

## KERALA

**Kerala**, sometimes referred to in historical terms as **Keralam**, is a state in the south-west region of India on the Malabar coast. It was created on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganization Act by combining various Malayalam-speaking regions. Spread over 38,863 km<sup>2</sup> (15,005 sq mi), it is bordered by Karnataka to the north and north east, Tamil Nadu to the east and south, and the Lakshadweep Sea to the west. With 33,387,677 inhabitants as per the 2011 census, Kerala is the thirteenth largest state by population and is divided into 14 districts with the capital being Thiruvananthapuram. Malayalam is the most widely spoken and official language of the state.