

District Documentation - Kollam

**The Report of Study conducted by the
Indian Institute of Public Administration
Kerala Regional Branch, Thiruvananthapuram**

Contents

Abbreviations Used	6
Chapter 1 - Introduction	8
Location and Boundaries, Natural Divisions, Evolution of the District, Governance and Society in the 19 th and 20 th centuries	
Chapter 2 – Socio – Economic and Political Changes	34
Population figures and other aspects – Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Food and Clothing, Transportation, Industry, Tourism, Trade and Commerce.	
Economic Structure, Agriculture and Irrigation in Kollam District, Irrigation, Forests, Banking, Trade and Commerce, Education and Culture, Medical Services	
Chapter 3 – District Administration	83
Meaning and Definition, Changing Role of Collector in the District Administration, Revenue Department, Sources of Revenue – Basic Tax and Plantation Tax, Stamp Revenue and Registration Department, Excise Department, Survey Department, Police Department, Judiciary, Prisons and Jail, Treasury Department, Education Department – Organisation of Education Department, Colleges in Kollam District, Medical and Health Service Department, Agriculture Department, Animal Husbandary Department, Fisheries Department, Industries Department, Forest Department, Transport and Communication Department, Civil Supplies Department,	

Public Works Department, Irrigation Department, Power Department, Labour Department, Tourism Department, Department of Co-Operation, Department of Economics and Statistics, District Scheduled Castes Department, Kudumbasree – a novel initiative of Kerala, Other Departments, District Sainik Welfare Offices, Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments, Wakf Board, Local self Government, Analysis of Blue print.

Chapter 4 – Development Initiatives **130**

Sectoral Analysis – Agriculture, Coconut, Rubber, Pepper, Cashew, Vegetables, Marketing System, Irrigation System, Animal Husbandary, Fisheries, Industries, Health, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Forest, Conservation of Water Bodies – Ashtamudi Lake, Sasthamcotta Lake, Conservation and Re-generation of Mangroves, Conservation of Sacret Groves, Air Pollution, Conservation of Hillocks, Waste Management, Mining and Geology, Roads, National Highways, State Highways, State Highways proposed, Primary Roads, Secondary Roads, Tertiary Roads, Railways, New Proposals – Inland Navigation, Harbours – Neendakara Harbour, Thangassery Harbour, Kayamkulam Harbour, Education – Proposal for Coverage of Education, Literacy Mission Programmes, Proposals for increasing the quality of education, Free Pre-primary Education, Training Programmes to Teachers, Government Nursing College, Medical College in Government

Sector, Law College in Government Sector, Engineering College in Government Sector, Other Proposals, Proposals for Skill Development, Poverty Reduction, Power, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes – Houseless scheduled tribe family, rehabilitation of SC and ST families, Drinking water programme, Electrification, Reduction of unemployment, Tourism – Proposal based on types of Tourism (1) Back water tourism proposals (2) Beautification of canal from Ashtamudi to Eravipuram (3) Smart Water way terminal cum water sports centre, (4) Beach tourism proposals (5) Development and beautification of Thangasserry Break Water (6) Development of Thirumullavaram and Mundakkal Beach, (7) Under Water Marine Aquarium, (8) Beautification of Paravur Beach, (9) Deep Sea Fishing Crusie Terminal Complex at Neendakara, Eco-Tourism proposals, Destination Ashramam, Destination Sasthamcotta, Cultural and Traditional Tourism, (a) Museum at Thevally Palace, (b) Houseboat Construction Yard cum Museum of Traditional Crafts at Alumkadavu, (c) Handicrafts Villages, Health Tourism, Pilgrim Tourism, Malamel Pilgrimage Centre, Proposals for Marketing and Promotion, Proposal for Private Investors, Finance, Sources of Fund for Sectoral Development, Institutions in Kerala Supporting Infrastructure Development, Public Private Partenerships, Suggestions on Sources of Funds

Chapter – 5	167
Road Map, (1) Agriculture, (2) Fishing, (3) Animal Husbandary and Dairy Development, (4) Poverty Alleviation, (5) Scheduled Castes, (6) Cashew Industry, (7) Coir and Handloom, (8) Rubber and Oil Palm (9) Tourism (10) Eastern Area Development (11) Railway (12) Ports (13) Kollam Airport (14) Processing of Jackfruit	
Chapter – 6	182
Conclusion	
Bibliography	190

Abbreviations Used

ADS	-	Area Development Society
AIBP	-	Auxilerate Irrigation Benefit Programme
CSI	-	Churches of South India
CDC	-	Community Development Society
DD	-	Deputy Director
DMO	-	District Medical Officer
DTPC	-	District Tourism Promotion Council
EICI	-	Export Inspection Council of India
IDDP	-	Integrated District Development Programme
IRE	-	Indian Rare Earths
IUDI	-	Integrated Urban Development of India
KMC	-	Kollam Municipal Corporation
KSCDC	-	Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation
KSRTC	-	Kerala State Road Transport Commission
KPAC	-	Kerala People's Arts Club
KPCC	-	Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee
LMS	-	London Mission Society
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organisation
NH	-	National Highway
NSS	-	Nair Service Society
PSP	-	Praja Socialist Party
RSP	-	Revolutionary Socialist Party
SH	-	State Highways

SIDCO	-	Small Industries Development Corporation
SNC	-	Sree Narayana College
SNDP	-	Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam
TAC	-	Technical Advisory Committee
TKM	-	Tangal Kunju Musaliyar
VTMS	-	Vessel Tracking Monitoriy System

Introduction

Location and Boundaries

Kollam district is situated on the south west coast of India. It extends, from latitude $9^{\circ}28'$ North to $8^{\circ}45'$ ^N and longitude $76^{\circ}28'$ ^N to $77^{\circ}17'$ ^E. The district is bounded on the north by Alappuzha and Kottayam districts on the east by Thirunelveli district of Tamilnadu and on the South by Thiruvananthapuram district, and on the West by the Arabian Sea (A Sreedhara Menon: 1964 : 2). At the time of the integration of the princely states of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 there were three revenue divisions in Travancore namely Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam each of which was under a Division Peishkar. With the inauguration of the United State of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 the revenue divisions came to be formally called districts and they were placed under District Collectors. The district of Quilon at this time consisted of 12 Taluks namely Quilon, Kottarakkara, Pathanapuram, Shencottah, Kunnathur, Pathanamthitta, Karthikappally, Karunagappally, Mavelikkara, Thiruvalla, Ambalapuzha and Cherthala and had an area of 2726.6 sq. Miles. With the reorganisation of states on linguistic basis on 1st November 1956 a part of the Shencottah Taluk was merged in the neighbouring state of Madras. At the same time the Thiruvalla Taluk was bifurcated and a new taluk Chengannur was

formed. When the new district of Alappuzha was constituted on 17th August 1957, the taluks of Shertallai, Ambalapuzha, Karthikappally, Mavelikkara, Chengnanur and Thiruvalla were detached from Kollam. With this the area of the district was considerably reduced.

Natural Divisions

On the basis of physical features, Kollam district may be divided into three natural divisions, the low land bordering the sea coast, the mid land consisting of the undulating country of low hills and valleys east of the low lands and lastly the forest clad highlands on the extreme east. The elevation of the land gradually increases from the sea coast as it goes eastwards and finally reaches the Western Ghats, the average height of which is about 4000 feet above the sea level.

The Achancoil gap or as it is also known as the Aryankavu pass is in the eastern part of Pathanapuram taluk and gives an easy access by rail and road to the adjoining Thirunelveli district. As one passes through the train between Punalur and Aryankavu through what is known as the ghat section one sees a splendid scenery of luxuriant forests, all the way.

The rivers Kallada and Ithikkara are the only two rivers that flow entirely in this district.

The Sasthamkotta lake, the only major fresh water lake in the state is in Kollam. It is on the right bank of the Kallada river. The lake is surrounded by high hills in three sides and is protected in the eastern side by an earthen bund about a mile in length. The area of the lake is about 1.44 sq. miles with a maximum depth of 47 feet. It owes its supply mainly to the infiltration of ground water. No streams flow into it.

The district has a tropical humid climate with an oppressive summer and plentiful seasonal rainfall. The hot season March to May is followed by the South West Monsoon season from June to September, October and November form the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season. The period from December to February are the north east monsoon season and the rest of the period being generally dry. The south west monsoon rains called locally as Edavappathy and the north east monsoon rains called Thulavarsham are equally important for agriculture.

The hottest period of the year is from February to about the end of May. The temperature in the coastal region is somewhere less than in the interior. The comparative coolness in the coastal region is due to the effect of the sea breezes. In the interior of the district the maximum temperature may sometimes be as high as 39⁰C. The monsoon season is generally pleasant after September the day temperature increase slightly

but the night temperature decreases. The air is highly humid practically all the year round as opined by Kesavan Nair. (Kesavan Nair.P : 2020:13).

Evolution of the District

The history of Kollam is intimately bound up with that of the neighbouring district of Thiruvananthapuram. Megalithic monuments belonging to the Neolithic period have been found in many places. The most important of them are dolmens and they are believed to be burial chambers in which people of importance were buried in the Neolithic times. From Karunagappally and Kunnathur, statues of Budha in the Yogasana posture have been discovered. It is calculated that they belong to the 9th century architecture. It may be mentioned in this connection that Kollam district was one of the areas of Kerala where Buddhism exercised a predominant influence on the life of the people at an early period of its history. (Padmanabha Menon KP : 1924 : Vol. I P.270)

In spite of the historical importance of Kollam only very few relics of the old palaces and forts are found. No traces of the ruins of the Panamkavil Palace which was once the residence of the early Venad Kings can be seen in Kollam town. The district is also noted for its inscriptions. The Therisappally copper plate dated 849AD, the Mampalli Plate dated 973 AD and the Rameswaram Coil inscription 1102 AD are

epoch making documents which loom large in the annals of Kerala epigraphy.(Govt. of Keala: 1999 : Vol V : 153).

Kollam which the British renamed as Quilon for a long time has its known history going back to atleast 1300 years. Archaeological exploring has provided many examples of megalithic burial sites in different parts of the district and sheds light on its pre-historical ancestry. The historical archaeology of Kollam district may be studied with reference to the temples stone images, inscriptions and ruins of forts and palaces.

Archeological excavations in different parts of Kollam brought to light remnants of a Paleolithic culture. In Thenmala there was an urban civilisation that synchronises with Indusvalley civilisation. In a cave in Chendrunny valley, the paintings and sculptures of a primitive culture was discovered by Rajendran from Thenmala. Rajendran excavated iron implements and hunting instruments from Mayyanad and Sasthamcotta Neo-lithic implements were excavated from Punalur and a huge burial urn (Nannagedi) was found out. From the western side of Kollam many Neolithic caves were found. From many places in Kollam coins of Rome and China were found out (Vilakkudi Rajendran : 2016 : 64-65)

In the great stone age period it is presumed that all over Kollam agriculture, small scale business activities were carried on and it is almost three thousand years old. (Harikattel : 2020 : 10-11)

Early history of Kollam is of wild conjecture. The St.Thomas tradition which has no solid proof says that one of the seven churches he built in South India is in Kollam (AD First Century). But the Tamil literature of that period known as Sangam age does not go with this belief. However what can be reasonably conjectured is that in the initial centuries of the Christian era, Kollam and surrounding areas belonged to the AY-Kingdom. Greek historians of the time like Pliny, Ptolemy and the 'Periplus' man mention certain names in the present Kollam district like Kottarakkara (Cottanara) famous for pepper and Neendakara (Nilkanda) a famous port. (Bhaskaranunni, 1993:37)

Anyhow the literacy records categorically say that by the 5th century the whole of Kollam district came under the Chera dominion. According to some well known historians like Logan and Nagam Aiya the earliest mention of Kollam can be found in a book written by a Byzantian monk who visited the Malabar Coast in 522 AD. It has also been pointed out that according to the records of Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) Kollam was the chief settlement of the early Chinese traders.

It was in the 9th century AD that Kollam emerged into prominence as a great political and commercial centre. The town was the capital of Venad who were the vassals of the Kulasekheras of Mahodayapuram. It had extensive trade relations with China and Arabia and its port was one of the largest in the world at that time. Several writers have associated the town with Kollam Era which began in 825 AD. Different views have been cited by scholars and historians about the beginning of Kollam era; but the fact is that the last word on the origin of Kollam era is yet to be established.

When Venad emerged into political prominence in the 9th century AD, it was an administrative division of the Kulasekhara Empire. But it is equally important to highlight the most important political events and cultural achievements associated with Venad and Kollam district. The first king of Venad on whom inscriptional evidence is available is Ayyan Adikal. He has immortalised himself in the famous syrian christian copper plates which was executed by him in 849 AD. It elaborately tells of a number of concessions that was made to Theresia church which was erected by a chief merchant Maruvan Sapir Iso.

The Therisappalli copper plates are of great historical importance; the document is the first epigraphical record of Kerala which throws light on the prevailing form of political organisation. From it we also

understand that Ayyan Adikal was only a feudal chief of the Emperor Sthanu Ravi. The records also reveal that Kollam was at that time a place of great commercial importance. The town assembly and the merchant guilds had immense authority over the economic and political affairs of Kollam. The responsibility for the defence and security of Kollam was vested in these bodies. We also learn of the different layers of tax system from it. The Therisappally copper plates also bear testimony to the spirit of religious tolerance which was the hallmark of Kerala rulers.(Govt. of Kerala : 1999 : Vol. V : 154)

It was during the reign of Ayyan Adikal, the Arab merchant Sulaiman visited Kerala. He had observed that Kollam was at that time the most important port in South India.

After Ayyan Adikal's rule there is no news about Kollam for almost 100 years. In AD 974 we have the Mampalli plates which was a land deed affected at the Panamkavil Palace in Kollam at the time of Vallabhan Kothai. It also throws light at the arrangements made for the administration of the temples in Kerala. The Jewish copper plate of 1000 AD speaks of the King Govardhana Marthandan of Kollam who was a vassal of the emperor Bhaskara Ravivarman.

The 11th century saw the hundred years of war between the Kulasekharas and the Cholas. Kollam was of strategic importance as it

was an easy prey to the attackers because of its geographical proximity to the Chola Kingdom. Raja Raja Chola annexed South Kerala but did not attack Kollam. Later his son Rajendra Chola and grandson Rajadhiraja Chola vanquished Kollam and a large part of Venad was occupied by the Chola for a long time. Again during the reign of Kulothunga Chola, entire Venad including Kollam was ransacked. By the time the Cholas withdrew from Venad the power of the Kulasekharas had considerably declined and small independent kingdoms came up in different parts of the erstwhile Venad. In the 11th century an independent Venad was born and Rama Varma Kulasekheva moved his capital to Kollam. All the above details are narrated in the famous Rameswaram Koil inscriptions. It was during his reign the Kerala Brahmins called Namboothiris asserted their rights and obtained many concessions and grants from the King. This herald the dawn of the Namboothiri Age in Kerala history.

In between many kings ruled Venad and they were all equally enthusiastic about building temples and administering them properly. They were in close relation with the Pandya Kings. One notable king was Jayasimha who gave his name to Kollam as Jayasimhanadu and later Desinganadu. After him the patrilineal system came to an end and

matriarchy or marumakkathayam (nephews becoming the rulers) came to be the norm.

The kings of the time were not autocrats. There were popular assemblies who advised the king on important matters. For administrative convenience the kingdom was divided into Desams. The kings of Venad were hindus and they tried their level best to keep the temples prosperous. They were places of worship as well as places for learning and teaching. The kings followed an enlightened policy of religious tolerance. Kollam was a great cosmopolitan city where temples and churches flourished equally. The overall picture of Venad at that era is one of liberal administration, material prosperity and religious amity. Many foreign travellers came to Kollam and they had left detailed descriptions of the people, their way of life, customs and religion. Macro Polo visited Kollam towards the end of 13th century and gives a lot of information about the place and its people. He tells of a land of plenty where pepper and other spices grew in abundance.

When the medieval period begins we see a very brave and efficient king ruling Venad. He was called Ravi Varma Kulasekhara and he expanded Venad to the Pandian Kingdom. Under him Kollam regained its old position and developed into the most important port of the western coast. In short his vast and varied accomplishments make

Ravi Varma Kulasekhara one of the most illustrious kings in the history of South India.

In the 14th and 15th centuries Venad which had an area of 2000 square miles was divided into two parts: Venad with its Capital at Kollam and Elayidatthu swarupam with its capital at Kottarakkara. One branch of Venad established at Thiruvithamcodu in the later half of 16th century. Another branch of the Kottarakkara kingdom set up residence at Nedumangad. Thus by the 17th century the old Venad royal family came to have four distinctive branches namely Kollam, Thiruvithamcodu, Kottarakkara and Perakam (Nedumengad).

Of all the Venad kings the one who ruled the longest period (61 years) was Chera Udaya Marthanda Varma who was a patron of religion and literature. Leelathilakam the great work on grammar and mathematics was written during his time. The king of Vijayanagara tried to capture Venad but did not succeed. It was during the reign of Ravi Varma, Vasco Da Gama landed at Kappad in Kozhikkode (1498).

The Portuguese activity began in Kollam in 1501. The king of Kollam invited Kabral, the Portuguese governor to Kollam. The Portuguese were hesitant to accept the invitation as they feared that it would spoil the relation with Cochin. But within no time trade flourished enormously with Kollam. Though there were occasional

misunderstandings and resultant battles between the Portuguese and Kollam, spices trade went on uninterruptedly. During these days Kollam was already fighting against the mighty Vijayanagara Kings.

The various European visitors and missionaries speak highly of Kollam, its people and their religious worship. Cows were widely venerated and the people were very god fearing and trust worthy.

Later when Ibn Batuta visited Kollam, he describes Kollam as one of the finest cities in Malabar with great markets and wealthy merchants. He also saw Chinese ships arriving at Kollam port though trade with China was dwindling.

However the power of the Portugese did not last long. Their power gradually declined after the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the British. The Protestant powers of Holland and England soon entered the scene. Among the Dutch writers the most prominent was John Nieuhoff. The Dutch entered into many trades with King of Kollam and neighbouring Kings; but at the same time the relationship between the two was not one of friendship or complete enmity. In between the precious trade went on uninterrupted was the golden thread.

The 17th century saw the rise of British power in South Kerala. In 1664 the English East India Company obtained permission from the king

of Travancore to build a factory at Vizhinjam. Twenty years later they got permission from the Rani of Attingal to build a Fort at Anjengo. In 1723 permission was given to the company to build a fort at Kolachel. By the time of the accession of Marthanda Varma the English East India Company had emerged as an important factor in the politics of Travancore and the foundation for the future alliance between Travancore and the English had already been laid.

The reign of Marthanda Varma marks the beginning of the modern period in the history of Travancore. During this period the wars waged by Marthanda Varma with the rulers of Kollam, Kayamkulam and Kottarakkara led to serious complications with the Dutch Kollam which was ruled by Marthanda Varma's uncle Unni Kerala Varma was annexed by Marthanda Varma. He later moved to small principalities and finally conquered Kayamkulam. Marthanda Varma was annexing little kingdoms one by one and this led him to a direct confrontation with the Dutch army. Many garrisons of the Dutch in Kollam and north were defeated and were taken over. Final victory came to Marthanda Varma when the combined Dutch forces were defeated at Kolachel and of the captured Dutch soldiers, D'Lennoy who threw his fortunes with Marthanda Varma later became the general of the army of Travancore. After the fall of Kolachel the Travancore army moved towards

Kayamkulam and Kollam and one by one all these kingdoms were annexed to Travancore.

After Marthanda Varma Travancore was ruled by Dharma Raja and Kollam enjoyed peace and prosperity. The visitors from Europe gave detailed descriptions of the wealth and abundance of Kollam. During the reign of Balarama Varma, the most notable person was the Diwan, Velu Thampi. He lived in Kollam and embarked on a great scheme for the multi faceted development of Kollam. New bazaars and roads were opened. But this did not continue for long, the British fell out with Velu Thampi and the British had strong reinforcements in Kollam. Velu Thampi had the support of the people and in the ensuing battle at Kollam many soldiers on the Diwans side lost their lives. Velu Thampi proceeded to Kundara a nearby place where before a huge assembly of people he read out the famous Kundara Proclamation. In it he said that the British have come to plunder and drain the wealth of India and they should be send out at the earliest. His words are an open call for revolt against the British. The people's army met the British army at several places in Kollam and the final result was against Velu Thampi who met big casualties. The British army reached the capital of Travancore and the king sued for peace and issued orders for the capture of Velu Thampi. Velu Thampi was in a precarious position and sought assylum

in the temple at Mannadi. Velu Thampi killed himself, but the British army took his corpse to Thiruvananthapuram and hanged it on a tree for days. His house was razed to the ground and all of his relatives were exiled to Maldives.

The Nair brigade loyal to Thampi continued to attack the British army in many places in Kollam. Finally the Nair battalions were demobilised and the defence of Travancore was entrusted solely to the British force stationed at Kollam. In 1810 when Rani Gauri Lekshmi Bai came to the throne the then Diwan was dismissed and Col: Munro who was the British resident was appointed as the Diwan. The dismissed diwan and the disappointed soldiers hatched a plan to recapture Kollam which they could not achieve. All the rebels were arrested and executed.

From the period starting with Col.Munroe Kollam district along with the rest of Travancore surged ahead in the fields of administrative and social and educational reforms. Munroe built a residency building in Kollam and the huzur cutchery was thoroughly recognised and in the future it became the secretariat. Oppressive taxes were removed and in 1812 slavery was partially abolished. He also evolved a sound system of judicial administration. Even after his retirement from the post of Diwan he took a special interest in the affairs of the state and the problems of the people.

The most important change that happened at the end of 18th century was the disappearance of the old petty principalities which were mutually quarrelling and the emergence in its place of a strong centralised state of Travancore under Marthanda Varma. The birth of the new state however did not bring in an era of liberal and progressive government. The form of government was still despotic and the king and his chiefs were held in great fear by the common people. There was no independent judiciary. The officials were corrupt and oppressive to a great degree and bribes and gratifications were expected everywhere. The law of the land did not guarantee social equality and justice. Feudal principles still governed social relations. The brahmin clergy and the nair nobility held a dominant and privileged position in society. They freely oppressed the lower castes to their advantage. The administrators of law enforced the perpetration of the grossest cruelties and crimes on the labouring classes and slaves who formed the bulk of the population of the land. Pachu Muthathu, the earliest historian of modern travancore writes that blowing from the mouth of a canon, impaling and hanging cutting of vital organs of the body were common punishments inflicted even for silly offences. Slavery is the most despicable form existing in the land. The masters had all freedom over the slaves who were freely bought and sold like cattle. The taxation system was so cruel that the lower castes were forced to pay tax on anything as the master wished.

During the rule of Gouri Parvati Bai the pace of social and administrative reform quickened Kollam for some time was the headquarters of the Diwan. During her rule many oppressive laws, and taxes were done away with.

During the reign of Swati Thirunal the Huzur Cutchery was transferred to Trivandrum. It was also a period which saw the introduction of English education. Free schools were opened in 1834 in various places including Kollam. In 1853 and 1855 proclamations were made to abolish slavery once and for all. In 1859, Travancore was divided into four districts and Kollam was one such district.

During the reign of Sree Mulam Thirunal many measures were taken for the upliftment and welfare of the common folk. The district was connected with other parts of the state by a well laid system of roads. The most important land mark during his reign was the opening of Shencottah Kollam railway (Kesavan Nair.P : 2020 : 97) A modern allopathic hospital and Victoria hospital for women were opened in Kollam. In 1907 an agricultural demonstration farm was opened at Kollam. The district was connected with other parts of the state by a well laid system of roads. The most significant landmark in the progress of Kollam was the opening of the Shencottah – Quilon railway. The sanitary administration was warmed up, a town improvement committee

was set up for Kollam. The physical limits of Kollam town was enlarged in 1900.

The reign of Sree Chithira Thirunal Bala Rama Varma, saw the Temple Entry Proclamation in 1936. The period also witnessed the steady industrialisation of Kollam. The ceramic factory at Kundara, and the Punalur paper mills were opened during this time.

Social reform movement became active, the law of inheritance among the Nairs called Marumakkathayam was abolished and a new Travancore Nair Regulation Act came into existence. This act had its repercussions on other communities also. Indian National Congress started the agitation for temple entry and in 1924 the Vaikom Sathyagraha started T.K.Madhavan from Kollam district was the most prominent leader of this. The social and religious movements spearheaded by Sree Narayana Guru and Chattampi Swamikal were water marks in the history of Kollam and Travancore. Worn out customs and rituals were given up by people enmasse under their leadership. SNDP and NSS took the initiative to remove age old superstitions and rituals from their communities.

The district played an important role in the freedom struggle. The name of K.Kumar is prominent among them. During the Abstention or Nivarthana Movement, Kollam played the most important role. Leaders

like C.Kesavan and T.M.Varghese were from Kollam. The legislative council and public services were the monopoly of the upper castes, while the bulk of the population were the backward castes. If a proper study of the representation of the legislative council is made it can be easily seen that the representation of the backward castes was nil or negligible. Only tax payers had the right to vote and almost all the tax payers belong to the upper castes.

Vinayakumar clearly mentions about activities of the freedom fighters, especially R Sankar who was in the forefront for responsible government in Travancore (Vinayakumar 2009: 29). Along with C.Kesavan and Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai he played a crucial role for the freedom struggle. Both of them belonged to the extremists group of the State Congress (M.K.Kumarran 1987 : 309). Even though Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai was secular in his activities he was quite an adept politician in manipulating effectively the politics of his time. (Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai 1987 : 19)

The backward communities clamoured for proportional representation. The backward communities formed a united front and decided to abstain from the legislature. The leaders of the new front demanded proportional representation in the legislation and adult franchise on equality. The leaders were arrested and the government

used force to suppress the movement. Eventually the government was forced to accept all the demands of the backward classes.

Political history of Travancore and Travancore-Cochin are already mentioned before. In 1956, the new State of Kerala came into existence, after a linguistic division of the country. The southern state of Kanyakumari became part of Tamil Nadu. The Malabar District of British India was added to the State of Trivandrum Cochin. In 1956 B.Ramakrishna Rao became the governor of the new state. In the election to the new assembly, Communist Party of India got a majority and veteran communist leader E.M.Sankaran Nampoothirippad became the new chief minister of Kerala. The government was dismissed in 1959 by the Central Government and in the new election an alliance of Indian National Congress (INC) and Praja Socialist Party (PSP) got the majority and Pattom Thanu Pillai became the new chief minister and he was followed by R.Sankar, a veteran congress leader. Again there was a stint of president rule. In 1967 EMS again became the chief minister and prominent leaders from Kollam, like M.N.Govindnan Nair and E.Chandrasekharan Nair were important ministers. Leaders like Baby John, N.Sreekantan Nair, T.K.Divakaran (all from RSP) and ministers and Lok Sabha members like A.A.Rahim, R.Balakrishna Pillai (Kerala Congress) also are from Kollam. Former KPCC Presidents and MPs

C.V.Padmarajan and Thennala G.Balakrishna Pillai from INC are also from Kollam.

Kollam is now sidelined by Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. Some of the traditional industries of Kollam like coir, tiles, cashew and ceramic factory have lost prominence recently. Perhaps the only exception is the Indian Rare Earths located at Chavara.

Governance and Society in the 19th and 20th centuries

In order to understand clearly the significance of the great administrative and social changes that took place in the 19th and 20th centuries, it is necessary that we should give a clear picture of government and society in Travancore towards the end of 18th century and the beginning of 19th century. The most significant change that took place in the political scene in South Kerala towards the latter half of 18th century was the disappearance of the old principalities which were quarrelling among themselves and the emergence in their place of the modern centralised state of Travancore under Marthanda Varma. The birth of the modern centralised Travancore did not usher in an era of liberal and progressive government. The form of government was still despotic. All the authority was centralised in the Raja. There was no Independent judiciary. The officials were corrupt and oppressive and bribes were expected everywhere. The law of the land did not guarantee

social equality and justice. Feudal principles governed social relations. The brahmin clergy and nair nobility held a dominant position. They oppressed the farmers of the land consisting of the ezhavas, the pulayas and others. The backward communities were subjected to the most serious social disabilities and hardships.

Col.Munro who was the Diwan of Travancore in 1811 wrote to the Madras government in 1818; “No description can produce, an adequate impression of the tyranny, corruption and abuses of the system, oppressive and infamous no mercy or justice. (Samuel Mateer : 1883 : 291)

It was Munro who built the residency at Kollam in order to have effective personal supervision over the conduct of business at the Huzur Cutcherry. The cutcherry was thoroughly reorganised and the beginning of the secretariat system was laid. Cases of corruption were promptly detected and punished. A sound system of audit and accounts was introduced. Many petty and oppressive taxes were abolished. It gave great relief to the poor class. Forced labour was also abolished. Courts of law were established in many places. Even after retirement from the post of diwan he continued to take keen interest in the problems of the people.

During the rule of Swati Thirunal the cutcherry or secretariate was shifted from Kollam to Thiruvananthapuram for the sake of better administration. English education was started and government schools in district centres began to impart English education. In the royal proclamations of 1853 and 1855 slavery was abolished. The state was divided into four divisions namely Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum, Quilon and Shertallai.

Before winding up the history of Kollam the cultural contributions of the district has to be mentioned. Kollam has made notable contributions in the fields of learning, literature and art. As the capital Venad, Kollam was in the ancient and medieval periods a great centre of learning and culture and it reached its intellectual heights during the reign of Ravi Varma Kulasekhara (1299-1311)

The 14th century also was a period of great literary activity. Outstanding works like Leelathilakam and Unnuneeli sandesham were composed during this period. Leelathilakam is a Sanskrit work which deals with Malayalam grammar and contains quotations from many old works which have since been lost. Unnuneeli sandesham in imitation of Kalidasa's Meghadut is first of its kind in Malayalam language.

The district has made its most significant contribution to Kathakali art and literature. The credit for having invented the art of

Kathakali in the form of Ramanattam goes to the Raja of Kottarakkara. (Krishna Iyer L.A : 1961 :154) The origin of Ramanattam is ascribed to a cultural insult given by the Zamorin of Calicut to the Raja of Kottarakkara. The latter asked for a loan of Rajas troops to perform at his place. Amarin refused his request. Therefore the Raja decided to organize a rival form of drama named Ramanattam based on the life of Sri Rama. He composed a regular attakatha in Malayalam for the purpose staging Kathakali. The Raja also improved Ramanattam by substituting Sanskrit into Malayalam and laid the foundation of a new type of historic literature in Malayalam which was to be enriched in later years by some of the finest works in the language.

In the 19th century notable writers like K.C.Keshava Pillai, Paravur Keshavan Asan, E.V.Krishna Pillai, C.V.Kunjuraman were some of the great sons of Kollam district who contributed immensely to the growth of Malayalam language and literature.

Kollam has a proud tradition of drama. The story of Sakunthala was dramtised in Shankunthalam and Thiruvattar Narayana Pillai, the hero made it a memorable literary feat. In 1929 Oachira Parabrahmodaya Sangeeth Natak Sabha was formed. The sabha became very popular with the presentation of Kumaran Asan's Karuna. Some of the well known actors were Oachira Velukutty, Sebastian Bhagavathar,

Swami Brahmavritan and Muthakulam Raghavan Pillai. C.V.Raman Pillai and E.V.Krishna Pillai wrote plays which sarcastically attacked the superstitions and rituals of the time. C.N.Sreekantan Nair, based on Ramayana wrote three plays: Kanchana Seetha, Saketham, and Lanka Lekshmi. KPAC became the most popular drama platform and their greatest hit was “You Made Me a Communist”. Other great playwrights were Prof.Sankara Pilla and Vayalar Vasudevan Pillai. (P.Kesavan Nair : 2020 : 185-87)

In cinema general pictures of Ravindranathan Nair made great artistic films directed by noted film director, G.Aravindan. Some of the films which won national and international acclaim are Utharayanam, Kanchana Seetha and Elippathayam. Eminent film artists like Kottarakkara Sreedharan Nair, Saikumar, Ganesh Kumar (a politician also) and Paravoor Devarajan a great music director are from Kollam.

Painters like Jayapala Panikkar, Paris Viswanathan come from Kollam district. Early literary figures like E.V.Krishna Pillai, historian Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai, N.Gopala Pillai, great scholar Sooranad Kunjan Pillai, play wright C.N.Sreekantan Nair, novelist, Lalithambika Antherjanam, Prof.Thirunalloor Karunakaran, Poet and Professor O.N.V.Kurup who was awarded Padmavibhushan and Jnana pitam,

novelist Kakkanadan, poet and teacher Vinayachandran, all come from Kollam district.

II

Socio-Economic and Political Changes

Social changes refer to alterations that take place in the societal system of a particular group or society over time. These changes can affect various aspects of society including cultural economic and political systems. They can be driven by a variety of factors, such as technological advancements demographic shifts and changing values and norms. Social changes can have both positive and negative impacts on individuals and communities and may require new strategies and approaches to address emerging challenges and opportunities. Examples of social changes may include changes in gender roles, legal systems, family structures and social norms surrounding marriage education and healthcare.

Now we will look into the social structure and people of Kollam. The proportion of the population of Kollam to the total population of the state was 8.12 percent in the 2001 census data. But in 2011 it has come down to 7.89. The sex ratio where a women exceed men was 1069 in 2001 and now as per the 2011 census it is 1113.

Census data of the District is shown below

A	Population Total	2635375
	SC	328263
	ST	10761
	Others	2296351
B	Sex-wise	
	i) Male	1246968
	ii) Female	1388407
	Population Density/Sq.Km	1061
	Sex ratio (No, of females/1000 males)	1113
C	Rural Population	
	i) Male	680687
	ii) Female	767530
D	Urban Population	
	i) Male	566281
	ii) Female	620881
E	Population in age group 0-6	
	i) Male	128899
	ii) Female	125361
	Sex Ratio	973
F	Worforce availability	
	i) Male	644362
	ii) Female	236770
	Sex Ratio	367.45
G	No. Of Literates (Total)	
H	Main Workers Total	695299
	i) Male	1074345
	ii) Female	1165928
	Cultivators	41467
	Agriculture labourers	56640
	Household Industry workers	13851
	Other workers	583341
I	Marginal workers Total	216726
	Cultivators	56693
	Agriculture labourers	92193
	Household Industry workers	21511
	Other workers	741628
K	Work participation rate	33.43

Population Figues and Other Aspects

The population of Quilon has been continually on the increase. According to Quilon District Handbook (1951) it increased by 250 percent during the fifty years from 1901 to 1951. It rose further in 1961 registering an increase of 31.70 percent during the decade. (A Sreedhara Menon : 1964 : 164). The total population of Kollam District as per 2001 census is 2585064, which is eight percent of the total population of the state which is less than the average growth rate of 9.42 percent of the state. (Govt. of Kerala : Integrated District Development Plan Kollam – 2009 : 12). As per the 2011 Census the decadal population growth rate is 7.4 percent (Directorate of Census Operations 2011) Majority of people live in the rural areas in 1947. The urban area in the District comprises of three town viz Kollam, Kilikollur and Kundara. The concept of urban town has changed at successive censuses and it is therefore difficult to compare in one census year with that in any other. In 1951 there were nine towns in Kollam District – Quilon, Kottarakkara, Punalur, Pathanapuram, Adur, Karunagappally and Oachira. (A Sreedhara Menon 1964 : 166).

As per the census 1961 the figures of the distribution of population according to language are not available. It is clear that

Malayalam is the predominant language spoken by the people of the District. Tamil is the language next in importance.

Hindus

The population of Kollam has been continually on the increase. The current metro area population of Kollam in 2023 is 2107000, a 4 percent increase from 2022. In 2011 Kollam had a population of 2635375 of which male and female were 1246968 and female were 1388407 respectively average.

Literacy rate: Average literary rate of Kollam in 2011 was 94.09 compared to 94.08 of 2001. At gender wise male and female literacy were 96.09 percent and 92.31 percent respectively.

When we look at the religious data of Kollam 64.42 percent of the people are Hindus, 19.3 percent are Muslims 16 percent are Christians Sikh and Buddhist are .01 percent.

The last census of Kollam was done in 2011 and next census of 2021 has been postponed due to covid situation. We can only project the future population of the district. As such by 2023 it is around 26.86 lakhs and by it is projected as 2,69,000 in 2031 lakh (27 million. In 2011 the percentage of growth was 1.94% compared to 7.38% in 2001 census. The density of population is 1061 per sq.km and the proportion to total

Kerala population is 7.89%. The literacy rate has already been quoted. In the 2011 census the child sex ratio has been 973 : 1000 and the girl sex ratio remains on the upper side.

As far as house or houseless data is concerned 520 families live on footpath without any roof cover in Kollam city. The district has a total area of 2483 sq.km. There are 27 towns and 69 villages in Kollam district. The district population as in 2023 (as per Aadhar) is 3663, 172. In the 2011 census the population was 2,635,375 people living in the district depend on multiple skills. The number of total workers are 912025 out of which men are 644362 and women are 267663. 41467 people are depending on agricultural farming and of this 37,441 are men and 4026 are women. The district sex ratio as on 2023 is 1113 females per 1000 of males. Of the total area, 416 sq km is urban and 2067 km is rural. Out of the total population (2011 census) 1187158 are in urban areas and 1448217 are in rural area. 292696 households are urban and 376679 are in rural area. (Kollam Jilla Padhathi : 2018 : P 18-20)

Taluk is the local administrative division which is usually a town or city. Taluk can be considered as sub-districts. As on the last 2011 census Kollam is divided into five taluks. They are Karunagappally, Kunnathur, Pathanampuram, Kottarakkara and Kollam. Now a new taluk, Punalur has been formed.

Plains, mountains, lakes, lagoons, backwaters, forests, farmland and rivers make up the topography of the district. Kollams temperature is almost steady throughout the year. The average temperature varies from 25 to 32 degree celcius. Summer usually runs from March until May; the monsoon begins by June and ends by September. Kollam receives an annual average rainfall of around 2700 milli meters. It receives both south west and north east monsoons. Winter is from November to February; the temperature is moderately cool ranging from 18 to 25 degrees celcius.

According to the 2011 census Kollam district has a population of 2,635,375 roughly equal to the population of Kuwait. This gives it a ranking of 155th in India out of a total of 640 districts. Scheduled castes and Tribes make up 12.46 percent and 0.41percent of the population respectively. The Kollam urban agglomeration is the 6th most populous urban agglomeration in the state. Kollam is placed 49th in the list of the most populous urban agglomeration in India.

Hinduism is practiced by majority of the people in Kollam district of which Nair community (32percent) and Ezhava community (30.5 percent) are the largest sub groups. Kollam is the only district in South Kerala where Muslims outnumber Christians. Despite this Kollam has a significant Christian population (16 percent) and among this the Latin

Catholics (36.7 percent) and malankara orthodox Syrian church Christians (34.24 percent) form the majority. The Marthoma Church form 19.06 percent of the Christians in the district.

As in the other Districts of Kerala the hindus form the bulk of the population in this District also. The christians forms the third largest community and muslims the second.

The hindu society is organized on the basis of the caste system. The brahmins, the ambalavasi and kshatriyas form only a small proportion of the Hindu population. The figures of 1941 census show that the nairs and ezhavas constitute the major castes among the Hindus of the district. The taluk wise figures of population of these caste in the district as the 1941 census are given below.

Taluk	Ezhavas	Nairs
Quilon	70462	72474
Karunagappally	65260	49342
Kunnathur	22344	41194
Kottarakkara	31266	53212
Pathanapuram	14478	85032
Pathanamthitta	28654	36358

(A Sreedhara Menon 1964 : 169)

As per the data collected from the field study of the SNDP Taluk Union and NSS Taluk Union

Taluk	Ezhava	Nairs
Kollam	64	144
Kundara	45	-
Chathannoor	54	80
Kottarakkar	92	150
Chavara	40	-
Karunagaappally	60	151
Kunnathoor	27	123
Punalur	67	-
Pathanapuram	38	167
Kadakkal	42	-
Chadayamangalam	-	102

(NSS has no Taluk Union at Kundara, Chavara and Kadakkal. SNDP has not taluk union at Chadayamangalam)

Next to nairs and ezhavas the SCs and STs constitute the most important segment of the hindu population. The kammalas constitute the fourth largest hindu community in the District. They are comprise carpenter, thattan, kollen or kallassari and moosari. Now they have their organisation called Kerala Viswakarma Sabha and Akhila Kerala Viswakarma Maha Sabha. There are 186 units out of 7 Taluk Sabha in the District (Data Collected from field study).

According to the census of 1951 there were 183003 dalits and 2614 Scheduled Tribes in this district. The most important sects among the SCs are kuravas, parayas and the pulayas. The sects of ST are

kanikkars, kochu velans, malakuravans, mala vedans, mala pandaram and mala ulladans.

At present there are so many groups and sects called Kerala Pulayar Maha Sabha (Punnala Groups and PM Vinod Group). Punnala group have 14 areas unions in the district and Vinod group have 70 units.... (Data Collected through personal Telephonic interview with the leaders of KPMS on May 16, 2023).

As per the 2011 census the SC population of the district is 328263 with 157801 males and 170462 females. Sex ratio is 1080. (Kollam Jilla Panchayat Vikasana Rekha 2022-27 P.218)

The beliefs and practices of hindus in Kollam are different from the practices of hindus in other parts of Kerala. They are the result of a gradual assimilation of Aryan and Dravidian cultures. Serpent worship and ancestor worship which are very common among the hindu in Kollam is a remnant of their past Dravidian worship. Ancestors are worshipped and the Vavu Bali performed on new moon days is another important custom,

The major gods worshipped are Siva, Vishnu, Bhagawati, Sastha, Muruga and Ganapati along with minor deities worshipped by lower castes like, Madan, Mariamman, Chathan, Yakshi etc. The famous Shiva

temples are at Vettikkavala and Rameswaram. The Mukhathala and Thirumullavaram temples are Vishnu temples. Bagawati temples well known are Anandavalleswaram, Kadakkal, Elampalloor and Pattazhi. Ariankavu, Sasthamkotta, Achancoil and Kulathupuzha are famous Sastha temples. At Kottarakkara, the Ganapathi temple is famous. (Sreedhara Menon (1964), 166-167).

Christians

Kollam is one of the earliest centres of christianity. According to tradition one of the seven churches founded by St.Thomas who came to Kerala in 52AD, was at Kollam. The Tharisappalli copper plates dated 849 AD bear witness to the existence of a prosperous christian community in Kollam. These early christian were syrian christians. In the later medieval period several Latin Catholic missionaries, came and introduced the Latin rites here (C.V.Chерian : 1973 : 111)

John de Marignoli arrived at Kollam in 1348 on his way to China and found Kollam, a haven of pepper. (Mackenzi 1901 : 53)

The Hindus and Christians shared many customs and rituals together and their worldview based on customs and rituals suggest that Brahmins and Nayars in the beginning of CE accepted Christianity and

carried with them their old beliefs, customs and rituals. (Susan Viswanathan : 1992 : 1)

The total number of Christians in Kollam is 421598 (16 percent of the Kollam population). The major Christian sects in Kollam are Syrian Catholics, Roman Catholics, Latin Catholics, Marthomites, Jacobites, Orthodox, CSI, LMS, Malankara Syrian and good number of pentacost groups.

Christian religious practices start with baptism and important occasions of life like, marriage, and burial are done in the church. The priest has important role in all this Catholics believe in confessions.

Muslims

Even before Islam religion originated people from Arabia came to Kerala for commerce. For a long time Arabs were the middlemen who conducted business between Kerala and European countries and this continued till the arrival of the Portuguese in 1498 AD. It was Malik Dinar who took the leading role to convert hindu people to islam. He might have come to Kerala in the later half of 9th century or 10th century (T.D.Sadasivan, 2012, 141-143).

As per the records of Waquaf Board there are 276 mosques in Kollam district. At present there are 283 Jamat Mahal committees in

Kollam. Among the sunni muslims there are different groups like Jamayats and Mujahids,

At present muslims are the second majority religion after hindus in Kollam. There are 508500 muslims in Kollam as per 2011 census.

Muslims marriage is a religious ceremony called Nikkah, consummated in the house. Circumcision as among the jews is a must for the male members of the community. Haj (going to Meccah) though not a must is widely practiced. They pray 5 time a day called (Niskara) and faces the west at that time.

Food and Clothing

On food culture what makes Kerala different from the rest of the country is its love for non-vegetarian dishes while the neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Karnataka prefer vegetarian dishes. The spice loving malayalees prefer non-vegetarian food. Majority of hindus favoured vegetarian food till recent times. But because of the co-existence with muslims and christians their choice has turned to non-vegetarian dishes. They always had a love for fish. Muslims mostly favoured beef and mutton. Christians prefer beef pork and fish. The main meal of the malayalees is rice with two curries. Traditionally malayalees preferred fish, due to the long seacost and lakes, where fish is abundant. But the

present status shows that Keralites have now turned towards meat especially chicken and beef. If alcohol is a type of food Kerala has a record in it. In ancient times before the arrival of traditional religions the people of Kerala consumed toddy with fish and meat. In 19th century tapioca was introduced in Kerala from Brazil and soon it became a staple diet here. Kappa (Tapioca), Fish curry, Kallu (Toddy) is a combination especially in south and middle Kerala. Keralites experiment with all types of food and the North Indian wheat is widely consumed in the form of Chappathi, Parotta and other items. Tamil influence can be seen in dosa, iddly with sambar, appam and puttu with vegetarian and non vegetarian dishes are much loved especially as breakfast. Till 19th century Keralites did not have a morning drink except milk. But tea and coffee were introduced and began to be cultivated in high ranges by the Europeans and morning and evening tea became a part of malayalees beverage. Another age old traditional food of Kerala associated with Onam is Sadya (feast) which usually avoid non-vegetarian items. It is usually served on a plantain leaf along with rice, an assortment of vegetarian dishes and consummated with payasam (a sweet liquid). In marriages especially hindu marriages sadya is the food that is served to the guest.

Kerala is a tropical country with high humidity. Unlike in the cold climate we evolved a unique form of dress. Clothes were minimum to cover our body was the motto. Till recently men and women wore mundu and covered their upper part with loose clothes. As most of the men were farmers they used to wear a coupeenam (a loose cloth covering the loins) most of the time. Even the king and people wore simple dress and the traditional paraphernalia associated with the kings and the royalty of Europe is not anywhere here. Later with the emergence of caste and caste restrictions dress also become a part of it. The lower castes wore little cloth and the castes like Nairs and above had some freedom to choose their dress. There were many agitations by the lower caste for the freedom of dress in the 19th century. Any way most of these slowly began to vanish in the 20th century. Shirts and pants became the official dress for men and women took to sarees. Towards the end of the 20th century women in a big way began to experiment with new forms of dress which were already popular in North India like Churidar, house coats and the like. Only on ceremonial occasions or a temple visit women wear mundu (dhoti), blouse, and nariyathu (a transparent cloth covering the upper part over the blouse. As for men along with the shirt many people prefer Jubba for a variety. Jubba is a loose outfit reaching to the knees. In older days Christian women used chatta and mundu. Chatta is a type of blouse.

Transportation

Kollam is well connected by road service and train service. Private and public transport system operate round the clock. The district is connected to other parts of Kerala and India through National Highways NH 66, NH 183, NH 744. The State Highway, Main Central Road and Punalur – Muvattupuzha Main Eastern Highway connects Kollam with other districts. Interstate road transportation is served by KSRTC, Tamil Nadu State Transport and Karnataka State Transport Companies. Kollam Zone of KSRTC is now the second most revenue generating zone in Kerala.

Kollam Junction railway station is the one and only rail head in the district. A total of 128 short and long distance services and 10 MEMU services are running through Kollam main station. The district has a good railway network with 25 stations and about 132 Kms of track. Kollam district has the record of having the most number of railway stations in the state.

The district is having a fairly good network of waterways. The State Water Transport Department operates boat services to West Kallada, Munroe island and Alappuzha. Luxury boats operated by government and private owners operate from the main jetty. The West Coast Canal system which starts from Thiruvananthapuram in the south

and ends at Kanhangad in the north passes through Karunagappally Taluk. The waterways are popular attractions and scenic tourist destinations in the area. Tourists may hire motorised country boats and houseboats with various amenities cruise along the waterways.

Industry

The cashew industry is centralized in Kollam. Kollam is approved by the central government as a 'centre of cashew industry'. Most workers here are women who comes from the poorer sections of society. The Kerala cashew corporation has its head quarters in Kollam. The corporation has 30 cashew factories and employs more than 20000 workers. Another Government organization in this field is CAPEX which is in the co-operative sector and has 10 cashew factories. Coir production, handloom industries, clay and wood based industries contribute to the industrial health of the region.

The forest area in Kollam district comes to 314.5 Sq.Km, mainly in the eastern portion of the district like Punalur, Achancoil, Thenmala and Kallar. The Thenmala range, Aryankavu range and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary comprise the Thenmala Division and the Achancoil, Kallar and Kanyar ranges makes up the Achancoil Division. The Pathanapuram and Anchal ranges constitute the Punalur Division.

The shendurney wild life sanctuary is situated on the northern part of the Western Ghats. The name shendurney is derived from the name of a species locally called Chenkurunni. Remnants of a stone age culture from a large cave has been excavated from this sanctuary. These remains belong to the Mesolithic Period. The tropical rain forest has a wide variety of wild life and some endangered species are also found here.

Kollam's coast line is 37.3 Km, 6.3 percentage of Kerala's total coastline. Neendakara and Sakthikulangara are important fishing villages. There are an estimated 26 villages whose livelihood depends entirely on fishing. One third of Kerala's fish production is contributed by Kollam whose average fish production is estimated at 5275 tonnes. Nearly 3000 mechanised boats operate out of its fishing harbour.

Tourism

The chief tourist spots in Kollam are Palaruvi falls, Jadayu Earth Centre, Thenmala forests and reservoir, the Agastyamalai biosphere reserve, Ashtamudi lake and Thangassery. Ashramam Tourists Village is a well known tourist destination which is located on the banks of Ashtamudi lake. The Asramam maidan adjacent to the tourists village is the largest open space within Kollam Corporation. The first community tourism program in the state is on the Munroethruthu islands. Back water tourism is an activity enjoyed in Kollam;Ashtamudi Lake, Paravur lake

Munroe island and Alumkadavu are the main backwater destinations. Accommodation is in resorts and on houseboats. Thenmala, located 66 km east of Kollam is the first eco tourism project in India. Kottarakkara is well known as the place where a new version of the classical dance form of Kathakali was conceived. Kundara is known for the 1812 proclamation against the British by Velu Thampi Dalawa. Velu Thampi in his emotional speech to the people of Kundara spoke about atrocities committed by the British and how they exploit the people of Travancore by large. He concluded his speech with these words. “Let us therefore exert ourselves to keep of impending calamities such as those we have sketched above, and endeavour so far lies in our power that no disparagement or discredit may be imputed to us in guarding our homes the charitable institutions and the manners and customs of our land. The rest of course we must leave to the divine will. These measures which we have enumerated are incumbent upon us to adopt to defend ourselves against the action taken by the English (Sreedhara Menon.A, 1964, 137).

Alappad village, located on the seashore was impacted by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and Tsunami. Sasthamkotta lake about 19 Kms from Kollam is the largest freshwater lake in Kerala.

Kollam city boasts of a long history of political commercial and cultural importance having found mention in several ancient traveller’s

accounts. With a varied colonial past under the Portuguese the Dutch and the British, Kollam has locations of historical importance like the Tangasseri Light House, St.Thomas Fort and Portuguese Cemetery, Thevally Palace and Cheenakottaram (Govt. of Kerala : 2018 : 31-34).

The Kollam seaport was founded in 825 AD during the period of Udaya Marthanda Varma, King of Venad. The trade and business culture of Kollam is as old as Kollam Port. Kollam was the most famous port city in India, serving as a business hub for merchants from China, Middle East, Dutch, Portugal, Brazil and other eastern Mediterranean countries. The recent discovery of treasures at the Kollam port area substantiates claims concerning ancient trade activities related to old Kollam city. Archaeologists believe that there is an engulfed city in the seabed of the current Kollam city.

Since the 1950's local businessmen are active in the business of the city like the Thangal Kunju Musaliyar (TKM) Group, who started their first business centre and the first mall at the heart of Kollam in 1950 at Chinnakkada (now demolished) Kollam is a moderately industrialised city with several of the major industries in the public sector like Indian Rare Earths Limited, Kerala Metals and Minerals Ltd, United Electrical Industries Ltd, the Kerala Primo Pipe Factory, Pervathy Mills Ltd., Alind Kundara and Kerala Ceramics. The Industrial

estates within the city include, the Industrial Estate at Mundakkal and the SIDCO Industrial Estate at Umayanalloor.

Kollam is a relatively industrialised city and the Kollam Municipal Corporation is the second largest revenue earning city corporation in Kerala, second to Kochi. The meeting of the three National Highways and a flourishing port has made the city a favourable location for export and import businesses. Educational institution like the TKM College of Engineering is known as the cradle of Kerala entrepreneurs as they greatly encourage entrepreneurial activities. Kollam was the third city in Kerala to adopt a shopping mall culture Kollam ranks first in livestock wealth in the state.

Because of Kollam's importance as a trade and export hub the Export Inspection Council of India runs a sub office with a laboratory facility in the city, one of the seven sub offices, of the EICI in South India. Along with the city, the town of Punalur and suburban cities such as Chavara and Kundara are also industrially well developed.

Kollam is the largest processed cashew exporter in the world; in recent years' over 600 cashew processing centres functioning in the city and approximately 8 lakh tonnes of raw cashews are brought to Kollam for processing every year. 90% of India's export quality cashew kernels are prepared from Kollam. Two principal councils are working at

Kollam for the growth of the cashew business of the city : they are the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India and the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Limited.

But the economy of Kollam is primarily agriculture oriented. Industries are up and coming in Kollam. About 70 percent of the working force is engaged in agriculture. The major crops grown here are paddy, tapioca, coconut, rubber, pepper all of which are located in an area of 1,73,847 hectares. Cashew trees are grown commercially and usually at every households. There is a Palm Oil Plantation at Bharateepuram under the Oil Palm India Ltd. Handloom Sector also contribute to the industrial advancement of Kollam. Kollam is also an important hub for the states marine products industry with the port of Neendakara being the centre of trawlers and ice plants Kollam ranks first in livestock wealth in the state. Dairy farming is fairly well developed Milch cattle are found in a sizeable amount in Kollam.

Trade and Commerce

Kollam has a strong commercial reputation since ancient times. The Arabs, Phoenicians, Chinese, Ethiopians, Syrians, Jews, Chaldeans and Romans have all engaged in trade at the port of Kollam. As a result of Chinese trade Kollam was mentioned by Ibn Battuta in the 14th century as one of the five Indian ports he had seen during the course of

his twenty four years of travels. Desinganadu (Kollam) Rajas exchanged embassies with Chinese rulers while there was a flourishing Chinese settlement at Kollam. In the 9th century on his way to Canton, China, Persian merchant Sulaiman found Kollam to be the only port visited by huge Chinese junks, in India. Marco polo the Venetian traveller who was in Chinese service under Kublaikhan in 1275 visited Kollam and other towns, in his capacity as a Chinese mandarin. Kollam is also home to one of the seven churches that were established by St.Thomas as well as one of the 10 oldest mosques believed to be founded by Malik Deenar.

V.Nagam Aiya in his Travancore state manual records that in 822 AD two bishops from East Syria, Mar Sabor and Mar Proth settled in Kollam with their followers. Two years later the Malabar era began (824 AD) and Kollam became the premier city of the Malabar region. Kollam port was founded by Mar Sabor at Tangasseri in 825.

Kollam city corporation received IS 9001 : 2015 certification for Municipal Administration and services. As per the survey conducted by the Economic Intelligence Unit based on Urban area growth during January 2020, Kollam became the tenth fastest growing city in the world with a 31.10% urban growth between 2015 and 2020. It is a coastal city on the banks of the Ashtamudi Lake. The city hosts the administrative offices of Kollam and is a prominent trading city. The proportion of

females to males in the city is the second highest among the 500 most populous cities in India. Kollam is one of the least polluted cities in India.

During the later stages of the rule of the Chera monarchy, Kollam emerged as the focal point of trade and politics. Four major trading centres around Kollam were Kottarakkara, Punalur, Paravur and Karunagappally. In 825 AD the Malayalam Calendar or Kollavarsham was created in Kollam. The present Malayalam Calendar is said to have begun with the re-founding of the town, which was rebuilt after its destruction by fire. The city was known as Koolam in Arabic, Coulao in Portuguese and Desinganadu in ancient – Tamil literature.

As the ancient city Kollam was a flourishing port during the Pandya dynasty and later became the capital of the independent Venad. Kollam was considered as one of the four early entrepots in global sea trade during the 13th century along with Alexandria, and Cairo in Egypt, the Chinese city of Quanzou and Malacca in the Malayatian archipelago. It seems that trade at Kollam seems to have flourished right into the medieval period as in 1280 AD there is an instance of envoys of China coming to Kollam for establishing relations between the local ruler and China.

The ancient political economic and cultural history of Kollam was almost entirely independent from that of the rest of Kerala. The Chera dynasty governed the area of Malabar coast between Alappuzha in the south to Kasargod in the North. This included Palakkad gap, Coimbatore, Salem, and Kolli hills. The region around Coimbatore was ruled by Cheras during Sangham period between first and the fourth centuries CE and it served as the eastern entrance to the Palakkad pass, the principal trade route between the Malabar coast and Tamil Nadu. However the southern region of present day Kerala state was under Ay dynasty who was more related to the Pandya dynasty of Madurai than Cheras.

Along with Muziris and Tyndis Kollam was an ancient seaport on the Malabar coast of India from the early centuries before the Christian era. Kollam served as a major port city for Pandya dynasty on the western coast while Kulasekharapatnam served Pandyas on the eastern coast. The city had a high commercial reputation from the days of the Phoenicians and Ancient Romans. Pliny the Elder (23.79 AD mentions Greek ships anchored at Muziris and Nelcynda. There was also a land route over the Western Ghats. Spices, Pearls, diamonds and silk were exported to Egypt and Rome from these ports. Pearls and diamonds

came to the Chera kingdom from Ceylon and from the Pandyan kingdom.

Cosmas Indicopleustes, a Greek Nestorian sailor in his book the Christian Topography who visited the Malabar coast in 550 AD mentions an enclave of Christian believers in Kollam. He writes in the island of Tabropane (Ceylon) there is a church of Christians. Likewise at Mete (Kollam) where the pepper grows and in the farming community of Kallana (Kalliankal at Nilackal) there is also a bishop consecrated in Persia.

Kollam is also home to one of the oldest mosques in Indian subcontinent. According to the legend of Cheraman Perumal the first Indian mosque was built in 624 AD at Kodungallor with the mandate of the last ruler of Chera dynasty who left from Dharmadam (Kannore) to Mecca and converted to Islam during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammed. The masjids at Kodungallur, Kollam, Mangalore, Kasaragod, Kannur, Dharmadam and Chaliyan were built during the era of Malik Dinar and they are among the oldest masjids in the Indian subcontinent : It is believed that Malik Dinar died in Kasargod town.

The port of Kollam was founded in 825 by Mar Sabor and Mar Proth with sanction from Ayyanadikal Thiruvadikal, the King of independent Venad, a feudatory under the Chera Kingdom. It is believed

that Mar Sapor ISO also proposed that the Chera King create a new seaport near Kollam. In lieu of his request he rebuilt the almost vanished inland seaport at Kollam near Backare (Thevalakkara) also known as Nelcynda and Tyndis to the Romans and Greeks and as Thondi to the Tamils, which had been without trade for several centuries because the Cheras were overrun by the Pallavas in the 6th century ending the spice trade from the Malabar coast. This allowed the Nestorians to stay in the Chera kingdom for several decades and introduce the Christian faith among the Nampoothiris and Nairs in the St.Thomas tradition with the Syrian liturgy as a basis for the doctrine of Trinity. The Therisappelli plates presented to Maruvan Sabor Iso by Ayyandikal, granted the Christians the privilege of overseeing foreign trade in the city.

The Persian merchant Soleyman of Siraf visited Malabar in the 9th century and found Kollam to be the only port in India used by the Chinese ships as their tanshipment hub for goods on their way from China to the Persian gulf. The rulers of Kollam had trade relations with China and exchanged embassies. According to the records of the Tang Dynasty Kollam was their chief port of call before the 7th century. The Chinese trade decreased around 600 AD and was again revived in the 13th century. Sulaiman at Tajiv, a persion merchant who visited Kerala during the reign of Sthanu Ravi Varma (9th century CE) records that

there was extensive trade between Kerala and China at that time, based at the port of Kollam.

In 13th century, Maravarman Kulasekhara Pandian, a Pandya ruler fought a war against Venad and captured the city of Kollam. The city was much frequented by the Genoese merchants during the 13th and 14th centuries followed by the Dominican and franciscan friars from Europe. They called the city Colombo. In 1329 Pope John XXII established Kollam as the first and only Roman Catholic bishopric on the Indian subcontinent. The port at Kozhikode held superior economic and political position in medieval Kerala coast while Kannur, Kollam and Kochi, were commercially important secondary ports, where the traders from various parts of the world would gather.

Economic Structure

The sea food industry in Kollam is one of the famous seafood industrial hubs in India with a high potential export demand. In the city itself many major seafood companies are located in places like Maruthadi, Kavanad and Neendakara. Some of the sea food companies like Capithans, Kings of Marine Exporters, India Food Exports and Oceanic Fisheries are quiet well known and of great reputation. The dynamic development of the Kollam port will accelerate further development of the seafood business in Kollam. The total export

contribution from Kollam is very high compared to other Kerala cities. Kochi based Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is one among the seven sub-regional offices situated at Chinnakkada in the city due to the importance of it as a significant marine food exporting business hub. Kollam's clam fishery is world famous, being the only certified fishery in India. Ashtamudi lake in Kollam a Ramsar wetland of international importance and the second largest estuarine system in Kerala, is the major source of the clam used in this fishery. It has vast mangrove habitats harbouring approximately 90 species of fish and 10 species of clams. It supports the livelihood of around 3000 fishermen involved in collecting, cleaning, processing and trading of clams.

Eighty percent of export quality clams come from Kollam. The growth of Ashtamudi's commercial fishery was driven by demand from Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. Today an average of 10000 tonnes of clam fishery per year occurs in Kollam.

Kollam is the largest pencil slat manufacturing hub of India with more than 160 slat production units in Kollam, employing approximately 5000 individuals. These Kollam based units meet a good portion of the demand for pencil slats in the country and worldwide with 35% of the pencil slats manufactured in the world coming from Kollam and Kerala. The pencil slats exported from here is enough to make 200 million

pencils a month. Over thirty countries in the world depend on pencil slate manufacturing units in Kollam.

Port operations are responsible for generating a large portion of revenue in Kollam. The Kollam port situated 4 kms away from the city is one of the twenty major ports in India and is the second major port in Kerala after Cochin port. Construction equipment, sand cashews and industrial products for companies and organisations are transported through Kollam port. To modernize the states second largest port the state of Kerala is planning to build a wharf for the port capable of accommodating 6 ships at a time. It is one of the two ports with clearance facility and a Vessel Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS). The port is now undergoing reconstruction worth rupees 125 crores.

IT development is a major revenue earner of Kollam. A large technology park, Kollam Technopark, is functioning in the suburb of the city. The Kollam Technopark is part of Technopark Trivandrum, built on the hub and spoke model for the development of IT industry in Kerala. Located on the banks of the Kanjiramcode Lake, a tributary of the Ashtamudi Lake, this technopark is to offer support including uniform talent distribution, infrastructure and support for IT platforms excellent infrastructure availability and back up support available in Kollam

Kollam has a number of manufacturing and other industrial corporations including mineral sand mining and related material production plants, such as electrical equipment.

United Electrical Industries Ltd. a state level public enterprise has been successfully operating in the electrical engineering sector since 1950. This company is a pioneer in energy meter manufacturing and switchgear items and is situated at Pallimukku in the city. The company has supplied over 40 lakhs of electronic metres for domestic and industrial purposes.

Indian Rare Earths Ltd (IRE) is a government owned certified company in India. One of the four production plants of IRE is situated near Chavara. The plant operates on a mining area extending over a length of 23 kms in the Chavara belt. The present annual production capacity of the Chavara unit, engaged in dry and wet mining and mineral separation stands at 1,54,000/- of ilmenite 9,500 of rutile 14000 of Zircon and 7000 of sillimenite. The plant additionally process facilities for the annual production of ground Zircon called Zirflor and microzir. The Kollam coast of Kerala possesses the largest mineral sand deposit within the nation. This belt commonly known as the Chavara deposit after its main locality covers a total length of 22 Kms and a width of approximately 8 Kms along its northern side besides 6 Kms along its

southern side. The Chavara barrier beach portion contains a concentration of heavy minerals above 60% and the Chavara deposit is estimated to contain approximately 127 million tonnes of heavy minerals with an illuminate content of 80 million tonnes from a reserve of raw sand encompassing 1400 million tonnes. The deposit is quite rich with regards to ileminte, rutile and zircon.

Kerala Metals and Minerals Ltd has an integrated titanium dioxide manufacturing public sector undertaking in Kollam. Its operation comprises mining, mineral separation synthetic rutile and pigment production plants. It is one of the best performing public sector units in India.

Agriculture and Irrigation in Kollam District

As in many other districts of Kerala and India agriculture is the chief occupation of the people of Kollam. Economy of Kollam is primarily dependent on agriculture Kollam has an important place in the field of agriculture. About 70 percent of the work force is engaged in agriculture. The total area of land under cultivation is 2,18,267 hectares. Nowadays the agriculture has lost its importance in Kollam.

The following table shows.

Declining Crops Cultivation Area per hectre

Area of important crops

	Crops	1996	2021	Difference in Cultivation
1	Paddy	23260	2134.68	-21125.32
2	Coconut	76661	45473.19	-31187.81
3	Rubber	34067	37270	3208
4	Banana	1094	3455.70	2361.49
5	Vegetables	37801	2815.76	-34986.76
6	Ginger	403	327.42	75.58
7	Turmeric	80	283.13	203.13
8	Pepper	9002	2870.15	-6131.85
9	Cashew	6373	1671	-4702
10	Tapioca	29004	2832.59	-26171.41
11	Areeca	1849	1619.84	-229.16
12	Other Plantains	4543	5845.56	1302.56
13	Other crops	12103	13124.34	1021.34
14	Pineapple	266	95.25	-170.75
15	Tea	1270	548.71	-721.29
16	Sesamum	1204	67.677	-1136.33

Source : Kollam Jilla Vikasana Rekha 2022-27, Kollam Jilla Panchayat.

P.116

The major crops grown here are paddy, tapioca, coconut, rubber, pepper all of which are cultivated in an area of 1,73,847 hectares. Coconut gardens extend to about 75454 hectares. About three hundred and forty three million coconuts are produced every year. Apart from the above

banana, mango and cashew nuts are also grown in Kollam. In the agricultural scenario small and marginal farmers constitute more than 95 percent of the farming community and the average per family holding is 0.21 hectare. All the sixty eight panchayats of the district are covered by separate Krishi Bhavans. There is an Oil Plantation Estate at Bharatheepuram near Anchal, in an area of 4000 hectares under Oil Palm India Ltd., a state government undertaking. The Rehabilitation Plantations another state government undertaking is located in Kulathupuzha near Thenmala.

Kollam district ranks first in livestock wealth in the state. Dairy farming is fairly well developed. Milch cattle are found quite in sizeable amount here in Kollam. A network of one district veterinary centre 2 polyclinics, 48 veterinary dispensaries 14 veterinary hospitals and 167 artificial insemination centres cater to the needs of the district. The chilling plants are located in Kollam, Kottarakkara and Yeroor. The milk producers co-operative societies handle about 3.34 lakh litres per day. In poultry the district stands third and there is great scope for developing broiler and poultry farms. The district is covered by the integrated Dairy Development project. Mini-Dairy special project is under implementation sponsored jointly by MILMA and NABARD.

Kollam is an important maritime district of the state with a coast line of 37.3 Kms. Fishing has a prominent place in the economy of the district. Neendakara and Sakthikulangara villages thrive in fishing. An estimated number of 23000 persons are engaged in fishing and allied activities. There are 24 inland fishing villages also. Considering the unique location and infrastructure available the government has initiated steps for establishing a fishing harbour at Neendakara which is expected to augment Fish Production by 15 percent. Average fish catch is estimated to be 85,275 tonnes per year one third of the states fish catch is from Kollam. There are 93 producer co-operatives, two credit co-operatives and one marketing co-operative in the Fisheries sector. There are 38 Fishermen Development Welfare Co-operative Societies in the district. Nearly 3000 mechanised boats operate from the fishing harbour. FFDA and BFFDA are promoting fresh water fish culture and prawn farming respectively. About 60 percent of the production of prawn in the state is from Kollam.

Kollam is quite important for the trade and commerce of the state. It is the centre of the country's cashew trading and processing industry. There are 17 large and one medium scale industry in the state, of which two are central government under takings. About 1963 SSI units have been registered in the district. The Kerala State Cashew Development

Corporation (KSCDC) is the largest processor of cashew in the world. At present it has 34 factories KSCDC provides employment to more than 26000 workers. Handloom Industry, Clay and wood based industries also contribute to the industrial advancement of the region. Kollam is also an important hub for the states marine products industry with the port of Neendakara being the centre for trawlers and ice-plants.

Irrigation

The district has abundant water resources to expand irrigation facilities. The low yield is due to the fact that most of the paddy lands are single crop ones depending entirely on the seasonal incidence of rainfall to meet the irrigation needs. Further as the total yearly rainfall is not uniformly distributed there is either too little or too much of water according to plant requirements even in the monsoon period. There are therefore, areas of great scarcity of water in many places. As such irrigation works in the district are mainly intended to meet crop failures and increase agricultural production. A few decades ago most of the fields were irrigated by rain water collected in villages tanks and channelized through canals. But the increasing population and pressure for land forced the government to construct artificial reservoirs. The major irrigation system is the Kallada Irrigation Project. It is the largest scheme of its kind in the state. The Accelerated irrigation benefit

program was conceived in the year 1996 by government of India in order to provide financial assistance to on going projects in the country so that irrigation potential of the project could be created and extend irrigation to more areas. The Kallada Irrigation Project was included in the AIBP scheme during 1996-97. The Kallada irrigation project comprises of a storage dam across river Kallada with two canal systems taking off from both the flanks to irrigate a cultivable command area of 61,630 ha. The head works are located in Kollam district and the command area is located in Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha district.

Irrigation works which benefit an area of not more than 200 acres but above 5 acres are classified as minor irrigation works. Minor irrigation works include surface percolation wells, tanks and tube wells. There are land areas in the district which can't be irrigated by gravity flow. Such lands can be brought under cultivation by lifting water by electric pumps and diesel pumps from the rivers where fresh water is available from fresh water lakes or ponds. Lift irrigation thus forms an essential part in the pattern of irrigation development in the district.

One of the principal reasons for the low productivity in agriculture in certain parts of the district is the progressive deterioration of soil due to erosion. Wind and water are the reasons for soil erosion. Erosion by water assumes significance in Kollam as rainfall is heavy and cultivation

rampant in slopes. Denudation of forest areas as a result of ruthless cutting and grazing also leads to soil erosion. There is a soil conservation Research station located at Konni.

Agriculture depends among other things on soil conditions. The soils of the district are of three major types. Sandy loam, laterite soil and hill and forest soil. A taluk wise analysis shows laterite soil cover Kottarakkara, Kunnathur and parts of Kollam and Pathanapuram. The laterite soil is poor in water holding capacity and fertility but they respond well to good cultivation and judicious application of fertilisers. In Karunagappally and parts of Kollam sandy soil is seen. At the same time Karunagappally is an important rice growing region. In the hills loamy soil with an admixture of humus is found. In the valleys and deltas the soil is alluvial in nature and consists mainly of salt. The soil in Kollam is deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus and the coastal tract is deficient in potash. Lime deficiency is a general defect of the soil in Kollam.

Paddy is the most important crop cultivated in Kollam. Apart from varieties of paddies another important crop in Kollam is Tapioca. It is considered as a staple food in the district. Kollam has the largest area under tapioca among the districts of Kerala. It is the food of the poor sections of people. Tapioca is introduced in Kerala from South America

in the 19th century. The King of Travancore did considerable work to popularise the new crop. Kollam stands third in the matter of area and production of pulses among the districts of Kerala. Pulses are raised as a second or third crop by availing of the moisture left in the soil after the harvest of paddy. Of the pulses only black gram, green gram and horse gram are mainly cultivated in Kollam.

Among the oil seeds the most important are coconut and sesamum. Of all the oil seeds coconut is the most important and it is cultivated extensively in Kollam. 11% of the total area in Kollam comes under coconut cultivation. It is the second district where coconut production is the maximum. It is cultivated in Kollam and Karunagappally Taluks predominantly. It may be safely said that there is not even a single household where two or three coconut trees are not grown. Coconut grounded is a part of the daily cuisine. The trunk of the tree is used for building houses and the leaves plaited are used for thatching huts and common man's households. Coir yarn and rope are also valuable products from the tree. The coconut oil is used both for edible and industrial purposes.

Sesamum is a major oil seed grown in the district. Kollam occupies the second place among the districts of Kerala regarding area as well as the out-turn of the crop. The arecnut or betel nut tree is an

important cash crop cultivated in Kerala over which the state has a partial monopoly. Next to Karnataka, Kerala is the largest producer of the crop and 7% of the total area in Kerala is in Kollam.

Mangoes, bananas and pineapples are three of the most important of the fresh fruits raised in the district while the first two fruits are grown extensively in every household, pineapple is cultivated mainly in the Punalur and Pathanapuram areas. Among the districts of Kerala Kollam has the largest area under mango cultivation. As far as production is concerned Kollam again comes first. The English word mango itself came from the Malayalam word Manga.

Cashewnut is the most important of the dried fruits. A native of tropical America it was introduced by the portuguese some 500 years ago to stop soil erosion. The cultivation of the crop has since gained great commercial importance. The tree thrives on any soil. The cashew kernel and the oil from its pods are of great commercial value. The nuts are exported to different parts of the world bringing much value.

Other major plantation crops in Kollam are rubber and tea. Rubber is one of the most profitable plantation crops of Kerala. The state is the largest producer of rubber in India. Kollam is the second major rubber cultivating district in the state. In Kerala Idukki and Wyanad are the two districts well known for tea growing regions. Kollam,

Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad districts also contribute to tea growing.

From very early times loans were granted to farmers for improving the land and for installing agricultural machinery. Unfortunately the bulk of agricultural credit was supplied by rural money lenders. Later co-operative societies came to the fore front to render assistance to small scale farmers by advancing loans at lower interest rates. Now the agricultural, revenue, co-operative and the community development departments are advancing loans.

Agriculture in Kollam as elsewhere is dependent on cattle labour, Cattle are required for cultivating land, for lifting water and for carrying the produce from the field to the market. Commercial poultry farms were not seen in the 1950's and 1960's of the last century. It was mostly in the hands of local farmers. There is a poultry farm at Kollam town and a poultry development centre at Kottarakkara.

Kollam has a long coastline and a vast extent of inland waters which gives Kollam a very important place among the fishing districts of Kerala. There is a permanent opening at Neendakara into the Ashtamudi lake. The sea coast is free from rocks and the sloping sea bottom affords excellent facilities for the operation of the shore. The majority of the people include fish in their daily diet.

Forests

Nearly one third of the land area of the Kollam district is covered by reserved forests which form a permanent source of national wealth. The forests abound with a very large variety of trees, shrubs of great economic value. In old days forest must have been more extensive. The growth of population and the resulting demand for more land led to the deterioration of the forest area. The influence of forestry on the economy of Kollam is great because the forests give employment to the common people on a large scale. The agricultural population surrounding the forest divisions earn their livelihood through various industries connected with the forests. The forests in Kollam abound in valuable economic plantation like teak, soft wood. The forests of this division are divisible into two major types: 1) monsoon evergreen and 2) Deciduous. The forests can again be classified into moist deciduous forests semi evergreen forests, evergreen forests and grass lands. (Government of Kerala Forest Administration : Report 2018)

Power

Hydro electric power was first introduced in the old Travancore in 1906. The supply of power for the town of Kollam was undertaken in 1934. Pallivasal hydro electric project was sanctioned 1933. This was the chief source of power in Kollam district. Industries that work on

electricity in this area include ceramics, textiles, minerals, chemicals, aluminium products, paper, cashew nut and plywood. A large number of tile factories, saw mills and oil mills running on electricity came up in Kollam.

Banking, Trade and Commerce

The beginning of banking can be traced back to the 19th century. The early bankers were known as hundi merchants; most of them were Brahmins from Madurai and Thirunalveli belt. Once established in Kollam, they moved to different trading centres. Though the interest was high they played a notable part in financing agriculture and internal trade till a few decades ago. In 1930 The Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee however began to control unethical practices. The Travancore Credit Bank was established in 1938 and helped agriculturists and industrialists with loans for the development of agriculture and industry.

After independence an enquiry into the extent of rural indebtedness in Kollam was held in 1951-52 as part of the All India Rural Credit Survey conducted by RBI in 75 selected districts in the country. The sudden liquidation in 1938 of the Travancore National Quilon Bank Ltd. which was one of the big banks in the state with head quarters at Kollam had its effect on other banks as the general

confidence of the depositors in banks were severely shaken. In the 1950's State Bank of India and Central Bank of India had extended its branches in Kollam. Till the amalgamation of State Bank of Travancore with SBI, SBT had the most number of branches in Kollam district. People usually prefer to invest the surplus they have in land holding and gold. The role of banks in the industrial development of Kollam is praise worthy. Co-operative credit societies and banks have an important place in the district. The Quilon District co-operative bank ltd. started functioning in 1958 and the Quilon Land mortgage Bank was registered in 1960. As an aid to industrial development there are institutions like Kerala Finance Corporation, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation and Kerala State Small Industries Corporation.

Nationalized Banks

Sl.No.	Name of Bank	Urban	Rural
1	Union Bank of India	4	0
2	Bank of Baroda	10	0
3	Bank of India	4	1
4	Canara Bank	41	2
5	IDBI	2	0
6	Indian Bank	31	1
7	Indian Overseas Bank	12	0
8	Punjab National Bank	17	0
9	State Bank of India	59	0
10	UCO Bank	5	0
11	South Malabar Grameen Bank	20	0
	Total	261	5

Private Sector

Sl.No	Name of Bank	Urban	Rural
1	Axis Bank	4	0
2	Catholic Syrian Bank	9	0
3	City Union Bank	1	0
4	Dhanalakshmi Bank	10	0
5	Federal Bank	46	
6	HDFC	5	
7	Karur Vysya Bank	1	
8	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	1	
9	South Indian Bank	19	
10	ING Vysya Bank	0	
11	Indus Ind Bank	1	
12	ICICI	11	1
13	Kotak Mahindra	3	
	Total	111	1

Co-operative Sector Banks

Sl.No.	Bank	No. of Branches
1	State Co-operative Bank	1
2	District Co-operative Bank	64
3	Service Co-operative Bank	129
4	KSARDB	5

Source : Govt. of Kerala 2018 : Dept. of Industry : District Industrial Potential Survey Kollam, 2016-17 (45-46)

The principal imports to Kollam are Cashew nuts, iron and steel, rice, wheat, sugar, salt, fertilisers, petrol and petroleum products, textiles and cement. The chief exports are tiles brick, clay, tapioca, processed cashew nuts, coconuts and allied products, coir and related products,

fish, timber and fire wood, ilmenite and others. Raw cashew nuts are imported from Africa and after processing the cashew kernels are exported to USA and North Atlantic countries.

The internal trade in the district is carried on by wholesale and retail dealers. Since Kollam has been an important commercial centre communication and transportation are of primary importance. Much of the early trade in old days was through rivers and waterways. But at the same time a wide net work of interior roads connected the city with the inlands. The first recorded instance of roads having been constructed was during the reign of Marthanda Varma. Till his time the roads that existed were merely open tracks for foot travellers. One foreign traveller who visited Kerala records that there was a well laid road starting from Kanyakumari passing through Kollam and reaching Kodungallur. During the time of Diwan Madhava Rao a systematic effort was made to open new routes. The department of public works was organised in 1860. A new road from Thiruvananthapuram passing through the central part of Kollam and reaching Kottayam was constructed.

The history of railways in Kollam goes back to the very dawn of 20th century. The Shencottah – Punalur – Kollam line was opened in 1904 and Kollam Trivandrum line opened in 1918 and completed in 1931. Kollam is an important junction of the Southern Railways. The

construction of bridges has added greatly to the facilities of communication. Of the earliest bridges was the Punalur Suspension Bridge which was completed in 1878-79. The Neendakara bridge was opened in 1930. The other important bridges are the Ithikkara bridge and the Kannetttil bridge.

Before the introduction of the modern Indian postal system by the British, letters were sent by the Anchal system. The Kollam post Office was opened in 1864. Telegraph offices were also opened in the same year. The local Anchal and the modern British postal system were operating side by side till 1951 and the Anchal system was merged with the modern postal system thereafter. Telephones were introduced in Kollam in 1939-40 under the Travancore Electricity Department.

Education and Culture

Kollam attained fame also as a centre of learning and culture in the course of its long and chequered history. Under the rule of the enlightened kings of Venad learning and culture flourished in different parts of Kollam. Under Ravi Varma Kulasekhara Kollam made its contributions in the field of learning and culture. Kollam is also one of the early centres of Christianity and in the 16th century, the Jesuit Missionaries seem to have established a college of their own to promote the study of Christian theology and learning. In the native tradition there

are Ezhuthupallis (schools for teaching letters) Kalari (for physical learning). In every village there were kalaris. The vedic schools were the institutions meant for higher education in the Vedas, Sasthras and the Upanishads.

It was in 1817, the state began to interfere in the educational activities. The Rani with the assistance of the Diwan Col. Munro, issued a decree that all the expenses for education of the people should be met by the state. Schools were established in several places in the state. The beginning of English education may be traced to the year 1834 when an English school was started in Thiruvananthapuram during the reign of Swati Thirunal District English schools were opened at Kayamkulam, and Kottar. The school for boy's started in Kollam was raised to a High School in 1893. In 1876 the school for girls at Kollam was started.

The abiding honour of promoting English education among girls go to the Carmelite missionaries. Under the patronage of the Bishop of Quilon St. Joseph's convent was opened in 1875 and the convent of our lady of Mount Carmel at Thangassery in 1885.

In the 20th century education became universal and the literacy rate rose to 92 percent. The educational infrastructure includes 490 lower primary schools, 275 upper primary schools, 242 high schools, 14 arts and science colleges, 8 teacher training schools, 30 ITI, three

polytechnics and five engineering colleges (Data collected from the Deputy Director Education Kollam and Deputy Director of Collegiate Education). A fisheries school at Alappad and a Kendria Vidyalaya at Kottarakkara are the unique features of the educational sector. There are also three Medical Colleges in Kollam district. Amrita Viswa Vidyapeetam operates schools of arts and sciences, ayurveda, biotechnology, business engineering and social work. There is a Kendria Vidyalaya at Ramankulangara, Kollam. Apart from the engineering colleges in the state and aided sector there are fifteen self financing engineering colleges in various part of the district. There are more than 15 Master of Business Administration (MBA) colleges and three colleges of architecture in the district. Two Law Colleges and 12 Nursing Colleges are there in the district. Around 20 B.Ed colleges are there in Kollam district. Apart from the state syllabus schools, there is an abundance of CBSE, ICSE and IGCSE schools functioning in the district.

Medical Services

Before the arrival of western medicine, Ayurveda was the most popular system at medicine that prevailed in Kollam. In the field of allopathy the first dispensary was opened in Kollam in the first half of 19th century. It offered free medical aid. In 1870 a new hospital came up

in Kollam with facilities for inpatient treatment. Victoria hospital which started towards the end of 19th century became a separate hospital for women and children. Anaemia, malnutrition, TB and other respiratory disorders, typhoid and malaria were prevalent in Kollam and this is due to the low economic status of the majority of the people, lack of proper knowledge of nutritious diet and poor hygiene. Incidence of small pox which was widely prevalent once is now completely wiped out.

Medical Facilities

Public Health	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2021-22
Allopathic hospitals	11	11	12	14
Beds in allopathic hospitals	1799	1799	2299	2388
Govt. Ayurveda hospitals	9	9	9	9
Ayurveda Dispensaries	59	59	59	59
Homoeo Hospitals	3	3	3	3
Homoeo Dispensaries	40	40	40	40
Community Health Centres	17	17	17	17
Primary health center	57	57	58	58
Leprosy hospital	0	0	0	0
Mental Healthcare	1	1	1	1
Sub Health centre	421	421	421	421
District T.B.Centers	1+1 (HCD Knply)	1+1	1+1	1+1
Taluk Head Quarters Hospitals	5	5	5	5
Taluku Hospitals	4	4	4	4

(Data Collected from the DMO Office, Kollam)

III

District Administration

Meaning and Definition

The Oxford Concise Dictionary defines a district as a territory marked off for special administrative purposes. To quote the same dictionary, administration is the management of public affairs. We may describe public affairs as those portions or aspects of human activity, individual as well as group activity which derives from a prescription based on law and other authority and derived in a line identifiable as running from the activity itself to the ultimate sovereign in the country. (Khera.S.S : 1980 : 75). It comprehends all institutions for the management of public affairs in the district, all the bodies corporate such as panchayats of different kinds, the grama sabhas, the nyaya panchayats (which are courts of law), the panchayat samitis, the zilla parishads, municipal committees and local bodies of every kind.

District administration provides the principal points of contact between the citizen and the process of government. It is truly the cutting edge of the tool of public admin; and this is what constitutes its vital significance in the nation's govt. (Khera.S.S :1980:79).

District administration in modern India has changed from time to time in terms of both in goal and structure, a change resulting from an interaction between the exigencies of regulatory functions and demands for 'development' to satisfy emerging social and political urges.

In spite of the periodical changes, the general executive admn; of the district has remained the core, the central agency invested with over all responsibility under the Collector and District Magistrate functioning as the head of the executive administration (B.B. Misra: 1983:1).

Potter defines 'district administration' as the total action of govt. in an area specified as a district by a state govt. (D.C.Potter 1964) Oxford English dictionary defines 'district administration' as the territory marked off for special administrative purpose. District administration, broadly in the management of affairs with in a basic territorial unit called the district.

District administration, as it stands today, has a long history. Its origin can be traced to the territorial structure of administration of the Maurya period. In the Mauryan period, revenue villages were called grama, a group of revenue villages was called stana or taluk, several stanas were called ahara or district, a group of district was called a pradesh or region (state) and several pradesh were called Janapada or a province.

During the times of the Guptas, the empire was divided into provinces, probably known as desas, the province in to bhuktis, which were about the size of a commissioners division and the bhuktis into visayas, roughly corresponding to the modern district. Similar territorial units of districts administration existed under the Mohammadan rulers. Mughals followed the mohammadan system of district administration: The empire was divided into Subas, the Subas in to Sarkars and Sarkars into Parganas. The Sarkar was the counterpart of the modern district. The British adopted mughal patterns, spread the system throughout the country, and adapted its operative mechanisms to suit the imperial need. The combination of judicial and executive functions in one functionary was altered in 1793 by Governor General Lord Cornwallis, who separated the two. This system with concentration of powers in one person for running of the district administration continued and remained unaltered until the end of British Administration in India till 1947. In 1970's the judicial powers were taken away from the District Magistrate and was given to the district judge.

Changing role of Collector in the District Administration

The Constitution (73rd amendment) Act was passed in 1992 and came into effect in 1993. This empowered the state governments to take the necessary steps that would lead to the formalisation of the grama

panchayats and help them operate as units of self-government. As a result many of the powers of the district collector was removed. Before that Gopalakrish Pillai preceded Ananda Bose was a pioneer in administrative matters, He successfully implemented the Ahmedabad Model of administration to Kollam as District Collector. This was a great success a transparency and quickness of administration removed red-tapism in administration.

‘The File to Field Programme’ successfully launched in various places in Kerala as an effective mass contact programme was initiated in Kollam by the then district collector C.V.Ananda Bose. It has proved to be an administrative innovation which could redress the grievance of the public and accelerate development of backward rural areas.

The Gramotsava Program initiated by Bose as sub collector for the time bound development of rural areas, was officially evaluated by the government of Kerala as an effective model worthy of replication and the government implemented the programme in 200 panchayaths. In order to empower women and development among them he started the Annapoorna Society in Kollam in 1986. This has been evaluated as the forerunner of the renowned Kudumbasree Self Help Group in Kerala.

The emergence of a number of technical department like labour, agriculture and co-operative along with a host of executive offices who

control these departments has resulted in the drastic reduction of the Collectors power and authority. Some of these technical departments are headed by specialists and are relatively independent of the Collector.

The development role of the Collector has also been reduced sharply as a result of the introduction of democratic decentralisation in the form of panchayati raj. The jilla panchayat, the upper most tier of the panchayati raj system have emerged at the district level as separate centres of power largely independent of Collector. Political parties have become an important channel of communication between the people and the government. In many states of India, Collectors find themselves totally alienated on several occasions when a number of sensitive decisions, affecting the common district dwellers are largely taken over by the political parties (Siuli Sarkar 18: 120). So the role and importance of some of the government departments are discussed below.

Revenue Department

The land in Kollam as elsewhere in old Travancore was classified under two broad categories namely janmom lands (belonging to land lords) and Pandarawaka lands (belonging to the state). The extent of Janmom land is not considerable. The word janmom has been interpreted to mean exclusive ownership of the soil. Generally such lands were tax free. Their owners have enjoyed absolute control over them in connection

with their revenue and rents are taken from the ryots the pattom or rent as well as the rajabhogam, which in the case of other lands would go to the state. Under the second class are devaswom properties and brahmaswoms or holdings of malayali brahmins. Under the third class were the lands belonging to the madambimar and these lands are subjected to rajabhogam (tax) from the very beginning. All lands other than janmom are known as pandaravaka or government property. In Kollam district the government lands come mainly under the following heads 1) registered lands 2) puramboke 3) tharissu, 4) reserved forests. (Sreedhara Menon.A. 1964 : 496)

Administratively Kollam is composed of two revenue divisions; Kollam and Punalur and there are three taluks under each revenue division. Kollam division consists of the taluks of Kollam, Karunagappally and Kunannathur and Punalur division, Punalur, Pathanapuram and Kottarakkara. The six taluks consists of 105 villages. The tahsildar is the revenue official in charge of each taluk under the tahasildar there are 105 village officers in the district. There are four municipalities in Kollam district namely Punalur, Paravur, Karunagappally and Kottarakkara and a municipal corporation namely Kollam. There is a long standing demand for upgrading Pathanapuram and Anchal Panchayats into Municipal status. Kollam district has three

Lok Sabha constituencies. Kollam Lok Sabha constitutes include Chavara, Kundara, Eravipuram, Kollam, Chathennoor, Chadayamangalam and Punalur assembly divisions. Kunnathur, Kottarakkara and Pathanapuram under Mavelikkara and Karunagappally is a part of Alapuzha Lok Sabha Constituency.

Sources of Revenue

Basic Tax and Plantation Tax

After settlement of 1886 there was no attempt at comprehensive resettlement of tax system in the district. Now the land tax system is regularised in executive orders and proper taxes to the lands are collected on the basis of areas specified through orders.

According to Kerala Plantation Act 1960 all holders of plantations, irrespective of their capacity are liable to pay, in addition to basic tax, a plantation tax at a rate specified by orders. (Sreedhara Menon : 1964 : 507-508)

The Travancore-Cochin General Sales Tax Act 1950 was in force in the district. Based on the transactions and consumption of goods certain articles are brought under a schedule on the single point on the first sale or last purchase within the state under the control of District Sales Tax Officer. The Head of the Agricultural Income Tax and Sale

Tax Department in the State is the Board of Revenue. There are taluk Sales Tax Offices in all taluks in Kollam.

Stamp Revenue and Registration Department

The revenue realised by way of stamps is one of the major items of revenue to the state. The Quilon Registration Department functions with its head quarters in Kollam town. The District Registrar, Kollam is the head of the Registration Department in the district. The district registrar is responsible and supervising officer of the sub-registry office. Two or more villages are under one sub-registry in the district. There are 47 sub-registrar offices in Kollam. (Data from the District Registrar Office, Kollam)

Excise Department

The Excise and Prohibition Administration in the Kollam district is under the Excise Commissioner Kollam. There are six assistant Excise Commissioners at all taluks. Below the Assistant Commissioner there are Excise Offices, Preventive Offices, and different types of excise guards in all taluks. These taluks are known as ranges in the Excise Department. The main items of liquors are, toddy, arrack Indian made foreign liquors and imported foreign liquor, opium and ganja, pharmaceuticals and distillery and laboratories. Arrack shops were

stopped in Kerala. In this place a Beverages Corporation is functioning with outlets almost all the panchayats in Kollam.

In addition to Sales Tax and Income Tax there is a Central Excise Circle Office at Kollam, with a sub-centre at Punalur.

Survey Department

It may be relevant in this connection to describe the systems of survey which were adopted for purposes of revenue settlement. Cadastral survey as the basis of revenue settlement was for the first time introduced in Travancore in 1882-83. The systems of survey used in the Madras presidency were adopted here. They are the Tak System, Base lines and Offsets system and system of Triangles and Offsets. In 1922-23 a further system was introduced in the system of Triangles and Offsets. All surveys which were undertaken subsequently have been carried out in this system. The Deputy Director of Surveys, Law Records, Quilon is in charge of the survey operations in the district. He was under the control of the district collector and the functional control of the Director of Survey and Land Reforms. At present there is a Deputy Director of Surveys at Kollam and under him there are taluk survey officers in all taluks. In addition to this there are resurvey superintendent offices at Karunagappally, Punalur Anchal and an appeal and land complaint office at Kollam. The District Digitisation Centre at

Anchal is established recently to the land records digitisation process.

(Data obtained from DD of Surveys, Kollam)

Police Department

Prior to the beginning of the 18th century the maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of certain feudal lords called 'pramanies' or 'madambis' who used to enforce the law, dispense justice and collect the revenue. Under each pramanie there was a body of trained and skilled men consisting of 'Valia Sarvadhukaryakkar, Sarvadhikaryakkars, karyakars, Parvathiyars and peons. These men were given some military training in the Kalaries along with some knowledge of Chuttavaryolas which were the ordinance embodying the law and procedure prevailing in the land. However the law and order ceased to exist when the office of Diwan was established. Thanas having a close resemblance to the present police stations were created and these thanas were manned by thanas naiks, muthalpers and thanadars. It was during the days of Dewan Ummini Thampi that an organized police force of 200 men was raised in Travancore.

In 1831 for the first time in the history of Travancore a law regarding the police was passed. This was followed by a second police regulation in 1847-48. It was in 1854-55 in the wake of the formation of revenue divisions a reorganisation of the police administratin was also

effected. The Tahasildars were who empowered to control and supervise the police with in the respective taluks. In 1881 the entire police force was reorganized. In 1919 the entire police of Travancore was brought under the control of a new office designated as Commissioner. In 1938 the Commissioner of Police was changed to the Inspector General of Police. In 1949, as a result of the integration of Travancore-Cochin, the police force of two states were combined and placed under IGP.

Police administration in Kollam is divided into two; Urban and Rural. The city police is headed by a City Police Commissioner head quarded at Kollam town. The rural police is headed by the Rural Superintendent of Police and his head quarters is in Kottarakkara. The Kollam city police is divided into three subdivisions, each under an ACP. Karunagappally, Kollam and Chathannoor. Each subdivision is divided into circles headed by an Inspector of Police and each circle is divided into a number of police stations, headed by a Sub Inspector of Police. The Kollam Rural Police District is divided into two subdivisions, Kottarakara and Punalur. There are a total of 29 police stations in 18 circles. Kerala's first Coastal Police Station was established in Neendakara, Kollam.

A dedicated complex at Ashramam district police dog squad was inaugurated on 2nd March 2010. The dog squad currently consists of

three dogs. On 3rd November 2016 a 10 member team of anti goonda quad has been formed headed by a Sub Inspector.

On 2nd February 2021, Kerala's first district forensic science lab started at Chathannoor.

Judiciary

It was in 1832, a Munsiff Court was formed in Kollam. The grama Panchayath courts came into effect in 1910. The district court has appellate jurisdiction over all subordinate courts situated in the district on both civil and criminal matters. Subordinate courts are junior civil judge court, principal junior civil judge court, senior civil judge court (sub court). Subordinate courts, on the criminal side are second class judicial magistrate court first class judicial magistrate court and Chief Judicial Magistrate Court. The Munsiff Courts deal with civil cases upto the valuation of 10 lakhs and sub courts deal with civil cases above the valuation of 10 lakhs. Under the Judiciary umbrella, a principal district and sessions court at Kollam, seven additional session courts and 40 other judicial courts are functioning in Kollam other than the family and Juvenile Courts. ([https://districts.courts.gov.in.>koll](https://districts.courts.gov.in/>koll))

Prisons and Jail

It is seen from the Administrative Report of Travancore for 1862-63 that there was a principal jail at Kollam during that year. It was under the control of the Revenue Officer and Medical Assistance was given by Ayurvedic physicians. As there were no proper Sanitary arrangements in the jail, the health of the inmates was far from satisfactory and there was considerable mortality. Later a medical subordinate was appointed for the jail and its medical charge was transferred to the Durbar Physician. In 1873 the jail was placed under the control of a Jailor who was responsible to the Superintendent of Police. The Superintendent of Police used to inspect periodically.

At present there are two Jails under the Prisons Department in Quilon District. They are the District Jail Kollam and A class subjail at Kottarakkara. The Kollam Jail is under the control of a Superintendent who is assisted by Head wardens, sub-wardens and women-sub wardens.

The A class sub-jail, Kottarakkara is located at the Pulamon Junction of the Kottarakara town. Both these jails have separate board of visitors with 1 G of Police Director of Health services, Sessions judge Senior Medical Office, Probation office, local MLAs and Local MPs.

Treasury Department

In the field of fiscal administration the District Collector till recently was responsible for the proper accounting of all money received in and paid from the government treasuries in the district and for the submission of periodical returns to the govt. and the Accountant General. In addition to the District Treasuries at Kollam and Kottarakara there are 13 sub treasuries in Kollam district at Kottarakkara, Punalur, Karunagappally, Chathannoor, Anchal, Pooyappally, Sasthamkotta and Kundara. Now all the treasuries in the state are fully under the e-governance system and maintaining of accounts became very simple (Data collected from Dist. Treasury, Kollam).

Education Department

In the past under the rule of the enlightened kings of Venad, learning and literature flourished in several centres of the districts. An inscription of the 12th and 13th centuries found engraved in the Manikanteswaram temple at Kottarakkara makes mention of a salai or vedic college attached to it and also certain restrictions and privileges in regard to admissions to the salai (Government of Kerala : 1999 : Vol. VIII : P 59)

Quilon is also one of the early centres of christianity in Kerala. During the 16th century the Jesuit missionaries seem to have established here a college of their own to promote the study of Christian theology and learning. It was during the reign of Rani Gauri Parvathy Bai with the assistance of Col.Manro orders were issued directing that the state should defray the entire cost of education of its people. Female education also recorded appreciable progress in the district since 19th century. Christian missionaries have the abiding honour of promoting English education among the girls in the district. With the establishment of S.N.College for Women at Kollam in 1951, female education in the district got a boost. In addition govt. have also launched several schemes for the advancement of education among the SC, and backward communities. (Sreedhara Menon : 1964 : 587-91)

Organisation of the Education Department

The Kollam revenue district consists of two educational districts with headquarters at Kollam and Kottarakkara. Each of these districts is under a District Educational Officer. The sub districts in these two District are Punalur, Chavara, Chathannoor, Karunagappally, Kollam, Kundara, Kottarakkara, Kulakkada, Sasthamkotta, Veliyam, Anchal and Chadayamangalam. The Assistant Educational Officers are in charge of primary schools with in their respective jurisdiction. In the revenue

district of Kollam there are 490 Lower Primary Schools and 223 Upper Primary Schools. The Primary and Secondary schools are run by private as well as by government. There are 242 High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools in the revenue district. Above the DEOs and AEOs there is a Deputy Director of Education at Kollam to look after the entire activities by the district educational system. (Data collected from the DD Office, Kollam).

Colleges in Kollam District

There are two government colleges and 18 private colleges in the district. Among these the SN College, Fathima College, SNC for Women Kollam are in the corporation area. In addition to these there are 13 important private (unaided) colleges in the district.

In the field of medical education there are three medical colleges, 13 nursing colleges, 2 pharmacy colleges, 2 ayurveda colleges and one dental college in the district. There are 18 engineering colleges, 2 law colleges and 2 arabic colleges also functioning in the district. (Data collected Govt. of Kerala, 2016-17, 28-29)

Medical and Public Health Service Department

Ayurveda was the most popular system of medicine that prevailed in Kollam before the introduction of the western system. Ayurveda high

schools receiving grants from government were the schools at Kollam and Sadanandapuram. During first half of the 19th century first allopathy dispensary was opened at Kollam. In 1871 during the reign of Sri Aiylyam Thirunal, a new hospital was constructed at Kollam and a system of grand-in aid with private medical institutions began (Sreedhara Menon : 1964 : 605). In 1960 the Victoria Hospital was separated from the district hospital Kollam. The government took care to see that proper medical aid was made available to all classes of people.

The registration of vital statistics is made compulsory through out the district. It is done by the staff of the health service department in rural areas and by the municipality in the Kollam town. A statement of births, deaths, infant deaths, maternal deaths and their rate for Kollam district shows that it is much below comparing to other districts of the state.

The District Medical office is the Chief Executive of the Health Service Department of the district. He is in charge of medical and public health wings. There are 91 government hospitals in this district. Among this 58 are primary health centres, 17 community health centers 5 taluk head quarters hospitals and 4 taluk hospitals. The health inspectors who were appointed in the NES Blocks prior to the opening of the primary health centres are at present functioning as health extension officers of

the blocks. The District hospital Kollam Victoria Hospital Kolla, T B Clinic at Kaurnagappaly and TB Diagnostice Centre Kollam are the most important hospitals in Kollam. Among the Chief Private hospitals in Kollam are Sankar's Hospital, Kollam, Nairs Hospital Kollam, Benzigar Hospital, Holycross Hospital Kottiyam, N.S.Hospital Kollam, Vijaya Hospital Kottarakkara, Mission Hospital Anchal and LMS Hospital Kundara. (Data collected from the DMO Office, Kollam)

Agriculture Department

The District Agricultural office Kollam is the head of the department of agriculture in the district. All the agricultural activities are guided by this person. Besides the District Agricultural Office there is an Additional Agricultural Officer at Kollam to handle the development activities with regard to coconut, arecanut, cashewnut, sugar cane and other crops. The District Agricultural Officer has under him 78 agricultural offices and 11 Assistant Director Agricultural Offices, 4 agricultural farms and 2 agricultural labs. In addition there are 4 testing labs at Kureepuzha. These are Mobile Soil Test Lab, District Soil Test Lab, Assistant Engineering Office and the State Agmark Lab.

(Data from the District Agricultural Office Kollam)

Animal Husbandary Department

The Animal Husbandary Department in the district is functioning under the control of a District Animal Husbandary Officer. Under him there are 22 veterinary hospitals 56 veterinary dispensaries 4 veterinary polyclinics, district veterinary central Thevally and a Mobile veterinart hospital. There are 3 veterinary farms – Kuriottumala, Ayur and Kureepuzha in the district (Data from the District Animal Husbandry Office)

Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department has been providing long term loans for the purchase and maintenance of fishing crafts and equipment to the fishermen. In recent times fishermen are provided with mechanised boats and nylon nets by the District Fisheries office Kollam. There is a District Fisheries Officer at the headquarters and under him 13 offices in different parts of the districts. Assistant Fisheries Director Neendakara, Project Officer Packages Scheme Karunagappally and fisheries Extension offices at Kundara, Paravoor, Kollam Neendakara, Karunagappally are other important functionaries to assist the District Officer. In addition to this there is an Inspector of Fisheries at Thevally under the fisheries department, Kollam.

Industries Department

The Kollam district occupies a very important position in the industrial map of Kerala. Several old time industries have flourished in certain centres of this district. Various cottage industries have obtained firm stronghold in the district and cotton weaving and coir making, wood and ivory carving, screw pine work and carpentry are well known for their artistic excellence through out the world. Almost all these old time industries continue to flourish in the district under the patronage of government and quasi government and private agencies. Out of the 23 prominent industries that the Government of India listed, two are in the Kollam district and eight units of the Kerala State Government undertakings are also in the district. A unit in the co-operative sector of spinning mills is functioning at Kollam district, the Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd., Chathannoor. (Government of Kerala 2018 : Report of Industry, Industrial Potential Survey : 47)

There are no large scale mining and heavy industries operating in the district. The most important centres of industries in this district are at Chavara, Kundara, Kollam and Punalur. The management was in the hands of a Board of Directors. Presently the administration of the district industries is under the control of a District General Manager. Below him there are four managers and four assistant industries offices stationed at

Kollam, Kundara, Punalur and Chavara. (Data from the office of the District General Manager, Kollam)

Forest Department

The forest department is one of the oldest administrative departments in the state. Four forest divisions are functioning in Kollam district under the southern circle chief conservator of forest based in Kollam. Spanning the entire western region of Kollam Punalur division with a total area of 275 sq.km forests in Kollam is the largest one. This division is divided into Kottarakkara, Pathanapuram, Punalur and Anchal. The division employees 148 employees. An annual income of 2 crores is received from public sector organisations as Kerala Forest Development Activities include welfare activities for tribals, permission to carry out forest research activities. There are five District Forest Officers stationed at Kottarakkara, Pathanapuram, Punalur and Achancoil. Social forestry has an Assistant Commissioner of Forest and is headed by other Officials. (Data Collected from the Chief Conservator of Forest, Sothern Region, Kollam)

Transport and Communications Department

The first recorded instance of roads having been constructed as matter of deliberate policy during the reign of Marthanda Varma. Till

that time the roads that existed were merely open tracks intended for foot-travellers, the nobility travelling only on horse back or in palanquins. Much of the traffic was conveyed by bullocks and donkeys. Several good roads and water communications were opened during the reign of Marthanda Varma. The canal which connects the back waters of Quilon and Kayamkulam through Chavara and Panmana was constructed at this time. The Paravur canal was also opened during this reign. Fra Barthelomeo records that during the reign of Rama Varma (1758-98) there was a beautiful road connecting Cape Comerin with Kodungallor, which was provided with watersheds and inns at convenient places through out the entire length. (Sreedhara Menon : 1964 : 408)

There were many routes via Kollam to different parts of the country. The route from Kollam to Shencottah via Kottarakkara, Punalur, Thenmala and the Aryankavu pass was the main trade route. In addition to main routes there were primitive foot tracks connecting different parts of the district. All these roads were designed to serve as the main line of communication between the southern and northern parts of Travancore. The old route between Trivandrum and Kollam was rendered possible for cart traffic for nearly two thirds of the whole distance. Side by side with construction of new roads most of the

important roads were metalled and some of them tarred. In 1932-33 a portion near the railway station was constructed with concrete roads.

Public Transport System is mainly under KSRTC and many private bus operators. Two national highways are passing through the district. The Main Central road (MC Road) connecting Trivandrum and Ankamaly via Kottayam also passes through Kollam. The Regional Transport Office headed by a Joint Commissioner Supervises the transport system in Kollam District. Below him there are 6 Sub RTO Offices namely, Karunagappally, Kottarakkara, Punalur, Pathanapuram and Chadayamangalam.

BSNL and all the other prominent cellular network providers including Vodafone, Airtel, Idea and Reliance give good coverage throughout the region. The other important mode of communication like post offices is quite accessible to all the people. There are 4 Head Post Offices, 91 Sub Post Offices, 122 Branch Post Offices and 28 E D Post Offices.

In the Telecom sector there are 77 Telephone Exchanges and 3 SCDA and the STD Codes for Karunagappally is 0476, for Kollam 0474 and for Punalur 0475. (Data collected from Govt. of Kerala, Dept. Of Industry, 2016-17, 37)

Civil Supplies Department

The Collector is the head of the public distribution system in the District. He is entrusted with the responsibility of distributing essential commodities. He acts as the head of the rationing system in the district. He grants licenses for trading food grains and other essential goods. He is the head of the rationing system in the district and is expected to control black marketing and ensure timely and equitable distribution of essential and controlled Commodities. (Rakesh.K.Jha, 2012, Public Administration in India 225).

Under the District Supply office in Kollam there are six taluk supply officers in the taluks. The taluk offices are Karunagappally, Kollam, Kottarakkara, Kunnathur and Punalur. There are 1,392 ration depots and a total of 7,86,701 ration cards in Kollam District. (Data collected from the DSO Office, Kollam)

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department in the Kollam District has many branches. The most important among these are buildings, roads and irrigation. The buildings and roads have a separate division of jurisdiction which extends to the whole of the revenue division, headed with a Deputy Chief Engineer. Below him there are Executive

Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Work Superintendent in all the offices spread over all the taluk head quaters of the district. In addition to these there are Executive Engineers for Naitonal Highways under the control of the Deputy Chief Engineers in Kollam Division.

There is a separate Marine Division to the whole of the southern area and its jurisdiction extends to Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram area. The main functions of this division are related to the port works and the Fisheries Harbour Projects. The Kallada Irrigation Project division has an Executive Engineer as the head of the division. After the completion of the project the offices were transferred to the roads and building division.

Irrigation Department

The Kollam district forms parts of the Public Health Engineering Department which includes other districts also. The main functions of the division include the execution of Kollam Water Supply Scheme and Rural Water Supply Schemes and Water Supply to the entire district. The Executive Engineer is the head of the division and he is assisted by Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers. The entire division has been divided in to three sub divisions – distribution sub division at Kollam, head works subdivision at Sasthamkotta and the public health subdivision Kottarakkara. Kallada irrigation project

distributes water to 30 percent of the district for agricultural purposes. The Kollam water supply scheme distributes water mainly to Kollam Corporation area. Apart from this rural water supply schemes introduced in most of the Panchayat after the introduction of the three tier Panchayati raj system.

Power Department

Hydro electric power was first introduced in the State of Travancore in 1906. The Supply of power for the town of Kollam was undertaken by the Travancore Government in 1934. The power house was equipped with diesel sets with overhead lines extended to 26 miles at the end of 1936. In 1933 the Travancore Electricity Department was set up. The Pallivasal hydro electric power was the Chief source of power in the Kollam District. Other source of power supply is the District Chengulam Hydro Electric Station which is an ancillary to the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Station. Now the Idukki hydro electric project in the main source of power supply in the district. (Sreedhara Menon : 1964 : 302 – 303)

Kerala State Electricity Board is in chage of the distribution of electicity. The most important officer of the board concerned with distribution in the district is the Deputy Chief Engineer, Kottarakkara and Executive Engineers (Major Electrical Sections) at different places

of the district. The main source of electricity are hydel, thermal, solar, tidal, and biomass. Of these sources hydel and thermal are conventional energy sources and others are non conventional sources. (Government of Kerala : 2018 : 37)

Labour Department

Labour welfare measures are implemented in Kerala by Officers of the Department of Labour and the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers. The Department of Labour is responsible for the administration of most of the labour laws.

District Labour Officer, Kollam is the head of the Labour Department in the district. His main functions are to promote good relations between employers and employees and to enforce the provisions of the various labour laws. Under him, there are nine Assistant Labour Officers with their head quarters at Kundara, Kottarakkara, Punalur, Paravoor, Karunagappally, Sasthamkotta, Chadayamangalam one each and two at Kollam. Each Assistant Labour Office has two welfare assistants under him. There is a Deputy Labour Officer with head quarters at Kollam to attend to the task of implementing the minimum wages in the cashew industry. Further there is an Inspector of shops and establishments whose function is to enforce the provisions of the shops and establishment act and minimum wages in

shops and establishments. These officers are also under the administrative control of the District Labour Office. The District Labour Offices and the Deputy Labour Officers are Conciliatory Officers under the Industrial Act. They initiate conciliation proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes. (Information from the District Labour Office, Kollam)

There are 49 estates in this district which come within the purview of Plantation Labour Act. The workers in these estates are provided with all facilities envisaged in the act and rules framed are Maternity benefit, employees provident fund scheme, employees state insurance scheme, old age pension scheme, widow pension scheme, unemployment toll and others are fully under the administration of District Labour Office. (Data collected from the district labour office, Kollam).

There are three division offices Kollam, Kundara and Chengannoor in the District under the Regional Joint Director of Factories and Boilers in Kollam. (Data from the Office of the Joint Director, Kollam)

Tourism Department

Kollam district is replete with many tourists attractions. One can also go and relax at the nearby beaches backwaters and islands. Thenmala in Kollam is India's first planned eco-tourism destination. Thenmala translated to English is Honey Hill. Kollam provides a miniature of Kerala. All forms of tourism like nature based tourism, Heritage Tourism and Adventure Tourism are here.

District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC), Kollam co-ordinates and conducts the various tour programmes and arranges necessary facilities for the tourists coming here. DTPC has a governing body with the District Collector as Chairman and Members from among officials, peoples representatives and tourism experts nominated by the government. There is a tourism directorate for the entire state and each district has a deputy director and necessary staff under him. As in every district Kollam also has a tourism officer responsible for promoting tourism and devising tourist development initiatives with the aim of generating and increasing revenue. Besides there is a tourism manager who provide travel hospitality and accommodation information and service to tourists. At the grassroot level there are tourists guides who can lead and can give proper direction to tourists. Often competent people are invited from interested persons to work as tourists guides.

Department of Co-operation

The head of the department in the district is under the Joint Registrar (general) and a Joint Director (Audit). There are eight assistant registrars in Kollam, Karunagappally, Punalur and Sasthamcotta.

The co-operatives aim to provide goods and services. They aim to eliminate the unnecessary profits of middlemen in trade and commerce. They seek to prevent the exploitation of the weaker members of society. They aim to protect the rights of people both as producers and consumers. It provides agricultural credits and funds where state and private sectors have not been able to do very much.

Presently there are 1,345 co-operative societies under the control of the Co-operative Department in the district. In addition to these there are co-operative societies under the departments of industries coir and fisheries.

Department of Economics and Statistics

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is the nerve centre of the state statistical system. Director is the technical and administrative head of the department. Kollam just like the other district has district statistical officer and one taluk statistical officer. The department is the nodal agency of the state responsible for the systematic collection

compilation analysis, interpretation and dissemination of statistics relating to various sectors of kerala economy. Kollam is one of the districts having a well-organised statistical system.

District Scheduled Castes Department

Scheduled caste department is responsible for the upliftment and well being of dalit people who still live at the lowest strata of society. Besides education and other forms of finance assistance SC/ST people are given 12 percent of reservation in government employment. District SC Development officer is the head of department; under him there is an Asst. SC Development Office to assist him. There is an ST development office stationed at Punalur with a district development officer. Besides there are 12 block SC development officers in the district. This department operates 5 ITI's 8 Model residential schools, 2 post metric hostels and 4 nurserys in the district.

Kudumbasree – a novel initiative of Kerala

An initiative for poverty alleviation this model was launched on May 17th 1998. It is now one of the largest women empowerment related movement in Asia having a total participation of about 37.8 lakhs. The mission is a joint initiative of Kerala Government and NABARD. There are 24137 neighbourhood groups and 299982 members in Kollam

district. As per Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment programme the total card holders are 317425 of this 253980 members are women and 63495 are men. Kudumbasree District Mission Director, Kollam is the head of Kollam Kudumbasree programme. There is a state mission with a field officer in each district. The grassroots of kudumbasree are neighbourhood groups that send representatives to the ward level Area Development societies. The ADS sends its representatives to the Community Development Society (CDS) which completes the unique three-tier structure of kudumbasree.

Other Departments

District Women and Child Development officer in Kollam is the head of the department. There are 21 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) offices in the district each under a Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and a number of supervisors. Anganwadis where a teacher and a helper / worker is the lowest unit where children are taught the basic aspects of language and life. The children are given nutritious food here.

District Sainik Welfare Offices

It comes under a district Sainik Welfare Officer. As per 2023 March there are 176630 pensioners 1897 non-pensioners, 4933 widow

pensioners. 1138 non-pensioners, 49 was widows and 76944 persons are dependent status.

Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments

The Travancore Devaswom Board is responsible for the administration of hindu religions and charitable institutions in the state. The devaswoms (temples) in the district are broadly classified by the board into groups, namely, Kottarakkara group, Kollam group and Pattazhi group. Each group is under a superintendent appointed by the Devaswom Board. In addition to the temples the Board is also running a few institutions like schools, libraries and orphanages in the district. It runs 3 upper primary schools at Thirumullavaram,, Vilakudi and Angadickal and a lower Primari School at Asramam. Sree Chitra Hindu Libraries at Anandavalleeswaram and Kottarakkara are also run by the Devaswom Board in this district. There is an orphanage at Kollam which is also functioning under the Devaswom Board.

Wakf Board

The Muslim religions and Charitable Institutions like Mosques, Wakf properties are administrated by the Kerala Wakf Board which was set up on October 1, 1960 under the provisionsof the Wakf Act 1954.

There is a District Sub-Committee of the Wakf board who looks after the administration of muslim charitable institutions in Kollam.

Local Self Government

Democratic Decentralisation in its institutional form has come to be known as Panchayati Raj. (Iqbal Narain, 1970 : 22)

The advent of Panchayati Raj in India marked the first step in providing a new perspective on district administration with its emphasis on development and administration : (BL Fadia Kuldip Fadia (2004).

Panchayati raj is the new vehicle of local self government and of development in the district. The Panchayati raj concept comprehends an administrative structure which covers the whole ground from the village, with its grama sabha, Nyaya Panchayat and other groups, through the block level panchayat samiti, with the zilla parishad at the district apex. This is an experiment in local self-government, with its main orientation towards the economic development and well being of the people of the district. During the pre-independence days district administration was cut-off at the village level and the association of people with administration. (S.S.Khera : 1980 : 85-86).

When Kerala State was formed in 1956, there were panchayats and urban bodies in the three regions of the state, namely Travancore,

Cochin and Malabar (101). A Kerala District Administration Bill was introduced in 1978, when A.K. Antony was the chief minister. Later after discussions and amendments to the Act the Government of Kerala announced elections to the District Councils in 1990 (104). In March 1994, the State Government introduced Kerala Panchayat Raj Bill and on the basis of this the new three tier System of administration at the District came into being (Biju MR : 2021 : 105)

The 74th Amendment Act of the Constitution of India mandated district planning committee to prepare e-draft development plan for the district. As per article 242 ZD of the constitution the DPC shall consolidate Panchayat/Municipality plans in the district and prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. The article specifies that while preparing draft development plan due regard shall be given to matters of common interest between panchayats and municipalities including spatial planning sharing of water and other physical and natural resources, the integrated development of infrastructure and environmental conservation. The DPC Kollam wanted to fulfil its constitutional development of the district with the participation of local governments in the district. The entire process was implemented with the involvement of people, local governments and NGOs etc.

Before the formation of the state of Kerala, the region was comprised of three administrative units : Travancore, cochin and Malabar. In 1925, the village Panchayat Regulation was passed, which brought more clarity in the activities of the panchayat. The government of India Act 1919 greatly influenced the legislations in the local administration of Cochin and Travancore. The main source of revenue was various taxes and fees; the notable feature was that there was no statutory grants from the side of the government. The total number of panchayats in the new Kerala was 892, which were governed under the laws such as Malabar Panchayat Act 1950 and the Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act 1950. These acts had been creating more importance for local governance in operation for about a decade. The first state government headed by EMS Namboothiripad took initiatives for democratic decentralisation and development of panchayat system. During his tenure two bills were drafted – The Kerala Panchayat Bill 1958 and the District Council Bill 1959. Both these were placed in the assembly. But neither was enacted because the ministry was dismissed and the assembly dissolved. (Biju.M.R. : 2021 : 102)

In 1960 Kerala Panchayat Act was passed which incorporated several recommendations of the Balwant Rai Committee and they tried to adopt all recommendations at the local level. In 1967 EMS

Namboodiripad ministry introduced The Kerala Panchayati Raj Bill. The bill contemplated a two tier system of panchayats at the basic level and the zilla parishad at the district level. The bill could not become law and it lapsed in 1970. In 1971 the UDF government headed by C.Achutha Menon introduced the Kerala District Administration Bill. This bill also lapsed before it could be enacted into law.

In 1978 Kerala District Administration Bill was again introduced. This bill was passed by the legislature in 1979. After careful analysis more provisions were incorporated in the Bill. Finally the election to the District Council elections was conducted in 1991.

In March 1994 the State Government introduced a Kerala Panchayati Raj Bill. The provisions of the bill were very restrictive and led to a great deal of criticism. Substantial changes were made in the bill. As such the first elections to the new three-tier Panchayati Raj set-up were held in September and the new panchayats came into being on 2nd October 1994. A Committee on Decentralisation of Powers under chairmanship of SB Sen was set up. The committee recommendations were incorporated in to the Panchayat Raj Act in February 1999, providing the legal foundation for healthy and accountable institutions of local self government. (Biju M.R. 2021:106)

In Kollam district preparation of integrated district development plan as well as local development plans for each local government has already started in 2003. Accordingly Integrated District Development Plan for Kollam has been prepared in a spatial planning approach. The said plan elaborates the development perspective of the district along with the development goals of each local self government institution in general. However the process of preparing Local Development Plan for each development in this district, based on the development concept formulated for the next 20 years, is in various stages. The local development plans for Paravoor Municipality and Pooyappilly grama panchayat are duly completed as models in this connection.

Local development plan is prepared on the basis of a long term perspective for 20 year period. Development proposals for the coming 20 years are formulated in a phased manner Report of the Five Year Plan of the local government concerned is prepared incorporating the execution plan and the development concept. Subsequently the local development plan is finalised incorporating proposed land use map and development control rules.

. Details submitted by every Local Government to the District Town and country planning office during initial stages of preparation of Local government plan like local level analysis report secondary data,

and land use map. Maps also be made use of in the preparation of Local Development Plan. Training programmes explaining activities related will be conducted by District Town and Country Planning office. Moreover a planning Help Desk will also be functioning for rendering necessary assistance during various stages of plan preparation. An organizational set up already exists at district level for co-ordinating the work of preparation of local development plans. Working groups will organise studies on respective development sectors and will evolve development proposals. Formation of special working groups for the sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, forest and environment is also proposed. Spatial analysis has to be done by the spatial integration committee on the basis of spatial analysis report prepared and supplied by District Town and country planning office. The report gives an account of the Local Government based on the analysis of various components like population, occupation, structures, land use and topography.

Analysis of Kollam blueprint

The purpose of analysis is to identify drawbacks in the transportation network and to propose solutions to the identified problems through the analysis of regional roads passing through the area as well as the existing local transportation network.

Development goals and objectives arrived at on the basis of analysis of activities form the basis of formulating development concept of a particular locality. The responsibility of formulating development concept rests with spatial integration committee.

The future of Kollam focuses on drinking water supply sewage treatment, water drainage, greenery construction and facilities for non-motorised transport. Kollam has a master plan that envisions sustainable and comprehensive development with an eye on the next twenty years. The recommendations for the future growth of Kollam city include the development of fisheries, industry and tourism sectors without impacting water bodies and ecologically important areas. There are proposals to tap the commercial potential of Kollam port development of existing junctions and roads truck terminals, bus stations and eco friendly walkways and are part of the master plan that focuses on the overall development of Kollam city.

The future plan features a string of projects to restore the lost glory of Kollam and the plan was formulated in accordance with the provisions of the urban and rural planning act. Kandamchira tourism centre, Lake front Tourism promotion area, heritage street, rejuvenation and beautification of water bodies, oceanarium, swimming pool, mobility hubs and mini satellite stations are some of the future projects

envisaged in the next 20 year plan. Spatial planning blueprint for the purpose was prepared with the help of the satellite map provided by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) Hyderabad.

Kollam municipality was upgraded to a municipal corporation in 2000. The city population of Kollam increased substantially from 139,852 to 346,013 in 2011. In 1991, four panchayaths, namely Vadakkevila, Sakthikulangara, Eravipuram and Kilikollur were merged with the corporation. As a result the area of the corporation increased from 18.48 square km to 58.18 square kilometres. In may 2015 Thrikkadavur Panchayath also merged with Kollam city increasing the total population to 397,419 with a total area of 73.03 square kilometres.

The city corporation of Kollam has a 55 member council headed by a mayor and a deputy mayor. The average population of every ward is around 7000. The Kerala Municipalities Act 1994 governs all functions in the corporation. It has eight standing committees for smooth governance. Each of these committees is headed by an elected councillor. The various standing committees are Finance, Development Welfare, Health and Education, Public works, Town Planning, Tax appeal and sports.

The Chinnakkada underpass is a public road infrastructure project for the city of Kollam as part of the Kerala Sustainable Urban

Development Project. It is supported by the Asian Development Bank to remove traffic congestion at Chinnakkada. The presence of an existing railway overbridge and three close intersections with heavy traffic limits and options for traffic management measures including junction improvement are there. This made the authorities to conceptualize the under pass at Chinnakkada. It is a complex junction where roads from Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Kollam beach and the city bus stand road meet. The underpass was opened to the public at the end of May 2015.

On 22 June 2014, construction work started on a marine aquarium at Kollam beach, the first of its kind in Kerala. The Harbour Engineering Department constructed the aquarium. It was inaugurated in 2019. The facility is open to the public in the evenings.

In May 2019, Kollam city Corporation achieved the ISO 9001 : 2015 certification for the best municipal administration and services. The city hosted a three day national conclave 'Kollam city vision' 20-22 in September 2019. Jointly organised by KMC and the Institute of Urban Designs India this was the second ever Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI) conclave and the first one outside New Delhi.

On 4th November 2019, KMC launched the intelligent property management system to regulate the recording and tax-filling of

properties and Integrated Management System, and an e-governance Facility.

Comprehensive development with social justice is the declared agenda of the government. Development becomes comprehensive when the economic, social and physical dimensions are integrated. Equal opportunities shall be guaranteed to the society, considering the ability of the future generation to meet their needs as well. Such a development ought to be achieved in a democratic manner for which peoples participation in development is inevitable. In order to fulfil the Government's Commitment towards decentralised planning, the people's planning campaign movement was introduced in our state during the Ninth Five Year Plan. District Planning has become the most important link in the whole system of decentralised planning because this is the cutting edge of administration. Kollam with the Department of town and country planning as nodal agency is highly noteworthy in this. The viable methodology of preparation of local plans and district plans with the involvement of the people elected leaders and experts, piloted and validated at Kollam has gained nation wide acceptance.

It is no doubt that this methodology of plan preparation qualitatively strengthens the decentralized planning process. The planning process is top-down at grass root level wherein data collection

and preliminary analysis of the collected data is performed at local level and integrated regional development vision is formulated at the district level.

Integrated District Development Plan

The IDDP, Kollam envisages a population of 29.36 lakhs for the district in 2022. The plan identifies agriculture, animal husbandry, Fisheries, Mining and Geology as the potential sectors of the district – six development zones namely Bio-reserve Zone Agro Development Zone, Agro Allied Development Zone, Special Development Zone, Multi Functional Zone and Aqua-bio reserve Zone are demarcated with most suitable activities in each zone. A connectivity plan ensuring proper connectivity between settlements also form part of the plan. The plan encompasses all features of a district plan envisaged by the constitution.

As part of people's plan, Kerala succeeded in developing a viable methodology of decentralized participatory planning. This path breaking innovation has now been adopted nationally and the planning commission recommended an analogous methodology to be followed by all states in the preparation of the XI Five Year Plan. Now that decentralisation has entered the institutionalization phase, time is ripe for upgrading the quality of planning moving on to analysis of development

data and trends, with people and their representatives in the center stage, assisted by officials and experts, leading to a vision emerging from a deep understanding of the developmental situation and potential.

In this respect Kollam has conducted an important experiment, crafted patiently and meticulously by a team of top quality professionals in partnership with enlightened political leadership of Local governments. Under the leadership of the District Planning Committee and with the involvement of all the local governments in the district officials from the development departments, co-ordinated by the district-collector, pooled in all available data, filled up through primary collection and analyzed them to study spatial development patterns.

The collective spatial patterns of different sectors of development at the district level, shows the gaps as well as the potential. Analysis was enriched by the involvement of elected leaders and local resource persons which gave the all important people dimension to the whole process. Priorities were dictated by people's preferences of course limited by availability of resources detailed in the execution plan. Only after a series of trials and errors the Integrated District Development Programme (IDDP) emerged. IDDP is made robust by strong organic linkages connecting each step to the previous and next one. The commitment and enthusiasm of officials and elected leaders of Kollam

has resulted in the development of a viable methodology of participatory spatial planning theoretically sound and practically valid. Now the core features of the methodology are revealed in the document, it is easy to upgrade or modify or adapt them for different geographical development and political regions.

For the preparation of IDDP the district level Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is specially constituted. The subcommittee of special TAC are 1) Agriculture, 2) Irrigation, watershed development and Land use, Forest, Environment Mining and Geology. Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Fisheries, Industries, Co-operation Trade and Commerce, Infrastructure, Education, Health, Drinking Water and Sanitation Education, Poverty, alleviation and Rural Development, Power Tele Communications, SC & ST Development, Tourism, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, HRA and Spatial Planning.

The pattern of growth rate of population among the local bodies of the District as per census 2001, shows that the growth rate is the highest among those local bodies adjacent to the Kollam Corporation. Hence it can be presumed that those local bodies adjacent to the Kollam Corporation can be assumed to attain the urban status in the next 10 years and the remaining local bodies to become so within the next 20 years. In the study of the hierarchy of settlements Kottarakkara and

Karunagappally are positioned next to Kollam Corporation. This eventually means Karunagappally, Kottarakkara, Neendakara, Thrikkadavur, Mayyanad and Chathannur will attain the status of urban local bodies in the next 10 years.

There are various other departments chiefly functioning at its headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram with a minimal presence in the district. Collegiate education department has an office in Kollam and a Deputy Director on the basis of seniority is selected to the post. Though there are only two government colleges in Kollam, many private colleges of good reputation are there in the district and the deputy director is the link between the aided and unaided colleges and the government.

Apart from the above there are district wise offices of various other departments Fire and rescue services, Information and Public relations Kerala Public Service Commission, Dept. of Social Justice, Sports and Youth Affairs, State Insurance, Technical education are some among them.

IV

Development of Initiatives

Sectoral Analysis

Agriculture

The total extent of land under cultivation in the district is 2,48,788 hectares during 2023-24. Based on area production and productivity of the various crops cultivated in Kollam 25 crops have been identified as the principal crops. The area of cultivation under coconut is maximum (32 percent of the cultivated area) followed by rubber (31 percent). Whereas the area of cultivation of paddy is very less (6 percent). Area under food crops cultivation is only 18 percent whereas the commercial crops form 82 percent. Among food crops rice (36 percent) and tapioca (28 percent) are the main crops and in the case of commercial crops coconut (40 percent) and Rubber (38 percent) are the main crops. (NABARD Potential Linked Credit Plan, 2023-24 – Kollam District. P.4)

In Kollam over the years there is a tendency to shift from food based to commercial based crops, complying with the change in economy, in particular the change in money value in the global economic condition. In Kollam paddy cultivation has really declined and

productivity also declined. The conversion of wet land to garden land is the main reason. However there is a scope of increasing the production by cultivation of high yield varieties in more areas. There is ample scope for increasing substantially the area and production of paddy in the district by introducing large scale mechanization as a solution to scarcity of labour, since paddy is a labour intensive crop. Other opportunities include organic farming in paddy, cultivation of medicinal varieties and cultivation of rice like basmati.

Coconut

Lack of sufficient quantity of good quality seedlings for new trees and under planting are major problems. The crop also faces several pest and disease infestations and adverse climate conditions. There is no well developed procurement and marketing system.

There is immense scope for export of coconut products by adopting proper value addition, product diversification and marketing strategy.

Rubber

High fluctuation in the price of natural Rubber is a major weakness. In Kollam rubber plantation have re-placed the traditional crops in a very big way.

Pepper

Most of the existing plantations are not scientifically managed. High yielding variety and shade loving variety coverages are less in the district. Severe incidences of pest and disease in the pepper growing tracts are the major threats in production and productivity of the crop. Adoption of scientific practices in increasing productivity will enhance production.

Cashew

Over the past few years there has been a sharp decline in the area production and productivity of cashew both at the state and district level leading to a stagnation of the cashew industries. There is no commercial cultivation in the district. Scientific management is rarely followed.

There are chances for increasing productivity through adoption of scientific practices and high density planting. Area expansion can be done by planting high yielding varieties in waste land, fallow lands etc.

Vegetables

At present vegetables production very is low. There is no organised infrastructure for collection, marketing and storage of vegetables.

Marketing System

Financial constraints, supply driven market rather than demand drives, weak research extension linkage, inability to access market demand weak mechanism for private sector involvement and inadequate communication network are drawbacks

Irrigation System

In Kollam district out of the 58 percent area under agriculture only 31% is irrigated area out of the total irrigated areas, 72 percent of the area is irrigated by Kallada irrigation project. The main problem here is that agriculture is declining day by day. Agricultural land is being transformed for non-agricultural uses due to poor irrigation facilities.

Overall it is seen that the irrigation sector in Kollam is having good potential which is kept underutilized.

Animal Husbandry

Percentage of milk production is high towards the western part of the district. This may be due to the improved breeding facilities and availability of crossbreed animals with high productivity.

Out of the total meat products meat from poultry, cattle and buffaloes contribute the major share. The annual percapita consumption of egg and broiler chicken in the district is 80 eggs and 2.5 kg

respectively. Since the production of eggs in the district falls short of the demand, eggs are being imported from neighbouring states. The meat and egg produced from Kollam district is sold through local markets in the district. There is a Milma dairy in Kollam district with pasteurization and chilling facilities. There are 5 chilling plants in the district. The present production of fodder is estimated to be sufficient to meet only half the requirement of the district. Above all there is the ever increasing cost of cattle feed. Kerala feeds and milma are the major suppliers of cattle feed from the public sector.

The district has got excellent infrastructural facilities to support the development of this sector. It has got veterinary health care and breeding facilities in all parts of the district. Also it has got an excellent marketing network of milk societies throughout the district. Animal husbandry sector offers plenty of employment opportunities which is expected to witness a boom in the near future.

Fisheries

Fisheries sector in the district consists of both marine and inland fisheries. The fishing population in Kollam is estimated to be about 1.37 lakh of which one lakh is from the marine sector. Clam meat is readily available in Kollam; but there are no large scale measures to process and market it. There is much scope for employment opportunities here. A

unique feature of Kollam is the occurrence of four interconnected back waters namely Kayamkulam Kayal, Ashtamudi Kayal, Paravur Kayal and Edava – Nadayara Kayal. Kollam has a very dominant position among the marine district of the state in the export of marine products.

Industries

About 26913 numbers of industries consisting of small scale large and medium industries have registered in the district out of the total industries registered maximum numbers of industries are in Kollam Corporation. The large and medium industry registered in the district consists of industries in the public and co-operative sector (17 nos) and private industries (14 Nos). Handloom industry is mainly under co-operative sector.

The cashew processing industry of Kerala are almost centralised in Kollam district. About 2.5 lakh workers are employed in about 500 cashew factories in Kollam. The two major government undertakings are the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation and Cashew Workers Apex Co-operative Societies. Although export of cashew kernels are increasing fast, raw cashew nut production is on the downslide. The only industry which has shown increase over the last four years is information technology.

Health

Comparing the health indicators such as birth rate, death rate, Infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, life expectancy rate, with the national and state figures it is seen that health status of the district is well above the national and state averages. The pattern of diseases has changed to life style diseases and pollution related diseases.

In the case of diseases, respiratory disease is having high prevalence rate and Hepatitis A is the most life threatening disease.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

The major surface sources which are being utilized for water supply in Kollam are Sasthamkotta Lake and rivers such as Kallada, Achancoil and Kulathupuzha. The principal sources of water for domestic purposes in rural areas are open wells. The number of tube wells and bore wells also shows an increasing trend. As far as the river flow data is seen during the summer season there is minimum or nil flow in the rivers. So sufficient storage facilities for the leap season has to be arranged. Another major problem with surface water is the lack of proper conservation measures, which results in the runoff water directly going to the sea. The extraction of ground water is not advisable. So protected good quality water sources must be the priority.

Forest

As per the Forest Department data 29 percent of the total area in Kollam is forest. Punalur, Konni, Thenmala, Achancoil and Shendrunny are the forest divisions in Kollam. The major types of forests based on legal status are natural forest, vested forest, and plantations. Shendrunny Wildlife Sanctuary got its time from Chenkuringi is endemic to this place on earth. There are three Eco-tourism spots in the district namely Achancoil, Thenmala Eco-tourism and Palaruvi in Thenmala.

Even though the existing forest area equals the national average it is yet to be seen whether the required 33 percent is achieved. Over all Kollam is a gene pool of the state having a large number of endangered rare and endemic species of flora and fauna.

The development policy is that Kollam has to be made rich in bio-diversity by economically developing while ecologically conserving the forest land and settlements, flora and fauna and making a greener forest land proposals for ecological conservation.

- 1) New fish sanctuary at Kulathupuzha
- 2) Management of protected area in Shenthurunni wild life sanctuary.

The proposal is for the development of eco-tourism in the area

3) New bird sanctuary at Thevally, Kandachira and Polachira

All these areas are destinations of migratory birds.

4) Development of Mangrove areas are fairly good; patches of mangroves on the estuary of Kayamkulam Kayal. Mangroves are usually absent along the shoreline. From the environmental point of view more congenial areas have to be brought under mangrove vegetation. Planting of mangrove seedlings may be carried out every year along all the eight tributaries of the Ashtamudi lake.

5) Completion of forest working plan at Punalur, Thenmala, Achancoil, Shendurunny and Konni which are the forest division coming in Kollam district. All the above forest divisions have approved working plans.

6) Prevention of forest fire through peoples participation

a. To control forest fire with a view to protect and conserve both natural and plantation forest

b. To improve productivity of forest by reducing the incidents and extent of forest fires.

c. To devise, test and demonstrate principles and technics of prevention detection and control of forest fires

- d. Orientation and training of staff and the public through training courses and awareness classes to prepare them for participation in the forest fire management.

The requirements are : wireless communication sets

Fire fighting equipment

Creation of fire lines

Construction of watch towers

Training and demonstration

Research and publicity

Participatory Forest Management

- 7) Consolidation of forest boundaries for protection and Management of Forests
- 8) Conservation of species
- 9) Proposals for greening Non-forest land
- 10) Government land / public land

As per Kerala conditions, it is difficult to increase the forest area since there is acute shortage of lands. Hence in order to achieve the target of 33 percent tree cover the only possibility is to afforest all possible government lands

- 11) River bank management

The banks of rivers are collapsing year after year since there is a depletion of vegetation on the banks. Hence in order to protect the

banks and to check soil erosion green vegetal cover with suitable species such as reeds and bamboos are the need of the hour.

12) Bio-shield along sea-shore

Agriculture sector recommends the planting of one row of cashew trees along the cost of the district. The Forest Department has already implemented one programme named “Harithatheeram” to protect the inhabitants of the coastal area by planting rows of casuarinas.

13) Proposals for Forest Economic Development

In the forestry area main thrust is for conservation and hence the scope for economic development assumes secondary development. However without affecting the conservation aspect, proposals for value addition to forest products, raising medicinal plants are needed.

14) Environment

According to the district environment policy, by 2021 Kollam has to become an eco-friendly district through the abatement of pollution, efficient use of environmental resources by protecting and conserving critical ecological systems and resources including wet lands without being detrimental to traditional economic activities.

Conservation of water bodies : Ashtamudi back water

It has an area of 34 sq km and is subjected to abuse in many ways in the environmental point of view. The conservation of Ashtamudi backwaters include prevention of direct discharge of waste water through public drains of Kollam Corporation, water quality monitoring and modernization of coconut husk retting units.

Sasthamcotta Lake

The freshwater lake has an area of 373 ha and is the largest fresh water lake of Kerala. It is getting polluted due to anthropological activities in and around the lake. However the water quality of the lake has not deteriorated at an alarming level. The main problem faced by the lake is the water level depletion. Drinking water and sanitation sector suggests the following conservation measures. Prevention of further encroachment, prevention of pollution, prevention of silting, total echo system protection patrolling etc.

Conservation and Regeneration of Mangroves

Regeneration is proposed to be done by planting three tier vegetation all along water front.

Conservation for Sacred Groves

Sacred groves face various threats in the light of lack of land for human settlements. Eroding community values also is a danger to the preservation of groves. A plan is devised for the protection of groves by planting indigenous species, soil and water conservation.

Air Pollution

The highest critical pollution in the district is air pollution. Most of the industrial units that cause air pollution are situated in the Corporation area. Air Pollution from Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd, Cashew Factories, air and noise pollution from vehicles are the major pollution causing factors.

Conservation of Hillocks

Hillocks are mainly spread over the eastern part of the District. The porous nature of the laterite soil increases the water holding capacity of the hillocks. The transformation of hillocks into plain lands is an environmental threat. Laterite stone mining and soil extraction are the two threats.

Waste Management

Kollam district is faced with problems related to improper handling transportation disposal and storage of municipal solid wastes.

By 2020's it is hoped that Kollam will be able to have a better environment. The air they breathe will be clean and water pollution problem can be contained.

Mining and Geology

According to the district mining policy by 2011, Kollam has to optimally use the mineral resources of the district with due regard to environmental economical and social impacts.

As identified in the sectoral analysis, mineral sand, china clay and ordinary sand are the three major mineral resources which can be commercially utilized in the district. The potential areas for mining include, Alappad, Chavara, Panmana and Neendakara. The heavy mineral deposit of Kollam, one of the best of its kind in the world is a strategic mineral which needs to be exploited without adverse environmental impact. Rutile zircon and monazite are the major co-products from the mineral processing of beach sand deposit.

The china clay deposits in Kollam is part of the tertiary sedimentary formation of Kerala. The best varieties are useful in paper and textile industries and the other ones can be used in rubber plastic insecticide, paints, medicines and ceramics.

Roads

The proposed road network consists of roads classified under National Highways, State Highways, Primary Roads and Tertiary Roads.

National Highways

It is proposed to upgrade the standards of National Highways to meet the future requirements by providing a Right of way of 30mts with 4-1 one carriageway of lane. The existing National Highways in the district are 57 kms of the Kanyakumari – Salem NH 47, 81 kms of the Kollam – Thiruvananthapuram NH 208. The NH newly proposed is the NH 220 (Kollam – Theni)

State Highways

State highways provide inter-district as well as intra district connectivity. It is proposed to upgrade the standard of the state highways to meet the future requirements and for easy upgradability. The existing state Highways in the district are the 36.7 kms long portion of the main central road, the 30.3 km long portion of the Tvm – Shenkottah road and (SH-2) the 13.8 km long Punalur – Muvattupuzha road (SH 7).

The State Highways Proposed are :-

1. Nilamel – Ayoor – Kottarakkaa – Kulakkada Road
2. Ayoor – Anchal – Punalur – Pathanapuram Road

3. Parippally – Nilamel – Madathara Road
4. Kulathupuzha – Madathara – Chithara Road
5. Bharanikkavu – Adoor Road

Primary Road

Primary roads are proposed to provide connectivity between first order nodes and junctions. The Right of way proposed for primary roads is 21 metres with 4 lane carriage way of 3.75 metres each. The proposed primary roads are 1) Thangassery – Paravur – Chathannur (2) Chathannoor – Velinalloor - Ayur (3) Kottiyam – Kannanalloor – Kundara – Karunagappally Road.

Secondary Roads

Secondary roads are proposed to provide connectivity between first order nodes and junctions and second order nodes and junctions. The proposed secondary roads are 1) Chavara – Sasthamkotta road, (2) Paravur – Varkala Road (3) Paravur – Parippally Road, (4) Kannanalloor – Pooyappally – Ayur Road (5) Kadakkal – Anchal – Chengamanad Road

Teritary Roads

Teritary roads are proposed to provide connectivity between 3rd order nodes and junctions and other roads. The Right of way proposed

for tertiary roads is 12 mts with lane carriage way of 3.75 mts each and two wheeler tracks on either side. The proposed tertiary roads are

1. Bharanikkavu – Kottarakkara, Pooyappally
2. Kottarakkara - Mylom – Pathanapuram Road
3. Anchal – Kulathupuzha – Thenmala road

Railways

Kollam district is catered to by the Ernakulam – Thiruvananthapuram broad gauge double line and is fully electrified within the district. Improvement of facilities at the railway stations and development of Kollam junction, Paravur station and Karunagappally station are proposed. Kollam – Madura metre gauge has been converted to board gauge and as a result the tourism potential has increased. Improvement of facilities and development of the Kundara, Kottarakkara, Punalur, Thenmala Stations are on going.

New Proposals

Inland Navigation

The proposed Inland Navigation Network consists of the portion of the Kollam – Kovalam State Waterway from Ashtamudi lake to Nadayara Lake via the Kollam canal, Eravipuram Lake and Paravur Lake. There is also the Kollam – Kottappuram National Waterway

which opens up possibility of transportation of cargo and passenger service boats. It also offers immense possibilities for attracting tourists with the Ashtamudi Lake in order to improve the Water Transport infrastructure; it is imperative to construct new boat jetties along the navigation routes.

The navigation channels need to be dredged regularly to maintain the necessary depth for easy movement of vessels.

Harbours

Neendakara Harbour

Basic standards to maintain hygienic conditions in fishing harbour have come up in international markets. This necessitates modernization of Neendakara Fishery harbour to meet the stringent international standards. At present there is no cargo handling facility available at Neendakara.

Thangassery Harbour

This fishery and cargo harbour will be the centre of all development activities of Kollam city in the future. This will improve commercial activities of Kollam. Large capacity storage tanks need to be provided for distribution of potable water at the harbour.

Kayamkulam Harbour

The new harbour proposed at this location is intended to provide safelanding and berthing place for mechanised as well as traditional crafts. The location of the harbour is ideal as it is situated quite close to NH 47 enabling quick transportation of the perishable sea-food.

Road safety is an issue of prime importance to be addressed with the highest priority. Several accident black spots have been identified during the sectoral analysis. The accident black spots need to be scientifically analysed and treated to reduce accidents. Road safety consists of Education, Engineering and Enforcement. It is of vital importance to provide proper education on road safety to the pedestrians and drivers.

Education

As per the sectoral analysis there are certain areas of concern in the education sector in Kollam. As per the policy analysis Kollam has to increase the coverage and quality of education and preclude spatial disparity in the distribution of higher educational institutes and establish technical institutes to support the economic activities of the district.

Proposal for Coverage of Education

A) New educational institutions in the educationally backward areas. New educational institutions should be started in the educationally backward areas especially the eastern part of Kollam under the special schemes of the central government. The suggested locations are at Aryankavu, Kulathupuzha, Yeroor, Ittira and Kavaloor.

Arts and science colleges in the central and eastern parts. A Government Arts and Science College is proposed at Kulathupuzha with post graduate facilities.

Literacy Mission Programmes

Immediate steps to identify illiterates and to organise massive drives in areas like Thenmala, Anchenkoil and Aryankavu. Non formal education centres can be opened in every panchayath.

Proposals for increasing the quality of education

The percentage of dropouts in all levels of education, beginning from pre-primary to higher education is to be imparted. The drop out percentage is high in the case of SC/ST students.

Free Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary institutions are to be made free to all. Then only it can be made effective. Anganwadis are to be started at every ward

preferably under centrally sponsored schemes. Such pre-primary school should be started at all grama panchayats and municipalities.

Training Programmes to Teachers

The training programmes at present are not effective. The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) sponsored Training Programme can be improved systematically. Institutions like, Institute of Management (IMG), Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) can be taken as model for restructuring DIET.

Government Nursing College

Proposal is to start Government nursing colleges and paramedical institutions in Kollam district preferably in the eastern part of the district.

Medical College in Government Sector

People from the eastern regions of the district do not have sufficient facilities for health care. To address this issue a medical college needs to be started preferably at Punalur or Kulathupuzha.

Law College in Government Sector

As per the sectoral analysis there is a need for starting a Govt. Law College in the district. So it is proposed to start a Law College at Pathanapuram Taluk.

Engineering College in Government Sector

Analysis reveals that there is urgency at starting some institutions for higher studies in Kollam. Hence starting Engineering Colleges in the Government Sector are proposed preferably at Achenkoil.

Other Proposals

A fisheries research institute is proposed in coastal region.

A tourism study centre may be started integrating tourist centres of Thenmala, Achancoil and Kottukkal.

A Forest Research Institute is proposed at Thenmala to pave way for conservation of forest.

Proposals for Skill Development

Improvement in Vocational Higher Secondary Education.

More number of Vocational Higher Secondary Schools (VHSC) are proposed at Kottarakkara and Punalur regions. Around 10 VHSC schools and 20 ITI/ITC can be established. Vocational Institutions are to be started at all Panchayaths in the eastern region.

Poverty Reduction

As per the District Development Policy the present BPL population has to be brought above the poverty line whereby the BPL

population has better employment opportunities and infrastructure facilities. The strategy for it includes.

Reducing poverty to less than 5 percent in the district through eliminating the deprivations and incapability of the poor with respect to

1. Food and Employment
2. Land and House
3. Drinking Water and Sanitation
4. Knowledge and Skill etc.

These initiatives will ultimately add to the various sectoral development proposals and in turn generate better results for efforts of poverty reduction. A pro-poor approach has to be developed in the society especially among those who lead the systems and activities. To conclude the efforts of poverty reduction should be initiated jointly by the Government Departments, LSG and various other agencies in dedicated time, bound mission mode so that tangible results are manifested by 2031.

Power

According to the district power policy Kollam has to be equipped to provide quality power for the existing and proposed economic activities of the district by 2031 and has to give more emphasis on non

conventional energy sources in the domestic and commercial sector. The proposals of power sector are briefed here under non-conventional energy resources

1. Energy from bio-mass
2. Strengthening of distribution side to cope up with future power requirements
3. Proposals on Transmission side
4. Linkage with other sectors

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes

The policy of the sector is the socio-economic development of SC and ST people to bring about social equality in terms of education, employment and social status.

Proposals for providing shelter to the houseless scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families are important. In Kollam district there were 5870 scheduled caste houseless families in the year 2004.

Houseless scheduled tribe families

Houseless among scheduled tribes is concentrated in Kulathupuzha, Chithara, Piravanthoor, Thenmala and Aryankavu grama panchayaths. Because of the peculiar cultural back ground of scheduled

tribes new houses should be in consonance with their tradition and characteristics. A system of financial aid through grants is proposed.

Rehabilitation of SC and ST families

A scheme for providing land to the landless is a vital and prestigious project to be undertaken. There are about 5500 landless SC families in the district and the number increases by 5 percent every year due to multiplication of families. The problem of rehabilitation of landless ST families is not as severe as in SC families. They are generally seen only in Aryankav and Thenmala Panchayaths. The SC and ST Development Department earmark more than 70 percent of their budget for education development of SC and ST pupils. But the percentage of dropout among them are high for the following reasons.

1. Intellectual backwardness
2. Inadequate facilities in their households
3. Lack of parental attention
4. Lack of special consideration at the school

SC and ST students are entitled to 10 percent reservation in all vocational and professional courses. Most of them got admission in the reservation quota and admission on merit basis are very negligible. In order to improve their competitive efficiency it is proposed to set up three coaching centres for entrance examination. Moreover one nursing

college exclusively for SC students is also proposed, since opportunities are very high in the nursing field. Two more post matric hostels for boys and girls are proposed in the central and eastern part of the district.

Drinking Water Programme

In certain parts of the district especially eastern hilly areas water scarcity is acute and people have to walk a long distance to obtain drinkable water. Mini water schemes are to be set up in such areas.

Electrification

Consumption pattern of electricity is considered a yardstick of development. A large number of SC and ST houses are not electrified. So the thrust should be a shift from electrification of colony to electrification of houses as most of the colonies are electrified. SC and ST departments and KSEB together have taken a broad initiative to electrify individual houses. Wherever there is no possibility of extending electric lines as in the case of forests solar energy shall be provided.

Reduction of unemployment

Unemployment among SC and ST youth is very high. In Kollam 25000 educated SC and ST youth have their names registered in the employment exchange. The competitive efficiency of the SC and ST is

to be enhanced by devising special programme facilities to provide ability to set up self-employment venture should take a lead.

BPL SC & ST families are to be assisted so as to raise them to API level. This is a gigantic task and an integrated effort of LSG, Rural Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Industry, SC and ST Development Departments is required, providing healthy and hygienic living environment

Around 60 percent of the SC population is living in colonies which are located in urban slums, coastal areas and other neglected areas where the environment is unhygienic and unhealthy. Because of this they are more vulnerable to contagious and infectious disease. So their living environment should be made hygienic. The following suggestions are made in this regard.

- a) provision for toilets to all SC and ST families
- b) provision for supplying safe drinking water
- c) intensive awareness campaign and maintenance of hygiene in their surroundings

One of the major hurdles which development departments face is ignorance among the SC population on schemes for their development. Hence awareness camps are to be arranged.

The sectoral and spatial analysis of SC and ST sector reveals that substantial progress has been made in their life through various government programmes. However there are serious distortions in some developmental areas such as education, engagement in business and industry and possession of land and other assets. These are to be properly addressed for which certain concrete proposals have been included. Major thrust has been given to education sector. At the same time providing land and constructing dwelling houses also is given much importance.

In order to improve the quality of life of SC/ST people, co-ordinated efforts of different departments and integration of various schemes are inevitable.

Tourism

According to the district tourism policy by the 2020's Kollam has to optimally utilise its natural resources, art, culture, and heritage and showcase the district as a slice of Kerala.

Proposals based on Type of Tourism

1. Back Water Tourism Proposals

Ashtamudi Backwater Tourism Terminal Complex at Boat Jetty,
Kollam

Ashtamudi is one of the major back water tourism destinations in the state. The project envisages setting up of a state of the art House Boat Terminal Complex at Kollam boat jetty with international standard and features. The suggested location is at Kollam Corporation.

2. Beautification of Kollam Canal from Ashtamudi to Eravipuram

The project aims to landscape both sides of the canal banks into tourists attraction besides promoting organic cultivation of high yielding variety of common trees and plants

The setting up of Kayaloram Responsible Tourism project for Ashtamudi and Paravur Back waters.

Kayaloram a chain of lakeside huts to encompass multipurpose facilities to receive tourists under the franchise of Kerala Tourism to reconnect the life and landscape of backwaters. These lakeside huts could provide facilities for angling, dining, resting and recreation.

3. Smart waterway terminal cum water sports centre

The project aims at activity based tourism to explore the potential of growing demand for backwater based tourism. Water sports centres are proposed at places like Mukkam, Edava, Nadayara and Kallada

4. Beach Tourism Proposals

As mentioned in the sectoral analysis there are a number of potential beaches in the district including Kollam, Thankassery, Thirumullavaram, Paravur and Pozhikkara. In order to make the coastal belt more attractive following proposals are suggested.

5. Development and beautification of Thankassery Break Water

The project aims at developing Thangassery as a heritage beach of Kollam. In order to lap the historical as well as the heritage potential of Thangassery the development of the beach is the need of the hour.

6. Development of Thirumullavaram and Mundakkal Beach

The proposal envisages the development of the basic amenities at Thirumullavaram and Mundakkal beaches. They are important pilgrim tourism centres also. The beach at Thirumullavaram is picturesque one and unique in nature.

7. Under Water Marine Aquarium

The project envisages setting up of an Under Water Marine Aquarium to experience under water life. The suggested location is at Kollam corporation.

8. Beautification of Paravur Beach

This project aims at the development of beach tourism, beautification of Paravur Beach and introducing eco-friendly floating cottages.

9. Deep Sea Fishing Cruise Terminal Complex at Neendakara

The project envisages setting up of a terminal complex for deep sea fishing cruise. The suggested location is at Sakthikulangara. The proposal can be linked with deep sea fishing tour proposal of fisheries sector.

Eco Tourism Proposals

The project aims at conservation preservation of our rich natural resources, which are diverse in nature. Eco-tourism is planned at Chittumala and Chithara.

Destination Ashramam

The project envisages preservation of Ashramam and Ashtamudi area by revamping and landscaping the entire area comprising the Adventure Park and Children Park at Ashramam.

Destination Sasthamkotta

The proposal is to preserve the natural attraction of the lake and promote its heritage value.

The proposal envisages the preservation of the lake with landscaping and beautification in an eco-friendly manner.

Cultural and Traditional Tourism

a. Museum at Thevally Palace

The project aims to have a Museum of Heritage and history of Kollam to showcase our rich past in a most appropriate manner.

b. Houseboat Construction Yard Cum Museum of Traditional Crafts at Alumkadavu

The objective is to showcase the traditional houseboat making practices as a tourism product and make it a centre for tourists attraction. A demonstration centre for exhibiting the art of making Kettuvallams and a design centre for making a variety of souvenirs are also planned.

c. Handicraft Villages

The proposal envisages promotion of unique handicrafts of Kollam. The centre will provide authentic demonstrations at various processes involved in craft making and will contribute in raising the

economic status of the local people involved in that industry. The suggested locations are at Thazhava and Kadavur.

Health Tourism

Health tourism facilities can be established in both public and private sectors. The tourism hub at Perinad will be a major hub for health tourism facilities.

Pilgrim Tourism

The project envisages the erection of basic amenities for tourists by way of setting up of pilgrim facilitation centres. The diverse festivals and temple rituals are having tremendous potential in marketing tourism.

Malamel Pilgrimage Centre

Malamel is a village in Pathanapuram Taluk. The Malayalam word means top of the hill. There is a large rock here on which there is a famous Siva Temple which is considered as very ancient. The rock has a cave which is believed to be leading to Kulathupuzha forest.

Proposals for Marketing and Promotion

The essence of every industry is its marketing and promotion. As a service industry and being an intangible product the survival of tourism is possible only through aggressive marketing. Each district has to concentrate on identifying its unique selling proposition in tune with

the state marketing campaign. Kollam is blessed with beaches backwaters, hill stations. Here the role of Department of Tourism is to conceive marketing strategies in tune with the international trends.

Proposal for Private Investors

The major part of the development of tourism lies in the private sector. The role of the government is to act as a catalyst. The schemes, strategies and action plans for the development of tourism are planned with an objective to encourage private investment in tourism.

It is expected that the proposals will indeed bring up the tourism industry in the district. It may be noted that all the proposals are carved out giving due consideration to the ecological aspects. This makes Kollam a model responsible tourism destination.

Finance

The development proposals of finance sector discusses mainly the sources of funds for the various development sectors for implementing the proposals suggested. Based on sectoral analysis settlement analysis, spatial analysis and the district development concept, all the developments sectors have carved proposals in a 20 year perspective. The finance sector attempts to identify the financial resources to implement these schemes.

Sources of fund for Sectoral Development

There are different sources to raise funds required for infrastructure development. Capital structure is financed by long term sources which consists of debt and equity long term debt consists of loans from term lending institutions and commercial banks. While it is difficult to raise equity capital, it is fairly cheap compared to cost of borrowed funds from Financial institutions and the commercial banks for working capital purposes.

To meet long term requirement of funds securities are issued to public by firms in the corporate sector and public sector. Lease finance is a cheap and flexible means of financing as compared to term loans from financial institutions.

Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana the Government of India will provide substantial amount if State Government contributes matching contribution on the basis of size of Agriculture Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of the state and the potential yield gap.

A new urban governance culture is required. Attempts are made to develop a municipal bond market and FIS are creating pool of money to fund this bond. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is also providing subsidies / grants ranging from 35 percent

to 60 percent of project cost to municipal bodies by levying user charges.

Developing a long term debt market is a crucial element in infrastructure finance. A qualitative change in the entire financial environment is required.

Institutions in Kerala Supporting Infrastructure Development

1. (Kerala Urban and Rural Development Finance Corporation Ltd.)
KURDFC
2. Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project
3. Kerala State Transport Development Corporation

Focus under JNNURM schemes has clearly shifted to implementation of projects and reforms which include revamping of procurement, contracting tendering procedures and standardization of pre qualification criteria etc.

Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

The key to make PPP acceptable is to create an environment where PPDS is acceptable to create an environment where PPDS are seen to be a way of attracting private money into public projects and not putting public resources into private projects.

Suggestions on Sources of Funds

As the Indian economy embarks on the process of globalisation it has become all the more important that our financial markets remain healthy, strong and efficient. The financial sector reforms have provided a solid platform to launch the next phase of reforms after learning lessons from the past. The different sources of finance described here can be utilized by the various agencies to suit their requirements and to successfully implement their proposals in the near future.

V

Road Map for Future

Road Map

Agriculture

A workable programme has to be prepared for providing safe and nutritious food especially by using locally available resources.

A Scheme has to be insured so that the chief crops of the district like paddy, coconut, plantain, vegetables, ginger, pepper, tapioca, saesam, cashew, cocoa are to be protected enhanced and the areas where the above crops are cultivated should be legally protected to continue the above cultivation.

Measures should be undertaken for protection and preservation of watershed areas and wet-lands use and irrigation facilities should be effectively implemented on a time bound way. Uncultivable and deserted areas should be made cultivable by utilising people participation and labour intensive schemes. Waterborne diseases must be worked off by making clean and drinkable water available everywhere. Water, electricity and organic manure which are very essential for agriculture should be made available for farmers. Agriculture

department activities must be revamped and those crops which are on the way out should be brought back. The agrifarms and seed producing centres in the district must be vitalised. Ordinary farmers who produce organic poison free produces should be helped in collecting and selling their products. Small scale industrial units which uses banana, fruits, mango and tapioca can be started to promote employment.

The needs of farmers should be prioritised and the functioning of agricultural banks and co-operative societies must be effectively utilised.

Kollam is a district where paddy fields are widely decimated for non agricultural purposes and cultivation has taken a back seat. This has to be stopped with immediate effect.

Road Map 2

Fishing

Fishing has the greatest potential in the district. A large percentage of population are engaged in fishing and their life is totally dependent on fishing. Fishing is also an area which provides livelihood to a large number of people who engage in collection, distribution and selling of fish.

Neendakara port has to be modernized and exports increased so that financial progress is achieved. Inland fishing has to be increased

with public participation. In this sector the district faces some important issues.

1. Over exploitation and unscientific fishing; mechanised boat fishing is the main culprit here
2. Fishing that is not allowed (trawling)
3. Use of nets which are not permitted
4. There is a lacunae of production units which manufacture fish meals.
5. Fish cultivation in areas which lie untapped in areas that come under forest, irrigation and dam areas.
6. Mangroves or lakeshores should be developed where shrimp can be grown
7. Sea shore areas where crab, clam, shell-fish etc can be widely and profitably grown.

Road Map 3

Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

Rural areas should have necessary medical facilities for treatment of domestic animals and the service should be round the clock. Dairy development co operative societies must be started under the guidance and protection of dairy development department. Fodder production

units in empty and unused lands; start breeding units in district farms
Temporary centres to be started to protect animals during nature
disasters. Slaughter houses with no licences to be banned and licensed
slaughter houses should have proper care and hygiene. Animal Welfare
Board to be made effective in panchayats.

Road Map 4

Poverty Alleviation

The one lakh house scheme started in 1970 was a great step for
the homeless.

In this context it may be pointed that a large number of houses in
the district are not habitable in the real sense. Initiatives must be taken
on a time bound scheme to make the houses habitable with basic
necessary facilities.

Physically challenged people face a lot of problems in
commutation and movement. Those who need wheelchairs are to be
provided with such facilities. People who can afford three wheeled
scooters shall be given such vehicles on an instalment basis with no
interest.

Nowadays mobile phones have become an unavoidable part of daily life. Blind people who can't make use of normal mobiles has to be given such phones for special purposes.

Buds School Development

Buds schools are free and open special schools for mentally challenged children of poor families. Here the government has to set up teacher training institutions for training special teachers and to prepare a comprehensive education scheme providing for essential requirements such as transportation and supply of books.

There are many old people in the district who are financially dependent on their children for sundry needs. Those who need hearing aids should be given under the 'Shruti Madhuras' scheme, diabetes patients should be supported to buy glucometers.

Women Empowerment

In spite of some sort of gender equality existing in Kerala, women still remain the exploited under privileged section of society. Among the educated middle class women, many have acquired economic independence so that they can stand on their own in times of adversity. Still a lot has to be done. Among the lower strata of society women heavily depend on their menfolk for sustenance and security. Only

education and economic independence can liberate them from age old traditions, superstitions and exploitation.

Working women are on the increase in Kollam and Kerala. Sufficient accommodation needs more and more working women's hostels. There should be centres where women can acquire, additional job oriented skills. Kudumbasree, a novel venture started in the beginning of this century is aimed at women empowerment. In the last 20 years Kudumbasree has become a powerful movement with varied activities. It has got credibility and people's support.

There should be widespread awareness about the need of women's health parameters. Woman friendly centres, offices work areas, breast feeding centres in unorganised sectors should compulsorily be implemented. Legal measures and police assistance should be made available. Sexual exploitation and posco cases must be strongly handled and special courts where such cases should be put to trial without much delay.

Old age and people who reach old age is an area which requires many social and governmental actions. Senility, dementia etc. are difficult to handle. People who have been given special skills and training should be appointed in old age homes. More than sympathy what old people especially with age related problems require is empathy

and compassion. Only people with a missionary zeal and dedication can handle it and such people should be specially selected.

Road Map 5

Scheduled Castes

As per the census of 1991, 12.46 percentage of Scheduled Caste and 0.41 percentage of Scheduled Tribe (ST) of total population. As per the census of 1991 there were 1046 SC colonies in Kollam District. As per the Survey Report of 2009-2010 there were 2844 SC colonies and 46.09 percentage of the SC Population live in these colonies. In the statistics of 1991 there were 305727 SC people which increased to 322867 in 2001 and to 328263 people in 2011 census. Most of the dalit people live in the rural areas. As per the 2011 census, sex ratio is 1000 : 1080. Landed property and habitable homes are the greatest problems that the SC and ST people face in Kollam as elsewhere. The government should take prompt and immediate actions to mitigate this dire need. Education is another most important area where more than half of the children of the dalit people for various reasons dropout; personal examination in each cases has to be studied so that the children will get sufficient motivation to continue their studies. Health and Sanitation are some other areas where Panchayath and Women Welfare Departments should take steps which can provide them good health, hygienic

surroundings. Proper medication must reach the needy and poor members of the community.

Road Map 6

Cashew Industry

Several thousand skilled labourers lost their livelihood when the cashew sector in Kollam began to see a great crisis in 2016. This was following some of the policies taken by the Union Government, when the import duty of 9.36 percent was imposed. The Cashew industry which had migrated to Tamil Nadu and Andhra for political and other reasons are to be seriously addressed. In fact cashew nut is one of the dry fruits in the world which has got high medicinal value. It can also make Kollam go back to its old splendour.

Road Map 7

Coir and Handloom

The districts of Kollam and Alappuzha are traditionally known all over the world for its high quality coir and related products. Equally well known was the handloom industry which manufacture high quality handloom. Progressive economic development and sustainable employment generation in the coir sector through planned development

of coir industry. The Directorate of Coir Industry is to act as a facilitator for the promotion and sustainability of coir sector.

The following proposals are worth considering.

1. Identifying and developing entrepreneurial potential in the district
2. Promoting different commercial and industrial activities that form part of the coir industry.
3. Strengthening the co-operatives and assisting the private sector
4. Providing investment assistance in the form of loans and subsidies
5. Empowering women by promoting self help groups
6. Providing self-help groups providing welfare measures to coir workers

In addition coir industry has great potential for developments. Soil protection activities in Kollam is almost nil. By using coir geo net, it can be protected. A unit to manufacture coir geonet or cloth has to be started at the earliest.

Handloom is a traditional industry in Kerala. Now the industry faces a large number of problems. The industry is facing stiff competition which will only increase in the future. Some well thought out and clearly articulated remedial strategies are proposed here

1. A reliable information system for market intelligence has to be developed
2. The pending disbursements to weavers need to be fully paid
3. Strict measures to control cost through adoption of advanced technologies, engagement of trained and skilled staff.
4. Specialised training to handloom employees
5. Government should encourage employees of departments and general public to purchase handloom products.

Road Map 8

Rubber & Oil Palm

In Punalur and Pathanapuram there are a lot of rubber plantations and rubber can be used for making automobiles spare parts. The rubber trees which are unproductive can be cut to start plywood factories. As a corollary to this, rubber mixing mill and testing centre lab can be started.

The productive capacity of Oil Palm can be increased.

Road Map 9

Tourism

Kollam is blessed with nature's bounty and proper utilisation of the untapped resources will bounce the tourism industry in the district.

One of the chief attractions of Kollam is backwater tourism which needs wide and international exposure and publicity.

Another important area is the cultural heritage of Kollam. The important backwater areas in Kollam are Ashtamudi and Paravur which attracts people from different parts of the world. Other attraction are Anjengo fort, Thankassery beach and Thirumullavaram beach. Once the canals are completely opened it will increase canal tourism just like in Venice. Smart waterway terminal and water sports centre in places like Edava, Vattakkayal, Nadayara, Kallada will certainly give a boom to tourism. As far as Pilgrim centres are concerned places like Oachira, Ashramam, Kottarakkara, Kulathupuzha, Achancoil, Ariyankavu, Sasthamcotta, Chettikulangara will certainly help the tourism industry in a national perspective. Chettikulangara is well known where men beautifully transform to women and go round the temple as an ancient offering to the deity.

Road Map 10

Eastern Area Development

The eastern side of Kollam is not much developed. Geographically this is hilly and full of forest cover. The people living there have little modern, medical educational facilities. New

polytechnics, Engineering Colleges arts and science college and other possible higher education institutions, hospitals with critical care facilities are the need of this area and the government must take necessary steps to implement them at a war footing.

A few taluks like Pathanapuram and Punalur share borders with the forest areas of Tamil Nadu and here there is always a tussle between wild animals and human beings. In order to avoid such conflicts in the future, elephant triggers, solar powered girdles are to be erected in the forest boarder, that way agriculture can be protected and human lives can be served.

Road Map 11

Railway

Kollam, Chenkotta railway started in 1904 is the first railway in Travancore. For a long time it was running metre gauge and only recently became broad gauge. Considering the financial aesthetic and commercial importance of the area the broad gauge should be doubled and the old worn out railway stations are to be modernised. More trains should be allowed to start from Kollam station.

Road Map 12

Ports

Despite its substantial commercial potential the future of Kollam port hangs in limbo due to the undue delay in setting up of immigration check post. The port was expected to be commissioned in 2020 with passenger and cargo ships coming to the multipurpose terminal. The centre had sent repeated reminders directing the state to provide the required infrastructure and man power but no action was taken for a long while. The current electronic and infrastructure facilities are not adequate.

Kollam canal is to be connected with Kollam port and for these purpose a link road has to be constructed.

Road Map 13

Kollam Airport

Kollam airport was an aerodrome in the former state of Travancore. During the 1920's there were no other aerodromes in any part of modern Kerala. When Trivandrum airport was commissioned in 1932 the Kollam airstrip fell into disuse and come to be known as Ashramam Maidan.

Government of Kerala started plans to set up 10 airstrips in Kerala including one at Ashramam old airport area. In Feb 2020 the state government submitted a feasibility study report to civil aviation ministry of India.

Road Map 14

Processing of Jack Fruit

Kollam produces the largest number of quality Jackfruit in Kerala. Much of this go unused due to the lack of proper know how. Various products like chips, tender fruit chips, jack fruit jam and so, many other different products of nutritious value can be produced from jackfruit. Small industrial units equipped with suitable machinery must be started in different parts of the district. Jackfruit collection centres are to be started where the seller will get affordable price for his produce. Raw jackfruit has the ability to contain diabates and can bring down glycemic index, effectively.

One of the greatest assets of Kollam just like other districts of Kerala is its population. The average age of the population is below forty five and a large segment of the population are the youth who are enriched with vibrant energy and a fresh outlook. They are educated and the problems they and the rest of the population face are the same. Their

enthusiasm, skill in various works and a readiness to face the unknown with necessary infrastructure and financial support will make Kollam by 2047, the 100th year of Indian independence, a new qualitatively far better modern society where the ordinary people will be capable of realising their dreams.

VI

Conclusion

Kollam was well known in the annals of history for its trade relationship with foreign countries, variety of agricultural products and as an administrative capital. Chinese, Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans and in later years Arabs had trade with Kollam from times even before Christ. Most of the historians believe that the name Kollam is derived from the word 'Kolam' which means in Sanskrit the pole in which traditional ferries were tied and hence it can be presumed that the word Kollam stands for a port town.

Modernization is on the rise in India for the last few years and now Kollam in Kerala shall join the ever growing list of metro cities in India. The present Mayor in a press conference spoke of the future of Kollam. Kollam will be turned into a metro city with special focus on social justice based development and welfare. The Corporation Office is also going paper free by issuing online products and various other services in the shortest time possible. The new measures will be implemented for citizen-centric popular and corruption free governance. The Kollam corporation also plans to address the pandemic-related and post-covid problems comprehensively. Plans are ahead to revive Kollam

Canal. National level cultural festivals will be organised and steps will be taken to preserve the heritage of the city. Steps are going to be taken to open up a centre or mobile unit, distributing free meals to make Kollam city a hunger free city.

The major activities under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Mission include drinking water supply, septage treatment, storm water drainage, greenery construction and facilities for non-motorised transport. It has recommendations to expedite the development of fisheries, industry and tourism sectors without impacting water bodies and ecologically important areas. There are also proposals to tap the commercial potential of Kollam Port development of existing junctions, and roads, new bus stands and truck terminals and eco-friendly walkways are part of the master plan that focuses the overall development of the city.

It also features a string of projects to restore the lost glory of Kollam and the plan was formulated in accordance with the provisions of the Urban and Rural Planning Act. Kandachira Tourism Centre, Lake Front Tourism Promotion Area, Heritage Street, Thankassery Heritage Area, rejuvenation and beautification of water bodies oceanarium mobility hub and mini satellite stations are some other proposals. Spatial

planning blue print for the purpose was prepared with the help of the satellite map provided by National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad.

The minister of Railways has released pictures of the proposed ultra modern design of Kollam junction. This is part of an ambitious project to upgrade and modernise railway stations across the country. The proposed station re-development essentially attempts to provide in the station all the facilities found in an international airport.

Government of Kerala constituted Kollam Development Authority in 1981. The authority proposed 10 projects in 2014 : they are

- a) Organised park and open space Thirumullavaram
- b) Organized park and open space Thankasserry
- c) Re-development of Payikkada commercial area
- d) Beautification of TS Canal-Kollam boat jetty to Eravipuram
- e) Junction improvement project – Kadappakada Junction
- f) Junction improvement Project – High School Junction
- g) Mobility Hub opposite to Public Library, Kollam
- h) Ocenarium at Kollam Beach
- i) Road Development Project
- j) Shopping Mall, Office Complex and Exhibition cum Trading Centre for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises at Thamarakkulam

The existence of sacred groves dates back to ancient pre-agrarian hunter gathering era believing that trees are the abode of deities and people set aside sanctified areas of forest. There are 48 big sacred groves in Kollam district. These groves are home to exotic species of plants and trees and different varieties of reptiles, small animals and many species of birds.

There is a disaster management unit ready for immediate action in Kollam as in other districts. Since climate variation is unpredictable, the disaster management unit is highly essential. Evacuation, rescue and relief are the primary goals of every disaster management system.

Handloom and Khadi provide livelihood to a large number of people in Kollam. Both of them have a moral and ethical value. But mill clothes have made such a foray into the cloth industry so that handloom and khadi are on the decline. Only proper governmental measures, and public consciousness can mitigate the problems faced by these sectors. Only proper quality assurance and public motivation can bring back the lost glory of the above.

Old Age Homes

Unlike in the past where joint family system was the norm, in the present due to specific reasons people are opting for nuclear families.

Modern way of life where time is precious young generations has little time to spend for old people. So the need for old age homes as elsewhere is on the increase in Kollam. Many of the licenced old age homes do not have any basic facility which old people badly need. There should be a separate department for the welfare and proper care of old people. Only proper legal measure from the side of the government can make old age a happy and healthy time for people at the autumn of their life.

SC and ST colonies are found in almost all the panchayath of Kollam. The dalits are the least land owning class and successive governments have founded SC and ST colonies on a wide scale. But the basic minimum facilities are not very often provided to the unfortunate human beings. Though electric street lighting is available many individual houses are not electrified. The hygienic conditions existing in the colonies are not congenial to old people and children and as a result are prone to many diseases. Cooking facilities are very deplorable in the colonies and the Government should take steps so that cooking gas should be made available at a cheapest rate to the people living here.

Almost fifty years ago, agriculture and cultivation was of paramount importance all over Kollam district as elsewhere in the country. But at present agricultural land is fast depleting in Kollam. The cost of agricultural activities dispel the farmer from cultivation.

Agricultural produce has to compete in an international market and this leads to great financial loss. Along with this many crop diseases destroy the plants at an early stage of growth. Only proper and timely intervention in controlling the pests can alleviate the problem.

The major crops at Kollam are paddy coconut, cashew nut and rubber. They have their separate and common problems which should be solved for a better farm-culture and livelihood. Once Kollam was the cashew capital of the world. As it became unattractive in Kollam due to its labour intensive nature, cashew processing is on the decline. Proper labour laws and diversification of cashew products can provide relief to the industry.

Milk and milk products are in many ways unavoidable for the people as well as for better export. The milk units are to be revamped in such a way that high yielding variety of cattle, collection and proper preservation of milk and milk products are necessary for boosting the industry.

Due to different economic and labour reasons many industrial units in Kollam faced closure. The one time famous Parvathy Mill which was later acquired by the NTC (National Textile Corporation) is lying closed. The NTC management can take proper measures so that the

closed mill which provided livelihood and export earnings can be brought back to its old glory.

A large number of non-resident Indians are there from Kollam. They are living in the various gulf countries especially since 1970. The hard earned money of them has changed the visible face of Kollam district. The land which had thatched and tiled roofings becomes concrete structures with all modern amenities. Some of them have bought precious land also and do farming and animal husbandry there. But the major chunk of the money has gone to the construction field which is non-productive. There is a lacunae of construction workers in Kollam and other districts of Kerala. In order to solve the problem workers began to come on a massive level from Assam, UP, West Bengal, Odisha and other northern states of India. It is estimated that around 25 lakh of such workers are now in Kerala. This is almost 10 percent of the total population of Kerala. Along the same line thousands of people are now migrating from Kerala to European countries, USA and Canada for education and employment. The IT industry boom also helped this mass migration. This is especially very high in the central part of Kerala and religion wise the majority are Christians. The economic and social impact of this recent phenomenon is yet to be studied in its proper depth. One major area of this diaspora is in the

nursing sector and in the above countries the nursing profession is now in the hands of nurses from Kerala. Recently the migrant people began to take their whole families and settle down permanently there. If one drives through the districts of Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukky and Ernakulam we can see big and palatial buildings lying vacant under lock and key. It is feared that this tendency will grow in the coming years and the social life of Kerala is facing another major problem.

Anyhow this ancient part of Kerala called Kollam the history of which goes back to the Roman and Greek times has gone through ups and downs. After independence just like other parts of India Kollam also did not have the desired growth in the various sectors of economic and social life. Only recently changes began to trickle down to the grass root level due to the dedicated and visionary outlook and measures of bureaucrats and political machinery. With good governance and proper support from above one can hope that not in the distant future Kollam will regain its prominent position in the nation as well as in foreign lands as it was once.

Bibliography

Primary Source

District Planning Committee Kollam (2009) : *Integrated District Development Plan; Concise Report*, Kollam

Government of Travancore (1941): *Travancore Administration Reports 1900 to 1940-41*, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Kerala (1979) : *Kerala Gazetteers – Kollam,-* Supplement Government Press, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Kerala (2018) : *Department of Industry and Commerce District Industrial Potential Survey Kollam 2016-17*, District Industries Centre, Kollam

Government of Kerala (1992) *Kerala : Yesterday and Today*, Department of Public Relation, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Kerala (2002) : *Economic Review, 2001*, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Kerala (2006) : *Economic Review 2005*, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Kerala (2018) : *District Industrial Potential Survey Report 2016-17*, District Industries Centre, Kollam

Kollam Asoothrana Samiti (2018) : *Kollam Jilla Padhathi (M) Part I, II, III & IV*, Kollam

Kollam Jilla Panchayat (2022) : *Pathinalam Panchavalsara Padhathi (M) (2022-27)*, Vikasana Rekha, Kollam

NABARD (2022) : *Potential Linked Credit Plant 2023-24*, Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram

Nagam Aiya.V (1900) : *Travancore State Manual vol.I*, Travancore Government Press, Thiruvananthapuram

Nagam Aiya V (1906) : *Travancore State Manual Vol. III*, Government of Travancore Press, Thiruvananthapuram

Velu Pillai T K (1940) : *Travancore State Manual*, Government of Travancore Press, Thiruvananthapuram

William Logan (1951) : *Malabar Manual Vol I & II*, Government Press, Madras

Secondary Source

Achutha Menon C (1937) : *The Social and Economic Reconstruction of Travancore*, BV Books, Thiruvananthapuram

Amritha Sivam (2019) : *Environmental and Political Issues of Kollam Coast. A Case Study of Kollam Port*, Dept. of Political Science, University of Kerala.

Bhaskaranunni P (1994) : *Kollathinte Charitram (M)*, Kollam Public Library, Kollam

Biju MR and MRB Ananda Padmanabhan (2021) : *Electoral Politics of Grassroots Democracy, The Case of Kerala 1953-2015*, Concept New Delhi

Cherian.P.J (1999) : *Perspectives on Kerala History: The Second Millennium, Kerala State Gazatters Vol.II Part II*, Govt.of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Cherian CV (1973) : *A History of Christianity in Kerala*, DC Books, Kottayam

Damodaran K and Narayana Pillai C (1997) : *Keralathile Swathantriya Samaram (M)*, Bhasha Institute, Thiruvananthapuram

Gangadharan T K (1999) : *Evolution of Kerala History and Culture*, Calicut University Centre, Calicut

Gopakumar P F (2007) : *Keraleeya Navodhanam (M)*, Chinta Publications, Thiruvananthapuram

Gopalakrishnan P K (1948) : *Keralathinte Samskarika Charitram* (M), Kerala Bhasha Institute, Thiruvananthapuram

Hari Kattayil (2020) : *Kollam Jilla : Stalanama Charitram* (M), NBS Kottayam

Kesavan Nair P (2020) : *Kollathinte Innalekal* (M), Desinganadu Sahitya Academy, Kollam

Khera S.S (1980) : *District Administration in India 2nd* (ed) National Publishing House, New Delhi

Krishna Iyer L A (1961) : *Kerala and Her People*, The Educational Supplies Depot, Palaghat

Kumbalathu Sanku Pillai (1987) : *Entekazhinjakala Samaranakal* (M) SCS, Kottayam

Kumaran M K (1987) : *R.Sankar* (M), Dept. of Cultural Relations, Government of Kerala, Cochin

Lawrence Lopez (1988) : *Social History of Modern Kerala*, Thiruvananthapuram

Lekshmanan P (1996) : *Kollathinte Adunika Charitram* (M), Assissi Press, Kollam

Mannathu Padmanabhan (1957) : *Ente Jeevitha Samarangal (M)*, NSS,
Head Quarters, Changanassery

Menon P K K (1972) : *History of freedom Movement in Kerala*, Kerala
State Gazetteer, Thiruvananthapuram

Misra.B.B (1983) : *District Administration and Rural Development in
India*, OUP, New Delhi

Radhakrishna Sapru (2018) : *Indian Administrative Foundation of
Governance*, Sage New Delhi

Rajendran G (1974) : *The Ezhava Community and Kerala Policits*, The
Kerala Academy of Political Science, Thiruvananthapuram

Ramakrishnan Nair R (1976) : *Social Structure and Political
Development in Kerala*, Kerala Academy of Political Science,
Thiruvananthapuram

Sadasivan TD (2012) : *Kollam Charithrathinte Nazhikakallukal (M)*,
State Institute of Languages, Thiruvananthapuram

Samuel Matteer (1883) : *Native Life in Travancore*, Allen and Company,
London

Shungoonny Menon P (1878) : *History of Travancore*, Madras

Siuli Sarkar (2018) : *Public Administration in India*, PH1, New Delhi

Sreedhara Menon A : (1964) : *Kerala Gazatters – Kollam Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram*

Sreedhara Menon A (1979): *Soical and Cultural History of Kerala, Sterling, New Delhi*

Suresh Kumar R K (1993) : *Political Evolution in Kerala, Phoenix, New Delhi*

Padmanabha Menon KP (2021) : *History of Kerala (2nd ed) T.K Krishna Menon, Manohar New Delhi*

Vinayakumar.L (2009) : *R.Sankar Thalamurakalkku Oru Mathruka (M), S.N College, Kollam*

Vilakkudi Rajendran (2016) : *Kollam Jilla Stalanama Charitram (M) State Institute of Languages, Thiruvananthapuram*

Vinod Kumar R (2011) : *Keralathile Jillakalum Avayude Savisheshathakalum (M), DC Books, Kollam*