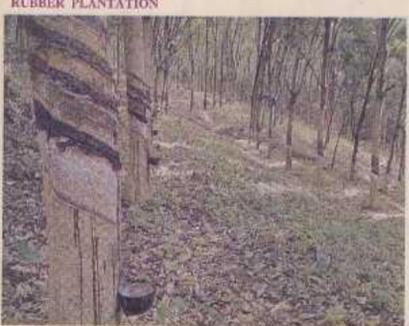




DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES

KOTTAYAM

KOTTAYAM
KERALA



SURVEY OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

KOTTAYAM DISTRICT

The objective of this 'Map series' is to provide users and planners with topographic and thematic information related to the district.

KOTTAYAM - the name of this land of latex and lakes is the distorted form of Malayalam word 'kottayakam' meaning the interior of fort.

During the sangam age Kottayam was part of the Kuttanad and from 9th to 12th century it was under the rule of Kulasekharas of Vempnad which got later split into Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur Rajas. During 1743-54 Raja Marthanda Varma annexed these Kingdoms with Travancore. Subsequently to the State Integration of July 1956 United State of Travancore-Cochin was formed with three revenue divisions as Kottayam, Quilon and Travancur.

The present Kottayam district has an area of 2204 sq.km, divided into 5 taluks, 8 developmental blocks and 73 panchayats comprising of 101 villages. The region is naturally divided into highlands having non plantations, mid-lands of undulating country and the lowlands bordering the west. A small area of the district is covered with natural forests having rare flora and fauna and the main-roads forests abound in extensive plantations of rubber, eucalyptus, teak-wood, softwood and cashew. The rivers Minchali, Muvattupuzha, Menmathi flow through the district and empty their waters into the Vembanad Lake.

The district has a population of 18,28,271 as per 1991 census comprising of Hindus, Christians, Muslims and few Tribals. Paddy is the mainstay of the people and Tapioca is another major food crop. The major cash crops - rubber, coconut, pepper, rice, coffee are grown on a large scale. Climate is tropical and plain areas receive plenty of rains. The district is having many rubber-based industries like latex, crepe rubber and the increasing output in the processing of rubber has made Kottayam the headquarters of the Rubber Board. Wood based industries provide jobs to a large number of people in the district.

Kottayam had an important role in the freedom struggle and other political agitations. The famous Vaikom Satyagraha of 1924-25 was an epic struggle for the eradication of untouchability, attracted the attention of the whole nation. The venture was blessed by the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders. In the history of Journalism, Kottayam has a prominent role. The daily Malayala Manorama published from the capital, started in 1890, has the largest circulation in India. The place of the first newspaper, English School, printing press, travelogue, autobiography and the oldest library, the highest literacy rate etc. keep Kottayam in a place of honour in the cultural map of Kerala.

The capital, Kottayam town, a prominent commercial centre, is on the foothills of Western Ghats and readily accessible by roads, railways and backwaters. Remarkably fertile and brilliantly green throughout the district has panoramic landscapes, hill ranges, backwaters, lush green fields and stretches of plantations. Kuttanagaram - well known for its Birds' Sanctuary, the much venerated Thiruvakkara Mathodevar Kshetram, the ancient royal temple at Talikettu, the Siva Temple at Vaikom, the mosques at Tallicherry and Ennethi, St. Mary's Church at Changanassery, St. Joseph's Monastery at Mannanam and the boat races of Changanassery in the Minchali River etc. are some of the tourist attractions of the district.

