

Pathanamthitta

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Labour Migration to Kerala





Thiruvalla, Kozhencherry, Adoor, Mallappally, Konni, Ranni and Pathanamthitta town are the major migrant hot spots in the district.

Pathanamthitta has the lowest population growth rate among the districts in Kerala. During 2001-2011, the district registered negative population growth (-3 per cent) according to Census 2011. A major pilgrim centre in the state, Pathanamthitta is also popular for its emigrant population. Agriculture, mining and quarrying are important economic sectors. Construction is also prominent in select cities such as Thiruvalla. There are rubber plantations spread all over the district. Some rubber processing units are also present. Construction as well as mining and quarrying depends on migrant labour. Thiruvalla, Kozhencherry, Adoor, Mallappally, Konni, Ranni and Pathanamthitta town are the major migrant hot spots in the district. Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand are the major source states.

Construction

Thiruvalla and Kozhencherry are the major construction hubs in the district. Most of the labourers who work in Thiruvalla region stay at Payippad, adjacent to Thiruvalla. Workers in the construction sector are predominantly from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Odisha. Tirunelveli, Madurai and Dindigul in Tamil Nadu, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Murshidabad and Nadia in West Bengal, Madhepura, Madhubani and Purba Champaran in Bihar, as well as Nagaon and Cachar in Assam are some of the major source districts. Construction activities even in the interiors of the district depend on migrant workers. The widening and modernisation of the M. C. Road, and the modernisation of the Thiruvalla railway station are two major construction works commissioned by the government. Workers from West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are involved in the road widening work.

Mining and Quarrying

The hilly terrains of Pathanamthitta have numerous quarries. Granite quarrying is a major sector in the district that employs migrant labourers. Koodal in Pakkandam, Kalanjoor in Athirunkal, Erathu in Puthusseribhagam and Vadasserikkara are some of the major quarry clusters in the district. A majority of the quarries remain dormant due to the ban imposed by the government. However, there are active quarries also. Workers from West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are employed in the quarries. As there is ban on clay mining, many of the brick kilns have been converted into units manufacturing cement bricks and pavement blocks.

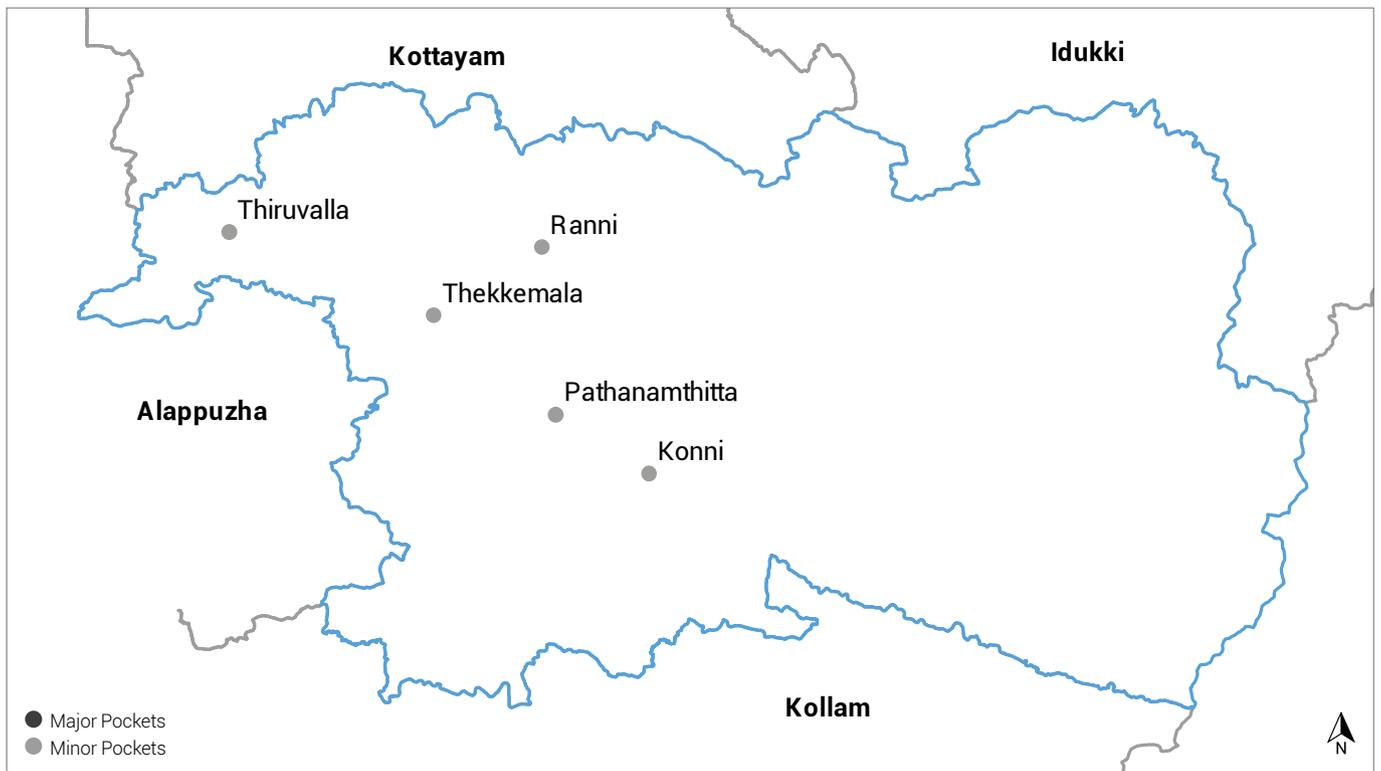
Labour Nakas

Contractors go to Paippad in the morning and recruit labourers for construction activities in and around Thiruvalla. There are *nakas* in Thiruvalla, Pullad, Kozhencherry, Pathanamthitta town, Ranni and Konni.

Residential Pockets

Thekkemala is a residential pocket in Pathanamthitta district. Residential complexes in Thekkemala are mainly occupied by Tamil labourers. Pullad near Thiruvalla is another major residential pocket. Mostly people from Bihar stay in Pullad. There are also residential areas of migrant workers in and around Konni, Ranni and Pathanamthitta town.

Migrant Pockets in Pathanamthitta District, 2016-17



Indicative map, not to scale



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Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

CMID is an independent non-profit think tank devoted to migration and inclusive development, advocating for and promoting the social inclusion of migrants. CMID provides evidence informed solutions for mainstreaming inter-state migrant workers in India. This district brief was prepared based on a qualitative research undertaken by the authors across the 14 districts in Kerala during November 2016–May 2017. The study was funded by Thummarukudy Foundation. CMID also acknowledges the fellowship provided to the authors by Aajeevika Bureau during the period January to June 2017.



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