



PĀLGĤĀT DISTRICT

The basic objective of this 'Map Series' is to provide users and planners with topographical and thematic information related to a district.

PĀLGĤĀD, by its anglicised version as PĀLGĤĀT, is the 'Gateway of Kerala'. Its long and chequered history of conquests dates back to the 2nd century A.D. The Pallavas and Perumals were the illustrious dynasties who ruled here for many centuries, till the land was divided among the chieftains. When Zamorin of Calicut invaded PĀLGĤĀT in 1757, the then ruler of PĀLGĤĀT took the help of Hyder Ali of Mysore and forced the Zamorin to retreat. Hyder Ali seized the opportunity and subjugated PĀLGĤĀT to the hands of Mysore Rulers. The war between Tipu and East India Company ended with the treaty of 1872 and Pālgḥāt formed part of Malabar District of Madras Presidency. Consequent to the State Reorganisation Act of 1956, Malabar District was separated from Madras Presidency and Pālgḥāt was formed as a district of Kerala on the 1st of January 1957.

The present PĀLGĤĀT District covering an area of 4480 sq km is divided into five blocks, two revenue divisions, 33 developmental blocks, 91 panchāyats, comprising of 169 villages. The land is divided naturally into the 'Midlands'-covering valleys & plains and 'Highlands' formed by the high mountains, peaks, long spurs, deep ravines, extensive forests and dense jungles. The longest and the most important river of Kerala, the 'Bhārata Puzha' - 375 km in length, sprawls across the entire district. The forests team with wild life. The 'Silent Valley', the last substantial stretch of tropical evergreen forests of India, is rich in rare flora and fauna.

The district has a population of 23,79,561 as per the 1991 census, comprising of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and the Tribals who live mainly in the forests. Some of the old temples in the district have beautiful paintings and sculpture of great artistic value. Important festivals are celebrated throughout the year and the famous 'Nemmara Vallangi Vela' is in the pattern of Trichūr Pooram and renowned for its fireworks display.

The district has rich cultural traditions and has proudly presented many illustrious personages. Notable among them are Tunchattu Ezhutachan - the father of Malayalam literature, Kuruphan Nambāir - popular poet and the founder of the art form 'Tullar', Shri Chembai Vaidyanāthā Bhāgavathar - the exponent of Karnatic music, Mridanga Vidvān Pālakḥāḍi Mahi Iyer and Guru Kunju Kurup-mentor of 'Kathakali' art.

The climate is tropical and the region has moderate temperature and rainfall. Agriculture based economy with rice its major crop has earned the district, the name, 'Rice Bowl of Kerala'. The highland region consists of rubber and teak plantations. The district has many industries in and around the headquarters. Number of units manufacturing musical instruments like Harmonium, Fiddle, Drums, Tabla, Veena and Mridangam which find good export throughout the world, are found here. Major roads and a broad gauge railway line, link Kerala with the rest of the country through the 26 km gap in the Western Ghats.

The numerous tourist and scenic spots that embellish the district chiefly the 'Malampuzha Dam' and the 'Silent Valley' make the district a 'Tourists' Paradise'.

REFERENCES

Boundary, international: ————
Boundary, state: dashed line
Boundary, district: solid line, label or label, forest
Boundary, block: ————
Boundary pillars: surveyed/unlocated: ————
Roads, metalled: according to importance, distance: ————
Roads, unmetalled: according to importance: ————
Cart-track, Pack-track and pass, Foot-path with bridge: ————
Bridges: with piers/without, Caseway, Ford or Ferry: ————
Railways, broad gauge: double/single with station/under constn.: ————
Railways, other gauges: double/single with distance/under constn.: ————
Mineral line or tramway, Main power line, Cutting with tunnel: ————
Streams: with track in bed/undrained, Canal: ————
Dams: masonry or rock-filled, earthwork, Well: ————
River banks: shelving, steep, 3 to 6 metres/over 6 metres: ————
River, dry with water channel, with island & rocks, Tidal river: ————
Submerged rocks, Shoal, Swamp, Beach: ————
Wells: lined/unlined, Tubewell, Spring, Tanks: perennial/dry: ————
Embankments: road or rail/tank, Broken ground: ————
Settlements: urban/rural, Fort: ————
Huts: permanent/temporary, Tower, Antiquities: ————
Temple, Chital, Church, Mosque, Ghat, Tank, Graves: ————
Lighthouse, Lightship, Buoy: lighted/unlighted, Anchorage: ————
Mine, Cultivation, Grass & Scrubland: ————
Orchard & Plantation, Jungle area: ————
Post office, Telegraph office, Post & Telegraph office, Police station: ————
Bungalow, Club or travellers' inspection, Rest house: ————
Circuit house, Camping ground, Forest reserved/protected: ————
Hospital, Dispensary, Veterinary Hospital: ————
Places of tourist interest: ————

Names, other places of interest: ————
Names, settlements: ————
Names, taluk headquarters: ————
Name: headquarter, district: ————

Malampuzha Gardens

CHITTŪR
OTTAPPĀLAM
PĀLGĤĀT

Source: Survey of India Map