

KOZHIKODE CITY

Kozhikode Corporation is the municipal corporation that administers the city of Kozhikode, Kerala. Established in 1962, it is in the Kozhikode parliamentary constituency. The corporation encompasses four assembly constituencies: Kozhikode North, Kozhikode South, Beypore, and Elathur. Additionally, the city is divided into 75 wards. Positioned strategically along the Malabar Coast, Kozhikode holds significant economic importance, serving as a prominent trade center for a vast hinterland rich in resources. Renowned for its trade in hill products such as pepper and cardamom, it also hosts extensive timber yards along the Kallai River banks. Geographically, Kozhikode features a linear layout flanked by the Arabian Sea to the west and gentle hills to the east. With a relatively flat terrain, the city's average altitude stands at four meters above Mean Sea Level, ranging from one meter along the coast to 16 meters towards the east. The eastern region, beyond the Conolly Canal, comprises larger hills, often too steep for urban development. Kozhikode experiences a mean annual temperature of 27.1°C and receives an average annual rainfall of 3,100 mm, primarily during the southwest monsoon from May to October. This rainfall pattern, with approximately 116 rainy days per year, can lead to flooding in low-lying areas due to excessive rainfall between June and August, affecting the rivers and canals in the vicinity.

Population Trends and Urbanization

Urbanization, coupled with the growth of urban population, indicates a shift in the community's occupational structure from agriculture and related livelihoods to industrial and non-agricultural occupations. Kozhikode city alone accommodates 40% of the urban population in the district. The Kozhikode Development Authority (KDA) oversees the Municipal Corporation area and 11 adjacent Gram Panchayats. Census 2011 data reveals an average population density of 5129 persons/sq.km. The evaluation of city economic development and urban expansion reveals a decadal population growth rate of 3.98%. It is anticipated that the city will continue to grow at this same rate over the next three decades.

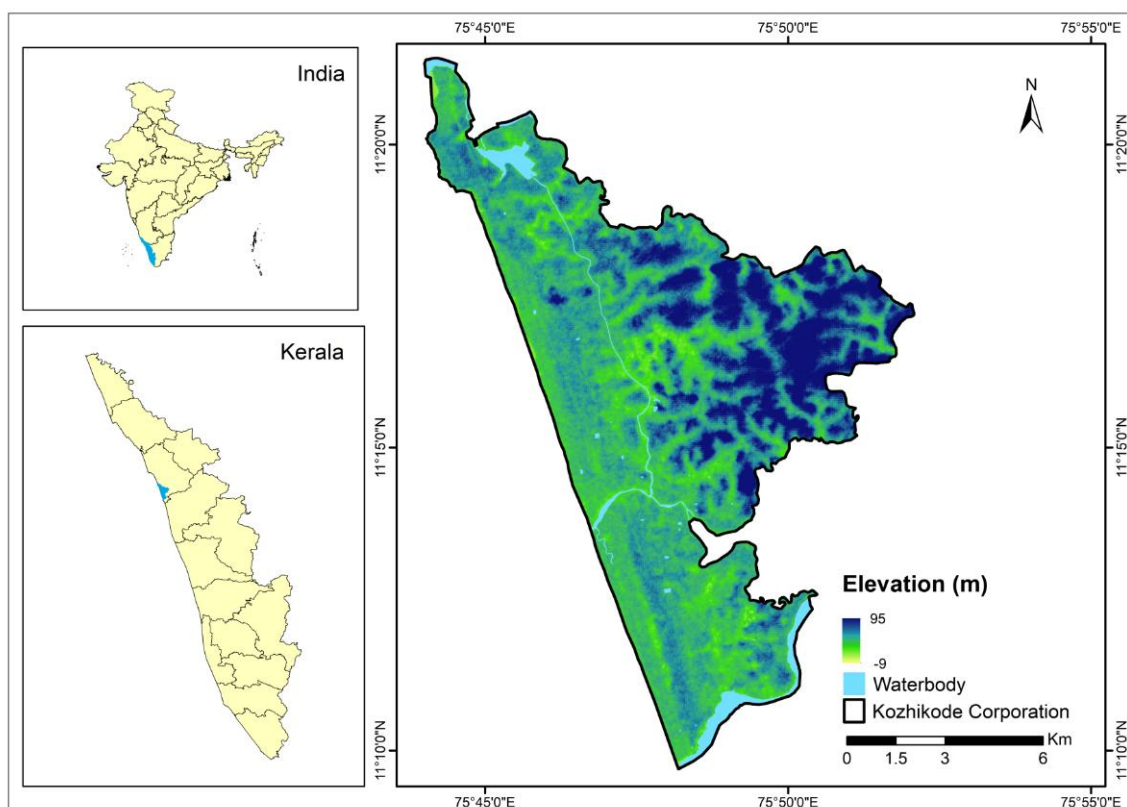


Figure: Kozhikode Corporation

Location	Latitudes between 11° 9' N to 11° 21' N Longitudes between 75° 44' E to 75° 51' E
District	Kozhikode
Administrative Body	Municipal Corporation
No. of wards	75
Year of Formation	1962 (<i>oldest in Kerala</i>)
Area	118.59sq. km
Population (<i>as per Census 2011</i>)	608255
Population Density	5129 persons/sq.km
Climate	Tropical to sub-tropical
Minimum temperature	22°C to 27°C
Maximum Temperature	27°C to 33°C
Rainfall (<i>Kozhikode District</i>)	South west Monsoon (60% contribution) North-east Monsoon (25% contribution)
Mean Rainfall (<i>Kozhikode District</i>)	3266 mm
Natural Resources	
Rivers	Korapuzha (with Tributary: Poonorpuzha) Kallai River Chaliar River
Wetland	Kotoolli Wetland (Notified by MoEFCC) Other Wetlands: Paropadi, Perumthuruthu
Water Sources	Groundwater (Traditional Source) Piped Water Supply: Kerala Water Authority

Kozhikode, a city brimming with potential and undergoing a significant growth trajectory, stands out as one of the most livable cities in Asia, attracting newcomers eager to settle in its promising environment. As economic activity flourishes, it becomes imperative for the city to strike a balance between environmental conservation and economic development. The urban planning endeavors must prioritize inclusive strategies for managing and conserving natural resources, particularly the abundant urban water bodies like ponds, estuaries, rivers, coastal, and urban wetlands that adorn the cityscape. With a rich historical legacy in water management, evidenced by landmarks such as Mananchira and the Conolly Canal, the city has long relied on its water resources for sustenance and growth. However, challenges such as water scarcity and saltwater intrusion have emerged, exacerbated by the changing occupation patterns of its residents from agriculture to service-oriented sectors. It's imperative for Kozhikode to revisit its water management strategies, emphasizing groundwater recharge systems and sustainable usage practices to ensure a prosperous and resilient future for its inhabitants. Wetlands, crucial ecosystems, provide numerous benefits to urban environments, from flood control to biodiversity conservation. However, rapid urbanization poses significant threats to these habitats. Kozhikode, a rapidly growing city in India with three major urban wetlands, faces the risk of urban sprawl endangering these vital ecosystems. Urgent action is needed to reassess their condition and implement effective management plans to conserve and utilize these wetlands wisely.