

CHAPTER-I

IMPORTANCE OF LOCATION IN PENINSULAR INDIA

Kerala, the southern most state of India occupies a unique position on the map of the country. With the southernmost extremity at Parassala about 56 kms. up from the lands end of India, it stretches along the shores of Arabian Sea for a distance of about 580 kms with Karnataka State on the North and North-east and Tamil Nadu State on the East and South. The breadth of the State varies from 32 kms in the extreme North and South to over 120 kms. in the middle. It is hemmed between the mighty Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. Kerala State lies between 8°.17' 30" and 12° 47' 40" north latitudes and 74° 51' and 77° 24' 47" east longitudes. The State is bounded on the North and North-east by South Kanara, Kudagu and Mysore districts of Karnataka State, on the East by Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu, on the south by Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and on the west by the Arabian sea. The area of the State is 38,863 sq.kms. Kerala ranks seventeenth in area among the 22 States of India. The area of the State works out to 1.19% of the total area of the country.

According to the 1981 census, Kerala has a population of 25, 403, 217 persons of whom 12,487,981 are males and 12,915,256 females. The population of the State is 3.71% of the population of India. One out of every 27 Indians and