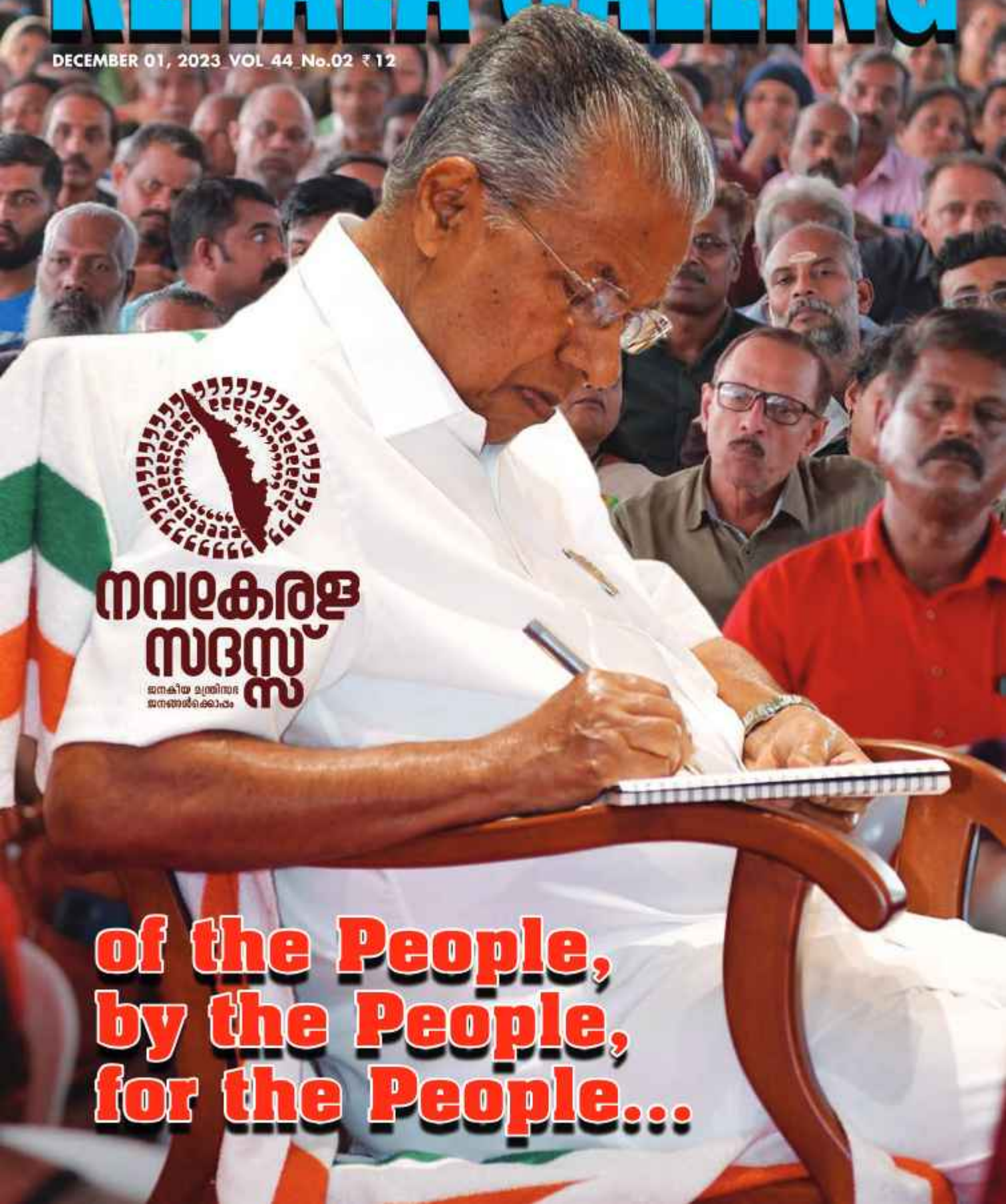


NAVAKERALA SADAS

# KERALA CALLING

DECEMBER 01, 2023 VOL 44 No.02 ₹12



**നവകരള  
സഭസ്യം**  
ജനകീയ ചുമന്നിയാ  
ജനശബ്ദശൈലം

**of the People,  
by the People,  
for the People...**







# ATTUNED TO THE PULSE OF THE PEOPLE



**T**he Nava Kerala Sadas marks a significant stride in governance and public outreach across Kerala. The event serves as a platform for direct interaction with the people, reinforcing the government's commitment to development and welfare.

Beginning with morning meetings, the Chief Minister and the cabinet engage with individuals from various sectors of society, fostering a collaborative approach to policy formulation and implementation. These sessions are instrumental in charting the state's future course, focusing on development and welfare initiatives.

The Nava Kerala Sadas, beginning in Kasaragod and moving through districts like Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad, and Thrissur, has been gaining momentum and attention with each visit. As it approaches Ernakulam, the initiative showcases the government's dedication to understanding and addressing the needs of its people. The significant public turnout at each event not only highlights the people's trust but also transcends political divisions, drawing people from all backgrounds

into a meaningful dialogue about their governance.

The Chief Secretary's welcoming address at the inaugural Sadas in Kasaragod underscores the significance of these gatherings as a unified effort of the government and the people. The attendees, enthusiastic to voice their suggestions, find an attentive and responsive government, eager to consider their inputs. This two-way communication is pivotal in fostering a sense of shared responsibility and active citizenship.

As the Nava Kerala Sadas progresses, the state cabinet's journey through Kerala, attuned to the pulse of the people, is not just a tour but proof of effective governance. With each district visit, the programme strengthens the bond between the government and its people, paving the way for a collaborative and prosperous future.

This initiative, prominently featured as the cover story of the current edition of Kerala Calling, exemplifies a government's dedication to its people, heralding a new chapter in Kerala's developmental narrative. Additionally, the magazine provides an enthralling exploration into the history of cinema halls in colonial Malabar, a topic that is sure to fascinate cinephiles.

**T.V. Subhash IAS**  
Editor





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## NAVIGATOR

- 06 From Adversity to Advancement  
Pinarayi Vijayan
- 12 NavaKerala Sadas Kasaragod
- 14 NavaKerala Sadas Kannur
- 16 NavaKerala Sadas Kozhikode
- 18 NavaKerala Sadas Wayanad
- 20 NavaKerala Sadas Malappuram
- 22 NavaKerala Sadas Palakkad
- 24 NavaKerala Sadas Thrissur
- 26 NavaKerala Sadas Morning Meeting
- 28 Transformative Initiatives in the Revenue Department  
K. Rajan
- 29 Kerala Water Authority's Remarkable Journey with  
Jaljeewan Mission  
Roshy Augustine
- 30 Electrifying Progress  
K. Krishnankutty
- 31 Kerala Leads in Forest Conservation  
and Tribal Welfare  
A. K. Saseendran

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- 32 **Revolutionizing Kerala's Maritime Landscape**  
Ahammad Devarkovil
- 33 **Public Transport: Kerala's Innovations in the Wake of Change**  
Adv. Antony Raju
- 34 **Heading Towards Sporting Excellence**  
V. Abdurahiman
- 35 **Empowering Nava Keralam: Transformative Initiatives in Food Security and Public Welfare**  
Adv. G. R. Anil
- 36 **Robust Financial Management and Economic Growth in Kerala**  
K. N. Balagopal
- 37 **Shaping a New Kerala: Focus on Higher Education and Social Justice**  
Dr. R. Bindu
- 38 **Welcome Initiatives in Animal Welfare and Dairy Development**  
J. Chinchurani
- 39 **Kerala's Pursuit Towards Eradicating Extreme Poverty**  
M.B. Rajesh
- 40 **Transformative Pioneering Progress in Tourism and Infrastructure Development**  
Adv. P. A. Mohamed Riyas
- 41 **Empowering Agriculture: Kerala's Vision for Sustainable Farming**  
P. Prasad
- 42 **Unnathi- Empowering Marginalized Communities Progress**  
K. Radhakrishnan
- 43 **Charting a Path to Industrial Excellence**  
P. Rajeeve
- 44 **Empowering Fishermen and Coastal Communities Towards Prosperity**  
Saji Cherian
- 45 **Transforming Kerala's Education Landscape**  
V. Sivankutty
- 46 **Cooperation for Kerala's Economic Transformation**  
V. N. Vasavan
- 47 **Kerala Leads the Way in Health**  
Veena George
- 48 **Cinema Halls in Colonial Malabar**  
Dr. Vasisht M.C.






# **FROM ADVERSITY TO ADVANCEMENT**

**Pinarayi Vijayan**  
Chief Minister

**From the speech made by  
the Chief Minister while  
inaugurating the NavaKerala  
Sadas at Paivalike in Kasargod.**





**K**erala commands attention on both national and global stages, and within this narrative, Kerala experienced a period of profound despondency prior to 2016. The general sentiment was that the possibility of significant developmental change was remote, fostering a sense of resignation among the local population.

However, a transformative development has unfolded—the rapid completion of the initial stretch of the national highway from here to Chengala. This progress is not an isolated incident but a harbinger of broader transformation. Those who harboured doubts about the feasibility of national highway development in Kerala have witnessed a shift in their convictions. Optimism now prevails, and there is a collective confidence that the project will meet its deadlines.

This event is unfolding before the very eyes of the people. The Chief Secretary welcomed the gathering. This is a government programme, and it is this land's programme. The substantial presence of people here underscores a unifying belief among people of all political affiliations, particularly the common people, that this programme is not only a programme of the people and the government but also emblematic of effective governance.

Our nation finds itself at a crucial juncture, facing a formidable challenge to its democratic and secular identity. This isn't a minor issue confined to a limited scope; it resonates across the entire country, impacting our collective identity and casting a shadow on our global standing.

Simultaneously, there is a disconcerting surge of misguided actions and divisive slogans reverberating in our country. Throughout our history, we have proudly championed the principle of unity in diversity. The present wave of discordant actions threatens this foundational ethos.

Kerala is actively taking up various initiatives to uplift and liberate the extremely poor. The statistics reveal a strikingly low figure, with only 0.7 percent identified as living in extreme poverty—less than one percent—in the state. While some might consider this a negligible number, the Kerala government has adopted the principled stance that even a single individual in such dire circumstances cannot be overlooked. In a commendable announcement, the Kerala government declared on November 1 that about 50 percent of these individuals were emancipated from extreme poverty. This can only be accomplished by a government that is dedicated to the welfare of its most vulnerable people. Kerala's success in significantly reducing extreme poverty serves as an exemplar for other states, showcasing the positive impact of a government truly committed to the well-being of its people.

Even in the midst of the prevailing economic crisis, Kerala is demonstrating commendable initiatives across diverse domains. The state government's resolute commitment is evident in its endeavours to sustain the public sector. Appointments are happening in Kerala, which cannot be noticed anywhere else. Notably, efforts to enhance welfare pensions, extend various benefits, and fortify the service sector continue with remarkable success. In addressing the challenges of extreme hardships, the state has extended financial assistance through the relief fund. Noteworthy is the stark increase in support. The financial assistance disbursed through relief funds before 2016 was only Rs 808 crore. Over the past seven years, a substantial amount of Rs 7600 crores has been disbursed, underscoring the government's dedication to alleviating economic distress and fostering resilience within the community.

The welfare pension, which stood at Rs 600 per individual in 2016 with arrears pending for up to two years, has undergone a significant transformation. At present, a substantial 60 lakh people are receiving a welfare pension of Rs 1600 each, marking a notable improvement in financial assistance. Moreover, the income support scheme implemented in the traditional employment sector has disbursed a total



- *The welfare pension increased from Rs 600 to Rs 1600 per individual, benefiting 60 lakh people.*
- *Completion of around four lakh houses without explicit branding, as part of the LIFE programme, emphasising dignified housing solutions.*
- *Issuance of three lakh title deeds in the last seven years, facilitating land ownership for a larger population.*
- *Remarkable achievement in Public Service Commission appointments, with 2,22,000 individuals appointed in the last seven years.*
- *Investment of Rs 2500 crore in the health sector and effective implementation of the Karunya Health Insurance programme.*

these houses do not bear any explicit identification such as "This is from LIFE" on their facades

When it comes to title deeds, there has been substantial progress over the years. From 2011 to 2016, only 1,15,000 titles were issued, and in the subsequent seven years, this momentum surged with the issuance of three lakh title deeds. The government is spearheading steps to issue the remaining title deeds, reflecting a commitment to ensuring land ownership for a larger population.

Further, Kerala stands out in terms of Public Service Commission (PSC) appointments. Over the past seven years,



*LIFE mission project*



*Welfare pension*

of Rs 493 crore over the span of seven years. The Khadi sector, which received Rs 260 crore from 2011 to 2016, was allotted Rs 426 crore in the last seven years. During the same timeframe, the coir sector, which had only received Rs 599 crore, received an infusion of Rs 1455 crore. The cashew sector, having received 236 crore rupees previously, witnessed a considerable uptick with a total disbursement of Rs 840 crore in the last seven years. These financial injections underscore the government's commitment to supporting various sectors and fostering economic well-being within the state.

From 2011 to 2016, KSRTC received financial assistance amounting to Rs 1543 crore rupees. In the subsequent seven years, the government has significantly increased support, providing a substantial Rs 9700 crore to KSRTC. This financial aid has played a crucial role in sustaining operations, particularly during the challenging financial crisis.

Despite the economic constraints, the government has made notable strides in the housing sector. About four lakh houses have been successfully completed as part of the LIFE programme. Interestingly,

2,22,000 individuals have been appointed through the PSC, marking a significant and unparalleled achievement in comparison to other states.

We have spent an amount of Rs 2500 crore in the health sector, underscoring the government's commitment to the well-being of its people. The Karunya Health Insurance has proven instrumental, providing insurance coverage to an extensive demographic—73 lakh individuals within 43 lakh families. Through the Karunya Health Insurance programme, an amount of Rs 20,762 crore has been disbursed across 612 hospitals, benefiting 27.5 lakh people.

Similarly, a transformative shift has been



witnessed in education, marked by a substantial investment of Rs 4300 crore in public schools. The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) has played a pivotal role in this endeavour, contributing Rs 2870 crore. This significant financial support has directly benefited approximately 2,300 schools. The education sector has seen remarkable progress, with 44,705 classrooms and 11,755 school labs being upgraded to hi-tech standards. Ongoing construction projects include 860 school buildings, with 268 already completed.

The agricultural sector has also exhibited notable growth, registering a commendable growth rate of 4.64 in the last financial year, a significant leap from the two percent recorded in 2016. This signifies more than a twofold increase, highlighting substantial progress.

In terms of paddy cultivation, the cultivated area has expanded considerably since 2016. Moreover, there has been a remarkable improvement in paddy productivity, reaching 4.56 tons per hectare. Our commitment to further enhance productivity underscores a proactive

approach to agricultural development. The growth in vegetable production is equally impressive, surging from 7 lakh metric tons in 2016 to 16 lakh metric tons in 2022. Another important thing to be noted is the establishment of parks dedicated to agricultural value addition, such as the Coffee Park, Spices Park, and Food Park in various regions.

We have also come across remarkable progress in the IT sector, which is evident in the substantial increase in exports through IT parks. In 2016, exports were to the tune of Rs 9753 crore, and this figure has now doubled, reaching Rs 17,536 crore. Moreover, the presence of



Vizhinjam sea port

- *An investment of Rs 4300 crore in public schools, enhancing infrastructure and upgrading educational facilities.*
- *Increased agricultural productivity, with paddy productivity reaching 4.56 tons per hectare and a significant increase in vegetable production.*
- *Doubling of IT exports and creation of 62,000 jobs in the sector, reflecting growth and employment opportunities.*
- *Maintaining a robust economic growth rate despite adversities like natural disasters and increasing the state's own revenue significantly.*
- *Establishment of India's first digital Science Park and the first graphene center, along with the development of the country's first water metro, demonstrating a commitment to innovation and future-ready projects.*

companies in government IT parks has also expanded, contributing to the creation of job opportunities. In the last seven years, 62,000 jobs have been generated, underscoring the positive impact of the state's initiatives in fostering growth and employment in the IT sector.

The power sector also experienced significant growth, with the generation capacity increasing from 400 MW during 2016-2021. A substantial investment of Rs 5200 crore is being directed towards enhancing distribution systems, reflecting a commitment to improving infrastructure.

Key accomplishments include the successful completion of the Edaman-



Kochi Power Highway, Thrissur-Arikot Line, and the 400 KV Line.

Apart from this, the government has undertaken a range of projects, facilitated by support from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). Over the course of seven years, administrative sanction was accorded for projects worth Rs 62,324 crore through KIIFB. These projects, with a cumulative cost of Rs 83,000 crore, include major initiatives such as land acquisition for seven key projects, with a budget of Rs 20,000 crore. Rs 5,580 crore has been distributed through KIIFB for national highway land acquisition. KIIFB support amounting to Rs 201 crore was instrumental in facilitating the takeover of Hindustan Newsprint after the Centre opted for its disinvestment. Further, land acquisition has been successfully completed for three industrial parks, the Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, and Gift City. Our state needs Rs 18,445 crore for 223 roads, 91 bridges, 57 railway bridges, 15 flyovers, and one underpass.

The remarkable investments made in various infrastructural

projects demonstrate a commitment to comprehensive development. The Hill Highway has seen an allocation of Rs 3,500 crore, while the Coastal Highway received an investment of Rs 2,506 crore. An amount of Rs 20,135 crore has been dedicated to the mega project Wayanad Tunnel.

In the realm of technology and innovation, the country's first digital Science Park system has been established at a cost of Rs 1,515 crores. Apart from this, the first graphene center in India, a significant global opportunity, has been initiated with an investment of Rs 86 crore. An amount of Rs 237 crore is spent on the filter model



A Government school in Kannur



Agriculture



Hill Highway

- Over seven years, projects worth Rs 62,324 crore were sanctioned through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), with a cumulative cost of Rs 83,000 crore.
- Allocated Rs 20,000 crore for land acquisition of seven key projects, including Rs 5,580 crore distributed for national highway land acquisition.
- Utilised KIIFB support of Rs 201 crore for the takeover of Hindustan Newsprint following the Centre's disinvestment.
- Completed land acquisition for three industrial parks, the Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, and Gift City.
- Allocation of Rs 3,500 crore for the Hill Highway and Rs 2,506 crore for the Coastal Highway; Rs 20,135 crore dedicated to the Wayanad Tunnel project.

facility. In telecommunications, the K FON project has been implemented with a spending of Rs 1,611 crore. For Vizhinjam port, an investment of Rs 4,600 crore has been made. The Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road is being envisaged at a cost of Rs 8,000 crore. A noteworthy achievement is the realization of the country's first water metro at a cost of Rs 1,065 crore. These investments collectively reflect a strategic and forward-looking approach to fostering economic growth and technological advancement in the state. Indeed, all the achievements and growth outlined have been achieved at a time of financial crises. Despite facing adversities like Ockhi, Nipah, the 2018 flood, and



- Established India's first digital Science Park system at a cost of Rs 1,515 crores.
- Initiated the first graphene centre in India with an investment of Rs 86 crore.
- Implemented the K FON project with Rs 1,611 crore investment; significant focus on improving digital infrastructure.
- Invested Rs 4,600 crore in Vizhinjam port and envisaged the Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road at Rs 8,000 crore; launched the country's first water metro at Rs 1,065 crore.

one of the top five. Notably, Kerala's GDP has experienced a robust growth of 12.1 percent in 2021-22. The state also witnessed an uptick in tax revenue, with a substantial increase of Rs 23,000 crore in the previous fiscal year. Impressively, 67 percent of the total revenue generated during this period was the state's own revenue. Looking at the current fiscal year, Kerala shoulders 71 percent of the expenditure, in contrast to the central share, which constitutes only 29 percent. This is the situation of Kerala. We are not broken. Kerala is actively progressing. In the next 25 years, our aim is to elevate the standard of living in Kerala to match



Digital services park



Family health centre



Park

subsequent severe monsoons, the state not only withstood these challenges but also managed to thrive in a brilliant way.

Despite the state facing numerous challenges, the economic growth story of Kerala is indeed impressive, marked by a substantial increase in the domestic growth rate. In 2016, the domestic growth rate was 9.6 percent, and in the last financial year, it soared to an impressive 17.6 percent, reflecting an increase of 8 percent. Moreover, the state's own revenue has seen a remarkable transformation. In 2016, it accounted for only 26 percent of the total revenue. It has now soared to 67 percent. In terms of the gross domestic product (GDP), Kerala's economy has experienced substantial growth. From Rs 5,60,000 crore in 2016, the present estimate places it at Rs 10,17,000 crore. This remarkable expansion in GDP further underscores the state's economic vitality and its ability to navigate challenges while fostering sustained growth.

In 2016, Kerala's per capita income stood at Rs 1,48,000, and today it stands at Rs 2,28,000. Among the key states in the country with respect to per capita income, Kerala holds a prominent position, being

that of middle-income countries in the developed world. In pursuit of this ambitious endeavor, the Nava Kerala Yatra has been organized, with a primary objective of seeking your invaluable help, cooperation, and support. This journey is not just a regional initiative but a collective effort to shape a brighter future for the people of Kerala, and your involvement is crucial for the success of this transformative mission. Together, we can contribute to realizing a future where the people of Kerala enjoy a standard of living comparable to the most developed nations globally. Your partnership in this journey is instrumental in turning this vision into a tangible reality.



# KASARAGOD

The NavaKerala Sadas has commenced its journey from Kasaragod, marking a commitment to development and progress in Kerala. The Chief Minister's words at the Kasaragod Rest House echoed the state's transformative ambitions.

## Tourism: Elevating Kasaragod

The Chief Minister emphasised Kasaragod's crucial role in Kerala's tourism sector. Plans to develop this district into a leading tourist destination are set to enhance tourism infrastructure, offering a better experience for visitors and supporting the local economy.

## Education: Shaping the Future

The Chief Minister addressed the trend of educational migration, underscoring the need to upgrade Kerala's education system. The focus is on introducing modern study programmes and improving facilities to retain local talent and attract students from other areas.

## Agriculture and Industry: Supporting Kerala's Economy

The state's progress in agricultural product storage and market efficiency was noted, along with advancements in manufacturing value-added products.

## Health and Sports: Prioritising Well-being and Talent

The Chief Minister announced plans to expand free health services and addressed the need for sports hostels in Kasaragod to support young athletes.







## 14,701 Petitions Received

*During the Nava Kerala Sadas in the Kasaragod district on November 18 and 19, a total of 14,701 complaints were received at the arranged counters. Out of these, 2,482 complaints were examined and 255 were resolved. 11,950 complaints are currently under consideration in various departmental offices. Additionally, 14 complaints that were incomplete or unclear have been set aside for further review.*

### Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

The significant participation of women in the Nava Kerala Sadas underscored the government's focus on empowering women and protecting children.

### Infrastructure Development: A Connected Kerala

The Chief Minister discussed the development of key infrastructure projects, including National Highway 66, to improve connectivity within the state.

### Democratic Governance and Public Engagement

The Chief Minister highlighted the government's commitment to democracy and public engagement, exemplified by initiatives to address public grievances during the event.

The public's enthusiastic response to the NavaKerala Sadas indicates widespread support for Kerala's development journey. Under the Chief Minister's leadership, Kerala is advancing towards a brighter future.



## Prompt Resolution

*The District Collector has sanctioned 17 cents of revenue land for the Ayurveda dispensary in Erinchery. At Erinchery, the sixth ward of the Muliya Grama Panchayat, the Ayurveda dispensary, currently operating in a rented building, will soon have its own structure. The District Collector has issued an order to transfer 0.0648 hectares of revenue land, part of survey number 779/2 in Muliya Village, for the construction of the building.*

*The dispensary has been functioning in the rented building for nine years. Previous attempts to secure land had been unsuccessful. However, following a petition submitted at the Nava Kerala Sadas held at Chattanchal in the Uduma madalam on November 19, the District Collector promptly sanctioned the land within days after the event concluded.*



# KANNUR

## Teaming with Enthusiasm

### Swift resolution

During a morning meeting in Kannur, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced a swift resolution for those holding lands in Aralam farm, promising possession certificates within three months. Steps will be taken to revoke possession certificates issued to those who have forsaken the lands and reallocate the same to remaining beneficiaries.

Addressing the concerns of rubber farmers, the Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of proactive measures from the central government. He urged unity among the people to voice their demands and challenge the existing approach. The overwhelming crowd at each venue was a reflection of the citizens' conviction in the programme. The people's support serves as a potent force, fortifying the

government's resolve.

### Payyannur Overwhelmed by a Sea of People

For the Navakerala Sadas, Payyannur provided a grand and enthusiastic reception. This first reception in the district saw people from various parts of the constituency, including women and children, pouring in from early morning. The streets of Payyannur were literally teeming with people.

### Special counters to receive petitions

As part of the event, special counters were set up to receive complaints. There were 20 counters prepared specifically for this purpose. A dedicated help desk counter was also available to provide necessary instructions and tokens to those who came to lodge complaints. The counters were arranged giving priority to people with disabilities, senior







## Kannur Welcomes NavaKerala Sadas, Bridging Diverse Voices in Democratic Forum

*The morning meeting of the Nava Kerala Sadas, held at the E K Nayanar Academy in Kannur, marked a notable chapter in Kerala's democratic narrative. This assembly, bringing together a spectrum of society's pillars, including tribal leaders, distinguished literary figures, religious priests and scholars, leading business figures, renowned sports personalities, respected artists, vibrant youth, and representatives from the transgender community, represented a significant convergence of diverse perspectives.*

*The event provided a platform for these varied voices to engage in dialogue and share their insights and blessings with the Chief Minister and the entire cabinet. The NavaKerala Sadas highlighted Kerala's commitment to inclusive governance and showcased the state's dedication to integrating all segments of society in its democratic discourse. This gathering in Kannur underscored the importance of collaborative and comprehensive dialogues in shaping a more inclusive and understanding society.*

citizens, and women. The complaint reception started at 8 AM and was conducted smoothly and without any interruptions.

### Wings of Dreams: Government Initiative Transforms Aspirations into Reality

Sankeerthana Dinesh, a determined young woman from Kanhirangad, Thaliparambu, dreamed of becoming a pilot despite facing many challenges. Her ambition found support in a government committed to helping dreams come true. Sankeerthana is among five Scheduled Tribe students pursuing a commercial flying course at the Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology, thanks to the Wings project, which aims to support marginalized communities. She was honored to attend the morning meeting of

Navakerala Sadas as an invited guest.

The Wings project offers aspiring aviators like Sankeerthana a unique opportunity. The government covers all educational expenses for SC/ST students in the program, enabling them to pursue their flying dreams without financial burden.

Sankeerthana's interest in aviation sparked in the 8th grade after learning about Kalpana Chawla. Despite family hardships, including her father's illness and passing, she continued to chase her goal. While studying BSc Physics, she discovered the aviation course at the Rajiv Gandhi Academy in a chance encounter at her college canteen.

Confronted with a steep course fee of Rs 32 lakh, Sankeerthana's dream appeared challenging. However, her meeting with the Minister of SC/ST Welfare K Radhakrishnan was a turning point. This meeting not only solved her financial issues but also led to the creation of the Wings project, offering financial aid to economically disadvantaged students from SC, ST, and other eligible communities.

Sankeerthana expresses deep gratitude towards the government. With Rs 26.5 lakh already provided, the remaining Rs 6 lakh will be given within a month. She highlights that the government's support went beyond finances, giving her the confidence to pursue her dreams. Sankeerthana encourages other students from her community to come forward, assuring them of government backing for their ambitions. Saranya from Wayanad, Vishnu Prasad from Kozhikode, Adithyan from Alappuzha, and Naveen from Palakkad are also benefiting from the Wings Project in Sankeerthana's batch.



Sankeerthana Dinesh



# KOZHIKODE

Hope and Jubilation marks NavaKerala Sadas in Kozhikode

The electric atmosphere of achievement and jubilation was palpable in Kozhikode as the state cabinet embarked on a visit across the district and reached out to the people directly as part of the NavaKerala Sadas. Right from the morning session, in which the Chief Minister interacted with select guests over a breakfast, the event generated immense excitement among the public and was marked by a massive turn out. The organisers, on their part, too had made elaborate arrangements to accommodate the crowd.

## CM Announces Timely Completion of Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi twin tunnel Project

The event at Kozhikode also witnessed Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan making an important announcement about the plans to complete the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi twin tunnel to Wayanad in a time-bound manner.

'When this government announced the tunnel to Wayanad, some were quick to raise their opposition. However, we remain unfazed and have entrusted the Konkan Railway with the preparation of a detailed project plan. We are also moving

ahead with the process to obtain permissions from various departments and agencies,' the CM said, while inaugurating the Nava Kerala Sadas in Thiruvambadi

## Pristo's Journey: From Adversity to Assurance

Among those who turned up for the morning meeting, held at Omassery, were people from all age groups and different walks of life. Pristo Vineeth of Poonath Thiyakandil, a native of Balussery, was one among those eagerly awaiting for such a moment. The eight year old had reached the venue here in the hope that the government would find a solution to the problems faced by his family.

The boy and his family have been at the risk of being forced out of their home after defaulting on the loans taken for medical treatment. Pristo's life took a turn for the worse after being diagnosed with a tumour on his spinal cord when he was in first grade. The boy, who liked to run around everywhere, was soon confined to a wheelchair even as his family spent a lot of money on his treatment and education.

Unable to repay the loans, the family is now in dire financial



Pristo Vineeth





Rana Fatima

straits. Learning that the Chief Minister and his fellow ministers in the state cabinet are now reaching out to the people through the NavaKerala Sadas, Pristo came to the event with his father and mother as a special invitee and returned after submitting a petition explaining their plight to the government. Having interacted with the ministers, the family is now confident that the government will soon find a solution to their financial woes.

### Jahlin's Dream Fulfilled

The event also marked the end of a three-year-long wait for Jahlin Ismail P., another eight-year-old boy from Eletil, who finally met the Chief Minister of Kerala in person. Jahlin attended the event at the Snehatheeram Convention Center in Omassery as a special invitee. During the pandemic, Jahlin watched the media briefings by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and developed a wish to contribute to the CM's Disaster Relief Fund. With immense support from his family, the boy donated Rs. 51,000, which he had received as a reward for undergoing circumcision, to the fund.

'I was keen to meet the Chief Minister in person ever since, though it did not happen for so long. Now that my wish has



Jahlin



Aman Ali

come true, I am very happy and excited,' Jahlin said

### A Young Swimmer's Call for Change at NavaKerala Sadas

Five-year-old Rana Fatima from Thotumukkam came to the event with a demand for establishing a training center for swimming so that children like her can learn to swim. Along with Ramla Manaf, her mother's elder sister and her swimming coach, Rana met the ministers and raised the demand.

Rana says that she got such an opportunity to attend the event because she learned to swim at the age of three and inspired several others to do the same. Currently, Rana Fatima is also the brand ambassador of Mukkam Nagar Sabha's project 'Neenthi Vaa Makkale' (Swim up, kids).

When the girl expressed her wish to see the interior of the Nava Kerala bus, the ministers also took her inside the vehicle. Five-year-old Rana Fatima is the eldest daughter of Rafeek Thotumukkam and Rifana

### Firm Faith in Government Action

Among the participants at the Nava Kerala Sadas in Kozhikode were the office bearers of the Wheelchair Rights Organization, who approached the event with a clear vision and a strong belief in the efficacy of their cause. The organization's petition encompassed a range of important demands, including the creation of disabled-friendly recreational areas, installation of ramps in offices and public spaces, making appointments for the differently abled, and settling outstanding pension arrears. Their confidence in the government's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility was evident, as they presented their well-formulated requests, optimistic about the positive changes they anticipate."

### 45,897 petitions received

A total of 45,897 petitions were received from 13 constituencies as the three-day events of Navakerala Sadas concluded in Kozhikode. On the first day, 14,852 petitions were received. The petitions received during the second and third days amounted to 16,048 and 14,997, respectively. The number of petitions received from each constituency in the district are as follows: Perambra (4,316), Nadapuram (3,985), Kuttyadi (3,963), Vadakara (2,588), Balussery (5,461), Koiandi (3,588), Elathur (3,224), Kozhikode North (2,258), Kozhikode South (1,517), Thiruvambadi (3,827), Koduvalli (3,600), Kunnamangalam (4,171), and Beypore (3,399). Separate counters were arranged at all venues for women, elderly citizens, and differently-abled individuals. At each venue, officials started accepting applications three hours prior to the commencement of the event

### Artistry Beyond Limits: Aman Ali's Inspiring Talent at Navakerala Sadas

In an emotionally charged moment at the Navakerala Sadas in Beypore, Aman Ali, a ninth-grader, captured the attention and admiration of everyone present, including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Aman, who faces the physical challenge of having no hands, demonstrated an extraordinary talent that transcends physical boundaries.

Using only his feet, Aman skillfully crafted a portrait of the Chief Minister, showcasing a smiling image on a white sheet of paper. This remarkable feat, completed in just an hour, left an indelible impression on all who witnessed it. Aman's ability to overcome his physical limitations and express his artistry so beautifully is a testament to the human spirit's resilience and the power of determination.



# WAYANAD



## Wayanad witnessed an overwhelming response.

The Navakerala Sadas in Wayanad witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 50,000 attendees defying adverse weather conditions. The morning meeting as part of the event, held at Chandragiri Auditorium, Kalpetta, saw Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan engaging with around 200 specially invited guests, reflecting the government's commitment to incorporating public opinions into policy decisions.

## Comprehensive Development Initiatives Unveiled

In a groundbreaking move to alleviate the travel challenges faced by Wayanad residents, Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced the ambitious Anakkampoyil Kalladi - Meppadi tunnel road project during the Navakerala Sadas held in the district. The tunnel, once realised, is poised to provide a permanent solution to traffic snarls on the Thamarasserri pass. The Konkan Railway Corporation has been tasked with spearheading the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 2134 crores. The entire fund required for the project will be sourced through KIIFB.

Addressing the connectivity concerns is just one facet of the government's broader plans for Wayanad. The district's tourism sector is set to thrive with the creation of the Jain Circle, linking 12 major Jain temples. Additionally, a state-of-the-art heritage museum, built at a cost of Rs. 10 crores, has been dedicated to the nation. Chief Minister Vijayan expressed optimism about







Wayanad's tourism potential, citing a four percent higher tourist footfall compared to the state average.

### **Boosting Tourism**

Wayanad is on the brink of a tourism revolution with the inauguration of the Jain Circle, which connects 12 major Jain temples. Further bolstering the district's appeal is a new, state-of-the-art heritage museum, constructed with an investment of Rs. 10 crores. With these developments, the Chief Minister envisions a significant rise in tourism, already noting a four percent increase in tourist footfall over the state average.

### **Social Welfare**

Beyond infrastructure and tourism, the government has made significant strides in social welfare. Over the

past few years, three lakh land titles (pattayas) have been issued, demonstrating a commitment to providing land and housing for all. Wayanad stands out as the first district in the country to deliver essential documents, including Aadhaar cards and ration cards, to every scheduled tribe family across 23 panchayats and three municipalities. Their records are kept safely in 2036 digital lockers.

### **Prime importance to healthcare**

The government has given prime importance to healthcare. An amount of Rs. 45 crores for a multi-purpose block and an Rs. 8.20 crore CATH lab has been established, aimed at ensuring better treatment for heart patients. The district's health sector is also set to undergo comprehensive development, with plans for a master plan in progress. A special health plan for tribals is also being implemented. A health technical lab, at a cost of 70 lakh rupees, has been set up, aimed at skill development of the tribes. Special nutrition centers for malnourished children and special schemes to provide medical assistance to sickle cell patients are also being implemented.

### **Setting an Example by Going Green**

With a focus on environmental sustainability, the Navakerala Sadas in Wayanad set an example by adhering to a Green protocol. Disposable items, including banned plastics, were avoided, and steel vessels and tumblers were used. Water kiosks replaced bottled water, and waste management efforts were commendably executed by Haritha Karmasena and local bodies.

### **Looking Forward**

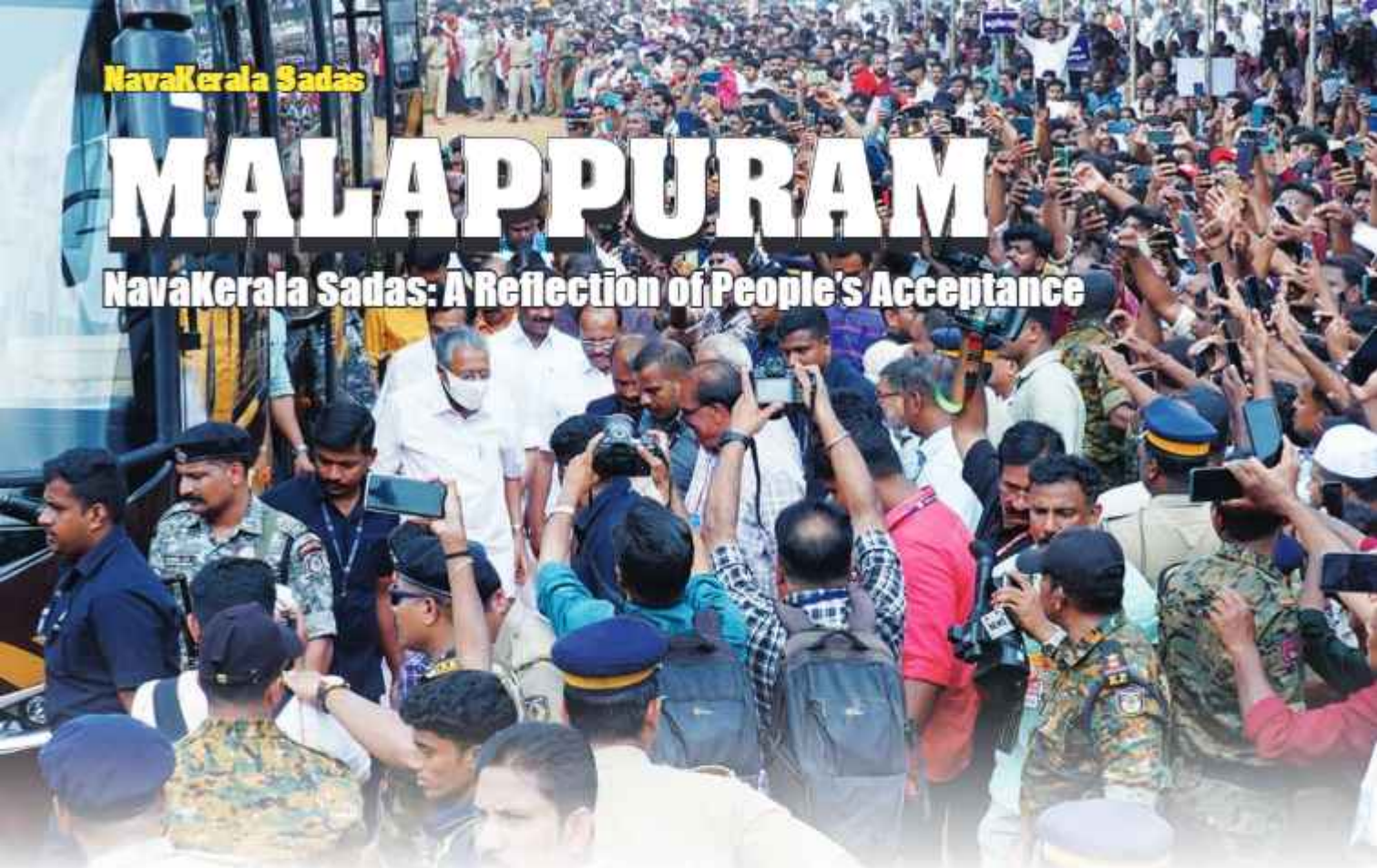
With a comprehensive development package worth Rs. 6700 crores, Wayanad stands at the forefront of these initiatives, embodying the government's vision of a progressive, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable district





# MALAPPURAM

NavaKerala Sadas: A Reflection of People's Acceptance



The NavaKerala Sadas, a state-wide event, has witnessed a significant turnout, as noted by the Chief Minister at the Malappuram venue. The high attendance at the event is seen as an indication of the public's support for the state government's policies and development programs.

The Chief Minister emphasized the historic role of reformist organizations in shaping Kerala's unity and progress. He highlighted the state's commitment to secularism and the government's efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

The Chief Minister listed several flagship projects that have been initiated, including the development of

the National Highway, the GAIL Pipeline, Edamon-Kochi Power Highway, Water Metro in Kochi, Digital University, and the Science Park.

Sports Minister V. Abdurrahman, speaking at Kondotty in Malappuram district, focused on the development of the Karipur airport. He highlighted the swift acquisition of land for the airport's expansion, a significant step in maintaining its status as an international hub. The government provided a substantial compensation package and rehabilitation support to affected families.

Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry Department Minister J. Chinchurani announced the nearing







## A heartwarming gesture from CM

While the reports on the discussions that took place in the morning meetings give a glimpse of the direct interaction between the government and the public, the story of the NavaKerala Sadas will not be complete without the story of Jinto. The boy, an eighth standard student of Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Manjeri and an NCC cadet had a frightful time on Wednesday after his left hand hit the CM's eye during the Nava Kerala Sadas at Manjeri. The mishap happened when Jinto swung his hands and walked away from the stage after receiving the Chief Minister. Jinto's swinging left hand hit the Chief Minister's left eye as the latter was bending to sit. The incident caused redness and swelling in the CM's eye, prompting him to consult an ophthalmologist at Government Medical College Hospital, Manjeri. Jinto was upset throughout the day. He was relieved only when he got a consoling call from the Chief Minister's Office later that night. The next day, he also met the CM at Nilambur MLA P.V. Anvar's house at Edavanna. "I know that happened by mistake. Don't worry. You should study well," the CM told Jinto after gifting him with a pen.

completion of the milk powder manufacturing unit at Moorkanad. This initiative aims to support milk farmers and mitigate excess milk production issues. The minister also mentioned the provision of interest-free loans to dairy farmers, subsidized fodder, and the introduction of veterinary ambulances in block panchayats.

These discussions and announcements at the NavaKerala Sadas showcase the state government's ongoing efforts in various sectors, reflecting its commitment to the development and welfare of Kerala.





# PALAKKAD



## People's Enthusiasm Clearly Evident: Chief Minister

People from all walks of life have participated in the NavaKerala Sadas, showing their awareness and concern for the state's issues. The state has initiated numerous development projects after 2021, particularly focusing on strengthening the higher education sector. NavaKerala Sadas serves as a platform to present Kerala's achievements, developments, novel ideas, opinions, crises, etc., to the public. The enthusiastic participation of people indicates their support for the government. Kerala has demonstrated that nothing is impossible, making the state a model for others. Our state anticipates more developments; however, this is not feasible with budget allocations alone. This is why KIIFB was established. Despite envisaging development worth 50,000 crores, the government has implemented projects worth 62,000 crores. In the following two years, projects worth 80,000 crores were implemented, and currently, the state is pursuing development projects worth 82,000 crores. The face of Kerala is changing drastically in all sectors, bringing happiness and new energy to the Keralites.

## Addressing the needs of the common people: Ahammad Devarkovil

The government is progressing by addressing the needs of the common people, resolving their grievances, and distributing welfare pensions. Extremely poor families have been identified as part of the State Government's comprehensive poverty eradication programme. These families are being integrated into mainstream society. As



Naniyamma with CM





## Palakkad District Receives 61,204 Petitions

When the three-day Nava Kerala Sadas concluded in Palakkad district, a total of 61,204 petitions were received from 12 legislative assembly constituencies. On the first day, 15,753 petitions were received, followed by 22,745 on the second day, and 22,706 on the third. The breakdown of petitions by constituency is as follows: Malampuzha - 7,067, Palakkad - 5,281, Nenmara - 6,536, Alathur - 6,664, Shoranur - 3,424, Ottapalam - 4,506, Tarur - 4,525, Chittur - 4,981, Mannarkkad - 5,885, Kongad - 4,512, Pattambi - 3,404, and Thrithala - 4,419. Special counters were set up for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and women at all venues. Petition acceptance began three hours before the start of the programme at each location.

part of this project, 64,004 extremely poor families have received food, medical aid, and basic facilities. Out of 537 extremely poor families, 257 have been lifted from extreme poverty. The goal is to move the rest out of poverty by November 2024-2025. Kerala ranks first in offering the highest wages for labourers. Notable achievements in the industrial sector include 139,840 ventures and investments worth 8,422 crores, creating job opportunities for more than three lakh people.

### Roads Par Excellence : Mohamed Riyas

The Government of Kerala is advancing with transparency in development activities. The developments implemented by the government have been widely accepted by the public. With the realization of the Hill Highway project, a significant boost is expected in the tourism and agriculture sectors. The Hill Highway, stretching for 1,166 km, is currently under construction. Up to 133 km of the Hill Highway has been constructed, with work in progress for another 293 km. The construction of a 10 km stretch from Ayinampaadam to Vadakkanchery in Palakkad district is ongoing. Additionally, a stretch of 78 km of PWD road in Alathur has been upgraded to BM and BC quality, costing 21.43 crore. The construction of the Chullimada Bridge, worth 9.78 crore, and the Parakunnam bridge, worth 15 crores, is also underway. Public sector enterprises, once in dire conditions, have been rejuvenated, with efforts underway to achieve profitability. The government has excelled in many sectors, including agriculture and health, over the past seven years, making Kerala a model for best governance and excellence.



## NavaKerala Sadas helps Jilumol realise her dream

Jilumol Mariet, a resilient individual living independently, received her driving license from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at a morning meeting held at Ramanathapuram, Palakkad. Jilumol, who works as an animator and graphic artist in Ernakulam, was a distinguished guest at the event, representing the government's support.

Remarkably, Jilumol drives using her feet, demonstrating extraordinary adaptability and strength. Her vehicle has been custom-fitted by VI Innovations, a start-up company, with sophisticated software systems that allow for voice-command control, making it possible for her to drive despite her challenging circumstances.



# THRISSUR



The significant turnout at the NavaKerala Sadas in Thrissur is a testament to the spirit of unity in Kerala. This gathering, with its diverse and enthusiastic crowd, is seen as a symbol of the state's promising future, underpinned by solidarity and cooperation. Each assembly, with its unique character and energy, contributes to rewriting history, a fact that Thrissur proudly reaffirms.

## Development Projects Gaining Popularity in Kerala: Roshy Augustine

The Kerala government is committed to addressing public grievances and enhancing the popularity of its initiatives. A key focus has been the Jal Jeevan Mission, efficiently progressing towards providing potable water to all households. Already, 36 lakh families have benefited from this mission. Additionally, the government has launched drinking water projects worth ₹4012 crore in Thrissur, ensuring comprehensive development across various segments of society.

Significant strides have been made in the public education sector, with a paradigm shift observed in basic infrastructure facilities. The enhancement in academic quality has transformed universities and colleges into centers of excellence, attracting numerous foreign students to the state's educational institutions. Kerala is recognized globally for its achievements in the health sector and infrastructure development, setting a model for others to follow. The NavaKerala Sadas continues to pave the way for new experiences for the public, reflecting the harmony between the people's aspirations and the government's vision for state development.

## Cultural Highlight: Muttum Viliyum Artform

During the NavaKerala Sadas, Chief Minister Pinarayi







Vijayan and his cabinet were greeted with the music of Muttum Viliyum, a traditional Muslim art form. This performance, crafted by Muhammed Hussain from Vadakkanchery, provided a novel experience for the attendees. While Muttum Viliyum is traditionally featured in festivals, weddings, and other significant events, its presence in modern celebrations like the NavaKerala Sadas has revived interest in this less commonly practiced art form.

### Artistic Tributes to the Chief Minister

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan received heartfelt gifts from artists Saji Thiruvillamala and Ardra Haridas. Sajeew presented a unique coffee art drawing, while Ardra, a Plus One student from Athani JMJ School, offered a pencil art drawing of the Chief Minister. These gestures not only showcase the talents of local artists but also symbolize the close connection between Kerala's leadership and its artistic community





# Morning meetings

## The Unique Platform for Charting Out Kerala's Future Course



As the NavaKerala Sadas progresses, the morning meetings that precede the event have increasingly evolved into a platform for charting out the state's future course of development and welfare initiatives. While the attendees have been excited to raise suggestions, the government has been proactive in hearing them and providing replies.

To learn about how the event is offering an entirely new experience to this government, let's begin with the heartening story of Nandana, a hearing-impaired girl from Guruvayur. She was introduced to the world of sounds after receiving a hearing aid through the "Karuthalum Kaithangum" adalat in May this year. It was Revenue Minister K Rajan and District Collector Krishna Teja who made the critical interventions on her behalf, while the Manappuram Foundation provided assistance.

Nandana, a first-year B. Com student at Little Flower College, Guruvayur, was born hearing-impaired. While her father Binu, who runs a tea shop, always aspired to buy a hearing aid for his daughter, the family could never afford a gadget that costs up to Rs.1.80 lakhs. However, their wish has now been fulfilled

with an intervention by the government.

These are things that normal government systems do not usually pay attention to. Nandana's experience suggests that the government's efforts to listen to them and find solutions are bearing fruit to some extent.

The morning meeting in Thrissur was held at KILA near Mulankunnathukavu. Around 260 invited persons from Chelakkara, Kunnankulam, Guruvayur, and Vadakancheri assembly constituencies participated in the programme.

From the film industry to the field of higher education – new ideas and opinions were actively discussed within a limited time.

Lyricist BK Harinarayanan's request was to start a Kalamandalam sub-centre in Kunnankulam constituency. He was assured that the matter would be considered in







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connection with the future development plans of the varsity. Organic farmer Raju Narayana Swamy called for plans to apply modern practices in agriculture and for efforts by panchayats to attract young people to agriculture. The government has formulated comprehensive schemes to increase agricultural production, and innovative farming methods using modern systems are being implemented in the state.

Since 2022, the government has initiated steps to open Krishisree Centers, which will serve as single-window systems in the field of agricultural mechanization. The main objective of these schemes is to address the shortage of labor in the farming sector.

Other key activities of this project include expanding the use of machinery in the agricultural sector, providing necessary assistance and services to the farmers at affordable rates. Rs. 8 crores have been allocated for starting 22 Krishisree Centers in this financial year.

The Vaiga Resource Centers are newly established district-wise decentralized systems to impart knowledge to farmers and extend support to achieve their endeavors. These Resource Centers have been designed to understand the needs of the farmer or entrepreneur so that all services from DPR preparation are available under one roof. DPR Clinics, B2B Meets, Seminars, Exhibitions, etc., will be arranged through the Resource Centers, along with

the provision of related facilities (obtaining licenses, loan facilities, etc.) to the entrepreneurs for starting a venture and continuing its operations successfully.

DPR clinics have been launched to help farmers prepare project reports to get bank loans and other benefits from the government for starting up industrial enterprises by farmers and farmer groups. Although such matters were not mentioned in detail in the meeting, we also promised to initiate proactive action and consider constructive suggestions related to agriculture.

Dr. Mohan Kunnammal, Vice Chancellor of the Health University, noted Kerala's potential to become the health hub of the world. He also proposed to start more nursing colleges and para-medical courses in the government sector. We have asserted that this proposal is clearly in line with the government's plan as well and that these students will also be offered practical training while pursuing their study programmes.

Badani Educational Institution Manager Fr. Benjamin raised concerns over the lack of adequate facilities for teachers to correct errant children. In response, the government also highlighted the need to protect the rights of children and desist from any act affecting their personality. Teachers too need to change with the changing times and should be able to adapt to the changes of the time. It is necessary to accept the personality of the children and give them the necessary advice.

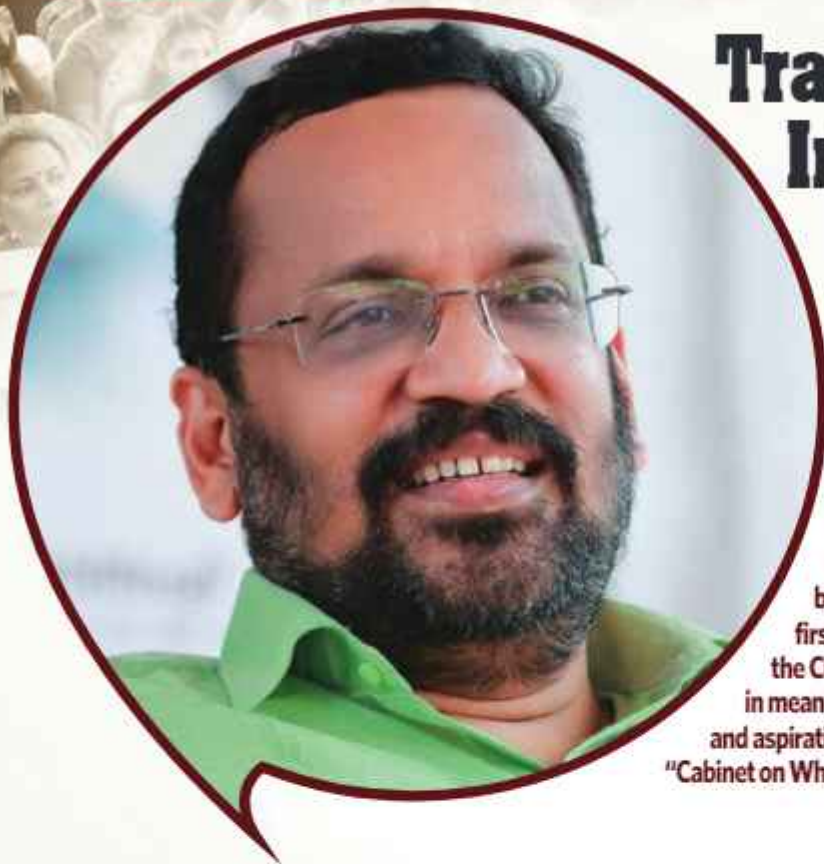
Actor and author VK Sriraman shared his concern about the rise in diabetes among Malayalis and the plight of Bharathapuzha. The Health Department is paying special attention to lifestyle diseases, while the Haritha Keralam Mission is carrying out cleaning works on the water bodies. He was also promised stern action against the dumping of garbage in water sources

Industrialist Naushar demanded that more facilities be arranged along the Chavakkad coastline. A.M. Anisha, a student of MBBS at Palakkad Govt Medical College, said that projects like e-grants were of great help to students from the lower strata of society in getting higher education. She also suggested that the young generation should be imparted training to handle digital media in these changing times from a young age.

Triple jump Asian medalist M.P. Sheena expressed a desire to build a synthetic track for athletics in the Chelakkara constituency. The President of the Punnayurkulam Ramacha Farmers Association, Mohanan Karutedath, demanded that necessary steps be taken to protect Ramacha cultivation, which engages 1500 farmers in Punnayurkulam. He was informed that the Agriculture Department is taking the necessary steps in this regard.







# Transformative Initiatives in the Revenue Department

**K. Rajan**

*Minister for Revenue and Housing*

The NavaKerala Sadas mark a historic step in the formation of a new Kerala, introducing a never-before-seen approach in the history of India. For the first time in the history of India, the ministers, led by the Chief Minister, goes directly to the people, engaging in meaningful interactions to understand their problems and aspirations. This pioneering program, can be called as the "Cabinet on Wheels."

Chief Minister and Ministers are engaged with dignitaries from various walks of life at the NavaKerala Sadas. These public gatherings are effectively a comprehensive review of the government's activities, shaping future government actions based on the thoughts and opinions shared. The primary objective of NavaKerala Sadas is to realize the vision that the people are the Government, emphasizing the people's role in governance.



- In the last two years, a record 1,21,604 title deeds were distributed.
- The "Title Deed Mission for Tribal Areas, focussing mainly at the distribution of Title Deeds in hill and tribal areas, came into force on 19.05.2023.
- A massive project for digitalisation of all land records is underway. This is apart from the 89 already digitally surveyed villages and the 27 villages where the programme is in progress. A project worth Rs. 858.42 crore is envisaged for this.

- Introduced Unique Thandapar system with the objective of providing one Thandapar per citizen of the state.
- The Revenue Information Bureau has been initiated to address public and revenue officials' doubts on revenue-related matters.
- Village-level People's Committees have been formed to ensure public involvement in land conservation and public welfare activities. This has been initiated for enhancing the services of village offices.
- The government is committed to spreading the use of digital technology across all sectors to achieve the goal of making all services smart.
- As part of making all village offices in the state smart, 450 village offices have been upgraded to this standard.
- The District Revenue Assembly system was introduced to involve the participation of MLAs in constructive suggestions, and to promptly address complaints and demands related to the Revenue Department.
- The Kerala Assembly passed an amendment to the Land Tenure Act, providing regularization in cases where allotted land has been used for purposes other than initially designated. The Assembly also passed seven amendments to the Building Tax Act.



# Kerala Water Authority's Remarkable Journey with Jaljeevan Mission

**Roshy Augustine**

*Minister for Water Resources*

It is a moment of pride as the Jaljeevan Mission, spearheaded by the Kerala Water Authority, reaches the significant milestone of 50 percent completion. This ambitious project has achieved a historic feat in providing drinking water connections to 50 percent of rural households in the state.



The Meenachil-Malankara project, the largest ever undertaken by the Water Authority, boasts a colossal scope in terms of project components and distribution network. It encompasses 2085 km of pipeline and 154 tanks. Apart from this, coastal protection efforts in Chellanam, where ten hot spots have been identified, has come as a solace to the people.

- Half of the total 70.82 lakh rural households in the state have got drinking



water through Jaljeevan Mission. A remarkable 35.42 lakh household in the rural areas now enjoy tap water connection.

- With World Bank assistance, the Water Authority has undertaken coastal protection activities to the tune of Rs. 5000 crore. Ten hot spots experiencing severe coastal erosion have been identified.
- Meenachil-Malankara Project: A monumental drinking water initiative with an investment of Rs. 1243 crore, marking a historic achievement for

the Kerala Water Authority.

- All services of Water Authority have been made available online, a testament to the government's commitment to ease the public's experience.
- Through the Jaljeevan Mission, 86 water testing labs have received accreditation from NABL.
- K.M. Mani Micro Irrigation Project has been initiated in 11 places in various districts to promote efficient water use in agriculture.
- The Irrigation Department is exploring development of tourism potential areas.
- A comprehensive action plan is underway to remove accumulated silt and debris from dams.
- With an international standard purification system, Hilly Aqua provides high-quality water at a lower cost compared to private companies, selling at Rs. 15 in the public market.
- Approximately 1,000 individual beneficiaries now have access to 10,000-liter capacity rainwater tanks, totaling an expenditure of Rs. 10 crores.
- Amrit Scheme ensures water availability in municipalities and cities
- Two 5 mld Sewage Treatment Plants have been commissioned under the Amrit Project, at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College and Kochi Elamkulam.



# Electrifying Progress

**K. Krishnankutty**

*Minister for Electricity*

Kerala is leading the way as a model for the entire country, striving to meet 50 percent of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2027. The ambitious goal is to transform the state into a 100 percent renewable energy-dependent entity by 2040 and achieve net carbon neutrality by 2050. Beyond the commitment to green energy, the government is dedicated to extend the benefits of development to marginalised communities, including tribal groups in forest areas and farmers.

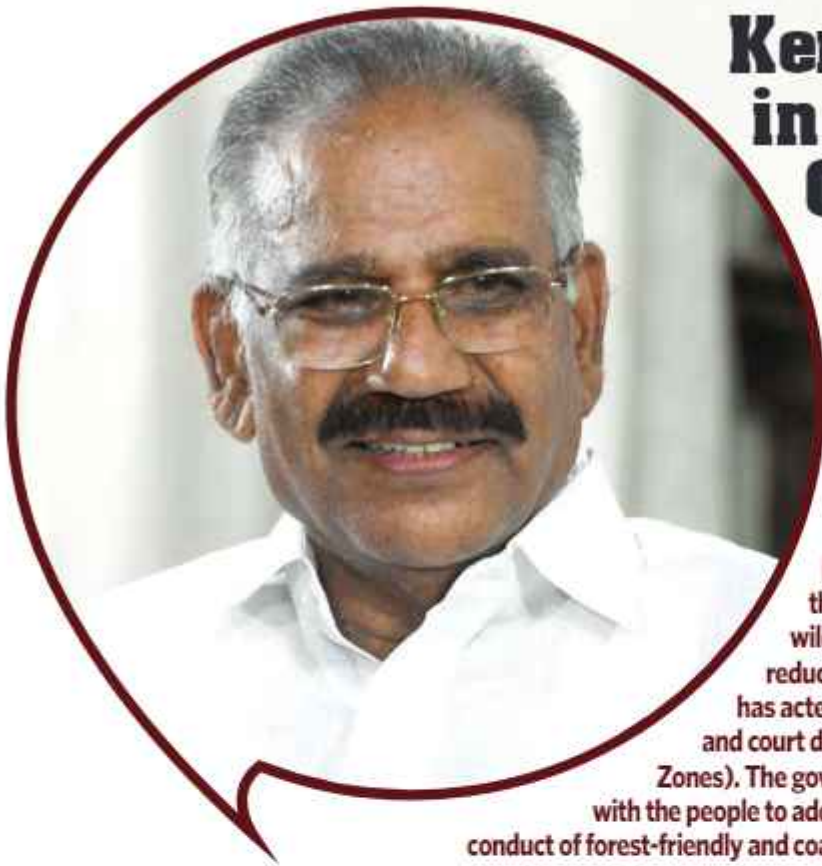
- Efforts are underway to electrify all houses in remote tribal areas within the state's forests. Among the 42 colonies where grid electrification is possible, 27 have already been electrified, with the remaining 15 targeted for completion by March 2024.
- The Purapura solar energy scheme, once exclusive to the elite, is now accessible to all sections in the society through the Green Energy Income Scheme, offered free of charge.
- The Anga jyothi Project aims to implement smart kitchens in Anganwadis,



- transforming the current cooking methods using wood and gas to fully electric cooking in 33,115 Anganwadis across the state.
- With the objective of reducing electricity losses equivalent to Rs. 250 crores annually, the TransGrid project seeks to meet transmission requirements for the next 25 years, prevent power outages, and consistently deliver quality electricity to consumers.
  - Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram will get Green Hydrogen Hubs, with an anticipated investment of Rs. 200 crores, contributing to making Kerala carbon neutral.

- Multiple hydropower projects, including Pallivasal expansion (60 MW) and Thottiyar (40 MW) will be completed this year. Apart from these, nine hydro electric projects (211 MW) are underway. Idukki Phase II (800 MW), Lakshmi (240 MW), Idukki Pump Storage (700 MW), Pallivasil Pump Storage Scheme (600 MW), and Idamalayar Pump Storage Hydropower Projects, are being undertaken.
- A total of 63 fast-charging stations and 1169 pole-mounted charging stations for two-wheelers and three-wheelers have been installed across all districts, aligning with the government's push to expand electric vehicle usage.
- Collaborating with Smart City, a project has been initiated to install solar power plants in all government buildings in Thiruvananthapuram city limits.
- As part of modernizing and empowering power distribution sector, the RDSS, supported by central assistance, will be implemented in the state. The Rs. 8205.61 crore project for installing smart meters have also been approved.
- Aimed at farmers having less than five acres of agricultural land, the Kusum project is set to benefit one lakh farmers out of the 2,30,000 in Kerala.





# Kerala Leads in Forest Conservation and Tribal Welfare

**A. K. Saseendran**

*Minister for Forest and Wildlife*

After coming to power, the government has initiated and implemented numerous projects that bring a new perspective to forest and wildlife conservation. This includes efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, and the government has acted timely, taking into account public opinion and court directives related to Eco-Sensitive Zones (Buffer Zones). The government's approach is to directly engage with the people to address their concerns. This is evidenced by the conduct of forest-friendly and coastal conferences in recent times.

In response to climate change challenges, Kerala has become the first state in India to draft a policy aimed at the restoration of natural forests. Under the Rebuild Kerala-KIIFB initiative, Navakiranam, 771 families from tribal and other communities living in forest areas have been granted ₹92.25 crore for resettlement. The Forest Department is also allocating up to ₹25,000 for vocational training of these rehabilitated individuals.

To integrate tribal communities into the mainstream, the Forest Department has created 500 Beat Forest Officer posts and initiated recruitment processes.

261 public awareness committees have been formed, consisting of local residents, representatives, and forest officials, to encourage public participation in these initiatives.

A comprehensive ₹620 crore project, spanning five years, has been launched to address human-wildlife conflict. This includes the establishment of eight permanent and seven temporary Rapid Response Teams.

Insurance protection initiatives have been undertaken for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in and around forests, with premiums of ₹18,18,750 being paid.

Kerala's first wildlife care and conservation center has commenced operations in Wayanad, focusing on treating and protecting injured and diseased wild animals. Animals have started arriving at the Zoological Park in Thrissur district, which is slated to open for visitors in early 2024.

To prevent forest encroachment and protect forest boundaries, 1379 fences covering 274.07 km were constructed in the financial year 2022-23. Plans are underway to build 6000 fences over 1284.434 km in the 2023-24 financial year.

The Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Center in Thiruvananthapuram is scheduled to open to the public in early 2024. A Forest Museum has also been inaugurated in Kulathupuzha in the Kollam district.

The government has eased regulations for sandalwood cultivation and harvesting, and is taking steps to market white sandalwood as fire briquettes.

With the support of NABARD, 14 integrated checkpoints have been set up



across the state.

The government has revised the requirements for compensation due to wildlife attacks, now including a provision for compensation ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹10 lakh for deaths caused by wildlife.

Efforts are underway to establish a Forest Eco-Tourism Authority and an Eco-Tourism Directorate. Finally, a Tiger Safari Park in Kozhikode has received preliminary approval for establishment.



# Revolutionizing Kerala's Maritime Landscape

## Ahammad Devarkovil

*Minister for Ports, Museums and Archaeology*

Marking the commencement of new developmental initiatives, the inaugural vessel docked at Vizhinjam International Transshipment terminal on October 15. The arrival of the first ship at this international port instils hope that Vizhinjam is poised to become a pivotal hub in the national movement of goods, realizing a dream harboured by Kerala for decades. Notably, India's inaugural deep-sea mega container transshipment terminal is taking shape at Vizhinjam, signifying a remarkable milestone in history.

The Government gives much emphasis to the development of ports, which unveil fresh avenues of opportunity within the industrial and commercial sectors.

### Vizhinjam International Transshipment Terminal

The realization of the Vizhinjam Port, a monumental undertaking with an initial investment of Rs 7700 crore on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis, has reached a significant milestone. The completion of the 2350-meter embankment, the Gate Complex, and Work shop Building sets the stage for the first cargo ship's docking. Additionally, a vocational training facility, constructed by ASAP at a cost of rs 50 crore, is ready to impart essential skills to residents of Vizhinjam. The Commissioning of the first phase of Kerala's ambitious project is slated for May 2024.

Approval of the International Shipping & Port Security Code (ISPS) for smaller ports, namely Azhheekal, Beypur, Kollam, and Vizhinjam, is instrumental in facilitating passenger and cargo services.

In Kollam, a crucial port following apart from Beypore, a 105-meter berth has been completed under the Sagarmatala project. Efforts are underway to declare Kollam port an immigration checkpoint, highlighting its importance.

Steps to enhance the depth of Beypur port, including dredging and plans for increased depth, aim to accommodate larger cargo ships. Dredging has begun here and an amount of Rs 15 crore has been sanctioned. Once completed, big ships can berth here.

The construction of Greenfield Port in Azhheekal, estimated at Rs 5,400 crore, is progressing.

In the cultural domain, the Kunkichira District Heritage Museum in Wayanad, depicting the comprehensive history of the district, has been handed over to the nation.

The AKG Museum in Peralassery, Kannur, set to illuminate the life of AKG, is expected to be inaugurated in 2024-25 fiscal.

The Raja Ravi Varma Art Gallery, showcasing 54 paintings by renowned artists, was completed and was delivered to the nation in October 2023.

Handloom Museum in Kannur, exhibiting the origin and development of the handloom industry in Kerala, was inaugurated in 2023.

Preservation initiatives include the reconstruction of the dilapidated Attingal Palace, with the front porch restored at a cost of Rs 94 lakh. The funds for

reconstruction of Nalukett and other buildings are earmarked in the 2022-23 budget.

Plans for a Tramway Museum is underway, focusing on the remains of the British-established tramway in Chalakudy to showcase the historical significance of the region.

As part of the initiative to preserve the traditional buildings and places, the Hajoor Kacheri building in Thirurangadi, Malappuram district was renovated at a cost of Rs 54 lakh. The building was dedicated to the state in October 2023.

Steps have been taken to restore the heritage Building, that now holds the Kozhikode Corporation office. As part of the programme, a museum depicting the historical and cultural heritage of the city will be set up with the collaborative efforts of Kozhikode Corporation.

Steps have been taken to set up a museum at Padmanabhapuram Palace, which was once the capital of Travancore. As part of the initiative, the existing museum building is being renovated and would be open to the public next year.

A Palm-leaf Manuscripts Museum has been set up in Thiruvananthapuram. This museum sheds light on administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom

As part of the expansion of the State Archaeology Department, Kozhikode Regional Archives centre has been opened at the Kundamangalam Mini Civil Station.





## **Public Transport: Kerala's Innovations in the Wake of Change**

**Adv. Antony Raju**  
*Minister for Transport*

The public transport sector in the state is undergoing a significant change. The Department of Transport has introduced a multitude of innovative schemes to enhance public transportation. Even when going through challenging times, the state government is dedicated to modernise the public transport system, introducing new facilities, and increasing the income of KSRTC.

A prominent initiative is the e-mobility project, aimed at promoting the use of electric vehicles. As part of this, charging stations are being established in different parts of the state. Moreover, awareness programmes about green fuels are also being held.

- The formation of KSRTC-SWIFT aims to enhance the efficiency of long-distance services.
- Electric city service buses were launched in Thiruvananthapuram city.



- In collaboration with the Local Self-Government Department, the transport department brought in Gram Vandi Services for rural regions.

- The introduction of smart travel cards promoted digital payments for public transport.
- Aimed at increasing non-ticket income for KSRTC, the KSRTC Budget Tour Package was initiated, which offered affordable tour packages.
- Even at times of financial challenges, salary revision for employees in KSRTC was taken up.
- Unfit buses were transformed into low-cost accommodations for tourists.
- The strategic installation of AI cameras across Kerala significantly reduced road accidents and fatalities.
- Evolve 2023 International Conference on Clean Fuels was held.
- Electric auto-rickshaws were given tax concessions for the first five years. Apart from this a subsidy of Rs.30,000 each was given to economically backward electric auto-rickshaw owners.
- The See-Kuttanad service with two double-decker passenger-cum-tourist boats, each accommodating up to 90 passengers, was launched.





# Heading Towards Sporting Excellence

## V. Abdurahiman

*Minister for Sports, Wakf and Haj Pilgrimage, Minority welfare*

Recognizing the challenges in sports arena, the state government is proactively spearheading transformative measures. A substantial investment of Rs 1600 crores (KIIFB and sports department fund) in sports sector infrastructure is underway. Efforts are on to identify and nurture aspiring athlete.

Keeping in mind the significance of uplifting minorities for national welfare, the government is executing various projects spanning education, health, employment, and housing for them.

- One Panchayat, One playground; As per this project, the government is for constructing one playground in each panchayat. In the first phase, it is being implemented in 113 panchayats. The work in four places is already underway. Apart from this, the establishment of sports councils at the Corporation, Municipality, and Panchayat levels is a groundbreaking move in the state.
- A comprehensive sports training program, targeting five lakh children in football training, has been launched. In the first phase, one lakh children got training across 1000 centers. The government plans for professional training centers in each of the 140 constituencies. An innovative "Sprint in Schools" program for athletics training was commenced in the present academic year.
- Three football academies, notably two are for girls, have been initiated by the sports directorate and sports council. High-Performance Academies by the Sports Council are set to be established in all 14 districts.
- A new martial arts project in collaboration with Malayalam University will introduce Sports Centers across all districts, offering instruction in disciplines like Karate, Judo, Taekwondo, and Kalari.
- A comprehensive fitness assessment campaign has been initiated in various schools to evaluate the health and sportsmanship of students.
- In pursuit of international excellence, the state is strengthening collaborations with foreign governments. Noteworthy partnerships include football and hockey training programs in association with the Netherlands Football Association and Bovlander Foundation, Netherlands.
- Under the aegis of the KIIFB, 58 projects, including 14 district stadiums and 44 panchayat stadiums, are coming up. Of these, 12 projects valued at Rs. 120 crore have already been completed and an additional 23 projects worth Rs. 460 crore is in progress.
- Scholarship of Rs 15,000 each to minority students pursuing courses in CA and CMA and CS. In 2022-23 an amount of Rs 28.62 lakh was spent.
- A sum of Rs 2.40 lakh was utilized in 2021-22 to help minority students from various States/Union Territories to participate in exams facilitated by NCERT.
- At the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, six students were granted Rs 90,000 scholarships each in 2022-23 for a one-year PGD-GST course.
- Scholarships amounting to Rs 462 Lakh was awarded in 2022-23 to 4,248 students who excelled in SSLC, THSLC, VHSE, PLUS 2 exams for meeting the expense of higher education.
- 55 religious minority candidates preparing for civil services received Rs 10.46 lakhs in scholarships for fee reimbursements in 2022-23.
- A total of Rs 24.66 lakhs was granted to 411 minority students pursuing three-year diploma courses in recognized polytechnics during 2022-23, with each student receiving Rs 6,000 annually.
- In 2022-23, Rs 58.30 lakhs in scholarships were awarded to 388 minority students enrolled in Nursing and Paramedical Diploma courses at Government Nursing Colleges in Kerala, each receiving Rs 15,000 annually.
- 73 students pursuing education in foreign universities received a total scholarship of Rs 53.44 lakhs in the form of loan interest aid in 2022-23 under the scholarship scheme.
- Financial support totaling Rs 355.28 lakh was expended in 2022-23 for the construction and rehabilitation of homes for widows and divorcees from religious minorities.
- A specialized building with an area of 2888.70 sq. meters, accommodating over 300 pilgrims concurrently, was established alongside the Hajj House, facilitated by State Government assistance, to cater to women's needs.





# Empowering Nava Keralam: Transformative Initiatives in Food Security and Public Welfare

**Adv. G. R. Anil**

*Minister for Food and Civil Supplies*

The Kerala Government stands tall in its achievement, ushering in a multitude of transformative initiatives in the realm of food and public distribution. Since assuming office, the government has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to agility, leading to the conceptualization and execution of numerous schemes. The ration shops were modernised and transformed into state-of-the-art K-stores to enhance accessibility of goods and services.

At the forefront of the Food Department's endeavours is the objective to establish scientifically advanced warehouses across all 83 taluks in the state. This initiative aligns with the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the state, signifying a commitment to preserve food grains. The integration of e-POS machines to weighing machines is going on.

A noteworthy accomplishment lies in ensuring ample food supply for all citizens in the state. The concerted efforts of the government are propelling Nava Keralam towards the noble aspiration of providing sufficient nutrition to all individuals, marking a commendable stride towards collective well-being.

- In a remarkable move, 1,24,311 holders of priority ration cards willingly surrendered their cards. An impressive 3,66,397 priority ration cards underwent reclassification and redistribution in Kerala.
- Pioneering the drive for food security, Ration Card Scheme for All was successfully rolled out, resulting in the distribution of 4,04,195 new ration cards across the state.
- Introduced pocket-sized PVC ration cards
- Hunger-Free Kerala-- Subhiksha Hotels that were started across the state stands as a beacon of hope and sustenance for the populace, reflecting the commitment to ensuring no one goes hungry in the state.
- Mobile ration shops in 139 tribal villages of the state.
- Strong measures for market intervention under the auspices of Supplyco to control price rise. Thirteen items of daily use are distributed at prices as that of 2016
- Thermometer, calibration, water meter calibration, flow meter calibration and sphygmomanometer calibration laboratories have been started in Legal Metrology

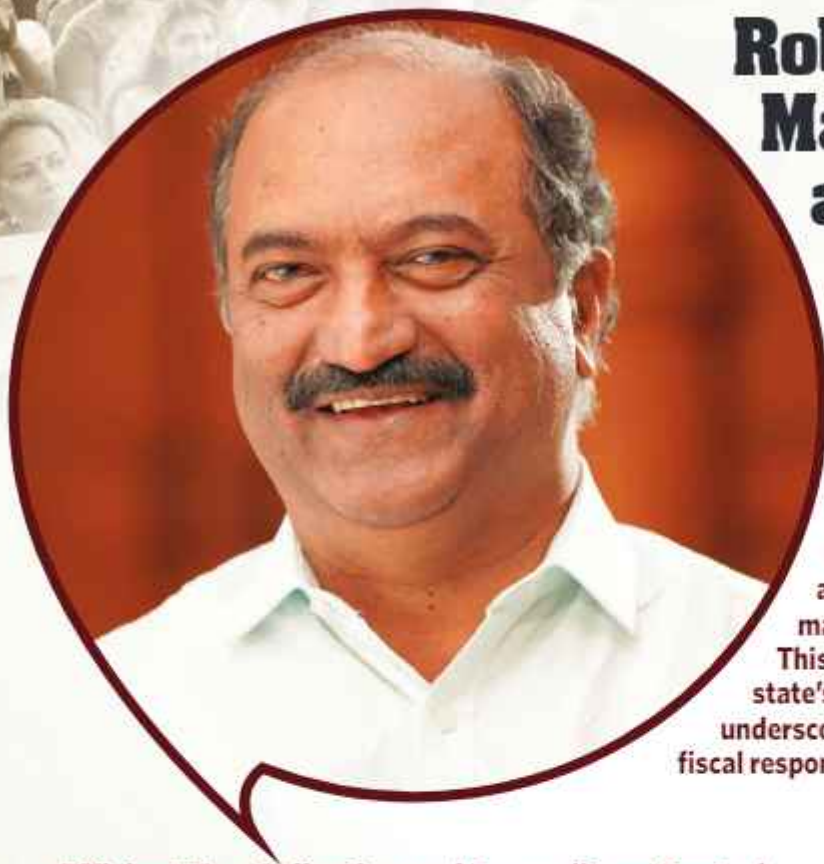
Department.

- Initiated operational capability and operational alertness plans.



- Strengthened paddy procurement in the state, 7.5 lakh metric tonnes of paddy stocked in 2022-23. Kerala has become the state that pays the highest price in the country by ensuring 28 rupees 20 paise per kg of paddy.





# Robust Financial Management and Economic Growth in Kerala

**K. N. Balagopal**

*Minister for Finance*

In recent years, Kerala has demonstrated a remarkable trajectory in financial management and economic development. This article presents an overview of the state's financial strategy and its outcomes, underscoring the government's commitment to fiscal responsibility and economic growth.

## Efficient Tax Collection and Expenditure Control

The foundation of Kerala's financial stability lies in its focus on efficient tax collection and controlling unnecessary expenditures. These measures are central to the state's approach to economic consolidation, ensuring sustainable financial management.

## Sustaining Essential Expenditures

Despite economic challenges, the state has successfully managed essential expenditures without closing the treasury. This balance showcases the government's adept handling of the financial situation, ensuring the continuity of public services and development projects.

## Record Growth in Income and Production

Kerala has achieved the highest income growth rate and production growth rate in the country. This remarkable growth is a testament to the state's robust economic policies and effective implementation.

## Growth in Gross State Domestic Product

In the fiscal year 2021-22, Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) saw an increase of 12.01 percent at constant prices, indicating strong economic momentum.

## Increase in GST Revenue

The fiscal year 2022-23 marked a significant achievement with a GST revenue increase of 23,000 crores compared to the previous year, reflecting the state's enhanced revenue-generating capacity.

## Growth in Own Tax Revenue

There was a notable growth in the state's own tax revenue, which increased from 22.41 percent in 2021-22 to 23.36 percent in the following year. This growth underscores the effectiveness of the state's tax policies and administration.

## Reduction in Fiscal and Revenue Deficits

The fiscal deficit was successfully reduced to 2.5 percent, and the revenue deficit was brought down to 0.9 percent. These figures demonstrate the state's

commitment to maintaining fiscal discipline and economic stability.

## Support Across Sectors

Even in unique economic circumstances influenced by central policy, the state government has continued to provide necessary support to all sectors, ensuring balanced development across the state.

## Welfare and Sectoral Allocations

In the span of two and a half years, 23,350 crores were allocated for welfare pensions, reflecting the government's commitment to social welfare. Additionally, substantial funds were provided to various sectors, including 183 crores for the income support scheme, 181 crores to the Khadi sector, 343 crores to the coir sector, 190 crores to the cashew sector, and a significant 4833 crores to KSRTC.

## Performance of Financial Institutions

State financial institutions like KSFE and KFC have been achieving record performance, indicating the robustness of the state's financial sector and its

Kerala continues to demonstrate strong financial management and economic progress. Through strategic policies, efficient tax administration, and focused expenditure management, Kerala is setting a benchmark in state-level financial governance and economic development.



# Shaping a New Kerala: Focus on Higher Education and Social Justice

**Dr. R. Bindu**

*Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice*

In pursuit of the development of New Kerala, the state government is actively involved in diverse action programs, encompassing mission-type projects. The acquisition of knowledge is imperative for crafting solutions to challenges in our key sectors through the development of innovative products, processes, and services. The government has shouldered the primary role of reshaping our higher education institutions into hubs that foster the generation of such knowledge.

Our endeavors in higher education have rendered emerging fields of knowledge more appealing to students and young individuals, thereby expanding their prospects for entry. Moreover, skill development initiatives are being extensively executed to narrow the divide between employment and education.

## Higher Education

- Timely declaration of undergraduate and postgraduate results enforced, with a directive to release undergraduate results by April 30 and postgraduate results by May 31.
- Schemes amounting to Rs 700 crore have been approved under the KIIIFB for infrastructure development and academic enhancement in Universities and Government Colleges.
- Land acquisition for Malayalam College in Tirur and APJ Abdul Kalam Technical College in Vilappilshala, Thiruvananthapuram, has been completed. Construction of permanent campus and headquarters buildings is underway.
- College classrooms are undergoing modernization through the adoption of advanced digital technology systems.
- Aimed at consolidating distance education, the Sri Narayanaguru Open University, the state's first open university, was launched. Three Government Arts & Science Colleges and five Aided Arts & Science Colleges have been inaugurated.
- Innovative post-graduate programs such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Design Engineering, Machine Learning, Data Science, Five Year Integrated MA and MSc Programs, Nano Science, Logistics, Digital Surveying, and Financial Marketing have been sanctioned.
- Four per cent reservation for differently-abled candidates in aided college teacher recruitment
- State colleges and universities have achieved notable progress in NIRF ranking, NAAC, and NBA accreditations, enhancing their standing in higher education.
- The 'IrEST Park' in Thiruvananthapuram aims to cultivate interest in research among engineering students and leverage the research expertise of teachers.
- Under ASAP, nine international-standard skill training complexes, named Community Skill Parks, are operational.
- University Rules and Regulations have been revised to adapt to evolving needs.
- The Chief Minister's visits to various universities as part of the CM@Campus project have facilitated interaction with students, gathering developmental insights and progressive suggestions for the New Kerala industry.

## Social Justice

The Department of Social Justice provides monthly financial aid of Rs. 1700 to those receiving Disability Pension, Rs. 2200 to those not receiving it, and Rs. 1200- to others affected by Endosulfan, aiding those requiring prolonged medical care and unable to work.

Children from affected families, up to 12th class, receive a one-time education grant. The students from class one to seven get a grant of Rs. 2000 and those in class eight to ten get Rs. 3000 as grant. An amount of Rs. 4000/- each is given for students in classes 11 and 12.

'Aahijivanam' comprehensive plan encompassing five model schemes has been initiated for the differently-abled

From FY 2023-24, the Karunya Health Security Scheme covers all Persons with Disabilities.

As per Last fiscal data, 6079 persons benefited from the Vidyakinanam scheme, offering educational financial aid to children of differently-abled parents.

'Punarjani, a care home catering to 50 tribals with mental health challenges, commenced in Attapadi, Palakkad district.

Micro-project grants of Rs. 20,000 provided to self-help groups comprising at least five differently-abled members.

'Sahalam' project helps transgender students pursuing eligible professional courses. This is envisaged to prevent dropout. Additionally, legally married transgender individuals who underwent surgery receive Rs. 30,000 as marriage assistance.

The 'Vayo Amrutam' scheme delivers free Ayurvedic, medical, and palliative care to residents of 16 old age homes, addressing isolation, mental stress, and health issues.





# Welcome Initiatives in Animal Welfare and Dairy Development

**J. Chinchurani**

*Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development*

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development has been in the forefront of social empowerment through innovative initiatives, effectively addressing the needs of the people during challenging times. Among these interventions are the Night Emergency Veterinary Treatment Scheme, the 'e-Samridh' initiative connecting farmers and herds digitally, compensation for uninsured farmers' herds, streamlined single-window system for starting new farms and the new legislation for dairy cooperatives.

- The overnight emergency veterinary service covers all 152 blocks of the state including Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Kochi Corporations. The service is also offered at 156 centers, including Neyyatinkara Municipality.
- Twenty nine mobile veterinary units (Three under the RKVY scheme in Palakkad, Wayanad, and Pathanamthitta districts) and two equipped with telemedicine facilities (Mobile Televeterinary Units) under the RKI scheme in Ernakulam and Kannur districts, is a strategic move to provide modern treatment systems.
- A centralized call center system with toll-free number '1962' further enhances accessibility to doorstep veterinary services.
- Veterinary doctors were appointed as junior residents in 50 selected veterinary centers in crucial areas.
- A Comprehensive Livestock Insurance Scheme, Gosamriddhi, stands out with the distinction of offering the lowest premium rate among livestock insurance schemes nationwide.
- Efforts are on to develop Kudappanakunn in Thiruvananthapuram district as a center of excellence for animal husbandry training.
- The Special Cattle Development - Govarddhini Scheme (involving the adoption of calves) and the Kerala Chicken Project Rs 56.2866 crores approved through Rebuild Kerala) underscore a comprehensive approach to animal welfare.
- Addressing the challenge of stray dogs, the Animal Welfare Department conducts vaccinations in both stray and domesticated dogs.
- To ensure the financial security of dairy farmers, the department updated the

milk pricing chart in December 2022. This resulted in a reasonable revision



that gives 83.75% of the increased selling price, i.e., Rs 5.052 per liter, to the farmers. This move demonstrates a commitment to fair compensation and financial well-being for those involved in dairy farming.

- The state recorded an increase in milk storage with dairy cooperatives, which procure about 20 lakh liters of milk daily.
- The Kerala Feeds, a previously loss-making PSU, revived





# Kerala's Pursuit Towards Eradicating Extreme Poverty

**M.B. Rajesh**

*Minister for Local Self Governments,  
Rural Development and Excise*

**Achieving the objective of Nava Keralam commences with the eradication of extreme poverty. As of November 1, 2023, a notable achievement has been made, with 47.8 percent (equivalent to 30,658 families) of the 64,006 households identified as extremely poor experiencing an uplift from extreme poverty. Beyond this, the overarching objective is to shape a New Kerala by not only eliminating extreme poverty but also addressing issues of waste management.**

To enhance transparency, efficiency, and speed in local self-government services, a unified software named K-Smart is all set to be launched from January 1, 2024. Simultaneously, the introduction of a permanent adalat system aims to streamline the operations of local self-government bodies, ensuring the prompt resolution of grievances. These collective endeavours are undertaken with the goal of strengthening local self-governing institutions and adapting the local governance system to align with the transformative aspirations of the new Kerala construction.

- Extreme Poverty Eradication Project: From the 64,006 families identified



in the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project survey, a transformative 47.8% (30,658 families) have been uplifted from the shackles of extreme poverty. The ambitious vision is to declare Kerala a state free from extreme poverty by November 1, 2025.

- LIFE Scheme: Under the benevolent LIFE Scheme, 3,56,108 homes have been built and handed over to deserving beneficiaries. Apart from this, four housing complexes were also transferred to beneficiaries.
- Kerala Solid Waste Management Project: Supported by the World Bank,

a Rs 2400 Crore project is steering the Kerala Solid Waste Management initiative. The dream is to realize a New Kerala unburdened by garbage by March 2024.

- K-Smart Software: K-Smart, a comprehensive software designed to render local self-government services transparent, efficient, and expeditious will be launched in January 2024.
- Permit Issuance: Within the Corporations and Municipalities, a seamless online process ensures permits for minor constructions on the very day of submitting application, provided all requisite documents are submitted.
- Training Programs: A comprehensive training programme, conducted in collaboration with IMG, uplifts the skills and knowledge of Local Self-Government Department personnel.
- Adalats: Subsidistrict, District, and State Adalats stand as beacons of justice, established to address the concerns and grievances of the populace.
- Enforcement and Anti-Drug Campaign: Bolstering the ranks of excise forces, a resolute commitment is made to fortify enforcement efforts. Simultaneously, an expansive campaign is waged against the perils of drug abuse.





# Transformative Pioneering Progress in Tourism and Infrastructure Development

**Adv. P. A. Mohamed Riyas**

*Minister for Public Works and Tourism*

Kerala's tourism sector and infrastructure development are scaling unprecedented heights. Successfully surmounting obstacles, the government has orchestrated comprehensive progress in both domains. Transformative development projects have reshaped the very essence of Kerala. The state has witnessed notable progress in constructing and upgrading its roads, bridges, and public facilities. Major infrastructure projects have not only enhanced connectivity but also contributed to the overall economic and social well-being of the region.

The last two and a half years stand as a testament to history-making strides, propelling Kerala tourism to the forefront as a significant global hub. This notable journey underscores the region's commitment to progress, with background development emerging as a pivotal force, and tourism shining as a beacon on the world map.

- **National Highway Development:** The advancement of National Highway 66, a longstanding requirement for Kerala, is making rapid strides. In a groundbreaking move for the country, the state government provided 25 percent of the amount for land acquired, involving a substantial transfer of Rs. 5580 crores.
- **Hill Highway:** With a total length of 1166 km, the Hill Highway has witnessed the realization of 133.68 km, with an additional 277 km currently under construction. Financial approval has been granted for a stretch of 735.93 km, out of which 482.20 km has already been tendered, and contracts have been signed for 410.63 km.
- **Coastal Highway:** Comprising 52 stretches covering 623 km. Forty four stretches spanning 537 km is being developed by including it in Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). A financial allocation of 415 km has been designated for land acquisition, accompanied by a specialized rehabilitation package for those relinquishing their land.
- **Free From Level Crossings:** The completion of work on 13 railway overbridges signifies a significant achievement, ensuring that the state is free from level crossings.
- **Road Maintenance and Running Contracts:** Aiming for a pothole-free Kerala, efforts have been taken up with a running contract facilitating the immediate filling of potholes on roads not covered by routine maintenance. A substantial investment of Rs. 486.11 crore has been allocated for the maintenance of 20,026 km of roads.
- **100 Bridges Initiative:** The ambitious goal of constructing 100 bridges in the state is on the verge of realisation, with 83 bridges successfully completed.
- **People's Rest House:** An efficient online booking system has resulted in an impressive two lakh bookings and a revenue of Rs 10 crore over the past two years. There's a dedicated program to revamp these rest houses, ensuring they maintain their charm.

## Tourism

- Kerala witnessed a record influx of domestic tourists in 2022, with a staggering 1.88 crore visitors.
- Plans for floating bridges to elevate beach tourism are underway, alongside exciting ventures like the Candy Lever Glass Bridge in Wagaman and a new adventure hub at Akkulam Park in Thiruvananthapuram.
- New Caravan parks at Bekal, Bolgatti, and Ponmudi.

- The initiation of nightlife at Manaviyam Veethi in Thiruvananthapuram and the approval for illuminating heritage buildings in Kozhikode are promising developments. The establishment of a Wedding Destination Center adds to Kerala tourism.
- Destination Challenge is aimed at enhancing regional tourism. Thirty Four projects under this have been given approval.
- Efforts in cinema tourism are also starting, with the first project set at Kiridam Bridge in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Kerala's strides in women-friendly tourism, recognized globally, are being reinforced through dedicated schemes.
- Kerala's commitment to responsible tourism has earned global acclaim, driving a mission to popularize sustainable travel practices.
- The 7th edition of the Kerala Blog Express brought together bloggers from various nations, offering them insights into Kerala's charm.

## Cultural and Heritage Ventures

- From the Literary Circuit spanning Beypur to Trithala to the Biodiversity Circuit in Kollam District, Kerala is fostering cultural and heritage exploration. Projects like Musaris for heritage tourism and the Spices Route to connect historical trade ports are further enhancing these experiences.
- Efforts are on to promote pilgrim tourism at Sripadmanabhaswamy Temple, while Sabarimala's microsite is expanding as part of pilgrimage tourism.





# Empowering Agriculture: Kerala's Vision for Sustainable Farming

**P. Prasad**  
*Minister for Agriculture*

The government is leading the path to revolutionise the agricultural sector in the state through various initiatives such as "Njhangalum Krishiyilekku". The government is always fostering innovation, preserving traditional wisdom, and introducing new seeds for the growth of agriculture. The focus is on attracting the younger generation to farming and producing value-added agricultural products. Smart krishi Bhavan and Kuttanad Development

Coordination Council are other initiatives that need mention.

- **Poshaka Samridhi Mission:** A comprehensive mission focussing on increasing farmers' income by prioritising nutrient-rich crops. It also integrates production, marketing and public health to rejuvenate Kerala's agricultural sector, intending to create nutritious gardens for 25 lakh families annually.
- **Organic Farming Mission:** Aimed at advancing scientific organic farming, this mission aspires to enhance the availability of organic resources for safe food production. It is aimed to cover 10,000 hectares this fiscal.
- The government aims to form FPOs by organising 30,000 farming groups in the panchayats. The goal of this project is to generate substantial employment opportunities, with an ambitious target of creating three lakh jobs annually.
- **Agricultural Development Planning:** Shifting away from the traditional crop-centric approach, this strategy emphasizes farm-based development. It aims to judiciously utilize resources across 10,760 farms, including the establishment of integrated farming system plots. An amount of Rs 1200 Lkh is earmarked for this programme.
- **KERA:** Funded by the World Bank, 'KERA' is for strengthening agricultural resilience against natural calamities, climate change and diseases. A substantial corpus fund of US\$ 285 million has been allocated.
- **VAAM:** This mission focuses on policy formulation and administrative leadership across various domains to enhance value addition in agriculture, covering regulations, finance, technology, marketing, and human resource capacity building.
- **KABCO:** KABCO establishes commercial ties with farmers, transitioning agriculture into agri-business. It emphasizes value addition and related activities.
- **Keragram:** The project aims to boost coconut production and productivity through organic practices, management and technological interventions. The government aims 50 Keragrams of 100 hectares each across Kerala.
- **Micronutrient Application in Rice Cultivation:** With an allocated fund of Rs 195.00 lakhs, this initiative employs drone technology for micronutrient application on 9,750 hectares of paddy fields during the ongoing financial year.
- **Krishi Darshan:** A regional agricultural assessment campaign conducted by officials and experts, led by the Minister of Agriculture. It aims to provide immediate solutions to farmers' issues and devise long-term plans for agricultural sectors.
- **Vaiga Resource Centre:** These centers to be established in each district, serve as hubs to equip farmers with knowledge and resources. The centre is envisaged to provide a range of services to the farmers, including the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR)
- **Social Audit in Krishi Bhavans:** The Government has initiated a social audit in the Department of Agriculture to enhance transparency and efficiency in the operations of Krishi Bhavans. Starting from 14 panchayats in the last fiscal, this successful audit model, pioneered at Kooropada Krishi Bhavan in Kottayam district, will expand to 70 Krishi Bhavans this year.
- **"Kerala Agro" Retail Outlets:** To promote agricultural produce from the Agriculture Department's farms, FPOs and farming groups, premium outlets named 'Kerala Agro' are being established under a unified brand. Plans are in place to launch 14 supermarkets or Kerala Agro retail shops, one in each district. Measures are being taken to ensure product quality, uploading them under the Kerala Agro brand on online marketing platforms. A budget of Rs 100 lakh has been allocated for this in the current fiscal.
- **Wild Animal Attacks:** The initiative under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is implemented in the state to prevent crop damage and mitigate the entry of wild animals into agricultural areas. Kerala will implement Rs 25 crore project this fiscal.



# Unnathi - Empowering Marginalized Communities Progress

## K. Radhakrishnan

*Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and Devaswoms*

The Kerala Government under 'Unnati' initiative has undertaken various projects for the progress among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Caste backward groups, encompassing education, employment, health, and infrastructure development. Amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, special attention has been given to safeguarding temples, ensuring a secure and seamless pilgrimage season. Noteworthy plans are underway to impart the significance of parliamentary democracy to the public, particularly the youth who embody the future promise of the nation.

- One of the main aims of the government is to provide land and homes to all landless and homeless Scheduled Tribes by 2026.
- An amount of Rs two lakh each was granted for completing 13,000 houses through SAFE scheme.
- Scholarships have been extended to 425 students from Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Caste and Backward communities, enabling them to pursue



studies in foreign universities. An additional 310 individuals will receive scholarships for overseas education this year.

- Through WINGS scheme, three SC, two ST, and one OEC candidate will get an annual scholarship of Rs. 33 lakh for commercial pilot license studies.
- The Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (AAIU) has set a national model for ensuring essential documents available to Scheduled Caste families in a digitalised format.
- In response to the central government's denial of scholarships for backward class children from classes one to eight, the 'Kedavilak' scheme was initiated, offering Rs. 1500 for each student per year.

- Internet facilities now cover 1083 out of 1284 tribal villages, an amount of Rs. 4.31 crore was exclusively earmarked for Edamalakudi alone. Plans are underway to provide internet service in remote Tribal Villages. Electrification was fully completed at Vettivittakaad Scheduled Tribe village in Thrissur district at the cost of 92.46 lakh rupees.
- The formation of the Kerala Empowerment Society aims to cultivate youth as both entrepreneurs and employers. This helps in launching startups, starting new ventures, and also caters to manufacturing service projects.
- TRACE (Training for Career Excellence) is an innovative scheme providing job training with an honorarium for youth with professional education qualifications from Scheduled Tribes.
- Ensured safe and comfortable pilgrimage facilities at the time of Sabarimala Pilgrimage
- Income from temples are also now used towards emergency services benefitting the general public. Initiatives include the establishment of a dialysis center in Kadampuzha. A super specialty hospital in Guruvayur is nearing completion.



# Charting a Path to Industrial Excellence

**P. Rajeev**

*Minister for Law, Industries and Coir*

Removing barriers to business initiation, directly engaging with entrepreneurs, establishing top-notch industrial infrastructure, modernizing public sector institutions and fostering the growth of enterprises, Kerala is advancing by all means.

The state is carving out a distinctive industrial model by fortifying traditional sectors, attracting substantial investments, nurturing innovative concepts, and fostering a sustainable business environment. Kerala's vision

encompasses a diverse range of enterprises, including artificial intelligence-based ventures, biotechnology, electronics design and

manufacturing, electric vehicles, logistics, medical devices, nanotechnology, space exploration, robotics, renewable tourism, Gaffine, and marine clusters.

- The Industrial Policy of 2023 aims to elevate Kerala into a haven for cutting-edge industries. This entails advancing infrastructure, technology, innovation, institutional efficiency, market expansion, export facilitation, research and development, and skill enhancement across 22 pivotal sectors, avoiding comprehensive support solely through incentives.



- Kerala's ascent from the 28th to the 15th rank in the ease of doing business reflects its ambition to break into the top ten in the forthcoming surveys.
- Encouraging large-scale industries has already attracted an investment of Rs 11,000 crore.
- Provision of land for industries has been sanctioned across eight private

industrial estates.

- The construction of a 2.17 lakh sq. ft., nine-floor building at Kazhakoottam KINFRA Park for the Tata Elxsi project is underway, promising direct employment for 2500 persons and indirect employment for 1500.
- Venure, a US-based company, plans to invest Rs 1500 crore.
- In 2021-22 fiscal., ten prominent companies invested in various Kinfra Parks, generating direct job opportunities for 5000 persons and a total investment of Rs. 1000 crores.
- Timely processing of various licenses, clearances, and certificates for enterprises is ensured within seven days.
- The state boasts 41 PSUs, with an operating profit of Rs 384.68 crore, out of which 23 are profitable.
- Kerala Paper Products Limited commenced commercial production at Vellore, marking a significant milestone.
- The foundation stone has been laid for Kerala Rubber Limited at Vellore, with Phase 1 operations already in progress.





# Empowering Fishermen and Coastal Communities Towards Prosperity

**Saji Cherian**

*Minister for Fisheries and Cultural affairs*

The Fisheries Department has envisaged and implemented numerous initiatives for the holistic advancement of the fisheries sector. These projects not only contribute to the overall growth of the industry but also play a pivotal role in enhancing the educational, social, and economic well-being of the fishermen.

Over the last seven years, both the present and the previous governments have committed to the social development of coastal areas, with particular focus on the inclusion and betterment of impoverished fishermen. A substantial allocation of Rs 11,000 crores has been designated for coastal development across various schemes, underscoring the dedication to fostering progress in this vital domain.

- Over 12,558 individuals have benefited since 2016 under diverse rehabilitation and housing programs.
- 5985 landless homeless people completed construction of homes during last government and 3650 beneficiaries during this government through LIFE scheme.
- Ten 10 deep-sea fishing boats, each valued at Rs. 156 lakh, has been distributed to traditional fishermen for deep-sea fishing
- Focusing on traditional fishermen, efforts have been initiated to convert their boats to FRP boats. Till now, assistance have been provided to 320 FRP units.
- A total of Rs 180 crores was distributed to families of fishermen who lost days of work due to weather forecast and COVID.
- Financial assistance will be provided to fishermen for more convenient and profitable petrol, diesel, LP.G engines. An amount of Rs eight crore have been allocated in the budget for this purpose.
- Insurance cover provided for traditional fishing vessels, 90% of the premium is funded by the government.
- The enactment of the Fish Procurement, Marketing, and Quality Management Act safeguards fishermen against exploitation by intermediaries.

- Accident insurance for fishermen has been increased to Rs. 20 lakh, and the Fishermen Savings Relief Scheme has been raised from Rs. 2,700 to Rs. 4,500.
- Vidyatheeram scheme offers support



for Medical/Civil Service/Bank Test exam preparation to children of fishermen. To date, this initiative has played a pivotal role in the formation of 75 doctors in coastal regions.





# Transforming Kerala's Education Landscape

**V. Sivankutty**

*Minister for General Education and Labour*

**We are witnessing an era of significant transformation in the infrastructure enhancement of public schools. The focus on physical development, modernization, and delivery of outstanding education has solidified its credibility. Kerala serves as an exemplary model with widespread acceptance of public education, effective governance in the education sector, and a commitment to maintaining consistent and efficient educational quality.**

The transformative impact is evident through initiatives like the Public Education Protection Campaign and the ongoing Vidyakiranam scheme, which have significantly reshaped the landscape of public school infrastructure. From 2021 to 2023, the government inaugurated a total of 260 school buildings, with an additional 450 buildings currently under construction.

Recruitment through the Public Service Commission has also witnessed significant progress. Since the formation of this government, 11,000 appointments have been done through PSC in the education sector.

- **School Lunch Scheme:** mid-day meal is given at 12037 Government/ aided schools, catering to pre-primary to 8th standard students. Approximately 30 lakh children are given mid day meal. Additionally, breakfast is offered in around 2,200 schools, with ongoing efforts to expand this initiative to more schools.
- **Free School Uniforms:** Kerala leads the nation in furnishing free school uniforms to children, distributing 42.08 lakh meters of free handloom cloth to approximately 10 lakh students in 7,077 schools.
- **E-Office Implementation:** E-office has been successfully implemented in 14 Deputy Director of Education Offices, 41 District Education Offices, Text Book Offices, and Pariksha Bhavan. Plans are underway to extend this efficient system to 163 sub district offices.
- **Special Schools:** A substantial amount of Rs 45 crore has been sanctioned for special schools in the state, with Rs 2 crore allocated to seven government special schools.
- **Curriculum Reform:** Ongoing activities to reform the curriculum to enhance science aptitude in students. The first phase of revised books is set to be distributed in the coming academic year.
- **Academic Guidelines prepared.** State Yoga Olympiad organised.
- **Kerala School Education Congress organised.** A new sports policy formulated for the state.
- The government has brought in a project for ensuring learning through special training for children facing obstacles to attend school, a basic mathematics development program for classes one and two, and a reading program for students in classes one to four.
- A program of reading was implemented for students of classes one to four to acquire basic language skills. Education centres for 60 tribal hamlets opened for providing

educational support to tribal children. Moreover, climate centers were established in schools across the state.

- **Vayanude Vasantam;** As part of the programme, books worth Rs 10 crore have been delivered to school libraries. Grace marks are awarded for reading, and Malayalam alphabet has been included in textbooks.
- **Changathi Kootam;** The Changathi Kootam scheme ensures social support for children receiving home-based education. Another initiative is the establishment of "Padanamuri" in Idamalakudi, the only tribal panchayat in Kerala.
- **Hi-tech Classrooms:** A total of 45,000 classrooms have been made hi-tech.
- **Teacher Training and Inclusion Project:** Special training has been given to 35,223 teachers.
- An integration project has been launched for bringing transgender and LGBTQ plus categories into the mainstream with a focus on excellence in education.
- The government revised the service and pay conditions of Literacy Promoters. Apart from this, the government implemented Wayanad and Attappadi Tribal Literacy Schemes and the Navachetana Scheme for the education of marginalized people have been carried out successfully.
- **Kerala Savari:** Kerala Savari, the first online taxi service has been introduced.
- Kerala boasts an excellent labor-employer relationship, with no labor disputes. According to the RBI data, Kerala is a state that ensures the best wages and the highest daily wage to workers.



# Cooperation for Kerala's Economic Transformation

**V. N. Vasavan**

*Minister for Co-operation and Registration*

The Kerala State Government is leading a transformative wave in the cooperative sector, aligning it with the demands and dynamics of the contemporary era. This comprehensive overhaul, embracing the evolutionary progress of the State, is not just a reform; it's a revolution in the cooperative law and its application, significantly expanding its reach across various sectors.

## Strengthening the Foundations: Revitalising and Protection

At the core of this transformation is the establishment of a revitalising fund, designed to fortify the cooperative sector. Elevated to a guarantee of 5 lakh rupees, this fund is a pillar of security for depositors in cooperative institutions. Furthermore, initiatives like the Risk Fund, Membership Relief Fund, and Sahakari Santhwanam are pillars of support, providing crucial assistance to individuals in dire straits - the sick and families of deceased members.

## Empowering Communities: From Financial Growth to Housing Solutions

The Care Home project stands as a proof to the government's commitment to social welfare. With 2092 houses already constructed and distributed, this initiative is a lifeline to those affected by the 2018 floods. The next phase promises further expansion, with housing complexes underway in 14 districts, including the handover of homes to 40 families in Thrissur district.

## Kerala Bank: The pride of Cooperative Success

In the financial landscape, Kerala Bank emerges as a colossal success story. With its business escalating to 121204 crores in the financial year 2022-23, the bank's strategic growth has not gone unnoticed. Its impressive 35th rank among the top 300 cooperative institutions in the 2022 World Cooperative Monitor is a remarkable achievement, highlighting its pivotal role in Kerala's economic framework.

## Technological Advancements and Legislative Reforms

The state's commitment to progress is further evidenced by the digitalization of registration offices and the implementation of e-stamping, streamlining administrative processes. A comprehensive amendment to the cooperative law, coupled with the adoption of unified software in cooperative banks, marks a significant leap towards modernization and efficiency.

## Nurturing the Future: Youth Engagement and Community Development

Kerala's vision for a sustainable and inclusive future is encapsulated in its emphasis

on youth and community engagement. The formation of 30 youth cooperative societies is a strategic move to harness the potential of the younger generation. The inclusion of 14 societies for Scheduled Caste/Tribe groups and three women's youth cooperative societies, making a total of 47, reflects a deep commitment to social inclusivity.

## Showcasing Success: The Cooperative Expo

The Cooperative Expo is a platform to showcase the achievements and potential of the cooperative sector, further emphasizing the state's dedication to cooperative principles.

## Financial Assistance: A Safety Net for Thousands

Under the Risk Fund scheme, the government has distributed 111.65 crore rupees to 12176 beneficiaries, underscoring its role as a safety net for the vulnerable sections of society.

Kerala's journey in revitalising its cooperative sector is a model of excellence, blending economic growth with social responsibility. These initiatives are not just reforms; they represent a renewed commitment to the welfare of every citizen, ensuring that the cooperative movement in Kerala remains a ray of hope, inclusivity, and prosperity.



# Kerala Leads the Way in Health

## Veena George

Minister for Health and Woman and Child Development

Over the past two years, Kerala's healthcare sector has encountered unprecedented challenges. Despite the myriad obstacles, the state has made significant strides in health-related development. The health, women, and child development departments have garnered 19 national recognitions for their commendable efforts. Kerala, already a frontrunner in various health domains, continues its commitment to advancing further.

The provision of enhanced services has led to a substantial surge in the influx of individuals seeking treatment at government hospitals, signaling a noticeable transformation across all healthcare institutions.

- Kerala emerges as the leading state in providing extensive free healthcare, allocating Rs 3200 crore for free treatments under CASP.
- Achieving NQAS accreditation for 170 health institutions and obtaining national certification targets for 10 hospitals.



- Implementation of EHealth services across 597 health institutions.
- Realization of Idukki and Konni Medical Colleges.
- Unveiling the 40-crore academic block at Konni Medical College.
- Historic achievement with the introduction of 1020 new B.Sc. Nursing seats in Government sector.
- Establishment of six new nursing colleges in the government sector and seven nursing colleges under SIMET.
- Ernakulam General Hospital makes history as the first district-level hospital in the country to perform heart surgery and valve replacement without opening the heart.
- Liver transplant surgeries were carried out in government hospitals.
- Realisation of public health centers, numbering 5415.



# Cinema Halls in Colonial Malabar



**Dr. Vasisht M.G.**  
Historian



*Crown Theatre, Calicut*

The development of amusement and entertainment industries in the form of modern cinema and drama was also marked by British rule in Malabar. Among the inventions, the motion picture is the most widely used leisure agent. Almost every town has one or more permanent theaters. Temporary or touring talkies are popular with the villagers, and people within a two- to four-mile radius go to see them. With such a wide range of popularity, the motion picture has taken deep roots in people's lives as a pastime.

Cinema halls/theaters and locations where dramas were staged were transformed into public spaces in the form of public amusement and entertainment industries, and they provided leisure to the general public regardless of caste, class, or gender identity. Cinema halls were established in various Malabar province centers in the twentieth century, indicating the penetration of the entertainment industry.

The first screening in Kerala took place in Calicut during the Onam season in 1905. Muthalakulam Maidan was the location for the screening. Paul Vincent, a Coimbatore native, took the initiative for the screening. Vincent's screening, which could only fit 25 people, was a humble beginning. One film shown at the tent depicted a moving train, which terrified the audience, who jumped out of the tent in terror. The entrance fee was a quarter of a rupee. After a five-minute screening of a moving cinema, there was an interval filled with a dance performed by girls. Calicut residents referred to these film shows as "kallikkal." Typically, the film screening lasted 45 minutes. The entry fee was extremely high, preventing the

average person from entering the tent. The first film screening of Paul Vincent in Calicut lasted four days. He moved from Calicut to other parts of Madras Presidency, including Mangalore and Mysore.

Long before the establishment of cinema halls in Malabar, we find Joseph Kattukaran screening bioscope on behalf of his company, Jose Electric Bioscope. Bioscope was shown in several parts of South India. These tour screenings were held in temporary tents. Megaphones were used to announce the public screening of Bioscope. Typically, the touring cinema would stay in one or two locations for one or two months. Some of these traveling cinema tents were later converted into permanent movie theaters.

Jose Electric Bioscope was later renamed Ragam Theatre, Trissur. Another touring cinema company was United Electric Bioscope. Many Hindi, Tamil, and English films were screened by these touring companies. During the early decades of the twentieth century, touring bioscope performances were very common in



Malabar. The performance of the bioscope requires permission from the district collector. Every cinema performance, such as a traveling bioscope performance, always transmits energy at a rate of no more than 250 watts.

During the colonial period, the three most prominent cinema halls in Calicut were Radha Picture Palace, Crown Theatre, and Shahjahan Hall (later known as Coronation Theatre). The Radha Picture Palace and Crown Theatre were built in 1925, and the Shahjahan Hall was built in 1930. Bhavani Rao, the owner of Mercede U.B. Dutta and Company, with headquarters in Calicut, founded Radha Picture Palace. The Radha Picture Palace cost around Rs 20,000 to build. Separate seating arrangements were made for women, and female employees accompanied women to their assigned seats. It could accommodate 1300 people. Women occupied one-fourth of the theater. It was a well-kept cinema hall with two British flags, the Union Jack, and the display of the Union Jack was opposed by the locals. The film, which premiered at Radha Picture Palace on April 4, 1925, was based on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The movie's advertisements in the newspaper stated, "Entertainment for you, assistance for the poor patients." The special benefit film screening was organized to raise funds for leprosy eradication. Similar benefit film shows were organized at Crown Theatre in collaboration with Malabar Christian College to raise funds for the college's poor students. These references demonstrate that cinema halls not only provided leisure and entertainment for people, but they were also involved in their social lives. The number of films shown at Radha Picture Palace included both silent and sound films.

Hassaankoya's Calicut drama hall, founded in the 1920s, was later transformed into Crown Theatre. Many European commercial establishments, such as Commonwealth Trust, Percerlessy, William Gudekkar, Endness, and others, were very close to the Crown Theatre. Crown cinema hall was built primarily for the benefit of the city's Europeans. The majority of the films shown at Crown Theatre were in English, French, or Italian. The theatre was a popular destination for British tourists. However, over time, the city's common people became drawn to the crown theatre and foreign films. As a result, the theatre enabled the city's common people to enjoy foreign films.

On January 19, 1938, the film 'Balan' was shown at the Crown Theatre. On that day, elaborate programs were planned at the Crown Theatre. T.V. Krishnan Nair, Sub Judge, Kozhikode, presided over the film's premiere. The detailed report on the film Balan was published in Mathrubhumi on January 21, 1938. Aside from the Crown Theatre, the film was also shown at the Gowdar Picture Palace in Palakkad.

The Shah Jahan Hall, also known as Sreekrishna Talkies, was originally a drama hall on Pavamani Road in the heart of the city. It was later dubbed the Coronation Theatre. Many art forms were displayed at this theatre prior to the establishment of the cinema theatre. On September 30, 1938, the first Malayalam sound film, 'Balan,' was shown at the Coronation Hall. The movie's advertisement states, "In a movie full of dances and songs, here comes Balan who sacrificed his life for the welfare of his sister." On the same day as Balan, a Tamil film called 'Sree Krishnadoothu' was released at the Coronation talkies.

Cinemas not only provided people with leisure and entertainment, but they also evolved into public spaces, which went against the traditional society's caste system. Cinema halls were palaces where people of all castes, classes, religions, and gender identities could enjoy the modern form of leisure cinema. In colonial Malabar, they were the most important rooms and forms of leisure and recreation.

Advertisements for the movies appeared in Travancore and Malabar newspapers. As a result, it was a source of revenue for the newspapers. The first Malayalam talkie, 'Balan,' was advertised in Mathrubhumi newspaper on September 26th and December 3rd, 1937. Balan's producers raised Rs 25,000 from theaters in order to screen the film. Mathrubhumi published a detailed review of the film. Kerala had only 30 theaters at the time. There were theaters in Calicut, Thalassery, Kannur, and Palakkad in Malabar. These were the main centers of the Britishers as well as the emerging centers of various types of public leisure.

The film Gnanambika was released in 1940, nearly two years after the film Balan. Mathrubhumi published a large advertisement for the film that took up nearly three-fourths of the page. After four months, another advertisement appeared in the same newspaper. Aside from Trivandrum, Alappuzha, and Kochi, the film was also shown in Thalassery and Kannur. Themes for movies were borrowed from epics and puranas in the early years. Following 'Gnanambika,' another puranic

film, 'Prahlada,' was released, and its advertisement ran on August 16, 1941. A review of the film was published in Mathrubhumi, which stated that Prahlada was a game changer in the Malayalam film industry.

Benefit film screenings in aid of government schools were held on a regular basis in Malabar's various theaters. As a result, the younger generation became accustomed to new forms of entertainment, particularly cinema. The advertisement for the heroine-oriented 'Yachakan' was published in the



Mathrubhumi newspaper in the 1940s. The photograph of the film's heroine, K.C. Jalaja, was prominently displayed, indicating that women were gradually establishing their identity in the modern form of entertainment known as cinema. By the 1940s, girls and women from even the most remote areas were breaking free and participating in public arts and entertainment forms. More heroine-centered films were made during the final stages of colonial rule, and they began to be enjoyed by the public.

Cinema had become a popular form of entertainment by this time, and cinema theaters were an important form of public, leisure, and recreational space in Malabar. Theaters have also sprouted up in small towns like Koyilandy. Filmgoers in urban areas enjoyed movies regardless of language. Aside from Tamil and Malayalam films, Hindi films were also released. Film distribution companies were active in various parts of Kerala, and Hindi and Tamil films were distributed through these distributors to Malabar. Film distribution companies regularly placed advertisements in magazines for their upcoming films. On festival days such as Onam, Hindi films were also shown in Kerala theaters.





KTCOMPLEX

EINA

PHION DESIGN & TAILORING

ABAYA ZONE

FOOT WEAR BRANCH

# നവ ലകരള സദസ സ

ഇനകിയ മന്ത്രിസഭ  
ഇനങ്ങൾക്കൊപ്പം











# നാടൊരുമിക്കുന്നു നവകേരളത്തിനായി

ജനങ്ങളോടൊന്നിച്ച് നാടിന് സംവദിച്ച് ഭരണ പുരോഗതി വിരമിപ്പിക്കാനും അനാഥിപ്രായം മരണാനന്തരം മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ജനസഭ അനുകൂല 140 തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കലുകളിലൂടെയും എത്തുന്നു. വികസന കേരള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് പക്കൽനും മറ്റും കൂടുതൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നതിനും നവകേരളസംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ പുരോഗതിക്ക് കരുത്ത് പകരും. നവംബർ 18 മുതൽ ഡിസംബർ 23 വരെ മരണശ്വാസം മുതൽ തിരിവരുന്നവർക്കും വരുന്നതാണ് ജനസഭയുടെ അഭിനവീകരണ നവകേരളസംസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ. അനാഥിപ്രായം ചരിത്രത്തിലെ ഈ അത്യുജ്വല ഭരണ നിർവ്വഹണ പ്രക്രിയയുടെ ഭാഗമാകാൻ എന്തെങ്കിലും സാധനം ചെയ്യുന്നു.



# സമസ്ത

