

DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES

IDUKKI KERALA

SURVEY OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IDUKKI DISTRICT

The objective of this 'Map Series' is to provide users and planners with topographic and thematic information related to a district. The name 'IDUKKI' derives from the Malayalam word 'Idukki' refers to a narrow gorge between two granite hills where the 'Idukki Arch Dam' is built across Periyar River.

The district, with its headquarters at Pinnavayal, was formed on 29th January 1972, carving out Devikulam Pinnad and Udumbanchola Talukas of Kottayam District and Todupuzha Taluka of Ernakulam District. The archaeological excavations at Marayyil, Bilan Valley, Tondimalal and Vandiyevil give evidences of a well developed prehistoric civilization which once existed here. Historians believe that present Kullim in Pinnad was the capital of Sangam age. During the 10th century, high ranges was part of Vempolli and later it was split into Vadakkumkur and Thekkumkur Rajas which were annexed with the princely state of Travancore by Raja Marthanda Varma in 1849-50.

The history of present population is very recent. Habitation grew here consequent to the 'Grow - more - food' campaign and the migrants who braved the inclement weather, wild animals, epidemic and labour struggles became the nucleus of the present population.

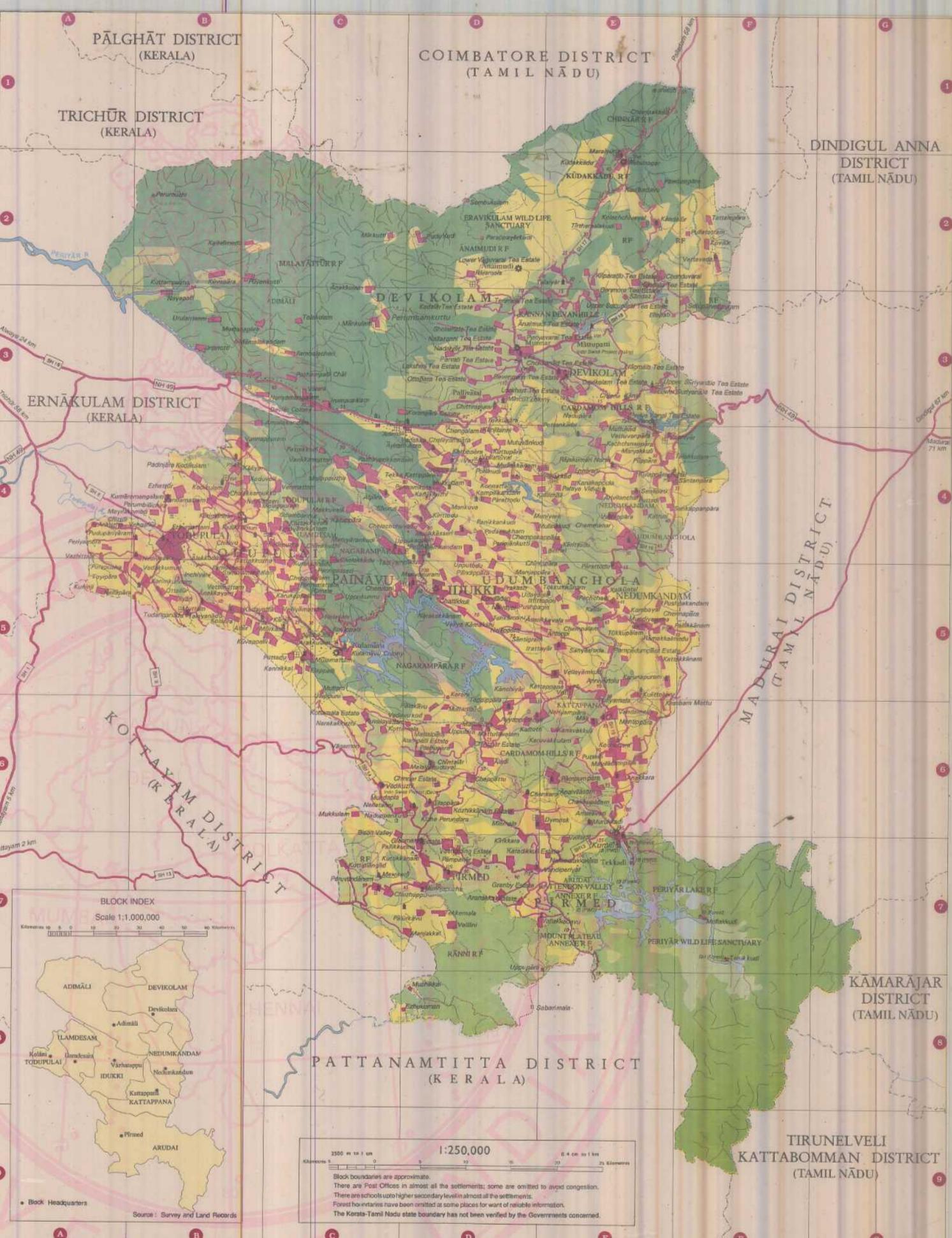
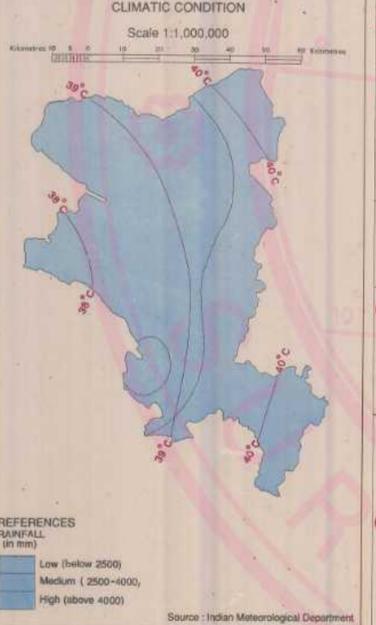
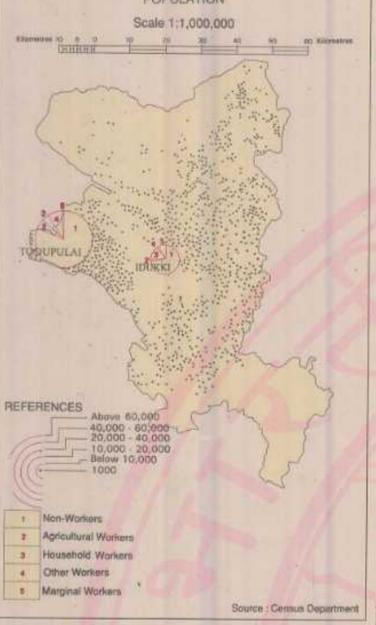
Sprawling over an area of 5078 sq. kms., the district is divided into four talukas, eight development blocks, fiftyone panchayats and sixtyfive villages. The region has unique geographical characteristics and an undulating topography. Though the major portion of the district lies in the mountainous tract of the Western Ghats, rivers Periyar, Talayar, Todupuzha, Idamala and Pamba etc., flow through the valleys. The 2685 metre high Anaimudi, the highest peak in southern peninsula, the thick forested sylvan forests starting the towering granite hills, the gorgeous velvet valleys and hills of tea, coffee and cardamom plantations etc., give a delightful panoramic view to the district.

The district has a population of 10,78,555 as per 1991 census, comprising of Christians, Hindus, Muslims and the Tribals. Economy of the district is predominantly agricultural. Cardamom Small (Queen of Spices) produced here contributes the maximum share to the national production. The next major crop is tea and the biggest tea plantations are Kannan Devan and Malayalam Plantations. Cassava, rubber, rice, coffee, coconut and sugarcane are the other notable crops. Animal husbandry and dairy farming have received a boost by the Indo Swiss Project in collaboration with Kerala Livestock Development and Milk Marketing Board.

The western region has a moderate climate while the eastern parts experience a pleasant cold climate. Trees like rosewood, teak, doodar, sandalwood, white cedar, acacia etc., are found along the eastern region and all kinds of wild animals except lions abound in the forests here. The grasslands of Pinnad, the natural habitat of deer, wild goat and similar game, are a haven for carnivores like tigers and leopards. The Tiger (Striped goat) of Marayyil and Rajmala is found nowhere else in the world.

Though Idukki is the major power source for the state, the district is industrially backward due to lack of transportation facilities. No railway passes through the district.

Green and serene, with its matchless scenic beauty, the district has tremendous tourist potential. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and the Lake at Tekkadi - the domain of elephants, Idukki Arch Dam - the first of its kind in India, Cheruvu Dam - with its beautiful glades and dales, Kullamavu - its salubrious climate, Devikulam - its rare fauna and flora, Pinnad Power Station, Indo Swiss Project at Muttam and the famous temples and churches etc., are some of the tourist attractions of the district.



REFERENCES

Boundary, international
Boundary, state (demarcated), undemarcated
Boundary, district (subdivision, taluk or taluk form)
Boundary, block
Boundary, panchayat (reserved), unreserved
Road, metalled, according to road width: 30 ft, 20 ft, 15 ft, 10 ft, 5 ft
Road, unmetalled, according to road width: 30 ft, 20 ft, 15 ft, 10 ft, 5 ft
Canal, rock-lined and pass, forebay with bridge
Bridge with pier, without. Concrete. Foot or ferry
Railway, broad gauge (double, single with signal, under construction)
Railway, other gauge (double, single with signal, under construction)
Main road or highway, main power line, cutting with support
Stream with rock in bed, unbridged, canal
Dam: masonry or rock-filled, earthen, weir
Dam banks: masonry, steep, 10 ft or more, over 6 metres
Bank, dry with water channel, with bank & rocks, fall line
Submerged rocks, shoal, sailing, beach
Well: lined, unlined, tubewell, spring, fath: perennial/dry
Inhabitation: road or rail, tank, broken ground
Settlement: urban, rural, farm
Hill, prominent, temporary, tower, antenna
Temple, Chhatri, Church, Mosque, Mgh, Tank, Ghat
Lighthouse, Lightship, Buoy: lighted, unlighted, Anchorage
Mine, Colliery, Gas & Slaughter
Cinema & Theatre, Temple area
Post office, telephone office, Post & Telephone office, Police station
Bungalow, club or recreation, inspection, fire house
Club house, camping ground, forest, reserved, protected
Hospital, Dispensary, Veterinary Hospital
Place of tourist interest

Names: other places of interest
Name: settlements
Name: taluk headquarters
Name: headquarters / district

TEKKADI
DEVIKOLAM
PINNAD
PAINÄVU

