

**DISTRICT  
HANDBOOKS OF KERALA**

Thiruvananthapuram



Department of Information & Public Relations  
Government of Kerala

# District Handbooks of Kerala

## Thiruvananthapuram

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## Foreword

A series of developments and changes over the last few years has necessitated the revision and updation of the District Handbooks of Kerala.

The Department's web site [www.prd.kerala.gov.in](http://www.prd.kerala.gov.in) and government's web portal [www.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kerala.gov.in) are also being maintained with updated data.

I hope that this book with its basic information about Thiruvananthapuram would cater to the requirements of the tourists as well as the general public.

Thiruvananthapuram,  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

G. Rajasekharan IAS  
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Department of Information and Public Relations,  
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The name 'Thiruvananthapuram' means *Thiru Ananda Puram*, the abode of the sacred snake-God *Ananthan*, on whom *Vishnu*, the God of Preservation is believed to be reclining. The old name Trivandrum is an anglicized form of the word Thiruvananthapuram.

### A BRIEF HISTORY

Thiruvananthapuram city and several other places in the district, occupies an important place in ancient tradition, folklores and literature of the State. South Kerala, particularly Thiruvananthapuram district, had a political and cultural history in the early past, which was in some respect independent from that of the rest of Kerala.

The *Ays* were the leading political power till the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The disappearance of the *Ays*, synchronised with the emergence of the rulers of *Venad*. In 1684, during the regency of Umayamma Rani, the English East India Company obtained a sandy piece of land at Anchuthengu (Anjengo) on the sea coast, about 32 kms north of Thiruvananthapuram city,

for erecting a factory and fortifying it. The place had earlier been frequented by the Portuguese and later by the Dutch.



*Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple where the presiding deity of the Travancore Kingdom reclines benignly.*

It was from here that the English gradually extended their domain to

other parts of Thiruvithamcore anglicised as Travancore.

Modern history begins with Maharaja Marthanda Varma who reigned from 1729 to 1758 A.D and is generally regarded as the *Father of modern Travancore*. Thiruvananthapuram was known as a great centre of intellectual and artistic activity in those days. The accession of Maharaja



*The Kuthiramalika Palace of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal.*

Swathi Thirunal who reigned from 1829 to 1847 A.D., ushered in an epoch of cultural progress and economic prosperity. The beginning of English education was marked in 1834 by the opening of an English school at Thiruvananthapuram. An observatory and a charity hospital were also established here in 1836.

During the reign of Maharaja Ayilyam Thirunal (1860-1880), a fulfilled Arts College was started here besides the several English, Malayalam and Tamil schools, all over the State. A large hospital with lying-in-facility and a lunatic asylum were also established in Thiruvananthapuram. The University College was started in 1873. It was during the reign of Sri. Moolam Thirunal (1885-1924), that the Sanskrit College, Ayurveda College, Law College and a second grade College for Women were started here. A department for the preservation and publication of oriental manuscripts was also established.



*The University College - Almamater of many literary, social, cultural and political leaders of the State*

One of the significant aspects associated with Maharaja Sree Moolam

Thirunal's reign was the inauguration of the Legislative Council in 1888. This was the first legislative chamber, instituted in an Indian State. The Sri. Moolam Assembly came into being in 1904.

The activities of the Indian National Congress echoed in Thiruvananthapuram and other parts of Kerala during the reign of Maharaja Sree Moolam Thirunal. A political conference of the Congress was held in the city under the presidency of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaiah, in 1938.

The period of Maharaja Sri. Chitra Thirunal Bala Rama Varma who took the reigns of administration in 1931, witnessed many-sided progress. The promulgation of the *Temple Entry Proclamation* (1936) was an act that underlined social emancipation. In 1937, a separate University for Travancore was started. This was later re-designated as the *University of Kerala*, following the formation of the State of Kerala in 1956.



*The University office building -  
A landmark in the capital.*

With the accession of Travancore to the Indian Union after Independence, the policy of the State Government as well as the political atmosphere underwent radical changes. The first popular ministry headed by Sri. Pattom A. Thanu Pillai was installed in office on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1948.

Consequent to the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission, the four southern taluks of Thovala, Agastheewaram, Kalkulam and Vilavancode were merged with Tamil Nadu and the State of Kerala came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1956.

## PHYSIOGRAPHY

Thiruvananthapuram, the southern most district of Kerala State is situated between north latitudes 8° 17' and 8° 54' and east longitudes 76° 41' and 77° 17'. The southern most extremity, Kaliyikkavila, is only 54 kms away from Kanyakumari (Cape Comarin), the *land's end of India*. The district stretches 78 kms. along the shores of the Arabian sea on the west, Kollam district lies on the

north with Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu on the east and the south respectively.

The district can be divided into three geographical regions; highlands, midlands and lowlands. Chirayinkeezhu and Thiruvananthapuram taluks lie in the midland and lowland regions, while Nedumangad taluk lies in midland and highland regions and Neyyattinkara taluk stretches over all the three regions.

The highland region on the east and north-east comprises of the mountains of the Western Ghats and this area is ideal for major cash crop plantations like rubber, tea, cardamom and other spices. Timber trees like teak, veetty (rose wood), etc are grown in this region.

The midland region, lying between the Western Ghats and the lowlands, is made up of small and tiny hills and valleys. This is an area of intense agricultural activity. This region is rich in produces like paddy, tapioca, spices and cashew.

The lowland is comparatively narrow, comprising of rivers, deltas and seashore. This area is densely covered with coconut palms.

The Ghats maintain an average elevation of 814 meters and Agastyakoodam, the southern most peak in the Ghats, is 1869 meters above sea level. It figures in the popular mythology connected with *Agastyamuni*, the sage. Mookkunnimala near Thiruvananthapuram (1074 meters) is an important health resort in the district.

### CLIMATE

The large forest reserves favourably affect the climate and induce rain. Cold weather is experienced in the mountain ranges whereas lower down, the weather is bracing and in the plains, it is generally hot.

Though the mean maximum temperature is only around 90°F, it is oppressive in the moisture-laden atmosphere of the plains. Humidity is high and rises to about 90 per cent during the south-west monsoon.

The average rainfall is around 150 cms per annum. It is significant that the district gets rainfall both from the south-west and the north-east monsoons. The south-west monsoon starts by the end of May/beginning of June, and fades out by September, while the north-east monsoon commences in October. Dry weather sets in by the end of December. December, January and February are

the coolest months of the year, March, April and May are generally hot.

During the months of April and May, the mean daily maximum temperature rises upto 35.2<sup>o</sup> celsius and during December-January, it sometimes goes down to 18.0<sup>o</sup> celsius.

### FLORA AND FAUNA

Thiruvananthapuram district is noted for its unique variety of flora and fauna. The district has a rich variety of plants ranging from rare orchids, medicinal plants and spices to hedge plants, tuber crops, plants yielding edible fruits and fibre. Aromatic plants and spices such as pepper and ginger are cultivated on a large scale on the hilly tracts. Nedumangad taluk is one of the biggest centres of cultivation and trade of pepper and other hill produces.

A major portion of the district comes under the middle plain and the region is under the cultivation of coconut, paddy, tapioca, tuber crops, plantains and vegetables.

The forests of the district abound in a variety of animals & birds and are excellent wild life habitats. Elephants, bisons, monkeys and rare species of reptiles have the place of prominence in them. The Neyyar reservoir and nearby areas abound in wild life. Nestled in the lap of the Western Ghats, a wild life sanctuary is fastly growing over an area of nearly 777 sq. kms. around this reservoir. The forest under the Kulathupuzha range is the habitat of rare species of snakes and lizards.

Mammals are well represented in the district. Nilgiri Langur (*Kasi Fobnii*), the Lion-tailed Macaque (*Macaca Silenus*), the Nilgiri brown mongoose (*Herpestes fuscus*) and the Malabar civet (*Moschothere Civettina*) are characteristic to this region. Carnivores include tiger, wild cat, jackal, leopard and wild dog. sloth gear, gaur, a few species of deer and elephants. are also seen. Reptiles include lizards, snakes, crocodiles and tortoises. There are about 75-80 species of snakes in this area and some of them are very poisonous.

### RIVERS

Among the three rivers in the district, the Neyyar (56 kms), the southernmost river of the State, has its origin in the Agasthyamala. Karamanayar (67 kms) and the Vamanapuram River have their origin from Chemunji Mottai of the Western Ghats.

Major back waters are Veli, Kadinamkulam, Anchuthengu and the Edava-Nadayara lakes. Besides these, there is a fresh water lake at Vellayani in Thiruvananthapuram taluk, which has the potential to become the major water sources of the district in future.

### POPULATION

According to the final figures of 2001 census, the population of the district is 32,34,356. The details are as below

Population	-	32,34,356
Males	-	15,69,917
Females	-	16,64,439
Sex Ratio	-	1058 ( <i>Females per 1000 males</i> )
Density of population	-	1476
Per capita Income	-	20,484
Literacy Rate - 89.36%	(Males - 92.68% & Females 86.26%)	

The population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes together is 3,91,750 which is 12.20 per cent of the total population of the district. Of this 3,70,857 are scheduled castes and 20,893 are scheduled tribes.

The most populated scheduled caste is Pulaya and Scheduled tribe is Kani.

The scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe colonies are provided with electricity and drinking water. As a result of the Special Component Plan/Tribal Sub Plan schemes, hundreds of families could be brought above the poverty line.

### Language

Malayalam is the mother tongue. People in Neyyattinkara taluk living adjacent to Tamil Nadu border, speak Malayalam mixed with Tamil.

### Religion and Caste

Hindus constitute the majority of the population followed by Christians and Muslims. The Hindu community lies grouped on the basis of castes and sub castes as elsewhere in the State. The Nairs, the Ezhavas, the scheduled castes and

tribes form the majority of the Hindu community. They worship all the major gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. Vishnu, Siva, Krishna, Ganapathi, Durga and Bhadrakali are the idols most worshipped.

Though Christianity is believed to have been introduced in Kerala in 52 A.D., the religion made progress only with the advent of the Portuguese towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Christians belong mainly to the Latin Catholic Church, the Church of South India and the Orthodox Syrian Church. The Muslim community also forms a major division of the total population.

Economic, social and other ties bind the members of different religious groups at the local level. People live in peace and amity, influencing and being influenced by the culture of one another.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

More than 50 percent of the total population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agricultural labourers constitute 42 percent of the total labour class. Most of the people are engaged in low remunerative pursuits which require very little capital.

Political and social consciousness, coupled with the efforts of the social, religious and cultural leaders, have helped to pull down the age-old feudal order. Economic changes have also affected the social life and attitude of the people.

### ADMINISTRATION



*The Kerala Government Secretariat building – the seat of the State administration. This imposing building in the lines of Roman-Dutch architecture, was built during the reign of H.H. Ayilyam Thirunal Rama Varma, Maharaja of Travancore who reigned from 1860 to 1880.*

The headquarters of the district administration is at Vanchiyoor in Thiruvananthapuram, 1.5 kms from the Government Secretariat and the Central Railway Station. The district administration is headed by the District Collector. He is assisted by Five Deputy Collectors holding charges of

general matters, land acquisition, revenue recovery, land reforms and election.

The District Collector also holds the charge of the District Magistrate and is assisted by the Additional District Magistrate (Deputy Collector, General) and the Revenue Divisional Officer. The district has only one revenue division, which is headed by the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO). He is also the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.



**The Kerala Legislature Complex** - The new Assembly Block was inaugurated at the Legislature Complex on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1998 by the then President Mr. K.R. Narayanan.

There are four taluks, namely, Neyyattinkara, Thiruvananthapuram, Nedumangad and Chirayinkeezh, each headed by a Tahsildar.

There are 120 villages under the 4 taluks of the district. The names of the taluks, their head quarters & the Villages under them are given below.

Name of Taluks	Head quarters	No. of Villages
1. Neyyattinkara	Neyyattinkara	29
2. Thiruvananthapuram	Thiruvananthapuram	30
3. Nedumangad	Nedumangad	28
4. Chirayinkeezhu	Attingal	33

## Names of Villages in Taluks

### Neyyattinkara

1. Neyyattinkara	7. Kollayil	13. Parassala
2. Athiyanoor	8. Perumpazhuthoor	14. Karode
3. Thirupuram	9. Vizhinjam	15. Parasuvaikal
4. Karumkulam	10. Kanjiramkulam	16. Kunnathukal
5. Kottukaal	11. Kulathoor	17. Vellarada
6. Pallichal	12. Chenkal	18. Anaavoor

19. Amboori	23. Marukil	27. Vilavoorkkal
20. Perumkadavila	24. Maranalloor	28. Kallikadu
21. Keezharoor	25. Kulathummal	29. Ottashekaramangalam
22. Vilappil	26. Vazhichal	

### Thiruvananthapuram

1. Kadakampally	11. Pattom	21. Ayirooppara
2. Pettah	12. Nemom	22. Keezhthonnackal
3. Muttathara	13. Thiruvallom	23. Pallippuram
4. Manacaud	14. Sasthamangalam	24. Veyiloor
5. Vanchiyoor	15. Kowdiyar	25. Ulloor
6. Thycaud	16. Venganoor	26. Uliyazhathura
7. Thirumala	17. Kalliyoar	27. Pangappara
8. Vattiyoorkavu	18. Melthonnackal	28. Cheruvackal
9. Peroorkada	19. Andoorkonam	29. Attipra
10. Kudappanakkunnu	20. Kadinamkulam	30. Kazhakkuttom

### Nedumangad

1. Tholicode	11. Kallara	21. Nedumangad
2. Veeranakavu	12. Vamanapuram	22. Vembayam
3. Manoorkara	13. Pullampara	23. Karakulam
4. Uzhamalackal	14. Thenoor	24. Koliyakode
5. Aryanad	15. Kurupuzha	25. Karippoore
6. Vithura	16. Pangode	26. Aruvikara
7. Vellanad	17. Nellanad	27. Vattappara
8. Perumkulam	18. Anad	28. Thekkada
9. Peringamala	19. Manickal	
10. Palode	20. Panavoor	

### Chirayinkeezh

1. Azhoor	7. Avanavanchery	13. Vettur
2. Keezhvillom	8. Keezhattingal	14. Cherummiyoar
3. Koonthallur	9. Vakkam	15. Varkala
4. Sarkara	10. Kadakkavur	16. Idava
5. Attingal	11. Manampur	17. Ayinoor
6. Chirayinkeezhu	12. Ottur	18. Chemmaruthy

19. Navaikulam	24. Kudavoor	29. Alamkode
20. Pullikkal	25. Naganoor	30. Pulimath
21. Madavoor	26. Kaduvazhanoor	31. Ilampa
22. Pazhayakunnummal	27. Vellallor	32. Mudakkal
23. Kilimanoor	28. Karavaram	33. Edakkode

## Panchayats

Consequent to the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the Constitution and the new Panchayat Raj-Nagarapalika Act, the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act came into being on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1994.

Thiruvananthapuram district has one district panchayat, 12 block panchayats and 78 grama panchayats.

### District Panchayat Thiruvananthapuram

### Block Panchayats

1.Parassala,	7.Vellanad
2.Perumkadavila	8.Nedumangad
3.Athiyanoor	9.Vamanapuram
4.Nemom	10.Kilimanoor
5.Thiruvananthapuram	11.Chirayinkeel
6.Kazhakkootam	12.Varkala

### Grama Panchayats

#### Parassala Block

1. Parassala
2. Karode
3. Kulathoor
4. Chenkal
5. Thiruparam
6. Poovar

#### Perumkadavila Block

1. Vellarada
2. Kunnathukal
3. Kollayil
4. Perumkadavila
5. Aryancode
6. Ottashekaramangalam
7. Kallikadu
8. Amboori

### **Athiyanoor Block**

1. Athiyanoor
2. Kanjiramkulam
3. Karumkulam
4. Kottukal
5. Vizhinjam
6. Venganoor

### **Nemom Block**

1. Maranalloor
2. Balaramapuram
3. Pallichal
4. Malayinkeezhu
5. Vilappil
6. Vilavoorkal
7. Kalliyoor

### **Thiruvananthapuram (Rural) Block**

1. Vattiyoorkavu
2. Kudappanakkunnu

### **Kazhakkuttom Block**

1. Sreekariyam
2. Pothencode
3. Mangalapuram
4. Andoorkonam
5. Kadinamkulam
6. Kazhakkuttom

### **Vellanad Block**

1. Kattakada
2. Vellanad
3. Poovachal
4. Aryanad
5. Vithura
6. Kuttichal
7. Uzhamalachal
8. Tholicode

### **Vamanapuram Block**

1. Vamanapuram
2. Manickal
3. Nellanad
4. Pullampara
5. Nanniyode
6. Peringamala
7. Kallara
8. Pangode

### **Nedumangad Block**

1. Karakulam
2. Aruvikara
3. Vembayam
4. Anad
5. Panavoor

### **Kilimanoor Block**

1. Pulimath
2. Karavaram
3. Nagaroor
4. Kilimanoor
5. Pazhayakunnumel
6. Navayikulam
7. Madavoor
8. Pallickal

### **Chirayinkeezhu Block**

1. Azhoor
2. Chrayinkeezh
3. Kadakkavoor
4. Vakkom
5. Anchuthengu
6. Kizhuvilam
7. Mudakkal

### **Varkala Block**

1. Vettoor
2. Cherunniyoor
3. Edava
4. Elakamon
5. Chemmaruthy
6. Manamboor
7. Ottoor

### **District Panchayat**

**The Thiruvananthapuram District Panchayat has 25 divisions;**

1. Kazhakuttom
2. Vattappara
3. Nemom
4. Balaramapuram
5. Vellarada
6. Tholicode
7. Kanjiramkulam
8. Parassala
9. Perumpazhuthoor
10. Navaikulam
11. Cherunniyur
12. Ulloor
13. Vengannoor
14. Kattakkada
15. Vellanad
16. Kilimanoor
17. Vattiyoorkavu
18. Vamanapuram
19. Manickal
20. Peringamala
21. Malayinkeezhu
22. Chenkal
23. Murukkumpuzha
24. Chirayinkeezhu
25. Manampur

The Thiruvananthapuram District Panchayat has already worked out some notable developmental schemes in the agricultural, water supply and educational sectors. The District Panchayat president is also the chairman of the District Planning Committee and the District Rural Development Agency.

### Parliamentary Constituencies

There are two parliamentary constituencies in the district. They are Chirayinkeezh with constituency number 19 and Thiruvananthapuram with constituency number 20.

### Assembly Constituencies

There are 14 Assembly Constituencies in the district and they are:

Sl. No.	Constituency	Number	Sl. No.	Constituency	Number
1.	Varkala	127	8.	Thiruvananthapuram North	134
2.	Attingal	128	9.	Thiruvananthapuram West	135
3.	Kilimanoor-SC	129	10.	Thiruvananthapuram East	136
4.	Vamanapuram	130	11.	Nemom	137
5.	Aryanad	131	12.	Kovalam	138
6.	Nedumangad	132	13.	Neyyattinkara	139
7.	Kazhakuttom	133	14.	Parassala	140

## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has been the primary occupation of the people of the district. More than 42 per cent of the total population depend on agriculture. Cultivable land may be classified as wet, dry, garden and plantations. Paddy is the most important crop cultivated in the wet lands. Tapioca and pulses are the important dry land crops. Coconut, one of the most important crops of the district, is cultivated in an area of 84,308 hectares and the annual production is about 516 million nuts.

Rubber cultivation is mainly confined to Nedumangad taluk. At present, there are about 26,999 hectares of rubber plantations and the annual production is estimated at 30,717 tonnes.

Newly introduced agricultural development schemes have opened new vistas in this field. Fresh schemes are introduced in every panchayat with a view to maximize yield per unit area by exploiting the production potential of paddy and vegetables.

Cashew is grown in 2,184 hectares of land and the production is about 1745 tonnes. Pepper cultivation covers an area of 5,090 hectares and the yield is about 1824 tonnes.

Soil conservation projects are being implemented with subsidy and loans.

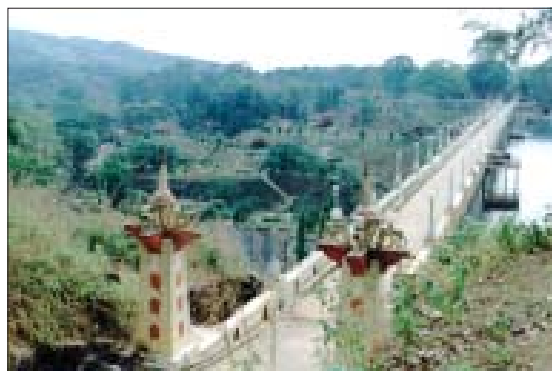
### Major Agricultural Products \*

Products	Area under cultivation (ha.)	Production in tonne
Rice	11368	19610
Pepper	5090	1824
Ginger	108	313
Cashewnut	2184	1745
Tapioca	25253	500101
Coconut	84308	516 million Nuts
Arecanut	717	456 million Nuts
Tea	965	608
Rubber	26999	30717

\* Source : Farm Guide 2000

### IRRIGATION

The Neyyar Irrigation Project, commissioned in 1959, irrigates an area of 11,665 hectares in Thiruvananthapuram. Neyyar is the source of water for



**Neyyar Dam** – This irrigation project is also one of the major tourist attractions. With well laid out gardens, fountains and swimming pool, it houses a crocodile farm, a lion safari park and a deer park. The dam premises offer excellent opportunities for camping, trekking and picnic.

the reservoir. The length of the dam is 294.13 meters and the height is 50.6 meters. The catchment draining into the reservoir, covering an area of 140 sq kms. of forest land, receives an annual average rainfall of about 226 cms. from two monsoons. The total length of the main canal and its branches is 266 kms.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY

The Regional Poultry Farm and the District Livestock Farm at Kudappanakunnu, the Dry Stock Farm at Palode, the Intensive Poultry Block at Pettah, Clinical lab, broiler farm, piggery, veterinary sub centres, veterinary Biological Institute, Disease Investigation Office, Livestock Disease Control unit and the SPCA (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) are the major animal husbandry institutions in the district.

### Livestock Population \*

Cattle	Buffaloes	Goats	Sheep	Pigs
255516	15304	192017	378	4683

\* 1996 Census

At present there are 23 veterinary hospitals 76 veterinary dispensaries and 144 such centres in the district.

In Thiruvananthapuram, milk is being distributed to consumers from the dairy at Ambalathara. There are 376 dairy co-operatives besides, 294 Anand model co-operatives. Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board (K.L.D. & M.M.B.) and the Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing federation (MILMA) strive to improve production. Nearly 1,47,000 litres of milk is being collected and distributed daily through the co-operative societies.

## CO - OPERATION

The main objective of schemes in the field of co-operation is the rebuilding and strengthening of the co-operative credit structure.

Apart from the Thiruvananthapuram District Co-operative Bank and its branches, there are Primary Land Mortgage Banks, primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Non-agricultural Credit Societies and Societies for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Besides, other type of societies such as Farmers' Service Societies, Primary Marketing Societies, Poultry Societies, Joint Farming Societies, Primary Consumer Stores, School stores, Housing Societies, Labour Contract Societies, etc are also functioning.

### Number of Industrial Co-operative Societies \*

SC	ST	Women	Others	Total No. of Societies
43	7	68	99	217

\* 2003

### Number of Handloom Co-operative Societies - 363

\* 2003

## GENERAL EDUCATION

The literacy rate in Thiruvananthapuram, according to the 2001 census, is 89.36 percent; 92.68 percent among males and 86.26 percent among females.

*Adult Literacy Programme* is being effectively implemented. The *Grandbasala Movement* had taken roots years back and has grown ever since. In every village, in almost all the wards of panchayats, there is invariably at least one library and a reading room.

The State Central Library, which came into existence in 1829, has a sizable collection of valuable books and periodicals. The British Council Library and the University Library are notable for reference, in the city.

### A profile of schools in the district \*

	Government	Aided	Unaided	Total
LP Schools	302	181	14	497
UP Schools	98	102	15	215
High Schools	118	94	27	239
Teacher Training Institutions	4	5	—	9
Higher Secondary Schools **	46	45	37	128
Vocational HSS **	30	11	—	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1129</b>

\* 2002-2003 \*\* 2003-2004

## HIGHER EDUCATION

The number of Arts and Science colleges in the district is 20 and the strength of students is estimated to be 15,926. The University of Kerala has its research and higher education centres at Kariavattom, 20 kms from the capital city. There are 41 teaching and research departments in the University. Colleges from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts numbering 87, are affiliated to the University.



*Victoria Diamond Jubilee Library which later became the Thiruvananthapuram Public Library and subsequently, the State Central Library*

The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit with Kalady as headquarters, has its regional centre in Thiruvananthapuram and offers courses at degree and post graduate levels.

In Thiruvananthapuram district there are 2 Allopathic Medical Colleges, 3 Ayurveda Medical Colleges, 2 Homoeopathy Medical Colleges, 2 Nursing colleges, 1 Dental college, 1 Agricultural College, 11 Engineering Colleges, 2 MCA Colleges, 1 Music College, 3 Teacher Education College, 2 Law Colleges and 5 Polytechnics, .

Following are the major educational institutions in the district:-

1. All Saint's College for Women, Veli.
2. Central Poly Technic, Vatiyoorkavu.
3. Christian College, Kattakada
4. College of Agriculture, Vellayani.
5. College of Fine Arts, Palayam.
6. Dental College, Ulloor
7. Government Arts College, Thycaud.
8. Government Ayurveda College, M.G. Road, Thiruvananthapuram
9. Government College of Engineering, Kulathoor.
10. Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Iranimuttam.
11. Government Law College, Barton Hill.
12. Government Sanskrit College, M.G. Road, Thiruvananthapuram.
13. Government Training College, Thycaud.
14. Government Women's Poly Technic, Neeramankara.
15. H.H. the Maharaja's College for Women, Vazhuthacaud.
16. K.N.M. Government College, Kanjiramkulam.
17. Kerala Law Academy Law College, Peroorkada.
18. Lakshmi Bai National College of Physical Education, Kariyavattom.
19. Loyola College of Social Sciences, Sreekaryam.
20. M.G. College, Paruthipara
21. Mar Ivanios College, Nalanchira
22. Medical College, Ulloor.
23. NSS College for women, Karamana.
24. Nursing College, Ulloor.
25. S.N. College, Chempazhanthi.
26. Sri. Chitra Thirunal College of Engineering, Pappanamcode.
27. St. Xavier's College, Thumba.

28. The Swathi Thirunal Sangeetha College, Thycaud.
29. University College, M.G. Road, Thiruvananthapuram
30. Government College of Engineering, Barton Hill, Thiruvananthapuram.
31. LBS College of Engineering for Women, Poojappura.
32. University Engineering College, Kariyavattom
33. Mar Basellious Engineering College, Neeramankara.
34. Mohandas Engineering College, Anad.
35. Muslim Association Engineering College, Venjaramoodu.
36. Mary Matha Engineering College, Olathanni.
37. Mar Ivanios Engineering College, Kazhakkuttom.
38. Lourd Matha College of Science and Technology, Kuttichal.
39. Government Polytechnic, Neyyattinkara.
40. Government Polytechnic, Nedumangad.
41. Government Polytechnic, Attingal.
42. Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.
43. Somerwell Memorial CSI Mission Medical College, Karakkonam.

### **F I S H E R I E S**

Thiruvananthapuram district stretches along the shores of the Arabian Sea for a distance of 78 kms, offering immense scope for the development of fisheries as an important source of earning foreign exchange.

Varkala, Anchuthengu, Poonthura, Vizhinjam and Poovar are some of the major fishing centres. The fishermen population is about two lakhs and the catch is around 32,000 tonnes. Anchovies, sardine, catfish, cavanx, mackerel, tuna and carangids are the important species caught in this area. Introduction of mechanized fishing crafts and modern fishing gear has augmented the fish catch.

There are 42 fishermen villages and the total number of households engaged in fishing is about 40,000.



*Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour*

Development activities and welfare programmes are implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Matsyafed, Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA), and Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agency (BWFFDA).

The inland catch is significant in the district. The newly launched people oriented fish farming scheme aims at fish cultivation in 205 hectares of public ponds. All the 78 panchayats in the district are readied to adopt the scheme under the guidance of local bodies.

The coastal fisheries belt is divided into 42 fisheries villages and most of such villages have fishermen welfare societies formed under the Kerala Fisheries Welfare Society Act of 1980.

### FORESTS

Thiruvananthapuram district has a reserve forest area of 495.145 sq. kms and vested forest area of 3.534 sq. kms spreading over three ranges, viz., the Kulathupuzha range in the north, Palode range in the middle and the Paruthipalli range in the south. These forests may be broadly classified into three categories, namely, (a) southern tropical wet ever green forests, (b) southern tropical and semi ever green forests and (c) southern tropical moist deciduous forests.

Veeti (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Thembavu (*Terminalia Curenlata*), Aini (*Arto Carpus Hirsutus*), Plavu (*Arto-carpus integrifolia*), Akil (*Dysoxylum Malabarium*), Venga (*Ptrocarpus Morsupium*), Venthekku (*Lager Stromia lunceolata*), Manjakadamb (*Adina Cordifolia*) and Irul (*Xylia-xylocarpa*) constitute the important timber species.

Social forestry programmes are being implemented under the World Bank aided Kerala Social Forestry Project, National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Fuel Wood Schemes to assist small and marginal farmers.

### HOUSING

There has been tremendous activity in the housing front both in the public as well as private sectors. The Kerala State Housing Board is the main agency which implements a number of housing schemes, such as *Maithri*, *Kairali* and *Rajiv One Million Housing Scheme*.

The colonies constructed under various housing schemes in Thiruvananthapuram include Prasanth Nagar, Kowdiar Gardens, Vrindavan Gardens, Pandit's Colony, PTP Nagar, Jawahar Nagar, Kalpaka Nagar, NCC Nagar,

Subhash Nagar, Indira Nagar, Medical College, Seeveli Nagar, etc. The Board, with its headquarters at Chenkachoola, has two branch offices in the district, one at Nedumangad and the other at Neyyattinkara.

The Kerala State Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) Development Corporation, Fisheries Department and Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation are also engaged in the construction of houses for different sections of the public. In the heart of the city, large flats have been constructed to accommodate the slum dwellers.

### INDUSTRY

In Thiruvananthapuram district there are 2 Central sector, 14 State sector, 1 co-operative sector, 4 joint sector and 60 private sector medium and large scale industries. The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) units employ 9262 people with an investment of Rs.34,394 lakhs (as on 31.03.2003). In 2002 there were 901 registered working factories. They include oil mills, cashew factories, cotton textiles, saw mills, printing units, rubber industrial units, chemical units, match factories, general engineering units and automobile workshops. The S.M.S.M. Institute in Thiruvananthapuram is a major institution through which the products of the handicraft industries are marketed.

As on 31.03.2003, there were 28918 small scale industrial units employing 1,15,597 people in the district. In agro based industries, 4544 people work, 3080 work in forest based, 980 in animal husbandry based, 5057 in pesticide based, 1282 in chemicals based, 4708 in engineering based, 3075 in manufacturing and building materials section and 6192 in other industries.

Of these SSI units, 1323 are Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe units and 6065 are women units.

There is an industrial estate at Pappanamcode and an industrial development centre at Kochuveli.

Traditional industries such as coir and handloom are now faced with several problems. The main varieties of coir produced are *Anchutbengu* and *Muppiri*. Handloom weaving is prevalent at Balaramapuram, Amaravila, Kulathur and Chirayinkeezhu. It is estimated that clothes worth Rs.950 lakhs are annually produced in the handloom sector. There are 20 Hantex (Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society) depots and five showrooms in the district.

Keltron (Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation) has made inroads into electronic markets throughout the country.

## Technopark

Technopark was established for the development of electronics and information technology in the State. The campus at Thiruvananthapuram covers an area of 184.2 acres and the park has a built up



*One of India's finest technopolies - Technopark*

space of 1.5 million square feet with 61 companies, employing over 5500 IT professionals, including five CMM Level 5, three CMM Level 3 and several ISO 9001 certified companies. Technopark is India's largest technology park. Global majors like Infosys, TCS, Tata Elxsi, Allianz Cornhill, RM Plc., Mc Kinsey, Ernst & Young and the such having moved in and many more companies have queued up to set up their IT units here. Companies from Europe, US and other countries operate from the Campus.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

There are 12 development blocks in the district and they are Parassala, Perumkadavila, Athiyanoor, Nemom, Thiruvananthapuram Rural, Kazhakuttom, Vellanad, Nedumangad, Vamanapuram, Kilimanoor, Chirayinkeezhu and Varkala. The District Rural Development Agency co-ordinates the work in these blocks.

Several welfare schemes like Swarna Jayanthi Grama Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) Samboorna Grama Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Total Sanitation Scheme (TSS), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Prime Minister's Grama Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) etc. are carried out in the blocks.

## TRANSPORT

The district can be reached by road, rail, air and water transport.

### Road Transport

Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) operates 20 units comprising of nine depots, seven sub depots and four operating centres in Thiruvananthapuram district. The corporation plies 1308 buses in 1171 schedules, transporting 11 lakh commuters daily.

## Railways

Thiruvananthapuram is connected to the rest of the country by broad gauge railway line. The doubling work of the 65 kms. Kollam – Thiruvananthapuram line is completed. Eighty two kms of railway line passes through the district, of which 50 kms. is towards the north (upto Kappil) and 32 kms. towards the south (upto Parassala) from the Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.

<b>Railway Stations in the district</b>	<b>Distance from Thiruvananthapuram Central Station</b>
1. Parassala	32 kms
2. Dhanuvachapuram	24 kms.
3. Amaravila	21 kms
4. Neyyattinkara	18 kms
5. Balaramapuram	14 kms
6. Nemom	8 kms
7. Thiruvananthapuram Central	0 kms
8. Pettah	2 kms
9. Kochuveli	6 kms
10. Veli	9 kms
11. Kazhakootom	13 kms
12. Kaniyapuram	17 kms
13. Murukkumpuzha	21 kms
14. Perunguzhi	24 kms
15. Chirayinkeezh	28 kms
16. Kadakkavoor	32 kms
17. Akathumuri	34 kms
18. Varkala	41 kms
19. Edava	44 kms
20. Kappil	50 kms

In Thiruvananthapuram district, computer reservation facilities are available in the Central Railway Station, Varkala Railway Station and Pattom (LIC

Building), from there the passenger can reserve berth/seat for any train, operating from any zone of Indian Railways. From Kappil to Parassala there are 20 railway stations. Credit cards are also accepted for reservation of seats / berths.



*The Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station*

### **Water Transport**

The district's eastern coastline and its rivers and lakes, provide ample scope for water transport. The waterway from Thiruvananthapuram to Kottapuram in Kozhikode district, which was made possible by the two tunnels of 282 metres and 721 metres, constructed in 1877 and 1880 respectively at Varkala is now defunct. Projects and schemes are underway for reviving these waterways.



*The defunct water way tunnel at Varkala*

The container transshipment project proposed at Vizhinjam also holds prospects for reaching the district by sea.

### **Airways**

Services are being operated by domestic and international airlines from the Thiruvananthapuram International Air Port. They include 69 international and 28 domestic services in a week. Of the domestic services, Indian Airlines operates 21 services and Jet Airways 7 as on December 2003.

The number of international services are: Air India -20, Indian Airlines -14, Gulf Air - 7, Sri Lankan Airways - 7, Oman Airways - 7, Qatar Airways - 7, Kuwait Airways – 4 and Silk Air –3.

The destinations include Kuwait, Mascot, Jeddah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Colombo, Bahrain, Singapore, Male etc.

Domestic services operated by the Indian Airlines are between Thiruvananthapuram and cities such as, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, and Trichy.

### **ELECTRICITY**

All the villages in the district have been electrified and power is available in every nook and corner. Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) divides the district into three circles namely; Transmission circle, Thiruvananthapuram city and Kattakkada, for administrative efficiency. There are 6,52,000 domestic consumers consuming 43% of the total power consumption of the district which account to 90 million units per month. The non-domestic consumption is higher by 57%.

Thiruvananthapuram district has one 220KV, nine 110KV and six 66KV electrical sub stations. The commissioning of one 400 KV substation is on the anvil. There are no hydro-electric power projects within the district.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Roads**

The total length of roads under the Public Works Department in Thiruvananthapuram district is 1,864 kms, excluding roads maintained by the local bodies. The local bodies maintain 9,500 kms of which 6,100 kms are earthen, 400 kms tarred and 3,000 kms gravelled.

The N.H. 47 stretches from Kaliyikavila at the southern extremity to Paripally in the north, covering a distance of 80 kms, within the district. The State Highway (MC Road) covers a distance of 55 kms and passes through Kesavadasapuram, Vembayam, Venjaramood, Kilimanoor and Nilamel in the north.

#### **Bridges**

There are 124 bridges in Thiruvananthapuram district. Mavilakadavu,

Amaravila, Mandapathinkadavu, Poovampara, Vamanapuram, Thiruvallom and Auvikkara are the major bridges.

### **SOCIAL WELFARE**

Social Welfare Schemes can be broadly classified into; welfare of the handicapped, welfare of women and children, correctional services and social security. The child welfare programmes implemented are health care, pre-school education and nutrition. In Thiruvananthapuram district there are five welfare institutions; one after-care hostel, one after-care home, one home for physically handicapped women, one home for mentally retarded children and one vocational care centre for the physically handicapped.

Units of Integrated Child Development Schemes are functioning at 11 centres. They are Chakkai, Panavila, Vattiyoorkavu, Athiyannor, Perumkadavila, Vamanapuram, Kazhakuttom, Chirayinkeezhu, Kilimanoor, Nemon and Varkala.

There are 2250 'Anganwadis' functioning under the ICDS projects. The Urban Special Nutrition Programme covers the urban areas of Thiruvananthapuram, Nedumangad, Attingal and Neyyattinkara.

Institutions like Special Home, Abalamandiram, After-care Home, Vocational Training Centre for Women and the State Institute of Mentally Handicapped, are functioning under the Social Welfare Department.

There are 30 crèches to look after children below three years of age and the Day-Care Centres located at Ottoor, Poomkulam and Poovar, look after the children of fisher folk and coir workers.

Widows, spinsters and wives of convicts are provided with grants for finding self employment. Students upto 7<sup>th</sup> standard are given free noon-meals in schools.

### **PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

There is a wide network of public distribution units in the district, comprising of 1862 retail ration depots and 32 wholesale shops. The number of ration cards issued in the district is 759386.

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation has opened *Maveli Stores*

through which all essential commodities are being sold at reasonable prices. The super market in Thiruvananthapuram city sells almost all kinds of commodities ranging from groceries to wristwatches. At present there are 79 Maveli Stores, 2 Super Markets, 39 kerosene depots, 13 *Labham* markets, 2 mobile Maveli stores, 5 Maveli medical stores and 4 petrol bunks in the district, besides Co-operative Maveli stores and LPG outlets.

### **WATER SUPPLY**

Intensive efforts have been made for providing drinking water not only to the urban dwellers but also to the rural folk. As a result, several water supply and augmentation schemes were started. The water supply schemes cover 83.86 per cent of the urban and 68.99 per cent of the rural population.

The main sources of water for distribution in the capital city are Peppara and Aruvikkara dams. At present, one hundred and twenty schemes are in operation for providing drinking water to the rural areas and five in urban areas. Seventy one rural water supply schemes and 12 urban water supply schemes are under implementation.

The present project area of JBIC aided water supply scheme covers Thiruvananthapuram city and six suburban panchayats having urban characteristics. The design population for the year 2021 is 9.39 lakhs and the ultimate water demand is 285 mld (million litres per day), of which the existing system supplies 203 mld. The present project constitutes augmentation by adding 42 mld. The emphasis of the project is, however, a comprehensive rehabilitation of the existing system.

### **LAW AND ORDER**

Law and order in the city is supervised by the City Police Commissioner and he is assisted by a Deputy Police Commissioner. Rural area is under the supervision of a Police Superintendent (rural)

There are three police sub-divisions each in the rural and city areas which are headed by DySPs and Assistant Commissioners respectively. There are fourteen circles in the rural area and nine in the city.

There are forty eight police stations in the district, of which 17 are in the city. White Patrol and mobile units are in operation round the clock and their

movements are supervised by marshal units.

Two units, headed by Assistant Commissioners, supervise the traffic. Three Fire Force units operate from Chakkai, Neyyattinkara and Thiruvananthapuram. There are two Armed Police camps in Thiruvananthapuram; one in the city and the other at Neyyattinkara.

There is a Police Training College at Thycaud and a Police Computer Centre at Pattom. The Camps of the Special Armed Police and the KAP 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion are located at Peroorkada. The CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) camp is at Pallipuram, 25 kms from the city.

A Women Cell of the Kerala Police has started functioning at Thiruvananthapuram, under the supervision of a police superintendent. There is also a Narcotic Cell headed by a DySP.

#### **Organisational set up of the District Police**

City Police	: City Police Commissioner, Deputy Police Commissioner.
Sub division	: 3 - (headed by Asst. Commissioners); Cantonment, Fort and Shanghumughom
Circles	: 10 - Cantonment, Fort, Thampanoor, Peroorkada, Museum, Pettah, Medical College, Poonthura, Nemom & Vizhinjam.
Rural Police	: District Superintendent of Police
Sub-divisions	: 3 - (headed by DySPs); Attingal, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara.
Circles	: 13 - Attingal, Varkala, Kadakkavoor, Kazhakkuttom, Venjaramoodu, Kilimanoor, Nedumangad, Aryanad, Palode, Kattakkada, Neyyattinkara, Poovar and Parassala.

The total police strength in the city including the Armed Reserve camp at Nandavanam and the SAP camp at Peroorkada, is about 4,500 and that in the Rural Police is about 2,000.

For the effective maintenance of law and order, Vizhinjam area is attached

to the city police unit. The traffic police system is divided into two divisions – North and South, each under the supervision of an Assistant traffic Commissioner, in the rank of a Dy. S.P.

Ten units of mobile Squad, six units of White Patrol and one highway patrol unit are operating under the city police.

A Women's Cell, a Dog Squad, Mounted Police, an Airport Security Unit, Tourism Police, etc are also attached to the district police force.

There is a military camp at Pangode, five kms from the Secretariat. The Kazhakootam Sainik School has earned great reputation for having trained some of the best cadets in the country. In almost all the educational institutions above the upper primary level, there are NCC units. The Headquarters of the Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force is in this capital city.

### Police stations within the limits of Thiruvananthapuram rural

#### Attingal Sub Division

Place	Tel. No.	Place	Tel. No.
Kallambalam	2692066	Mangalapuram	2420275
Pallickal	2682026	Kadinamkulam	2750265
Varkala	2602333	Attingal	2622444
Kadakkavoor	2656629	Venjaramoodu	2872023
Anchuthengu	2656641	Vattappara	2585055
Chirayinkeezhu	2640380	Kilimanoor	2672226
Kazhakootam	2418231	Pangode	2869223

#### Nedumangad Sub Division

Nedumangad	2802400	Kattakkada	2290223
Valiyamala	2567557	Neyyar Dam	2272266
Vithura	2856243	Malayinkil	2282023
Ponmudi	2890222	Vilappilsala	2289060
Palode	2840260	Aryanadu	2852033

### Neyyattinkara Sub Division

Neyyattinkara	2222222	Kanjiramkulam	2261100
Balaramapuram	2400366	Pozhiyoor	2212100
Vellarada	2242023	Poovar	2211100
Parassala	2202023		

### City Police

#### Strength

White Patrol	-	6
Mobile Squad	-	10
Highway Patrol	-	1
Local Police including Traffic	-	1679
Armed Reserve Police	-	1106
Special Armed Police	-	854
Vanitha Police	-	88

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Most of the Central Government offices in the State are located in Thiruvananthapuram. Apart from the AG's Office, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Customs and Central Excise, Income Tax, Chief General Manager Telecom (BSNL), Chief Post Master General, Passport Office etc, the Government of India public sector undertakings like the Hindustan Latex and Sri Chitra Thirunal Institute of Science and Technology are also located in the district. A Central Government Office complex has been constructed at Poonkulam, 15 kms from the city, to accommodate the scattered central government offices in private buildings like the DAVP., Films Division, Directorate of Sample Survey, Enforcement Directorate etc.

### ISRO

The Indian Space Programme came into being on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1963 with the launching of a sounding rocket from Thumba in Thiruvananthapuram district. This Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) ultimately blossomed into various centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) is the prime centre engaged in design and development of launch vehicles.

The ISRO under the Department of Space, Government of India has the VSSC at Thumba and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) at Valiyamala Nedumangadu in Thiruvananthapuram district. The Inertial System Unit (ISU) of the ISRO and the Reinforced Plastic Centre (REPLACE) function from Vattiyoorkavu in the district.

### ART, CULTURE AND LITERATURE

Thiruvananthapuram has produced great poets and men of letters from very ancient times. One of the ancient poets was Ayyipillai Asan (15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> Century A.D) of Avaaduthura near Kovalam. He wrote his famous work *Ramakadhapatnu*, which represents a stage in the evolution of the southern dialect of Malayalam.

Two most outstanding poets patronized by the royal family of Travancore were Unnayi Warriar and Kunchan Nambiar. The reign of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal (1813-1846), the royal composer, saw the golden age of Carnatic music in Kerala. The contribution of Swathi Thirunal in the realm of music has enriched even the cultural heritage of India.

Irayimman Thampi (1782-1856), a contemporary of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal, was another composer of great originality and deep learning. Vidwan Koi



*The koothambalam at the Vylopilli Samskriti Bhavan, Cultural complex at Nalanda*

Thampuran was also a scholar and poet who belonged to this period.

Twentieth century witnessed a cultural renaissance. Kerala Varma Valiakoi Thampuran (1845-1914), who spent a good part of his life in Thiruvananthapuram, translated Kalidasa's *Sakunthala* into Malayalam which won him the title of *Kerala Kalidasa*. He is also regarded as the father of modern Malayalam prose.

The contributions of A.R. Raja Raja Varma (1863-1918), known as "*Kerala Panini*", marked an important stage in the development of Malayalam literature. Another notable writer is C.V. Raman Pillai (1858-1922), who was a

novelist par excellence.

Mahakavi Kumaran Asan (1873-1924) and Mahakavi Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer (1877-1949) were the two outstanding poets from this district. Kumaran Asan was the true representative of the

cultural renaissance. A product of modern education, Ulloor was not only a poet, but also a great scholar, researcher and historian.



*The twin huts at Thonakkal where Kumaran Asan lived and wrote his immortal classics.*

## PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Contributions of Thiruvananthapuram district to painting are immense. The earliest of murals that can be attributed to the Kerala tradition are found in a small cave-shrine at Thirunandikkara in south Travancore, now a part of Tamil Nadu. The themes of these murals are evidently drawn from Hindu lore, but the style closely resembles the Buddhist tradition. These are believed to belong to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Siva, Parvathi and Ganapathi are among the figures represented.

Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple at Thiruvananthapuram has several murals, which belongs to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The paintings at Koikal Temple at Attingal bear close resemblance to those in the Padmanabha Swami Temple, which are outstanding examples of 16<sup>th</sup> century Kerala paintings.



*Sculpture by renowned sculptor Kanayi Kumbiraman at Veli Tourism village*

Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1905), an illustrious painter of this district, stands at the cross-roads of Indian art history. Ravi Varma's contribution to Indian painting is substantial and singular. He was *a prince among painters and painter among princes*. Some of the most famous paintings of Raja Ravi Varma are preserved in the Sri Chitra Art Gallery.

The Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple at Thiruvananthapuram has preserved the relics of the best traditions of stone sculpture in the State.



An oil painting by Raja Ravi Varma

## MASS MEDIA

### Print

*Kerala Chandrika*, the first newspaper of the State was published from Thiruvananthapuram district in the year 1789. At present, more than 30 dailies are being published from this district. The *Hindu*, *The New Indian Express*, *Malayala Manorama*, *Mathrubhoomi*, *Kerala Kaumudi*, *Desabhimani*, *Deepika*, *Madhyamom* and *Janmabhoomi* are a few of the prominent dailies that are being brought out from Thiruvananthapuram.

Several weeklies, fortnightlies, monthlies, bi-monthlies and quarterlies are published from various parts of the district. Government Departments and public sector undertakings are also bringing out fortnightlies and monthlies like *Janapadham*, *Kerala calling*, *Vikasana Samanwayam*, *Kerala Interface*, *Kerala Karshakan*, *Vyavasaya Keralam*, *Grama Deepam*, *Gramabhoomi*, *Sahakaran Veedhi*, *Vidyaarangam*, and *Panchayat Raj*.

The information & Public Relations Department is the main agency of the Government to disseminate information to the public and to provide feedback.

In the Government Secretariat, the Department of Information and Public Relations has provided a well-facilitated pressroom for accredited correspondents. The Tagore Theatre provides for public and private cultural performances and screening of films. There would be some programme or the other almost everyday.

## **Electronic**

### **All India Radio**

Thiruvananthapuram station of the All India Radio (AIR) broadcasts and relays programmes daily from 5.55 am to 11.05 pm. Other than news bulletins, they relate to agriculture, rural development, woman and child care, health, sanitation and a host of other activities. Most of the programmes are of a cultural nature, having entertainment and educational value. Commercial broadcasts are also being aired here. FM broadcasting started from Thiruvananthapuram in 1999.

### **Doordarshan**

Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Kendra started functioning from the Tagore theatre in the latter half of 1982 with a small transmission unit. Later, a full-fledged centre with a high power transmitter was installed at Kudappanakunnu, eight kms from the city. Now it covers the entire State and channel 4 is available in the entire south-east Asia region.

### **Asianet**

Asianet is perhaps the first and biggest private television channel in the State. It started functioning from Thiruvananthapuram in 1993. Today, it has two channels namely Asianet and Asianet News and is the only private television channel which has an uplinking facility in the district. This company is also the biggest cable operator in the State. ACV, the leading local cable channel is also a subsidiary of Asianet.

### **Surya TV**

Surya Television started operation from Thiruvananthapuram in 1998 as the second private channel of the State. Though Surya has production facility in Thiruvananthapuram, telecasting is done from Chennai.

### **Kairali TV**

Kairali Television which went on air in 2000, also has its studio and production facilities in Thiruvananthapuram. The telecasting is from Kochi.

Jeevan TV, India Vision, ZeeTV, NDTV, ANI, ETV, JAYA TV etc. have their bureaus in Thiruvananthapuram. ACV & City Cable are cable channels which operate from the district.

## Cyber Journalism

Almost all Malayalam dailies like Deepika, Malayala Manorama, Mathrubhumi, Kerala Kaumudi etc. have hosted their online newspapers. The Department of Information and Public Relations maintains its web site [www.prd.gov.in](http://www.prd.gov.in) and the government's web portal [www.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kerala.gov.in) with updated data.

## Film

### Kerala State Chalachitra Academy

Kerala State Chalachitra Academy was founded in 1998 for the promotion of Cinema as a cultural expression. The Academy is guided by the motto that Cinema should contribute to the total development of man, both as an individual and as a social being.



Besides organising the annual International Film Festival of Kerala, the Academy is engaged in a programme of spreading film literacy among the people through the promotion of Film Societies, publication of books and periodicals, conduct of film appreciation courses, seminars and workshops for students as well as professionals.

Work on establishing a Film Archive with the aim of preserving world classics and important films in Malayalam has been started. The annual Kerala State Awards for Film and TV are also conducted by the Academy.

### K.S.F.D.C.

Established in 1975 with the objective of giving a thrust to the Malayalam film industry and for nurturing it in the State, the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) has succeeded in uprooting the Malayalam film industry from Kodambakkam in Chennai and planting it here.

The Chitranjali studio complex, inaugurated in 1980 was the first step towards facilitating the growth of good cinema. Facilities are available for

processing and printing 35 mm and 16 mm colour and black and white films. Reduction and blowing up equipments are also available. Nagra recorders, latest technology to transfer sound from 16 mm to 35



*Chitranjali Studio, Thiruvallam – the indoor studio is one of the biggest in the country, in terms of floor area.*

mm, optical tone magnetic recorders, state-of-the-art video production facilities for non linear editing, six track DTS mixing facility etc. are special facilities of the complex. The recording theatre is equipped with ‘soundscape’ pro-tool work station and Tas cam-D 8000 digital, 24 channel mixing facility. There are four outdoor units. A super mini theatre and Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT) are also functioning under the corporation.

### **C-DIT**

The Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT), is a Total Solution Provider in information technology for the Government of Kerala. C-DIT also functions as the southern regional video software production facility of the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), New Delhi. Web Services, GIS, Video Communication, Animation, Educational Informatics and Optical Image Processing are some exclusive teams that C-DIT offers.

Post Graduate Diploma in Science and Development Communication, Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Informatics, Post Graduate Diploma in Multi Media Development, Animation Film Development Course and Short-term courses in Digital Still Photography, Digital Sound Recording and Non Linear Editing are the courses conducted by C-DIT.

## FESTIVALS

Thiruvananthapuram has many colourful festivals. A prominent few are described below:

### **Aratt at Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple**

At the famous Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple, two festivals, *Painguni* (March-April) and *Alpasi* (October – November), are celebrated. On the last day of both the Alpasi festival and Painguni festival, the deity is taken in procession along a five kilometre route to the beach for a holy dip in the sea. This is known as the famous “*Aratt*” of Thiruvananthapuram.

### **Chandanakkudam at Beema Palli**

The Chandanakkudam at Beema Palli near Thiruvananthapuram, is one of the most colourful Muslim festivals. This festival has a duration of ten days. This ‘*Mabotsavam*’ is said to be the death anniversary of Beema Beevi, a devote lady pilgrim who came to Kerala from Mecca and settled down at this place with her son Mahin Abubacker Ollyulla. The Chandanakkudam Mahotsavam at Vizhinjam also attracts large number of pilgrims.



*Chandanakkudam at Beema Palli*

### **Christuraja Perunnal at Vettucaud**

Among the important festival of Christians, mention has to be made of the ‘*Christuraja Perunnal*’ commemorated in the Madre-de-dieu church at Vettucaud, near Veli. This is celebrated during the first half of November every year.

It is during this season that millions of pilgrims, clad in yellow clothes, visit Varkala (Sivagiri), a spiritual centre associated with Sree Narayana Guru.

The Kaalioottu in the Bhagavathy Temple at Sarkara, near Chirayinkeezh, the Ponkala in the Bhagavathy Temple at Attukal in the city and the Navarathri

festival at the Poojamandapam near Sri Padmanabha Swamy Temple are also important religious festivals in the district.

Onam season is colourfully celebrated as a state festival. During this season, the city is illuminated and many colourful cultural programmes are organized, culminating in a grand pageantry.

### PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Many spots in the district are breathtakingly beautiful and a treat to the eye. A few are:

#### Agasthyakoodam

About 1869 meters above sea level, Agasthyakoodam is the highest peak in the Western Ghats, next only to Anamudi. Tradition says that the great sage *Agasthya*, had his abode in this peak. The place is also noted for its abundant ayurvedic herbs.

#### Akkulam

Akkulam is one of the beautiful picnic spots, in the suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram city. This place is only 10 kms. away and is easily accessible by road. The spot is developed on the banks of Akulam Lake, which is an

extension of the Veli Lake. The calm and serene atmosphere and its unique natural beauty are a fascination for tourists.



*Musical fountain at Akkulam*

The Boat Club, which started functioning in 1989, now operates speed, safari, pedal and row boats from Akkulam to Veli Tourist Village. A traditional style Kettuvallom is also available for overnight stay. The swimming pool at Akkulam is equipped with glider and other playing facilities. The Children's Park is a unique amusement spot. The newly commissioned musical fountain is an added attraction.

### **Anchuthengu**

Situated 40 kms. north of Thiruvananthapuram, along the sea coast, Anchuthengu is a place of historic importance. It was here that the first settlement of the English East India Company was established in 1864 A.D. Historically, the limits of area where five coconut palms stood (Anchuthengu, corrupted as Anjengo) was given on lease to the Company by the King of Travancore for trade purposes. The remains of the old English Fort, which had withstood many a siege, can be seen here even today.

### **Aruvikkara**

Sixteen kms. north of Thiruvananthapuram, gifted with lavish scenic beauty is Aruvikkara. Thiruvananthapuram gets its water supply from the Aruvikkara reservoir. There is an ancient temple dedicated to *Durga*, on the banks of the river.



**Aruvikkara Reservoir**

### **Aruvippuram**

The place is about seven kms. from Neyyattinkara. There is a small waterfall here. A Siva temple founded by Sree Narayana Guru attracts a large number of worshippers during the *Sivarathri* festival. It is a beautiful spot for holiday seekers.

### **Balaramapuram**

Balaramapuram is famous for its hand-spun cloth. Weaving is a cottage industry here with cooperative activity. It is 13 kms. south of the city towards Kanyakumari on National Highway 47.

### **Meenmutti and Kombaikani Waterfalls**

These are two magnificent waterfalls on the upper reaches of the Neyyar reservoir. A trek of two kms, through dense forests, would take one to Meenmutti waterfalls and a further two kms, to the Kombaikani waterfalls. The waterfalls and forests around them are worth experiencing.

### Neyyar Dam

Lying amidst the southern low hills of the Western Ghats, 29 kms. from the city, the catchment area offers facilities for boating and mountaineering. A three-hour climb over the hills across the reservoir affords the thrill of hiking. There are two beautiful waterfalls on the way. A Lion Safari Park and a Crocodile Rearing Centre have also been set up in the reservoir.

### Neyyattinkara

Neyyattinkara is an ancient town, situated about 20 kms. South-east of Thiruvananthapuram. The Sree Krishna Swami temple, founded by King Marthanda Varma (1729-1758), is of historical importance. Within the premises of the temple, there is a historic jack tree, known as *Ammachi Plavu*, in the hollow of which Marthanda Varma is believed to have hid himself and escaped death at the hands of his enemies.

### Peypara

Peypara is 50 kms. from the city on the way to Ponmudi. The sanctuary there, with its rich mammalian fauna and avifauna is emerging as a big attraction to wild life enthusiasts and ornithologists. It was established in 1938 over an area of 53 sq. kms. on the western ghats. Elephants, sambar, leopard, lion-tailed macaque and cormorant are commonly seen here.

### Ponmudi

A pleasant resort with an elevation of 912 M above sea level, Ponmudi is reached by road from Thiruvananthapuram. There are several tea and rubber estates around the hills. A hill tribe called Kani live in the surrounding areas. Ponmudi is fast developing as a hill resort with room and dormitory accommodation facilities, hill-trails for hiking, a collection of flowering trees and a deer park. Ponmudi is 61 kms. from Thiruvananthapuram.



*Enchanting Ponmudi with its tourist cottages*

### Poovar

Poovar is 29 kms. from the city. It was a trading centre in early days and one of the ancient ports of the district. It is said that the legendary Jesuit Missionary, St. Francis Xavier, visited the place in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### Vizhinjam

About two kms. south of Kovalam, Vizhinjam is believed to have been an ancient port. The Portuguese and the Dutch had commercial establishments here. Vizhinjam is a harbour, with a light house. This place is being developed into an International Deep Water Container Transshipment Terminal.

### Sarkara

Sarkara is 35 kms. north of Thiruvananthapuram and six kms. west of Attingal. There is a famous temple which is dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathi. A grand festival, *Sarkara Bharani*, is conducted in this temple during March-April.

### Varkala

Fourty one kms. north of Thiruvananthapuram by rail and 51 kms. by road, Varkala is a pilgrim centre. The Samadhi of Sree Narayana Guru, the great social reformer and philosopher, attracts devotees in thousands. The cliffs and mineral water springs at the 'Papanasam beach' are worth a visit. The inland waterways system connecting Kollam in the north with Thiruvananthapuram in the south, passes through two tunnels in the hills. The Janardhana Swamy Temple here attracts many devotees.



*Sree Narayana Guru Samadhi- where the great social reformer and philosopher attained eternal bliss*

### Thiruvallam

Thiruvallam is about six kms. south of the city, on the Thiruvananthapuram-Kovalam road. There is an ancient temple here on the banks of the Karamana River, which is dedicated to the Trimurthis of the Hindu pantheon. A shrine of *Parasurama*, built entirely of granite is found in this temple.

### Kovalam

This beach, 12 kms. south of Thiruvananthapuram, is one of the finest beaches in India. A high rocky promontory jutting into the sea has created a beautiful bay of calm waters for sea bathing. The India Tourism Development Corporation had developed Kovalam as an integrated seaside resort.

The property has now been taken over by the Galfar Group through the disinvestments process, and is presently managed by the international hotel group, Le Meridian. The resort is now known as the *Le Meridian Kovalam Beach Resort*. The beach complex includes the *Le Meridian Beach Resort* (a hotel owned by the Galfar Group), a string of cottages, the Halcyon castle, a shopping area, swimming pools, yoga centre, facilities for medicinal oil bath & massage and the Rajiv Gandhi Convention Centre with 1000 delegate capacity.



*Kovalam Beach*

Hotel Samudra, run by the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation is also nearby. Besides, there are numerous hotels managed by private agencies.

The resort has 198 rooms with the four presidential suits in the Halcyon Castle, the Summer Retreat of the erstwhile Maharaja.

### **Museum and Zoo**

The Museum building itself is an architectural splendour. The Napier Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Reptile House and the Shri Chitra Art Gallery are all within the zoo complex amidst a well laid-out garden and park. There is a lake and a boat club jointly operated by the Department of Museums and Zoos and the District Tourism Promotion Council.



*Museum building – an architectural magnificence*

The zoo offers a rare opportunity for the visitors to experience an unparalleled, picturesque and panoramic sylvan landscape with a wide range of animal collections. The zoo has 75 different species of animals not only from India but also from abroad. It has several species of animals and birds from Ethiopian and Australian zoological regions. The Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, Manipur deer, Indian Rhino, Asiatic Lion and the Royal Bengal Tiger are prominent among the indigenous endangered fauna, while giraffe, hippo, zebra and cape buffalo are guests from the African region. A new era will be ushered in with the completion of the ongoing modernisation work in the zoo which will provide for thrilling encounters with the animals out in their open air landscapes.

### **Veli Lagoon**

On the outskirts of Kerala's capital, by the side of the placid waters of Veli lake, the Boat Club attracts the city people and tourists. Veli, developed as a major tourist spot by providing facilities for pedal-boating, row boating, swimming,

get together, etc. is just the right place for an exciting outing.

The Youth Hostel at Veli which is hardly three kms, from the airport, provides inexpensive dormitory type accommodation.

Veli, with its palm fringed lake is easily accessible by road.



*Floating bridge at Veli tourist village*

### Shanghumugham Beach

Shanghumugham Beach is very near to the International Airport and is easily accessible from the Kovalam Beach, Veli Tourist Village and Akkulam Tourist Village. Shanghumugham beach is noted for its cleanliness. The vast



*The graceful mermaid basking at Shanghumugham beach*

stretch of white sand and the serene atmosphere, away from the crowd in the city, provide all the ingredients for relaxation and for spending an ideal evening. There is also a “Star Fish Restaurant” with eating kiosks and open air theatre with car parking facilities.

## Thiruvananthapuram

Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of the State and the headquarters of the district, is connected by air, rail and road. Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple, the Kanakakkunnu Palace, the Observatory, Science and Technology Museum, the Government Secretariat, the Kowdiar Palace, St. Joseph's Cathedral, the Tagore Centenary theatre and the Museum & zoo are some of the tourist attractions in the city.

Sree Chitra Art Gallery with its rich collection of exquisite paintings, is another attraction. The gallery has a special Ravi Varma section other than one for murals, water and oil painting. The S.M.S.M. Institute, Botanic Gardens at Palode and Chitranjali studios are added attractions.



*St. Joseph's Cathedral, Palayalam -  
in true Gothic Architecture.*



*Kanakakkunnu Palace – a landmark of  
Thiruvananthapuram*

The Raj Bhavan, Central Library, Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, University College, Residency, College of Fine Arts and the Wellington Water Works are but a few of the land marks that adorn the city.

There are three big stadia, namely; the University Stadium, the Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium and the Central Stadium, in the city. A velodrome at Kariavattom and the Jimmy George Indoor Stadium at Vellayambalam cater to sporting interests.

The neat and clean Shanghumughom beach is an attraction. The Aerodrome, the Government Engineering Workshop, the Trivandrum Rubber Works and the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd are situated in the vicinity of Shanghumughom beach.



*The giant conches at Veli tourist village*

Interesting places worth visiting in the neighbourhood of Thiruvananthapuram city are Aruvikkara Water Works, Kovalam Beach Resort and the resort of Ponmudi Hills, the Neyydam at a distance of 29 kms also offers scenic splendour as well as opportunities for hikes, boating, camping and mountaineering.



*The old stone pavillion that stands firm and strong at Shanghumugham beach*

Kanyakumari, the land's end of India now in Tamil Nadu, is only 87 kms. from Thiruvananthapuram.

On the way to Kanyakumari is Padmanabhapuram, the old capital of Travancore, where an ancient palace with antique murals is located.

## Thiruvananthapuram District at a glance

### Distribution of PWD Roads\* (in kms)

State Highways	Major Dist Total Roads	Other Dist Roads	Village Roads
169.360	704.123	899.907	1853.457
			<i>2003*</i>

### Communications\*

No. of Post offices		No. of Telephone Exchanges
418	Urban - 85	94
	Rural - 333	

*2003\**

### Number of Registered working factories\* - 901

2002\*(Provisional)

### Number of SSI units\*

SC/ ST	Women	Others	Total
1323	6065	21530	28918

*\* 2003*

### Number of Industrial Co-operative Societies \*

SC	ST	Women	Others	Total No. of Societies
43	7	68	99	217

*\* 2003*

### Number of Handloom Co-operative Societies

363

*\*2002 – 2003*

### Number of job seekers \*

Men	Women	Total
239260	341061	580321

*\* 2003*

### Monthly rainfall (m.m) \*

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Rainfall	2.9	45.1	65.4	141.0	112.5	245.3	181.0	119.3	23.8	457.6

*\*Upto 31<sup>st</sup> October 2003*

### Educational Statistics

#### A profile of schools in the districts \*

	Government	Aided	Unaided	Total
LP Schools	302	181	14	497
UP Schools	98	102	15	215
High Schools	118	94	27	239
Teacher Training Institutions	4	5	—	9
Higher Secondary Schools**	46	45	37	128
Vocational HSS**	30	11	—	41
TOTAL	598	438	93	1129

*\*2002-2003 \*\*2003-2004*

### STUDENT STRENGTH \*

Total Boys	Total Girls	SC Boys	SC Girls	ST Boys	ST Girls
220124	220869	32939	32521	1588	1821

*\* 2003-2004*

### TEACHER STRENGTH \*

Management	H Secondary School		High School		UP School		L.P. School		Training School		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Govt.	354	844	1248	3092	374	1055	449	1494	21	60	2092	5701
Aided	324	911	950	2882	272	967	224	957	9	64	1455	4870
Unaided	7	32	164	952	61	116	25	145			250	1213
Total	685	1787	2362	6926	707	2138	698	2596	30	124	3797	13571

*M- Male, F-Female*

*\* Education Statistics 2002-2003*

## BARE FACTS

Area	-	2192 (Sq.km)	
Population	-	32,34,356	(Census 2001)
Males	-	15,69,917	”
Females	-	16,64,439	”
Scheduled Caste	-	3,70,857	”
Males	-	1,78,718	”
Females	-	1,92,139	”
Scheduled Tribe	-	20,893	”
Males	-	9,890	”
Females	-	11,003	”
Sex Ratio	-	1058	(Females per 1000 males) ”
Density of population	-	1476	”
Per capita Income	-	20,484	”
Literacy Rate	-	89.36%	”
Males	-	92.68%	”
Females	-	86.26%	”
Costal line	-	78 km	
Water body area	-	5,525	(in Ha)
Forest Area	-	49,861	(in Ha)
District Panchayat	-	01	
Block Panchayats	-	12	
Grama Panchayats	-	78	
Villages	-	120	
Corporation	-	01	
Municipalities	-	04	
Taluks	-	04	
Assembly Constituencies	-	14	
Parliamentary constituencies	-	02	

### Important Phone Numbers

District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram	-	2462471
District Collectorate	-	2462361
Addl. District Magistrate	-	2472165
City Police Commissioner	-	2323657
District Information Officer	-	2473267
Revenue Divisional Officer	-	2462309
Thiruvananthapuram Taluk	-	2462006
Neyyattinkara Taluk	-	2222227
Nedumangad Taluk	-	95472 2802424
Chirayinkil Taluk	-	95470 2622406
DRDA, Thiruvananthapuram	-	2551394
Regional Transport Officer	-	2328626
District Planning Officer	-	2472317
Dy. Director, Education	-	2472302
District Supply Officer	-	2460866
District Medical Officer	-	2471291
Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute of Medical Sciences	-	2443152
Government Guest House, Thycaud	-	2324453
Govt. Rest House, Thiruvananthapuram	-	2323711

