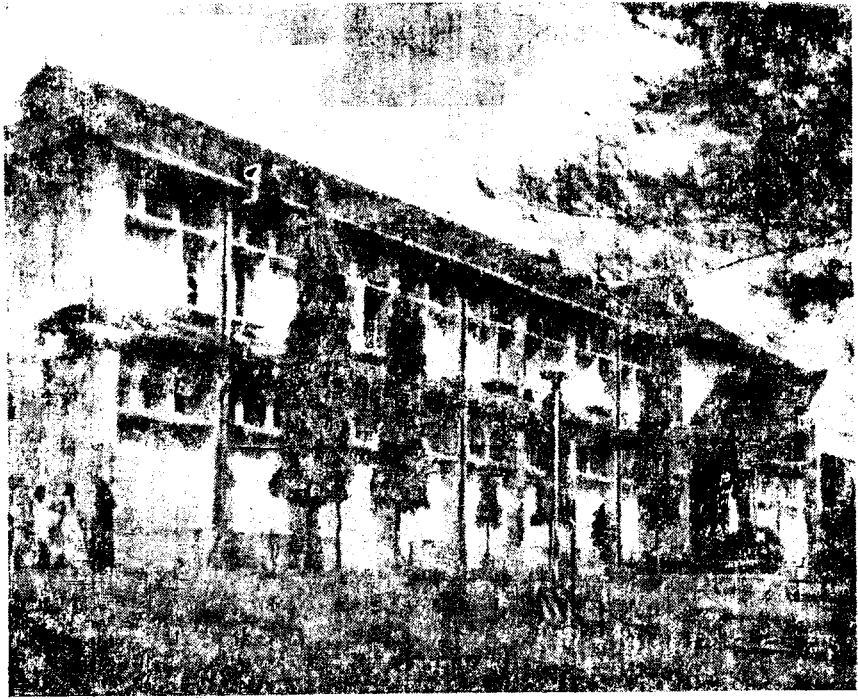
Agricultural University, Mannuthy



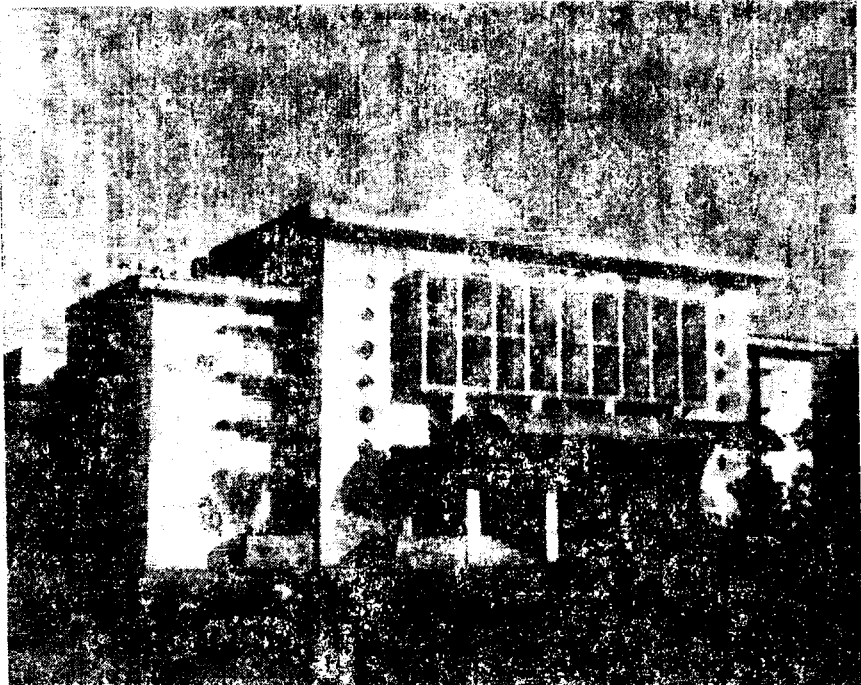
Vazhani Dam



Palayoor Church



Kerala Kalamandalam, Cheruthuruthy



Regional Theatre, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy