



SOUTH INDIAN STATE

KERALA

THE LAND OF COCONUTS

HISTORY

The term “Kerala” was first epigraphically recorded as Ketalaputo (Cheras) in a 3rd-century BCE rock inscription by emperor Ashoka of Magadha. The Cheras transformed Kerala into an **international trade center** by establishing trade relations across the Arabian Sea with all major Mediterranean and Red Sea ports as well those of the Far East. The Cheras kingdom was dissolved in the 12th century, after which small autonomous chiefdoms, most notably the Kingdom of Kozhikode, arose. The port at Kozhikode acted as **the gateway to the medieval South Indian coast for the Chinese, the Arabs, the Portuguese, the Dutch, and finally the British**. The state of Kerala was created in 1956 from the former state of Travancore-Cochin, the Malabar district, and the Kasaragod taluk of South Canara District of Madras State.



"Kerala" mentioned in Bible?

Ophir, a port or region mentioned in the Bible, famous for its wealth, is often identified with some coastal areas of Kerala.

According to legend, the King Solomon received a cargo from Ophir every three years (1 Kings 10:22) which consisted of gold, silver, sandalwood, pearls, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

MALAYALAM

DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGE

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Malayalam is the official language of Kerala. The vocabulary of the Dravidian language has been highly influenced by historical events. Many scholars consider that the language has originated from Tamil.

At present, Malayalam has 53 letters, out of which 20 are long or short vowels. The variation in the language can be seen with change in social structure, geography, and community.

MALAYALIS

THE PEOPLE OF KERALA

The people of Kerala are called Keralites, nicknamed "Malayalis" or spelled "Malayalees" as they speak the Malayalam language. Most Malayalis live with a dream to go overseas either for work or migrate or travel. At least 90% of them achieve their dream that there are 4 international airports in Kerala! Malayalis give very much importance to education, the state holds the highest literacy rate in India. Apart from that, Malayalis love food and jokes!

