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THE IMPERIAL GAZETTEER OF INDIA
THE IMPERIAL GAZETTEER OF INDIA

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MADRAS PRESIDENCY TO MÚLTÁI.

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Madras Presidency.—The Presidency of Fort Saint George, as officially styled. It occupies with its dependencies, and with the State of Mysore, the entire south of the Peninsula of India. Its extreme length from north-east to south-west is about 950 miles; its extreme breadth about 450 miles. The Madras Presidency consists of three classes of territory—(1) the 22 British Districts within the Presidency; (2) the Agency Tracts of Ganjáám, Vizagapatam, and Godávari, under a special administration; and (3) five Native States in political dependence on the Madras Government, namely, Travancore, Cochin, Pudukota, Banganapalli, and Sandúr. The aggregate area of the 22 British Districts was returned in 1881 at 119,553 square miles; and the total population at 29,875,343 persons, dwelling in 226 towns and 42,719 villages. The Agency Tracts comprise an area of 19,928 square miles, and a total population of 951,875, dwelling in 9019 villages. The five Native States have an area of 9611 square miles and 3,344,849 inhabitants, dwelling in 5058 towns and villages. Including, therefore, the Agency Tracts and the Native States, the territory under the Madras Government (1881) contains an area of 149,092 square miles, and supports a population of 34,172,067 persons, dwelling in 57,022 towns and villages. The seat of Government is at the Presidency town, Madras City.

Boundaries.—On every side but the north, the Madras Presidency is bounded by the open sea. Along the east, or rather running up to north-east, extends the continuous coast-line of the Bay of Bengal, stretching for nearly 1200 miles, from Cape Comorin to the Chilká Lake; the western coast is formed by the shores of the Indian Ocean.
and the Arabian Sea, for about 540 miles. Off the south-east lies the British Colony of Ceylon, separated by a shallow strait, across which runs the string of rocks and sandbanks known as ‘Adam's Bridge.’ The irregular northern boundary of Madras has been formed by incidents of history. On the extreme north-east is the Bengal Province of Orissa; next (proceeding westwards) come the wild highlands of the Central Provinces; then, for a long stretch, the Dominions of Nizám of Haidarábád, separated by the Kistna river and its tributaries, the Tungabhadra; lastly, on the north-west by west, the Districts of Dhárwrár and North Kánara in the Bombay Presidency. The independent State of Mysore, which occupies a large portion of the north of the area thus defined, may be regarded, for geographical purposes, as a part of the Madras Presidency. The Laccadive Islands, in form, for administrative purposes, a part of the Presidency, are attached to the Districts of Malabar and South Kánara.

**General Aspect.**—Viewed on the map, Madras presents a very broad aspect. Its eastern shore extends up the peninsula more than as far as its western; while its heart seems to be eaten out by an independent State of Mysore. From a physical point of view, it may be roughly divided into three portions—(1) the long and broad eastern coast; (2) the shorter and narrower western coast; and (3) the vast table-land in the interior. These divisions are determined by the great mountain ranges of the Eastern and Western Gháts, which give the key to the configuration of all Southern India.

The Eastern Gháts, which lie entirely within the Madras Presidency, form a continuation of the confused hill system of Chutiá Nála. They run, rather as a succession of hills than as a range of mountains, with almost through the whole length of Madras, until they lose themselves in the Nilgiris, and there join with the Western range. Their average height is only 1500 feet, and for the most part they lie on a broad expanse of low land between their base and the sea. This line is pierced by three great rivers, the Godávari, Kistna (Kris), and Káveri (Cauvery), as well as by minor streams; so that they do not perform the part of a watershed. These hills may from one point of view be regarded as the eastern cliff of the southern and central plateau.

The Western Gháts, on the other hand, stretch southwards along the eastern shore of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, from the coast of Bombay, and satisfy all the characteristics of a mountain range. The line is only broken by the Pálghát gap; the northern side measuring about 800 miles in length and the southern side about 200 miles. Rising steeply at a distance of 30 to 50 miles from the coast in the Madras Districts, the Western Gháts catch almost