

BLUE PRINT OF THE PROJECT

Brief introduction of the project: Kalarippayattu is the ancient martial discipline of Kerala and this is believed to be the forerunner of the martial arts of the north eastern countries of the world.

Objective: To find out and preserve the regional styles of Kalarippayattu in its pristine form. It will be in the interest of the coming generations to find out the already extant repertoire and conserve it for posterity.

These are the major ethnic style of Kalarippayattu existing in the three regions of northern Kerala (Malabar).

- 1) Vattenthirippu Style
- 2) Arappukkai Style
- 3) Pillathangi Style

Implementation of Project: While implementing this project we plan to conduct seminars and workshops of masters and students of these three styles.

Timeframe of Project: The period of five years is required to collect the field data mapping interviewing in the three regions and conducting seminars and workshops and compiling the results.

Specific Areas: Entire geographical area of north Kerala(Malabar). This will comprise of the 4 revenue districts as follows

- 1) Kasargod
- 2) Kannur
- 3) Wayanad
- 4) Kozhikode

Photos(Preliminary level related to the project)

1)



Sri Chandran Gurukkal(Arappukkai Style) to give lecture on the topic 'The Special Technique In Arappukkai Style'.

2)



Sri Vattoli Karunan Gurukkal(Pillathangi Style) to give lecture on the topic 'The salient features of Pillathangi Style'.

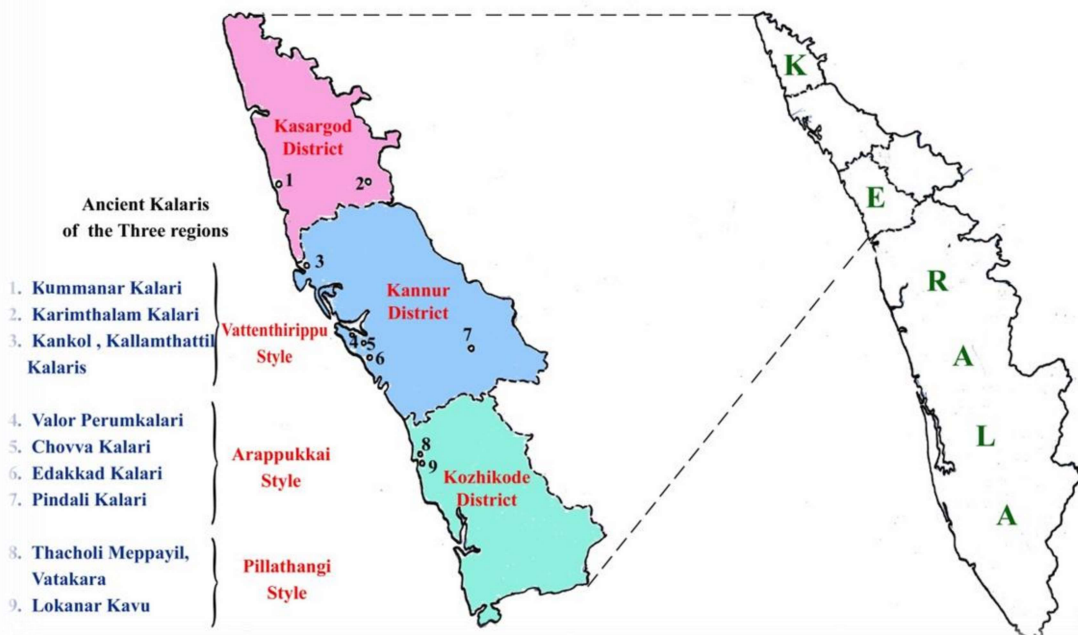


3) Mapping



Scheme for ‘Safeguarding the intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India’

Ref : 28-6/ICH-SCHEME/33/2013-14/13661 dtd. 31.3.2014



4)Kalarippayattu Photos

a) Vattenthirippu Style



b) Arappukkai Style-Sword and shield



c) Pillathangi Style-Otta Payattu



d)Arappukkai Style-Otta Payattu



d)Vattenthirippu Style - Malakkam



d)Vattenthirippu Style - Malakkam



e)Arappukkai Style –Sword and shield



f)Arappukkai Style-Vaalvali



g)Vattenthirippu style-Body balancing exercise



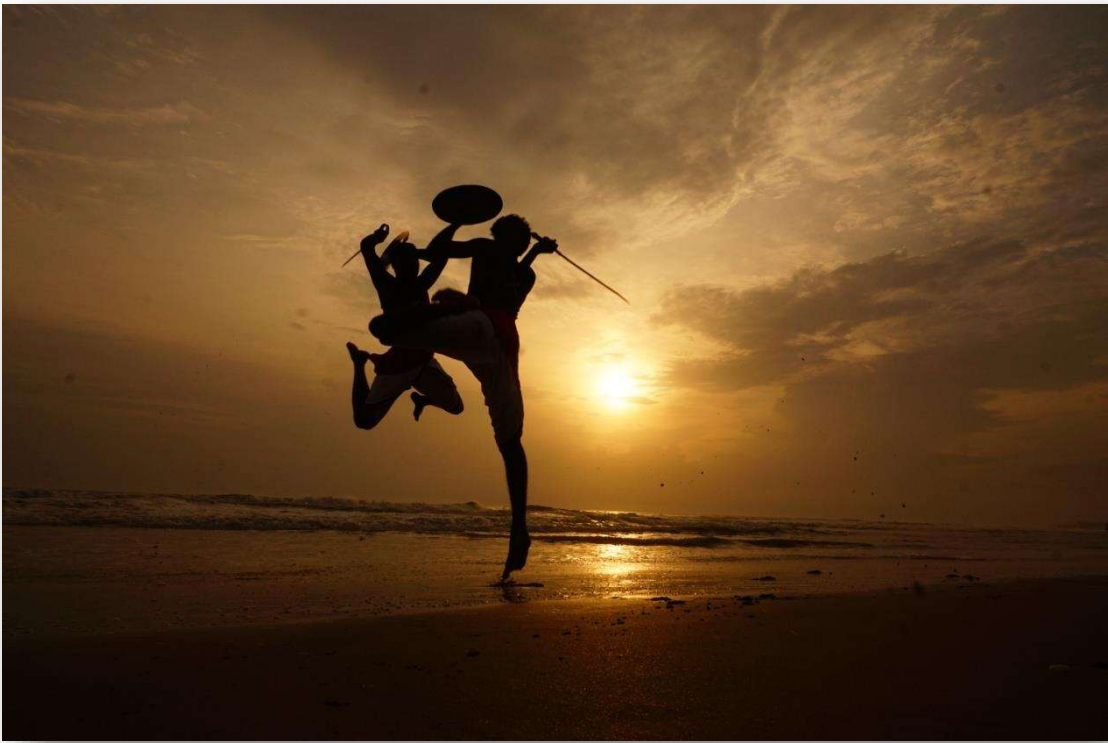
h)Pillathangi Style-Dagger



i)Arappukkai Style-Malakkam



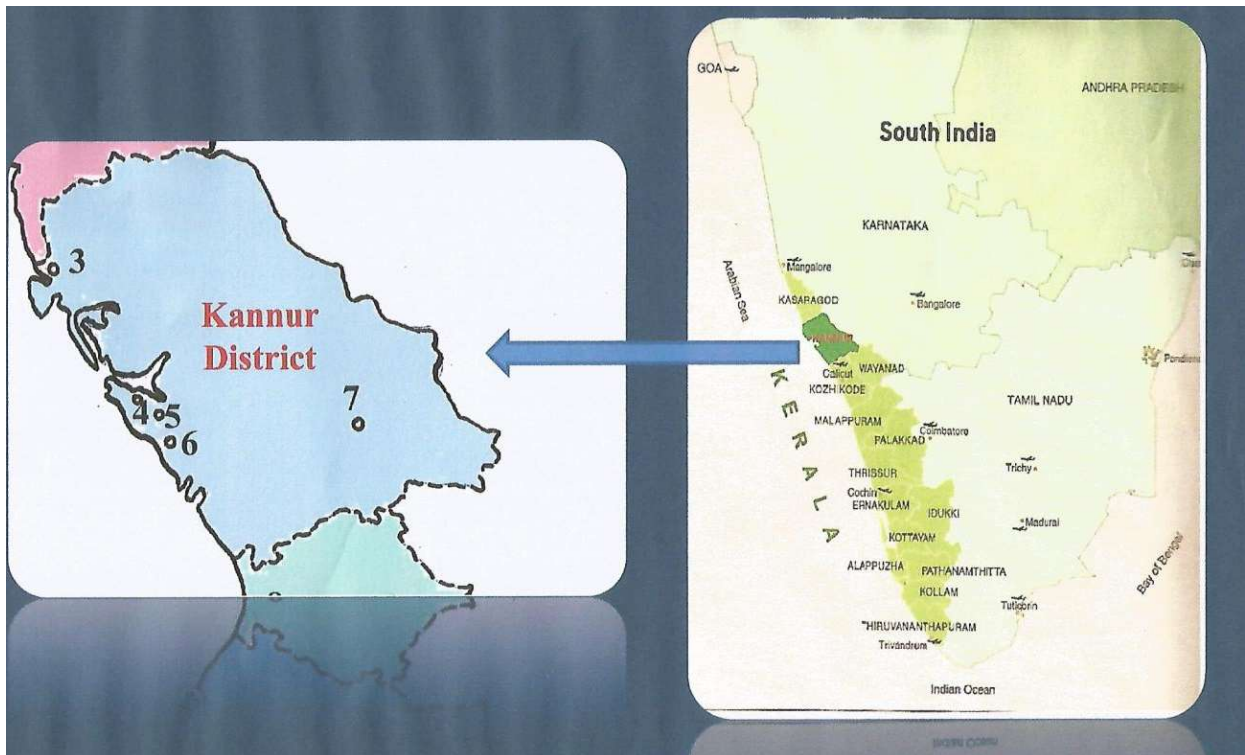
j)Pillathangi Style-Sword and shield(Puliyangam)

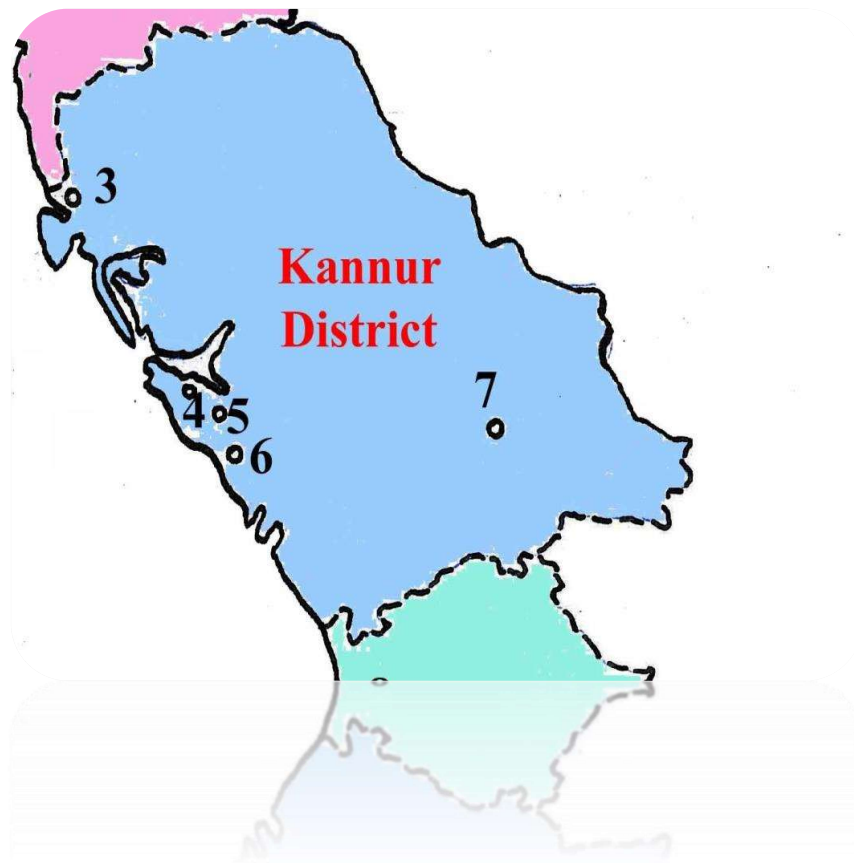


- The ancient kalaris of Vattenthirippu style are mentioned in the first report.
- On the second report we concentrate ancient kalaris of Arappukkai style and Pillathangi style.

Region II ARAPPUKAI STYLE

Mapping of Arappukkai Style





- 4.Valor Perumkalari**
- 5.Chovva Kalari**
- 6.Edakkad Kalari**
- 7.Pindali Kalari**

a) **Valor Perumkalari** :This kalari was located on the southern bank of the river

Valapattanam. The ancient city of Valapattanam was founded by Valabha of Kolathiri,dynasty. He had his palaces, fort and temple built here. Valor Kalari attached to the fort served as the training centre of the royal army stationed here.

Though the old Kali temple is intact even now, the palace complex, fort and kalari all have vained and vanished in time leaving only a few remainders of the glorious past.



Annexure(VI)

Ancient Valapattanam Fort



Gurukkal of Valoor Perumkalari-Wayanattu Kulavan(Theyyam)



Kalarivathukkal Temple



Specialized exercise in Valor Perumkalari



Name of the exercise: **Sword and Shield fighting**

b) **Chovva Kalari and Edakkad Kalari** Were also ancient martial art training centres of this region, located about 4kms. and 10kms away from Kannur town. Thottam recitals of Theyyam reveal the valorous tales of Kalaris faded into untraceable past.



Chovva Kalari



EDAKKAD KALARI

Annexure(VII)

Specialized exercise in Chovva Kalari



Name of the exercise:Kettukari payattu

Specialized exercise in Edakkad Kalari



Name of the exercise :Cheruvadi Payattu

c) **Pindali Kalai** : Situated about 40kms east of Kannur, Pindali Kalari had been the physical training centre of the members of the kottayam royal family. Pazhasi Raja (1753-1804) who fought the British valiantly was product of this kalari. Marthanda Varma of Travancore had also a stint of martial training in this kalari, about 50 years ahead of Pazhassi Raja.

Now this place is also maintained as a temple of worship, still sustaining the format and rites reminiscent of a soldierly history.



Pindali Kalai

Annexure(VIII)

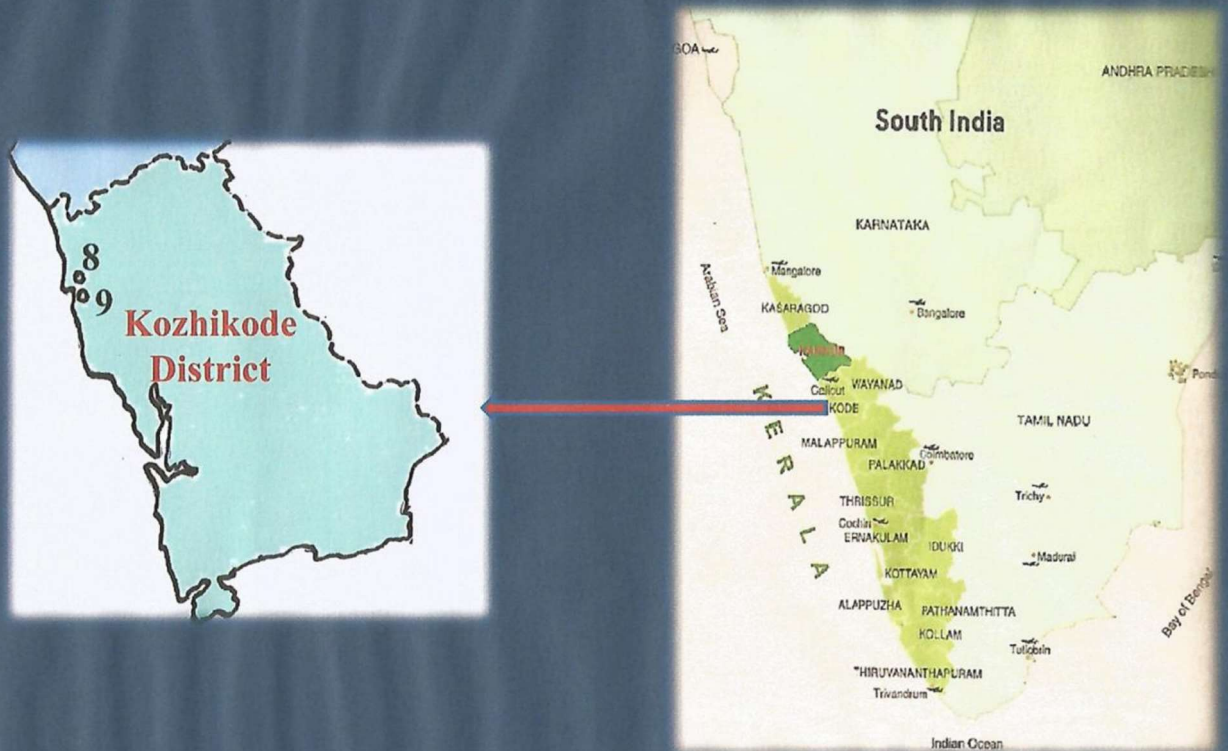
Specialized exercise in Pindali Kalari



Name of the exercise: Sword and Spear

Region III - PILLATHANGI STYLE

Mapping of Pillathangi Style



8. Thacholi Meppayil, Vada kara

9. Lokanar Kav u

a) **Thacholi Meppayil** : Thacholi Othenan, the undisputed exponent and all time great of Kalarippayattu, was born in 1584. After his demise in 1616, Othenan was deified and is being revered in annual observances. His family house in Vatakkara is now cherished as a temple for this purpose.



Thacholi Othenan Theyyam



Thacholi Kalari

Specialized exercise in Thacholi Meppayil Kalari



Name of the exercise :Otta payattu

b) **Lokanar Kavu** : This is an age old temple 5kms. away from Vatakkara town. Believed to be built by the Bhramin jewell traders from North India, this Bhagavathi temple later came under the possession of the Raja of Kadathanadu Sacredness of this place is often recounted with its potency in instilling prompt martial prowess to Othenan and other stalwarts of Kalaroppayattu.



Lokanar Kavu

Specialized exercise in Lokanar kavu

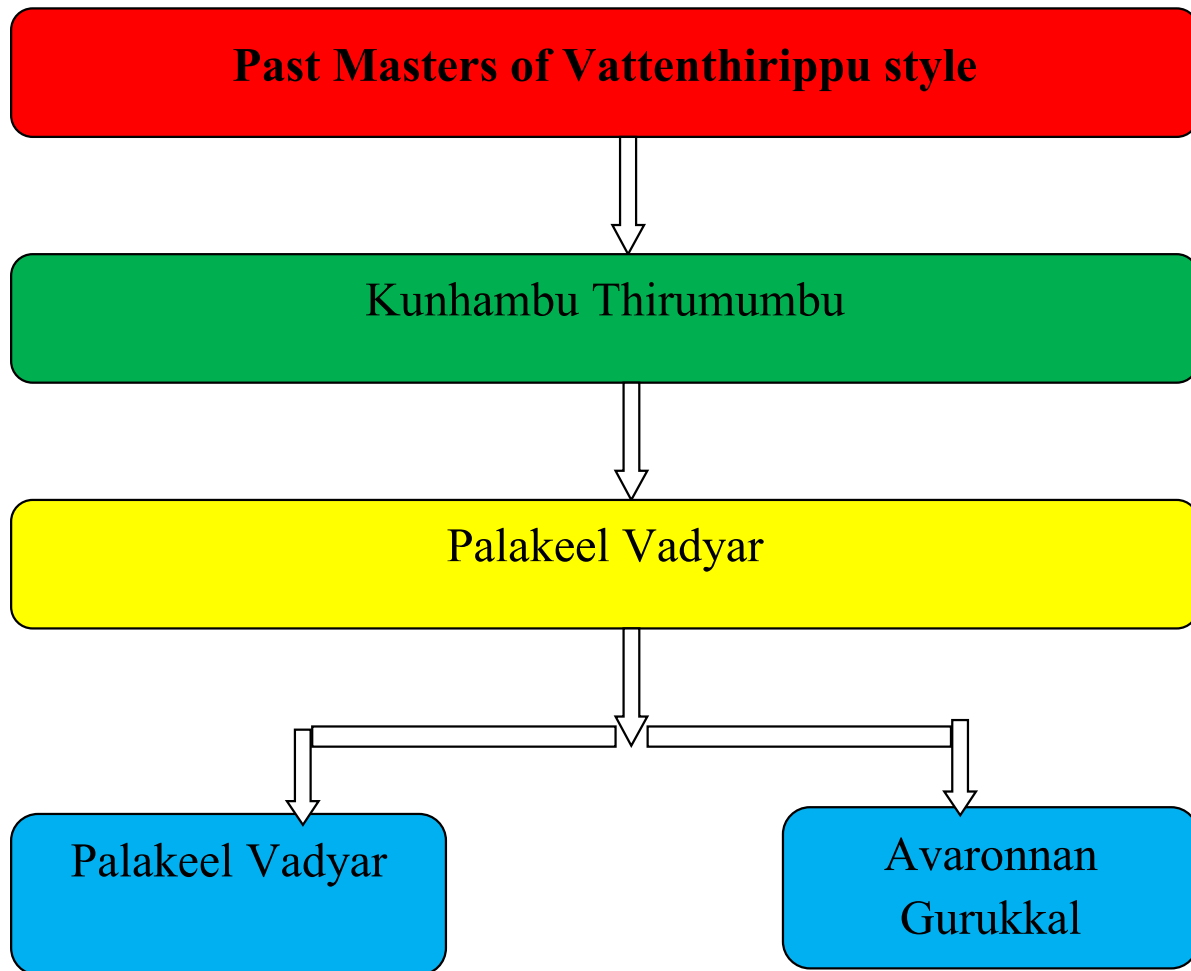


Name of the exercise :Puliyankam

c) Some other old kalari centres in the erstwhile Kadathanadu are centred round Mahe. These are either related to the exploits of Othenan, Kalari Gurukkal or Payyamballi Chandu. As a midway between regions 2 and 3 Mahe can be considered a place where the synthesis of the two styles of Kalaripayattu took place during the period of the indomitable exponents of the 16th and 17th centuries.



d) Details of the past masters or Gurus of the three regions who lived and worked from 1800 to 1947.



Region I - The oldest known guru of Vettenthirippu style of Kalaripayattu is Kunhambu Thirumumbu of the Bhramin family of Thazakkattu Mana. This is in Thrikarpur. Kunhanbu Thirumunmbu was adept in the style of Kadathanadu (region III)also.The principal disciple of Thirumumbu was palakkeel Vydhyar,also a Bhramin hailing from Kunneru near Ezhimala.He had proved his expertise in the presence of the king of Travancore.Vydhyar’s two disciples of repute were Kittan gurukkal and Avaronnan gurukkal of Payyannur. It was through them kalaripayattu spread in the region in later years.

Region II -Oldest known guru of Arappakkai style are Kov ilkkandi Kelu Kurupand his disciple Maroli Ramunni who had their kalari in Tellicherry.

Kottakkal Kanaran Gurukkal (1850 - 1941) predominated as the teacher who was solely instrumental in the resuscitation of Kalaripayattu in this region after the British ban of this martial art and the disregard meted out by the subsequent administrators in perpetuating this tradition.



Kottakkal Kanaran Gurukkal and his disciple C V Narayanan Nair

Kanaran Gurukkal had many disciples to his credit, the most important among them being C.V.Narayanan Nair(1905-1944). Others were Sankara Menon(1900-1969),Anandan Nair(1903-1985),Chamberi Kunhikkannan, Karunakaran Nair, Balan Nair,M.R.Nair(Sanjayan),etc.



C V Balan Nair



M R Nair(Sanjayan)

There were Kari Koran, Kunhiraman Vaidhyar (1895-1980), T. Sreedharan Nair (1909-1984), Kunhiraman Gurukkal (1915-1987), Kanari (1917-1992) among others during the pre and post independence period. Of these Sreedharan Nair was the first to author and publish a printed book (in 1936) on kalarippayattu.



Chirakkal. T. Sreedharan Nair

Past Masters of Arappukai style(1800-1947)

**Kovil Kandi
Kelu Kurup**

**Kottakkal
Kanaran
Guru**

**Kari Koran
Guru**

**Maroli Ravunni
Gurukkal**

Kunhiraman Vaidhyar(1895-1980)

Chirakkal T.Sreedharan Nair(1909-1984)

Kunhiraman Gurukkal(1915-1987)

Kanari Gurukkal(1917-1992)

Past Masters of Arappukai style(1800-1947)

Kottakkal Kanaran Guru(1850-1941)

**C.V.Narayanan
Nair(1905-1944)**

**Sankara
Menon(1900-1969)**

**Anandan
Nair(1903-1985)**

**Chemberi
Kunhikkannan**

**Anandan
Nair(1903-1985)**

M.R.Nair(Sanjayan)

Region III - K.Kelappan (1889-1971) hailing from Vatakara who heralded the non-co-operation movement of during the struggle of Indian independence was instrumental in the revival of Kalarippayattu in this region. Himself a kalari trained person and ardent follower of Mahathma Gandhi,it was only natural that he included Kalari practice in the curriculum of the school he founded in Thikkodi. Meppayil Kelappan, Kelu,Kunhikannan,Mammed(1890-1985),Raman Nair(1917-1972)and Sankaran were others who carried forward the grand Kadathanadu tradition of Kalarippayattu.



K.Kelappan

Past Masters of Pillathangi style(1800-1947)

**K.Kelappan
(1889-1971)**

**Meppayil
Kelappan**

Kelu gurukkal

Kunhiraman

**Mammed
(1890-1985)**

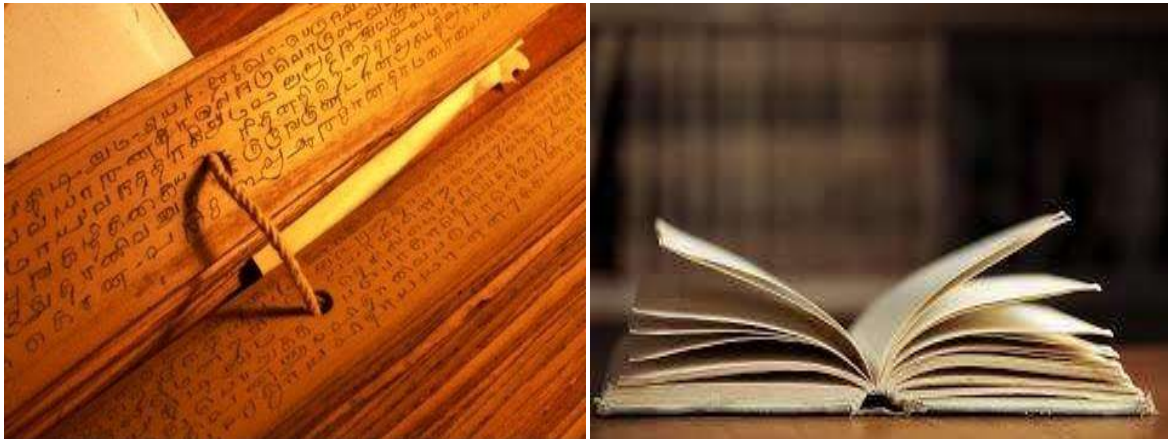
**Raman Nair
(1917-1972)**

**Sankaran
Gurukkal**

Conclusion

The collected data and findings thereof can be published in a book form. This will act as a reference source for people who do research on Kalarippayattu.

Folklorists will find the information contained in this book useful because a lot of regional folk art forms have been influenced by the body movements as well as codes of conduct observed in Kalaris.



Sree Bharath Kalari

(Estd in 1948 by the late Guru
Chirakkal T Sreedharan Nair)

Valapattanam

Kannur – 670010

Kerala



Chirakkal T.Sreedharan Nair (1909 – 1984)
Founder of
Sree Bharath Kalari

- The Kalari has been sanctioned a grant of Rupees one lakh only against an original project for Rs 13,48,000- for taking up the following under the ICH Scheme during the year 2013-14:

- Data creation, cataloguing, and dissemination of the Kalarippayattu tradition of northern Kerala, an ancient and intangible cultural heritage of martial arts tradition.

- The form existed in a few selective northern parts of Kerala. The ethical part of it together with some of the physical part might have reached Kerala along with the Aryan migration – about 1000BC back.

Aryan Migration to India



Objective

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- These are the major ethnic style of Kalarippayattu existing in the three regions of northern Kerala (Malabar).
 - 1) Vattenthirippu Style
 - 2) Arappukkai Style
 - 3) Pillathangi Style

- Vallabhhatta, Odimurisserry, Dhronampilly, Adtithada, among others, are the regional styles prevailed in the central and southern parts of Kerala. Almost all the significant elements of these are extinct today.

- The following map of the State will give a glimpse about the areas of these styles.

Regional Styles of Kalarippayattu



-  Vattenthiruppu
-  Aruppukai
-  Pillathangi
-  Vallabhata
-  Odimurissery
-  Dronampally

Segments of Kalarippayattu

- Maipayattu - Conditioning and foundation exercises
- Kolethaari - Defense and attack with a variety of wooden weapons
- Angathaari - Exercises with sharp weapons including Sword, Spear, Dagger and Urumi
- Verumkai - Barehanded defense and attack

- Significant difference in between these styles are discernible in their body conditioning exercises, known as Maippayattu, itself.

■ Maippayattu of the three different Northern styles of Kalarippayattu

Maippayattu - Vattenthirippu



Maippayattu - Pillathangi



Maippayattu - Arappukai



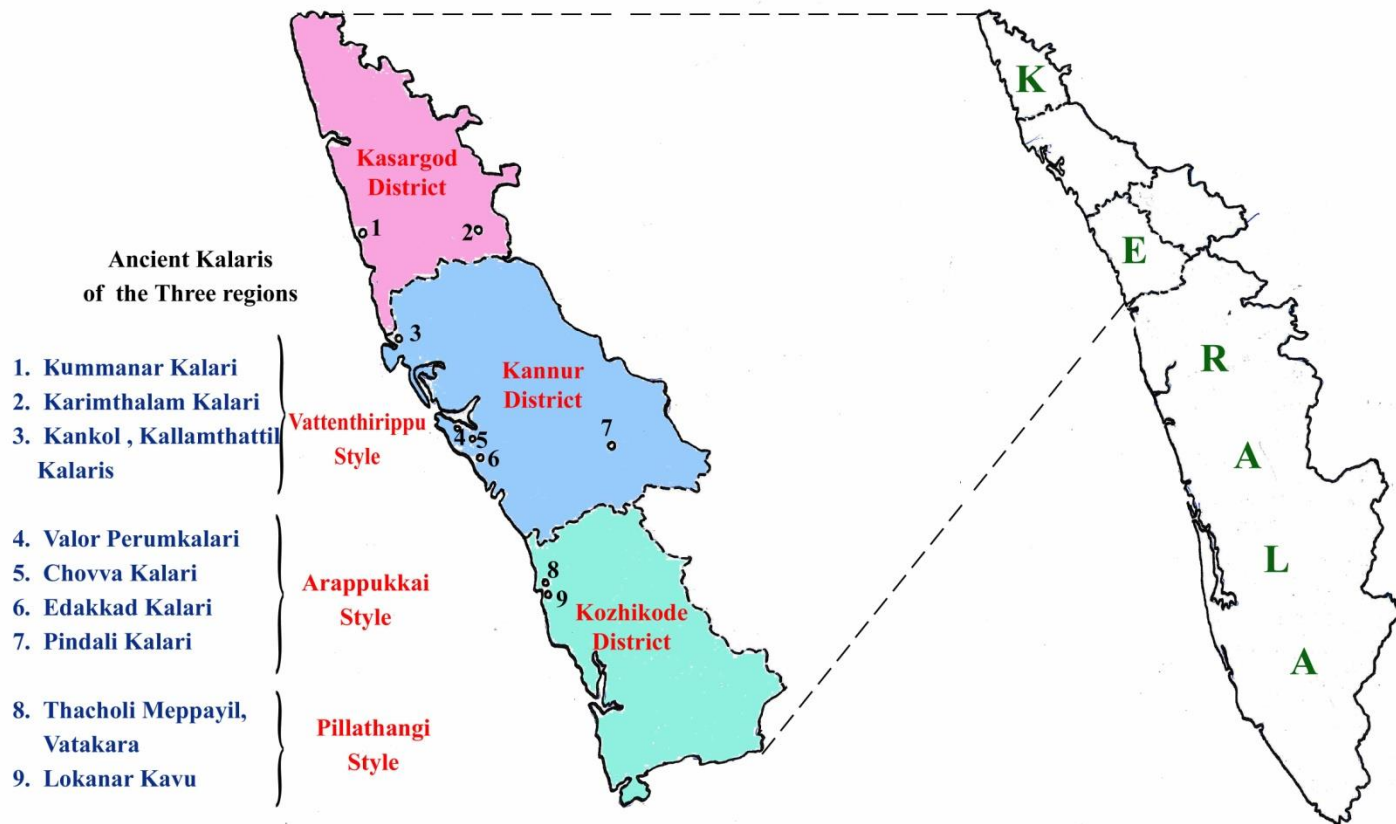
- Some of the items of Kalarippayattu weaponry in North Kerala - In all the weaponry practices, a mix of all the three styles is discernible.

Mapping of Vattenthirippu style

■ Map

Scheme for 'Safeguarding the intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India'

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- There are 5 significant Kalaris that imparted the Vattenthirippu style of Kalari in older days:
- 1. Areepurathu Kalari
- 2. Kambikkattidam Kalari
- 3. Kuruva Kavu Kalari
- 4. Thaliparambu Kalari
- 5. Kankol Kalari

- 1) AREEPURATHU KALARI

- This Muslim martial art centre on the banks of river Ariyil is located about 30kms east of Kasaragode . A martial art expert who settled here 2 ½ centuries ago is believed to be the founder of this Kalari. He enjoyed special privileges of the feudal Hindu landlord of the region by virtue of his marital prowess.

- Now a place of worship, devotees from all religious beliefs throng here almost daily for prayers or feast. Though no martial training is imparted now, there are old swords, shield, arrows and a spear kept here to cherish the memories of the past.

Specialized Exercise in Areppurathu Kalari

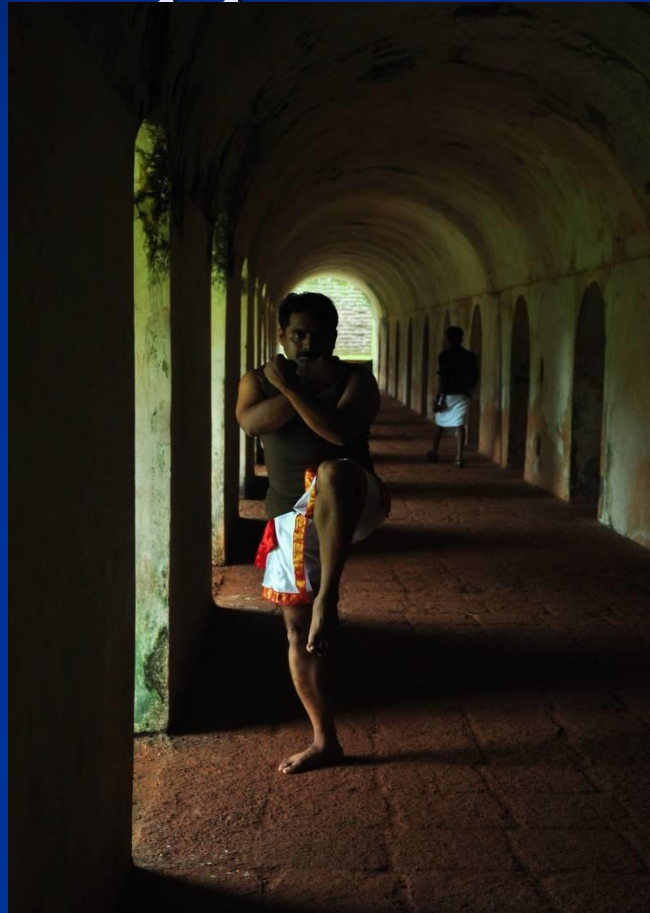


Name Of The Exercise: **Marmadi**(Specialized on vital point)

- **KAMBIKKATTITAM**

- Located in Cheruvathoor, this was an important military training centre of the erstwhile Allatam dynasty of North Malabar.
- Now a temple for ritualistic Theyyam performances, this has long ceased to be a martial art centre

Specialized Exercise in Areppurathu Kalari

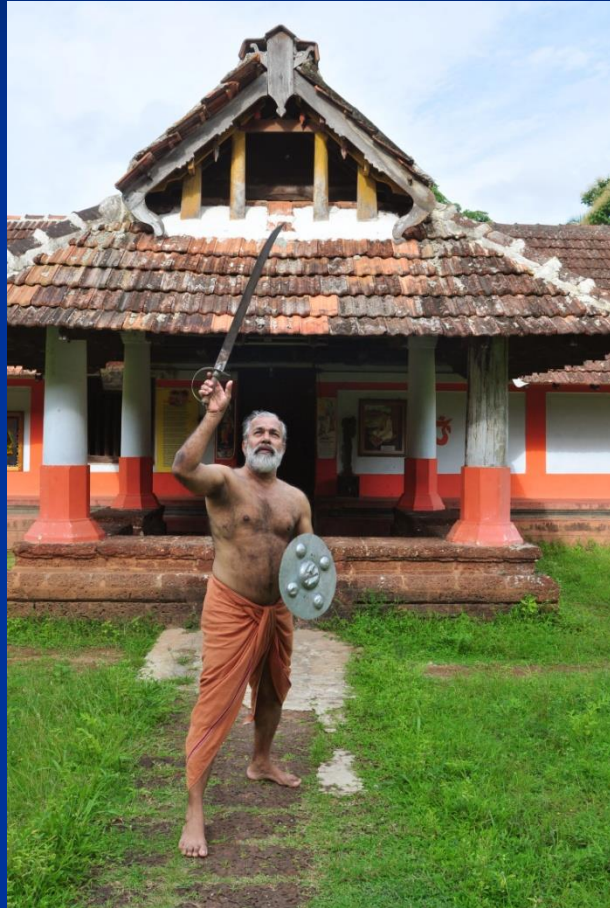


Name Of The Exercise: **Aranginu Chavittal(Series 2)**

■ **KURUVAKKAV KALARI**

- This temple turned Kalari is located in Kannapuram, about 12 Kms north of Kannur.
- Legend is that the twin sons of Seetha, Lava and Kusha were trained in this Kalari. The main sanctum in the temple is consecrated to them and another to mother Seetha. History says that the Kalari adjoining the temple trained men to guard the properties of the Kolathiri Kings who ruled the place until the Britishers took over power.

Specialized Exercise in Kuruvakavu Kalari



Name Of The Exercise: **Vaalvali**(Series 1)-Solo exercise

■ **TALIPARAMBA KALARI**

- This Kalari is in Taliparamba, 20Kms north-east of Kannur. The remains of this Kalari can be seen inside the walls of the great Siva temple here.
- **Otta Payattu** instruction is one of the rare evidences for the importance such marital training centres commanded in the cultural history of Kerala. Researchers have found out that the salais of Brahminical period (7th-9th centuries) attached to great temples in Kerala

Specialized Exercise in Taliparambu Kalari



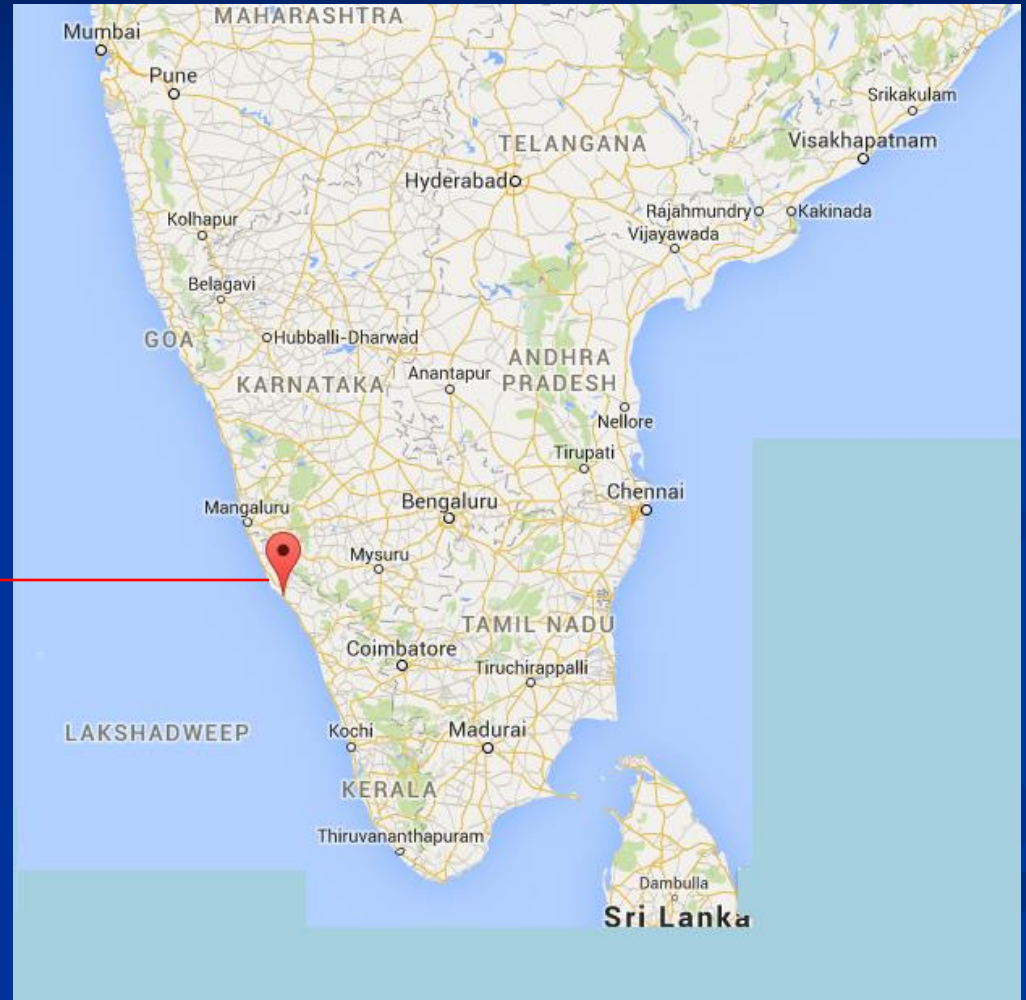
Name Of The Exercise: **Ottapayattu (Series 1)**

- imparted both vedic and martial training to its students. The pedagogic design in these academic centers aimed at the discipline of mind and body.
- No more an elite educational institution, the broken and displaced stones of the old Kalari presents a desecrated, deserted look.

Mapping of Arappukai

Kannur

(ArappukkaiStyle,
Established in olden
days)



Body Exercise – Arappukkai Style

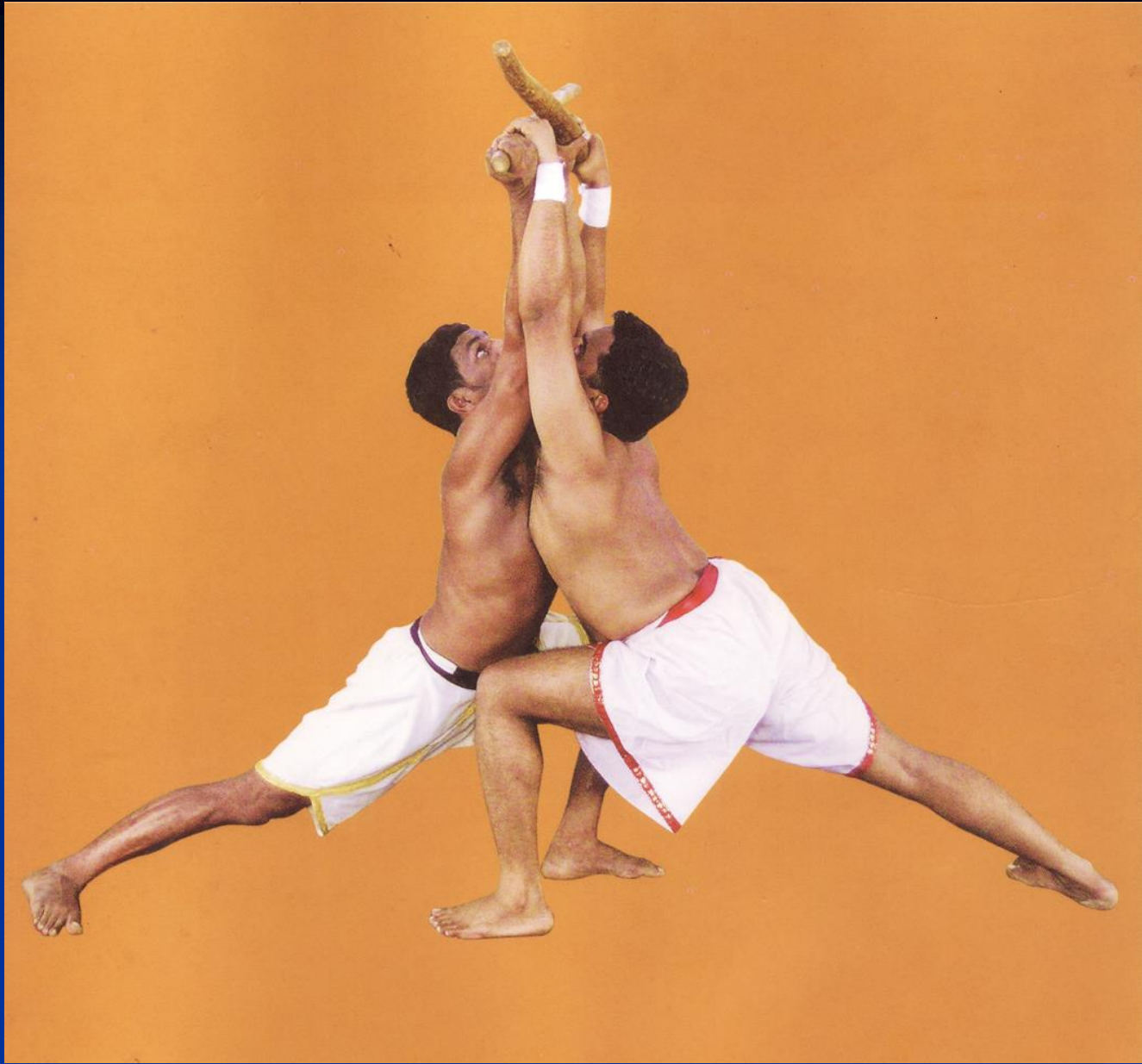




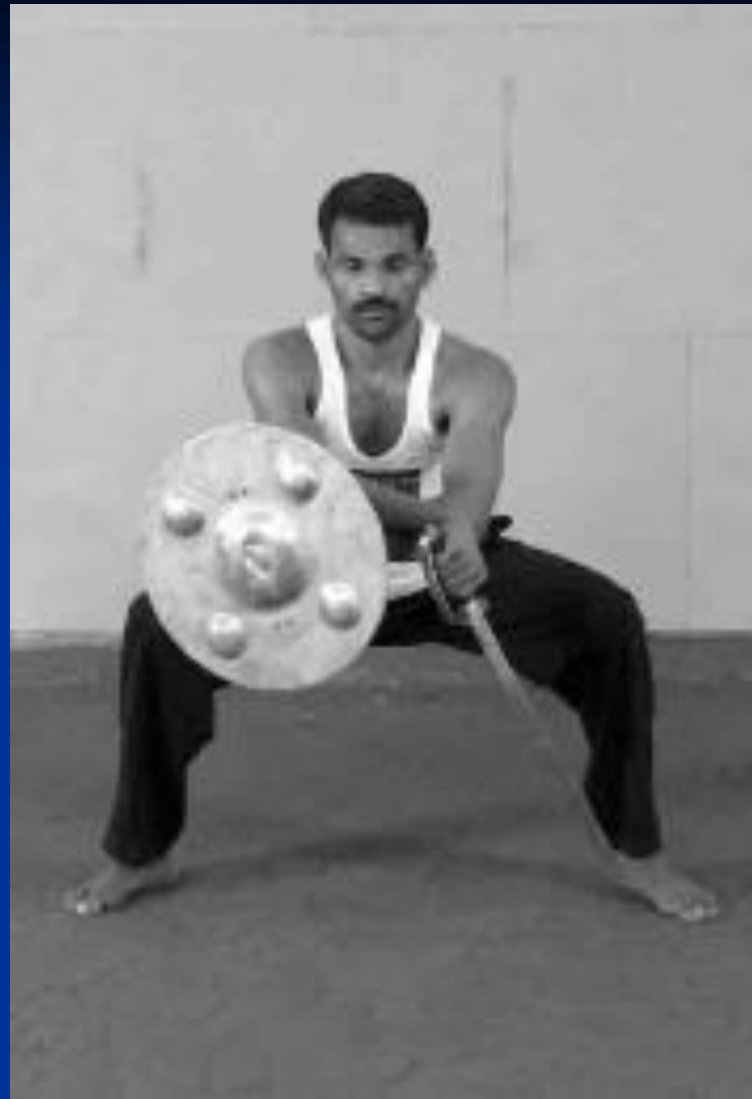
Long Staff



Short Staff



Curved Baton



Sword Swinging



Dual with Sword & Shield



Dagger Dual

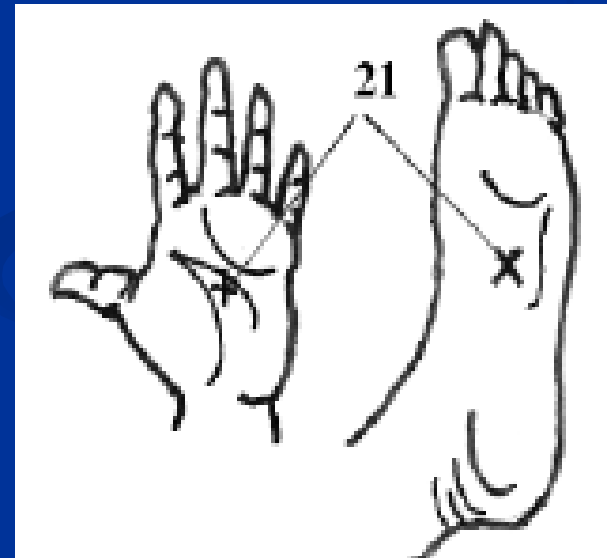
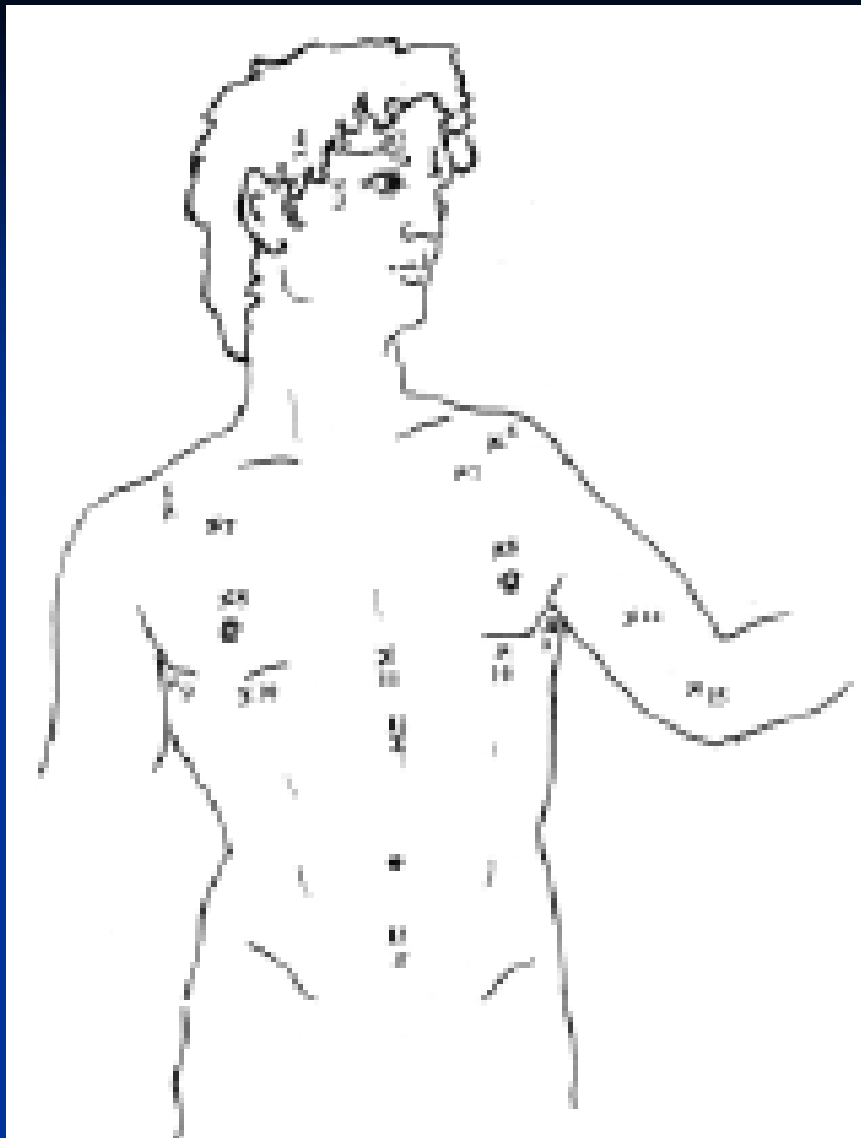


Bare Handed Defense

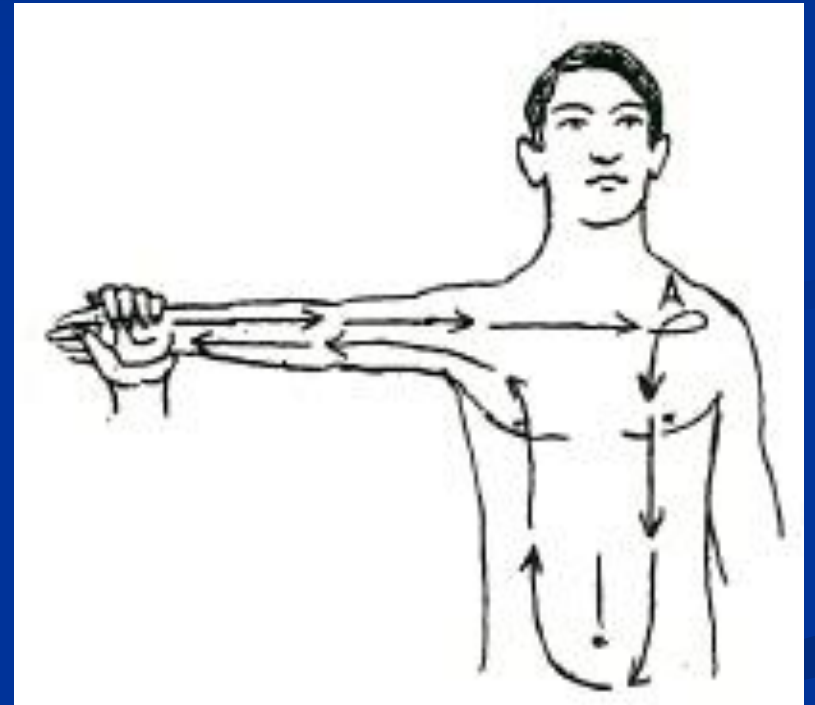
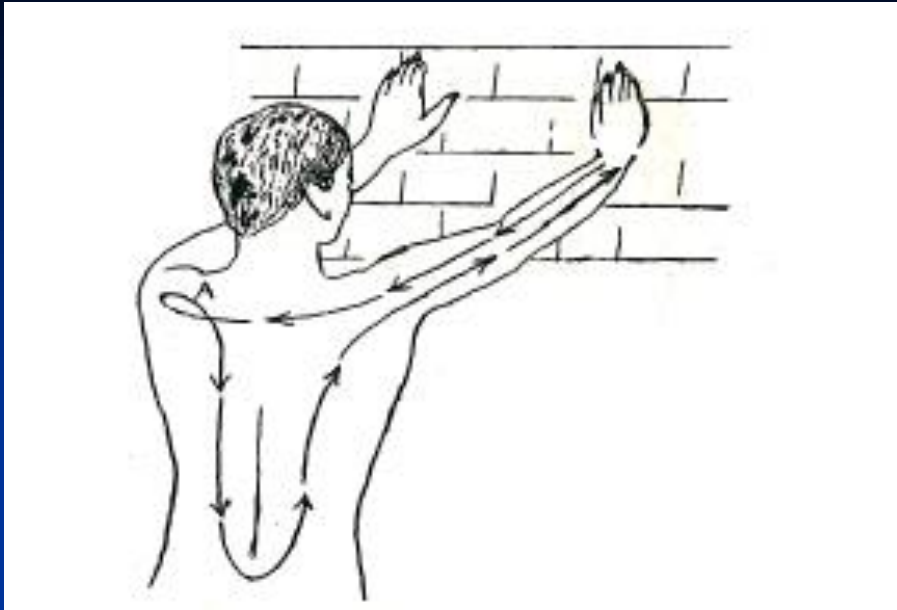


Bare Handed Defense

- The marmas – vital spots in a human body about which the Guru in any of the styles should be proficient.



Vital Spots



Massage

Conclusion

- The collected data and findings there of can be published in a book form. This will act as a reference source for people who do research on Kalarippayattu.

Folklorists will find the information contained in this book useful because a lot of regional folk art forms have been influenced by the body movements as well as codes of conduct observed in Kalaris.

Thank You

Sree Bharath Kalari

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Sree Bharath Kalari

*(Estd in 1948 by the late Guru Chirakkal
T Sreedharan Nair)*

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Chirakkal T. Sreedharan Nair (1909-1984)
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Copy of Sanction of grant from Ministry Of Culture GOVT Of India via Sangeet Natak Academy 28-6/ICH-Scheme/55/2014-15/11286

Registered/ Speed post

28-6/ICH-Scheme/55/2014-15 /11286
2 February 2015

To,
Sree Bharath Kalari
BLDG No.-V/171
P.O-Valappattanam
Kannur-670010,Kerala

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नाटक
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E-mail: mail@sangeetnatak.gov.in
Website: http://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in

Subject: Scheme for "Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India"

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your proposal received by the Akademi regarding the Scheme as mentioned in the subject above. In this connection this is to convey the sanction of grant from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India via the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi to the payment of an ad-hoc non-recurring grant of **Rs. Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)** for the purpose mentioned below:

Purpose	Amount of Grant (Rs.)	Remarks
Kalarippayatu dissemination And Preservation	Rs.1,50,000/-	DVD/VCD/CD of the Documentation/ Data creation / Cataloguing along with periodic report and other research documents are required to be submitted to the Akademi

The grant is subject to the following conditions:

1. The grant will be released in three installments - 50% in advance, 25% as 2nd installment after appraisal and balance 25% after completion of the project/ activity and submission of relevant documents as proof thereof.
2. The first installment (50%) will be released immediately after receipt of **Assurance Certificate** in the form enclosed duly completed and signed by the Competent Authority of the Institution or by the Individual along with a **certificate of non-receipt of grant**. (Both attached with the letter)
3. The second installment (25%) of the grant will be released after **appraisal**. An appraisal/ inspection of the beneficiary may be done by the Expert Committee/ Sub-Committee or officials of Ministry of Culture at a point of time which will be intimated accordingly in time bound manner. Progress report of work done out of the 1st installment received will have to be submitted along with other relevant documents, work reports, documentation (Audio-Video or any other format).

Title Of The Project

Data creation, cataloguing, and dissemination of the Kalarippayattu tradition of northern Kerala, an ancient and intangible cultural heritage of martial arts tradition.

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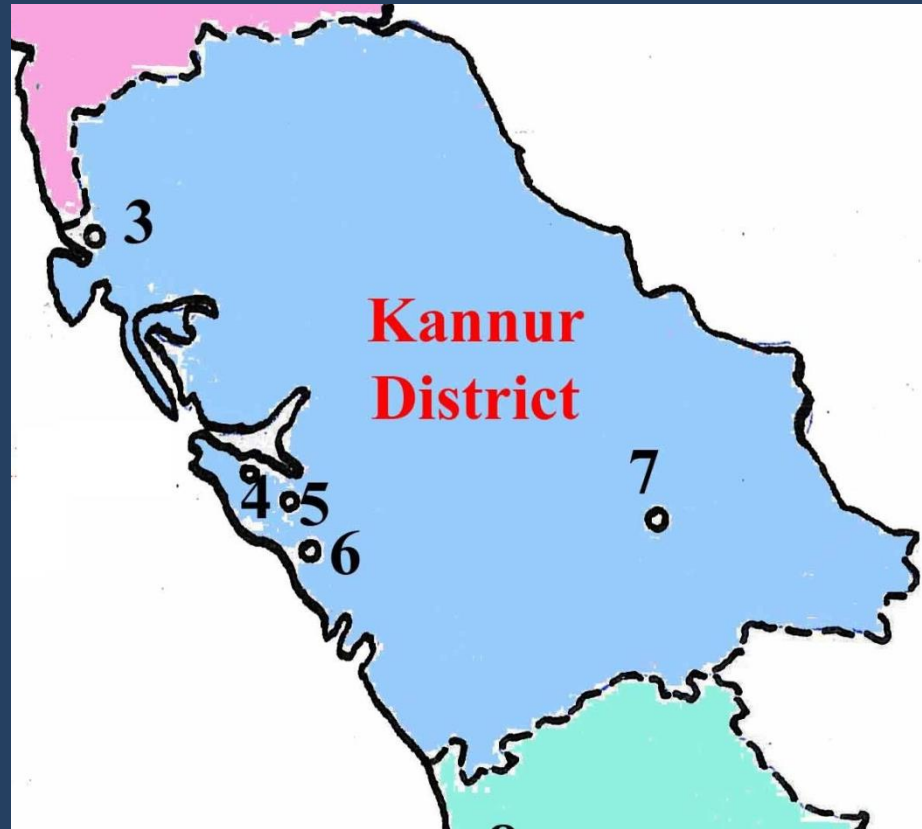
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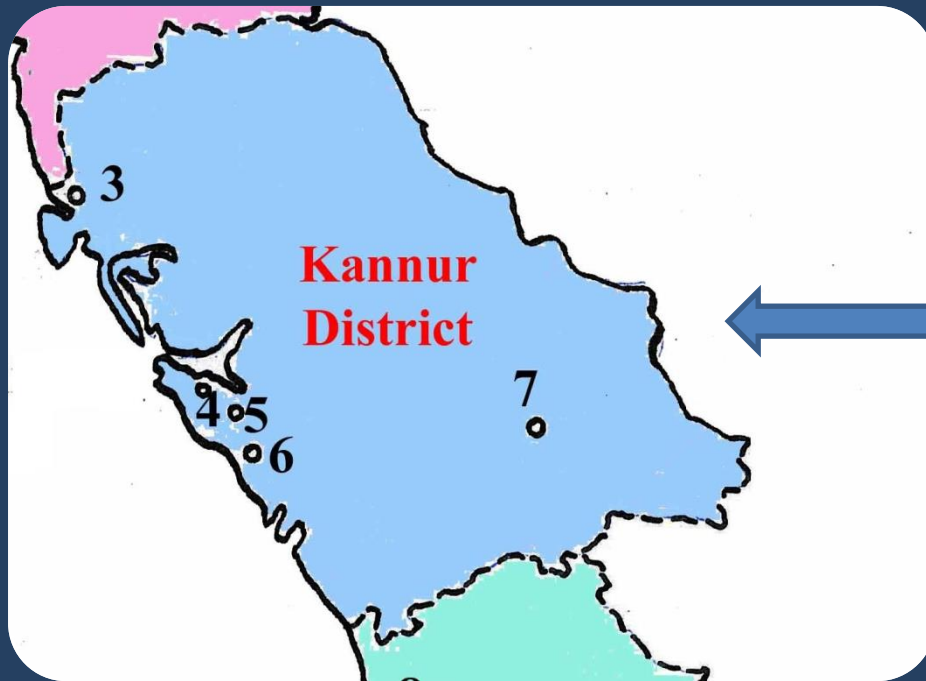
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Important Ancient Kalaris Of Arappukkai

- 4.Valor Perumkalari
- 5.Chovva Kalari
- 6.Edakkad Kalari
- 7.Pindali Kalari



Mapping of Arappukai Style



1.Valor Perumkalari

- This was once upon a time the martial training centre of Kolathiri dynasty's army men.Situated inside the Valapattanam fort 6 kms north of Kannur, this kalari has a famous temple at its door steps known as kalarivathukkal.

Valor Perumkalari



Ancient Valapattanam Fort



Specialized Exercise in Valor Perumkalari



Name of the exercise: **Sword and Shield fighting**

2.Chovva Kalari

- This was also an ancient martial art training centers of this region,located about 4 kms away from Kannur town.

Thottam recitals of Theyyam reveals the valorous tales of kalaris faded into untraceable past.

Chovva Kalari



Specialized exercise in Chowva Kalari



Name of the exercise: Kettukari payattu

3.Edakkad Kalari

- This was another ancient martial art training center of this region,located about 10 kms away from Kannur town.



Theyyam performed in Edakkad kalari

Specialized exercise in Edakkad Kalari



Name of the exercise : **Cheruvadi Payattu**

4.Pindali Kalari

- Situated about 40 kms east of Kannur,Pindali kalari had been the physical training centre of the members of the Kottayam royal family.Pazhasi Raja (1753-1804) who fought the British valiantly was product of this kalari.Marthanda varma of Travancore had also a stint of martial training in this kalari.

Pindali Kalari



Specialized exercise in Pindali Kalari



Name of the exercise: Sword and Spear

Important Ancient Kalaris Of Pillathangi

8.Thacholi Meppayil,Vadakara

9.Lokanar kavu



Mapping of Pillathangi Style



1.Thacholi Meppayil

- Thacholi Othenan, the undisputed exponent and all time great of Kalrippayattu was born in 1584 . After his demise in 1616 Othenan was deified and is being revered in annual observances. His family house in Vadakara is now cherished as a temple for this purpose.

Thacholi Meppayil kalari



Thacholi Othenan Theyyam



Kalari

Specialized exercise in Thacholi Meppayil Kalari



Name of the exercise :Otta payattu

2.Lokanar Kavu

- This is an age old temple 5 kms from Vadakara town. Believed to be built by the Brahmin jewell traders from north India, this Bhagavati temle later came under the possessio of the Raja of Kadathanadu.

Lokanar kavu



Specialized exercise in Lokanar kavu



Name of the exercise :Puliyankam

Conclusion

- The collected data and findings there of can be published in a book form. This will act as a reference source for people who do research on Kalarippayattu.

Folklorists will find the information contained in this book useful because a lot of regional folk art forms have been influenced by the body movements as well as codes of conduct observed in Kalaris.

Thank You

Sree Bharath Kalari

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