



# KERALA CALLING



**KOLLAM**  
**@75**

693 KM



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കണ്ടാൽ  
ഇല്ലം  
വേണ്ട

*The saying that defines Kollam's identity...*



# A CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS AND PROMISE

As Kollam marks 75 years as a district, it is a moment to celebrate its remarkable journey. From a historic maritime hub to a thriving centre of trade, technology, and tourism, Kollam has advanced while preserving its unique heritage.

The city has long been a powerhouse of commerce and industry. The cashew sector, a key economic driver, is receiving focused support through government initiatives such as rejuvenation packages and geo-tagging, ensuring its continued growth. Kollam is also making great strides in the digital economy, with IT parks generating employment and fostering innovation. The region's potential in technology and entrepreneurship is on the rise.

Infrastructure development is accelerating Kollam's progress. The Vizhinjam Kollam Punalur Growth Triangle is strengthening industrial and logistics connectivity. Expanding highways, railway links, and port facilities are opening new opportunities for businesses and residents alike.

Tourism is gaining momentum, with the district's picturesque backwaters, cultural landmarks, and historic sites drawing increasing attention. The Marine Oceanarium is set to become a major attraction, complementing broader initiatives to promote eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and adventure tourism. Strategic investments and branding efforts will further elevate Kollam's status as a premier destination.

Kollam's legacy is one of resilience, progress, and cultural richness. As it moves forward, investment in technology, sustainable industry, and inclusive growth will continue to drive success. This milestone highlights the district's achievements and a commitment to a prosperous future. With strong policies and collective efforts, Kollam is well-positioned for continued development and excellence.

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**Kerala Calling** March 01, 2025 VOL 45 No.05  
Views expressed in the articles published in Kerala Calling are not, necessarily, those of the government. Kerala Calling welcomes free expression of divergent views and exchange of ideas through its pages.

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Send Rs. 120 as money order to The Director, Information & Public Relations Department, First Floor, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001. The subscription amount will also be received at the State Information Centre, Press Club Building, Thiruvananthapuram.  
Phone: 0471 251 8471  
and at all District Information Offices.

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**Editorial Materials**  
Articles/features appearing in this magazine are either commissioned or assigned. Nevertheless, other articles are also welcome. A maximum of 750 word is appreciated. Such items should be addressed to The Editor, Kerala Calling, First Floor, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram, Pin 695 001.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES:**  
52 + Cover



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## INVEST KERALA SUMMIT BOOSTS STATE'S GROWTH PROSPECTS

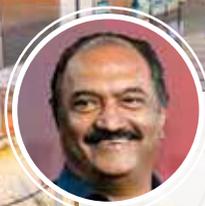
The Invest Kerala Global Summit concluded successfully, reinforcing Kerala's position as an investor-friendly state. The event brought together investors, industry leaders, and Malayali entrepreneurs from across the world, surpassing expectations.

More than 370 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were signed, amounting to Rs 1,52,905 crore in investment commitments for Kerala. Distinguished guests praised Kerala's progress, pledged their support, and shared valuable insights.

The summit provided fresh momentum and strategic direction for Kerala's economic growth, strengthening the state government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.



# KOLLAM THEN, NOW, AND AHEAD



**K.N. BALAGOPAL**  
Minister for Finance

**M**odern Kollam, or Kollam district, has reached its seventh and a half decade of maturity. Its historical significance is underscored by the fact that it once served as the capital of Travancore, playing a pivotal role in Kerala's history.

The proverb *Kollam Kandavanu Illam Venda*, which translates to "the one who has seen Kollam no longer needs his home," reflects the region's deep-rooted heritage. Kollam has long been a centre of commerce and cultural assimilation, welcoming foreign influences while maintaining its distinct identity. The city's past as a thriving port facilitated trade with Arabs, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and the Chinese. Over time, migrants speaking Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, Marathi, Urdu, Hindustani, and Tulu also found their way to

● Chinnakada Clock Tower

Kollam, leaving an imprint on its cultural fabric.

The remnants of this rich past stand as historical landmarks, each with a story to tell. The Suspension Bridge at Punalur, Thankassery Lighthouse, Chinnakkada Clock Tower, Kazhuthurutty Bridge, Aryankavu Pass, the Kollam-Senggottai Meter Gauge Line (now converted to Broad Gauge), Kollam Residency Bungalow, Cantonment Maidan, and the Old Quilon Bank (now an eye hospital) serve as living evidence of Kollam's legacy. Thevalli Palace, Karbala, Paravur Palace, Valakam Palace, Railway Palace, Kannadi Bungalow in Kallar Estate, Kulakkada Nambi Math, and many others also hold historical significance.

## A Political Stronghold

Kollam has been an important seat of power, witnessing significant shifts in governance. Its history of trade unions and labour movements fostered a strong democratic ethos. The district's representatives have played an integral role in legislative history, with figures such as S Chettinathakarayalar, R Kesavan Pillai, C P Kochukunju Pillai, A N Kumaran, H E Muhammed Rawthar, R Raman Pillai, K Gopalakrishna Pillai, and Puthuppally S Krishna Pillai serving in the Travancore Legislative Council. Forty-six individuals from Kollam were part of the Sree Moolam Praja Sabha, and twelve represented the Sree Chithira

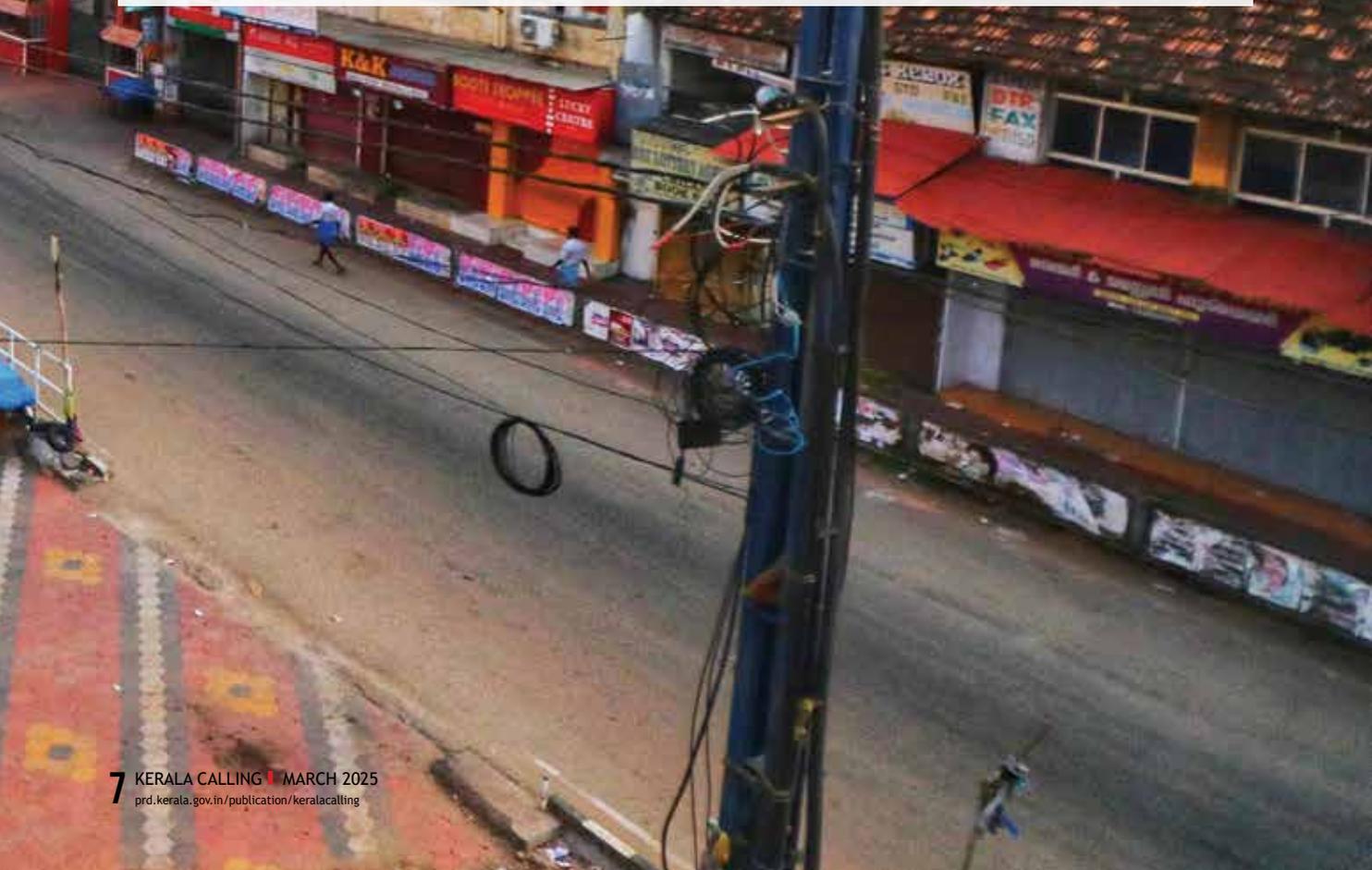
Thirunal State Council.

In Kerala's first assembly elections, seven representatives were elected from Kollam. Today, the district has 11 MLAs. Former Chief Minister C Achutha Menon hailed from Kollam, and prominent political figures such as D Damodaran Potty, M N Govindan Nair, T K Divakaran, P Raveendran, P K Raghavan, P S Srinivasan, R Balakrishnapillai, E Chandrasekharan Nair, R S Unni, C V Padmarajan, P K K Bava, Kadavoor Sivadasan, V P Ramakrishnapillai, Babu Divakaran, K B Ganeshkumar, N K Premachandran, P K Gurudasan, M A Baby, Mullakkara Ratnakaran, C Divakaran, Shibu Baby John, J Mercykuttyamma, and K Raju have served in ministerial roles. Additionally, S Krishnakumar represented Kollam in the Union Cabinet.

## The Road Ahead

Kollam's future hinges on revitalising traditional industries and embracing change. The district's expatriate community plays a key role in economic progress, and their contributions must be leveraged for development.

The Budget 2025 earmarked significant investments in tourism and infrastructure for Kollam. A Rs 1,000 crore allocation has been set aside for the Vizhinjam-Kollam-Punalur corridor, positioning Kollam as the centre of this growth triangle. Plans are underway to establish an IT park on Kollam



Corporation's land in collaboration with KINFRA and KIFB. This initiative, alongside the proposed IT and IT-enabled services park at Kottarakkara and the IT park at Kundara, is expected to transform the district into an IT hub. Additionally, Rs 5 crore has been allocated for a food park.

Infrastructure projects such as the Kollam-Sengottai National Highway, the Kollam-Sengottai Railway Line, the New Greenfield National Highway, the Vizhinjam-Kollam National Highway, and the Punalur-Nedumangad-Vizhinjam Road will be developed to support future economic expansion.

## The Growth Triangle

Global experience shows that world-class port cities stimulate the emergence of extensive industrial and production zones. The Vizhinjam-Kollam-Punalur Growth Triangle is poised to follow a similar trajectory, evolving into a major economic hub. The region's infrastructure and workforce must

be strategically redirected to accommodate new industries.

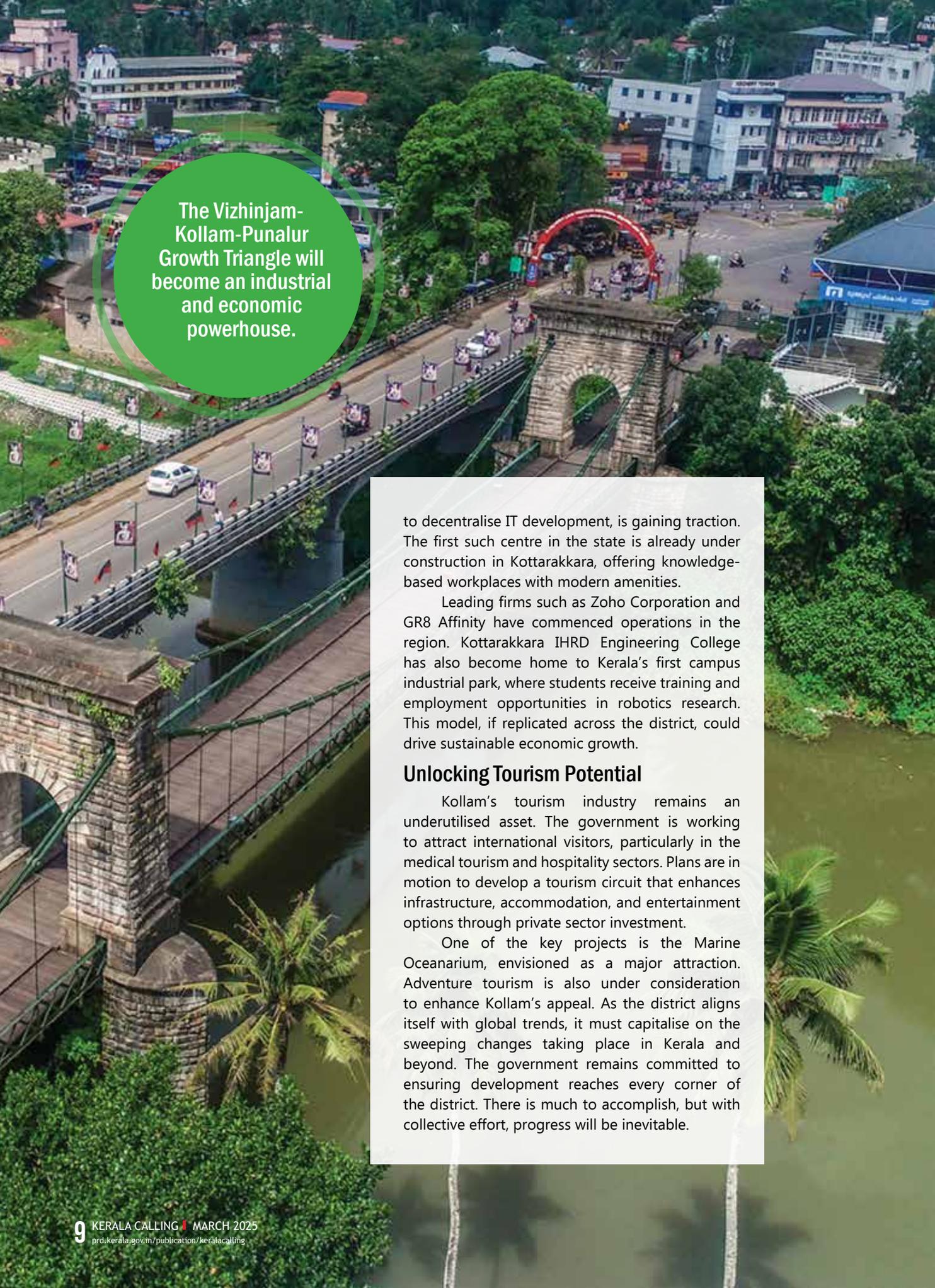
The cashew industry, a traditional employment sector, requires modernisation and diversification. The establishment of component manufacturing and assembly units for electronic equipment could tap into the region's skilled labour force. The government will act as a facilitator, ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place. The Vizhinjam development hub project is expected to attract investments exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore and generate tens of thousands of jobs. Coordinated efforts between public and private sectors will be essential to ensure Kollam benefits from this transformation.

## Decentralised Growth

Kottarakkara exemplifies Kerala's evolving urban landscape, where medium and small towns are emerging as engines of economic growth. The government's 'Work near Home' initiative, designed

The state's first  
'Work near Home'  
centre is under  
construction in  
Kottarakkara.

● Punalur Suspension Bridge



The Vizhinjam-Kollam-Punalur Growth Triangle will become an industrial and economic powerhouse.

to decentralise IT development, is gaining traction. The first such centre in the state is already under construction in Kottarakkara, offering knowledge-based workplaces with modern amenities.

Leading firms such as Zoho Corporation and GR8 Affinity have commenced operations in the region. Kottarakkara IHRD Engineering College has also become home to Kerala's first campus industrial park, where students receive training and employment opportunities in robotics research. This model, if replicated across the district, could drive sustainable economic growth.

### Unlocking Tourism Potential

Kollam's tourism industry remains an underutilised asset. The government is working to attract international visitors, particularly in the medical tourism and hospitality sectors. Plans are in motion to develop a tourism circuit that enhances infrastructure, accommodation, and entertainment options through private sector investment.

One of the key projects is the Marine Oceanarium, envisioned as a major attraction. Adventure tourism is also under consideration to enhance Kollam's appeal. As the district aligns itself with global trends, it must capitalise on the sweeping changes taking place in Kerala and beyond. The government remains committed to ensuring development reaches every corner of the district. There is much to accomplish, but with collective effort, progress will be inevitable.

# KOLLAM CALLING

## UNLOCKING NEW HORIZONS IN TOURISM



### J. CHINCHURANI

Minister for Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development

**K**ollam holds a special significance for me; it is not merely a location on a map but my home. As a representative of the Chadayamangalam Constituency, I have always harboured a profound connection to this land. Known as the Gateway to Kerala's Backwaters, Kollam is a region rich in natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural heritage. Yet, its tourism potential remains largely underexplored.

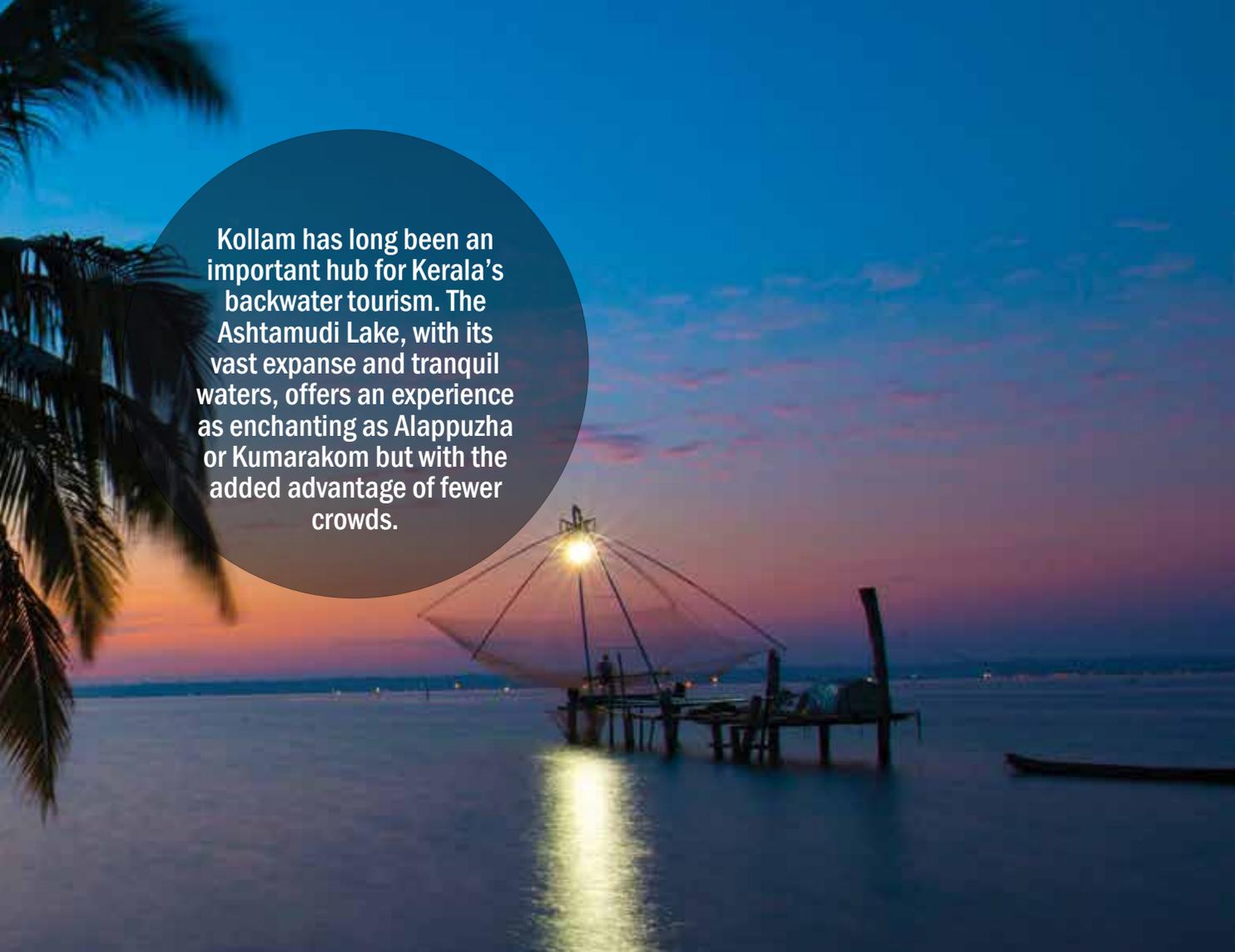
Traditionally, tourism in Kollam has focused on its tranquil backwaters and houseboat experiences. However, the region possesses the

resources to develop a sustainable and varied tourism sector, benefiting both visitors and local communities.

As the Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, I recognise the significant opportunity to incorporate farm tourism into Kollam's tourism framework. By advocating for responsible and experiential tourism, we can unlock new pathways for economic development while safeguarding our rich traditions and natural environment.

### Backwater Tourism: Backbone of the District's Tourism

Kollam has long been an important hub for Kerala's backwater tourism. The Ashtamudi Lake, with its vast expanse and tranquil waters,



Kollam has long been an important hub for Kerala's backwater tourism. The Ashtamudi Lake, with its vast expanse and tranquil waters, offers an experience as enchanting as Alappuzha or Kumarakom but with the added advantage of fewer crowds.

offers an experience as enchanting as Alappuzha or Kumarakom but with the added advantage of fewer crowds. The eight-hour houseboat journey from Kollam to Alappuzha, recognised as the longest in Kerala, offers travellers a picturesque voyage through some of the state's most stunning landscapes.

However, we need to look beyond just houseboats. Developing eco-friendly boat rides, canoe tours, and village experiences along the backwaters can create a much better attraction. Munroe Island, with its unique network of canals, has already gained attention for its sustainable tourism model. Expanding such initiatives could not only enhance local livelihoods but also contribute to the preservation of the delicate backwater ecosystem.

### **Farm Tourism: An Emerging Chapter in the Tourism Narrative**

One of the most promising avenues for tourism development in Kollam is farm tourism, particularly in the rural landscapes of Chadayamangalam and its neighbouring areas. Agriculture and dairy farming have played a crucial role in the local economy, providing an authentic experience for visitors eager to engage with Kerala's agricultural heritage.

Imagine a tourist waking up to the sound of cows in a dairy farm, witnessing the milking process, and learning how Kerala's dairy industry contributes to rural livelihoods. Additionally, visitors have the opportunity to explore organic spice farms, rubber plantations, and coconut groves, acquiring firsthand insights into both traditional and contemporary practices.

## Some key initiatives:

- Dairy farm visits, where tourists can interact with farmers, understand the dairy industry, and even participate in traditional milk processing methods.
- Visitors can enjoy homestead farm stays that let them dive into rural life, savour authentic Kerala dishes made with fresh ingredients from the farm, and take part in fun activities like vegetable farming and fishing.
- Beekeeping and honey-making experiences showcase Kerala's rich honey industry and the role of pollination in agriculture.
- Spice plantation tours, where travellers can explore the cultivation of black pepper, cardamom, and nutmeg—spices that made Kerala famous in the ancient trade routes.

## Adventure & Eco-Tourism: Kollam's Natural Playground

Kollam's stunning scenery, from vibrant forests to beautiful beaches, makes it a perfect spot for adventure and eco-tourism. The Thenmala Ecotourism Project, which is India's first planned ecotourism site, showcases how sustainable tourism can really flourish in Kerala. By adding more adventure activities like trekking, rock climbing, mountain biking, and kayaking, we can draw in those looking for thrills.

In addition, the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, a treasure trove of biodiversity in the Western Ghats, provides amazing chances for wildlife safaris, birdwatching, and nature walks.

Our beaches—Thirumullavaram, Azheekal, and Kollam Beach—are packed with potential for coastal and marine tourism. Introducing water sports like scuba diving, snorkelling, and parasailing could really appeal to younger travellers and adventure lovers.

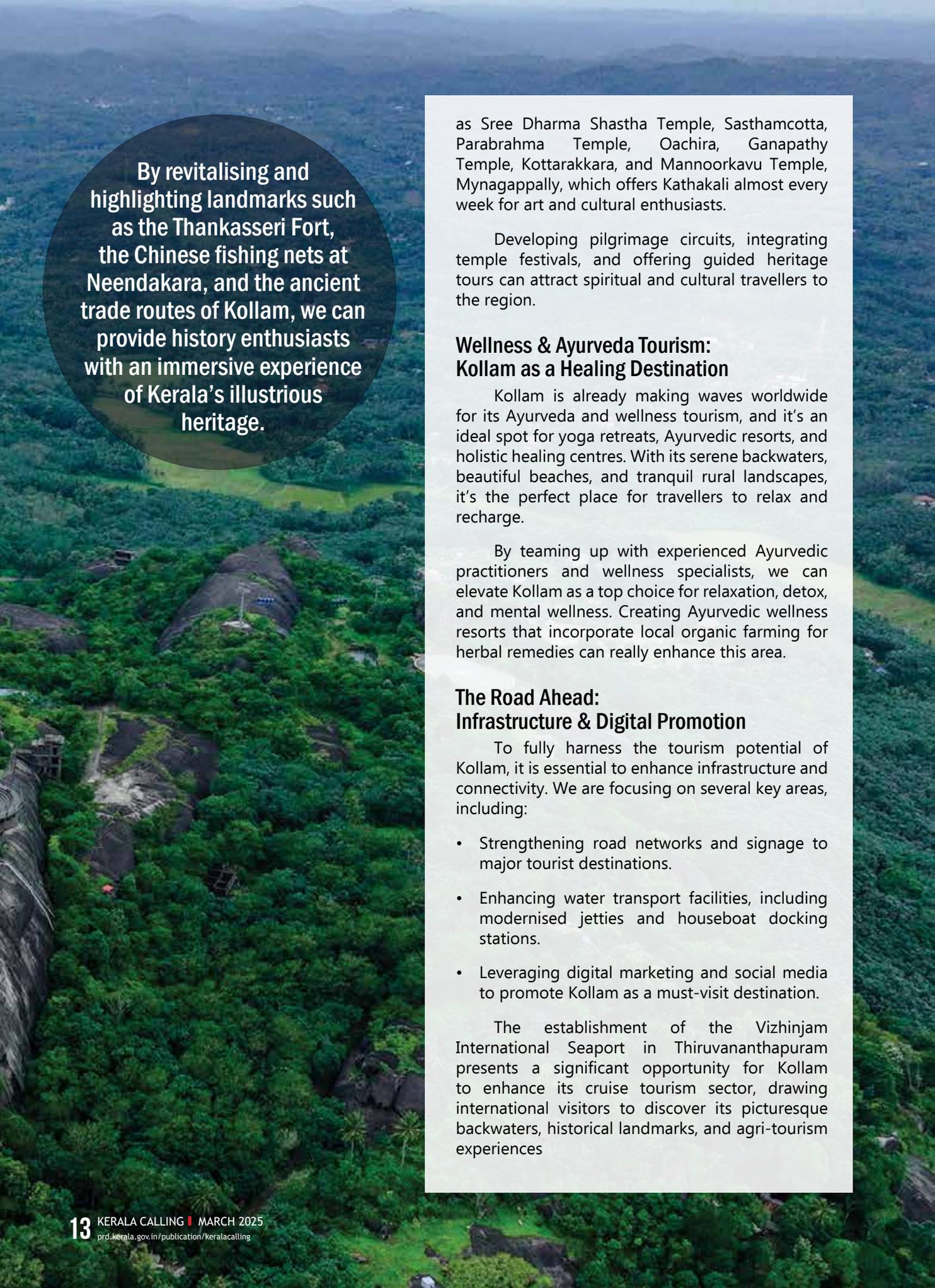
## Heritage and Spiritual Tourism: Honouring the Legacy

By revitalising and highlighting landmarks such as the Thankasseri Fort, the Chinese fishing nets at Neendakara, and the ancient trade routes of Kollam, we can provide history enthusiasts with an immersive experience of Kerala's illustrious heritage.

Furthermore, Kollam is the site of several of the state's most important spiritual locations, such



● Jatayu Earth's Center

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape with a circular text overlay. The text is white and set against a dark circular background. The landscape below shows dense green vegetation, a winding river, and some rocky outcrops.

By revitalising and highlighting landmarks such as the Thankasseri Fort, the Chinese fishing nets at Neendakara, and the ancient trade routes of Kollam, we can provide history enthusiasts with an immersive experience of Kerala's illustrious heritage.

as Sree Dharma Shastha Temple, Sasthamcotta, Parabrahma Temple, Oachira, Ganapathy Temple, Kottarakkara, and Mannoorkavu Temple, Mynagappally, which offers Kathakali almost every week for art and cultural enthusiasts.

Developing pilgrimage circuits, integrating temple festivals, and offering guided heritage tours can attract spiritual and cultural travellers to the region.

### **Wellness & Ayurveda Tourism: Kollam as a Healing Destination**

Kollam is already making waves worldwide for its Ayurveda and wellness tourism, and it's an ideal spot for yoga retreats, Ayurvedic resorts, and holistic healing centres. With its serene backwaters, beautiful beaches, and tranquil rural landscapes, it's the perfect place for travellers to relax and recharge.

By teaming up with experienced Ayurvedic practitioners and wellness specialists, we can elevate Kollam as a top choice for relaxation, detox, and mental wellness. Creating Ayurvedic wellness resorts that incorporate local organic farming for herbal remedies can really enhance this area.

### **The Road Ahead: Infrastructure & Digital Promotion**

To fully harness the tourism potential of Kollam, it is essential to enhance infrastructure and connectivity. We are focusing on several key areas, including:

- Strengthening road networks and signage to major tourist destinations.
- Enhancing water transport facilities, including modernised jetties and houseboat docking stations.
- Leveraging digital marketing and social media to promote Kollam as a must-visit destination.

The establishment of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram presents a significant opportunity for Kollam to enhance its cruise tourism sector, drawing international visitors to discover its picturesque backwaters, historical landmarks, and agri-tourism experiences

# MY KOLLAM

Kollam is not just a place to me. It is my identity, my inspiration, and the essence of my journey



**K.B. GANESH KUMAR**  
Minister for Transport

**K**ollam—a name that dances through the corridors of time with the grace of an ancient melody, whispered by the winds of history, echoing through the tall coconut palms, and murmured by the ripples of Ashtamudi Lake. It is a district that does not simply exist on a map; it breathes, lives, and pulses in the heart of every person who calls it home. As I reflect upon this cherished land, when I say *Ente Kollam*, it is not just a poetic expression but a living truth that I hold close, a part of my very soul.

Kollam is not defined solely by its geographical features; it is the custodian of memories, a treasure trove of culture, and an endless source of inspiration. Its rivers, its people, and its stories are all intertwined to create a tapestry that shapes the identity of its residents. These hills and valleys are not just physical landmarks but the very heartbeat of my existence, having nurtured me, formed my consciousness, and guided me through life.

To say I have a deep connection with this land would be an understatement; it is the very fabric of who I am.

The allure of Kollam is not merely confined to its physical beauty but also lies in the depth of its culture. The traditional art forms, the rituals, and the folklore are an indelible part of its identity. Whether it is the rhythmic beat of the chenda, the grace of Mohiniyattam, or the spiritual significance of the Kottarakkara Maha Ganapathy Temple, Kollam pulses with life and tradition in a way that cannot be replicated elsewhere. The district is home to a myriad of customs and celebrations that bind its people together in a shared cultural embrace.

Kollam, a land steeped in ancient tales, draws its heart from the timeless town of Pathanapuram. Nestled at the edge of Tamil Nadu, this town once thrived as the grandest marketplace of the Kingdom of Travancore. Here, in the quiet of the forests, elephants captured from the wild were tamed and trained, their majestic presence now entwined with the very essence of Pathanapuram. It is said that Pathanapuram originated from the name *Pathaana Puram*.

A journey along the Kollam–Shenkottah metre-gauge railway offers a glimpse into another world. Winding through the rolling hills of the Kallada River and the enchanting forests of Thenmala, the train ride remains an indelible memory for all who have traversed its scenic path.

Yet, the true soul of Kollam lies in the unity of its diverse people—where caste and creed are woven into the same tapestry of life. I remember with fondness the days of my youth when the festivals would transform the entire district into a vibrant celebration. In the glow of festival lights at the Kottarakkara Temple, the sacred hum of prayers at the Kollurvila Mosque, and the resonant hymns at the Kollam Port Church, the spirit of the land rises as one. Kollam, a place where the rhythms of celebration sing in unison, becomes not just a town but a living, breathing testament to togetherness.

As I look to the future, I cannot help but feel immense pride in the progress Kollam has made over the years. From its role as a vital trade port to its burgeoning educational institutions

and growing tourism industry, Kollam has evolved without losing its soul. The district has embraced modernity while preserving the values and traditions that make it so special. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Kollam, it is essential to recognise the long journey this district has undertaken, not just in terms of physical growth but in the enrichment of its people's lives.

As we look toward the future, I remain confident in the potential of Kollam. The district will continue to evolve, undoubtedly, but it will never lose the essence of what makes it unique. Kollam, in its entirety—the land, the culture, and the people—will forever be an inspiration, a muse, and, above all, my home.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kollam's districthood, let us not forget that this celebration is not merely of an administrative unit but of a spirit—a spirit that endures, a spirit that flows through the hearts of all who call this place home. May Kollam continue to thrive, and may its love for its people and its heritage never fade.



A scene from the Shakespearean play *Macbeth* by Kollam Kalidasa Kala Kendram

# THE LAND WHERE CULTURE NEVER SLEEPS

Kollam, a land where art, literature, and heritage intertwine, has shaped Kerala's cultural soul for centuries.



**M.A. BABY**  
Former Minister

When discussing the cultural heritage of Kollam, the words of the renowned poet Vythilingam Sreedhara Menon come to mind: "Kollam is the place where the brilliant plumes of the peacock, of Kerala Varma Valiyakoyi Thampuran, fell. Therefore, this land shines with art, literature, and diverse forms of cultural expression."

Azhakath Padmanabha Kurup, who authored *Ramachandra Vilasam*, the first Mahakavyam in Malayalam, was from Kollam. K. C. Keshava Pillai, the author of another Mahakavyam, *Keshaveeyam*, also hailed from this region. The prestigious Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literary award presented by the Government of Kerala, was first conferred upon the renowned scholar Shuranad

Kunjan Pillai. *Veena Poovu* (The Fallen Flower), a groundbreaking poem by Kumaran Asan, stands out in the literary landscape for many significant reasons. This remarkable work was introduced and interpreted by C. S. Subrahmaniam Potti, a distinguished scholar from Kollam.

In modern Malayalam poetry, Professor O. N. V. Kurup, Kadammanitta Ramakrishnan, Sugathakumari, D. Vinayachandran, Thirunellur Karunakaran, and Punalur Balan have each carved a unique niche with their distinctive poetic styles. Among the contemporary poets who remain active today are K. G. Shankara Pillai, N. Prabha Varma, Kureepuzha Sreekumar, Injakkad Balachandran, Chavara K. S. Pillai, and Brinda.

When considering this district of Kerala in its earlier extended form—before carving out new districts such as Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta from Kollam—the list of eminent cultural figures grows even longer. Notable personalities include



Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, Dr. Ayyappa Panicker, Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer, Professor S. Guptan Nair, A. R. Raja Raja Varma, Ponkunnam Varkey, Thoppil Bhasi, Parappurathu, Abu Abraham, and renowned cartoonist Shankar, among many others.

Notable figures across various fields include historian Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai, Professor N. Gopala Pillai and Professor G. Shankara Pillai, along with renowned writer and critic Professor K. P. Appan. Playwright and satirist E. V. Krishna Pillai, along with writers such as Lalithambika Antharjanam, Pulimana Parameswaran Pillai, Pattathuvila Karunakaran, Vaikom Chandrasekharan Nair, Kakkadan, K. R. Meera and Benyamin among others, have made significant contributions. The legacy of poetry and music is enriched by the Niranam Poets, Oyur Kochugovinda Pillai, Changanassery Raman Pillai and P. K. Medhini. Translator par excellence V. Ravikumar from Chavara has also made noteworthy his literary contributions.

In the realm of arts, distinguished personalities include filmmakers Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Paris Viswana than & Jayapala Panicker. The acting fraternity is graced by stalwarts such as Adoor Bhasi, Adoor Pank ajam, Adoor Bhavani, Aranmula Ponnamma, Kottarakara Sreedharan Nair, Murali, and KPAC Lalitha. The world of music is enriched by composers Raveendran and Sharath, and singers Lathika, K. G. Markose, Mughathala Shivaji, Vettikkavala

Shashikumar, Mangad Ratnakaran, and Adoor Sudharshanan. Adding to this legacy is Oscar-winning sound designer ResoolPookutty.

In performing arts, particularly in Kathakali and classical dance, luminaries such as Ooor Kochugovinda Pilla, Madavoor Vasudevan Nair, Thonnakkal Peethambaran, Poruvazhi Govinda Kurup, Thurayil Pappu Panicker, Thekkayath Rama Panicker, Chathannur Kochunarayana Pillai, Oachira Shankarankutty, Mayyanad Keshavan Namboothiri, Chirakkara Madhavankutty, Kalamandalam Rajashekharan, Inchakkad Ramachandran, and Kalamandalam Ramachandran have left an indelible mark.

Other eminent figures include Kottarakkara Thampuran, (exponent of Ramanattam), FACT Chandrasekharan Nair, Chavara Parukkutty, Kaviyoor Revamma, Kaviyoor Ponnamma, Punalur Rajan, and legendary filmmaker Padmarajan. Their collective contributions have shaped the cultural, literary, and artistic heritage of Kerala.

The contribution of Kollam to the field of cinema is truly commendable. Adoor Gopalakrishnan is regarded as one of India's finest filmmakers, standing alongside legends such as Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, and Shyam Benegal. Shaji N. Karun, apart from being an

**KPAC brings Neelakkuyil to the stage as its 59th drama, adapting the classic film directed by P. Bhaskaran and Ramu Kariat**



exceptional cinematographer, has directed several critically acclaimed and impactful films. The support extended by film producer and industrialist General Pictures Raveendran Nair in promoting aesthetically distinctive films is also noteworthy.

In the realm of film and theatre music, the contribution of Paravur G. Devarajan Master is truly remarkable. His compositions, set to the evocative lyrics of poets and lyricists such as Professor O. N. V. Kurup, Vayalar Ramavarma, P. Bhaskaran, and Sreekumaran Thampi, remain unparalleled in their artistic depth and musical excellence.

Kollam is widely recognized as the defacto capital of *Kadhaprasangham* (the art of storytelling with musical interludes), as well as a thriving hub for both professional and amateur theatre. At one point, the number of artists engaged in *Kadhaprasangham* and the drama troupes based in Kollam surpassed those from other districts. Some of the most renowned artists in the field include K. K. Vadhyar, V. Sambasivan, N. P. Manmadhan, Joseph Kaimaparamban, Kadamangalam Sadanandan, Kadavur Balan, Kollam Babu, Eravipuram Bhasi, Thevarthottam Sukumaran, Kadakod Viswam bharan, V. Harshakumar, Vasanthakumar Samba sivan, Velinellur Vasanthakumari, Chirakkara Salim kumar, Alleppy Remanan, and Mullakkara Ratnakaran.

Through this unique art form, compelling stories of socio-economic and cultural significance were brought to life using action songs, theatrical facial expressions, and dramatic narration. Thousands of people would sit spellbound for hours, captivated by these performances at both urban and rural cultural festivals. It is interesting to recall that the present writer had the opportunity to listen to countless *Kadhaprasangham* performances during temple and church festivals, cherishing the profound impact of this storytelling tradition.

Apart from *Kadhaprasangham* performances based on works by renowned Malayalam writers, artists like V. Sambasivan also introduced world classics into the art form, broadening its reach and impact. His adaptations brought global literary masterpieces to local audiences, making them accessible through the unique blend of narration, music, and theatrical expression.

It is an indisputable fact that 99 percent of *Kadhaprasangham* artists, whether from Kollam or elsewhere, were either Communist sympathizers or left-leaning activists. Through their performances, they played a crucial role in promoting progressive,

democratic, and secular ideals among the masses who gathered in large numbers to enjoy this art form. This tradition also served as an educational and cultural bridge, allowing Kerala's neo-literate population to engage with the great classical works of writers such as Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Victor Hugo, Maxim Gorky, Mikhail Sholokhov, Pearl S. Buck, Ernest Hemingway, Kalidasa, Kumaran Asan, Rabindranath Tagore, Changampuzha Krishna Pillai, S. K. Pottekkatt, and Vayalar Rama Varma, among many others.

Theatre groups played a significant role in shaping the progressive mindset of Kerala. Among them, the impact of the play *Ningal Enne Communist Aakki*, written by Thoppil Bhasi, is particularly well known. First staged in 1952, in a theatre in Chavara, a town in this district it became an instant success. The immense popular interest and enthusiasm generated by the play were unparalleled. Its powerful political message unsettled the ruling classes, leading them to attempt a ban on its performance.

In one instance, when the government prohibited the play from being staged in a particular theatre, the artists boldly decided to perform it in an open space. In response, the authorities arrested the performers. Thousands of spectators who had gathered to watch the play were agitated. In an extraordinary show of solidarity, they picketed the police van and demanded to be arrested alongside the artists. Members of the Kerala People's Arts Club (KPAC) and nearly two thousand supporters marched almost ten kilometers to the police station, turning their protest into a huge demonstration of mass resistance. Realizing the impracticality of arresting and detaining such a large crowd, the authorities eventually backed down.

This incident remains a landmark moment in Kerala's cultural and political history, as it demonstrated the power of theatre to inspire revolutionary struggles and social change. Another theatre group, *Kalidasa Kalakendram*, led by O. Madhavan and Vijayakumari, also made a historic contribution to Kerala's cultural advancement, further strengthening the progressive movement through theatre.

In the field of printing, Kollam holds a significant record. The first book printed in any Indian language was in Kollam on October 20, 1578. It was a Tamil book titled *Thampuram Vanakkam*. To print this 16 page book, paper was imported from China. Thennatt Reddiyar, commonly known as S. T.



**G. Devarajan, the legendary composer, with K.J. Yesudas and P. Jayachandran**



**Thoppil Bhasi, Vayalar Ramavarma and Kambisseri Karunakaran**

Reddiyar, established the Vidhyabhi Vardhini Press in Kollam on August 16, 1886. This press published and sold works by literary luminaries such as Ezhuthachan, Kunchan Nambiar, and Poonthanam, along with *Attakadhakal* (Kathakali play scripts).

In 1892, Paravur Keshavan Ashan launched *Sujana Nandini*, a publication that actively opposed caste-based discrimination. Due to this, when caste-related clashes erupted between the Nair and Ezhava communities, the *Sujana Nandini* press and Keshavan Ashan's house were burned down. In response to this injustice, renowned poet Kumaran Asan wrote a protest poem, expressing his outrage over the incident. E.V. Ramanunnithan of Thankasserri published *Malayali*, with Swadeshabhimani Ramakrishna Pillai serving as its editor.

Some of the significant publications from Kollam include *Malayalarajyam*, *Panchajanyam*, *Yuva Keralam*, *Pouramithram*, *Malayala Nadu*, *Prabhatham*, *Janayugam*, *Kerala Shabdham*, *Kumkumam*, *Kerala Kaumudi*, and *Cinerama*, among others.

P. Keshava Dev wrote his famous novel *OdayilNinnu*, drawing inspiration from his experiences in Kollam. The renowned writer Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, along with Ponkunnam Varkey, was once imprisoned in the Kollam Kasba Police Station.

The library movement in the district has a rich and inspiring tradition. Numerous libraries and reading rooms have been visited by eminent national leaders, artists, and authors. For example, the visitors' diary at Lalaji Library in Karunagappalli bears the handwritten signatures of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In Alappad, a coastal region, the *Vignana Santhayini* Library, founded by Renaissance leader Dr. Velukutty Arayan, remains highly active. The Kadappakada Sports Club was visited by renowned scholar Prof. Noam Chomsky, while the Kadappakada Swaralaya Auditorium has hosted performances by legendary singers such as K. J. Yesudas, S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, and P. Jayachandran. Neeravil Navodaya has welcomed world-class artists and scholars, including Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Mrinal Sen, Umayalpuram Sivaraman, and Dr. Sukumar Azhikode. Meanwhile, Prakash Kalakendra is widely recognized for staging high-quality theatre productions.

A unique voice in Malayalam light music was first recognized in an equally unique manner in Punalur. The song troupe of KPAC was performing at its best when a thin, adolescent boy approached the organizers, requesting a chance to sing. The organizers were reluctant to consider him. However, the boy continued to request for a chance. Punalur Rajagopalan Nair was moved by his persistence and allowed him to sing. That was how the now-famous singer K. S. George began his career, who had a style like Paul Robson.

In retrospect, the progressive impact of cultural practitioners on Kollam is undeniable. However, we cannot afford to rest on past achievements. Today, under the guise of righteousness, communal, casteist, and reactionary forces are gaining ground in our society. Countering these harmful influences requires a persistent and determined struggle—not only to defend the cultural sphere but to uphold the very fabric of our society.

# KOLLAM'S CLASS AND CULTURE IN A NUTSHELL



**MULLAKKARA RATNAKARAN**

Former Minister

The old saying, *Kollam kandavanu Illam venda*, means that anyone who came to Kollam could feel at home. The Kollam port was the main face of the Arabian Sea coast that attracted the world. Kadappakkada, Shyamakada (Chamakudi), Chinnakada, Anandavalleeswaram, Vaadi, all were born with the glory of trade and the glamorous life. Arabs, Chinese and Europeans associated with foreign trade had active relations with Kollam. The main resources of Kollam, such as pepper, cashew nuts, coir and fish, helped in the concentration of workers in large quantities. The Ashtamudi Lake and the nearby fresh water lake Sasthamkotta are the aquatic presence that added to the beauty of Kollam.

A secular community as pure as the Sasthamkotta fresh water lake has grown into the working class of Kollam. Their main contribution is reflected in the commercial, cultural and political sectors of Kollam. The most important of these is related to the cashew sector.

## Ringling in Cash

Cashew was brought by the Portuguese. They first planted it to prevent soil erosion in the sloping areas of the eastern part of the district. However, it became something that connects the life of the land. There was nothing in Kollam that did not have the smell and taste of cashew. In the early days, the Portuguese were called *Parankis*. Therefore, cashew



nuts were known as Paranki nut. There is a story about how cashew nuts, which came to India from Latin America through the Portuguese and grew in our soil, got this name. In the early days, women used to roast the nuts at home and sell them on the roadside.

Once, a foreigner, who was enamored with the taste of these nuts, asked the woman selling them on the roadside what they were. Although she did not understand his language, she understood his interest in cashew nuts and replied, *Kashinettu*. That is how the cashew nut got its name, the story goes. A naming ritual for something we like will naturally take place anywhere in the world. Even though slowly, the production of cashew nuts and the factories that process them came into existence all over Kollam.

About two and a half lakh workers and as many farmers were involved in it, and its smell and connection filled every nook and cranny of Kollam's life. Slowly, industrialists emerged in connection with this industry. Many prominent cashew nut entrepreneurs including Thangal Kunju Musliyar, Vendor Krishna Pillai, and Poilakkada Kidangil Kesavan came forward.



## Into an Organised Structure

1969 is a milestone in the history of the cashew industry and workers. It was then that the idea of a public sector undertaking in the cashew industry came to fruition. The late communist leader P. Raveendran, as the minister, took the initiative and thus the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation came into being and it became a large institution with more than 30 companies and more than thirty thousand workers. The vast majority of the workers who worked in this industry were poor women. They were subjected to various forms of exploitation. Hunger and sweat eliminated their sense of caste and religion and fostered the sense of camaraderie. Thus, Chellamma, Annamma and Pathumma grew as a class.

The similar pains they experienced made them mentally prepared to come together and fight, and thus they became heroines who are the embers of struggle that cannot be erased or forgotten in the history of Kollam's political struggle.

## A Cradle for Political Leadership

Communist leader P Krishna Pillai sent workers from Alappuzha to organise the cashew workers in Kollam. Following this, the first cashew workers' organization called the Quilon Factory Workers Union was born. P N Krishna Pillai and K C Govindan were its early office bearers. Later, many individuals

who worked as part of the national movement intervened in this field. M N Govindan Nair, known as MN, was a prominent leader among them. C Kesavan, an important leader in Travancore, made significant contributions to the cashew workers' struggle. The role of cashew workers, their class-conscious politics and the struggles they carried out, shaped the political leadership of Kollam, including Sreekandan Nair and T. K. Divakaran. This was crucial not only in politics but also in culture and art.

## Reviving the Glory

Storytelling, drama, political journeys on popular issues have turned Kollam's evenings and nights into festive gatherings.

As a traditional sector and an industry that earns a large amount of foreign exchange, the Union government should take a helpful stance in every sense to successfully meet the challenges faced today in a manner befitting the world and the times. Cashew is not only Kollam's industry, it is the heart of Kollam. If it does not work, Kollam will suffer a heart attack. It will make art, culture, trade and all spheres of life devoid of vitality. For this, the first responsibility to start an all-encompassing project should be on the Central government and the State should be able to cooperate with it and actively intervene.

# THE SHIPS THAT CAME FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

*Ignatius Pereira, senior journalist, traces Kollam's journey through tides and time.*

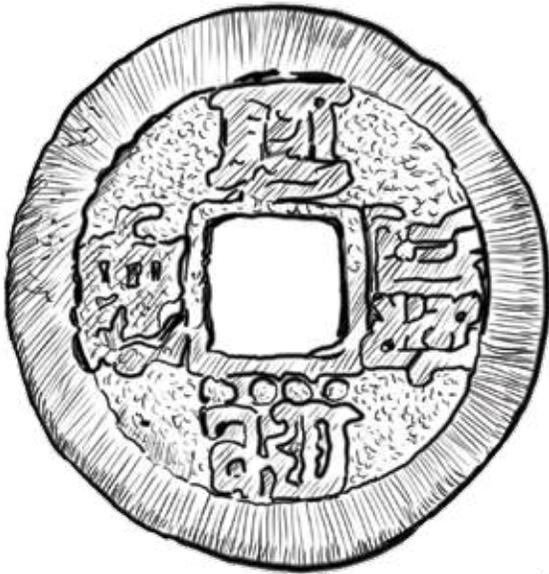


Studies conducted by the Archaeology Department suggest that around 960 BCE, a fleet was sent to Kollam by King Solomon, the Biblical ruler of Israel and Judah, to procure teak and ivory for the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. Though archaeological evidence remains scarce, historical accounts point to Kollam's prominence as an ancient seaport engaged in global trade. The presence of legendary travellers like Fa-Hein (3rd century), Hsuan Tsang (7th century), the Arab traveller Suleiman (9th century), geographer Al Kazwini (13th century), Marco Polo (13th century), and Ibn Battuta (14th century) further reinforces the city's historical status as a thriving centre of commerce, particularly in the spice trade.



# THE COINS THAT SLEPT IN THE SEA

In 2014, dredgers working at the Tangasseri Breakwater complex unearthed a remarkable collection of antique artefacts, including a massive cache of Chinese coins. This discovery provided concrete proof of Kollam's historical significance as a global trade hub. Arab and Chinese ships, particularly large vessels returning from Persia, frequently docked in Kollam, solidifying its reputation as a crucial node in the maritime route. Al Kazwini described the city as home to magnificent markets and wealthy traders, while Suleiman noted that Kollam was the only Indian port touched by massive Chinese ships on their way back to the East.



# THE LAND THAT THRIVED ON CASHEW AND COIR

From the late 19th century until the latter half of the 20th century, Kollam emerged as the 'commercial capital' of Travancore. Its cashew processing industry earned it the title 'cashew citadel of the world,' employing thousands of women. Allied industries such as brick and tile manufacturing, coir production, matchbox and pencil-making, and wooden packing cases flourished. The Punalur Paper Mills was a major player in South India, while tea factories in the eastern sector significantly contributed to exports. Kollam also had its own aerated soft drink brand, Love-O, which was immensely popular in the 1960s. However, economic liberalisation and industrial shifts led to the decline of many of these industries, causing widespread job losses.



# THE SKY THAT REFUSED TO HOLD A DREAM

Kollam holds the distinction of having Kerala's first aerodrome, established in the late 1920s. However, following a tragic air crash in 1932, the aerodrome was shut down, and a new airport was built in Thiruvananthapuram. Despite this setback, Kollam retained its importance as a transport hub, having secured railway connectivity in 1904—much before Thiruvananthapuram.



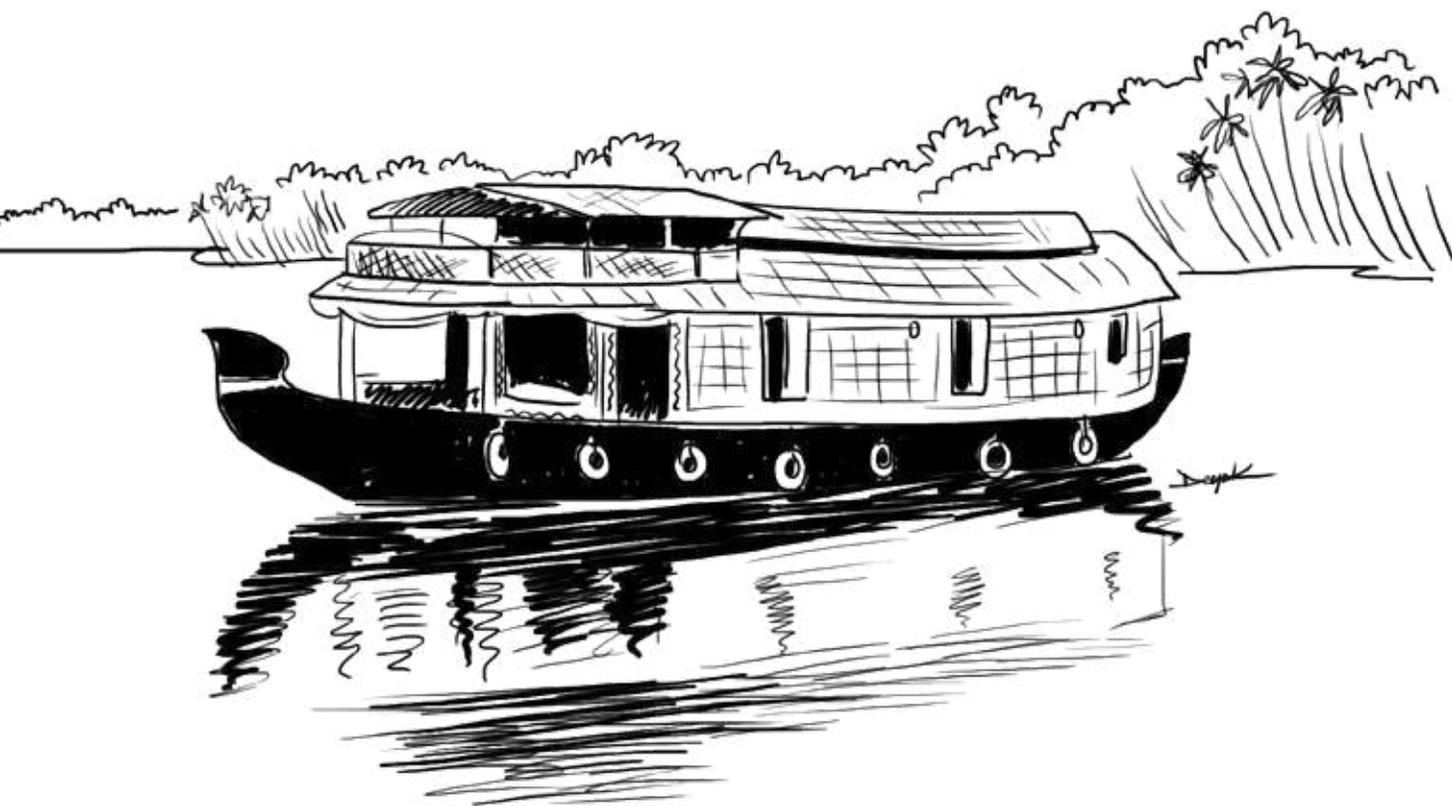
# THE EMPIRES THAT CAME AND WENT

Kollam was a coveted prize for European imperial powers. The Portuguese arrived in the late 15th century, establishing the Saint Thomas Fort in 1517 to secure their spice trade interests. In 1641, the Dutch wrested control from the Portuguese, only to be ousted in 1741 by Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma, the first king of Travancore. By 1795, the British had entrenched themselves in Kollam, constructing the British Residency at Asramam between 1811 and 1819, which later became the Government Guest House. The British also developed key infrastructure, including the Post and Telegraph Office (1864), the Punalur Hanging Bridge (1877), the Kollam railway station, and the Tangasseri Lighthouse (1902), which remains an iconic landmark of the city today.



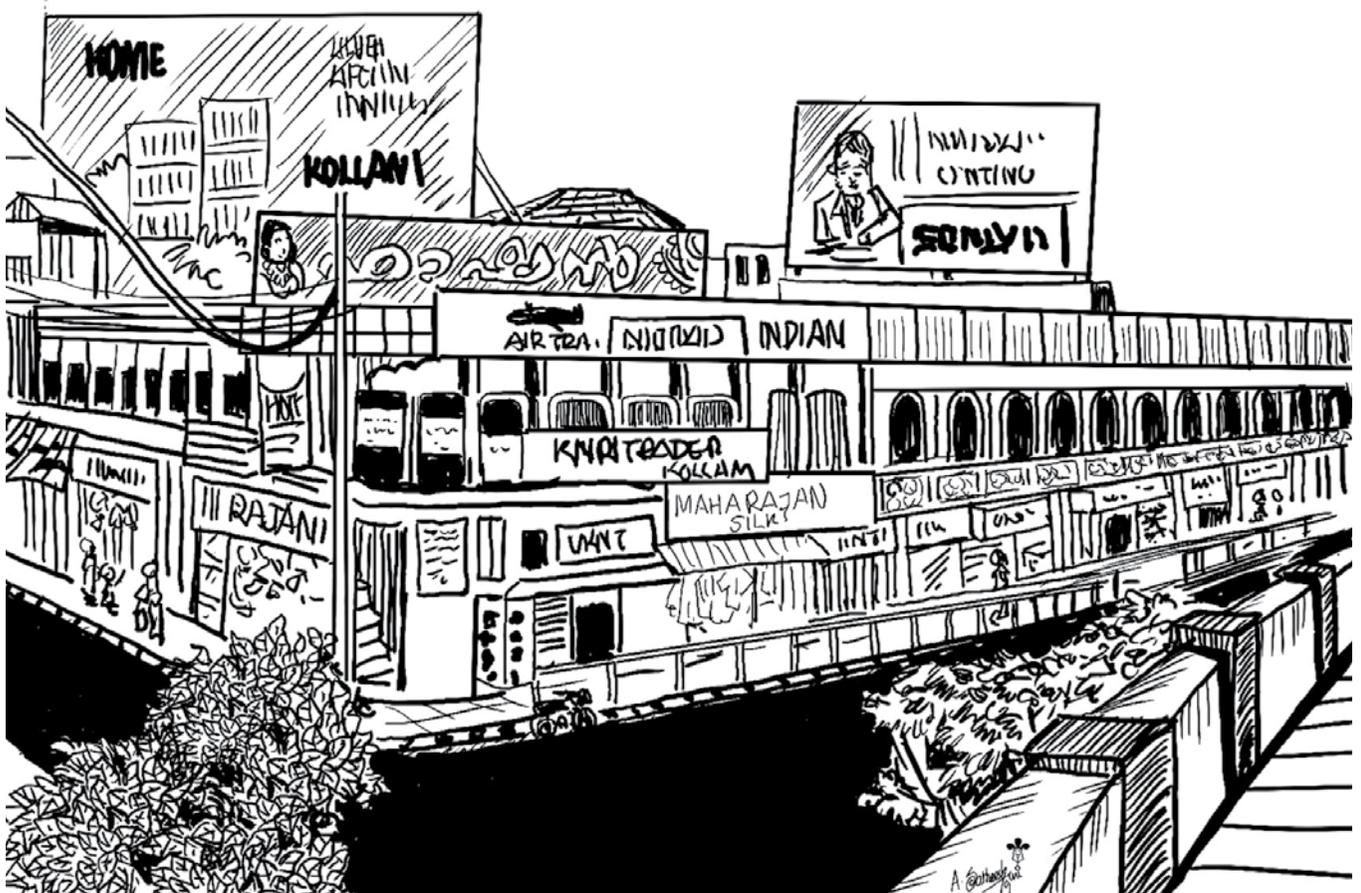
# KOLLAM'S HISTORY IN LIQUID FORM

Beyond its industrial and historical gravitas, Kollam is a sanctuary of natural beauty. The enchanting backwaters, particularly Munroe Island and Sambranikodi, offer breathtaking cruises through dense mangrove forests. Kollam is home to Thenmala, India's first planned eco-tourism site, and the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, a biodiversity hotspot nestled in the Western Ghats. The fusion of history and nature makes Kollam an exceptional heritage and eco-tourism destination.



# THE CITY THAT OUTLIVES TIME

Kollam remains a confluence of history, trade, and cultural evolution. From its ancient prominence in global commerce to its industrial zenith and modern-day role as a tourism and trade hub, Kollam continues to stand as a proof to Kerala's heritage. Marco Polo noted the presence of Christian and Jewish settlements, while records suggest that Saint Thomas established a church in the region. Pope John XXII designated Kollam as India's first Catholic diocese in 1329. Religious diversity is evident in Kollam's historic temples, mosques, and churches, each contributing to its vibrant cultural fabric. The Kollam Court was a significant judicial centre under Travancore, covering a vast jurisdiction. With its rich past and evolving landscape, Kollam remains a city that endures through time.



# FROM FORESTS TO ISLANDS

Kollam, with its diverse terrain, offers a blend of coastal beauty, forested hills, and tranquil islands, making it a hidden gem.

## STAFF REPORTER

**K**ollam district is divided into three distinct physical regions: the coastal lowlands, the midlands with rolling hills and valleys, and the forest-covered mountain ranges on the eastern border. The land gradually rises from the coast towards the Western Ghats, with the region reaching an average elevation of around

4000 feet above sea level.

The *Achankovil Pass*, located in the eastern part of Pathanamthitta taluk, provides an easy route to the nearby Thirunelveli district, accessible by both rail and road. The scenic journey through the Ghatt section, from Punalur to Aryankavu, offers a beautiful view of the surrounding forests. Two main rivers—*Kallada* and *Ithikkara*—flow entirely through the district.



## Sasthamkotta Lake: The Largest Freshwater Lake in Kerala

Kollam is home to Sasthamkotta Lake, Kerala's largest freshwater lake, which lies on the right bank of the Kallada river. Surrounded by hills on three sides, it is protected by a mud wall along its eastern edge. The lake spans approximately 1.44 square miles and reaches depths of up to 47 feet. Unlike most lakes, its main water source is underground springs, as no rivers feed into it.

## Climate and Weather Patterns

Kollam experiences a tropical humid climate with distinct seasons. Summers, from March to May, are hot, while the southwest monsoon brings heavy rains from June to September. The post-monsoon period spans October and November, followed by the northeast monsoon from December to February. The rest of the year is generally dry. The southwest monsoon, known as *Edavappathi*, and the northeast monsoon, or *Tulavarsham*, are both crucial for the region's agriculture.

The hottest period in Kollam lasts from February to the end of May, with temperatures in the interior areas occasionally reaching as high as 39°C. Coastal areas enjoy slightly cooler temperatures due to sea breezes. During the monsoon season, the weather remains pleasant, and while daytime temperatures rise after September, nighttime temperatures become cooler.

## Monroe Thuruth: A Scenic Island Retreat

*Monroe Thuruth* is a cluster of islands situated between Ashtamudi Lake and Kallada River in Kollam. Covering an area of 13.37 square kilometers, the region is easily accessible by road, rail, and water, located about 25 km from Kollam town. At the confluence of Ashtamudi Lake and Kallada River, visitors can experience prawn enclosures, mangrove forests, and trees leaning toward the water, offering a scenic boat ride through narrow channels.

Once a cluster of eight islands interconnected by nearly a thousand small canals, Monroe Thuruth was entirely surrounded by water. While many of these canals have been drained, the islands still preserve a unique rural landscape. Named in honor of Colonel Monroe, the Diwan of Travancore, *Monroe Thuruth* continues to attract visitors with its picturesque beauty and tranquil atmosphere.



# THEATRES THAT BECAME KOLLAM'S LANDMARKS

Kollam has changed, and so has the way we watch films. But as long as people still say *S V Junction* or *Cappithan Mukku*, these theatres will never truly be gone



**K.R. RAVI MOHAN**

## S V Junction

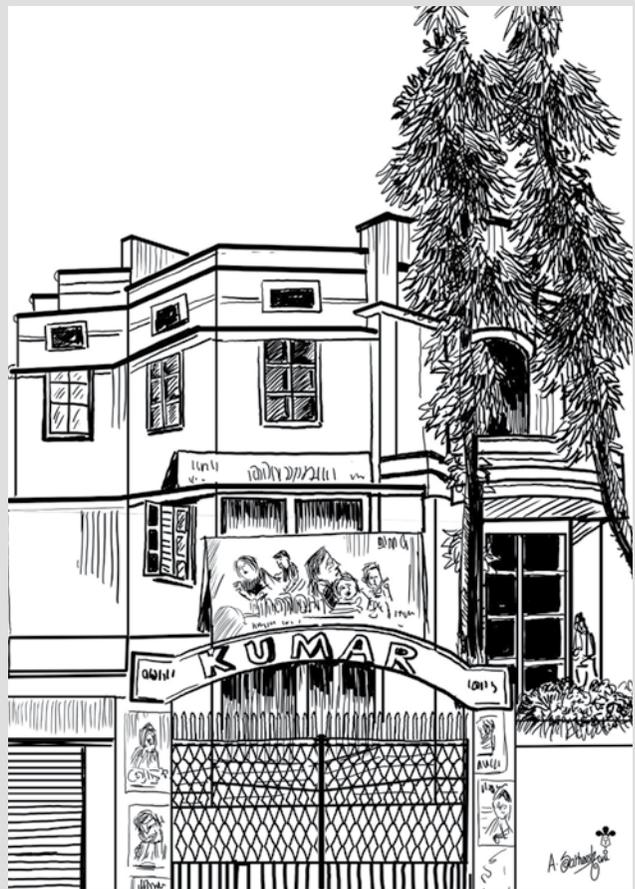
Few remember the theatre behind this name. S V Talkies, once a thriving cinema owned by the Kidangil family, was named after Shanmukha Vilasam, the company that ran it. A favourite for Malayalam and Tamil films, it pulled in crowds for decades before shutting down. The building may be gone, but the name remains, a quiet tribute to Kollam's cinema past.

## Sangeetha Junction

Near Ramankulangara, *Sangeetha Theatre* was once a major attraction. It started as a modest thatched-roof venue before growing into a well-regarded A-class cinema. Though its screens have gone dark, the junction still carries its name, a reminder of when the theatre defined the area.

## Cappithan Mukku

'*Cappithan Theatre*' stands out not just for its films but for its ship-like design, a tribute to Kollam's maritime legacy. The 'Cappithan Mukku' is at Sakthikulangara



## Sarathi and Apsara

Sarathi Theatre in Karikode and Apsara Theatre in Ayathil were once major cinemas. Sarathi, owned by a prominent business family, screened everything from blockbusters to art films. Apsara, a favourite among audiences from Kollam's outskirts, had a loyal following.



Though the theatres are gone, their names still define these locations.

### Kumar Theatre

Built in 1961, Kumar Theatre was a favourite among Kollam's filmgoers. It stood alongside major cinemas like Grand Theatre and SMP Palace, offering a mix of seating from simple benches to balcony views. In 2015, it was rebranded as 'Usha,' modernising while preserving its legacy.

### Terminus Theatre

Opened in 1969 by contractor S.G. D'Cruz, Terminus was Kollam's most advanced cinema of its time. It premiered with *Agnipariksha* and later screened Hollywood classics like *Ben-Hur* and *The Ten Commandments*. Competition from Priya Theatre led to its decline, and after D'Cruz's passing in 1979, the theatre eventually shut down. A hotel now stands in its place.

### SMP Palace

Originally Sri Moolam Picture Palace, this cinema began as a town hall in 1936. It hosted Tamil touring

theatre before becoming Kollam's first permanent movie house. Despite financial struggles and multiple ownership changes, it survived, upgrading in 1978 to stay relevant. Today, SMP Palace remains one of the few single-screen cinemas still operating.

### Grand Theatre

Opening on 3 December 1964 with *Aayiram Roobai*, Grand Theatre became a cornerstone of Kollam's cinema culture. Known for its grand velvet curtains and signature pre-show music, it screened major Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi films for over five decades. As multiplexes took over, Grand struggled to compete. It closed permanently on 31 December 2017, marking the end of an era.

### Prince Theatre

An extension of Grand Theatre, Prince opened in 1977 with *Kannappanunni*. One of Kerala's earliest two-screen cinemas, it attracted younger audiences with its selection of popular films. Prince Snacks Bar, attached to the theatre, was a popular hangout. On 31 December 2017, it screened its final show, becoming another lost landmark.

### Zenith Theatre

Opened in April 1962, Zenith Theatre was built on a site that had once hosted wrestling matches, theatre troupes, and open-air performances. The first film screened was *Paalum Pazhavum*, with audiences served milk and fruit to match the title. The theatre quickly gained a reputation for screening a mix of Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi films. Eventually, it faded into history, like many of its kind.

These theatres were more than just buildings. They were places where friendships formed, where first dates unfolded in the glow of the silver screen, where laughter and tears filled the air long before the credits rolled. They stood as landmarks in a city that once revolved around cinema, their neon lights reflecting the dreams of an entire generation.

# TASTES THAT DEFINED KOLLAM

Kollam's gastronomic heritage is proof to the city's deep-rooted culinary traditions, where authenticity reigned supreme long before the arrival of fast-food chains and contemporary cafés. This is a cuisine shaped by history, refined over centuries, and treasured by generations.



Before the ubiquity of processed ingredients, Kollam's kitchens were defined by fresh, unadulterated flavours. Biryani, dosas, and fish curries formed the backbone of the region's gastronomy, prepared with techniques that had been perfected over time. Tea houses were more than mere refreshment stops—they were social spaces where tea was poured with theatrical flair, as much a performance as it was a ritual.

The history of biryani in Kollam runs deep, with some records tracing its origins back to AD 500 under the name 'Oolchoru.' Its appeal extended far beyond the city's borders, attracting connoisseurs from across the region, a forerunner to the contemporary globalisation of food.

### The Evolution of Local Specialities

By the early 1900s, dosas had become an integral part of the local diet, often paired with freshly brewed coffee. Interestingly, sambar had not yet established itself as the default accompaniment; instead, dosas were traditionally served with a thick, roasted coconut-based fish curry, rich with coastal flavours. Kollam's culinary influence travelled far, with its distinct seafood preparations earning admirers well beyond Kerala. Even as migration reshaped communities, these tastes remained an indelible connection to home.

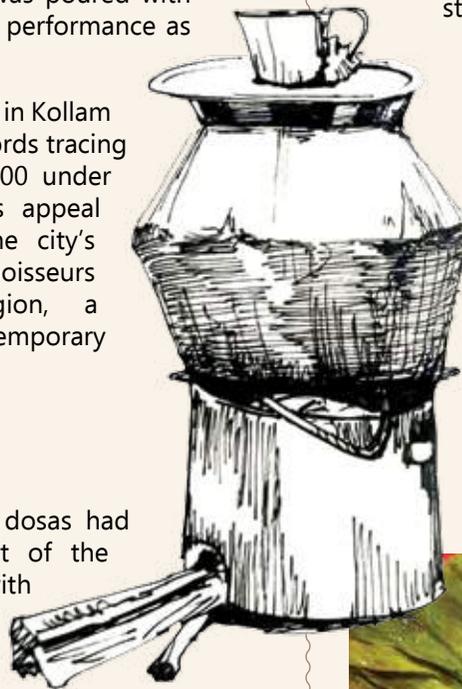
### The Emergence of Dining Institutions

The 1930s saw the rise of structured dining establishments in Kollam. Some specialised in hearty breakfasts, while others catered to the city's working population with robust meat-based meals. Certain venues remained open around the clock, offering sustenance to weary travellers and late-night workers. It was also a time of culinary experimentation, with chefs blending meat gravies with sambar—an innovation that would later gain widespread popularity.

### A Culinary Heritage That Endures

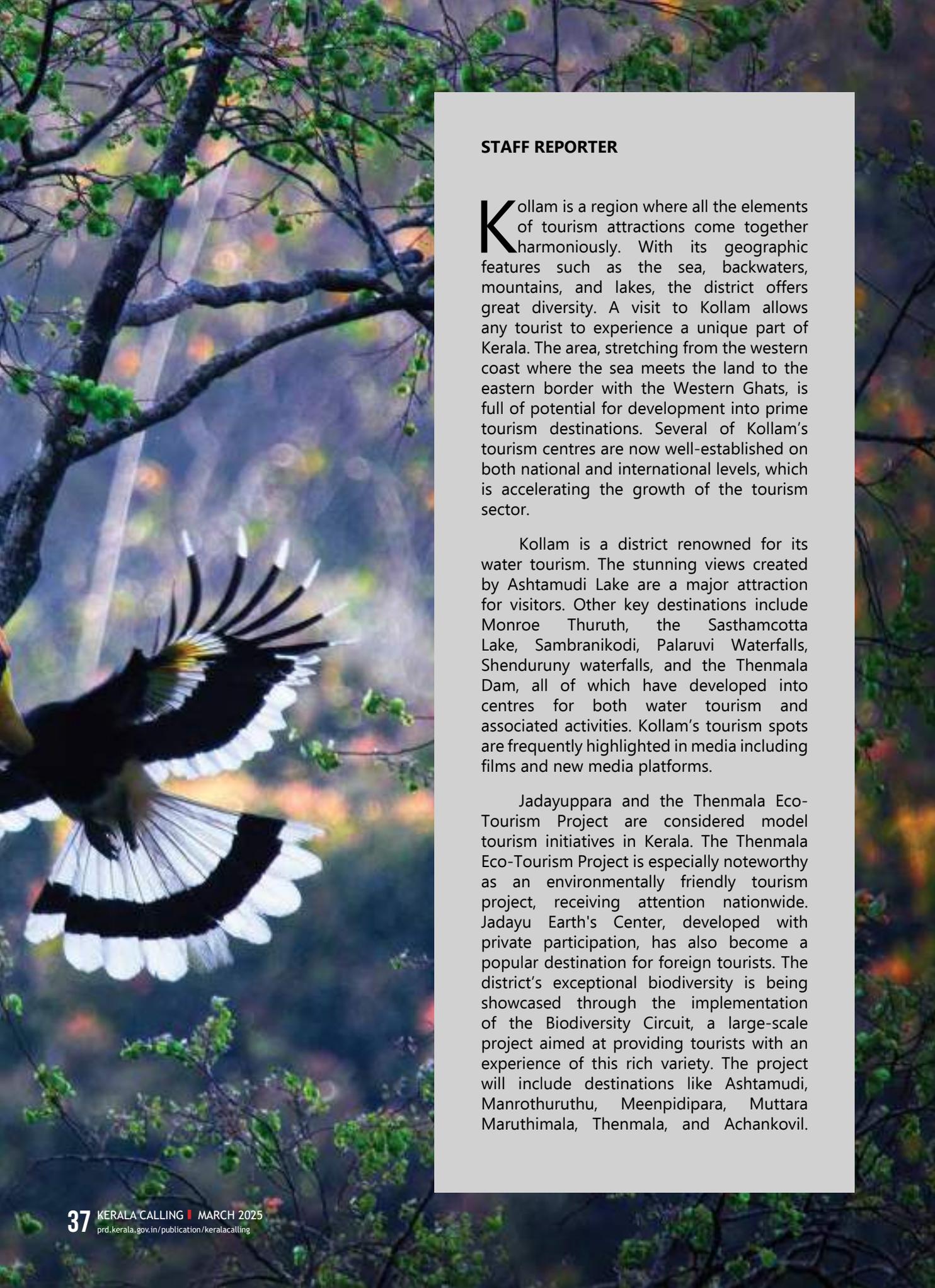
Kollam's celebrated eateries were not merely about food; they were symbols of accessibility and community. A meal did not demand excess expenditure, yet it delivered unparalleled satisfaction. These were spaces where traders sealed deals over rice and fish curry, where students studied over endless cups of coffee, and where visitors found comfort in familiar flavours.

Today, while modern dining trends have diversified Kollam's food landscape, its culinary traditions remain remarkably resilient. The city's essence is preserved in heirloom recipes, passed down through generations, and in the enduring nostalgia of time-honoured dishes. The evolution of gastronomy may bring innovation, but true culinary identity is measured not just by what is new, but by what persists.





# EXPLORING KOLLAM'S TIMELESS CHARM

A photograph of a bird in flight, likely a species of flycatcher, with its wings spread wide. The bird is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame. The background is a soft-focus, bokeh-style image of green foliage and tree branches, suggesting a forest or park setting. The lighting is natural, possibly from a low sun, creating a warm, golden glow in the background.

## STAFF REPORTER

**K**ollam is a region where all the elements of tourism attractions come together harmoniously. With its geographic features such as the sea, backwaters, mountains, and lakes, the district offers great diversity. A visit to Kollam allows any tourist to experience a unique part of Kerala. The area, stretching from the western coast where the sea meets the land to the eastern border with the Western Ghats, is full of potential for development into prime tourism destinations. Several of Kollam's tourism centres are now well-established on both national and international levels, which is accelerating the growth of the tourism sector.

Kollam is a district renowned for its water tourism. The stunning views created by Ashtamudi Lake are a major attraction for visitors. Other key destinations include Monroe Thuruth, the Sasthamcotta Lake, Sambranikodi, Palaruvi Waterfalls, Shenduruny waterfalls, and the Thenmala Dam, all of which have developed into centres for both water tourism and associated activities. Kollam's tourism spots are frequently highlighted in media including films and new media platforms.

Jadayuppara and the Thenmala Eco-Tourism Project are considered model tourism initiatives in Kerala. The Thenmala Eco-Tourism Project is especially noteworthy as an environmentally friendly tourism project, receiving attention nationwide. Jadayu Earth's Center, developed with private participation, has also become a popular destination for foreign tourists. The district's exceptional biodiversity is being showcased through the implementation of the Biodiversity Circuit, a large-scale project aimed at providing tourists with an experience of this rich variety. The project will include destinations like Ashtamudi, Manrothuruthu, Meenpidipara, Muttara Maruthimala, Thenmala, and Achankovil.

The primary aim of the project is both the conservation of biodiversity and sharing this experience with tourists.

Kollam's heritage centres are a valuable part of its cultural wealth. Traces of Portuguese, Dutch, and British influences remain in Kollam to this day. The district carries a rich colonial past with the presence of several historical landmarks, including the British Residency, Thankasserilighthouse, the Portuguese-built St. Thomas Fort and Cemetery, the Thevally Palace, the Chinese Palace, the Quilon Bishop House, and the Panmana Ashram, all of which reflect the heritage and culture of Kollam. As an ancient port city, its remnants can still be seen. Along with this, the district's famous places of worship further present Kollam's cultural legacy. Kollam's tourism opportunities are further enhanced by its vibrant cultural heritage, including traditional drama and storytelling.

Kollam is also well-known for beach tourism. The coastal areas of Kollam are rapidly developing into major beach tourism hubs. Kollam is an ideal location for responsible tourism. In addition to Kollam Beach, many other beaches have also been developed to attract tourists. Kollam houses some of Kerala's major fishing ports. To boost this sector, the state government has decided to develop the Kollam Marina.

**Kollam is an  
ideal location  
for responsible  
tourism.**



To boost the fishing port sector, the state government has decided to develop the Kollam Marina.

The cashew nut industry has long been a significant aspect of the region, with cashew nut producers, workers, and factories playing an important role in the district's economy. Traditional industries, such as rope-making, are also present in several parts of Kollam. The fishing industry, including the famous Neendakara fishing area, offers further opportunities for responsible tourism. Additionally, Kollam's agricultural sector has contributed to the development of farm tourism, which is gaining popularity.

One significant project, developed by the Tourism Department, takes advantage of the city's potential as an emerging urban center. The department initiated a project under the Design Policy to beautify the area under the railway overbridge near the Kollam Town Hall.

With a clearer understanding of Kollam's potential, hospitality facilities are expanding across different areas. As national highway development progresses, it will provide a major boost to the tourism industry in the region. The Tourism Department is organizing activities to lay the groundwork for this growth.

# POISED FOR PROGRESS

Kollam's industrial landscape is a harmonious blend of traditional industries and modern enterprises.

## SREERAJ C

Additional Private Secretary to Minister for Law, Industries & Coir

**W**ith its rich natural resources, strategic maritime facilities, burgeoning IT sector and robust infrastructure, Kollam is all set to continue its trajectory as a vital industrial centre in Kerala, contributing significantly to the state's economic development.

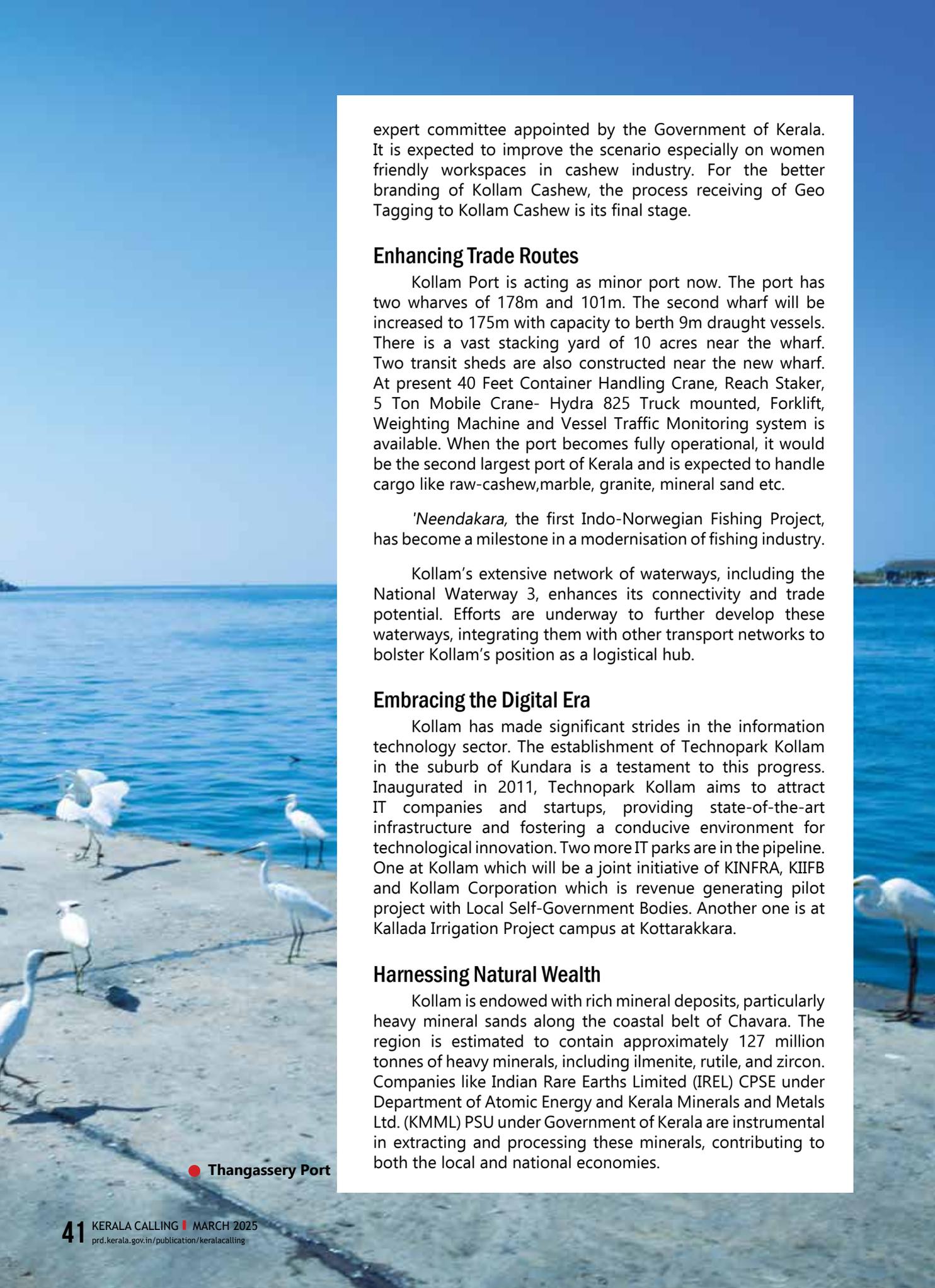
### Sustaining the Supremacy

The cashew business started in Kollam in the 1920s and later it came to be known as the Cashew Capital of the World. The development of cashew industry as industrial unit in Kollam was pioneered by Roch Victoria, an Anglo Indian. Modern roasting methods were introduced

in 1925 by an enterprising industrialist named Joseph Pereira who started first cashew factory in Kollam. In 1920 itself Kollam entered into world cashew exports market with export of kernels mainly to United States. Thangal Kunju Musaliar was a pioneering figure in the cashew industry. He established the first mechanized cashew processing unit in Kerala in 1934.

The Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Limited (KSCDC), Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Industrial Cooperative Society (CAPEX), Kerala State Agency for the expansion of Cashew Cultivation and the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI), are headquartered in Kollam, play pivotal roles in promoting and regulating this sector.

To sustain this industry, government has announced a rejuvenation package for the implementation of recommendations of an



expert committee appointed by the Government of Kerala. It is expected to improve the scenario especially on women friendly workspaces in cashew industry. For the better branding of Kollam Cashew, the process receiving of Geo Tagging to Kollam Cashew is its final stage.

## Enhancing Trade Routes

Kollam Port is acting as minor port now. The port has two wharves of 178m and 101m. The second wharf will be increased to 175m with capacity to berth 9m draught vessels. There is a vast stacking yard of 10 acres near the wharf. Two transit sheds are also constructed near the new wharf. At present 40 Feet Container Handling Crane, Reach Staker, 5 Ton Mobile Crane- Hydra 825 Truck mounted, Forklift, Weighting Machine and Vessel Traffic Monitoring system is available. When the port becomes fully operational, it would be the second largest port of Kerala and is expected to handle cargo like raw-cashew, marble, granite, mineral sand etc.

'Neendakara, the first Indo-Norwegian Fishing Project, has become a milestone in a modernisation of fishing industry.

Kollam's extensive network of waterways, including the National Waterway 3, enhances its connectivity and trade potential. Efforts are underway to further develop these waterways, integrating them with other transport networks to bolster Kollam's position as a logistical hub.

## Embracing the Digital Era

Kollam has made significant strides in the information technology sector. The establishment of Technopark Kollam in the suburb of Kundara is a testament to this progress. Inaugurated in 2011, Technopark Kollam aims to attract IT companies and startups, providing state-of-the-art infrastructure and fostering a conducive environment for technological innovation. Two more IT parks are in the pipeline. One at Kollam which will be a joint initiative of KINFRA, KIIFB and Kollam Corporation which is revenue generating pilot project with Local Self-Government Bodies. Another one is at Kallada Irrigation Project campus at Kottarakkara.

## Harnessing Natural Wealth

Kollam is endowed with rich mineral deposits, particularly heavy mineral sands along the coastal belt of Chavara. The region is estimated to contain approximately 127 million tonnes of heavy minerals, including ilmenite, rutile, and zircon. Companies like Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) CPSE under Department of Atomic Energy and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML) PSU under Government of Kerala are instrumental in extracting and processing these minerals, contributing to both the local and national economies.

● Thangassery Port

# A WALK THROUGH KERALA'S COLONIAL PAST

Thankasseri is a seaside treasure where crumbling forts, a towering lighthouse, and echoes of colonial pasts meet the rhythm of the waves

Five kilometres from Kollam town lies Thankasseri, a coastal gem with a past that stretches back centuries. Known once as Dutch Quilon by the British, this place has seen the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the British all leave their mark. Today, it stands as a quiet reminder of Kerala's colonial history, with its ruins, lighthouse, and old cemetery telling stories of the past.

The Portuguese arrived in 1502, setting up a trading port after leasing the land from the local queen. Pepper was the big trade then, and to guard their interests, they built Fort St. Thomas. It didn't last. When the Dutch defeated them in 1661, the fort suffered damage and fell into ruins. Today, what remains of it is under restoration by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Dutch stayed for a while, laying down roads in a neat grid pattern that still exists in parts. But by the 18th century, the Maharaja of Travancore took over. Then came the British in 1795.

Thankasseri also became home to a small Anglo-Indian community. Many foreign traders married locals, creating a blend of cultures. Some families still live here, though the community is much smaller now. But the place itself holds on to its past, with its quiet streets and old structures whispering tales of another time. It is also home to some of Kerala's oldest and most prestigious schools, such as Mount Carmel Convent Anglo-Indian Girls' High School and Infant Jesus Anglo-Indian School. Established in 1940 by the visionary Bishop Jerome M. Fernandez, Infant Jesus School was founded to cater to the



● Thankasseri Light house

education of the Anglo-Indian community, which was then predominant in the area. Over 155 years later, these institutions continue to uphold their legacy of excellence, with alumni spread across the world.

The breakwater system at Thankasseri is now a tourist spot. A long causeway splits the sea into calm waters on one side and a restless surf on the other. The tourism park at the entrance has an open-air auditorium, cycle

tracks, and a tourist information centre.

The beach at Thankasseri stretches for three kilometres, a silver strip of sand where waves roll in gently. It's a peaceful place to soak in the sun or take a long stroll. Overlooking it is the Thankasseri Lighthouse, the tallest in Kerala at 144 feet. Built in 1902 by the British, it started out as a simple tower with an oil lamp. Over the years, it was rebuilt and modernised. Today, visitors can take the lift or climb the stairs to the top for a sweeping view of the sea and Kollam's coastline.

Then there is Fort St. Thomas. The once-mighty structure now stands in ruins, its brick walls broken and crumbling. The battle between the Portuguese and the Dutch left it damaged, and time has done the rest. Even so, it draws history lovers and curious travellers. Many come just to take photographs, capturing a piece of the past before it disappears further.



Thankasseri is not just a place with a history. It is a place that holds on to it, letting visitors step into a world that was once bustling with trade and power struggles. Whether you come for the ruins, the lighthouse, or simply to experience the unique heritage of this coastal town, Thankasseri offers a glimpse into a past that still lingers in its streets, schools, and shores

**Thankasseri is home to some of Kerala's oldest and most prestigious schools, like Mount Carmel Convent and Infant Jesus Anglo-Indian School. Founded to serve the Anglo-Indian community, these institutions continue to uphold a tradition of excellence, shaping generations of students who now thrive across the world**



● breakwater system at Thankasseri

# THE HISTORIC AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF KOLLAM





**GAUTHAM PADMANABHAN**

## The Ancient Gateway of Global Trade and Culture

**K**ollam, once known as *'Thenvanchi,'* served as the southern frontier of the Second Chera Empire, reigning from approximately 800 to 1102 A.D. The city's geographical location at the confluence of the Ashtamudi Lake and the Arabian Sea gave it immense strategic and commercial value. By the 9th century, Kollam emerged as an important hub for administration, trade, and commerce. The city was ruled by a branch of the Venad dynasty, whose ancestral home was situated 80 miles south of Kollam, in a region known as Eraniel.

The most notable landmark of Kollam's ancient history is the *'Panangavu Koyikkal,'* an ancient royal palace. The legendary King Udaya Marthanda Varma made significant contributions to the cultural and political history of the region by commencing the Malayalam New Year in this very place on August 15th, 825 A.D. This event marked the beginning of Kolla Varsham, a date that continues to be celebrated as the start of the Malayalam calendar.

## Ancient Scripts That Shaped Kollam's Religious History

Kollam also holds the distinction of being

the site where the first known copper plates of Kerala were discovered. The Tarisapalli Copper Plates, issued by King Ayyan Adikal Thiruvadikal of Venad, were dated to the 5th regnal year of the Chera Emperor, Sthanu Ravi, in 849 A.D. These copper plates were monumental for their role in granting permission to build a place of worship for the Syrian Christian community, led by Marwan Sapir Easo, within the precincts of Kollam city. Written in the *'Vattezhuththu'* Malayalam script, along with Kufic and Pehlavi inscriptions, these plates were signed by 25 distinguished individuals, including the king, the junior prince, and influential merchants representing various trade guilds.

## The Land That Generated Wealth and Power

Kollam's historical significance is further underscored by the observations of Alphonso Da Albuquerque, a Portuguese captain who succeeded Vasco Da Gama. In his travel accounts, Albuquerque described Kollam as a large and prosperous city. He praised the King of Kollam for being an honest and experienced ruler, commanding an army of 60,000 archers. At the time, Kollam was governed by a person known as Namyathi, a caste name that also denoted the administrator's role.

In 1505 A.D., under the orders of Almeyda, Captain Homem was dispatched to Kollam on a mission to fetch cargo. During this visit, a





**Tarisapalli Copper Plates**



**Velu Thampi Dalawa**

skirmish occurred between Portuguese and Arab merchants. Despite such tensions, the Portuguese had a lasting impact on the economy of Kollam, notably introducing cashew cultivation, which transformed the city's economic landscape in the years that followed.

### **The Architect of Kollam's Early Modernisation**

The early 19th century witnessed a

significant transformation in Kollam's political and infrastructural development, largely due to the efforts of Thampi Velayudhan Chempakaraman, popularly known as Veluthampi Dalawa. Serving as the Prime Minister of Travancore from 1801 to 1809, Veluthampi played a vital role in the city's growth. His tenure was marked by the construction of markets, *Kacheries* (offices), a palace, and the Temple of Anandavalleeswaram. During his rule, Kollam was revitalised as the political capital of Travancore, although Trivandrum remained the official headquarters.

Veluthampi also ordered the construction of a new road linking Kollam with Chenkottah and played a crucial part in drafting the 1805 Travancore-British treaty. This treaty facilitated the British East India Company's intervention in suppressing the Nair rebellion of the same year. However, the financial difficulties facing Travancore, coupled with dissent within the administration, led to the downfall of Veluthampi's political career.

### **Kollam's Fight Against Colonial Domination**

In 1809, the growing discontent in Travancore under British influence led Veluthampi Dalawa to declare war on the British at Kundara, near Kollam. Though he received some support from Paliath Achan and Kunjali Marakkar, his plea for assistance from external powers such as the Zamorin, Marathas, French, and Russians went unanswered. In retaliation, the British forces, led by Col. Leger and Major Welsh, mounted a decisive counteroffensive, resulting in the fall of Udayagiri and Padmanabhapuram.

The Travancore forces, suffering crushing defeats, were pursued by the British, and Veluthampi Dalawa, along with his brother Padmanabhan Thampi, took their own lives at the Mannadi Temple, located 39 kilometers northeast of Kollam. Following their deaths, Ummini Thampi, backed by the British, was appointed the new Dewan. However, his administration proved ineffective, leading to Col. Munro's appointment as Resident in 1810.

### **A Queen's Vision for Kollam's Progress**

The political landscape of Kollam underwent further changes when Regent Gauri Lakshmi Bai ascended the throne of Travancore following the death of Maharaja Balarama Varma in 1810. The Queen was supported by the British under Col. Munro, who was appointed as the Dewan in 1811. During their tenure, they introduced reforms in



**Thevally Palace**

agriculture, finances, and governance.

Gauri Lakshmi Bai also moved the administration forward by selecting the Puthukulangara Palace in Kollam as her official residence. In 1813, she gave birth to a son, Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma, who was declared the new ruler, with the Queen serving as his Regent. After the Queen's death in 1815, her young son's future was secured, and the 13-year-old Gauri Parvathi Bai, the Senior Queen of Attingal, was appointed Regent. Under her leadership, Kollam saw significant developments, particularly the construction of Thevally Palace, located by the Ashtamudi Lake. (British Residency at Ashraamam in Kollam)

### **The Waterway That Linked Kollam to Kochi**

Gauri Parvathi Bai's reign (1815–1819) marked a period of significant reforms. She oversaw the construction of two vital canals in 1825: one linking Trivandrum to Kadinamkulam Lake and the other connecting Kollam's backwaters to Paravur. These canals created a new artificial river, named '*Parvathi Puthanar*,' which connected Trivandrum to Kochi. The creation of this river boosted trade and commerce, transforming the region into an even more important economic centre.

### **The one Who Introduced Reforms in Kollam and Travancore**

In 1829, Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma, a distinguished musician and composer, ascended the throne of Travancore. His reign brought about a cultural renaissance in the kingdom, and in 1830, he held his first official meeting with British

Governor Lushington in Kollam. A patron of the arts and education, Swathi Thirunal established several institutions, including an observatory, charity hospital, printing press, and an English school in Trivandrum. He also shifted the administrative center from Kollam to Trivandrum, marking the beginning of a new era for both the city and the state.

### **Swathi Thirunal's Successors Who Shaped Kollam**

Swathi Thirunal's successors continued to shape the development of Kollam. Maharajas such as Uthram Thirunal (1847–1860), Ayilyam Thirunal (1860–1880), and Vishakhram Thirunal (1880–1885) contributed significantly to the city's prosperity. In 1904, under Maharaja Sri Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma, the first railway station in Travancore was built in Kollam, connecting the city to the Madras State. This milestone was followed by the opening of the Kollam-Ernakulam rail route in 1928, during the Regency of Sethu Lakshmi Bai.

### **Kollam's Journey Through Statehood and Change**

Following India's independence in 1947, the princely states of Travancore and Cochin merged to form the Tiru-Kochi State. Paravur T.K. Narayana Pillai, former Prime Minister of Travancore, became the first Chief Minister of the newly formed state. The creation of the state of Kerala in 1956 led to the formation of the Kollam district, comprising six taluks: Kollam, Karunagapally, Kottarakkara, Punalur, Kunnathur and Pathanapuram.

# MY ROMANCE WITH “GOOD OLD QUILON”

The following is a reflection on the influence of Kollam on a journalist's life and career. It highlights the city's role in shaping educational and professional opportunities, as well as its cultural and intellectual contributions.



**MOHAN SIVANAND**

Former Editor-in-Chief, Reader's Digest India

**I**t was 1976. Having finished college, for the first time in my life, I had little to do. I was staying in Kollam's Tangasseri Village, a historic former Portuguese enclave with its lovely beaches, lighthouse, and colonial villas. I had completed my BSc in Physics, MA in English, and a postgraduate journalism diploma. Then, one day, an uncle asked me rather abruptly, "Mohan, how long will you remain unemployed?" That word made me a bit upset. I'd never thought I was unemployed. I was sending articles to newspapers that paid me Rs 20, maybe 25—far from enough to survive without my parents. Since I had an interest in art, the uncle suggested I join the Venkateswara Institute of Art, not far away. I did just that. I met Venkat Sir, its owner, and started drawing lessons with other, mostly younger, students.

Sometime earlier that year, I'd seen an advertisement for Trainee Journalists at The Times of India in Bombay. I had sent in an application and forgotten about it. I didn't have much hope, applying from a remote Kerala village, while there would be others from the big metros also in the running. In the previous year, one of my journalism college classmates who applied for the same position did not make it after the final interview. "Looks like they select only North Indians," she had told me.

Even so, I got a call. A written test in Madras and two interviews later, I was in Bombay by March 1977, working at The Times Group. Reluctantly, I had to quit Venkat Sir's fine art classes. At The Times, I was moving from one magazine or news department to another. I enjoyed my work and never had to look back. Starting out as a trainee there, I retired as Editor-in-Chief with the India edition of Reader's Digest in 2015. Today, at the age of 73, I teach journalism part-time to postgraduate students at Mumbai's St Xavier's College. Looking back, I owe much of all this to the opportunities Kollam gave me.

It was in 1963 that I first moved there and to a new boarding school in Tangasseri. Infant Jesus Anglo-Indian Boys' High School was a good place. The much older Mount Carmel Convent, a girls' school founded in 1885, is just a street away. We spoke mostly English in Tangasseri. Quilon also had a good municipal library, where I could borrow books and grow up reading almost any leading publication, including Blitz, The Illustrated Weekly, and The Times of India. I wasn't great at my studies, but we had Miss Sheila DeCouto, our legendary English teacher at Infant Jesus. She was also very encouraging and must have sparked something in me.

At Fatima College, I studied science, and thanks to Miss Sheila, I must have topped Kerala University in our BSc Part One English in 1972, obtaining a then-rare and only first class. In Kollam, I made some lifelong friends and could go on to postgraduate studies, including journalism college, in Trivandrum. The Quilon Cricket League matches I played for my school and college meant an all-round education, looking back.

At college, too, I had some excellent faculty members. It also had a big library. I borrowed and read some classic books, among them H.G. Wells's A Short History of the World, Shakespeare's plays, and some works by Bertrand Russell. I also read, among other books, a standard sociology text. These helped prepare me for a career in journalism. Such reading made me more rational, sceptical, and maybe kinder too.

It was then that Kollam also set up its modern public library. Even recently, I was reading about how three generations of Kollam's youngsters have benefited from it.

Many state and national sports champion emerged from my school and college. They also produced numerous top professionals, including architect Eugene Pandala, several IAS officers, doctors, former Indian Olympic captain Suresh Babu, actor-politicians Suresh Gopi and Mukesh, and leading educationist Sunny Varkey.

Kollam is a quiet, clean, and charming town. My romance with "good old Quilon", as my friends and I called it, never ended. I go back once in a while. In recent years, I even visited Venkat Sir. He still runs his art school near the Kachery Junction. And if you think that brief introduction to art was wasted because I had to quit, you are wrong. Painting and drawing have given me a good second profession. I have held a few exhibitions of my oil paintings in Mumbai, and my works are in some private collections.

Thank you, Kollam, where every bit I learnt has helped me immensely.



Olympian Suresh Babu

# EXPANDING KOLLAM'S CULTURAL REACH

The Kollam Public Library, founded in 1973 has transformed Kollam's cultural landscape. It serves as a hub for literature, research, and intellectual discourse, offering a vast collection of books in multiple languages and hosting discussions and literary events.

Sopanam, located within the library, hosts Kerala's longest-running free theatre festival, featuring 19 days of performances in a 750-seat hall. Designed by architect M.V. Devan, it was built over seven years and remains one of the finest cultural spaces in the region. Funded by K. Raveendranathan Nair, Sopanam is open to all, promoting art beyond commercial constraints. At its entrance stands 'Kundalini,' a tree-root sculpture by Jayapal Panicker, symbolising emerging talent.



# KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE ON THE CULTURAL STAGE

The Kollam Kathakali Club was founded in 1974 with the aim of establishing a dedicated troupe to promote and preserve Kathakali in the city. The idea took shape within the local Balabhavan, leading to the formation of a formal committee that organised the club's inaugural performance at a major city auditorium, drawing an enthusiastic audience.

Initially, the club staged performances in various venues, including hotels and cultural halls, with strong community support. Over time, it formed its own troupe, acquiring costumes and stage accessories, and later secured a permanent venue. Since 2014, monthly performances have been held at a historic temple, ensuring the continued presence of this classical art form in the region.



# A LEGACY OF LEARNING

The National Library and Reading Room, Asraamam, was founded in 1954 by a group of local intellectuals who established a small tiled-roof structure dedicated to reading and discussion. The name National Library was chosen to reflect a commitment to knowledge and public service.

Initially housed on donated land, the library grew alongside Kerala's expanding library movement, leading to the establishment of additional branches in the region. In 1975, the foundation for a new building was laid, and it was officially opened to the public the same year. Despite periods of decline and revival, the National Library in Asraamam remains a vital centre for learning and community activities, carrying forward the vision of its founders.



# HERE, MEMORIES POURED AND SHARED

For years, the Indian Coffee House in Kollam was more than a café. It was a part of the city's soul. Students lingered over endless conversations. Old friends reunited over fragrant coffee. Weary travellers found a moment of rest within its familiar walls.

In May 2024, a decade after its reopening, the beloved institution served its last cup. It was not for lack of patrons but for lack of hands to keep it running. With too few staff to sustain operations, the doors closed quietly, leaving behind only memories of clinking cups, laughter and the comforting aroma of freshly brewed coffee.

# THE VOICE THAT ECHOED ACROSS KERALA

*"Apsarasanente Desdemon  
Samsayikkilloru kaalavum ninne Njan.."*

Once, these lines were not just spoken but felt. Cashew workers hummed them at their jobs. Festival grounds and village squares carried their echoes. The man behind them, V. Sambasivan, was not just a storyteller. He was an experience. Through *'Kathaprasangam,'* he made literature a part of everyday life.

Born in Kollam, Sambasivan had a rare gift. He could turn a story into a shared moment. His performances blended drama, music and sharp social insight. His voice filled temple grounds, festival nights and quiet village gatherings, holding listeners in rapt attention.

Some of his most unforgettable performances included

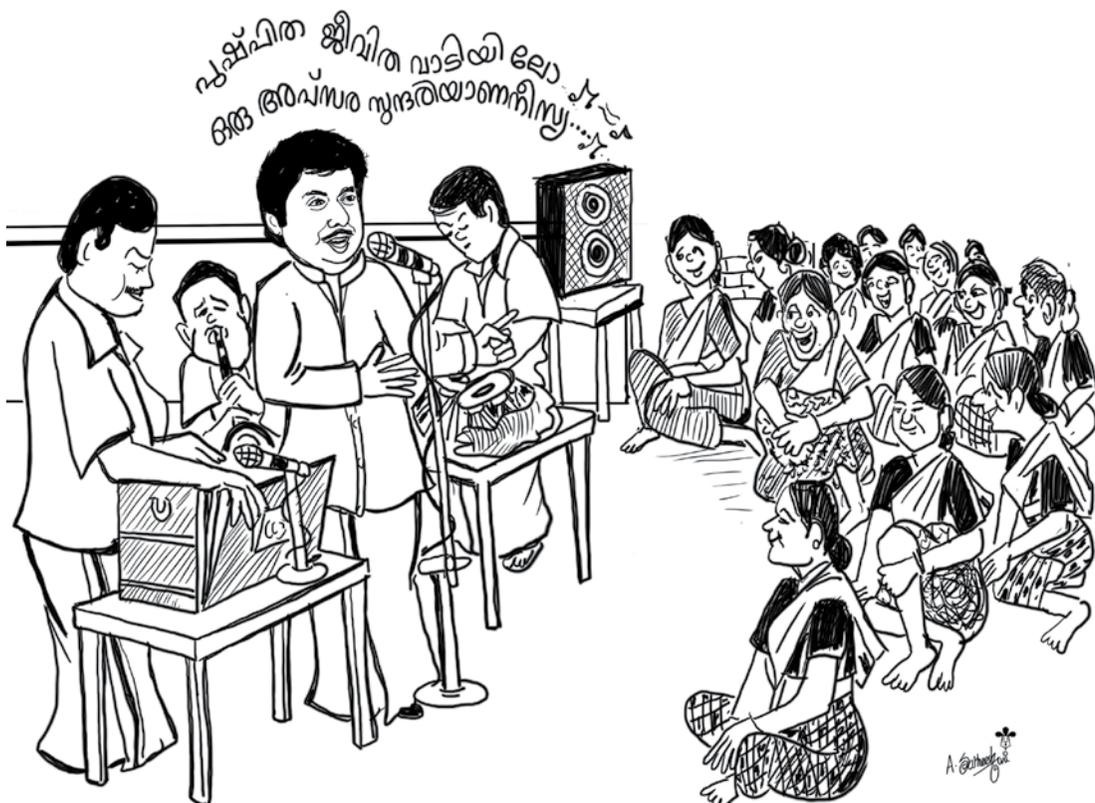
"Anna Karenina" – A story of love and loss that found deep connection with his audience.

"Anneesiya" – A narrative rich in human emotions and conflicts.

"Othello" – A tale of jealousy and betrayal delivered with gripping intensity.

"Ayisha" – A moving story that left a lasting impact.

Sambasivan's storytelling was more than entertainment. It was a bridge between words and emotions, between stories and people. His voice may have fallen silent, but his legacy still lingers in the minds of those who once gathered to listen.



# A CENTURY-OLD LANDMARK IN KOLLAM

'Karbala'—a name that carries weight in history and tradition. In Iraq, it is a city of deep religious significance. In Kollam, it stands as a landmark in the heart of the city's academic and cultural hub, shaping the experiences of generations.

Karbala Junction has been a familiar name to thousands of students who have passed through the area's educational institutions. SN College, established in 1948 as the first college in Kollam, paved the way for institutions such as Fatima College, SN Women's College, Jyoti College, and Carmela Rani College. Many schools and parallel colleges have contributed its educational legacy.

But 'Karbala' is more than just an academic landmark. It has been a backdrop to countless student protests, heated debates, and public gatherings. It has also witnessed another side of campus life—friendships forged over shared ambitions, quiet conversations under ancient trees, and love stories that unfolded in the in-between moments of college life. Many first glances, secret meetings, and whispered promises have played out here, making Karbala a silent keeper of youthful romances, some fleeting, others lasting a lifetime.

While recent infrastructure developments, including a new auditorium and the relocation of TM Varghese Park, have altered some aspects of the area, its spirit remains unchanged. A century later, Karbala continues to stand as a witness to the past, carrying within it stories of education, activism, and love that have shaped generations



കാലശ്രീചിട്ട  
വാർഷികിണിയിൽ

സാഹരജ്ജവയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ....



**Kappil - Paravur Road - Connecting  
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### Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund Account

No.	Bank	Account Number	IFSC Code
1.	State Bank of India	39251566695	SBIN0070028
2.	South Indian Bank	0721053000003020	SIBL0000721
3.	Federal Bank	10210100422271	FDRL0001021
4.	HDFC Bank Ltd	50100350210557	HDFC0002485
5.	ICICI Bank	626201089884	ICIC0006262
6.	CSB Bank Ltd	00 9603981212190001	CSBK0000096
7.	Axis Bank	920010023834712	UTIB0000784
8.	Dhanalakshmi Bank	003700100156782	DLXB0000037
9.	IDBI Bank Ltd	0889104000111454	IBKL0000889
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	009901000002020	IOBA0000099
11.	Union Bank of India	502902010900782	UBIN0550299
12.	Canara Bank	5842132000007	CNRB0005842
13.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	1815182037	KKBK0009206
14.	Bank Of Baroda	29860100006714	BARB0PEROOR
15.	Standard Chartered Bank	43710072419	SCBL0036099
16.	Kerala Gramin Bank	40341101051311	KLGB0040341
17.	IndusInd Bank	159900002020	INDB0001599
18.	Bank Of India	853810110007599	BKID0008538
19.	Punjab National Bank	3301000104118534	PUNB0330100
20.	Kerala Bank	110110801000339	KSBK0000101
21.	Central Bank of India	5652206185	CBIN0280937
22.	UCO Bank	02880110077641	UCBA0000288
23.	Indian Bank	7839343398	IDIB000P030
24.	Covid-TSB A/c (1475)	799010100191475	
25.	Special Treasury Savings Bank	799010100193172	

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