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Preview Pages 2004 to 2060 are not shown in this preview. State in India This article is about the Indian state. For other uses, see Kerala (disambiguation). State in IndiaKeralaState Clockwise from top:Niyamasabha Mandiram, Kochi city skyline, Sunset at Muzhappilangad Drive-in Beach, Munnar hill station, Athirappilangad Drive-in Beach, Athirappilangad Drive-in Beach, Athirappilangad Drive-in Beach, 
EmblemNickname(s): God's Own Country, Spice Garden of India, Land of Coconuts, Land of Trees, The Jewel of South India[1]Location of KeralaCoordinates: 10°N 76°E / 10; 76Country IndiaStatehood1 November 1956; 65 years ago (1956-11-10) ago (1956-11-10).
01)CapitalThiruvananthapuramDistricts14Government • BodyGovernment • GvernorArif Mohammad Khan • Chief MinisterPinarayi Vijayan (CPI(M)) • LegislatureUnicameral (141 seats) • Parliamentary constituencies Rajya Sabha (9 seats) Lok Sabha (20 seats) • High CourtKerala High CourtArea • Total38,863 km2
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(US$3,700)Languages • OfficialMalayalam[4] • Additional officialEnglish[5][6]Time zoneUTC+05:30 (IST)ISO 3166 codeIN-KLVehicle registrationKLHDI (2019) 0.782[7] (High) · 1stLiteracy (2018)96.2%[8]Sex ratio (2011)1084 Q/1000 \(\sigma'[9]\)Websitekerala.gov.inSymbols of KeralaEmblemEmblem of Kerala Language Malayalam[4]Mammal Indian
 elephant[10]Bird Great hornbill[10]Fish Green chromideButterfly Papilio buddha[11]Flower Golden shower tree[10]Fruit Jackfruit[12]Tree Coconut tree[10] Kerala (English: /ˈkɛrələ/ KERR-ə-lə; Malayalam: [keːɾɐ[em] (listen)) is a state on the Malabar Coast of India.[13] It was formed on 1 November 1956, following the passage of the States
Reorganisation Act, by combining Malayalam-speaking regions of the erstwhile regions of Cochin, Malabar, South Canara, and Travancore.[14][15] Spread over 38,863 km2 (15,005 sq mi), Kerala is the 21st largest Indian state by area. It is bordered by Karnataka to the north and northeast, Tamil Nadu to the east and south, and the Lakshadweep
Sea[16] to the west. With 33 million inhabitants as per the 2011 census, Kerala is the 13th-largest Indian state by population. It is divided into 14 districts with the capital being Thiruvananthapuram. Malayalam is the most widely spoken language and is also the official language of the state.[17] The Chera Dynasty was the first prominent kingdom
based in Kerala. The Ay kingdom in the deep south and the Ezhimala kingdom in the early years of the Common Era (CE). The region had been a prominent spice exporter since 3000 BCE. In the 15th
century, the spice trade attracted Portuguese traders to Kerala, and paved the way for European colonisation of India. At the time of Indian independence movement in the early 20th century, there were two major princely states in Kerala; Travancore and Cochin. They united to form the state of Thiru-Kochi in 1949. The Malabar region, in the
northern part of Kerala, had been a part of the Madras Province of British India, which later became a part of the Madras State post-independence. After the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, the modern-day state of Kerala was formed by merging the Malabar district of Madras State (excluding Gudalur taluk of Nilgiris district, Lakshadweep Islands
Topslip, the Attappadi Forest east of Anakatti), the taluk of Kasaragod (now Kasaragod District) in South Canara, and the erstwhile state of Thiru-Kochi (excluding four southern taluks of Kanyakumari district, and Shenkottai taluks).[15] Kerala has the lowest positive population growth rate in India, 3.44%; the highest Human Development Index
(HDI), 0.784 in 2018 (0.712 in 2015); the highest literacy rate, 96.2% in the 2018 literacy survey conducted by the National Statistical Office, India;[8] the highest literacy rate and the highest literacy rate, 96.2% in the 2018 literacy survey conducted by the National Statistical Office, India;[8] the highest literacy rate and the 
India published in 2013.[18][19] Kerala is the second-most urbanised major state in the country with 47.7% urban population according to the Sustainable Development Goals according to the annual report of NITI Aayog published in 2019.[21] The state has the highest media
exposure in India with newspapers publishing in nine languages, mainly English and Malayalam. Hinduism is practised by more than half of the population, followed by Islam and Christianity. The culture is a synthesis of Aryan, Dravidian, Arab, and European cultures, [22] developed over millennia, under influences from other parts of India and
abroad. The economy of Kerala is the 8th-largest in India with ₹8.55 trillion (US$110 billion) in gross state domestic product of ₹222,000 (US$2,900).[3] The tertiary sector contributes around 65% to state's GSVA, while the primary sector contributes only 8%.[23] The state has witnessed significant
emigration, especially to the Arab states of the Persian Gulf during the Gulf Boom of the 1970s and early 1980s, and its economy depends significantly on remittances from a large Malayali expatriate community. The production of pepper and natural rubber contributes significantly to the total national output. In the agricultural sector, coconut, tea,
coffee, cashew and spices are important. The state is situated between Arabian Sea to the east. The state is one of the east. The state is one of the
prominent tourist destinations of India, with coconut-lined sandy beaches, backwaters, hill stations, Ayurvedic tourism and tropical greenery as its major attractions. Etymology The word Kerala is first recorded as Keralaputo ('son of Chera [s]') in a 3rd-century-BCE rock inscription left by the Maurya emperor Ashoka (274–237 BCE), one of his edicts
pertaining to welfare.[24] At that time, one of three states in the region was called Cheralam in Classical Tamil: Chera and Kera are variants of the same word.[25] The word Cheral refers to the oldest known dynasty of Kerala kings and is derived from the Proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil-Malayalam word for 'lake'.[26] Keralam may stem from the Classical Tamil cherived from the proto-Tamil cherical fr
alam 'declivity of a hill or a mountain slope'[27] or chera alam 'land'; thus, 'land of coconuts',[28] which is a nickname for the state used by locals due to the abundance of coconut trees.[29] The earliest Sanskrit text to mention Kerala as
Cherapadha is the late Vedic text Aitareya Aranyaka. Kerala is also mentioned in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, the two Hindu epics.[30] The Skanda Purana mentions the ecclesiastical office of the Thachudaya Kaimal who is referred to as Manikkam Keralar, synonymous with the deity of the Koodalmanikyam temple.[31][32] The Greco-Roman
trade map Periplus Maris Erythraei refers to Kerala as Celobotra.[33] Kerala was alternatively called Malabar in the foreign trade circles. Earlier, the term Malabar had also been used to denote Tulu Nadu and Kanyakumari which lie contiguous to Kerala on the southwestern coast of India, in addition to the modern state of Kerala.[34][35] The people
of Malabar were known as Malabars. Until the arrival of the East India Company, the term Malabar was used as a general name for Kerala, along with the term Kerala as Male. The first element of the name, however, is attested already in the
Topography written by Cosmas Indicopleustes. This mentions a pepper emporium called Male, which clearly gave its name to Malabar ('the country of Male'). The name Male is thought to come from the Malayalam word Mala ('hill').[36][37] Al-Biruni (973–1048 CE) is the first known writer to call this country Malabar.[14] Authors such as Ibn
Khordadbeh and Al-Baladhuri mention Malabar ports in their works.[38] The Arab writers had called this place Malibar, Mulibar, and Munibar. Malabar is reminiscent of the word Malabar word Mala (hill) and the
Persian/Arabic word Barr (country/continent).[39] History Main article: History of Kerala Traditional sources Portrait of Parashurama by Raja Ravi Varma relating to Keralolpathi. According to the Sangam classic Purananuru, the Chera king Senkuttuvan conquered the lands between Kanyakumari and the Himalayas.[40] Lacking worthy enemies, he
besieged the sea by throwing his spear into it.[40][41] According to the 17th-century Hindu mythology work Keralolpathi, the lands of Kerala were recovered from the sea by the axe-wielding warrior sage Parasurama, the sixth avatar of Vishnu (hence, Kerala is also called Parasurama Kshetram 'The Land of Parasurama' in Hindu mythology).[42]
Parasurama threw his axe across the sea, and the water receded as far as it reached. According to legend, this new area of land extended from Gokarna to Kanyakumari.[43] The land which rose from sea was filled with salt and unsuitable for habitation; so Parasurama invoked the Snake King Vasuki, who spat holy poison and converted the soil into
fertile lush green land. Out of respect, Vasuki and all snakes were appointed as protectors and guardians of the land. P. T. Srinivasa Iyengar theorised, that Senguttuvan may have been inspired by the Parasurama legend, which was brought by early Aryan settlers.[44] Another much earlier Puranic character associated with Kerala is Mahabali, an
Asura and a prototypical just king, who ruled the earth from Kerala. He won the war against the Devas, driving them into exile. The Devas pleaded before Lord Vishnu, who took his fifth incarnation as Vamana and pushed Mahabali down to netherworld to placate the Devas. There is a belief that, once a year during the Onam festival, Mahabali returns
to Kerala [45] The Matsya Purana, among the oldest of the 18 Puranas, [46][47] uses the Malaya Mountains of Kerala (and Tamil Nadu) as the setting for the story of Matsya, the first man and the king of the region [48][49] Ophir Poovar is often identified with Biblical Ophir Ophir, a port or region mentioned
in the Bible,[50] famous for its wealth, is often identified with some coastal areas of Kerala. According to legend, the King Solomon received a cargo from Ophir every three years (1 Kings 10:22) which consisted of gold, silver, sandalwood, pearls, ivory, apes, and peacocks.[51] A Dictionary of the Bible by Sir William Smith, published in 1863,[52]
notes the Hebrew word for parrot Thukki, derived from the Classical Tamil for peacock Thogkai and Cingalese Tokei,[53] joins other Classical Tamil words for ivory, cotton-cloth and apes preserved in the Hebrew Bible. This theory of Ophir's location in Tamilakam is further supported by other historians.[54][55][56][57] The most likely location on the
coast of Kerala conjectured to be Ophir is Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District (though some Indian scholars also suggest Beypore as possible location).[58][59] The Books of Kings and Chronicles tell of a joint expedition to Ophir by King Solomon and the Tyrian king Hiram I from Ezion-Geber, a port on the Red Sea, that brought back large
amounts of gold, precious stones and 'algum wood' and of a later failed expedition by king Jehoshaphat of Judah.[i] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[ii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[ii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[ii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[ii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.[iii] The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in 
22:48 ^ Book of Job 22:24; 28:16; Psalms 45:9; Isaiah 13:12 Cheraman Perumals Main article: Legend of Cheraman Perumals (literally the Chera kings) of
Kerala.[60] The validity of the legend as a source of history once generated much debate among South Indian historians.[61] The legend was used by Kerala traced its origin back to the legendary allocation by the Perumal).[62][63] According to the legend,
Rayar, the overlord of the Cheraman Perumal in a country east of the Ghats, invaded Kerala during the rule of the last Perumal. To drive back the invading forces the Perumal summoned the militia of his chieftains (like Udaya Varman Kolathiri, Manichchan, and Vikkiran of Eranad). The Cheraman Perumal was assured by the Eradis (chief of Eranad)
that they would take a fort established by the Rayar.[64] The battle lasted for three days and the Rayar eventually evacuated his fort (and it was seized by the Perumal's troops).[64] Then the last Cheraman Perumal divided Kerala or Chera kingdom among his chieftains and disappeared mysteriously. The Kerala people never more heard any tidings of
him.[60][62][63] The Eradis of Nediyiruppu, who later came to be known as the Zamorins of Kozhikode, who were left out in cold during allocation of the land, was granted the Cheraman Perumal's sword (with the permission to "die, and kill, and seize").[63][64] According to the Cheraman Juma Mosque and some other narratives,[65][66] "Once a
Cheraman Perumal probably named Ravi Varma[66] was walking with his queen in the palace, when he witnessed the splitting of the splitting. Then, when some Arab merchants visited his palace, he asked them about this incident. Their answers led the King to
Mecca, where he met Islamic prophet Muhammad and converted to Islam.[67][68][69] It is assumed that the first recorded version of this legend is an Arabic manuscript of anonymous authorship known as Qissat Shakarwati Farmad.[70] The 16th century Arabic work Tuhfat Ul Mujahideen authored by Zainuddin Makhdoom II of Ponnani, as well as
the medieval Malayalam work Keralolpathi, also mention about the departure of last Cheraman Perumal of Kerala into Mecca.[71][72] The Maharajahs of the kingdom of Travancore in pre-Independence India would say at their swearing in, "I will keep this sword until the uncle who has gone to Mecca returns".[73] Pre-history Main article: Pre-history Main artic
of Kerala A dolmen erected by Neolithic people in Marayur, Kerala, India. Stone Age (6,000 BCE) writings of Edakkal Caves in Kerala including the western coastal lowlands and the plains of the midland may have been under the sea in ancient times. Marine fossils have been found in an area near Changanassery, thus
supporting the hypothesis.[74] Pre-historical archaeological findings include dolmens of the Neolithic era in the Marayur area of the Idukki district, which lie on the eastern highland made by Western Ghats. They are locally known as "muniyara", derived from muni (hermit or sage) and ara (dolmen).[75] Rock engravings in the Edakkal Caves, in
Wayanad date back to the Neolithic era around 6000 BCE.[76][77] Archaeological studies have identified Mesolithic, Neolithic and Megalithic Ages, through the Mesolithic Age, through the Mesolithic Ages, [76] Foreign cultural
contacts have assisted this cultural formation;[80] historians suggest a possible relationship with Indus Valley civilization during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age.[81] Ancient period Ancient Silk Road map showing the then trade routes. The spice trade was mainly along the water routes (blue). Names, routes and locations of the Periplus of the
Erythraean Sea (1st century CE) Ezhimala, the early historic headquarters of Mushika dynasty, which was succeeded by the kingdom of Kannur later. Kerala has been a major spice exporter since 3000 BCE, according to Sumerian records and it is still referred to as the "Garden of Spices" or as the "Spice Garden of India".[82][83]: 79 Kerala's spices
attracted ancient Arabs, Babylonians, Assyrians and Egyptians to the Malabar Coast in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE. Phoenicians were the first to enter Malabar Coast to trade Spices. [84] The Arabs on the coasts of Yemen, Oman, and the Persian Gulf, must have made the
first long voyage to Kerala and other eastern countries.[84] They must have brought the Cinnamon of Kerala to the Middle East.[84] The Greek historian Herodotus (5th century BCE) records that in his time the cinnamon spice industry was monopolized by the Egyptians and the Phoenicians.[84] The Land of Keralaputra was one of the four
independent kingdoms in southern India during Ashoka's time, the others being Chola, Pandya, and Satiyaputra.[85] Scholars hold that Keralaputra is an alternate name of the Cheras, the first dominant dynasty who ruled Kerala, and had its capital at Karur.[86][87] These territories once shared a common language and culture, within an area known
as Tamilakam.[88] The region around Coimbatore was ruled by the Cheras during Sangam period between 1st and the Ezhimala kingdom in the north,
the Cheras formed the ruling kingdoms of Kerala in the early years of the Common Era (CE).[90] It is noted in Sangam literature that the Chera king Uthiyan Cheralathan ruled most of modern Kerala from his capital in Kuttanad,[91][92] and controlled the port of Muziris, but its southern tip was in the kingdom of Pandyas,[93] which had a trading
port sometimes identified in ancient Western sources as Nelcynda (or Neacyndi) in Quilon.[94] Tyndis was a major center of trade, next only to Muziris, between the Chera regions, respectively.[96][97] Pliny the Elder (1st century CE)
states that the port of Tyndis was located at the northwestern border of Keprobotos (Chera dynasty). [98] The North Malabar region, which lies north of the port at Tyndis which was on the northwestern border of Muziris, as mentioned in Greco-Roman writings, was
somewhere around Kozhikode.[14] Its exact location is a matter of dispute.[14] The suggested locations are Ponnani, Tanur, Beypore-Chaliyam-Kadalundi-Vallikkunnu, and Koyilandy.[14] According to the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, a region known as Limyrike began at Naura and Tyndis. However the Ptolemy mentions only Tyndis as the
Limyrike's starting point. The region probably ended at Kanyakumari; it thus roughly corresponds to the present-day Malabar Coast. The value of Rome's annual trade with the region was estimated at 50,000,000 sesterces. According to Pliny the
Elder mentioned that Limyrike was prone to raids by pirates.[100] The Cosmas Indicopleustes mentioned that the Limyrike was a source of Malabar peppers. The Cheras had trading links with China, West Asia, Egypt,
Greece, and the Roman Empire.[103] In foreign-trade circles the region was known as Male or Malabar.[104] Muziris, Tyndis, Naura, Nelcynda, and Barace, were among the principal ports at that time.[105] Contemporary Sangam literature describes Roman ships coming to Muziris in Kerala, laden with gold to exchange for Malabar pepper. One of
the earliest western traders to use the monsoon winds to reach Kerala was Eudoxus of Cyzicus, around 118 or 166 BCE, under the patronage of Ptolemy VIII, king of the Hellenistic Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt. Roman establishments in the port cities of the region, such as a temple of Augustus and barracks for garrisoned Roman soldiers, are marked in
the Tabula Peutingeriana, the only surviving map of the Roman cursus publicus.[106][107] Merchants from West Asia and Southern Europe established coastal posts and settlements in Kerala (Jewish) connection with Kerala started in 573 BCE.[109][110][111] Arabs also had trade links with Kerala, starting before the 4th century
BCE, as Herodotus (484-413 BCE) noted that goods brought by Arabs from Kerala were sold to the Israelis [Hebrew Jews] at Eden.[105] In the 4th century, the Knanaya or Southist Christians who trace their origins to the
evangelistic activity of Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century.[112][113] Mappila was an honorific title that had been assigned to respected visitors from abroad; Israelite (Jewish), Syrian Christian, and Muslim immigration account for later names of the respective communities: Juda Mappilas, Muslim Mappilas, and Nasrani Mappilas.[114][115] The
earliest Saint Thomas Christian Churches,[116] Cheraman Jumu'ah Masjid (traditionally dated to "629 CE" by the Mappilas)—regarded as "the first mosque of India"[117]—and Paradesi Synagogue (1568 CE)—the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations[118]—were built in Kerala.[119] Early medieval period Quilon Syrian copper
plates granted to Saint Thomas Christians by Venad (Kollam) ruler Sthanu Ravi Varma, testified about merchant guilds and trade corporations in Early Medieval Kerala. The sixth plate also contains a number of signatures of the witnesses to the grant in Arabic (Kufic script), Middle Persian (cursive Pahlavi script) and Judeo-Persian (standard square
Hebrew script).[120] Namboothiri Brahmins migrated to Northern Kerala from Tulu Nadu during the early Middle Ages. Apart from introducing the caste system, they also changed the socio-economic life of the people by commissioning new religious centres.[121] A second Chera Kingdom (c. 800-1102), also known as Kulasekhara dynasty of
Mahodayapuram (present-day Kodungallur), was established by Kulasekhara Varman, which ruled over a territory comprising the whole of modern Tamil Nadu. During the early part of the Kulasekara period, the southern region from Nagercoil to Thiruvalla was ruled by Ay kings, who lost their power in the 10th
century, making the region a part of the Kulasekara empire. [122] [123] Under Kulasekara empire. [122] [123] Under Kulasekara empire. [124] A Keralite identity, distinct from the Tamils, became linguistically separate during this period around the seventh century. [125] The origin of
Malayalam calendar dates back to year 825 CE.[126][127][128] For local administration, the empire was divided into provinces under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, with each province comprising a number of Desams under the rule of Naduvazhis, which was the rule of Naduvazhis and Naduvazh
Varma (9th century CE), records that there was extensive trade between Kerala and China at that time, based at the port of Kollam.[129] A number of foreign accounts have mentioned about the presence of considerable Muslim population in the coastal towns. Arab writers such as Al-Masudi of Baghdad (896–956 CE), Muhammad al-Idrisi (1100–1165)
CE), Abulfeda (1273–1331 CE), and Al-Dimashqi (1256–1327 CE) mention the Muslim communities in Kerala is in the Quilon Syrian copper plates.[133] A
panorama of port Kozhikode, shows several types of ships, shipbuilding, net fishing, dinghy traffic and a rugged, sparsely populated interior (Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg's atlas Civitates orbis terrarum, 1572) The inhibitions, caused by a series of Chera-Chola wars in the 11th century, resulted in the decline of foreign trade in Kerala ports. In
addition, Portuguese invasions in the 15th century caused two major religions, Buddhism and Jainism, to disappear from the land. It is known that the Menons in the Malabar region of Kerala were originally strong believers of Jainism. [134] The social system became fractured with divisions on caste lines. [135] Finally, the Kulasekhara dynasty was
subjugated in 1102 by the combined attack of Later Pandyas and Later Cholas.[122] However, in the 14th century, Ravi Varma Kulashekhara (1299–1314) of the southern India. After his death, in the absence of a strong central power, the state was divided into thirty small
warring principalities; the most powerful of them were the kingdom of Zamorin of Kozhikode in the far-south, Kochi in the far north. The port at Kozhikode in the far north, Kollam in the far north, Kollam in the far north, Kochi in the south, and Kannur in the far north, Kochi in the south, and Kannur in the far north, Kochi in the south, and Kannur in the far north.
secondary roles.[136] The Zamorin of Calicut was originally the ruler of Eranad, which was a minor principality located in the northern parts of present-day Malappuram district.[14][137] The Zamorin allied with Arab and Chinese merchants and used most of the wealth from Kozhikode to develop his military power. Kozhikode became the most
powerful kingdom in the Malayalam speaking region during the Middle Ages. [138][137] In the 14th century, Kozhikode conquered larger parts of central Kerala after the seize of Tirunavaya from Valluvanad, which were under the control of the king of Perumpadappu Swaroopam (Cochin). The ruler of Perumpadappu was forced to shift his capital (c
CE 1405) further south from Kodungallur to Kochi. In the 15th century, the status of Cochin was reduced to a vassal state of Kozhikode.[138][137] The ruler of Kolathunadu (Kannur) had also came under the influence of Zamorin by the end of 15th century.[14][138][137] Uru, a type of ship that was historically used for maritime trade, built at
Beypore, Kozhikode 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 earliest glimpses of life in the city. He describes Kozhikode as "one of the great ports
of the district of Malabar" where "merchants of all parts of the world are found". The king of this place, he says, "shaves his chin just as the Haidari Fakeers of Rome do... The greater part of the Muslim merchants of this place are so wealthy that one of them can purchase the whole freightage of such vessels put here and fit-out others like them".[139]
Ma Huan (1403 AD), the Chinese sailor part of the Imperial Chinese fleet under Cheng Ho (Zheng He)[140] states the city as a great emporium of trade frequented by merchants from around the world. He makes note of the Z0 or 30 mosques built to cater to the religious needs of the Muslims, the unique system of calculation by the merchants using
their fingers and toes (followed to this day), and the matrilineal system of succession (Marumakkathayam). Abdur Razzak (1442-43), Niccolò de' Conti (1445), Afanasy Nikitin (1468-74), Ludovico di Varthema (1503-1508), and Duarte Barbosa witnessed the city as one of the major trading centres in the Indian subcontinent where traders from
different parts of the world could be seen.[141][142] The king Deva Raya II (1424-1446) of the Vijayanagara Empire conquered about the whole of present-day state of Kerala in the 15th century.[137] He defeated the Zamorin of Kozhikode, as well as the ruler of Kollam around 1443.[137] Fernão Nunes says that the Zamorin had to pay tribute to the
king of Vijayanagara Empire.[137] Later Kozhikode and Venad seem to have rebelled against their Vijayanagara overlords, but Deva Raya II quelled the rebellion.[137] As the Vijayanagara power diminished over the next fifty years, the Zamorin of Kozhikode again rose to prominence in Kerala.[137] He built a fort at Ponnani in 1498.[137] Later
medieval period A 1652 Map of India (Malabar Coast is highlighted separately on the right side) The path Vasco da Gama took to reach Kozhikode (black line) in 1498, which was also the discovery of a sea route from Europe to India, and eventually paved way for the European colonisation of Indian subcontinent. Bolgatty Palace, built in 1744 by
Dutch Malabar, also acted as the British Residency in Kochi The maritime spice trade monopoly in the Arabian Sea 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 [143][144][145] Following the discovery of sea route from Europe to Malabar Coast and south to Ceylon. [146][147] They established a trading center at
Tangasseri in Quilon during 1502 as per the invitation of the then Queen of Quilon to start spices trade from there.[148] The Zamorin of Kozhikode permitted the new visitors to trade with his subjects such that Portuguese attacks on Arab properties in
his jurisdiction provoked the Zamorin and led to conflicts between them. The Mattancherry Palace at Kochi was built and gifted by the Portuguese as a present to the Kingdom of Tanur, who was a vassal to the Zamorin of Calicut, sided
with the Portuguese, against his overlord at Kozhikode.[14] As a result, the Kingdom of Tanur (Vettathunadu) became one of the earliest Portuguese Colonies in India. The ruler of Tanur also sided with Cochin.[14] Many of the members of the earliest Portuguese Colonies in India. The ruler of Tanur (Vettathunadu) became one of the earliest Portuguese Colonies in India.
under the king fought for the Zamorin of Calicut in the Battle of Cochin (1504). [39] However, the allegiance of the Mappila merchants in Tanur region still stayed under the Zamorin of Calicut. [149] British Residency in Asramam, Kollam The Portuguese took advantage of the rivalry between the Zamorin and the King of Kochi allied with Kochi. When
Francisco de Almeida was appointed as Viceroy of Portuguese India in 1505, his headquarters was established at Fort Kochi (Fort Emmanuel) rather than in Kozhikode. During his reign, the Portuguese managed to dominate relations with Kochi and established a few fortresses on the Malabar Coast.[150] Fort St Angelo Fort was built at
Kannur in 1505 and Fort St Thomas was built at Kollam(Quilon) in 1518 by the Portuguese.[151] However, the Portuguese suffered setbacks from attacks under the leadership of Kozhikode admirals known as Kunjali Marakkars, which compelled them to seek a treaty. The Kunjali
Marakkars are credited with organizing the first naval defense of the Indian coast.[152] Tuhfat Ul Mujahideen written by Zainuddin Makhdoom II (born around 1532) of Ponnani in 16th-century CE is the first-ever known book fully based on the history of Kerala, written by a Keralite.[153][154][155] It is written in Arabic and contains pieces of
information about the resistance put up by the navy of Kunjali Marakkar alongside the Zamorin of Calicut from 1498 to 1583 against Portuguese attempts to colonize Malayalam literature, was born at Tirur (Vettathunadu) during Portuguese period.[39]
[14] In 1571, the Portuguese were defeated by the Zamorin forces in the battle at Chaliyam Fort.[156] An insurrection at the Portuguese era in Quilon. The Muslim line of Ali Rajas of Arakkal kingdom, near Kannur, who were the vassals of the Kolathiri, ruled over the
Lakshadweep islands.[157] The Bekal Fort near Kasaragod, which is also largest fort in the state, was built in 1650 by Shivappa Nayaka of Keladi.[158] St. Angelo Fort at Kannur, built by the Portuguese in 1505Eustachius De Lannoy of the Dutch East India Company surrenders to Maharaja Marthanda Varma of the Kingdom of Travancore after the
Battle of Colachel. (Depiction at Padmanabhapuram Palace) In 1602, the Zamorin sent messages to Aceh promising the Dutch a fort at Kozhikode if they would come and trade there. Two factors, Hans de Wolff and Lafer, were sent on an Asian ship from Aceh, but the two were captured by the chief of Tanur, and handed over to the Portuguese. [159] 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.[14] By this time the kingdom and the port
of Kozhikode was much reduced in importance. [159] The treaty provided for a mutual alliance between the two to expel the Portuguese from Malabar. In return the Dutch East India Company, was given facilities for trade at Kozhikode and Ponnani, including spacious storehouses. [159] The Portuguese were ousted by the Dutch East India Company, was given facilities for trade at Kozhikode and Ponnani, including spacious storehouses.
who during the conflicts between the Kozhikode and the Kochi, gained control of the trade. [160] They lost to Dutch at Quilon after 1661 and later, the Portuguese left south-western coast. [161] The arrival of British on Malabar Coast can be traced back to the year 1615, when a group under the leadership of Captain William Keeling arrived at
Kozhikode, using three ships.[14] It was in these ships that Sir Thomas Roe went to visit Jahangir, the fourth Mughal emperor, as British envoy.[14] In 1664, the municipality in Indian subcontinent, which got dissolved when the Dutch authority got weaker in 18th
century.[162] The Dutch in turn were weakened by constant battles with Marthanda Varma of the Travancore Royal Family, and were defeated at the Battle of Colachel in 1741.[163] An agreement, known as "Treaty of Mavelikkara", was signed by the Dutch and Travancore in 1753, according to which the Dutch were compelled to detach from all
political involvement in the region.[164][165][166] In the 18th Century, Travancore King Sree Anizham Thirunal and the northern and north-
central parts of Kerala (Malabar District), along with Fort Kochi, Tangasseri, and Anchuthengu in southern Kerala by defeating the powerful Zamorin of Kozhikode in the battle of Purakkad in 1755.[170] A 1744 map of Malabar
Coast (Malabar coast is on the left side) Kanakakkunnu Palace at Thiruvananthapuram. Thiruvananthapuram became a major city on Malabar Coast after the ruler Marthanda Varma annexed all minor kingdoms up to Cochin to form Travancore in 18th century CE. British era The island of Dharmadom near Kannur, along with Thalassery, was ceded to
the East India Company in 1734, which were claimed by all of the Kolattu Rajas, Kottayam Rajas, and Arakkal Bibi in the late medieval period, where the British captured Mahé, and the settlement was handed over to the ruler of Kadathanadu.[172] The
British restored Mahé to the French as a part of the 1763 Treaty of Paris.[172] In 1783, the British agreed to restore to the French in 1785.[172] Kerala in British India (1909). Thiruvananthapuram
Kozhikode, Kochi, and Kannur, were the major cities of the Samorin of Kozhikode - an East India Company ally at the time - and absorbed Kozhikode
campaigns against the expanding British East India Company, resulting in two of the four Anglo-Mysore Wars.[174][175] Tipu ultimately ceded the Malabar District and South Kanara to the company in the 1790s as a result of the Third Anglo-Mysore War and the subsequent Treaty of Seringapatam; both were annexed to the Bombay Presidency
(which had also included other regions in the western coast of India) of British India in the years 1792 and 1799, respectively.[176][177][178] Later in 1800, both of the Malabar District and South Canara were separated from Bombay presidency to merge them with the neighbouring Madras Presidency.[14] The company forged tributary alliances
with Kochi in 1791 and Travancore in 1795.[179] By the end of 18th century, the whole of Kerala fell under the control of the British, either administered directly or under suzerainty.[180] 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.[14] The municipalities of Kozhikode, Palakkad, Fort Kochi, Kannur, and Thalassery, were founded on 1 November 1866[181][182][183][184] of the British Indian Empire, making them the first modern municipalities in the state of Kerala. The Malabar Special Police was formed by the colonial government in 1884 headquartered at
Malappuram.[185] British in Malabar also converted Thiyyar Regiment in 1904.[188][189] 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 rebellion, In the early decades of 20th century, leading to the 1936 Temple Entry Proclamation
that opened Hindu temples in Travancore to all castes.[192] Post-colonial period After India was partitioned in 1947 into India and Pakistan, Travancore-Cochin.[193] On 1 November 1956, the taluk of Kasargod in the South Kanara district of Madras, the Malabar
district of Madras (excluding the islands of Lakshadweep), and Travancore-Cochin, without four southern taluks and Sengottai taluk (which joined Tamil Nadu), merged to form the state of Kerala under the States Reorganisation Act.[15][194][195] A Communist-led government under E. M. S. Namboodiripad resulted from the first elections for the
new Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1957.[195] It was one of the earliest elected Communist government implemented land and educational reforms.[199] Geography Main article: Geography of Kerala Anamudi, the highest peak in South India. Tea and Coffee are produced in the hilly terrains of
Wayanad. Vembanad, a portion of Kerala backwaters, is the longest lake in India. Ponnani Lighthouse beach The state is wedged between the Lakshadweep Sea and the Western longitudes 74°52' and 77°22', [200] Kerala experiences humid tropical rainforest climate with some
cyclones. The state has a coast of 590 km (370 mi)[201] and the width of the state varies between 11 and 121 kilometres (7 and 75 mi).[202] Geographically, Kerala can be divided into three climatically distinct regions: the eastern highlands; rugged and cool mountainous terrain, the central mid-lands; rolling hills, and the western lowlands; coastal
plains.[83]:110 Pre-Cambrian and Pleistocene geological formations compose the bulk of Kerala's terrain.[203][204] A catastrophic flood in Kerala in 1341 CE drastically modified its terrain and consequently affected its history; it also created a natural harbour for spice transport.[205] The eastern region of Kerala consists of high mountains, gorges
and deep-cut valleys immediately west of the Western Ghats' rain shadow.[83]:110 41 of Kerala's west-flowing ones originate in this region.[207][208] The Western Ghats form a wall of mountains interrupted only near Palakkad; hence also known Palghat, where the Palakkad Gap breaks.[209] The Western Ghats
rise on average to 1,500 metres (4,900 feet) above sea level,[210] while the highest peak in south India, is at an elevation of 2,695 m (8,842 ft).[212] The Western Ghats mountain chain is recognised as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of
biological diversity and is listed among UNESCO World Heritage Sites.[213] The chain's forests are considered to be older than the Himalaya mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappilly Falls, which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappillo Falls which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappillo Falls which is situated on the background of Western Ghat mountains. [213] The Athirappillo Falls which is
waterfall in the state.[214] Wayanad is the sole Plateau in Kerala.[215] The eastern regions in the districts of Wayanad, Malappuram (Chaliyar valley), which together form parts of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and a continuation of the Mysore Plateau, are known for natural Gold fields, along with the
adjoining districts of Karnataka.[216] Topography of Kerala Kerala's western coastal belt is relatively flat compared to the eastern region,[83]: 33 and is criss-crossed by a network of interconnected brackish canals, lakes, estuaries,[217] and rivers known as the Kerala Backwaters.[218] Kuttanad, also known as The Rice Bowl of Kerala, has the lowest
altitude in India, and is also one of the few places in world where cultivation takes place below sea level.[219][220] The country's longest lake Vembanad, dominates the backwaters; it lies between Alappuzha and Kochi and is about 200 km2 (77 sq mi) in area.[221] Around eight percent of India's waterways are found in Kerala.[222] Kerala's 44 rivers
include the Periyar; 244 kilometres (152 mi), Bharathapuzha; 209 kilometres (100 mi), Chalakudipuzha; 130 kilometres (1
rivers is 64 kilometres (40 mi). Many of the rivers are small and entirely fed by monsoon rain. [223] As Kerala's rivers are small and lacking in delta, they are more prone to environmental effects. The rivers are small and lacking in delta, they are more prone to environmental effects.
state was also affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, [225] and in 2018 received the worst flooding in nearly a century. [226] Climate With around 120–140 rainy days per year, [227]: 80 Kerala has a wet and maritime tropical climate influenced by the seasonal heavy rains of the southwest summer monsoon and northeast winter monsoon. [228]
Around 65% of the rainfall occurs from June to August corresponding to the Southwest monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December corresponding to Northeast monsoon, and the rest from September to December to D
the "Arabian Sea Branch" and the "Bay of Bengal Branch". [229] The "Arabian Sea Branch" of the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats, [230] making Kerala the first state in India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits the Western Ghats and [230] making Kerala the India to receive rain from the Southwest monsoon first hits state first state from the India to receive ra
winds from North India pick up moisture from the Bay of Bengal and precipitate it on the east coast of peninsular India. [233] In Kerala, the influence of the Northeast monsoon is seen in southern districts only [235] Kerala's rainfall averages 2,923 mm (115 in) annually [236] Some of Kerala's drier lowland regions average only 1,250 mm (49 in).
the mountains of the eastern Idukki district receive more than 5,000 mm (197 in) of orographic precipitation: the highest in the state is prone to gale-force winds, storm surges, cyclone-related torrential downpours, occasional droughts, and rises in sea level
[237]:26,46,52 The mean daily temperature ranges from 19.8 °C to 36.7 °C.[238] Mean annual temperatures range from 25.0 to 27.5 °C in the coastal lowlands to 20.0–22.5 °C in the coastal lowlands to 20.0–22.5 °C in the eastern highlands.[237]:65 Climate data for Kerala Month Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Year Average high °C (°F) 30(86) 31(88) 32(90) 34(93)
34(93) 30(86) 29(84) 29(84) 29(84) 29(84) 29(84) 30(86) 31(88) 34(93) Average low °C (°F) 22(72) 22(72) 22(72) 22(72) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 22(73) 
2,923.4(115.1) Source: [236][238] Flora and fauna Main article: Flora and fauna of Kerala A migratory Ichthyaetus in Kadalundi Bird SanctuarySilent Valley National ParkThe Cardamom Hills are notable for biodiversity Most of the biodiversity is concentrated and protected in the Western Ghats. Three guarters of the land area of Kerala was under
thick forest up to 18th century.[239] As of 2004[update], over 25% of India's 15,000 plant species are in Kerala. Out of the 4,000 flowering plant species; 1,272 of which are endemic to Kerala, 900 are medicinal, and 159 are threatened.[240]:11 Its 9,400 km2 of forests include tropical wet evergreen and semi-evergreen forests (lower and middle
elevations—3,470 km2), tropical moist and dry deciduous forests (mid-elevations—4,100 km2, respectively), and montane subtropical and temperate (shola) forests (highest elevations—100 km2). Altogether, 24% of Kerala is forested. [240]: 12 Four of the world's Ramsar Convention listed wetlands—Lake Sasthamkotta, Ashtamudi Lake
Thrissur-Ponnani Kole Wetlands, and the Vembanad-Kol wetlands—are in Kerala,[241] as well as 1455.4 km2 of the vast Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and 1828 km2 of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve and 1828 km2 of the vast Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
clearfelling.[244] Eastern Kerala's windward mountains shelter tropical moist forests, which are common in the Western Ghats.[247] Kerala's fauna are notable for their diversity and high rates of endemism: it includes 118 species of mammals (1
endemic), 500 species of birds, 189 species of freshwater fish, 173 species of reptiles (10 of them endemic), and 151 species of amphibians (36 endemic), and resource extraction. In the forests, sonokeling, Dalbergia latifolia, anjili,
squirrels are also found in the forests.[240]: 12,174-75 Reptiles include the King cobra, viper, python, and mugger crocodile. Kerala laughingthrush, darter and southern hill myna. In the lakes, wetlands, and waterways, fish such as Kadu, Red Line Torpedo Barb and choottachi; orange
chromide—Etroplus maculatus are found. [249][240]: 163-65 Recently, a newly described tardigrade (water bears) species collected from Vadakara coast of Kerala; and Lis
as administrative regions for taxation purposes are further subdivided into 27 revenue subdivisions and 77 taluks, which have fiscal and administrative powers over settlements within their borders, including maintenance of local land records. Kerala's taluks are further sub-divided into 1,674 revenue villages. [251][252] Since the 73rd and 74th
amendments to the Constitution of India, the local government institutions function as the third tier of government, which constitutes 14 District Panchayats, 941 Grama Panchayats, 942 Grama Panchayats, 943 Grama Panchayats, 943 Grama Panchayats, 941 Grama Panchay
kilometres (402 mi) away from it, [255] is a coastal exclave surrounded by Kerala on all of its landward approaches. The Kannur District surrounds Mahé on three sides with the Kozhikode District on the fourth. [256] In 1664, the municipality of Fort Kochi was established by Dutch Malabar, making it the first municipality in Indian subcontinent, which
 got dissolved when the Dutch authority got weaker in 18th century.[162] The municipalities of Kozhikode, Palakkad, Fort Kochi, Kannur, and Thalassery, were founded on 1 November 1866[181][182][183][184] of the British Indian Empire, making them the first modern municipalities in the state of Kerala. The Municipality of Thiruvananthapuram
came into existence in 1920. After two decades, during the reign of Sree Chithira Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation of Kerala. [257] The first Municipal Corporation founded after the independence of India as well as the second-oldest Municipal
Corporation of the state is at Kozhikode in the year 1962.[258] There are six Municipal corporations in Kerala that govern Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Kochi, Kollam, Thrissur, and Kannur.[259] The Thiruvananthapuram Municipal corporation is the largest urban
agglomeration. [260] According to a survey by economics research firm Indicus Analytics in 2007, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Kochi, Kollam, Thrissur are among the "best cities in India to live"; the survey used parameters such as health, education, environment, safety, public facilities and entertainment to rank the cities. [261] Government and
administration Main articles: Government of Kerala and Kerala High Court complex in Kochi. The Kerala High Court complex in Kochi. The Kerala High Court complex in Kochi. The Kerala High Court complex in Kerala High Court complex in Kerala High Court complex in Kochi. The Kerala High Court complex in Kera
and formerly of the legislative assembly The Kerala Legislative Assembly Building in Thiruvananthapuram Kerala hosts two major political alliances: the United Democratic Front (UDF), led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)). As of[update] 2021 Kerala
Legislative Assembly election, the LDF is the ruling coalition; Pinarayi Vijayan of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is the Chief Minister, while V. D. Satheesan of the Communist Party of India, Kerala has a parliamentary system of representative democracy; universal suffrage
is granted to residents. [262] The government is organised into the three branches: Legislature; The unicameral legislature, the Kerala Legislature elected by the members from among themselves. Assembly meetings
are presided over by the Speaker and in the Speaker and in the Speaker's absence, by the Deputy Speaker. The state elects 20 and 9 members for representation in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, respectively. [264] Executive: The Governor of Kerala is the constitutional head of state, and is appointed by the
President of India.[265] Arif Mohammad Khan is the Governor of Kerala. [266] The executive authority is headed by the Chief Minister of Kerala, who is the head of government and is vested with extensive executive powers; the head of the majority party in the Legislative Assembly is appointed to the post by the Governor. [265] The Council of
Ministers has its members appointed by the Governor, taking the advice of the Chief Ministration is based in Thiruvananthapuram at State Secretariat complex. Each district administration is based in Thiruvananthapuram at State Secretariat complex.
panchayats, for which local body elections are regularly held, govern local affairs. [267] Judiciary: The judiciary consists of the Kerala High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [267] Judiciary: The judiciary consists of the Kerala High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of lower courts. [268] The High Court and a system of 
also hears cases from the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. [271][272] The local government bodies; Panchayat, Municipalities and Corporations have existed in 1993, conforming to the constitutional amendments of central government in this direction. [273]
With the enactment of Kerala Panchayati Raj Act and Kerala Municipality Act in 1994, the state implemented reforms in local government with Gram panchayat and District Panchayat forming a hierarchy. [275] The acts ensure a clear demarcation
of power among these institutions.[273] However, the Kerala Municipality Act envisages a single-tier system for urban areas, with the institution of municipality designed to par with the Gram panchayat of the former system. Substantial administrative, legal and financial powers are delegated to these bodies to ensure efficient decentralisation.[276]
As per the present norms, the state government devolves about 40% of the state plan outlay to the local government [277] Kerala was declared as the first digital state of India on 27 February 2016. [278] The Public Affairs Index-2020
released by the Public Affairs Centre, India, designated Kerala as the best governed Indian state. [280] Economy Main article: Economy of Kerala The city of Kochi is the highest GDP per capita in the state. [281][282] After independence, the state was
managed as a democratic socialist welfare economy. [283] From the 1990s, liberalisation of the mixed economic expansion and an increase in employment. In the fiscal year 2018–19, the nominal gross state domestic product (GSDP)
was ₹7.82 lakh crore (US$100 billion).[284] GSDP growth; 11.4% in 2018-2019[284] and 10.5% in 2017-2018[284] had been high compared to an average of 2.3% annually in the 1980s and between 5.1%[285]:8 The state recorded 8.9% growth in enterprises from 1998 to 2005, higher than the national rate of
4.8%.[287][288] The "Kerala phenomenon" or "Kerala model of development" of very high human development and in comparison low economic development has resulted from a strong service sector.[237]:48[289]:1 In 2019–20, the tertiary sector contributed around 63% of the state's GSVA, compared to 28% by secondary sector, and 8% by primary
sector.[23] In the period between 1960 and 2020, Kerala's economy was gradually shifting from an agrarian economy into a service-based one.[23] Technopark at Thiruvananthapuram, the first and largest information technology (IT) park in IndiaVallarpadam Terminal at Kochi, the first transshipment terminal in IndiaA Shopping mall at
Kozhikode Mappila Bay harbour at Kannur The state's service sector which accounts for around 63% of its revenue is mainly based upon Hospitality industry, Tourism, Ayurveda Medical Services, Pilgrimage, Information technology, Transportation, Financial sector, and Education. [290] Major initiatives under the industrial sector include Cochin
Shipyard, Shipbuilding, Oil refinery, Software Industry, Coastal mineral industries, [291] food processing, and Rubber based upon Cash crops. [292] Kerala products a significant amount of national output of the cash crops such as Coconut, Tea, Coffee, pepper,
Natural rubber, Cardamom, and Cashew in India. [292] The cultivation of food crops began to reduce since 1950's. [292] The Migrant labourers in Kerala are a significant workforce in its industrial and agricultural sectors. Being home to only 1.18% of the total land area of India and 2.75% of its population, Kerala contributes more than 4% to the Gross
Domestic Product of India. Kerala's economy depends significantly on emigrants working in foreign countries, mainly in the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, and the remittances annually contribute more than a fifth of GSDP.[293] The state witnessed significant emigration during the Gulf Boom of the 1970s and early 1980s. In 2008, the Persian Gulf
countries together had a Keralite population of more than 25 lakh(2.5 million), who sent home annually a sum of US$6.81 billion, which is the highest among Indian states and more than 15.1% of remittances to India in 2008.[294] In 2012, Kerala still received the highest remittances of all states: US$11.3 billion, which was nearly 16% of the
US$71 billion remittances to the country. [295] In 2015, NRI deposits in Kerala have soared to over ₹1 lakh crore (US$92 billion). [296] Malappuram district has the highest proportion of emigrant households in state. [23] A study
commissioned by the Kerala State Planning Board, suggested that the state look for other reliable sources of income, instead of relying on remittances to finance its expenditure. [297] A decline of about 300,000 in the number of emigrants from the state was recorded during the period between 2013 and 2018. [298] The total remittances received by
the emigrants stood at ₹85,100 crore (US$11 billion) in the year 2018. [298] According to a study done in 2013, ₹17,500 crore (US$2.3 billion) was the total amount paid to migrant labourers in the state every year. [299] The tertiary sector comprises services such as transport, storage, communications, tourism, banking, insurance and real estate. In
2011-2012, it contributed 63.2% of the state's GDP, agriculture and allied sectors contributed 15.7%, while manufacturing, construction and utilities contributed 21.1%.[300] Around 600 varieties[240]:5 of rice, which is Kerala's most used staple and cereal crop, [301]:5 are harvested from 3105.21 km2; a decline from 5883.4 km2 in 1990.[301]:5
6,88,859 tonnes of rice are produced per year. [302] Other key crops include coconut; 899,198 ha, tea, coffee; 23% of Indian production, [303]: 13 or 57,000 tonnes, [303]: 6-7 rubber, cashews, and spices—including pepper, cardamom, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg. As of March 2002, Kerala's banking sector comprised 3341 local branches: each
branch served 10,000 people, lower than the national average of 16,000; the state has the third-highest bank penetration among Indian states. [304] On 1 October 2011, Kerala became the first state in the country to have at least one banking facility in every village. [305] Unemployment in 2007 was estimated at 9.4%; [306] chronic issues are
underemployment, low employability of youth, and a low female labour participation rate of only 13.5%,[307]:5,13 as was the practice of Nokku Kooli, "wages for looking on".[308] (On 30 April 2018, the Kerala state government issued an order to abolish Nokku Kooli, to take effect on 1 May.[309]) By 1999–2000, the rural and urban poverty rates
dropped to 10.0% and 9.6%, respectively.[310] The Grand Kerala Shopping Festival (GKSF) was started in 2007, covering more than 3000 outlets across the nine cities of Kerala with huge tax discounts, VAT refunds and huge array of prizes.[311] Lulu International Mall at Thiruvananthapuram is the largest Shopping Mall in India.[312] Coconuts are
an important regional cash crop. The state's budget of 2020–2021 was ₹1.15 lakh crore (US$8.8 billion) in 2020–21; up from ₹55,671 crore (US$8.8 billion) in 2019–20. Its non-tax revenues (excluding the shares from
Union tax pool) of the Government of Kerala reached ₹14,587 crore (US$1.9 billion) in 2020-2021.[313] However, Kerala's high ratio of taxation to GSDP has not alleviated chronic budget deficits and unsustainable levels of government debt, which have impacted social services.[314] A record total of 223 hartals were observed in 2006, resulting in a
revenue loss of over ₹2,000 crore (US$260 million).[315] Kerala's 10% rise in GDP is 3% more than the national GDP. In 2013, capital expenditure rose 30% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of two-wheelers rose by 35% compared to the national average of 5%, owners of 5%, owners
Infrastructure Investment Fund Board is a government owned financial institution in the state to mobilize funds for infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development from outside the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development from outside the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue, aiming at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue at overall infrastructure development of the state revenue at
development program known as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), [319] A package of ₹2.5 million (US$33.000) was declared for each of the cities to develop service level improvement plan (SLIP), a plan for better functioning of the local urban bodies in the cities of Thiruvananthapuram. Kollam, Alappuzha, Kochi
Thrissur, Kozhikode, and Palakkad. [320] Despite of many achievements, Kerala facing many challenges like high levels of unemployment that disproportionately impact educated women, a high degree of global exposure and a very fragile environment. [321] Information Technology Infopark, Kochi Kerala has focused more attention towards growth of
Information Technology sector with formation of Technology park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the largest IT employer in Kerala. It was the first technology park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the Thejaswini complex on 22 February 2007, Technopark became the largest IT Park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the Thejaswini complex on 22 February 2007, Technopark became the largest IT Park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the Thejaswini complex on 22 February 2007, Technopark became the largest IT Park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the Thejaswini complex on 22 February 2007, Technopark became the largest IT Park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the Thejaswini complex on 22 February 2007, Technopark became the largest IT Park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the Thejaswini complex on 22 February 2007, Technopark became the largest IT Park in India[322][323] and with the inauguration of the India
Tata Consultancy Services, Capgemini, HCL, UST Global, NeST and Suntec have offices in the state. The state has a second major IT hub, the Infopark generates one-third of total IT Revenues of the state[325][326] with key offices of IT majors
like Tata Consultancy Services, Cognizant, Wipro, UST Global, IBS Software Services etc. and Multinational corporations like KPMG, Ernst & Young, EXL Service, Etisalat DB Telecom, Nielsen Audio, Xerox ACS, Tata ELXSI etc. Kochi also has another major project SmartCity under construction, built in partnership with Dubai Government. A third
major IT Hub is under construction centred around Kozhikode known as Cyberpark.[327][328][329] Kerala is the first Indian state to make Internet access a basic right.[23] As on 2019, Kerala is the first Indian state to make Internet access a basic right.[23] Industries Traditional industries manufacturing items; coir, handlooms, and
handicrafts employ around one million people. [330] Kerala supplies 60% of the total global produce of white coir fibre. India's first coir factory was set up in Alleppey in 1859-60. [331] The Central Coir Research Institute was established there in 1959. As per the 2006-2007 census by SIDBI, there are 14,68,104 micro, small and medium enterprises in
Kerala employing 30,31,272 people.[332][333] The KSIDC has promoted more than 650 medium and large manufacturing firms in Kerala, creating employment for 72,500 people.[334] A mining sector of 0.3% of GSDP involves extraction of ilmenite, kaolin, bauxite, silica, quartz, rutile, zircon, and sillimanite.[302] Other major sectors are tourism,
medical sector, educational sector, banking, ship building, oil refinery, infrastructure, manufacturing, home gardens, animal husbandry and business process outsourcing. Agriculture Jackfruits are the state fruit, and are a cultural icon of Kerala. A paddy field at Palakkad, also known as The Granary of Kerala Black pepper is an important cash crop in
Kerala, which leads the country in production decreased availability of rice all over India and decreased availability of rice all over India and decreased availability of labour. [335] Consequently, investment in rice production decreased availability of rice all over India and decreased availa
perennial tree crops and seasonal crops.[336][337] Profitability of crops fell due to a shortage of farm labour, the high price of land, and the uneconomic size of operational holdings.[338] Only 27.3% of the families in Kerala depend upon agriculture for their livelihood, which is also the least curresponding rate in India.[339] Kerala produces 97% of
the national output of black pepper[340] and accounts for 85% of the natural rubber in the country.[341][342] Coconut, tea, coffee, cashew, and spices—including cardamom, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg are the main agricultural products.[83]:74[343][344][345][346][347] Around 80% of India's export quality cashew kernels are prepared in
Kollam.[348] The key cash crop is Coconut and Kerala ranks first in the area of coconut cultivation in India is the second-largest producer of the total Cardamom produced in India is from Kerala.[23] India is the second-largest producer of
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Cardamom in world.[23] About 20% of the total Coffee produced in India are from Kerala.[292] The key agricultural staple is rice, with varieties grown in extensive paddy fields.[350] Home gardens made up a significant poverty

strength of the allied livestock sector, it has picked up from 7 sectoral distribution of Gross State Domestic Product at Cons gardens. According to the English horticulturist Robert Hart, inland water resources[361] and approximately 220,000 active of the sector was estimated as 6,08,000 tons in 2003–04.[364 of the fishing industry. This phenomenon is locally called chall strung along the 590-kilometre (370-mile) coast. Another 113 sand. In some coastal panchayats, median outdoor radiation I which accounts for 5.6% of India's total.[23][369] This transle 2.5% of the nation's total, 27,470 kilometres (17,070 mi) of di Wayanad accounts for minimum.[371] Most of Kerala's west (1,008 mi)) connects Kanyakumari to Mumbai; it enters Keral	7.0% (2011–12) to 7.2%. In the 2013–14 fiscal period, the contribution has tant Price, while the secondary and tertiary sectors have contributed 23 Kerala is "from the agroforestry point of view, perhaps the world's most we fishermen,[362] Kerala is one of the leading producers of fish in India. If This contributes to about 3% of the total economy of the state. In 2006 kara.[366][367] The waters provide a large variety of fish: pelagic species fishing villages dot the hinterland. Background radiation levels Mineral levels are more than 4 mGy/yr and, in certain locations on the coast, it is ates to about 9.94 kilometres (6.18 mi) of road per thousand people, comistrict roads; 4.7% of the nation's total, 33,201 kilometres (20,630 mi) of coast is accessible through the NH 66 (previously NH 17 and 47); and the la via Talapady in Kasargod and passes through Kannur, Kozhikode, Mala	is been estimated at a high of 7.8%. The total growth of the farm sec 1.9% and 66.7%, respectively.[356] There is a preference for organic advanced country, with an extraordinary intensivity of cultivation of [363] According to 2003–04 reports, about 11 lakh(1.1 million) peop, around 22% of the total Indian marine fishery yield was from Keral is; 59%, demersal species; 23%, crustaceans, molluscs and others for sincluding Ilmenite, Monazite, Thorium, and Titanium, are found in as high as 70 mGy/yr.[368] Transportation Roads Main article: Road apared to an average of 4.87 kilometres (3.03 mi) in the country.[23] urban (municipal) roads; 6.3% of the nation's total, and 158,775 kilometers side is accessible through state highways.[372] New projecappuram, Guruvayur, Kochi, Alappuzha, Kollam, Thiruvananthapurate	tor has recorded a 4.4% increase in 2012–13, over a 1.3% growth in products and home farming compared to synthetic fertilizers and products and home farming compared to synthetic fertilizers and products and home farming compared to synthetic fertilizers and products and home farming compared to synthetic fertilizers and products and form for their livelihood from fishing and allied activities such as dry a.[365] During the southwest monsoon, a suspended mud bank dev r 18%.[365] Around 10.5 lakh(1.050 million) fishermen haul an annuthe coastal belt of Kerala.[291] Kerala's coastal belt of Karunagappeds in Kerala NH 544 Six lane Thrissur – VadakkencherryThamarasse [369] Roads in Kerala include 1,812 kilometres (1,126 mi) of nation metres (98,658 mi) of rural roads; 3.8% of the nation's total.[370] Icts for hill and coastal highways were recently announced under KI m before entering Tamil Nadu.[372] Palakkad district is generally r	cultural sector to the state economy was on the decline in 2012–13, through the a the previous fiscal year. The agricultural sector has a share of 9.3% in the esticides.[357][358] Forest gardens are common and known by the name home net) With 590 kilometres (370 miles) of coastal belt,[360] 400,000 hectares of ring, processing, packaging, exporting and transporting fisheries. The annual yield elops along the shore, which in turn leads to calm ocean water, peaking the output ual catch of 668,000 tonnes as of a 1999–2000 estimate; 222 fishing villages are ally is known for high background radiation from thorium-containing monazite ery Churam (Mountain pass) Kerala has 331,904 kilometres (206,236 mi) of roads, all highway; 1.6% of the nation's total, 4,342 kilometres (2,698 mi) of state highway; Kottayam has the maximum length of roads among the districts of Kerala, while IFB.[373] National Highway 66, with the longest stretch of road (1,622 kilometres eferred to as the Gateway of Kerala, due to the presence of the Palakkad Gap in the ich a large amount of public and commercial transportation reaches the northern
and central districts of Kerala.[374] A panoramic view of Vytt Information and Management Project (RIMS), is responsible to reflecting the state's high population. Kerala's annual total of exemption that allows narrow national highways. In Kerala, he Kerala state government that it will give higher priority to othe Station at Kozhikode State transport corporation Main article when the Travancore government headed by Sri. Chithra Thin to 1,422,546 kilometres (883,929 mi),[383] using 6,241 buses Thevara.[386] Railways Main article: List of Railway Stations Railway; Thiruvananthapuram Railway division and Palakkad (PGT) Kannur (CAN) Shoranur Junction (SRR) Ernakulam Tov Station at Tirur, passing through Tanur, Parappanangadi, Valalso the largest railway junction in the state.[391] Major railw Ernakulam–Kottayam in 1956, from Kottayam–Kollam in 1958 Angadipuram Laterite to United Kingdom through the port at Palarivattom Metro station Kochi Metro is the metro rail syste [397][398] It is the first metro system in India to use a commit	tila Mobility Hub integrated transit terminal in the city of Kochi The Dep- for maintaining and expanding the state highways in Kerala. It also overs froad accidents is among the nation's highest. The accidents are mainly highways are 45 metres (148 feet) wide. In other states, national highway her states in highway development since political commitment to better be: Kerala State Road Transport Corporation Kerala State Road Transport runnal decided to set up a public road transportation system in 1937. The s on 6,389 routes. At present the corporation has 5373 buses running on in Kerala Southern Railway zone of Indian Railways operates all railway. Railway Division.[388] Thiruvananthapuram Central (TVC) is the busies wn (North) (ERN) Kottayam (KTYM) Chengannur (CNGR) Alappuzha (AL llikkunnu, and Kadalundi.[390][391] The railway was extended from Tiru way transport between Chaliyam—Tirur began on 12 March 1861,[391] fr B, from Thiruvananthapuram—Kanyakumari in 1979 and from the Thrissu t Kozhikode.[393] The presence of Palakkad Gap on Western Ghats make em in the city of Kochi. It is the only metro rail system in Kerala. Construunication-based train control (CBTC) system for signalling and telecomm	artment of Public Works is responsible for maintaining and expanding sees a few major district roads.[376][377] Traffic in Kerala has been the result of the narrow roads and irresponsible driving.[378] Nation as are grade separated, 60 metres (200 feet) wide with a minimum of highways in Kerala has been lacking.[381] As of 2013[update], Kerala Corporation (KSRTC) is a state-owned road transport corporation. If e corporation is divided into three zones (North, Central and South), 4795 schedules.[384][385] The Kerala Urban Road Transport Corporations in the state connecting most major towns and cities except the trailway station in the state.[389] Kerala's major railway stations are LP) Kochuveli (KCVL) Kayamkulam Junction (KYJ) Tirur (TIR) Kasara are to Kuttippuram through Tirunavaya in the same year.[391] It was a com Tirur-Shoranur in 1862,[391] from Shoranur-Cochin Harbour seer-Guruvayur Section in 1994.[392] The Nilambur-Shoranur line is or so the Shoranur Junction railway station important as it connects the action began in 2012, with the first phase being set up at an estimate annication.[399] In October 2017, Kochi Metro was named the "Best	ng the state highways system and major district roads.[375] The Kengrowing at a rate of 10–11% every year, resulting in high traffic an inal Highways in Kerala are among the narrowest in the country and four lanes, as well as 6 or 8-lane access-controlled expressways.[3 la had the highest road accident rate in the country, with most fatal it is one of the country's oldest state-run public bus transport service, with the headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala's capital cit oration (KURTC) was formed under KSRTC in 2015 to manage affair ose in the highland districts of Idukki and Wayanad.[387] The railway is: Thiruvananthapuram Central (TVC) Ernakulam Junction (South) agod (KGQ) Aluva (AWY) Thalassery (TLY) The first railway line in the dagain extended from Kuttippuram to Shoranur through Pattambi in again extended from Kuttippuram to Shoranur through Pattambi in ction in 1902, from Kollam-Sengottai on 1 July 1904, Kollam-Thiruvane of the shortest broad gauge railway lines in India.[393] It was est southwestern coast of India (Mangalore) with the southeastern coast of S51.81 billion (US\$680 million).[394][395] The Kochi Mei Urban Mobility Project" in India by the Urban Development Ministri	rala State Transport Project (KSTP), which includes the GIS-based Road d pressure on the roads. Traffic density is nearly four times the national average, will remain so for the foreseeable future, as the state government has received an 79][380] The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has threatened the accidents taking place along the state's national highways.[382] KSRTC Bus es. Its origins can be traced back to Travancore State Road Transport Department, y). Daily scheduled service has increased from 1,200,000 kilometres (750,000 mi) is related to urban transportation.[371] It was inaugurated on 12 April 2015 at any network in the state is controlled by two out of six divisions of the Southern (ERS) Kozhikode (CLT) Kollam Junction (QLN) Thrissur (TCR) Palakkad Junction he state was laid from Tirur to Chaliyam (Kozhikode), with the oldest Railway 1862, resulting in the establishment of Shoranur Junction railway station, which is ananthapuram on 4 January 1918, from Nilambur-Shoranur in 1927, from
established under the Madras Presidency, but since closed, we Authority of India, is among the oldest existing airports in Sorbe fully powered by solar energy[404] and has won the covete Other than civilian airports, Kochi has a naval airport named major port, four intermediate ports, and 13 minor ports. The remaining ports are classified as minor which include Manjes The state has numerous backwaters, which are used for complack of depth in waterways caused by silting, lack of maintenance It is divided into five sections: 41 kilometres (25 mi) long Kass Conolly Canal, which is a part of West-Coast Canal, connects Kallayi Port from hinter lands of Malabar through Kuttiady and Kottayam-Vaikom Canal.[407] Demographics Main article 19117,147,67311.7%19217,802,1279.2%19319,507,05021.9% 859 persons per km2, its land is nearly three times as densely of 17.6%.[411] Kerala's population more than doubled between persons per km2, leaving the eastern hills and mountains comof the population, are concentrated in the east.[414]:10–12 L Kottayam 138,283 4 Kollam Kollam 388,288 9 Palakkad Palak of the household.[415] As a result, women in Kerala have had	was the first airport in Kerala.[401] Kannur had an airstrip used for commuth India. Calicut International Airport, which was opened in 1988, is the ed Champion of the Earth award, the highest environmental honour instictions. INS Garuda. Thiruvananthapuram airport shares civilian facilities with the major port in the state is at Kochi, which has an area of 8.27 km2.[407] is shwaram, Kasaragod, Nileshwaram, Kannur, Thalassery, Vadakara, Ponnamercial inland navigation. Transport services are mainly provided by countain accelerated growth of the saragod-Nileshwaram reach, 188 kilometres (117 mi) long Nileshwaram-Intercity of Kozhikode with Kochi through Ponnani, passing through the condition of Korapuzha river systems.[409] It was the main waterway for the cargo endors be provided as the national average of 370 persons per km2.[411] As of 201 en 1951 and 1991 by adding 15.6 million people to reach 29.1 million resinparatively sparsely populated.[413] Kerala is the second-most urbanised is of major cities in Kerala No. City District Population Images No. City kad 131,019 5 Thrissur Thrissur 315,957 10 Manjeri Malappuram 97,101 a much higher standing and influence in the society. This was common	nercial aviation as early as 1935 when Tata airlines operated weekly be second-oldest existing airport in Kerala and the oldest in the Malak stuted by the United Nations. [405] Cochin International Airport is also the Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force. These facilities a The Vizhinjam International Seaport, which is currently classified as ani, Munambam, Manakodam, Alappuzha, Kayamkulam, Neendakarantry craft and passenger vessels. There are 67 navigable rivers in the water hyacinth, lack of modern inland craft terminals, and lack of Kozhikode reach, 160 kilometres (99 mi) Kozhikode-Kottapuram reach districts of Malappuram and Thrissur. It begins at Vadakara. [409] It of movement between Kozhikode and Kochi through Ponnani, for more people from Kerala Population trend Census Population %± 19016,3 121,347,37526.3%198125,453,68019.2%199129,098,51814.3%2003 1[update], Thiruvananthapuram is the most populous city in Kerala. [sidents in 1991; the population stood at 33.3 million by 2011. [411] K d major state in the country with 47.7% urban population according District Population Images 1 Thiruvananthapuram Thiruvananthapuram District Population Images 1 Thiruvananthapuram Thiruvananthapuram of Source: 2011 Census of India [412] As per the population within the among certain influential castes and is a factor in the value placed of the second of the surface of the second of the surface o	flights between Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram – stopping at Goar region.[403] Cochin International Airport is the busiest in the state of the first Indian airport to be incorporated as a public limited come used mostly by central government VIPs visiting Kerala. Water to an intermediate port, is an upcoming major port under constructiona, and Valiyathura.[407] The Kerala Maritime Institute is headquart as tate while the total length of inland waterways is 1,687 kilometrical acargo handling system. The 616 kilometres (383 mi) long West-Coch, 168 kilometres (104 mi) long National Waterway 3 (Kottapuramwas constructed in the year 1848 under the orders of then District than a century.[409] Other important waterways in Kerala include 196,262—131,841,3749.4%201133,406,0614.9%Source:[410] The Population 196,262—131,841,3749.4%201133,406,0614.9%Source:[410] The Population 196,262—196,262—197,264,265 are the most densely settled with population to the 2011 Census of India.[20] Around 31.8 million Keralites are param 1968,990 6 Kannur Kannur 232,486 2 Kozhikode Kozhikode 600 deir respective Municipal Corporation/Municipality limits Gender The daughters. Christian missionaries also influenced Malayali wome	a and Kannur.[402] Trivandrum International Airport, managed by the Airport at and the seventh busiest in the country. It is also the first airport in the world to apany; it was funded by nearly 10,000 non-resident Indians from 30 countries.[406] ransport Main article: Ports in Kerala Cranes at the Cochin Shipyard Kerala has one in.[407] Other intermediate ports include Beypore, Kollam, and Azheekal.[407] The ered at Neendakara, which has an additional subcentre at Kodungallur too.[407] es (1,048 mi).[408] The main constraints to the expansion of inland navigation are; oast Canal is the longest waterway in state connecting Kasaragod to Poovar.[386] Kollam reach), and 74 kilometres (46 mi) long Kollam-Vizhinjam reach.[23] The collector of Malabar, H. V. Conolly, initially to facilitate movement of goods to e the Alappuzha-Changanassery Canal, Alappuzha-Kottayam-Athirampuzha Canal, pyramid of Kerala Kerala is home to 2.8% of India's population; with a density of add the decadal growth of 4.9% in 2011 is less than one third of the all-India average of 2022 persons per km2, 2.5 times the overall population density of the state, 859 predominantly Malayali.[411] The state's 321,000 indigenous tribal Adivasis, 1.1% (224 7 Alappuzha Alappuzha 180,856 3 Kochi Ernakulam 602,046 8 Kottayam here is a tradition of matrilineal inheritance in Kerala, where the mother is the head in that they started schools for girls from poor families.[416] Opportunities for the community that is passed on to future generations. According to the Human
is the only state where women outnumber men.[289]:2 While restricted for their own benefit. In the state, despite the social welfare policy for the transgender community. In 2016, the K and educational curriculum.[426] Since 2010, Kerala Queer F "transgender" should be used. Previously, the gender prefere while 25.7% opposed it.[430] Human Development Index See first in the country.[7] It was 0.790 in 2007–08[432] and it has exceptionally high HDI;[433][434] the report was prepared by already started aiding the economic development of the state [9][439] The life expectancy in Kerala is 74 years, among the rates dropped to 10.0% and 9.6%, respectively.[310] The 201 Travancore to boost social welfare.[443][444] This focus was 1,000.[445] According to the 2011 census, Kerala had a total state also is regarded as the "least corrupt Indian state" according at the state of each of the state and the state also is regarded as the "least corrupt Indian state" according to the state of each of the state of the state of the state of the state of each of the state of the	e having the opportunities that education affords them, such as political pal progress, gender still influences social mobility.[419][420][421] LGBT ferala government introduced free sex reassignment surgery through governde has been held annually across various cities in Kerala.[427] In June ences provided in government forms and documents included male, female also: Kerala Model Human Development Index map for Indian states in a consumption-based HDI of 0.920, which is better than that of many of the central government's Institute of Applied Manpower Research.[435] a.[433] Kerala is also widely regarded as the cleanest and healthiest states highest in India as of 2011[update].[440] Kerala's rural poverty rate fell 3 Tendulkar Committee Report on poverty estimated that the percentage maintained by Kerala's post-independence government.[237][288]:48 Kertility rate (TFR) of 1.6. All district except Malappuram district had fearting to the surveys conducted by CMS Indian Corruption Study (CMS-I	participation, keeping up to date with current events, reading religiously properties and participated and article: LGBT rights in Kerala Participants at a pride participant hospitals. [423][424][425] Queerala is one of the major LGI 2019, the Kerala government passed a new order that members of the le, and other/third gender. [428][429] In the 2021 Mathrubhumi Yout 2006, as calculated by Government of India and United Nations Devideveloped countries. [432] Comparatively higher spending by the government of India. [437] However, the Human Development Report 2005, prepared by a in India. [437] According to the 2011 census, Kerala has the highest from 59% (1973–1974) to 12% (1999–2010); the overall (urban and less of the population living below the poverty line in rural and urban erala has undergone a "demographic transition" characteristic of such tility rate below 2. Fertility rate is highest in Malappuram district (205)[448] Transparency International (2005)[449] and India Today (14 il limited freedom are reported. [418] The child marriage is lower in Fertility in the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (14 il limited freedom are reported. [418] The child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India Today (15) are the child marriage is lower in Fertility and India	ous texts etc., these tools have still not translated into full, equal rigrade in Thrissur in October 2018 Kerala has been at the forefront of BT organisation in Kerala. It campaigns for increased awareness of the transgender community should not be referred to as the "third of the Manifesto Survey conducted on people aged between 15 and 35, elopment Programme.[431] As of 2015[update], Kerala has a Huma vernment on primary level education, health care and the elimination of Centre for Development Studies envisages a virtuous phase of incital titeracy rate (94%) among Indian states. In 2018, the literacy rate rural) rate fell 47% between the 1970s and 2000s against the 29% Kerala are 9.1% and 5.0%, respectively.[442] These changes stem 10th developed nations as Canada, Japan, and Norway;.[289]:1 as 11.2.2) and lowest in Pathanamthitta district (1.3).[446] In 2001, Musling 1997).[450] Kerala has the lowest homicide rate among Indian state Kerala. The Malappuram district has the highest number of child materials.	ala's sex ratio of 1.084 (females to males) is higher than that of the rest of India and hts for the women of Kerala. There is a general attitude that women must be LGBT issues in India.[422] Kerala is one of the first states in India to form a LGBT people and sensitisation concerning healthcare services, workplace policies gender" or "other gender" in government communications. Instead, the term majority (74.3%) of the respondents supported legislation for same-sex marriage in Development Index (HDI) of 0.770, which is in the "high" category, ranking it in of poverty from the 19th century onwards has helped the state maintain an ausive development for the state since the advancement in human development had was calculated to be 96%. In the Kottayam district, the literacy rate was 97%.[438] fall in overall poverty rate in India.[441] By 1999–2000, the rural and urban poverty argely from efforts begun in the late 19th century by the kingdoms of Cochin and 2% of people are over the age of 60,[288] and due to the low birthrate of 18 per ms had the TFR of 2.6 as against 1.5 for Hindus and 1.7 for Christians.[447] The s, with 1.1 per 100,000 in 2011.[451] In respect of female empowerment, some arriage and the number of such cases are increasing in Malappuram. The child omeless people in rural India,

