IV  AREA OF STUDY

Etymologically the name Kerala is derived from Kera the regional name for the coconut palm and Kerala means the land of Kera-tree.

Kerala, reorganized in the present form in 1956, is one of the smallest States in the extreme south west of the Indian subcontinent, bordered by the State of Karnatak on the North, Tamil Nadu in the East and South, and washed by the Arabian Sea on the West. It lies between latitudes 8° 18’ and 12° 48’ N and longitudes 74° 52’ and 77° 22’ E: covering an area of 38,864 km², which is just 1% of the total land area of India. The coastal line is 580 km long. The maximum east-west width is 120 km, roughly along 10.2° N, the latitude of Anamudi Peak.

Kerala is separated from the Deccan plateau by the mountainous belt of the Western Ghats. The Western Ghats form a mountain wall extending north south for a length of about 1600 km. The average height of the Western Ghats in Kerala sector, is about 950 m; but the high ranges rise up to 2695 m. The highest peak is Anamudi (2695 m) in Idukki. Agasthyakoodam (1865 m), Kattumala (2562 m), Kumarrikkal (2545 m), Katimkola (2545 m), etc, are the other high peaks in Kerala. From these majestic heights the State undulates westward, presenting a vista of valleys and wooded gorges, clothed in the richest green. Several spurs with varying configurations are thrown off from the
AREA OF STUDY
KERA LA STATE

Kasargod
Kollam
Kollam
Trivandrum
Wayanad
Kozhikode
Malappuram
Palakkad
Thrissur
Idukki
Kollam
Panchamukhi
Alappuzha
Kottayam

India