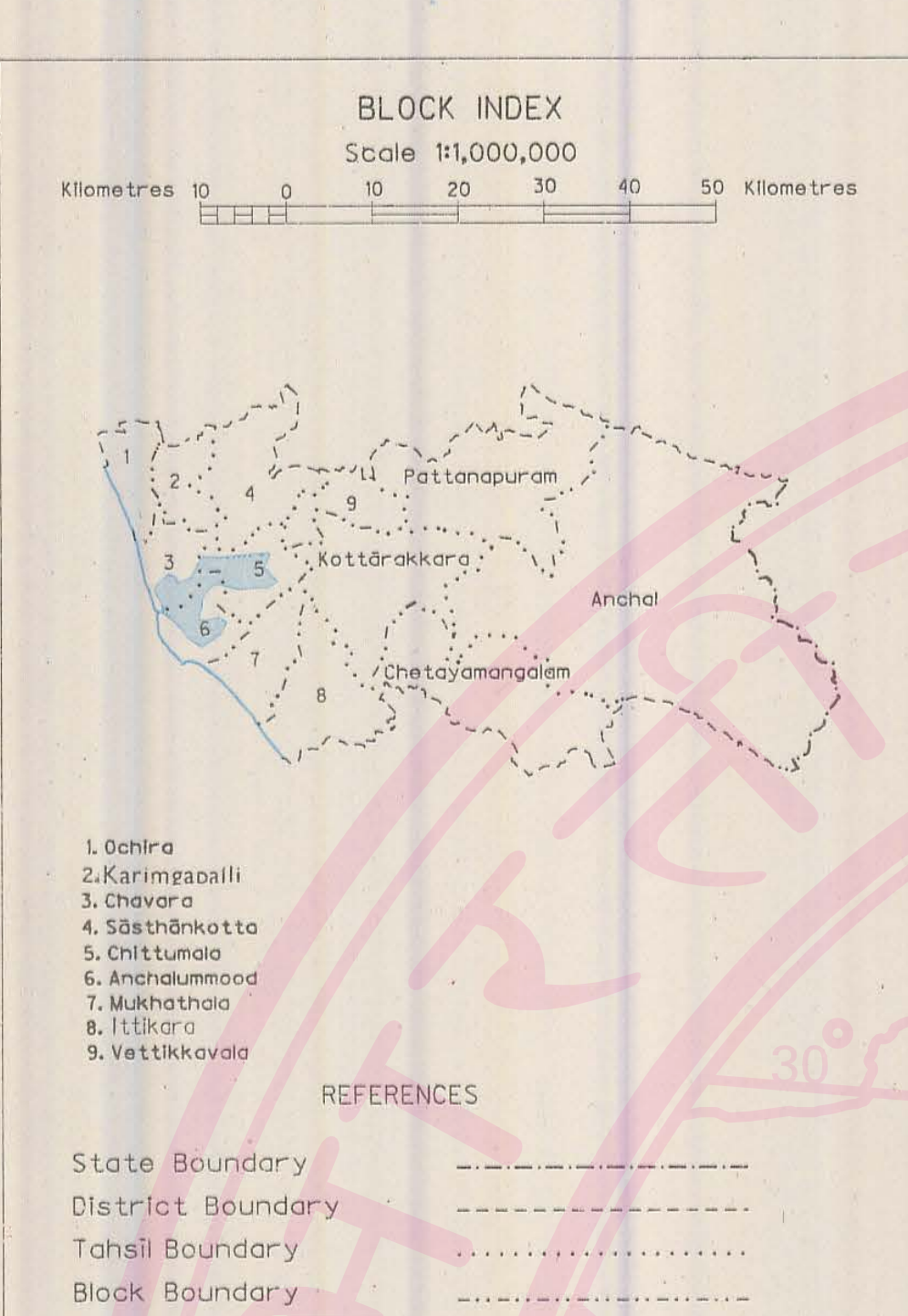


DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES

KOLLAM KERALA

ASHTAMUDI LAKE

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



KOLLAM DISTRICT

The basic purpose of this map is to provide users and planners with topographic and important thematic information related to a district. The data is also available in digital form as a part of Geographic Information System.

Kollam district which comprises of five taluks is situated on the south west coast of India. It is bound on the north by Alappuzha district, and east by Pattanamittha district, east by Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, south by Tiruvananthapuram district and on the west by Lakshadweep Sea. Kollam town is the headquarters of the district.

Kollam, the erstwhile Desinganadu, is an old sea port town with commercial reputation from the days of the Phoenicians and the Romans. The 9th Century huge Chinese Junk frequented this port falling on the trade route from Canton to Persian Gulf. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish a trading centre at KOLLAM in 1502 AD. Then came the Dutch followed by the British in 1795 AD.

Two rivers Kalada and Attikara flow through this district. The Sasthankotta lake is the only major fresh water lake in the district. Two other major lakes are the Ashtamudi Kadal and the Paravur Kadal. About 70% of the population is engaged in agriculture. The principal crops cultivated are paddy, tobacco, coconut, rubber, pepper, banana, mango and cashew.

Teak and softwood form the major forest plantation in the district. The district is immensely rich in mineral resources. The beach sand of the district has concentrations of heavy minerals like Ilmenite, Rutile, Monazite and Zircon. There are also large deposits of China clay besides lime shell deposits, Bauxite and disseminated graphite. The district has numerous Mills, Clay, Ceramics, Wood and Aluminium Industries. Cashew processing and Coir production are major industrial vocations.

The district has many places of religious and historical importance such as Sastha temple, the pilgrim centre at Ochira, Kottankulangara temple. There are also numerous places of tourist interest such as Palaruvi (milk river) waterfalls, Tangasseri lighthouse, Joday para a huge rock of epic origin, Mahatma Gandhi Beach & park at Kochupuzha, Thirumalavaram beach, Ashramam picnic village at KOLLAM, Ashtamudi lake. In addition there are Churches, Mosques which have their own festivals attracting huge crowds irrespective of their religious affiliation.

The district has a tropical humid climate with an oppressive summer and plentiful seasonal rainfall. The average annual rainfall is about 3036 mm.

