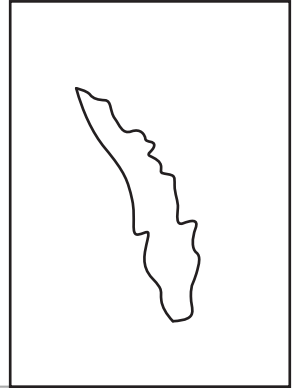


Thiruvananthapuram is the capital of Kerala.

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## Mehendi



Mehendi is a paste made out of henna powder that is put in a cone-shaped tube and is used to draw designs on the hands of women and children. Mehendi holds a lot of cultural significance in Indian traditions. Be it weddings, Karva Chauth, or other occasions, mehendi plays an important role in all ceremonies and festivals of India. Among the many traditions that are infused into Indian weddings, one of the most prominent is the mehendi ceremony. This is when mehendi is applied on the hands and feet of the bride and even the groom. While the bride has a very elaborate pattern done on her hands and feet, the groom usually has just a token design. Besides lending color to the hands, mehendi is a very powerful medicinal herb. Mehendi that is applied during Indian weddings is not just a plain paste of mehendi powder and water. Eucalyptus oil, a bit of clove oil, and a few drops of lemon are added. These oils not only help in darkening the color of mehendi on the body but also enhance the benefits of mehendi and make the paste highly medicinal.