

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Kodagu is a small District rich in coffee plantation and have beautiful sceneries of forest, rivers and tourist places comprising of three taluks and have the population of 5,45,322. Kodagu is having the total area of 4102 Sq kms. The percapita income of the District is Rs.3535. The district is composed of 3 taluks namely Madikeri, Somwarpet and Virajpet. It has 1 Madikeri Urban Development Authority, 5 town panchayath and 97 grampanchayaths, which includes 303 villages and 605 habitations. It has 16 hoblies and 60 hospitals. This district has 3 educational blocks namely Madikeri, Somavarpet and Virajpet.

Physical Feature: Kodagu is a hilly area. Madikeri, the district Head Quarters is above 1270 meters from the sea level. Its physical features are full of diversity. It has valleys, plains, lush green forest, Paddy fields, Coffee and cardamom plantations. It is called the "Kashmir of south India and Switzerland of India". It is known for its scenic beauty and attracts tourists in large numbers. River Cauvery originates from Kodagu.

Weather: The weather of Kodagu is cool and pleasant. It is situated in Western Ghats. The average rain fall is about 2725.5 mm. Rain fall is more in the months of June, July and August

Forests: The area of Kodagu (Coorg) is 410775 hectares, out of which 134615 hectares are forests. It means about 33% of the land is covered by forests. The Government gets a lot of revenue from this forest area especially from teak. People interested in Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, Horticulture and wildlife love to visit these forests.

Life Style, Culture & Specialty: As per 2001 census Kodagu (Coorg) is small not only in area but also by its population. There are people of different castes like bravura, kudiyanu, kurubas and tribals along with corgis (kodavas). It has large population of schedule caste also. Kodavas are the people living in Kodagu (Coorg) having some special features of their own. There is no definite theory about the original place of

Kodavas. Even though there is no historical proof, there is no doubt that Kodavas belong to a very old civilization. They are having a life style and culture of their own, which is very special and attractive. Even their customs are also very special and attractive. This community has given great personalities like Field Marshall Cariappa and General Thimmaiah to our nation who are regarded as patriot sons of India & many more officers and jawans to the army.

Huttariya kunitha, bolukata, ummathata, kolata, olagathata and kathiyata are some of the folk dances of the Kodavas.

Festivals: Cauvery sankramana, shivaratri, huttari, kailapoladu, shashti and vishusankramana are some of the important festivals of Kodagu (Coorg). Kodavas have their own special way of dressing during festivals and marriages. The men folk will have a jaripeta, black long coat and will have a silver sword in their waist. The women folk will wear beautiful and attractive sarees and dress in their own special attractive way.

Language: They have their own language known as "Kodava language". It has no script of its own. It is a combination of Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam. But the words of Kannada are more. Appaneravanda Appachakavi and Nadikeriyanda Chinnappa are the two important poets and writers of Kodava language.

Important Kodagu Festivals: Kodavas follow Hindu customs. Indian festivals such as shivaratri, ugadi, sankramana and shashti are performed. In addition, they have their own festivals like Kailapoladu, Cauvery sankramana and Huttari. All these three festivals are performed in entire Kodagu (Coorg). The two Gods, which they pray more, are the Mother Cauvery and Iggutappadeva.

Sanctuaries: To the North-west of the source of river Cauvery is the Talacauvery Wild Life Sanctuary. The other sanctuaries in Kodagu are the Pushpagiri WildLife Sanctuary and the Brahmagiri Wild Life Sanctuary, Nagarahole National park; a protected area

of worldwide repute is also situated in Kodagu and is a part of the Niligiri Bio-Sphere Reserve.

Temples: The Omkareshwara Temple in Madikeri, the temples in Talacauvery, Rameshwara Temple in Irpu, Padilgguthappa Temple at Kakkabe, Ayyappa Temple at Virajpet, Sathyanarayana Temple at Nellihuddikeri, Palurappa Temple at Palur are some of the important temples in Kodagu. Apart from this every village in Kodagu has a temple with its own unique features.

Tourism: Kodagu district has abundant tourist places of picnic and places of pilgrimage. Such as Irpu falls, Abbey Falls, Nagarahole, Barapole Falls, Nisargadhama, Harangi Dam, Dubare Forest, Kumaradhara Forest Cheluvare Falls. Thalacauvery. Bhagamandala, Balamuri, Igguthappa Temple.

Industries: Industries enjoy a pivotal place in the economy of the district. There are several large and medium small-scale industries in the district. The major industries in Kodagu are Coffee Curing industries, Spices, Honey and Wax products. There are about 38 Industries and 1680 workers in Kodagu District

Medical Facilities: There are a very few medical facilities in Kodagu district both in Govt and Non Govt sectors. There are 7 Allopathic hospitals, 18 Nursing homes, 27 Primary health centers, 6 Community health centres, 2 Mobile tribal health units and 3 primary health units are working in this district.