

CHAPTER 2

PROFILE OF THE CITY

This chapter briefly explains the general profile of Kannur Municipal Corporation area, including its location, regional linkages, area, climate, physiography, natural resources and history etc.

2.1 LOCATION

Kannur Municipal Corporation area comes under the first order settlement of Kannur district and is located at the western side of Kannur district. The planning area lies

between 11°48'26.423" to 11°55'35.762" north latitudes and 75°20'2.847" to 75°27'22.042" east longitude. The Corporation area is surrounded by eight Grama Panchayaths; Chirakkal, Azhikode, Narath and Kolacherry on the northern side, Munderi, Chembilode on the eastern side, Kadambur and Muzhappilangad Panchayaths on the southern side.

The planning area has a large coastal stretch on the western side and its location with adjoining Panchayaths is shown in Figure.2.1.



Figure.2.1 Location of Kannur Municipal Corporation area and its adjoining local bodies

2.2 CONNECTIVITY

Kannur Municipal Corporation area is easily accessible by road, rail and air. The National Highway - 66 (NH 66) passes through the planning area and connects the two major cities; Kozhikode and Mangalore with it. Kannur Railway Station, the major railway station in Kannur district is located inside the planning area. Moreover, Kannur International Airport is located 30 km away from the Corporation area.

The other major roads within the district are SH 30, SH 36, SH 38 which provides an effective connectivity between low land, mid

land and high land of the district. The major development centres within the district such as Thalassery, Payyannur, Mattannur and Thaliparamba are well connected to the planning area through a system of road network. Moreover, the State Highway 59 passing through the highland area of the district acts as an effective trade route for exporting the plantation and cash crops within the district.

Also, the railway network parallel to the coastal area brings an effective connectivity of Kannur district with neighbouring urban centres. The Kannur South – Airport railway line is a newly suggested railway route which needs further detailed studies gives hope for a rail connection to the hinterland area in future.

The major rivers of the planning area are Kanampuzha River, KakkadRiver, Thottada River and

Nadal River. Kakkad River is a tributary of Valapatanam River and it flows through the northern border of the Corporation area. Kanampuzha River and Thottada River flows inside the planning area while Nadal River is through the southernmost boundary. There is no water transport system active in these areas, even though there is a boat service from Mattul and Azheekal Port up to Parassinikkadavu in Valapattanam River outside the Corporation area. Azheekal and Mappila bay are the major harbours which are located very close to the planning area. The flight schedules from Kannur International Airport can link Kannur district with the major airport cities in Kerala, India and Abroad, and provides broader air connectivity to the Municipal Corporation area. Figure.2.2 indicates the road network of Kannur district.



Figure.2.2 Road Network of Kannur district

2.3 AREA AND POPULATION

Kannur Municipal Corporation area having a geographical area of 78.38 km² is the largest among the 10 urban local bodies in the district. The population as per 2011 Census is 2,32,486 in which males constitute 10779 (46%) and females 125407 (54%). Total population of the

planning area is constituted by eight Villages.

The decadal growth rate for 2001-2011 periods is 2.67% and sex ratio is 1171. The work participation rate of the town is 28.91% which is below the WPR value (32.66%) of the district and the state (34.78%).

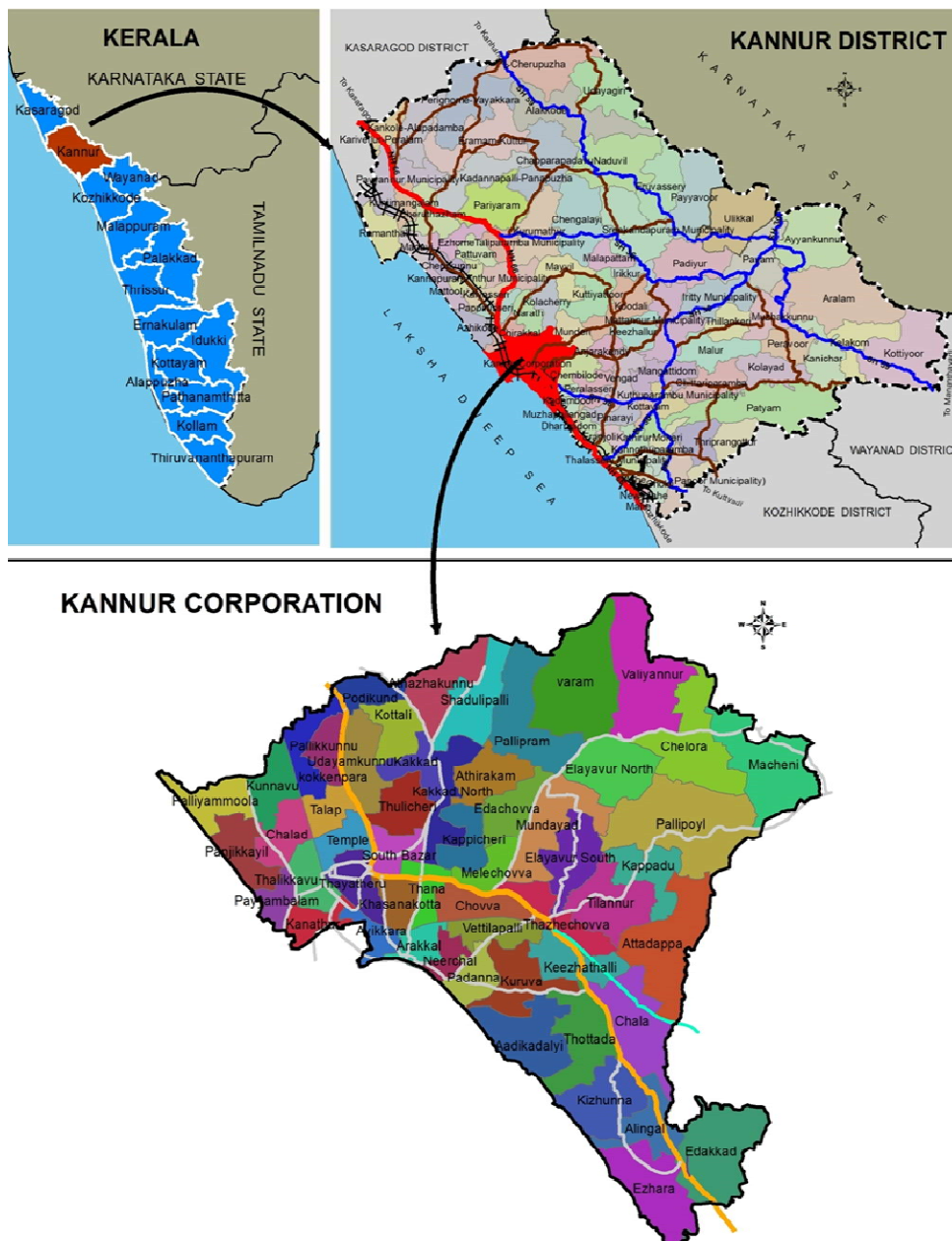


Figure.2.3 Ward map of the planning area

The Kannur Cantonment under the control of Ministry of Defence and located on the western side of the Corporation area has 6 electoral wards and an area of 1.79 km².

The average literacy rate is 96.54%. The male literacy rate is 97.8% and female literacy rate is 95.4%. 10.6 % of the population is less than 6 years of age. The density of population is 2967 per sq.km as per 2011 census. The ward map of the planning area is shown in Figure.2.3.

2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Kannur Municipal Corporation area consists of eight Villages and 26 Desoms. Kannur I, Kannur II, Edakkad, Elayavoor, Pallikkunnu, Puzhathy, Chelora and Valiyannur are the Villages. The Village and Desom maps are shown in Figure.2.4 and Figure.2.5 respectively. The newly formed Corporation area has 55 electoral wards. The details of election wards in the planning area are shown in Table.2.1.

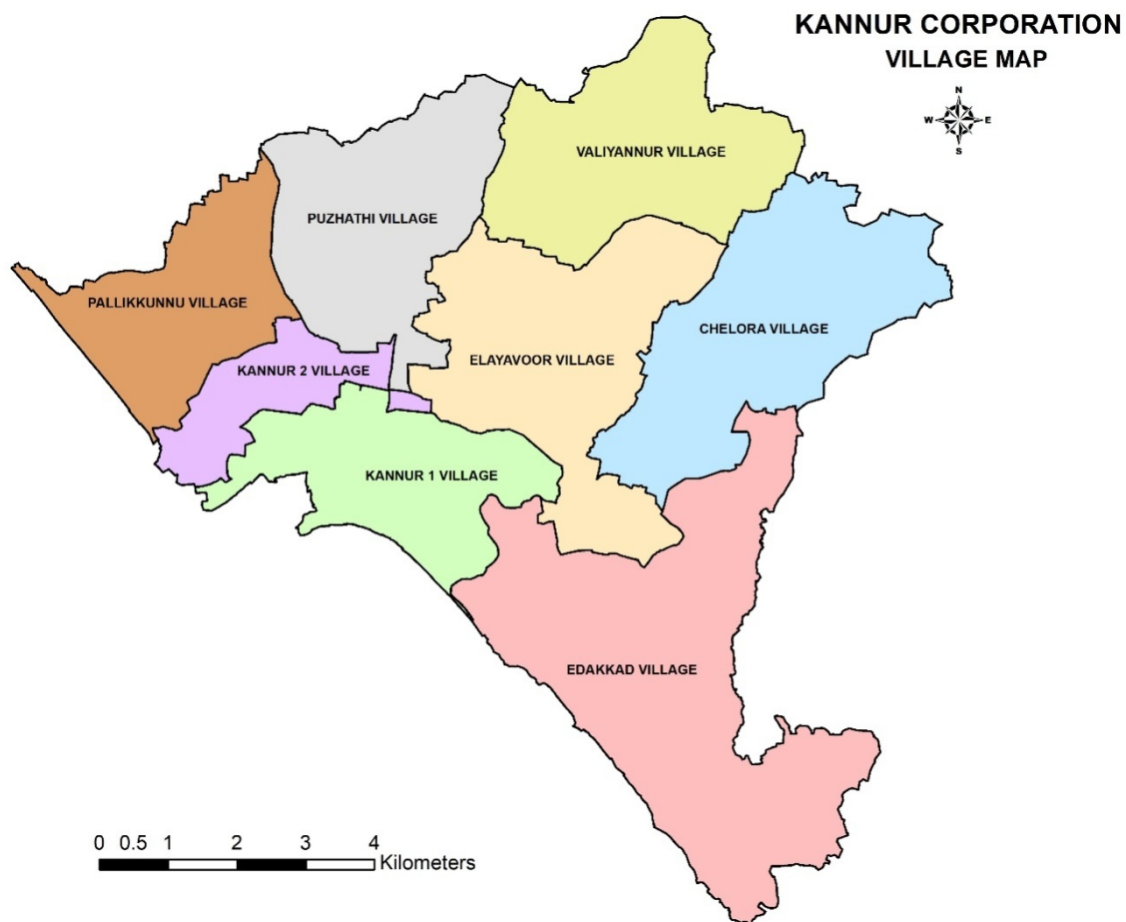


Figure.2.4 Village map of the Kannur Municipal Corporation area

Table 2.1 Details of Election Wards in Corporation Area

Ward No.	Ward Name	Ward No.	Ward Name
1.	Palliyammoola	28	ThazheChovva
2	Kunnavu	29	Kizhuthalli
3	Kokkenpara	30	Thilanoor
4	Pallikkunnu	31	Attadappa
5	Thalappu	32	Chala
6	UdayamKunnu	33	Edakkadu
7	Podikkundu	34	Ezhara
8	Kottali	35	Alingal
9	Athazhakkunnu	36	Kizhunna
10	Kakkadu	37	Thottada
11	Thulicheri	38	Adikadalayi
12	Kakkadu North	39	Kuruva
13	Shadhulipalli	40	Padanna
14	Pallipram	41	Vethilappalli
15	Varam	42	Neerchal
16	Valiyannur	43	Arakkal
17	Chelora	44	Chovva
18	Macheri	45	Thana
19	Pallippoyil	46	South Bazar
20	Kappadu	47	Temple
21	Elayavoor North	48	Thayatheru
22	Elayavoor South	49	Kasanakotta
23	Mundayadu	50	Ayikkara
24	Edachovva	51	Kanathur
25	Athirakam	52	Thalikkavu
26	Kappicheri	53	Payyambalam
27	MeleChovva	54	Chalad
		55	Panjikkayil

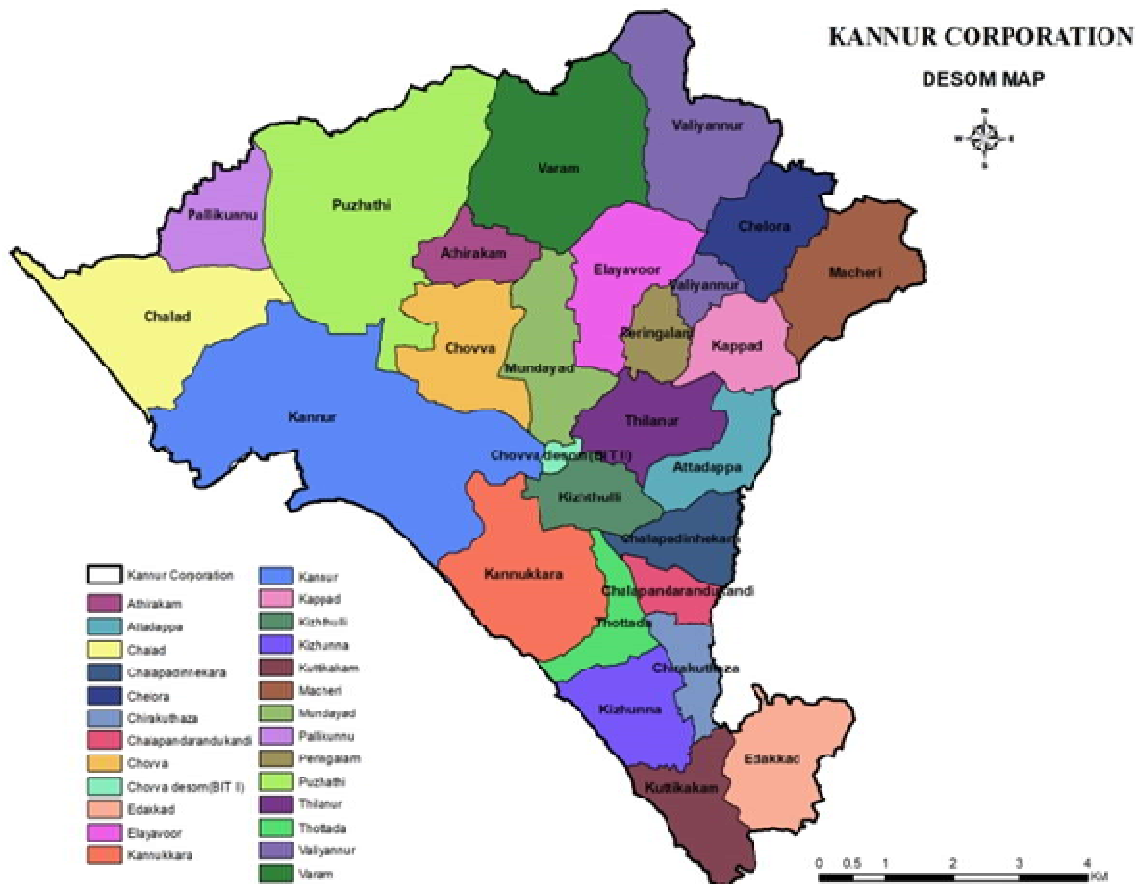


Figure.2.5 Desom map of the Kannur Municipal Corporation area

2.5 SOIL

There are mainly 3 types of soils namely laterite, brown hydromorphic soil and sandy soils. The western side of the Municipal Corporation area comprises comparatively low lying fields with late rite soil and sandy soil.

2.6 PHYSIOGRAPHY

The land in Kerala state has four natural divisions; ‘The Low Lands’ (up to 7.5 m above MSL), ‘The Midlands’ (7.5 -75 m above MSL), ‘The High Lands’ (75 – 750 m above MSL) and the ‘The high ranges’ (above 750 m

MSL). The planning area is a coastal town with 17 km seashore along the Arabian Sea which comes under the Coastal Regulation Zone.

The physiography of the Corporation area is shown in Figure.2.6. From the figure, it is clear that the height above MSL varies within a range of 0 m to 65 m. The height of some portions at Pallipoyil, Chovva, Mouvvancheri, Chalakunnu, Kappatukavu, Pallikunnu etc. has a range of 50 m to 60 m from MSL and therefore can be included in mid lands group of Kerala physiographic division.

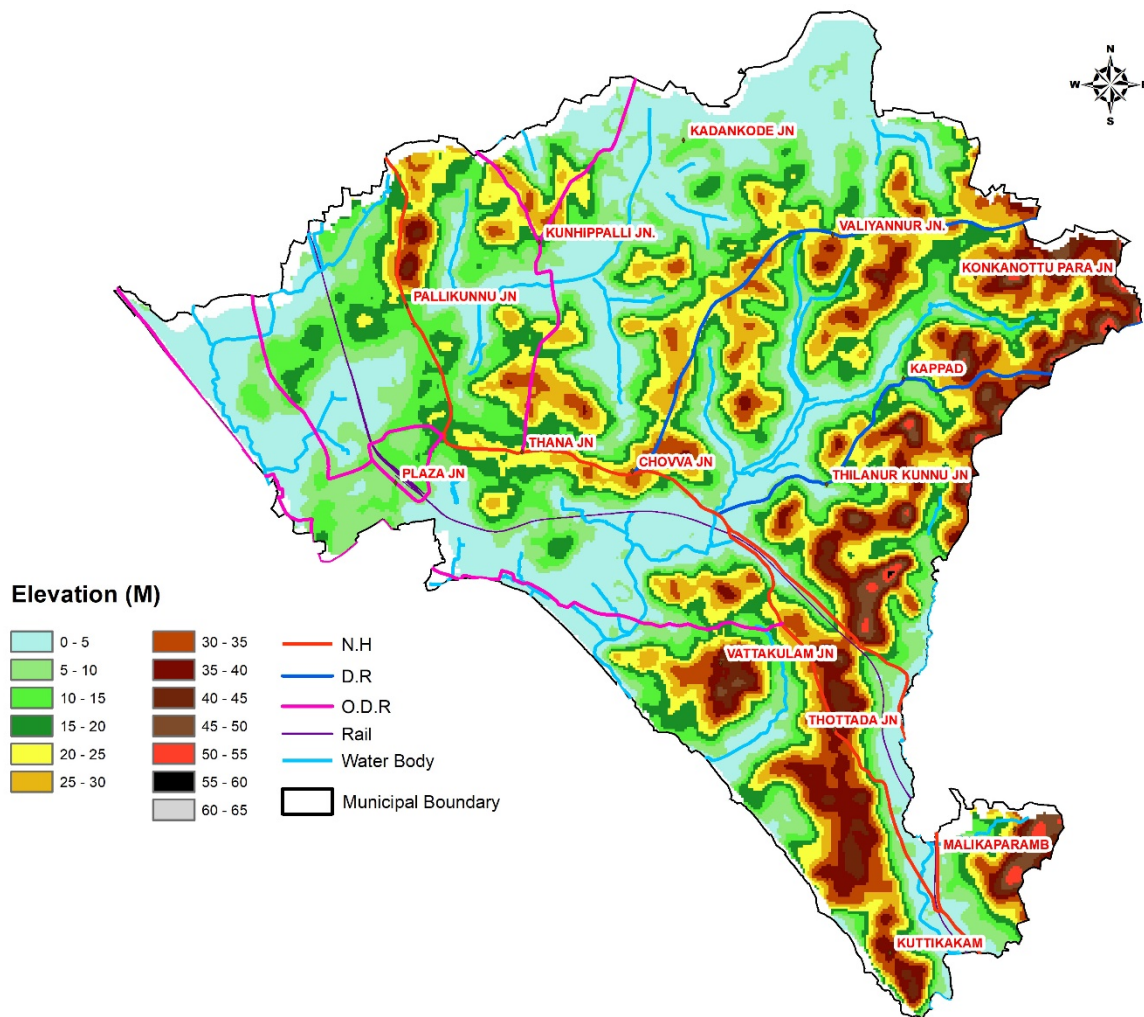


Figure.2.6 Physiography of Kannur Municipal Corporation area

2.7 CLIMATE

The climate of the planning area is fairly moderate. Rainfall is available throughout the year except during the months from January to April.

Average rainfall is 3438 mm and more than 80% of this occurs during the south-west monsoon (from June to September) followed by the north-east monsoon (November to December) which is also known as Thulavarsham. Kannur has a humid climate with an

oppressive hot season from March to the end of May which is followed by the south west monsoon which continues till the end of September. October and November witness the post-monsoon (North-East monsoon) or retreating monsoon season.

During the months of April and May, the mean daily maximum temperature is about 35°C. The temperature is low in December and January and the average minimum temperature is about 20°C.

2.8 HISTORY

Kannur is believed to have arrived from the two words - “Kannan” (Lord Krishna) and “Oor” (Place), means that Kannoor, is the land of Lord Krishna. Another legend is that the name Kannur has its origin from “Kanathoor”, a coastal village formed by the silt deposited from Kaanam Puzha. In olden days, there was a fort on the western side of Kanathoor, known as “Katlayi Kota”, which once flourished as the capital and great trading centre of Kolathiri Rajas, within which there was a renowned temple of Lord Krishna. During invasion of Tippu’s force, the idol of this temple was moved to a safer place and then to the present site of “Kadalayi Sree Krishna Temple”.

The ancient Tamil works like “Pathittuupatt, Akananuru, Puranaruru, Chilappathikaram etc. provide some valuable information about Sangam Era, that covers the first five centuries of AD. As depicted in Sangam literature, present Kannur district was the part of Poozhinaat. Politically, the district was part of Kingdom of Ezhimala. The post Sangam period covering three centuries (sixth to eighth) is treated as the period of Brahminical influence termed as Aryan immigration.

Early in the 9th century AD, the Cheras re-established their political supremacy in Kerala under Kulasekara Varman. The second line

of Chera emperors ruled till 1102 AD with their capital at Mahodayapuram. The bulk of the area comprising the present Kannur district seems to have been included in this empire. Mooshaka kings held sway over Chirakkal and Kasaragod areas with their capital near Mount Eli (present Ezhimala). The eldest brother of king Sreekantha of Mooshaka Kingdom, Vallabha established the port of Maraahi (present Puthiyangadi) at the mouth of Killa (Kuppam) River. In later days, this place came to be called Madayi. He also built the port of Vallabhapattanam which later became as Valapattanam by the 14th century AD. The old Mooshaka kingdom came to be known as Kolathunad and the rulers known as Kolathiris.

Kannur is the place where the only Muslim royal family in Kerala ruled with its headquarters at “Arakkal Kettu”, near the present Kannur Corporation area. The origin of Arakkal family was during the period of Kolathiris. The Arakkal family was founded by Arayankulangara Nair, one of the ministers of Kolathiri, who got converted to Islam and married a princess of Kolathiri royal family. Kolathiri gave them a separate territory covering the Kannur bazar for their control and they virtually became a power centre in respect of trade and political influence.

In 1550, Kolathiri chieftain Alimoosa of Arakkal, conquered six more islands along with Agathi,

Kavarathy, Kalpeni, Androth and Minicoy. As a reward, Kolathiri raised his status as Aadi Raja of Arakkal and gave Kannur town along with Kannothumbal Desom under his control. Later Arakkal raja got control of all mosques in Kolathunadu and became a supreme power of this area.

Kannur city was once a stall for horses imported from Arabia and Kutch. The Portuguese traders got permission to build a fort in Kannur from Kolathiri in 1505 AD and St. Angelo's fort was built by Sir Francisco De Almeida, the first Portuguese Viceroy of India. It was a centre of trade between British and Vijayanagara dynasty.



St. Angelo's fort

In 1663, the Dutch conquered the Portuguese and captured Kannur Fort, and transferred the fort to Arakkal Beevi. In 1788, Tippu Sultan, the son of Hyder Ali arrived in Kannur with an intention to conquer Malabar. Pleased with the warm reception offered by Arakkal family, Sultan gave a larger part of land including Chirakkal Desom to Arakkal Beevi

and called it "Kushanbad". In 1790, St. Angelo's fort was forcefully taken over by the British general Amhercrombi.

The freedom struggle of Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja against the British rulers was also important in north Kerala history. The first Pazhassi revolt was during 1793-97 and the second revolt was during 1800-05.

Malabar became the part of Madras Presidency on May 21 1800. The revenue record of early 19th century indicates that the present district contains 4 Taluks namely Kavvaayi, Chirakkal, Kottayam and Thalassery. By the end of 19th century, the Chirakkal Taluk was formed by merging Kavvaayi with Chirakkal and Kottayam Taluk with Thalassery Taluk.

Kannur only a military cantonment till 1866 was declared as a Municipal Town on 24th June 1867. The Kannur cantonment, one of the 62 cantonments in the country, is adjacent to Kannur Corporation area.

Kannur, the important port on the Arabian Sea, which carried out trade with Persia and Arabia in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, was the British military headquarters on India's west coast up to 1887.

When the States Re-organization Act of 1956 was implemented, Malabar became a part of the newly formed Kerala state on November 1st

1956. On January 1st 1957, Malabar district was divided into three districts namely Cannanore, Kozhikode and Palakkad.

The ancient temples and mosques with their traditional fanfare are eloquent testimony of the rich cultural and religious heritage of the region. Since olden days, Kannur has been the cradle of ageless folk art and music and hence it is popularly known as “*The city of Looms and Lores*”. The district is a major centre of “*Theyyam*”, a ritual dance of northern Kerala. Small shrines known as Kavus, associated with the Theyyam dot the district. Another attraction of Kannur is the handlooms. Kannur has been recognised as one of the nine ‘*Towns of Excellence*’ in the country in handloom export. Though the traditional handloom industry here is 400 years old, the craftsmanship of weavers here acquired fame with the

launching of exports of handloom products. Kannur handloom export has an experience of last fifty years.

2.9 NATURAL RESOURCES

Kannur Municipal Corporation area is gifted with the presence of coastal stretch on the western side which plays a great role in its development.

Mappila bay, an important fisheries settlement in Kannur district is located very close to the planning area Payyambalam, Kizhunna, Ezhara etc. beautiful and attractive beaches here provide great scope in beach front tourism activities.

The rare species of Mangroves and Mangrove associates are still available in many parts of the Planning area. The temples with traditional sacred groves, rich in bio diversities are also seen in the Corporation area.