

UPSC CSE 2022

**INTERVIEW
MATERIAL FOR
HOME STATE
KERALA**





UPSC CSE 2022 MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME



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KERALA

HISTORY

- According to legend, Kerala was an Asura-ruled kingdom under Mahabali. Onam, the state-wide festival of Kerala, is dedicated to Maveli's memory. Another legend has Parasurama, an avatar of Mahavishnu, throwing his battle axe into the sea; from those waters, Kerala arose.
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu once shared a common language, ethnicity, and culture; this common area was known as Tamilakam. The ancient Cheras, whose mother tongue and court language was ancient Tamil, ruled Kerala from their capital at Vanchi. They were constantly at war with the neighbouring Chola and Pandya kingdoms. A Keralite identity, distinct from the Tamils and associated with the second Chera empire, became linguistically separate under the Kulasekhara dynasty (c. 800-1102)
- The Chera kings' dependence on trade meant that merchants from West Asia and Southern Europe established coastal posts and settlements in Kerala. The west Asian-semitic Jewish, Christian, and Muslim immigrants established Nasrani Mappila, Juda Mappila and Muslim Mappila communities. The Jews first arrived in Kerala in 573 BC. The works of scholars and Eastern Christian writings state that Thomas the Apostle visited Muziris in Kerala in 52 AD to proselytize amongst Kerala 's Jewish settlements. However, the first verifiable migration of Jewish-Nasrani families to Kerala is of the arrival of KnanaiThoma in 345 AD. Muslim merchants (Malik ibn Dinar) settled in Kerala by the 8th century AD and introduced Islam. After Vasco da Gama's arrival in 1498, the Portuguese gained control of the lucrative pepper trade by subduing Keralite communities and commerce.

Ancient history

- The term Kerala was the first epigraphically recorded as Keralaputra (Cheras) in a 3rd-century BCE rock inscription by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka of Magadha. It was mentioned as one of four independent kingdoms in southern India during Ashoka's time.
- Kerala's dominant rulers of the early historic period were the Cheras, a Tamil dynasty with its headquarters located in Vanchi. The Chera kingdom consisted of a major part of modern Kerala and Kongunadu which comprises western districts of modern Tamil Nadu like Coimbatore and Salem. The region around Coimbatore was ruled by the Cheras during Sangam period between c. 1st and the 4th centuries CE and it served as the eastern entrance to the Palakkad Gap, the principal trade route between the Malabar Coast and Tamil Nadu. Together with the Cholas and Pandyas the Cheras formed the Tamil triumvirate of the *muvendar*.
- Medieval History
- Much of history of the region from the 6th to the 8th century is obscure.[1] From the Kodungallur line of the Cheras rose the Kulasekhara dynasty, which was established by Kulasekhara Varman. At its zenith, these Later Cheras ruled over a territory comprising the whole of modern Kerala and a smaller part of modern Tamil Nadu. Kerala witnessed a flourishing period of art, literature, trade and the Bhakti movement of Hinduism. A Keralite identity, distinct from the Tamils, became linguistically separate during this period.
- Sulaiman al-Tajir, a Persian 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. A few foreign accounts have mentioned about the presence of a considerable Muslim population in the coastal towns. Arab writers such as Al-Masudi of Baghdad (896–956 CE), mention the Muslim communities in Kerala. Some historians assume that the Mappilas can be considered the first native, the settled Muslim community in South Asia.
- The inhibitions, caused by a series of Chera-Chola wars in the 11th century, resulted in the decline of foreign trade in Kerala ports.

The Rise of Advaita

- Adi Shankara (CE 789), one of the greatest Indian philosophers, is believed to be born in Kaladi in Kerala and consolidated the doctrine of *advaitavedānta*. Shankara travelled across the Indian subcontinent to propagate his philosophy through discourses and debates with other thinkers. He is reputed to have founded four *mathas* ("monasteries"), which helped in the historical development, revival and spread of

Advaita Vedanta. Adi Shankara is believed to be the organiser of the Dashanami monastic order and the founder of the Shanmata tradition of worship.

- His works in Sanskrit concern themselves with establishing the doctrine of *advaita* (nondualism). He also established the importance of monastic life as sanctioned in the Upanishads and Brahma Sutra, in a time when the Mimamsa school established strict ritualism and ridiculed monasticism. Shankara represented his works as elaborating on ideas found in the *Upanishads*.

The Kingdom of Kozhikode

- Historical records regarding the origin of the Samoothiri of Kozhikode are obscure. They later assumed the title of *Samudrāthiri* ("one who has the sea for his border") and continued to rule from Kozhikode. Samoothiri allied with Muslim Arab and Chinese merchants and used most of the wealth from Kozhikode to develop his military power. They became the most powerful king in the Malayalam-speaking regions during the Middle Ages. In the 14th century, At the peak of their reign, the Zamorins of Kozhikode ruled over a region from Kollam (Quilon) in the south to Panthalayini Kollam (Koyilandy) in the north.
- *Vijayanagara Empire*
- King Deva Raya II of the Vijayanagara Empire conquered about the whole of the present-day state of Kerala in the 15th century. He defeated the Zamorin of Kozhikode, as well as the ruler of Kollam.

The Kingdom of Venad

- Venad was a kingdom in the southwest tip of Kerala, which acted as a buffer between Cheras and Pandyas. Until the end of the 11th century, it was a small principality in the Ay Kingdom. The Ays were the earliest ruling dynasty in southern Kerala, who, at their zenith, ruled over a region from Nagercoil in the south to Thiruvananthapuram in the north. Their capital was at Kollam. A series of attacks by the Pandyas between the 7th and 8th centuries caused the decline of Ays although the dynasty remained powerful until the beginning of the 10th century. When Ay's power diminished, Venad became the southernmost principality of the Second Chera Kingdom, thus, Rama Varma Kulasekara, the last king of Chera dynasty, is probably the founder of the Venad royal house, and the title of Chera kings, *Kulasekara*, was thenceforth adopted by the rulers of Venad. The end of the Second Chera dynasty in the 12th century marks the independence of the Venad.

The Kingdom of Kolathunadu

- The kingdom of Kolathunadu, who were the descendants of Mushika dynasty, at the peak of its power reportedly extended from Netravati River (Mangalore) in the north to Korapuzha (Kozhikode) in the south with the Arabian Sea on the west and Kodagu hills on the eastern boundary, also including the isolated islands of Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea.

Era of European Influences

- The maritime spice trade monopoly in the Indian Ocean stayed with the Arabs during the High and Late Middle Ages. However, the dominance of Middle East traders was challenged in the European Age of Discovery. After Vasco Da Gama's arrival in Kappad Kozhikode in 1498, the Portuguese began to dominate eastern shipping, and the spice-trade in particular.

Portuguese trade and influences

- The Samoothiri Maharaja of Kozhikode permitted the Portuguese to trade with his subjects. Their trade in Kozhikode prospered with the establishment of a factory and fort in his territory. However, Portuguese attacks on Arab properties in his jurisdiction provoked the Samoothiri and finally led to conflict.
- The Portuguese took advantage of the rivalry between the Samoothiri and Rajah of Kochi - they allied with Kochi and when Francisco de Almeida was appointed Viceroy of Portuguese India in 1505, he established his headquarters at Kochi. During his reign, the Portuguese managed to dominate relations with Kochi and established a few fortresses along the Malabar Coast. Nonetheless, the Portuguese suffered severe setbacks due to attacks by Samoothiri Maharaja's forces, especially naval attacks under the leadership of the admirals of Kozhikode known as KunjaliMarakkars, which compelled them to seek a treaty. The KunjaliMarakkars are credited with organizing the first naval defense of the Indian coast.

Dutch trade and influences

- A Dutch fleet under Admiral Steven van der Hagen arrived at Kozhikode in November 1604. It marked the beginning of the Dutch presence in Kerala and they concluded a treaty with Kozhikode on 11 November 1604, which was also the first treaty that the Dutch East India Company made with an Indian ruler.
- The weakened Portuguese were ousted by the Dutch East India Company, who took advantage of continuing conflicts between Kozhikode and Kochi to gain control of the trade. In 1664, the municipality of Fort Kochi was established by Dutch Malabar, making it the first municipality in the Indian subcontinent. The Dutch Malabar (1661–1795) in turn were weakened by their constant battles with Marthanda Varma of the Travancore Royal Family and were defeated at the Battle of Colachel in 1741, resulting in the complete eclipse of Dutch power in Malabar. The Treaty of Mavelikkara was signed by the Dutch and Travancore in 1753, according to which the Dutch were compelled to detach from all political involvements in the region. In the meantime, Marthanda Varma annexed many smaller northern kingdoms through military conquests, resulting in the rise of Travancore to a position of pre-eminence in Kerala.
- Travancore became the most dominant state in Kerala by defeating the powerful Zamorin of Kozhikode in the Battle of Purakkad in 1763. In 1757, to check the invasion of the Zamorin, the Palakkad Raja sought the help of Hyder Ali of Mysore. In 1766, Haider Ali of Mysore defeated the Samoothiri of Kozhikode and absorbed Kozhikode into his state.

The Kingdom of Mysore and British influences

- The arrival of the British on the Malabar Coast can be traced back to the year 1615 when a group under the leadership of Captain William Keeling arrived at Kozhikode.
- The smaller princely states in northern and north-central parts of Kerala (Malabar region) including Kolathunadu, Kottayam, Kadathanadu, Kozhikode, Tanur, Valluvanad, and Palakkad were unified under the rulers of Mysore and were made a part of the larger Kingdom of Mysore in the latter half of the 18th century CE. Hyder Ali and his successor, Tipu Sultan, came into conflict with the British, leading to the four Anglo-Mysore wars fought across southern India. Tipu Sultan ceded Malabar District to the British in 1792 as a result of the Third Anglo-Mysore War and the subsequent Treaty of Seringapatam, and South Kanara, which included present-day Kasargod District, in 1799. The British concluded treaties of subsidiary alliance with the rulers of Cochin (1791) and Travancore (1795), and these became princely states of British India, maintaining local autonomy in return for a fixed annual tribute to the British. Malabar and South Kanara districts were part of British India's Madras Presidency.
- Organised expressions of discontent with British rule were not uncommon in Kerala. Initially the British had to suffer local resistance against their rule under the leadership of Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, who had popular support in Thalassery-Wayanad region. Other uprisings of note include the rebellion by VeluThampi Dalawa and the Punnapra-Vayalar revolt of 1946. The Malabar Special Police was formed by the colonial government in 1884 headquartered at Malappuram. There were major revolts in Kerala during the independence movement in the 20th century; most notable among them is the 1921 Malabar Rebellion and the social struggles in Travancore. In the Malabar Rebellion, Mappila Muslims of Malabar rebelled against the British Raj. Some social struggles against caste inequalities also erupted in the early decades of the 20th century, leading to the 1936 Temple Entry Proclamation that opened Hindu temples in Travancore to all castes. Kerala also witnessed several social reform movements directed at the eradication of social evils such as untouchability among the Hindus, pioneered by reformists like Sri Narayana Guru, Ayyankali and Chattambiswami among others. The non-violent and largely peaceful Vaikom Satyagraha of 1924 was instrumental in securing entry to the public roads adjacent to the Vaikom temple for people belonging to untouchable castes.

The Kingdom of Travancore

- The Kingdom of Travancore was a kingdom in Central and Southern Kerala that existed from ancient times until 1949. Until the reign of Marthanda Varma, the kingdom was known as Venad. In the 11th century, Venad became a vassal of the Chola Empire. In the 16th century, Venad became a vassal of the Vijayanagara Empire. In the late 18th century, Travancore made an alliance with the British Empire and later became a British Protectorate.

Travancore Royal Family

- The Travancore royal family was the only ruler of the Travancore kingdom ruling house of the Kingdom of Travancore. The Travancore royal family ruled the princely state from 1663 to 1949. The rule of the Travancore royal family ended in 1949 after the independence of India as Travancore agreed to merge with the Indian government, and the rest of the ruling rights were also taken away in 1979.
- While in 2011, the Indian High Court announced the rule of the Travancore royal family, and all the custodial rights of the temple should be given to the family, this came into action after various public petitions. SreeChithiraThirunal Balarama Varma was the last ruler of the temple from the royal family and died in 1991.

Details of ChithiraThirunal's Rule and Reforms

- The last ruling king of Travancore was ChithiraThirunal Balarama Varma, who reigned from 1931 to 1949. "His reign marked revolutionary progress in the fields of education, defence, economy and society. He made the famous Temple Entry Proclamation on 12 November 1936, which opened all the Kshetrams (Hindu temples in Kerala) in Travancore to all Hindus, a privilege reserved to only upper-caste Hindus till then. This act won him praise from across India, most notably from Mahatma Gandhi. The first public transport system and He made the famous Temple Entry Proclamation on 12 November 1936, which opened all the Kshetrams (Hindu temples in Kerala) in Travancore to all Hindus, a privilege reserved to only upper-caste Hindus till then. This act won him praise from across India, most notably from Mahatma Gandhi. The first public transport system and telecommunication system were launched during the reign of SreeChithiraThirunal. He also started the industrialisation of the state, enhancing the role of the public sector. He introduced heavy industry in the State and established giant public sector undertakings. As many as twenty industries were established, mostly for utilizing local raw materials such as rubber, ceramics, and minerals. Most of the premier industries running in Kerala even today were established by SreeChithiraThirunal. He patronized musicians, artists, dancers, and Vedic scholars.

Annexation into the Republic of India

- After several rounds of discussions and negotiations between SreeChithiraThirunal and V.P. Menon, the King agreed that the Kingdom should accede to the Indian Union in 1949. On 1 July 1949 the Kingdom of Travancore was merged with the Kingdom of Cochin and the short-lived state of Travancore-Kochi was formed.

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Struggle of people in Kerala during this movement

- This reform had started by several leaders such as “Sri Narayana Guru” so that the social rights especially for the woman could be returned. The primary motive was to increase education for the female population and to abolish social inequalities. Women in Kerala also took part in the reform movements or renaissance. These movements help Kerala to achieve a flexible attitude towards different castes and creeds. Educational reforms also were initiated through the renaissance movements in this state of the country. This has impacted the overall society of Kerala by changing their way of thinking and applying logic. These movements introduced enlightenment within Kerala and this was done through lower castes mostly. The people or leaders of the reform movements struggled in various ways to change the outlook of the society of Kerala.

Movements for freedom in Kerala

- There are different types of freedom movements that have been initiated in Kerala. Major reforms that took place in Kerala to create an equal society include formation of many committees and activities such as Yukthivadi magazine, “Prathyaksha Raksha Sabha”, “SadhujanaParipalanaSangham”, “Misra Bhojan” and many more. “VilluVandi”, “KalluMaala” agitations, formation of Brahmosamaj, “Namboothiri yuvajanasangham” were some of the other movements of this age. The father of this renaissance is called “Sree Narayana Guru” although VaikundaSwamikal first started leading these movements. Educational reform was also encouraged during this century so that the woman could get enough opportunity as well as men.

Freedom struggle in Kerala

- In The movement of Temple entry conducted in 1920s and 1930s within Kerala, social reforming elements and zeal of ordinary people can be observed intensely. It is considered as a historical movement of this period and it also became an integral and unique part of the Nationalist movement of India. “Gandhian constructive Program” was also involved with the temple entrance issue. The lower castes or the untouchables took the lead of this movement for providing equal rights to enter temples in Kerala. This type of people had fought for the activities that had taken place for the revolution.

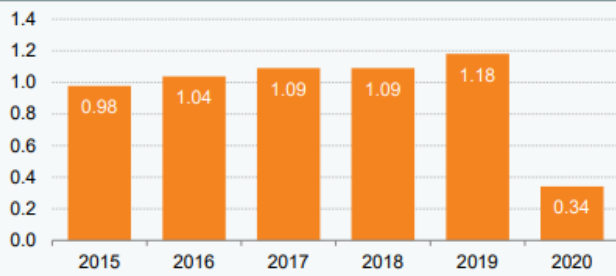
CULTURE

- Kerala's culture is mainly Hindu in origin, deriving from a greater Tamil-heritage region known as Tamilakam. Later, Kerala's culture was elaborated on through centuries of contact with overseas cultures. The principal religions are Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam; Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, and Buddhism have smaller followings. The state's historic ties with the rest of the world have resulted in the state has many famous temples, churches, and mosques notably 8 of the world's oldest churches—from the 1st century CE, founded by Thomas the Apostle when he reached Indian shores, the first mosque of India, which existed even before the death of the prophet Muhammad and the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations.

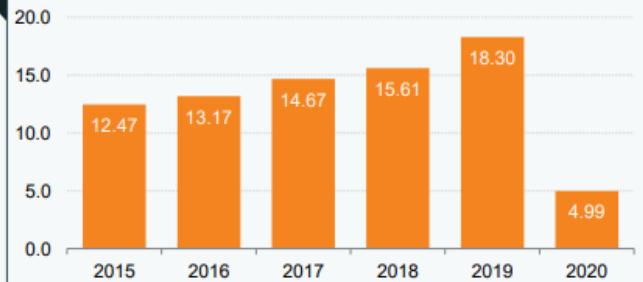
Tourism

- Named as one of the ten paradises of the world by National Geographic Traveller, Kerala is famous especially for its ecotourism initiatives and beautiful backwaters. Its unique culture and traditions, coupled with its varied demography, have made Kerala one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.
- Until the early 1980s, Kerala was a relatively unknown destination, with most tourism circuits concentrated around the north of the country. Aggressive marketing campaigns launched by the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation—the government agency that oversees tourism prospects of the state—laid the foundation for the growth of the tourism industry. The tagline Kerala - God's Own Country was adopted in its tourism promotions and became a global super brand.

Foreign tourist arrivals in Kerala (in million)



Domestic tourist arrivals in Kerala (in million)



- Popular tourist destinations in Kerala include the beaches of Kovalam, Varkala, Marari, Bekal and Kannur; backwaters of Kumarakom, Alappuzha, Kollam, Kochi and Kozhikode; and hill stations of Ponmudi, Munnar, Wayanad and Wagamon. Kerala has a few well-known wildlife reserves, including the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, the Eravikulam National Park, the Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary and the Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Tourism Department is developing eco-friendly, rural tourism packages in Kumarakom, Wayanad, Kovalam and Muziris heritage circuits.
- According to State Budget 2019-20, a new project will be started for the development of tourism at Muzhuppilangad. Under the State Budget 2019-20, Rs. 372 crore is allocated for the tourism sector out of which Rs. 82 crores is allocated for Tourism marketing and additional Rs. 132 crore is allocated for developing the facilities of tourist centres. In November 2020, Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture inaugurated the 'Tourist Facilitation Centre' facility under the project 'Development of Guruvayur, Kerala', which is under 'PRASHAD' scheme of the Ministry of Tourism. In November 2020, a solar-powered miniature train was launched at Veli Tourist Village, Kerala, to transform Veli into one of the most attractive destinations for tourists.

Art and Architecture

- Kerala architecture can be broadly divided into two distinctive areas based on their functionality, each guided by different set of principles:
 - **Religious Architecture**, primarily patronised by temples of Kerala as well as several old churches, mosques etc.
 - **Domestic Architecture**, primarily seen in most of the residential houses. There are distinctively styles in this area, as Palaces and large mansions of feudal lords different from houses of commoners and also marked difference exists between religious communities.

Style

- The base model is normally circular, square or rectangular plain shapes with a ribbed roof evolved from functional consideration. The most distinctive visual form of Kerala architecture is the long, steep sloping roof built to protect the house's walls and to withstand the heavy monsoon, normally laid with tiles or thatched labyrinth of palm leaves, supported on a roof frame made of hard wood and timber. Structurally the roof frame was supported on the pillars on walls erected on a plinth raised from the ground for protection against dampness and insects in the tropical climate. Often the walls were also of timbers abundantly available in Kerala. Dormer windows were evolved at the two ends to provide attic ventilation when ceiling was incorporated for the room spaces.
- The belief system of Vastu plays a very important role in developing architecture styles. The basic underlying belief is that, every structure built on earth has its own life, with a soul and personality which is shaped by its surroundings.

Materials

- The natural building materials available for construction in Kerala are stones, timber, clay, and palm leaves. Granite is a strong and durable building stone; however, its availability is restricted mostly to the highlands and only marginally to other zones. Owing to this, the skill in quarrying, dressing, and sculpturing of stone is scarce in Kerala. Laterite on the other hand is the most abundant stone found as outcrops in most zones.

Elements and features of Kerala Temple

- **Shree-Kovil** - The inner sanctum sanctorum where the idol of the presiding deity is installed and worshiped
- **Namaskara Mandapam** - The namaskara mandapa is a square shaped pavilion with a raised platform, a set of pillars and a pyramidal roof.
- **Nalambalam** - The shrine and the mandapa building are enclosed in a rectangular structure called the nalambalam. Functionally the rear and side halls of the nalambalam serves for various activities related to the ritualistic worship
- **Balithara** - At the entrance of Nalambalam, a square-shaped raised stone altar called as Balithara can be seen. This altar is used to make ritualistic offerings to demi-gods and other spirits. I
- **Chuttambalam** - The outer structure within the temple walls, is known as Chuttambalam.
- **Ambala-Kulam** - Every temple will have a sacred temple pond or water lake located within the temple complex. As per Vastu rules, water is considered a source of positive energy and a synthesis balance of all energies.
- **Thevarapura** - Normally within Nalambalam, a separate complex will be constructed for cooking foods meant to serve the deity and distribution among devotees as holy prasadam.

Music

- Kerala's music tradition comprises the Margi and Desi styles. The Margi style follows the classical tradition based on set principles while Desi is evolved out of regional traditions with a more relaxed set of rules. The state has a rich tradition in vocal and percussion music. It is related to the customs of various religions, rituals in temples and sacred groves and classical art forms such as Kathakali. SopanaSangeetham is considered a traditional genre, ethnic to Kerala. It has had a definite influence on Kathakali music.
- The region has a rich tradition of folk and semi-classical / light genres. The Vadakkanpaattu, in praise of heroes, and Thekkanpaattu are noted among the folk music. The Mappilapaattu with simple lyrics and music are the contribution of the Malabar region. The Vanchipaattu popular in Central Travancore has a prominent place in literature as well.
- The Tala scheme (metric style with specific number of beats) is peculiar to the music of Kerala. While the Tala is considered as an accompaniment to the vocal music in other parts of India, the musicians of Kerala chose to be different.

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Language

- Malayalam language, member of the South Dravidian subgroup of the Dravidian language family. Malayalam is the official language of the state of Kerala and the union territory of Lakshadweep. It is also spoken by bilingual communities in contiguous parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In the early 21st century, Malayalam was spoken by more than 35 million people.
- Malayalam has three important regional dialects and a few smaller ones. There is some difference in dialect along social, particularly caste, lines. As a result of these factors, the Malayalam language has developed diglossia, a distinction between the formal, literary language and colloquial forms of speech.

Dances of Kerala

1. Kathakali: Kerala is known worldwide for Kathakali, which is generally performed by male dancers. Usually staged on temple grounds, Kathakali is a classical dance form that utilizes detailed and stylized makeup and colorful costumes. The typical Kathakali costume includes headgear, billowing skirt and plentiful ornaments. During a typical performance, the artists play the role of mythological characters from Hindu epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata. The entire story or a scene from a mythological story is depicted by the artists, by making use of graceful movements of hands, eyes and legs. Props are used wherever necessary. Chenda (traditional drum) player is accompanied by one or two singers, who narrate the story in the form of song. This completes a typical Kathakali performance. The make-up code followed in 'Kathakali' conventionally typifies the characters of the acts categorising them as gods, goddesses, saints, animals, demons, and demonesses among others.
2. Mohiniyattam: Mohiniyattam is a sensual classical dance that involves graceful movements. This classical dance is performed by a solo woman dancer, because the name itself says, Mohini means 'a maiden' and Yattam means 'dance'. The dancer wears a white or off-white plain sari embellished with bright golden or gold laced coloured brocade embroidered in its borders complimented with a matching choli or blouse. This dance includes elements belonging to other classical dances like Bharatanatyam and Kathakali. The dance movements are gentle and graceful, especially the eye movements which are mesmerizing.
3. Thiruvathirakali: Thiruvathirakali is a dance performed by women during the Onam festival. The dance is defined by a circular pattern and the movements are executed by a group of dancers around a nilavilakku (pedestal wick lamp), embodying 'lasya' or the amorous charm and grace of the feminine. It is the dance performed by women singing in praise of Lord Shiva, to attain everlasting marital bliss.
4. Kolkalli: Kolkalli is highly rhythmic dance form. It is mainly performed by agrarian classes. This dance is performed by both men and women. It involves the use of wooden sticks as props. This dance is usually performed by a group of 24 dancers, who move in a circle beating the long sticks.
5. Ottamthullal: Ottamthullal is a popular dance form in Kerala. Famous Malayalam poet KalakkaththuKunchan Nambiar has been credited with the creation of this dance form, way back in the 18th century. Originally, this dance was performed by a single actor wearing makeup and colorful costumes. Later it was staged as group dance involving many actors playing their character in the story. This art form is very popular among common man due to its satirical touch. During the performance, the dancer musically narrates a story, which may be based on mythological stories.
6. Koodiyattam: Koodiyattam is a part of Sanskrit theatre art. The popular dance form of Kerala is the only remaining proof of the ancient Sanskrit Theatre. Traditionally, it was being played in temples for centuries. The important musical instruments used in Koodiyattam are Mizhavu, Kuzhitalam, Kurumkuzhal and Sankhu.
7. **ChakyarKoothu**: Koothu is an art form in which the stories of Hindu mythology and epics are orally rendered primarily with the support of acting and hand gestures. In the olden days, it was confined to temple premises. Only the members of the Chakyar community performed this art form and hence the name ChakyarKoothu. This was performed in temple theatres called *Koothambalam*.
8. Theyyam: Theyyam is a popular dance form performed in Malabar region of Kerala. For thousands of years, Theyyam and its rituals are in practice in this region. It is a Dravidian art form and is quite popular due to its accessibility to lower castes.

Fairs and Festivals

1. **Attukal Pongala Festival:** The Attukal Pongala held in Attukal Temple, Thiruvananthapuram is the largest congregation of women for a festival in the world. Pongala, which means 'to boil over', is the ritual in which women prepare sweet payasam (a pudding made from rice, jaggery, coconut and plantains cooked together) and offer it to the Goddess or 'Bhagavathy'. The ritual can only be performed by women and the streets of the city are known to be jam-packed with faithful devotees during the time of the festival. The Goddess fondly referred to as 'Attukalamma' is said to be appeased by this ritual. The entire Thiruvananthapuram city lights up in festive fervour and the number of devotees has increased to the point that it has been recorded in the Guinness World Book of Records.
2. **Boat Race Festival:** During the months of monsoon, Kerala comes to life with four main snake boat races, namely Nehru Trophy on Alleppey's Punnamda Lake; Champakkulam Moolam along the river at Champakkulam (Changanassery); Payippad Jalotsavam on Payippad Lake and the Aranmula Boat Race along the Pampa River at Aranmula, near Chengannur. Apart from these, there are 15 minor races that are held in Kerala. What makes these races different is the boat itself, which is known as Chundan Vallam and is 100 to 120 feet long. These boats appear as a snake due to their design and can only be oared by 100 rowers.
3. **Christmas Festival:** In Kerala, the way of Christmas celebration exhibits the influence of Syrian and Western Christians. The festival of Christmas is celebrated here with great pomp and show. The state is known to add the flavor of local traditions that includes preparation of some exotic delicacies to keep the celebrations even more interesting.
4. **Onam Festival:** A grand harvest festival, Onam is an important celebration in Kerala. The festival celebrates the homecoming of King Mahabali, a popular ruler in the state. The Malayali month of Chingam (Aug - Sep) is when the Onam takes place in Kerala. The festival is ten days long celebration and each day has its own significance. Onam is the perfect reflection of the rich culture of the state, and thus marks as a must see in Kerala.
5. **Theyyam Festival:** Theyyam is a grand dance festival in Kerala and is celebrated many regions of the state including Kasargod. Theyyam is considered as Dance Gods and the name has been given to it by adding two words 'Deivam' and 'Aattam', where 'Deivam' means God and 'Aattam' translates to dance. This dance is performed to honour the heroes and ancestral spirits.. The dance is performed in various places of North Malabar like Karivallor, Kurumathoor, Nileswaram, Ezhom, and Cherukunnu every year between December and April. And it is performed each day at Parassini Kadava Sri Muthappan Temple in Kannur.

It is said to be ritual dance in Kerala and is also known as Kaliyattam. This dance form incorporates a dance, and music with mime. Theyyam is believed to be distinguished into 400 forms each has its unique style, make-up, costumes, songs, choreography. The most prominent Theyyams are the Pottan, Gulikan, Bhagavati, Kari Chamundi, and Raktha Chamundi. Things worth noticing in Theyyam are the ornamental decorations, their size and appearance.



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6. **Vishu Festival:** A new year day celebration, Vishu is one of the important festivals of Kerala. The festival is celebrated in the Malayalee month of Medam i.e April or May of the Gregorian Calendar and marks the beginning of a harvest year. Vishu also indicates moving of the sun to Aries zodiac sign and the day from which the farmers begin ploughing their land. Vishu is considered the festival of light and the people of Kerala celebrate it by bursting crackers, lighting up diyas at their houses and preparing a special feast or Sadya and performing pooja (prayers and rituals). There is also a custom of giving money called Vishukkaineetam.
7. **Easter Festival:** Celebrated mostly in the month of March or April, Easter marks as an important festival for Christians. It is said to be the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and thus holds great significance amongst the believers. In Kerala, the festival is celebrated the same way as in Christian nations.

Handicrafts

1. **Ivory Products:** Ivory is hard and white. The products of ivory are very delicate; the entire crafting is done on animal teeth especially Elephant Tusk. The Ivory handicrafts of Kerala are world famous. The crafting of ivory products is mainly done for products such as false teeth, billiards balls and more. The best type of ivory crafting can be seen in mythological figures.
2. **Coir and Cane Products:** Some of the Kerala famous and beautiful coir products are Coir mattresses, painting decorated mats and floor furnishings and other colourful items. The two cities of Kerala, Kollam and Calicut are well-renowned for crafting and purchasing Coir and cane products. Coir is extracted from the protective husk of the Coconut, and their products are eco-friendly.
3. **Lacquer Wire:** Lacquer Wire is the blend of wood and metal. The artisans give lacquer finish to wooden products and then decorate it with precious metals. Lacquer Wire is one of a fascinating handicrafts of Kerala. The state Ernakulam churned variety of Lacquer wire products.
4. **Wooden Handicrafts:** The skills of crafting wooden handicrafts of Kerala artisans are growing from generation to generation. They had taken inspiration from the Hindu mythology temples, which are beautifully decorated in astonishing wooden crafts. The table Lamps, Toys, and paperweights are some of the creative decorative wooden pieces of Kerala. Moreover, the Sandalwood Products of Kerala are also famous. Some of them are decorated boxes, ashtrays, candle stands, toys and Kathakali dance postures.
5. **Coconut Shell Handicrafts:** The artisans use the coconut shell to craft beautiful bowls, vases, teapots and toys. The blend of coconut shell and brass bindings are used to craft hookahs. Other products such as Lamp Stands encased in brass and smaller coconut shell articles.
6. **Screw Pine Products:** The ancient handicrafts of Kerala is the Screw Pine Weaving. Three different types of mats are woven together with a screw pine leaves. The straw hats, household linen and carry bags are the famous products of Kerala which are crafted with pine leaves.
7. **Banana Fibre Handicrafts:** The Banana Handicrafts are slowly gaining in popularity. When the trunk of banana plant treated, it gives a fine natural fibre. The banana plant is used in crafting table mats, bags, wall hangings and mats of different shapes and sizes. Even, the saree named Pattu is also woven with this fabric.
8. **Kathakali Papier-mache Masks:** Kathakali is one of the world's oldest dance of Kerala. It is the combination of dance, drama, ritual and music. The participants wore different types of Kathakali masks, elaborate headgear, and long black hair that showcase the culture of Kerala. All the Kathakali masks are eco-friendly because they are made from paper and glue.
9. **Pulpaya Mats:** Pulpaya, which is a traditional grass mat, is one of the oldest handicraft items of Kerala that brings you the virtue of nature in the form of a utilitarian product.
10. **Rice Straw Handicrafts:** Rice straw painting is an ancient art that originated in Kerala; it uses different shades of rice straw to craft beautiful paintings. Each painting is a collection of several of pieces of rice straw meticulously cut and glued on a black cotton cloth. All the materials used for this painting are naturally occurring such as leaves, glue from tree sap, paper, etc. Not only paintings but various other handicrafts are made using rice straw, including rice straw mats, hats, handbags, wall decorations, sculptures and brooms.

Paintings

- The ancient cings of Kerala had their origins in cave paintings and carvings. The ancient wall paintings are mainly seen in places of worship such as temples. Kalamezhuthu, a ritual art in which the pictures of Gods and

Goddesses are drawn on the floor using coloured powders, is another system of painting prevalent in Kerala. It is practised during festivals in Bhadrakali (Mother Goddess) temples, and on special occasions in SarppaKavu (groves sacred to snakes) and AyyappanKavu (temples dedicated to Lord Ayyappa).

- Kerala mural paintings are the frescos depicting Hindu mythology in Kerala. Ancient temples and palaces in Kerala, India, display an abounding tradition of mural paintings mostly dating back between the 9th to 12th centuries CE when this form of art enjoyed royal patronage. The scriptural basis of these paintings can be found in the Sanskrit text, 'Chithrasoothram'.
- The murals of Thirunadhikkara Cave Temple (now ceded to Tamil Nadu) and Tiruvanchikulam are considered the oldest relics of Kerala's own style of murals. The masterpieces of Kerala mural art include the Shiva Temple in Ettumanoor, the Ramayana murals of Mattancherry Palace and Vadakkumnathakshetram.
- **Raja Ravi Varma (1848 - 1906):** His first Guru (instructor) was his uncle Rajaraja Varma. Ravi Varma was thus able to study the paintings in the palace drawn in the Italian Renaissance style, and also learn the painting techniques and styles of painters from Tamil Nadu who were among the courtiers. Ravi Varma studied the western style of painting, and oil painting techniques from Theodore Jenson, the Dutch painter who visited Trivandrum palace in 1868. Ravi Varma painted the pictures of the Maharaja and the royal family members in a new style. His fame began to rise with his painting "MullappooChoodiya Nair Sthree" securing the first prize in a painting exhibition held at Chennai in 1873. This painting was awarded a prize in another exhibition held in Vienna in Austria.
- In 1876, his painting of Shakunthala received a prize at the exhibition held in Chennai. This beautiful pictorial interpretation of a moment in Kalidasa's AbhijnanaShakuntalam, when Shakunthala turns back to glance at Dushyanthan in the pretext of drawing a thorn from her feet, is one of the most famous renderings of Raja Ravi Varma. This painting was used on the front cover of the Shakuntalam translation published by Monien Williams, the British orientalist.

GEOGRAPHY

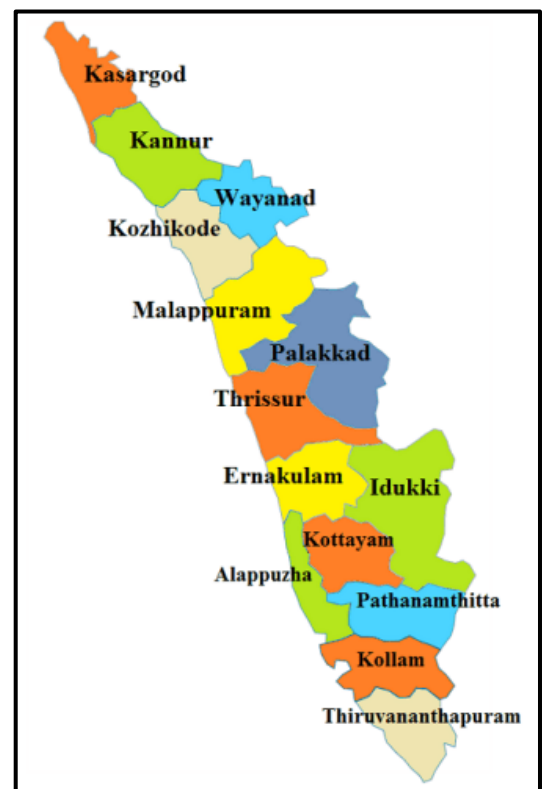
- Kerala is situated between the Arabian Sea (Lakshadweep) to the west and the Western Ghats to the east. Kerala's coast runs some 580 km in length, while the state itself varies between 35-120 km in width. Geologically, pre-Cambrian and Pleistocene formations comprise the bulk of Kerala's terrain. Kerala lies between northern latitude of 8°.17'.30" N and 12°. 47'.40" N and east longitudes 74°.27'.47" E and 77°.37'.12"E.

Climate

- The coastal state of Kerala lying on the Southwestern tip of India has commonly been called the tropical paradise of India. Kerala has an equable and tropical climate offering a pleasing atmosphere throughout the entire year. This coastal state has a hot and humid climate from April-May and a pleasant, cold climate in December-January. Summer extends from the month of April to June when the temperature reaches to a maximum of 33 degrees centigrade. Summer is followed by South West Monsoon that starts pouring in the month of June and continues till September. With the arrival of winter there is certain drop in the temperature and you can feel a slight chill due to the cold wind. Winter in Kerala lasts from from November to January or February.

Political Geography

- Kerala state have 14 districts, which are divided based on geographical, historical and cultural similarities. Districts in Kerala are grouped into 3 parts:
 - The Malabar (North Kerala districts): Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikkode and Malappuram
 - The Kochi region (Central Kerala districts): Palakkad, Thrissur



and Eranakulam

- The Travancore (South Kerala districts): Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki.

Physiographic Divisions

- On the basis of geographical entities, the state of Kerala can be divided into three major geographic regions. These are
 - The Eastern Highlands
 - The Central Midlands
 - The Western Lowlands

The Eastern Highlands

- The Sahaya Mountains form the Eastern Highlands region of Kerala. The average elevation of this region is about 900 m and has a few peaks which can reach upto 2000 m. It is spread over an area of 18650 sq. km which is 48 per cent of the total area of the state. Anaimudi with an altitude of 2694 m (8842 ft) is the highest point in the state. Interestingly, it is also the highest point in South India. The region is known for its spices such as cardamom, black pepper, clove, and cinnamon. As it is one of the largest cardamom producers in the world, the region is often referred to as the Cardamom Hills. Most of the river which drains Kerala originate from this region.

The Central Midlands

- The Central Midlands is the area sandwiched between the Sahaya Mountains and the coastal lowlands. It is made up of undulating hills and valleys and spread over an area of 16200 sq. km which is about 41 per cent of the total area of the state. This region is known for intensive cultivation practices and leads in cashew, coconut, are canut and banana production.

The Western Lowlands

- Also known as the Coastal Plains, the Western Lowlands cover an area of 4000 sq. km and comprise a network of interconnected brackish canals, lakes, estuaries and rivers known as the Kerala Backwaters. Kerala's largest lake Vembanad is part of Kerala Backwaters. This area is known for its coconut and paddy cultivation. Kuttinad is one such place in Kerala where farming is practiced below sea level.

Soil Types

- Based on the physio-chemical properties, the soils of Kerala can be classified into 10 different broad groups. These are:
 1. **Coastal Alluvium:** This type of soil is found along the coastal belt of the state. It is the result of recent marine deposits and has little traces of fluvial sediment. It has high sand content, low water holding capacity and is slightly acidic in reaction. Its texture varies from loamy sand to sandy loam.
 2. **Riverine Alluvium:** This type of soil is mainly found along the river valleys across the state. Its texture varies from sandy loam to clay and is known for its high water-holding capacity and high nutrient content. It supports the cultivation of Paddy, Arecanut, Pepper, Tapioca and a variety of vegetables.
 3. **Red Loam:** It is found in isolated patches near the foothills of the Sahaya Mountains in the parts of Thiruvananthapuram and Neyyattinkara. It is deep red in colour due to the presence of hematite and limonite ores and is acidic in nature. Additionally, it is low in available nutrients and only supports crops like Coconut and Tapioca.
 4. **Laterite Soil:** This type of soil is scattered throughout the state occupying 58% of the total area. This soil is formed as the result of intensive and prolonged weathering of the underlying parent rock under humid tropical conditions. Its colour varies from reddish brown to yellowish red and its texture ranges from gravelly loam to gravelly clay loam. It is acidic in reaction and poor in available nutrients, but it is well drained and can support a variety of crops like Aracanut, Cashew, Coconut, Pepper, Tapioca and Rubber with the proper application of fertilizers and irrigation.
 5. **Greyish Onattukara soil:** This type of soil is found in the Onattukara region which comprises parts of Alappuzha and Kollam. It has a distinctive grey colour and its texture varies from coarse-grained sandy loam

to pure sand. It is slightly acidic and low in nutrients. Moreover, it has a low water retention capacity. However, with the application of proper farming techniques, one can cultivate crops like Paddy, Tapioca and Coconut on this soil.

6. **Acid Saline soil (Kuttanad Alluvium):** This type of soil is mainly found in Kuttanad region. As a large portion of Kuttanad lies below sea level, it faces some hydrographical problems such as flooding and salinity, which put limitations on farming practices. However, with careful management, one can successfully grow Paddy and other crops on this soil. The Kuttanad Alluvium is further subdivided into 3 categories based on morphological and physiochemical properties. These are 1. Kayal soil (soil in reclaimed areas with high clay content), 2. Kari soil (black soil with high organic content) and 3. Karappadam soil (soil with high silt content).
7. **Brown hydromorphic soil:** This type of soil is mainly found in wetlands. They are moderately rich in organic matter and other nutrients but deficient in lime and phosphate. It is deep brownish in colour and its texture varies from sandy loam to clay. It is also acidic in reaction with pH value of 5.2. It is formed due to the transportation and deposition of soil from adjoining hill slopes. It suffers from impeded drainage and exhibits hydromorphic features like grey horizons, streaks, hard pans and organic matter deposition.
8. **Hydromorphic saline soils:** This type of soil is found near the coastal tracts of the State. Their salinity is the direct result of the intrusion of backwaters and tidal waters into these areas. These soils are brownish in colour and their texture varies from sandy to clayey. They support salt-resistant crop varieties such as Pokkali and Kaipad rice.
9. **Black Soils:** The black soils are mainly found in the northeastern part of Palakkad district. It is dark in colour, low in organic matter, calcareous, moderately alkaline and high in clay content. As this soil promotes cotton cultivation, it is also known by the name black cotton soil. Other major crops that can be grown on this soil are Rice, Sugarcane, Jowar, Ragi and Oil Seeds.
10. **Forest loam soils:** This type of soil is found in the eastern part of the State. Its colour varies from dark reddish brown to black and its texture varies from loamy to silty loam. It is rich in organic matter but acidic in reaction, which makes it poor in bases. It supports plantation crops like Cardamom, Rubber and Tea.

Forest Types

In Kerala, about 29.1% of the total land area is covered by forests. The various types of forests are:

1. **Semi-evergreen forests:** Semi-evergreen forests (west coast semi-evergreen forests) are generally considered as a transitional stage between evergreen and moist deciduous forests. It is also found in localities where the evergreen forests are subjected to high disturbances. These forests occur between 600 to 800 m and in some places, it extends up to 900 m.
2. **Southern Hilltop Tropical Evergreen Forest:** This type is a more or less an inferior edition of the tropical wet evergreen, hardly more than 10m high in extreme cases. This type of forest abounds in the Andamans and Western Ghats. They are usually seen on the slopes and tops of hills. High winds, less favourable soil and climatic conditions restrict the formation of a climax. Rainfall is usually high, over 4500 mm and humidity is high even during periods of scanty rainfall.
3. **West coast tropical evergreen Forest:** These are dense evergreen forests with lofty trees of 45 m or more height. Many species occur mixed together. This makes the canopy extremely dense. Ferns, mosses, aroids, and orchids are seen in plenty. The undergrowth consists of cane, creeping bamboo, and palms. With the increase in elevation and rainfall, the height of the forest diminishes, though it remains dense and evergreen, changing into the stunted wet sub-tropical forest. It enjoys a wide distribution over the Western Ghats.
4. **Wet evergreen forests:** In Kerala, wet evergreen forests are mostly confined to the windward side of the Western Ghats, where the rainfall is above 2000mm.
5. **Secondary Dry Deciduous Forests:** These are inferior climax forests predominated by poorly shaped, small-sized trees. The sandal is also seen in such forests. They are seen distributed in dry deciduous forests and intruding into the drier parts of moist deciduous forests. The soil surface is hard and impervious due to exposure and trampling affected by heavy grazing, fuel, and timber collection.
6. **Southern Dry Deciduous Forests:** The subgroup differs from the dry teak forest species-wise, though typical plants like Boswellia are conspicuous. Heavy grazing invigorates the growth of thorny species. Bamboo is mostly absent and of poor quality, if present. Climbers are rarely seen. It occurs throughout peninsular India, especially in drier localities. The rainfall varies from 875 mm -1125mm on dry sites and soils. The shallow soiled, well-

drained hillsides and the undulating grounds have identical forests, making it difficult to establish the relationship between site and climate to the forest in situ.

7. **Primary moist deciduous forests:** Primary deciduous forests are found in isolated patches between the Annamalai and Wayanad plateaus. The denser part of this type is the form of woodland and savanna woodland.
8. **Secondary moist deciduous forests:** In Kerala secondary forests cover larger areas than the primary type, mostly in the form of dense forests and woodland to savanna woodland. Especially on the steep slopes, they are found as tree savanna.
9. **Dry Deciduous forests:** Within the given rainfall regime, dry deciduous forests in Kerala State are rare. They are confined to the northern slope of Annamalai in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, the eastern part of Mannarkad Division, and South Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary where the rainfall is less than 1200 mm. The physiognomic structure of these dry deciduous forests is highly variable, due to the impoverishment of soil, especially on steep slopes, and due to anthropogenic pressures including fire and grazing.

Flora

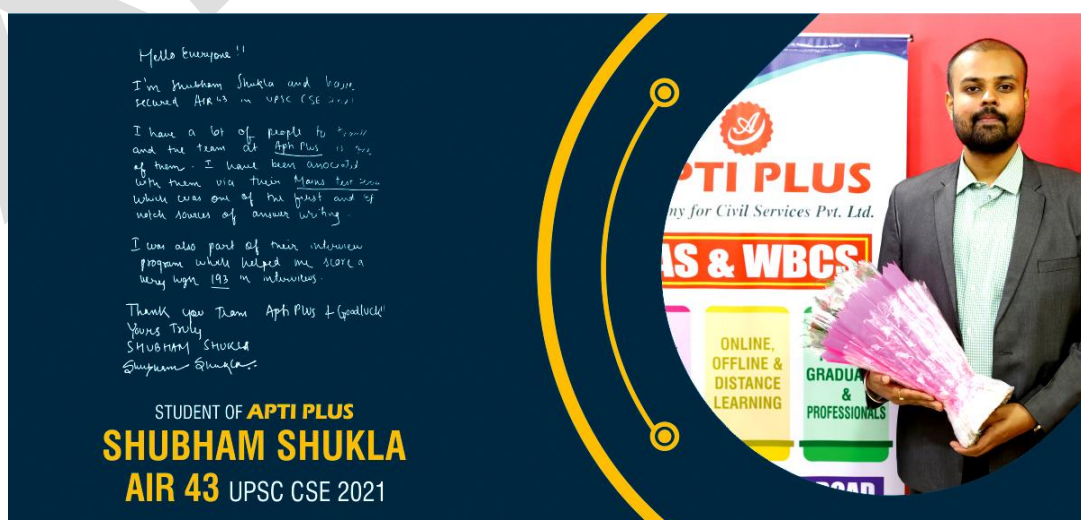
- The Flora of Kerala is hugely supported by the rich soil, heavy rainfall, and damp climate. All these factors have given rise to a diverse variety of flora in the region. The Forest area is largely spread over the Western Ghats. The Western Ghats represent one of the 18 hot spots of bio-diversity of the world and is a depository of endemic, rare and endangered flora and fauna. Forest trees can be broadly classified as timber trees and flower trees. Teak tree, rosewood and ebony are the most important in the first category. Among the flowering trees, the more important are the Barringtonia and varieties of Bauhinia and Hibiscus. Jack fruit and mango tree are found almost in all the regions of the state.

Fauna

- The forests are abounding in elephants, black leopards, tigers, sloth bears, giant squirrels and a variety of deer. The delightful specimens of the bird life include the charming little honey-sucker with glorious metallic colours, the golden-backed woodpecker, the little white-eyed tit which creeps among the leaves, and the Malabar whistling thrush which has earned the name 'Drunken Plough Boy' by its musical exertions. The area is covered by the five national parks, fifteen wild life sanctuaries and one biosphere coming under the category of protected areas in Kerala. Protected areas showcase the bio-diversity of Kerala.

Protected Areas

National Parks	Biosphere Reserve	Wetlands
Eravikulam National Park	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	Ashtamudi
Silent Valley National Park	Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve	Sasthamkotta lake
Anamudi Shola National Park		Vembanad Wetland
Mathikettan Shola National Park		
Pambadum Shola National Park		



ECONOMY

- Kerala is one of the few states to have marketed its natural beauty successfully to the leisure tourism sector. The state's unique heritage and cultural diversity have attracted tourists from around the world. BBC Travel survey has rated Kerala as the top favourite tourist destination among foreign travellers in 2018. At current prices, Kerala's total GSDP is estimated at Rs. 999,643 crores, in 2022-23, an increase of 10.8% over FY22. The state's GSDP recorded a CAGR of 7.68% between 2015-16 and 2021-22.

Demographic Profile

- According to the Census of India 2011, the population of Kerala is 33,406,061, or 2.76 per cent of India's population. Out of the State's total population, 48 per cent population are males and 52 per cent are females.

Population Growth

- The percentage decadal growth rate of Kerala's population during 2001-2011 was 4.9 per cent, the lowest among the Indian States. Among the Districts of the State, Malappuram has the highest growth rate, (13.4 per cent), and Pathanamthitta has the lowest growth rate (-)3.0 per cent. Idukki also has seen a decline in population with a negative growth rate (-)1.8 per cent.

Literacy

- Kerala has the highest proportion of literate persons in the population among the Indian States. The effective literacy rate is 93.91 percent. Literacy was 90 per cent at the Census of 2001. In Kerala, 96.02 per cent men and 91.98 per cent of women are literate as against 82.14 per cent of men and 65.46 per cent of women at the all-India level. Among Districts, Kottayam tops in literacy with 97.2 per cent followed by Pathanamthitta with 96.5 per cent. The lowest literacy rates are in Wayanad and Palakkad with 89 per cent and 89.3 per cent respectively. Even the lowest literacy rate of Wayanad (89 per cent) is higher than the national average.

Sex Ratio

- Sex ratio means the number of females population per thousand males population. The sex ratio of Kerala according to Census 2011 is 1,084 and has improved by 26 points since 2001. It increased from 1,032 to 1,036 from 1981 to 1991 and to 1,058 in 2001. Kerala is the only State where the sex ratio has historically been above unity. The sex ratio of Tamil Nadu is 996 of Karnataka is 973, of Andhra Pradesh is 993 and at the India, level is 943.

Indicators of Poverty

- The incidence of poverty in Kerala was 59.79 per cent in 1973-74 which came down to 11.3 per cent in 2011-12. At the all-India level, it was 54.88 per cent in 1973-74 (which was lower compared to Kerala) and came down to only 29.5 per cent in 2011-12. Kerala has made substantial improvements in reducing both rural and urban poverty. During the period from 1973-74 to 2011-12, the rural and urban poverty ratio in Kerala declined from 59.19 per cent to 7.3 per cent and from 62.74 per cent to 15.3 per cent respectively. However, at the national level, the poverty ratio declined from 56.44 per cent to 30.9 per cent in rural areas and from 49.01 per cent to 26.4 per cent in urban areas.
- Even though Kerala is better off than most other States in India in terms of average poverty estimates, there are still several pockets of deprivation in the State. Poverty in Kerala is mainly concentrated in some social categories and groups such as SCs, STs, fisher folk, potters, and artisans.

Extreme Poverty

- The Government of Kerala is firmly resolved to eliminate extreme poverty in the State. The first decision made by the present Government was to announce that an in-depth survey would be conducted to analyse the key distress factors causing absolute poverty and propose measures to overcome the same. The state already has a Kudumbashree programme called Agathirahitha Keralam which expanded the Ashraya project to rehabilitate destitute families.

Poverty Reduction	The implementation of various State and centrally-sponsored programmes of poverty reduction was further catalysed by the establishment of the State Poverty Eradication Mission (Kudumbashree). Decentralisation has proved that Local Governments have performed well in providing infrastructure for basic minimum needs including housing, water supply, sanitation and connectivity.
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	Kerala now allocates a higher proportion of plan funds to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe development than the corresponding proportion of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the population. The decentralised planning programme plays an important role in the implementation of these programmes.
Infrastructure Development	Decentralised planning gave a new impetus to local-level infrastructure development, particularly in the construction of rural roads. An intense drive to electrify the houses in the State has been taken up with the help of Local Governments in the last two decades.
Sanitation and Waste Management	There have been serious attempts to address the issue of waste management in a decentralised manner through the Haritha Keralam Mission, in which Local Governments have played major leadership roles.
Agriculture and Allied Sectors	Many panchayats had taken measures to revive declining rice cultivation through the preparation of watershed plans, restoring unused tanks and ponds, deepening canals and strengthening riversides and related activities, supply of seeds and equipment to farmers. However, in general, decentralisation did not arrest the rapid decline in the area and production of food crops.
Industry	Marginalised sections of society have also been supported by Local Governments to start small-scale enterprises. Local bodies are taking efforts to establish incubation centres and community facilitation centres for supporting small-scale start-ups.
Tourism	Local Governments have implemented projects for developing basic amenities in tourism destinations and facilitate investment by providing hassle-free sanctions, permissions and licences. Many district panchayats have initiated local tourism development projects in association with the tourism department.

Kudumbashree and its Accomplishments

- It evolved as an extension of the community mobilisation experiments in the Alappuzha and Malappuram districts. Against the backdrop of decentralisation experiments taking place in the State, a three-member committee was constituted to devise a strategy for poverty alleviation. It's recommendations led to the formation of the State Poverty Eradication Mission. Kudumbashree membership is open to all adult women, limited to one member per family. It works today as a three-tier system, the three tiers being Neighbourhood Groups (NHG), Area Development Societies (ADS), and Community Development Societies (CDS). Neighbourhood groups form the base tier, each with a membership of 10-20 women members of a locality. The ADSs are federations of NHGs at the ward level, and the CDS, at the panchayat level, is a federation of ADSs and forms the upper tier.
- The Kudumbashree women have come to show a remarkable degree of leadership, management capability and articulation with respect to issues concerning their work. The emergence of such a relationship between the panchayat and a network of women's associations is perhaps an exceptional feature of the panchayat raj in Kerala. The Kerala experiment has now been emulated in many States.

I had a great experience with APTI Plus. I had joined their Mains Test Series. The feedback given in the test series helped me immensely to fine-tune my answers. I was a reader of the IAS Guide magazine too and found it a great supplement for organized current affairs preparation. I also had attended the offline mode sessions of APTI Plus. The experience was great. The organizers were very cordial but more importantly, the interview feedback session was extremely detailed. Much thanks to APTI Plus for being very cordial and made sure my overall experience was very positive. All in all, I would strongly recommend APTI Plus for serious aspirants.

— Abhijit Ray
AIR 50, UPSC CSE 2021

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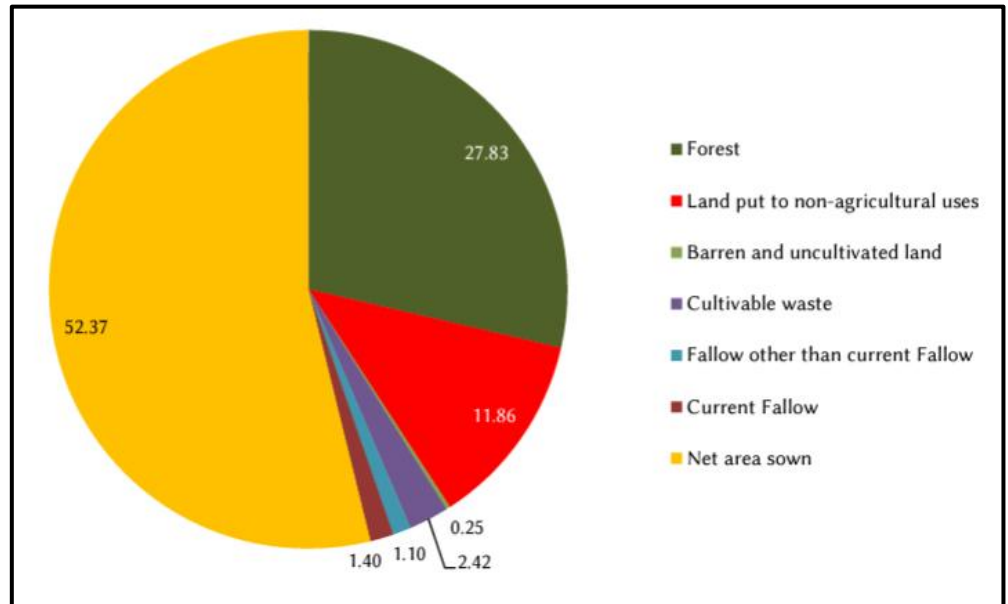
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Agriculture

- Kerala is distinct from other states in terms of its land utilisation and cropping pattern. The increase in the share of the non-agricultural area and fallow land area observed in the State over the years, calls for enhanced productivity from the available cultivable land through modernised agriculture based on science-based inputs and farming practices ensuring higher farm business incomes and ecological sustainability.

Land Use Pattern

- Kerala has witnessed major changes in its land use pattern over the years. The major change is the shift from the cultivation of food crops to non-food crops and increases in area under land put to non-agricultural use. Changes in land use and cropping pattern in Kerala pose a challenge not only to food security but also to the ecological sustainability of the State.



Cropping Pattern

- In the gross cropped area of 25.69 lakh hectares in 2020-21, food crops comprising rice, pulses, tapioca, ragi, small millets, sweet potato and other tubers occupied 11.03 per cent. In 2020-21, food crops except for pulses and small millets showed an increasing trend in production. The production of rice, tapioca, and sweet potato recorded an increase of 6.8 per cent, 16.8 and 56.6 per cent respectively compared to 2019-20. The area under rice, tapioca and sweet potato has recorded an increase of 5.7, 3.5, and 59.3 percent respectively. In the case of spices, pepper showed a decline in production, while the production of ginger and turmeric showed an increase. In the case of plantation crops, coffee, tea and cardamom have shown an increase in production while rubber has shown a marginal decline in production.

Subhiksha Keralam

- The Subhiksha Keralam programme launched in 2020-21 with the objective of attaining food security by enhancing the area, production and productivity of food crops was a major initiative of the State to combat the shortage of food supplies during the Covid-19 pandemic. The activities under this programme include bringing the arable fallow land under cultivation mainly to paddy, vegetables, fruit crops, tubers, pulses and millets. Popularization of Integrated Farming Systems, rain shelter cultivation and facilitating credit facilities to farmers were the other programmes taken up under the initiative.

Rebuild Kerala Initiative

- The State established Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) after the floods of 2018 to develop a green and resilient Kerala.
- Establishment of Agromachinery Care Centre at District Agricultural Farm, Koothali to facilitate the restoration of cultivation in fallow wetlands of Malabar region and establishment of Primary Processing Centers (PPC) in 7 districts and Vegetable and Fruit Processing and Marketing Centre (VFPMC) at Kakkanad, Cochin reported by KSAMM and VFPC are the major achievements under RKI. The establishment of Centre of excellence for vegetables and flowers in Wayanad in collaboration with the Government of Netherlands sanctioned under RKI with the objectives of promoting the cultivation of vegetables and flowers and fetching higher income to the farmers was initiated in 2020-21.

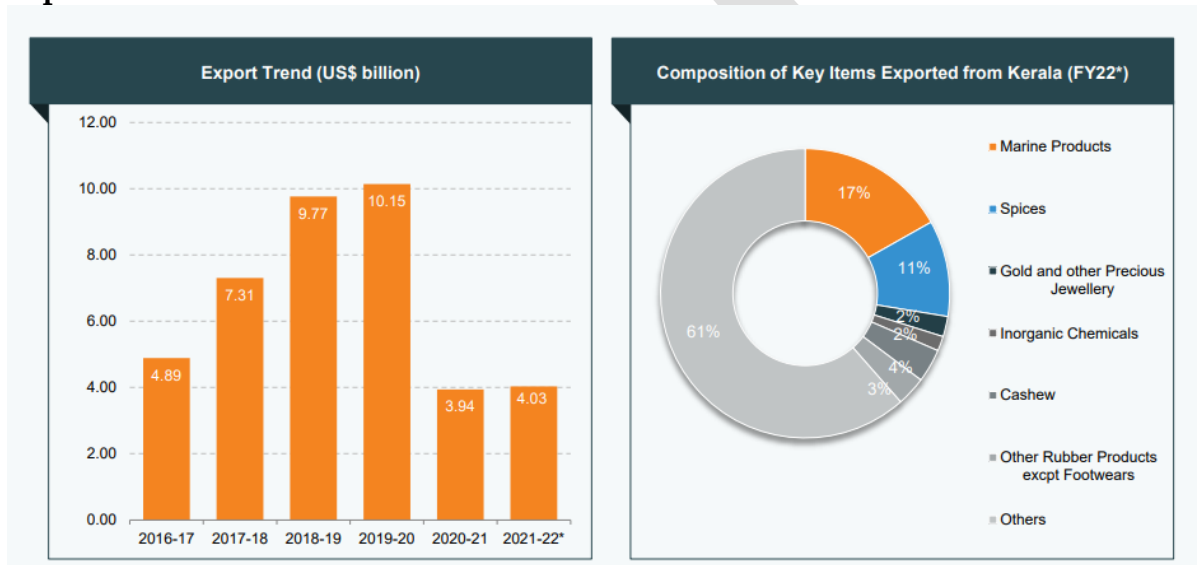
Cooperatives in Kerala

- The cooperative sector can play a significant role in the development of an economy. In Kerala, the huge network of cooperatives has a wide reach in rural areas.
- Prior to the formation of Kerala State, cooperative societies were formed on the basis of different cooperative laws that existed in the erstwhile Cochin, Travancore and Malabar. After the integration of Travancore and Cochin States in 1951, the Travancore-Cochin Cooperative Societies Act came into force. Later, after the formation of Kerala State, a uniform law, the Kerala Cooperative Societies Act, was enacted in 1969. Thereafter, the Government of Kerala passed the Kerala Cooperative (Amendment) Act 1999, which came into force in 2000. The cooperative system in Kerala is one of the most vibrant in the country. Cooperative societies in the State have played a vital role in the economic upliftment of the people particularly the weaker and marginalized people in rural areas. The State has an extensive network of cooperatives engaged in various activities, including agricultural credit, the public distribution system, the distribution of agricultural commodities, health, education including professional education, housing, agro-processing and development of Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe, women's development, and fisheries. The movement has made tremendous progress in all spheres of the lives of the people.

Vanitha Cooperatives

- The cooperative movement has made a significant contribution to women's empowerment. The Kerala Women Cooperative Federation Ltd (Vanithafed), is an apex federation of Primary Women's Cooperative Societies. As on March 2021, 1238 Women Cooperative Societies are functioning, of which 956 societies are working, 248 are dormant and 34 are under liquidation. The main objective of the Federation is to provide integrated credit and services to the beneficiaries through its member societies in an effective manner for improving the social and economic condition of the women in the State.

Export trends of Kerala



Physical Infrastructure - Roads

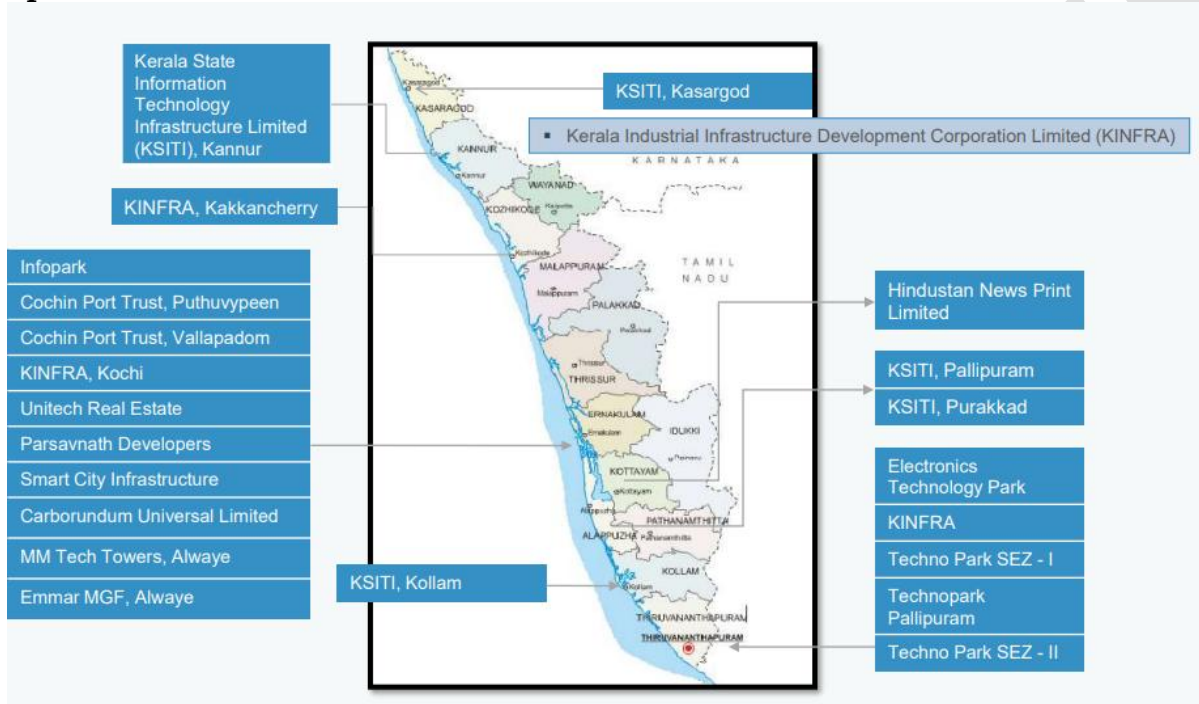
- Under the State Budget 2022-23, the government has allocated Rs. 5,664 crore (US\$ 742.6 million) for roads and bridges. In October 2020, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs, Mr. Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 8 National Highway projects in Kerala. He announced that as part of Bharatmala Pariyojana, 35,000 km of National Highways are being constructed. Out of this,

Year	Road works (No)
2014-15	118
2015-16	155
2016-17	126
2017-18	60
2018-19	26

as part of BharatmalaPariyojana in the state, 1,234 km of National Highways are being built. In February 2021, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched the ‘Smart Roads’ project in Thiruvananthapuram that will be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 427 crore (US\$ 58.91 million). It envisages conversion of 37 kms of existing roads to smart roads by bringing all overhead utilities underground and undertaking road and junction improvements.

Roads in Kerala	
Road type	Road length (km)
National highways (as of FY21)	1,781.57
State highways (as of FY20)	1,56,694
Other Roads	56,08,477
Total	58,97,671

Special Economic Zones



Advantage Kerala (VISION 2030)

- Industry:** Increase the share of manufacturing to 10% of the GSDP by 2030. Sustained increase in employment in manufacturing.
- Transport:** Green, sustainable and safe transport.
- Energy:** Affordable and clean power to all. Exploit the full potential of hydro-electric generation. 100% electrified households with 24*7 availability.
- Education:** Provide high quality education at affordable rates. Create a global brand name in education and develop into a knowledge hub by 2030.
- Health:** Increase health expenditure to GSDP ratio from 0.6% in 2012 to 4- 5% by 2027–31. Set up three medical cities by 2030. Provide health insurance cover to all.
- Agriculture and Livestock:** Shift from subsistence farming to highly knowledge-intensive, competitive farming. Self-sufficiency in the supply of fish, meat, milk and other dairy products to the local market.

MISCELLANEOUS

Famous Personalities of Kerala

- Adoor Gopalakrishnan:** Adoor Gopalakrishnan is a famous personality of Kerala and is also an Indian film director, producer and scriptwriter. He has produced numerous films in Malayalam, and most of his movies are about the culture and society of Kerala. Gopalakrishnan has won the national film award and Kerala state film

award numerous times. Adoor Gopalakrishnan was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2006 and Padma Shri in 1984. He was also awarded the Kerala government's highest honour award JC Daniel Award for his contribution to Malayalam cinema in 2016.

- Anju Bobby George:** Anju Bobby George, a famous personality of Kerala was born in the Kottayam district of Kerala, and is a well-known athlete in India. She created history when she secured the third position in the long jump at World Championships in 2003 and became the first Indian athlete by winning a medal in the world championship. Anju Bobby George won a gold medal at the IAAF world athletics in 2005. The Indian government awarded her with the Padma Shri award in 2004. She was also awarded Khel Ratna in 2003 and Arjuna Award in 2002. In 2021 Anju got the BBC lifetime achievement award for being the best athlete.
- PT Usha:** PT Usha, also known as the Golden girl in India, was born in the Kozhikode district of Kerala. She is a well-known Indian track and field athlete and is often called the queen of Indian track and field. She was active in sports from 1976 to 2000. In the 1998 Asian Championships in Athletics, she represented India in the 4 x 100 metres relay and won a gold medal, and their team set a national record of 44.43 s. The personal best record of PT Usha in the 100 m is 11.39 s.
- KJ Yesudas:** KJ Yesudas is a well known Indian classical singer. He has recorded more than 50,000 songs in different languages. He holds a record of singing eleven songs in various languages in one day. Yesudas was awarded the Padma Vibhushan award in 2017, Padma Bhushan Award in 2002 and Padma Shri in 1975. He has also won the National Film Award and the Kerala state film award for best singer 25 times.

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UNESCO World Heritage Site

Western Ghats which runs through Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat is a UNSECO World Heritage Site. Older than the great Himalayan mountain chain, the Western Ghats of India are a geomorphic feature of immense global importance. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Western Ghats is manifested in the region's unique and fascinating influence on large-scale biophysical and ecological processes over the entire Indian peninsula.

State Symbols

State Animal	Indian Elephant
State Bird	Great Indian Hornbill
State Fish	Green Chromide
State Flower	Golden Shower Tree
State Tree	Coconut Tree
State Fruit	Jackfruit

State Butterfly	Malabar Branded Peacock
State Dance	Kathakali

GI Tags

AranmulaKannadi	Alleppey Coir	Balaramapuram Sarees and Fine Cotton Fabrics	Brass broidered coconut shell craft of Kerala
Cannanore Home Furnishings	Central Travancore Jaggery	ChendamangalamDhoties& Set Mundu	Chengalikodan Banana
Kasaragod Sarees	Kuthampallydhoties and set mundu	Maddalam of Palakkad	Payyannur Pavithra Ring
Pokkali Rice	Screw Pine Craft of Kerala	Vazhakulam Pineapple	Wayanad Gandhakasala Rice
Wayanad Jeerakasala Rice	Navara rice Agricultural	Palakkadan Matta Rice	Spices Alleppey Green Cardamom
Malabar Pepper	Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee	Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee	Kuthampully Sarees
Nilambur Teak	Wayanad Robusta Coffee	Marayoor Jaggery (Marayoor Sharkara)	Tirur Betel Leaf(TirurVettila)
Kaipad Rice	Maddalam of Palakkad Logo	Brass Broidered Coconut Shell Craft Logo	Screw Pinecraft of Kerala Logo
Alleppey Green Cardamom			


Major Tribes

- Adiyan:** They are inhabitants of the Wayanad District. They are found in Edappady, Cherur, Mottonkara, Kuppathode and Mudiramula, Bavali and in the low-lying lands of Thaliparamba and North Waynad Taluks. They are also to be found in Mysore State. A dialect of Kannada is their mother Tongue and it is unintelligible to others. Those settled in Kerala can converse in Malayalam. The majority of Adiyans are low-paid agricultural labourers and it is possible that in the early years they may have been agricultural slaves. Adiyans are Hindus by religion but have no temples of their own.
- Aranadans:** They are inhabitants of the Kozhikode District. They speak a very corrupt dialect of Tamil, Malayalam and Tulu. Their principal occupation now is cutting bamboo and collecting hill produce. Very limited numbers have started participating in agricultural operations. Aranadans have no religion, and not even a correct conception of animism and totemism. Some pretend to have good knowledge of the Hindu religion and have no objection to being known as Hindus. Visiting temples is not popular.
- Cholanaikkans:** They are inhabitants of the Malappuram District. They speak among themselves. It does not have a script. Some of them speak Malayalam. In their dialect, we can distinguish words from Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam. The forest is the major economic resource for the Cholanaikkan community. Foraging, fishing and hunting are the three major activities. Rice and other commodities are available to them through the exchange of minor forest produce at the Girijan Co-operative society. Fishing is seasonal. They are able to fish mostly during the summer season only. Forest produce such as dammer, cardamom, ginger, pepper, turmeric, astringent fruit, medicinal roots and barks, oilseeds and honey are collected for barter.
- Eravallans:** They are inhabitants of the Palghat District. They speak a poor dialect of Tamil and to a visitor in Malayalam. Eravallans are either agriculturists or farm labourers. A few own land which they cultivate successfully. The early occupations of hunting and food picking, and the restrictions regarding entering service have disappeared. Eravallans were animists and totemists of the highest order. Even now there are many who practice primitive animism, and worship animals, trees and stones and claim origin from them. They celebrate Onam, Vishu, Mattu Pongal festivals.
- Hill Pulayas:** They are inhabitants of the Kottayam and Idukki District. The Hill Pulaya's dialect is both Tamil and Malayalam influence dominated by Tamil words and phrases. Others speak either Malayalam or Tamil language and use its script. The major economic resource of Hill pulayais land. The community is mainly landholding. The government had allotted a minimum of one acre of land per family in each hamlet, and they have taken settled cultivation. Nonskilled daily wage labour, animal husbandry, petty shop and collection of minor forest produce are their subsidiary occupations. The Hill Pulayas are Hindus.

6. **Irulars:** They are inhabitants of the Palghat District. The dialect of those in Kerala includes quite a lot of Malayalam Phrases and a visitor with knowledge of Malayalam or Tamil can fare well. Irulars are preserving and clever agriculturists. A few are still Ponam cultivators. Both men and women take an active part in agricultural operations, hunting, rearing and vending goats and poultry. A small number of Irulars continue their animistic practices, treat the tiger as their visible god, and worship its footprints. The majority worship Vishnu under the name of Rangaswami and Siva without differentiation.
7. **Kadars:** They are inhabitants of the Palghat, Trichur, Calicut and Kannur Districts. Kadars have a proverb that the way to the heart is through the mouth, and a wife who is a good cook can be very successful in life. They are also seen in the Madras State. A visitor with knowledge of Malayalam or Tamil can fare well with them. Pathies are on slightly raised mud and on all sides with flattened bamboo and grass. Usually, they consist of one room, a corner of which is used as the kitchen. Modern kadars like to be known as Hindus and to use Hindu names. Primitive polytheism and the worship of invisible gods have considerably disappeared. Their customs and conventions indicate that they had been strong animists not long ago.
8. **Kannikarans:** They are inhabitants of the Trivandrum and Kollam Districts. They speak adialect of Malayalam with an admixture of Tamil. Kanikkars have the most elaborate division of exogamous Pharties (clans). Originally they had only the clans known as Mutti-illom and Mer-illom. Later two more, Kayy-illom Pali-illom came into existence. Modern kanis may be described as Hindus. They revere and worship the entire pantheon of Hindu Gods.
9. **Karimpalans:** They are inhabitants of the Kannur and Kozhikode Districts. Karimpalans speak a corrupt dialect of Malayalam with a few Tulu words and phrases. Karimpalans were principally ponum cultivators but deforestation and the opening up of new plantations have stopped it. There are now small groups who do independent cultivation on leasehold lands. Preparing and vending charcoal is another important occupation that is now facing serious setbacks. Karimpalans were animists and totemists, but now they like to be known as Hindus, visit temples and make special offerings to Kali and Siva.
10. **Kattunayakans:** They are inhabitants of the Kozhikode and Kannur Districts. They speak Malayalam and Tamil. Some of them are conversant with the Kannada language. Kattunayakans have the most disappointing type of huts. They are long, but very low, and the floor is level with the ground. The sides are of flattened bamboo, and the roof is covered with straw or grass. The kattunaickan are in different stages of development and based on their source of livelihood, they can be classified into four categories such as 1. Food gatherers and landless labourers who work on the land and nearby forest regions. 2. Temporary cultivators who own less fertile land which is insufficient for their living. 3. Cultivators who own fertile land. 4. Employees as mahouts in forest departments and Devasoms.
11. **Koragars:** They are inhabitants of the Kannur District. They speak Koraga dialect within the family kin group and with others, they speak Tulu, Malayalam and Kannada languages. The major economic resources for the Koraga are forest and land. The forest resources are controlled by government and land by individual proprietors. In the community, only a few own land. Their traditional occupations are hunting, gathering, basket making and labour. In the past, they were also engaged in collecting animal bones, skin and medicinal plants. The Koraga profess Hinduism. They are nature and sun worshippers.
12. **Kudiya:** They inhabit the hills and foothills of Kasargod District and its adjoining areas South Karnataka. The Kudiya's mother tongue is Tulu althoschool-going children learn both Kannada and Malayalam. The major economic resources for Kudiya's are forest and land. Hunting and gathering from the forests used to be their mainstay along with labour work. After the Kerala Land Reforms Act was passed, many of them got their own land which they cultivated. The Kudiya women are active in agricultural operations and animal husbandry. They collect fuel and potable water. They go to for work at construction sites. They have important roles in rituals. The Kudiya profess the Hindu faith and worship village and regional deities besides the wider pantheon now. Festivals are of religious significance and the main one is Sivaratri.
13. **Kurichians:** They are inhabitants of the Kannur and Kozhikode District. The Kurichian speak and write Malayalam within family and with others, though with a distinctive accent and intonation. The economy of Kurichian is based on agriculture. The cultivation in the lands made available by the forest department. They are very disturbed about the ever increasing population and scarcity of land. The Kurichian are Hindus tribal religionists.
14. **Kurumba:** They live in the dense forests of Attappadi Valley, Palakkad District. The patios seem to be a debased

form of Kannada. Except a very few who can converse in Malayalam. The Kurumba are foragers and shifting cultivators. At present also their economy is mainly revolving around their traditional occupation of collecting forest products like honey, wax, soapnut, turmeric, ginger and wild cardamoms. The Kurumba know the art of body tattooing. Skill in the manufacture of baskets and mats reveals their craftsmanship. Kurumbas are animists and totemists and there has not been much change in their early forms of worship.

15. **Mala Arayans:** They are inhabitants of the Peerumadu, Devikolam and Thodupuzha taluks of the Idukki District and Kanjirapally and Meenachil taluks of the Kottayam District. They speak and write in Malayalam among themselves and also with outsiders. The educated members are able to speak in English and in Hindi. The MalaiArayan were dependent on shifting cultivation, hunting and food gathering. Now the conditions have significantly changed. The forests have been reserved and hence food collection, hunting and shifting cultivations have been prohibited. The Mala Arayans are now engaged in different kinds of occupations such as agriculture, agricultural labour, white-collar job and business.



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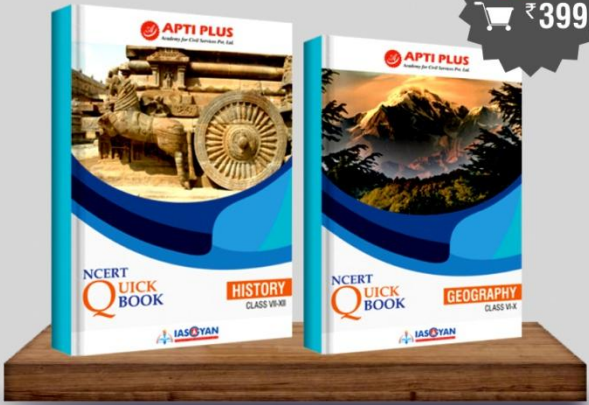
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State Government Schemes

- CARe scheme:** The Scheme of CARe Kerala (Co-operative Alliance to Rebuild Kerala) consists of three projects: CARe-Home, CARe-Loan, CARe-Grace.
CARe-Home Envisages the construction of 1500 Houses at 1st phase & 2500 Houses in 2nd phase with a total outlay of 200 crores fully funded by way of contributions from the co-operative sector and the Member Relief Fund. CAR e-Loan aims to devise need-specific loan products for different segments of people affected by the calamity. At present, participation under RKLS has been taken as a priority in this sector. CARe-Grace aims to help members of the Flood-affected families, mentally and socially by giving counselling and mental trauma care. The programme envisages counselling sessions, and setting up of a help desk to assist the deprived families to regain their confidence and to instil a sense of hope to re-build their lives.
- Rebuild Kerala:** Rebuild Kerala is a State Government initiative aimed at rebuilding roads better after the floods. High quality and durable road infrastructure is a pre requisite for social, economic and industrial development of any state. As a part of Rebuild Kerala Initiative, Government have constituted the Project Management Unit (PMU) for the reconstruction of damaged road assets.
- Vimukthi:** Vimukthi is an anti-narcotics campaign launched by the Government of Kerala to highlight the

seriousness of the situation and to create awareness among the people, especially the youth. It is a collective effort aims at eradicating all sorts of narcotic substances from Kerala. It is being implemented with the help of students Police Cadets, Vimukthi Anti Drug Clubs of School and Colleges, National Service Scheme, Kudumbasree, Residence Association, State Library Council, and anti alcoholic organization, Different student, youth and Women's organizations and Vimukthi Committees formed in Ward, Panchayat and Block levels of Local Bodies.

4. **Trauma Care Programme:** The Kerala government today decided to draw up a comprehensive trauma care programme to ensure emergency medical assistance for road accident victims. As part of the initiative, advanced trauma care facilities would be launched in the government medical colleges, district and taluk hospitals and major private medical care institutions.
5. **Operation Gurukulam:** Kochi City Police has decided to launch Operation Gurukulam an initiative of Kottayam Police to seek out and rehabilitate students addicted to drugs, in the city too. They are planning to join hands with the colleges and schools in the city for its successful implementation.

Current Affairs

1. **Kerala launches 'One India One Gold Rate':** Kerala is first state to launch 'One India One Gold Rate' policy. Kerala is the first state in India which introduced a standard gold price based on the bank rate. The decision to introduce uniform price on 916 purity 22 carat gold has been taken at a meeting between officials of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country and key members of All Kerala Gold and Silver Merchants Association.
2. **Kerala's Pullampara is India's first fully digital literate panchayat:** Pullampara became the first grama panchayat in the country to attain full digital literacy among its residents. The 'Digi Pullampara' project was launched on August 15, 2021 to impart digital education to the most underprivileged sections of society in the panchayat.
3. **Kerala govt launches mobile app to prevent cyber crimes against children:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Kunjapp', a mobile application to prevent cyber crimes against children in the state. Vijayan also inaugurated the training for the newly appointed Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) members at Kovalam. Child exploitation can be reported through the application.
4. **Kerala govt to launch desi alternative of Uber, Ola; online cab service Kerala Savari launching next month:** The Kerala government is all set to come up with a 'desi' alternative to the popular corporate online cabs by launching its own e-taxi service from next month, considered to be the first such initiative by any state government in the country.
5. **Kerala becomes first state to have own internet service:** Kerala has now become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet. The announcement came in the wake of the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd, an ambitious IT infrastructure project of the government to make the internet accessible to everyone in the state, receiving the Internet Service Provider (ISP) license from the Department of Telecommunications.
6. **Kerala's start-up ecosystem ranked best in Asia for affordable talent, in global report:** The start-up ecosystem in Kerala has been ranked the best in Asia and fourth in terms of Affordable Talent in the Global Start-up Ecosystem Report.
7. **New plant species discovered in Idukki, Kerala:** A new plant species has been discovered in Idukki district by researchers at the postgraduate and research department of Botany at St. Albert's College in Kochi. They fall under the genus Peperomia and the newly discovered plant has been named 'Peperomia Albertiae' in recognition of the work carried out by researchers.
8. **Kerala govt to launch app for diagnosing, controlling lifestyle diseases:** The Kerala government is ready to launch an Android app '-Shaili App' -aimed at diagnosing a controlling lifestyle disease among people in the southern State. The app has been set up as part of the population and based screening project launched by the Health Department under the Nava Kerala Karma plan.
9. **Kerala to launch India's first state-owned OTT platform:** In a first in the country, Kerala will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform, CSpace, on November 1, offering film lovers an array of movies, short films, and documentaries of their choice. CSpace is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) on behalf of the state government.
10. **Kerala signs MoU with Netherlands for Cosmos Malabaricus project:** Kerala and Netherlands have signed an MoU for the Cosmos Malabaricus project to help illustrate the history of the southern state in the 18th century,

said the state government. The agreement also aims to establish paint academics at Kollam and Malappuram. The MoU has been signed in the presence of Pinarayi Vijayan, chief minister, Kerala & Marten van den Berg, Netherlands.

11. **Kerala Becomes First State To Introduce Carbon Neutral Farming:** Kerala is set to become the first state in the country to implement carbon in selected places, neutral agricultural practices for which the government has budgeted 6 crores in the 2022 Carbon-- 23 fiscal year. neutral farming will be introduced at 13 farms under the Agriculture Department and tribal regions in the first phase.
12. **KSUM partners with Google for start-ups to foster global links:** Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) has announced a collaboration with tech giant Google for local start-ups to connect with the global start-up community. This wider network enables local start-ups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of start-up teams to help scale up their solutions.
13. **Kerala government signed an MoU with Social Alpha to develop clean energy tech:** The Kerala government signed an MoU with Social Alpha, a joint initiative of Tata Trust and the Indian government, through its Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC). The Energy Management Centre (EMC) and Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) are part of the project.
14. **First electric boat built for Kochi Water Metro Project handed over to KMRL:** In Kerala, the first battery powered electric boat built for the Kochi Water Metro Project was handed over to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited. The fully airconditioned boat is among the 23 boats being built by the Cochin Shipyard for the 747 crore rupee Kochi Water Metro project. Kochi Water Metro System will have 78 ferries, linking 38 terminals spread over 76 route kilometre.
15. **Kerala gets its first Bird Atlas; records of 361 bird species:** Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA) is a first of a kind state--MET) in level bird atlas in India. The atlas, curated over years, covers a few species found in the State. Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health. As per reports, is Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling efforts, and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists.

Water Disputes & Border Disputes

Mullaperiyar Dam Issue:

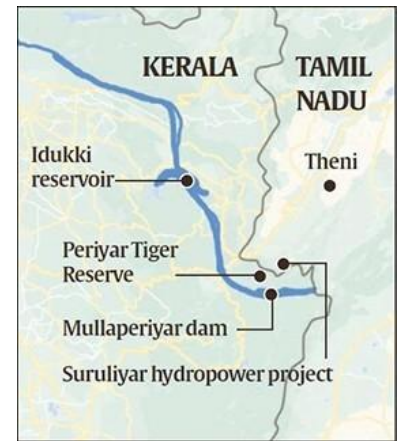
- The issue of the maximum water level in the Mullaperiyar dam and the possibility of a dam break has revived the controversy surrounding the Tamilnadu Kerala relations.
- In 1979, a problem erupted over the safety of the dam which led to a tripartite meeting that decided to bring the water level from the full reservoir level of 152 ft to 136 ft. By mid-1990, Tamil Nadu started demanding restoration of the water level in the Mullaperiyar as it had completed the dam strengthening works. When no consensus was reached through negotiations, the Supreme Court was approached. The Supreme Court in February 2006 allowed Tamil Nadu to raise the water level of the dam to 152ft. In response to that, Kerala government enacted Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2006 and put the second schedule of Mullaperiyar Dam as endangered and fixed its maximum water level to 136ft. In 2014, the apex court declared the Act unconstitutional and restrained Kerala from interfering with the rights of Tamil Nadu in raising the water level in the dam to 142 feet.

Dam safety

- The Mullaperiyar dam suffers from structural issues and the possibility of a dam break cannot be ruled out. The dam is in an earthquake-prone area and small-time earthquakes that happened in 1979 and 2011 caused some cracks in the dam. The leakage in the dam is another cause of concern. According to the UN University report, 35 lakh people in Kerala will be directly hit in the case of a dam break.
- For Tamil Nadu, the Mullaperiyar dam is like a lifeline for the people of Madras Presidency for irrigation and drinking. The dam is also significant for the generation of the power in lower Periyar water station as the region is shadowy and arid. So, the government of Tamil Nadu insists on raising the water level in the dam pointing out the failure of crops. The government has also asserted that it has full right over the control of the dam. Tamil Nadu has challenged the Kerala's proposal for decommissioning of the dam and construction of a new dam.

Parambikulam-Aliyar Project issue

- The project was signed between Tamil Nadu and Kerala in 1970 with retrospective effect from November 1958 to divert and integrate 8 West flowing rivers - 6 in the Anaimalai Hills and 2 in the plains.
- The objective is to benefit the drought-prone areas in the Coimbatore and Erode districts of Tamilnadu State and to stabilize the existing irrigation system in Chittoorpuzha of Kerala State. The agreement ensures Kerala's riparian share in the Sholayar and Chittoorpuzha sub-basins as a guaranteed annual entitlement without applying the distress-sharing formula. It also ensures four months' flow (from the Northeast monsoons) from the Upper Nirar weir for Kerala's exclusive use in the Periyarbasin. The agreement provides for review every 30 years since November 9, 1958 but it remains inconclusive.



Kerala's concerns

- Kerala has reservations about the non-realisation of its share of 2.5 tmc of water from the Parambikulam group of rivers for the exclusive use of Chittoorpuzha valley. Construction of some structures in the project area without Kerala's concurrence is another area of concern.

Tamil Nadu's stand

- It has proposed new constructions to augment its share – the Nirar-Nallar Project and Balancing Reservoir above Manacadavu for which Kerala has not consented. In the last 20 years, the Chalakudy basin experienced overflow in 12 years and a sizeable portion of the water is also lost as unutilisable flows. The way forward lies in trapping the existing spill at Chalakudy and Bharathappuzha through new reservoirs.





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