

# New Themes and Dimensions

Essays on Kerala History

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**Ms. Anusree P A**

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## Chapter 16

# Biography of a River : Chalakudy Puzha

Mr Anand Sankar C S

Chalakudy river is the fourth longest river in Kerala with a length of 144km and its basin is between  $10^{\circ}15''$  to  $10^{\circ}35''$  north latitude to  $76^{\circ}15''$  to  $76^{\circ}55''$  east latitude. Chalakudy river has a catchment area of 1704sqkm and out of which 300sqkm area in Thamilnadu. Its basins in Kerala lies in three district Thrissur, Ernakulam and Palakkad. The river mainly originate from Anamali hills in Western Ghats and main tributaries of Chalakudy river includes northern one Karapara Aar originate from Nelliampathy hills at an elevation of 1400m from mean sea level, south western tributary Kuriarkutty Aar originating from Chemanapathy hills in Palakkad, which has two tributaries- Vectiaar & Thekkadiaar. The south eastern tributary Sholayar originates from Anamalai hills in Coimbatore District in Thamil Nadu. South of Kuriarkutty Vally is parambikulam located at an elevation of about 500m from mean sea level from where Parambikulam Aar, Thunacadavu Aar and Pruvaripallam Aar originates. The Thunrcadavu Aar and Pruvaripallam Aar and later joined by Kuriarkutty Aar flowing from south west at a place called Kuriarkutty. From here river flow westward direction and joining with sholayar about 2km upstream of Orukonbankooty. At Ornkombankooty the Karapara tributary flowing from Nelliampathy also join with the rest of the tributaries and there onwards flow as chalakudy river. It later joins the right arm of the periyar river at Elanthikara in Ernakulam district. After which it enter in to sea at Azhikode in west.

There are several ideal habitats associated with Chalakudy river which need special mentioning. This includes series of riffle and pool along the low and middle section of the streams, several rapids, riparian vegetation, flood plains, oxbow