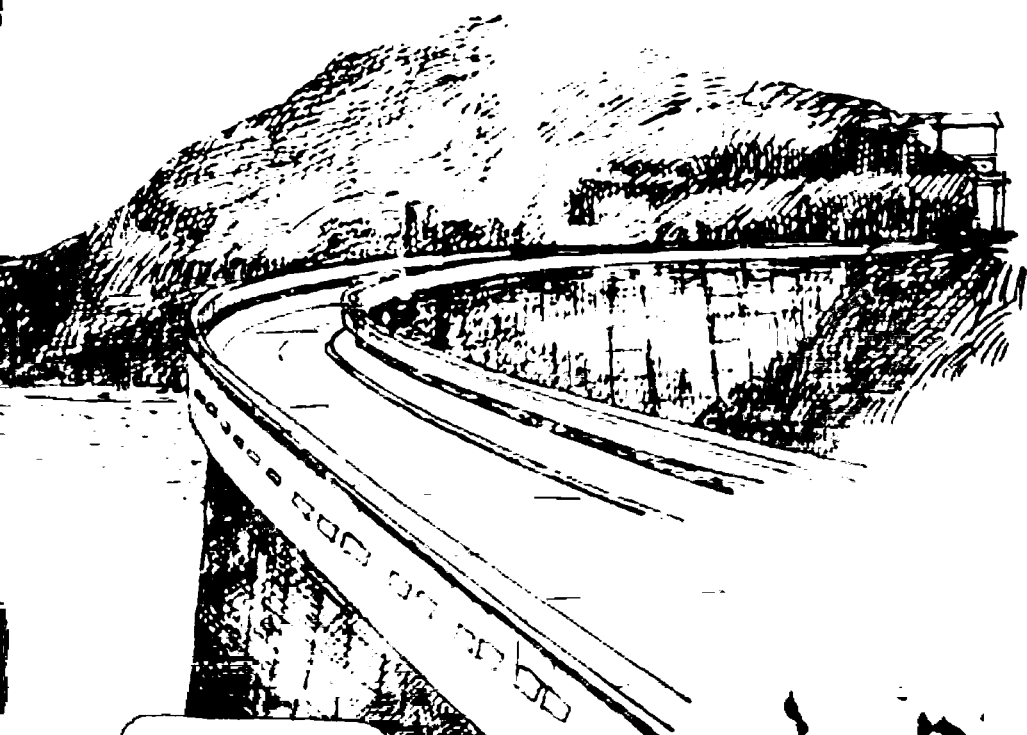


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Idukki

Department of Public Relations

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District Information Officer

Idukki

PREFACE

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

Trivandrum.
May 1986.

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The word Idukki derived from the word *Idukku* which means a gorge. The perennial river Periyar flowed through a narrow gorge between two granite hills, the legendary KURAVAN and KURATHI where the Idukki Arch Dam is constructed.

History and Heritage

The district was formed on January 26, 1972 carving out of Devicolam, Peermade and Udumbanchola taluks from Kottayam district and Thodupuzha taluk from Ernakulam district. It extends by 115 kms. from south to north and 67 kms. from east to west. The area of the district is 5061 Sq. kms. For revenue administration the district is sub divided into four taluks viz. Devicolam, Peermade, Udumbanchola and Thodupuzha. For purposes of developmental activities it is divided into eight blocks Arudai, Devicolam Elamdesom, Idukki, Kattappana, Adimali, Nedumkandom and Thodupuzha. The district is bounded by Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts on the south, Trichur and Coimbatore districts on the north, Madurai, Ramanad and Thirunelveli districts on the east and Ernakulam and Kottayam districts on the west.

Though the district cannot boast of a history of the rise and fall of a few dynasties, it played a significant role in the spiritual development of the country, especially the south. The Ramayana gives a graphic description of the flora of the Pamba Valley.

It is believed that the name *Sabarimalai* derived from Sabari *Ashram* which was located at Sabari *Peedom* near Sabari *Malai*, one of the famous Pilgrim centres. The Lord Ayyappa Temple at *Sabarimalai* is supposed to be the place where a great Jain or Buddhist monk attained *Nirvana*. (Now Sabarimalai is in Pathanamthitta district). The archaeological evidence of the Mangaladevi Temple 15 kms. from Thekkadi in the dense forest bespeaks of an equally shrouded antiquity. May be, with its undulating hills and valleys and the perennial rivers the district formed a recluse for the spiritual seekers of ancient India.

But the history of the present population of the district is very recent. It is a history of colonisation braving inclement weather, wild animals and epidemics. It is also a history of the exploitation of labour and labour struggles. Settling in the district began in all seriousness during the Ministry of Sri T. K. Narayana Pillai, as a sequence to the grow-more-food campaign in the State. These migrants who constituted a few planters and a cross

section of the people became the nucleus of the present population. In the days of Sri Pattom Thanu Pillai it became a systematic colonisation. Kallar Pattom colony in Udumbanchola taluk bears the imprint of his name. That the earliest human habitation of the district started from Tamil Nadu in the first two decades of the present century can be gauged from the story that while Maharaja Sri Mulam was personally supervising the construction of the Dam on Mullaperiyar river he felt thirsty and a shepherd called Ankur Rantar gave him milk hot from the udder of the sheep. The delighted Maharaja gave him title over extensive forest land which his descendents sold to land owners in Tamil Nadu and with the help of cheap labour they were converted into Cardamom or Tea Plantations. The area around Munnar developed from the time when the British made it their summer resort. Here too the immediate accessible population was from Tamil Nadu and Munnar became a Tamil pocket in Kerala.

Topography and Climate

Sprawling over an area of 5,061 sq. kms. the district is marked by undulating hills and valleys. The highranges vary in altitude from 2500 ft. above mean sea level in Kulamavu to more than 5,000 ft. above M.S.L. in Munnar. The highest peak in Kerala, Anamudi is in the district. It is 8,841 ft. high. The different levels of elevation promote the growth of diverse flora. Except a bit of midland region in the western portions of Thodupuzha taluk all the remaining areas consisting of Devicolam, Peermade and Udumbanchola taluks and the eastern portion of the Thodupuzha taluk are entirely highland region. Granite hills touching the skies and being skirted round with thick rain-fed sylvan forest render a terrific charm to the district. There are eleven peaks in Idukki which exceed a height of 6000 ft. above M.S.L. The highland region is having a comparatively cold climate. In peaks above an elevation of 2400 metres the temperature at times falls down to near freezing point in the winter. Occurrence of mist is usual in the highland region lying over an elevation of 1300 metres above M.S.L.

The annual rainfall in the district varies from 250 to 425 cms. But, it is recorded that the annual rainfall had gone upto 700 cms. in certain years. The eastern and north-eastern regions of the district get very low rainfall in contrast to other areas. This may go up to 150 cms. at Marayur, Kanthalloor, Vattavada and Thalayar regions. Marayur and Kanthalloor are virtually rain shadow areas, lying in the eastern side of the Western Ghats.

Rivers and Lakes

Perivar, Thodupuzhayar and Thalayar are the three important rivers of the district. Though the Pamba river originates from the district it mostly runs through the Pathanamthitta district. Devicolam, Eravikulam and Elaveezha Poonchira are three fresh water lakes in Idukki.

Flora and Fauna

The district has at present about 1500 sq. kms. of reserved forests and this is approximately 30 per cent of the total area of the forest. However, the sylvan wealth of the district and the animal life are fast disintegrating due to deforestation, indiscriminate felling of trees, encroachment and poaching. All kinds of wild animals with the exception of lions abound in the forests of Idukki. The grasslands of Peermade are a haven of carnivora like the tiger and the leopard. This is chiefly so, as they are a natural habitat of deer, wild goats and similar genre which the carnivores prey upon. Bison, wildbear, langurs and monkeys are a few other common denizens of the jungle. The Thar (striped goat) seen in Marayur region and Rajamala is found nowhere else in the world. The forest glades of Idukki resound in day time with the sweet voices of birds. They include the small wild parrots, mynas, rehorned sparrows and a host of other non-descript species.

The valuable trees growing in the forests are teak, rosewood, deodars, sandal etc. The Forest Department has reared large Eucalyptus plantations in the hilly tracts.

People

The population of the district, according to 1981 census, was 9,71,636. The density of population is 192 per sq.km. While density of population is high in Udumbanchola (330) and Thodupuzha (272) taluks it is lowest in Devicolam (101). Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes together constitute 17.69% of the total population. Tamilians are the linguistic minority of the district with a population of about 2.5 lakhs.

These are about 1,33,177 Scheduled Castes and 38,712 Scheduled Tribes in the district. Most of the Harijans work as agricultural labourers in the tea and cardamom estates. Ayyappancoil and Pampadumpara of Udumbanchola Taluk, Kumali of Peermade Taluk, Kuttampuzha, Mannamkandan and Marayur of Devicolam Taluk, Vannappuram, Vazhathope and Velli-yamattom of Thodupuzha Taluk are the concentrations of Harijans. *Mannans, Mala Arayans, Urali, Muthuvans, Hill Pulaya, Paliyan* and *Ulladan* are the different groups of tribals in the district. All these tribes are not aborigines. The *Muthuvans* of Marayoor, Kanthalloor and Vattavada panchayats speak Tamil dialects. Their tribal legends show that they were the loyal servants of a section of the royal dynasty of Madurai and they carried the idols of Madurai Meenakshi for the fleeing royal members on their backs which are known in Tamil as 'Muthuku'. Thrown out from power at Madurai the surviving members of the Madurai Royal family established the Poonjar dynasty in Kerala, and the servants who came with them with the idols on their backs settled in the forests near Tamil Nadu, and are now known as

Muthuvans. They are agriculturists. The *Mala Arayans* of Vannappuram, Velliya mattom, Udumbannoor and Arakulam panchayats are also agriculturists. They look like the plains-dwellers, and believe that they were a section of the Arayans of the coastal belt of Kerala who migrated to the forest and came to be known as Mala Arayans.

Christians constitute the majority among the population of the district. They settled in the High Ranges in the course of their search for pastures anew. Behind the agricultural development of Idukki there is the untold hardship of this hard working people in the early days of settlement. Though there are many rich estate owners among them, the majority are middle class farmers earning their livelihood through their struggle against soil and climate.

Muslims are confined to certain pockets of the district. The municipality of Thodupuzha has a large Muslim population. They are mostly small traders and business men. In Munnar there are a few rich Muslims engaged in flourishing business. The Muslims of Kunily hailed from Tamil Nadu. Some of them have cardamom estates of their own and the others are engaged in trade. In Peermade there is a large number of Muslim families. The name "Peermade" derived from the name of a Muslim Saint "Pir Mohamed".

Nairs form a small portion of the population of Idukki. The eastern part of Thodupuzha has a considerable Nair population. They are mostly engaged in agriculture.

In Udumbanchola Taluk Ezhavas are numerically second to the Christians. Most of them are small farmers. In Thodupuzha and Peermade taluks too their numerical strength is comparatively high.

Devicolans and Peermade taluks have a large concentration of Tamilians who are mainly labourers in tea and cardamom estates. This population is slightly fluctuating in nature as they are having their permanent settlements in Tamil Nadu. Most of the cardamom estates are owned by Tamilians living in Cumbum, Gudalur and other towns in the adjoining Madurai district.

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS CENTRES

Mangala Devi Temple

Built in the Pandyan style of architecture this temple is centuries old and it stands in the dense forest. The high peak on which it stands is 13 kms. from Thekkady and can be approached by a jeep road. This peak commands a panoramic view of the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats and the towns and villages of Tamil Nadu. Its charm is inexplicable. The presiding deity of the temple is Mahalakshmy, the divine consort of Vishnu and a symbol of "Moolaprakriti".

The Maheswari Temple at Vellappara

In the hectic days of the construction of Idukki Dam a sensational discovery was made of the idol of "Maheswari" from a large granite cellar on a hill, opposite the dam site. The temple is renovated and it has ever since become a busy centre of worship.

Sree Krishna Temple of Peermade

It was built by Sri Moolan Thirunal, the Maharaja of Travancore for worship near the summer palace of the Kings.

Ayyappancoil

The temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa at Ayyappancoil is submerged in the Idukki reservoir. A new temple is built near Kattappana and the idol of Lord Ayyappa from Ayyappancoil is conserved there.

Pir Mohammed Mausoleum

This mausoleum was built at Peermade by Rani Lakshmi Bai, the regent of Travancore in the first decade of this century. This was built on the burial ground of Pir Muhammed, a Sufi saint who attained *Samadhi* on the top of a high peak that over looks the sea. The mausoleum is a place of veneration for all communities. It is believed that the name Peermedu is derived from the mausoleum. (*Medu* means hill, Peermedu means hill of Peer).

Thenkasi Easwaran Coil

Located on the banks of Thalayar and half way in the Marayur-Kanthallur Road, this temple is 2000 years old. Lord Siva is the presiding deity and Sivarathri is celebrated every year.

Mount Carmel Church at Munoor

This belongs to the Vijayapuram diocese, Kottayam. Rev. Fr. Alphonse from Spain arrived at Munnar in 1854 as missionary and founded a chapel in 1898. The present church was built by Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonaventur in 1938. He was then the Bishop of Vijayapuram.

The Roman Catholic Church at Kumily

This church is a model for the new style of church building. The style has evolved more in Idukki district than anywhere in the State. Fr. Marinose was the designer and architect of the modern church at Kumily.

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Agriculture

The economy of Idukki is predominantly agricultural. Cardamom, tea, tapioca, rice, pepper, rubber, coconut, sugarcane, coffee, arecanut, ginger, lemon grass, and vegetables are the most important agricultural produces of the district.

Crop husbandry and animal husbandry are thus the main occupation of the people. Agriculturists and agricultural labourers constitute the bulk of the population. About ten per cent of the total population are estate labourers.

The total cultivated area in the district is 150,680 hectares. The total number of land holdings are 130,570. Thus the size of average holding comes to 1.07 hectares. Small and medium farmers dominate in the district. They possess 38 and 37 per cent of the total number of land holdings respectively.

Cardamom

"Cardamom small" botanically known as "*Elettaria Cardamomum*" is an export-oriented plantation crop, which is grown at an elevation of 600 to 1200 metres above m.s.l. under the shade of evergreen forests. It is cultivated in 56,376 hectares in Kerala of which 70 per cent is in the Idukki district. On an average Kerala contributes around 70 per cent of the national production of 'the Queen of Spices' in which also Idukki contributes the maximum share. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the Cardamom Board and the co-operation of cultivators and labourers the crop of cardamom has reached an all time high. In 79-80 the National production went up to the tune of 4,500 metric tonne which fetched foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 58 crores.

Tea

The tea bush is planted in 23,978 hectares. Most of the tea estates are located in Devicolam and Peermade taluks. The tea estates of Munnar are owned by large companies. But in Peermade and Vandanmedu areas there are small estates and small individual holdings. Kannan Devan in Devicolam Taluk and Malayalam Plantations in Peermade Taluk are the biggest tea estates in the district. The Kannan Devan Estate is now owned by the Tata Tea Company while the Malayalam Plantation is possessed by British nationals.

Tapioca

It is grown in 17,796 hectares. The main problem of Tapioca growers is the difficulty in marketing their produce. The discovery that silk-worm can grow on the leaves of tapioca and yield valuable silk yarn and the proposal to start a factory for manufacturing starch from tapioca may give a fillip to tapioca cultivation. At the same time rubber plantations are making considerable inroads into this sphere.

Rice

It is cultivated in 11,208 hectares. The rice fields of the district are basically double crop ones except in Vattavada and Kanthalloor. An additional 800 hectares will be brought under paddy cultivation. This is a part of the Mankulam Co-operative Farming Project, under the guidelines of the Western Ghat Development Scheme.

Coffee

It is grown in 4404 hectares. The cultivation of coffee provides an additional income to growers of other kinds of crops.

Sandal wood

It grows on 1600 hectares of forest land and also on titled and untitled holdings of private individuals in the Marayoor region of Devicolam Taluk. The sandal tree is declared as State property but extraction of sandal oil in commercial footing is yet to be started.

Coconut

All the yielding coconut plantations are in Thodupuzha taluk and in Kakkayar and Peruvanthanam panchayats of Peermade taluk.

Rubber

It is a rewarding crop and it is extensively cultivated in Peruvanthanam and Kokkayar panchayats of Peermade taluk and Muttom, Arakulam, Vannappuram, Kodikulam, Velliyamattom, Alakode and Karikode panchayats of Thodupuzha taluk.

Sugarcane

It is grown in Marayur and Kanthallur.

Irrigation

There are no major irrigation projects in the district. The Malankara Irrigation Dam meant to impound the tail-waters of the Idukki Project would irrigate the western portion of Thodupuzha taluk. However the benefits of the project would largely accrue to Ernakulam and Kottayam districts. The ground water resources of the district as a whole are reported to be very poor except in certain localities.

Animal Husbandry

The whole district, especially the high land region is highly suited for economic dairy farming. This is made possible by the availability of fodder and vast areas of pastures for free grazing of cattle and buffaloes. There are about 1,400 hectares of land under permanent pastures besides the forest lands. Cattle can be fed with fodder, mainly green grass which can be collected from pastures or they can be let to free grazing in the pastures. There were 40 veterinary institutions, ie., three veterinary polyclinics, one artificial insemination centre, two mobile farm aid units, one mobile veterinary hospital, one clinical laboratory, 30 veterinary hospitals, one veterinary dispensary and one district poultry farm in the district. Also artificial insemination facilities are available in twenty-five centres.

Indo-Swiss Project

The Indo-Swiss Project now merged with the Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board has done admirable work in the field of economic dairy farming in the district. This project came into being during the later half of 1963 on the basis of a bilateral agreement executed between the Swiss Confederation and the Government of India. The headquarters of the project is at Mattupetty in Deviscolam Taluk. It is located at an elevation of 1700 metres and 15 kms away from Munnar. The overall control of the project is now vested with the newly formed Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board. The extension unit of the project located at Kolahalamedu near Elappara in Peermade taluk serves as a supporting bul

mother farm. Also the Regional Semen Bank is functioning at Base Station, Kolahalamedu. The Indo-Swiss Project has evolved the Swiss Brown cross breed of cattle suited for the State. New and intensive programme is being launched to improve the breed of the local cattle. There are about 86 artificial insemination centres in the district, and through them the breed improvement programme is being carried out. The functions of the State Dairy Development Department, the Animal Husbandry Department and K.L.D. and M.M. Board are identical in nature. The highland region is also suited for economic goat rearing.

POWER PRODUCTION

Eighty per cent of the power production of Kerala is from Idukki district which is generated from the different hydro-electric projects scattered in the high ranges of the district.

Idukki Hydro Electric Project

It consists of three major dams. The Idukki Arch Dam has been constructed across Periyar River in a narrow gorge between two granite hills. It is 550 ft. high and at the base its thickness is 65 ft. This is a double curvature Arch Dam and in regard to height it comes second in the country. Not far off from the Idukki Arch Dam, across river Cheruthony is built a concrete gravity Dam. It is known as Cheruthony Dam and its height is 454 ft. The spill way of the Idukki Reservoir is the Cheruthony Dam. To prevent the water escape through a rivulet, called 'Kilivally', 30 kms west of Idukki Arch Dam, a free masonry dam, is constructed across Kilivally at Kulamavu. It is 328 ft. high.

The water impounded by these three dams has formed a single reservoir spread over 36 miles on a height of 2300 ft. above m.s.l. Along a power tunnel from the Kulamavu basin water flows to the pressure shafts in the underground power house beneath Nadukani hills at Moolamattom. In the power house there are three huge generators of 130 M.W. capacity each. After the generation of electricity water flows through a 4000 ft. long tunnel to a tributary of Thoduduzha river. The Idukki Project was completed with the economic and technological assistance of Canada in accordance with the Colombo Plan of Commonwealth Countries.

The installed capacity of the Idukki underground power house at Moolamattom is being increased by 390 MW under Idukki Stage II works. The Stage II works envisage installation of three additional generating units of 130 MW capacity each with their controlled equipment.

Kallar-Irattayar Division Scheme

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To augment the catchment of Idukki reservoir and to increase the power generation at the power station, the waters of Kallar and Irattayar will be diverted to the reservoir. A forebay dam of storage capacity 280 Mc. ft. is being constructed across river Kallar. The water will be diverted to Irattayar forebay through 8975 feet long unlined tunnel. At Irattayar also a small diversion dam of 189 Mc. feet storage capacity is being constructed. The waters of Irattayar and Kallar will then be diverted to the Idukki reservoir through an unlined tunnel of 12,375 feet length. At present an earthen bund has been put up near the entrance of Irattayar Idukki tunnel and a portion of the water is being diverted to Idukki Reservoir through the Irattayar-Idukki tunnel.

Pallivasal-Stage I

The first hydro-power station in the State utilising the waters of the Mudirapuzha river was commissioned in 1939 at Pallivasal with an installed capacity of 13,500 kw. The acute power shortage as a result of increased industrial activities during the war-time necessitated the second stage development of the Pallivasal Project.

Pallivasal-Stage II

Under this stage a storage Dam was constructed at Mattupatty across Mudirapuzha for regulation of water supply to the power station and two sets of 7500 kw. each were installed. During the first Five Year Plan one unit of 7500 kw. and three more units of 5000 kw. each were installed. The storage capacities of Kundle and Mattupetty reservoirs are 270 Mc. feet and 1950 Mc. feet respectively. A barrage built across the river at Munnar diverts the water through a tunnel 10,235 feet long and through four pipe lines to a power station on the right bank of the river at Pallivasal. This water is used to generate 32.5 mw power.

Sengulam Hydro-Electric Project

Under this scheme which was completed during the First Five Year Plan, the tail water from the Pallivasal Power Station is led along a 2000 feet long open channel to a pump house forebay. Water is pumped from this forebay to the inlet of a 5700 feet long tunnel which takes water to four generating units of 1200 kw. each. The power generation at this station is 21.25 mw.

Neriyamangalam Hydro-Electric Project

The project utilises the tail waters of Sengulam Power Station and Panniar Power Station and the excess catchment of the Mudirapuzha river below

Munnar. The diversion dam constructed across Mudirapuzha at Kallar-kutty has a live storage capacity of 230 Mc. feet. The power station is at Panamkutty, a little downstream of the confluence of Mudirapuzha with Pcriyar river. The power generation capacity of this station is 27 m.w.

Panniyar Hydro-Electric Project

It is developed on Panniar, a tributary of the Mudirapuzha river. Two reservoirs, an upper reservoir at Anayirankal and a lower reservoir at Ponmudi have storage capacity of 1730 Mc. feet and 1674 Mc. feet respectively. The water is led through a 9615 feet long tunnel and two 2495 feet long pipe lines to a power station situated on the left bank of Mudirapuzha opposite to Sengulam Power Station. The power generation is below 10 mw. Now a scheme known as Panniyar augmentation scheme has been formulated to augment the capacity of the project. It envisages the construction of three diversion structures connected by three unlined tunnels of minimum diameter to divert the waters from a total catchment area of 89.92 sq. kms. to the Panniyar reservoir. By this diversion increased power generation can be achieved in the existing power station.

Lower Periyar Hydro-Electric Project

This scheme envisages utilisation of the tail waters from the existing Neriyanamangalam Power Station and the spill from Kallarkutty head works, the available yield from the Perinjankutty catchment and the yield contributed by the free catchment area below the dam at Kallarkutty, Perinjankutty (proposed only) and Idukki. The project when completed will add an installed capacity of 180 mw. with a firm power of 56.3 mw. to the Kerala southern regional grid.

Industries

Idukki district is industrially backward, despite generation of large quantum of power. Government of India has declared the district as "No Industry District." Lack of infrastructural facilities, vastness and the resulting remoteness of the district and the diversity in climate are all factors which hurdle the establishment and growth of industries in the district. At present there are 485 registered small scale industrial units functioning in this district.

<i>Name of Industry</i>	<i>No. of units</i>
Agro-based	94
Forest-based	68
Textile-based	56
Chemical-based	57
Engineering and allied-based	92
Building ceramics paste	16
Miscellaneous	102

There are four milk chilling plants in Idukki. But the main difficulty in processing milk into milk products is the lack of transportation facilities to take them to the marketing centres. With the development of better transporting facilities the surplus milk in the district can be used for making cheese, butter and milk powder.

Transport and Communications

The Indian Railway does not touch the district of Idukki so also is the National Highway. The Cochin-Munnar Road, Kottayam-Kumily Road, Thodupuzha—Idukki Road and Kumily-Munnar Road are the major roads in the district. Jeeps are the chief means of conveyance. There are six state high ways (274.969 kms) and 55 major district roads (534.505 kms) in the district.

Post and Telegraph Offices

Head post offices	2
Sub post offices	78
Branch post offices	188
Telegraph offices	83
Public call offices	83

Now STD facility is available from the district Head Quarters at Painavu to other places outside the district. STD Code number to Idukki is 04853.

Education

Educational facilities are very poorly developed in the district. Kuttampuzha, Vattavada and Kanthalloor of Devicolam Taluk, Udumbanchola Chinnakkanal, Senapathy, Erattayaar. Kamakshi and Vathikkudy of Udumbanchola Taluk and Kanjikkuzhy of Thodupuzha Taluk are Panchayats lacking educational facilities especially at secondary level.

There are 120 High Schools, 300 Primary Schools, four Junior Colleges, one Degree college, two Junior technical schools, one polytechnic and one I.T.I. in the district.

Medical Facilities

Medical amenities are poor in the highland region. The tea estate companies maintain their hospitals and dispensaries where outsiders are also treated now. There are 48 Government (Allopathic) hospitals and dispensaries in the district. 16 Government Homoeo hospitals and dispensaries and 22 Ayurvedic institutions also function in the district.

Trade

There are about 12,000 trading concerns majority of which are dealing mainly in consumer goods. Public markets number 38 and private markets 10.

Idukki Township

Idukki is not a region to be disfigured, bulldozed and terraced without proper environmental planning. Normal techniques of urban development cannot be superimposed on Idukki. How best the environmental assets of Idukki can be protected from a possible ecological disaster depends on the concept of spatial and regional planning. The department of Town Planning and Idukki Development Authority have taken up these challenges in the preparation of a development plan for Idukki.

The district headquarters covering an area of 32 sq.kms. is a 'test-tube town', to be cultured and nurtured with utmost care and suitable policies. The concept of planning is based on a "galaxial pattern" being Kuyilimalai, Painavu, Vellappara, Paramavu, Cheruthoni, Vazhathoppu, Periyar and Nayarupara selected as the "galaxial centres". About 475 hectares of land are demarcated for the various sectoral developments like public and semi-public commercial, industrial, tourism, recreational, transport and residential development.

Other Rural Centres

Thodupuzha, Kattappana, Munnar, Adimali, Kumily, Thekkady, Nedumkandom and Peermade are the other major settlements which require comprehensive development. They need proper land use planning and infrastructure development to arrest the present trends of encroachment and unchecked migrations to the reserved forests and to ensure the environmental quality of the region.

Tourism

With its matchless scenic beauty the district has tremendous tourist potentialities. The Periyar Wild Life Sanctury at Thekkady is in the district and it ranks the foremost among the places of tourist attractions in Kerala.

Organised around the Periyar Lake, formed by the damming of the Periyar river, this tourist paradise, cushioned into the Virgin jungle of the Western Ghats, can never fail to strike any tourist as a spot of unrivalled sylvan splendour. The sanctuary for wild game spreads over an area of 673 sq.kms. and is located at a height of 900 to 1800 metres above mean sea level. The cruise on the lake itself is an experience. Though the lake covers a large area, in many parts it appears to end just round the next bend. Then as the motor launch wends its way further the tourist gasps with wonder as he sees the lake suddenly grow, as it were, into a large expanse or into a vista of an endless fringe of bays and curves.

The wild animals generally seen are elephants, bisons, sambur, monkeys and wild bear. There are tigers foraging in the area but to have a glimpse of them is a matter of luck for the visitors. However, on a sunny summer day, herds of wild elephants numbering sometimes fifty or sixty are sure to be seen grazing on the hills or bathing in the lake. The bisons, however are a wary and hardy lot and hardly ever allow any intruder to approach them. The noise of the cruising boat is picked by their sensitive ears and they withdraw. At certain places beside the lake there are observation towers. Those who are staying at Thekkady for a few days can make use of these towers for watching the animals.

A visit to this sanctuary offers many sided attractions. Some of the famous tea gardens are located around this place. Peermade, 43 kms. below Thekkady on the road to Kottayam, provides opportunity for a delightful golf-course, and if a stopover is desired, the Tourist Bungalow at Peermade offers excellent facilities and good cuisine. The folds of hillock are delectable for hike and trek.

The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation has provided different types of accommodation for visitors. They can choose either the western style hotel Aranya Nivas at Thekkady or the Edappalayam Tourist Bungalow which is located right inside the sanctuary. The Periyar House at Thekkady is an economy-type lodging and catering especially to group tours and is located near the Aranya Nivas Hotel. Boat-cruising on Idukki reservoir too is a pleasant experience. The different colours of the forest glades changing with the shifting sun and shade make the land around the reservoir a strange world. Munnar town is a summer resort. The English Club there, is a remnant of its bygone glory. Three rivulets namely Mudirapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala joint together to form "Munnar" (three rivers) near the town. The peak of Anamudi atop Rajamalai is another centre for tourists to visit. Trekking the peak is very strenuous but when one is top of it the light airs there would soon ease him. From there one can see the sea around Cochin, the entire Cochin City, and on the east the slopes of the western ghats descend to the vast dry plains of Tamil Nadu. Watching the striped goat is an attraction here.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Idukki

This is the area surrounding the Idukki Arch Dam. It comprises portions of the Vazhathope and Mariyapuram Panchayats. Besides the Idukki Arch Dam, the first of its kind in India and the Cheruthoni Dam, the place has abundant natural beauty in its glades and dales. Tourist amenities are yet to be developed. A township is planned here and is being executed. It will have separate locations for Government Offices, quarters, shopping centres and so on.

Kulamave

Deep-set in the cool forest, Kulamavu is a colony of the K.S.E. Board, blessed with natural beauty and a salubrious climate. The Kulamavu Dam is located here.

Moolamattom

The underground power house of the Idukki hydro electric project is situated here. It is at the foot of the Nadukani hills.

Thekkady

Foremost among the places of tourist attractions in Kerala, the Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary is spread over an area of 673 sq. kms. Organized around the Periyar Lake, formed by the damming of the Periyar river, this is indeed a tourist paradise.

Munnar

This was the summer resort of the British Government in the South. The town is situated on the confluence of three rivulets Muthirappuzha (Kannimallay) Nallathanni and Kundala. They together make 'Munnar' near the town.

Pallivasal

The first Power Station of the erstwhile Travancore State was constructed here on the Muthirappuzha river.

Marayur

This remote village on the eastern slopes of the Western ghats, is in the outskirts of Munnar. The relics of new stone-age civilization have been

unearthed here. It is the only place in Kerala having a natural growth of the sandal tree. Chinnar Wild Life Sanctuary is an attractive tourist spot.

Mattupetty

Fifteen kms. away from Munnar, it is at an elevation of 1700 metres. The Indo-Swiss Project devoted to the improvement of the cattle breed functions here.

Peermade

The headquarters of the Taluk with the same name, has a hoary past. The summer palace of the erstwhile Raja's of Travancore is an important monument here.

DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS IN THE DISTRICT

<i>Name of Blocks</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Area Sq. Kms.</i>
1. Arudai	Peermade	153,341	1236.20
2. Adimali	Adimali	119,641	1052.23
3. Devicolam	Devicolam	118,936	994.49
4. Elamdesom	Elamdesom	105,787	186.30
5. Idukki	Vazhathoppu	101,511	735.06
6. Kattappana	Kattappana	139,706	373.10
7. Nedumkandom	Nedumkandom	121,859	341.89
8. Thodupuzha	Kolani	65,538	129.96

PANCHAYATS IN THE DISTRICT

<i>Name of Panchayat</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Area Sq. Kms.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Bison Valley	9,457	44.03
2. Konnathady	28,354	93.08
3. Kuttampuzha	18,890	543.07
4. Mannamkandam	24,814	271.53
5. Pallivasal	14,771	62.40
6. Vellathooval	23,355	48.12

(1)	(2)	(3)
7. Elappara	25,263	83.63
8. Kokkayar	11,745	55.91
9. Kumily	34,918	816.72
10. Pecer made	24,161	114.75
11. Peruvamthanam	17,389	57.36
12. Vandiperiyar	39,865	107.83
13. Chinnakkanal	9,884	66.74
14. Kanthalloor	8,140	116.29
15. Marayoor	6,970	108.07
16. Munnar	78,833	556.87
17. Santhanpara	11,555	78.71
18. Vattavada	3,554	67.81
19. Alakkode	8,519	22.54
20. Karimannoor	18,696	33.33
21. Kodikkulam	12,369	18.92
22. Kudayathur	11,397	27.64
23. Udubannoor	19,241	30.94
24. Vannappuram	19,214	23.28
25. Velliyamattom	16,351	29.65
26. Arakkulam	21,609	194.25
27. Kamakshy	17,855	32.38
28. Idukki, Kanjikuzhy	20,673	227.51
29. Mariyapuram	9,872	28.33
30. Vathikkudy	24,004	80.90
31. Vazhathoppu	7,498	171.69
32. Ayyappancoil	10,408	42.80
33. Chakkupallam	16,616	40.71
34. Irattayar	18,765	32.37
35. Kanchiyar	21,096	64.65
36. Kattappana	28,226	52.77
37. Uputhara	21,248	71.62
38. Vandanmettu	23,347	68.18
39. Karunapuram	28,134	53.21
40. Nedumkandom	30,366	71.95
41. Pampadumpara	14,818	36.19
42. Rajakkadu	15,792	31.03
43. Rajakumari	10,695	38.15
44. Senapathy	10,616	31.22
45. Udumbanchola	11,438	80.14
46. Karikkode	9,980	18.43
47. Karimkunnam	11,408	22.67
48. Kumaramangalam	11,399	20.05
49. Manakkal	11,898	19.85
50. Muttam	9,741	25.44
51. Purappuzha	11,112	23.52

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

S. T. D. CODE TO IDUKKI -04853

	<i>Office</i>	<i>Residence</i>
1. District Collector	202	303
2. District Superintendent of Police	355	345
3. District Supply Officer	321	322
4. District Medical Officer (Health)	379	
5. District Information Officer	236	
6. District Hospital (Painavu)	349	

Where to Stay

	<i>Phone</i>
Guest House, Munnar	385
Guest House, Peermade	71
P.W.D. Rest House, Painavu	323
" " Nedunkandom	
" " Kattappana	
" " Thekkady	15
" " Munnar	257
" " Thodupuzha	2205
" " Kuttikkanam (Peermade)	

Aranya Nivas
Periyar House

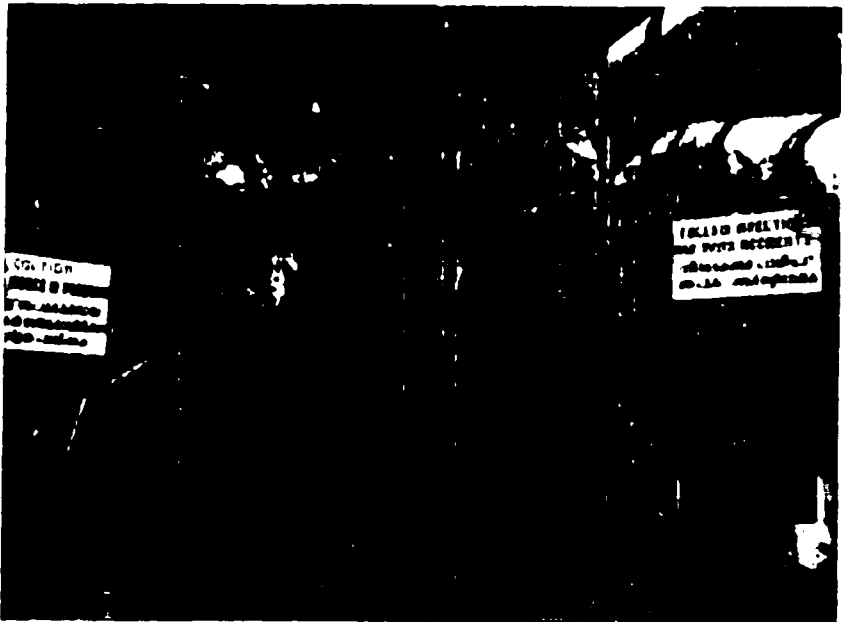
Thekkady
Thekkady

IDUKKI AT A GLANCE

District Head Quarters	Painavu
Area	5,061 Sq. km.
Population	971,636
Density of Population	192 Per sq. km.
Male	4,94,999
Female	4,76,637
Rural Population	9,27,007
Urban Population	44,629
Sex Ratio	963 females per 1000 males
Percentage of Literacy	67.44
No. of Taluks	4
No. of Development Blocks	8
No. of Panchayats	51
No. of Municipalities	1 Thodupuzha
No. of Townships	1 Idukki Township
Major Rural Centers	7 (Kumily, Peermade, Munnar, Kattappana, Nedumkandom Adimali, Deicolam)
Most populous Panchayat	Munnar (78,833)
Least populous Panchayat	Vattavada (3,554)



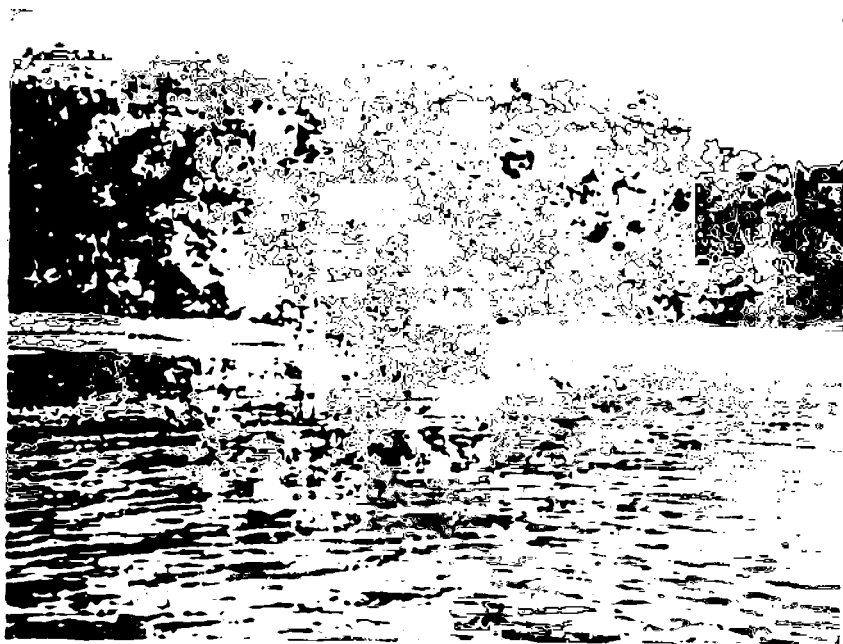
Arch Dam-Idukki



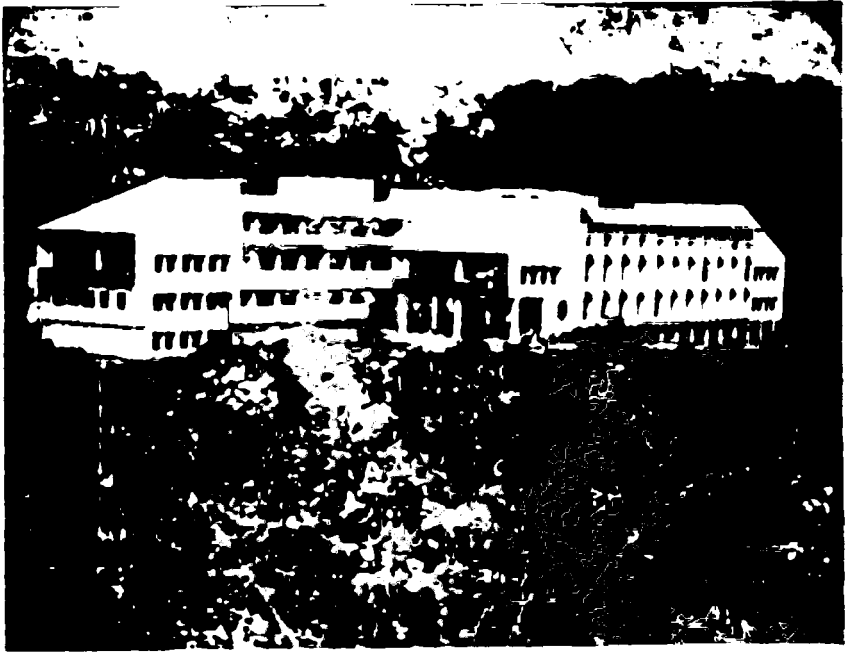
Moolamattom Tunnel



Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary—Thekkady



Periyar Lake - Thekkady



Civil station - Painavu



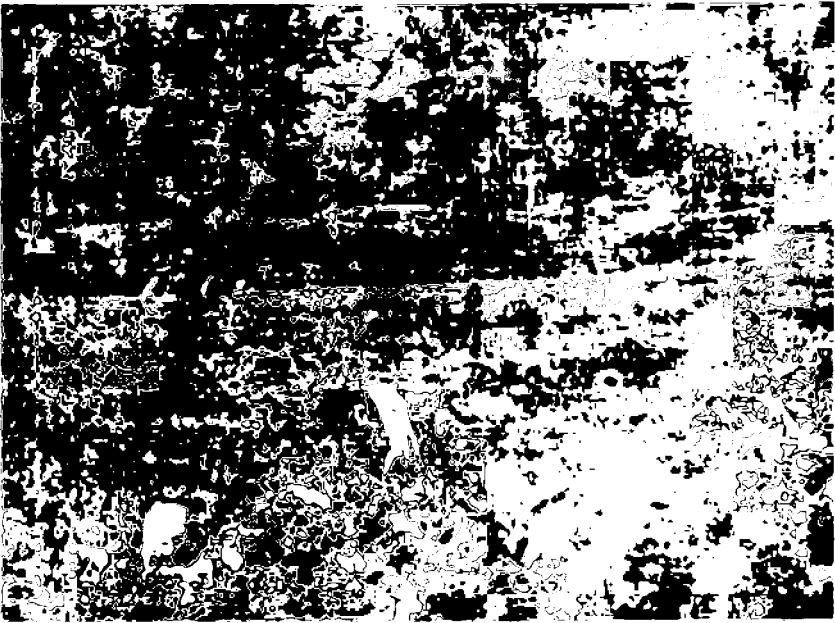
Aranya Nivas - Thekkady



Indo-Swiss Project Mattupetty



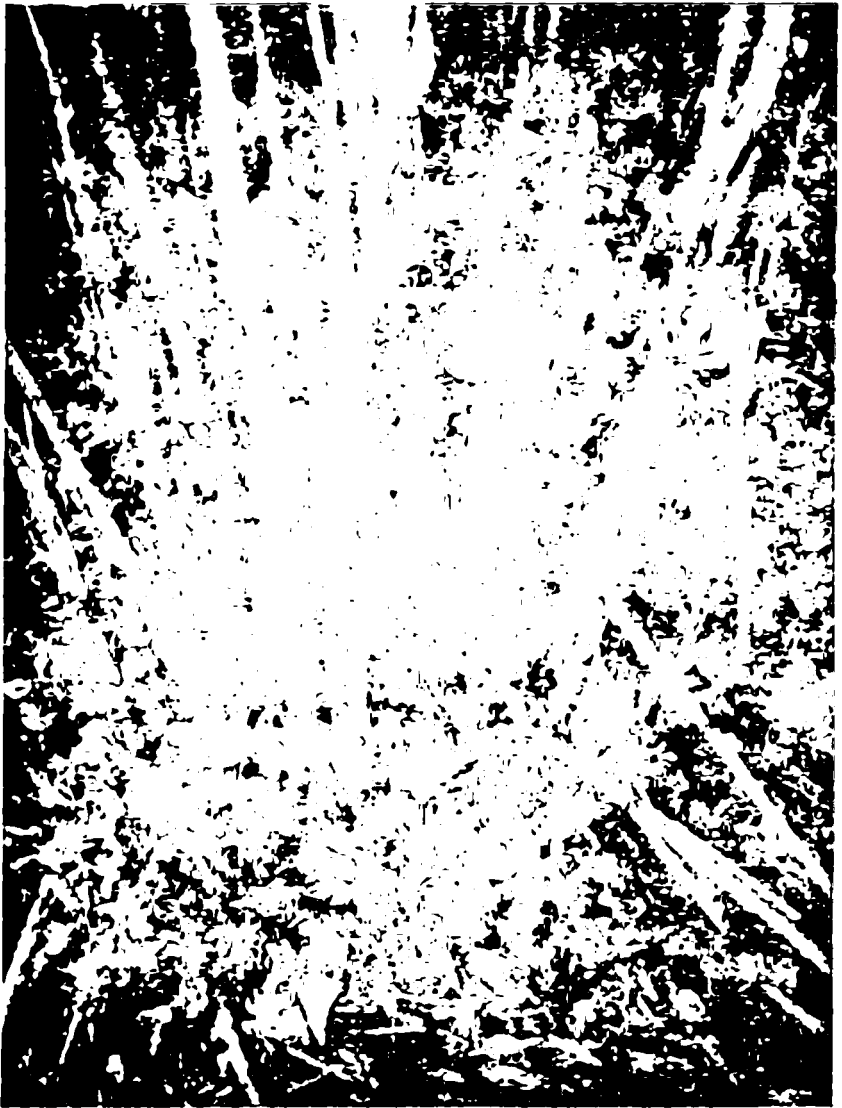
Sandal Woods—Marayur



Tea Plantations—Peermade



Coilkadavu Temple—Maroyur



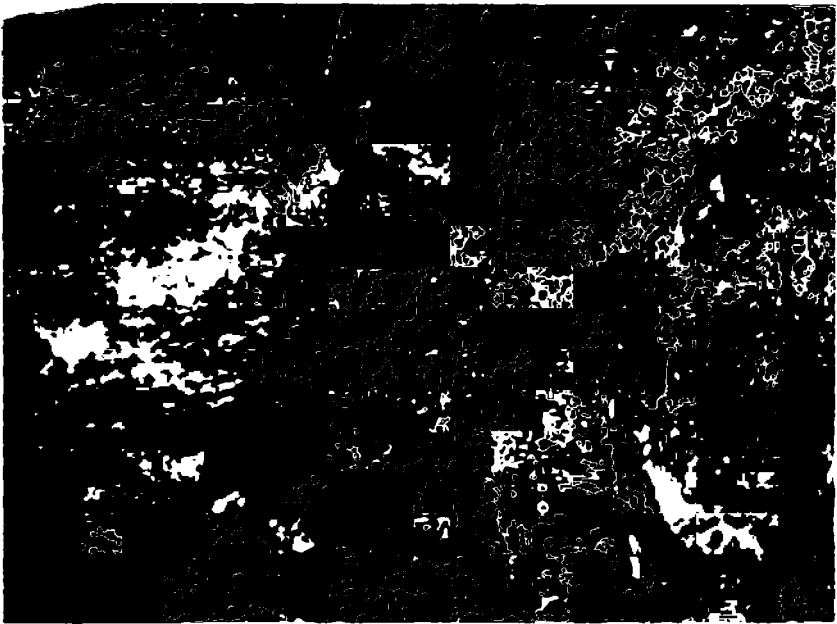
Cardamom Plantation—Idukki



Roman Catholic Church—Kumily



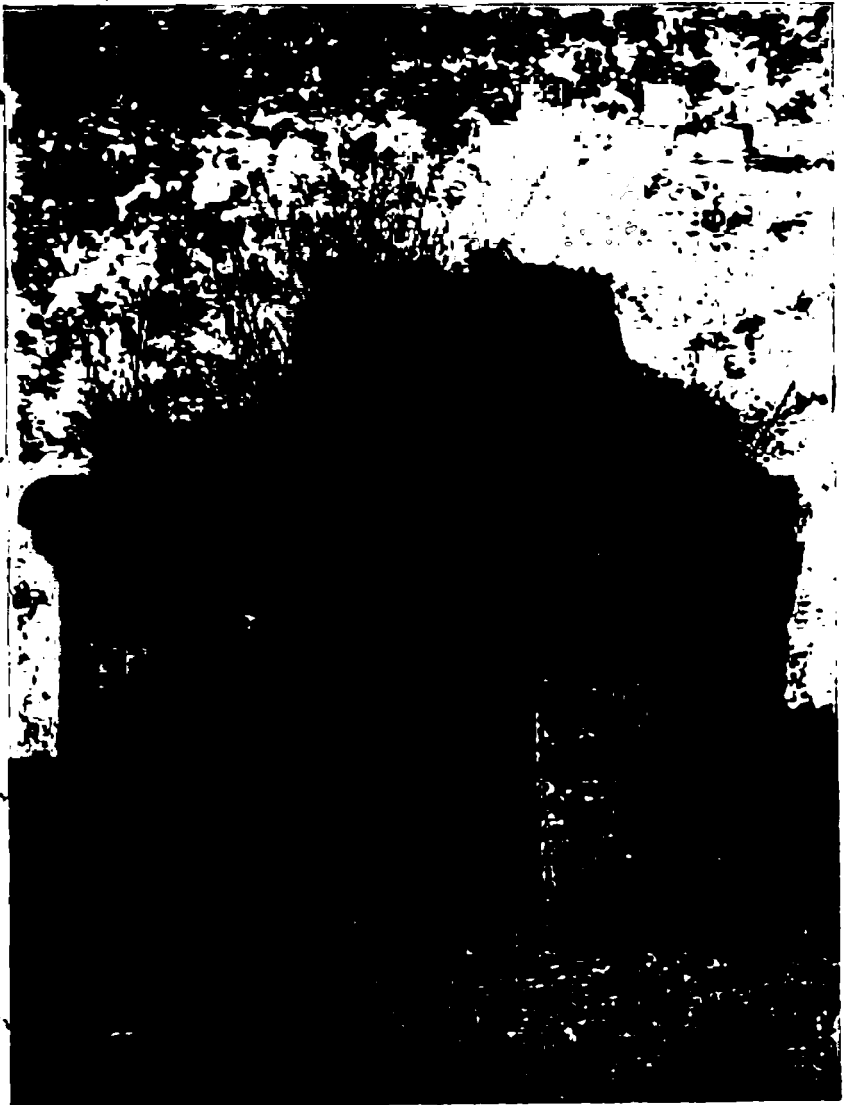
Mount Carmel Church—Munnar



Marayur Caves—(Muniyara)



Pir Mohammed—Mausoleum—Peerumade

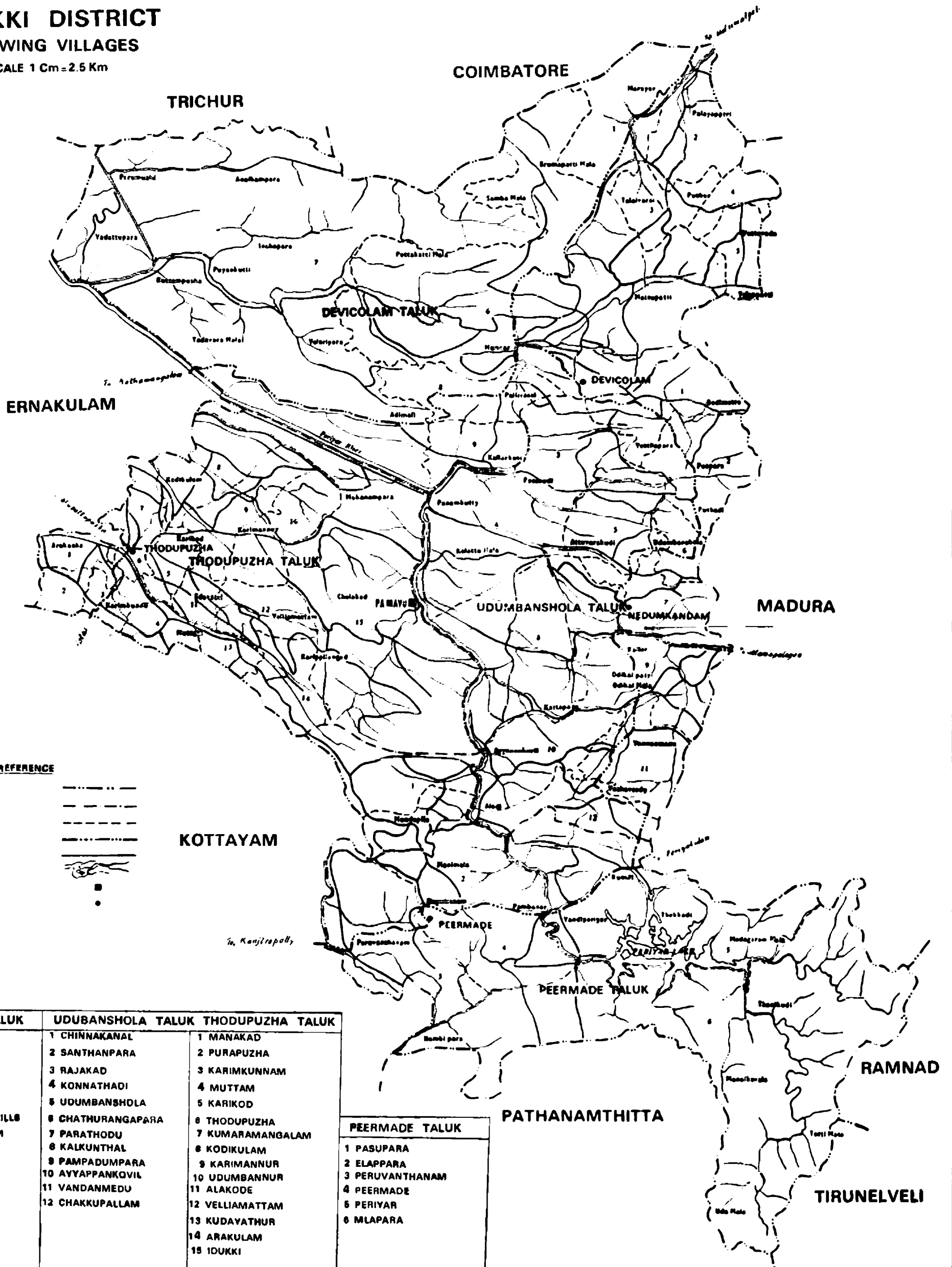


Mangala Devi Temple-Thekkady

IDUKKI DISTRICT

SHOWING VILLAGES

SCALE 1 Cm = 2.5 Km



REFERENCE

- District Boundary: - - - - -
- Taluk Boundary: - - - - -
- Village Boundary: - - - - -
- State Highway: - - - - -
- Other Roads: - - - - -
- River & Stream:
- District headquarters:
- Taluk Headquarters:

DEVICOLAM TALUK	UDUMBANSHOLA TALUK	THODUPUZHA TALUK
1 MARAYUR	1 CHINNAKANAL	1 MANAKAD
2 KEEZHANTHUR	2 SANTHANPARA	2 PURAPUZHA
3 KANTHALLOOR	3 RAJAKAD	3 KARIMKUNNAM
4 KOTTAKOMBU	4 KONNATHADI	4 MUTTAM
5 VATTAVADA	5 UDUMBANSHOLA	5 KARIKOD
6 KANNANDEVAN HILLS	6 CHATHURANGAPARA	6 THODUPUZHA
7 MANNAMKANDAM	7 PARATHODU	7 KUMARAMANGALAM
8 PALLIVASAL	8 KALKUNTHAL	8 KODIKULAM
9 VELLATHUVAL	9 PAMPADUMPARA	9 KARIMANNUR
	10 AYYAPPANKOVIL	10 UDUMBANNUR
	11 VANDANMEDU	11 ALAKODE
	12 CHAKKUPALLAM	12 VELLIAMATTAM
		13 KUDAYATHUR
		14 ARAKULAM
		15 IDUKKI

PEERMADE TALUK
1 PASUPARA
2 ELAPPARA
3 PERUVANTHANAM
4 PEERMADE
5 PERIYAR
6 MLAPARA