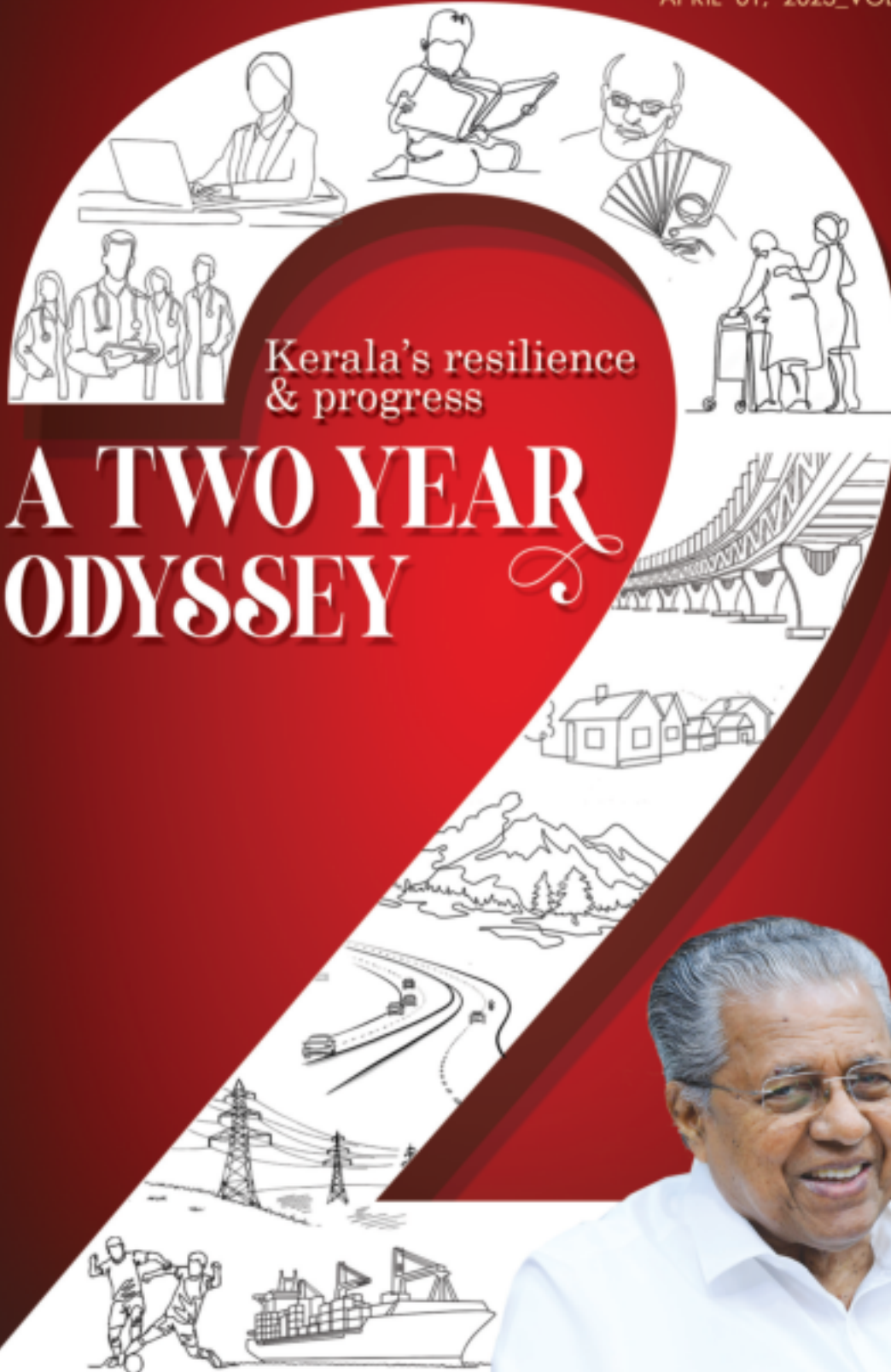


# KERALA CALLING

APRIL 01, 2023\_VOL\_43\_No\_6



Kerala's resilience & progress

## A TWO YEAR ODYSSEY



# WATER METRO Kochi's Waterway Wonder

The Water Metro revolutionises transportation and tourism in Kochi, seamlessly connecting nearby islands to the city. As India's first city with both water and conventional metro systems, Kochi sets a new standard for urban transit. This pioneering project embodies a sustainable, accessible future for interconnected transport and tourism in the country





## EDITORIAL





# KERALA THRIVES DESPITE OBSTACLES

With the government entering its third year in power, it is a time of jubilation as the state's sustainable growth and development are being fostered despite various obstacles. The government has been at the forefront of introducing pioneering programmes and safeguarding traditional industries and public sector units, even while attracting private investment. It has made notable progress in crucial sectors such as infrastructure development, healthcare, education, IT and waste management.

This year's commemoration of the government's anniversary is truly an exceptional event. It represents not just the government's triumphs, but the success of the entire state and its people. This celebration is, in essence, a tribute to the spirit of Kerala.

Like a ship navigating rough waters, Kerala has faced many crises since 2018, including natural disasters and the COVID 19 pandemic. Despite such daunting challenges, the people of Kerala showed resilience and tenacity, earning special commendation from various quarters. Few governments in recent times have had to deal with such a significant number of adverse circumstances. Nonetheless, this government remains determined to move forward despite numerous disruptions.

The government's initiatives are geared towards comprehensive development in Kerala, aiming to enhance production and productivity while ensuring social justice through the equitable allocation of resources. Having taken giant strides in the field of knowledge economy, the government envisions a sustainable and all-inclusive future for the state, which is being realised as "Nava Kerala."



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#### **TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES:**

92 + Cover

## **06 Empowered Vision To March Ahead**

PINARAYI VIJAYAN  
Chief Minister

## **12 Good tidings for Revenue Department**

K. RAJAN  
Minister for Revenue and Housing

## **16 Efforts towards Sustainable Utilization of Water Resources**

ROSHY AUGUSTINE  
Minister for Water Resources

## **20 Lighting up new path in Power Sector**

K.KRISHNANKUTTY  
Minister for Electricity

## **24 Visionary Steps**

A.K. SASEENDRAN  
Minister for Forest and Wildlife

## **28 Sailing ahead in fair weather**

AHAMMAD DEVARKOVIL  
Minister for Ports, Museums,  
Archaeology & Archives

## **32 Public transport traverses potholes successfully**

ANTONY RAJU  
Minister for Transport

## **36 Surging ahead in Sports and Games**

V. ABDURAHIMAN  
Minister for Sports, Wakf and Haj Pilgrimage,  
Minority welfare



## 40 Bold Initiatives Transform Lives

G.R. ANIL  
Minister for Food and Civil Supplies

## 44 Rising to the Challenges

K.N. BALAGOPAL  
Minister For Finance

## 48 Committed to Developing a Knowledge Society Based on Social Justice

Dr. R. BINDU  
Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice

## 52 Empowering Rural Economy

J. CHINCHURANI  
Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

## 56 Kerala's Visionary Leap: Empowering Communities and Uplifting Lives

M.B. RAJESH  
Minister for Local Self Governments, Rural Development and Excise

## 60 Garnering Global Recognition

P. A. MOHAMED RIYAS  
Minister for Public Works and Tourism

## 64 Striving for self-reliance in agriculture

P. PRASAD  
Minister for Agriculture

## 68 Uplifting Communities

K. RADHAKRISHNAN  
Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and Devaswoms

## 72 Kerala's Industrial Re-Emergence

P. RAJEEVE  
Minister for Law, Industries and Coir

## 76 Fresh catches and benefits boost the fisheries sector

SAJI CHERIYAN  
Minster for Fisheries and Cultural affairs

## 80 Charting new courses in education

V. SIVANKUTTY  
Minister for General Education and Labour

## 84 Achieving Major Milestones in Modernizing the Cooperative Sector

V.N.VASAVAN  
Minister for Co-operation and Registration

## 88 Health of Kerala in safe zone

VEENA GEORGE  
Minister for Health and Woman and Child Development





# EMPOWERED VISION TO MARCH AHEAD

**PINARAYI VIJAYAN**  
Chief Minister



**WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ENTERS  
ITS THIRD YEAR, WE ARE DELIGHTED  
AND PROUD TO PURSUE A POWERFUL  
VISION OF CREATING A NAVA  
KERALA. DESPITE CRISES AND  
CHALLENGES, THE GOVERNMENT  
HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ITS  
FIRST TWO YEARS WITH NUMEROUS  
ACHIEVEMENTS AND REMAINS  
COMMITTED TO SERVING THE PEOPLE.**



The Government has envisaged and executed multiple developmental projects and welfare programmes, with a focus on ensuring the sustainable growth of the State. The government has made remarkable progress in poverty reduction, agricultural revitalization, industrial restructuring, resource management, skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, waste management, and infrastructure development based on innovative concepts. Every nook and corner of the State has been fortified with progressive and transformative projects, further advancing the State's development.

Despite the obstacles and attempts to undermine KIIFB's revenue streams, the previous government in Kerala did not allow these challenges to impede progress. Under its guidance, via KIIFB, development projects worth Rs. 62,500 crores were undertaken, surpassing the targeted amount of Rs. 50,000 crores. The present government has set an even more ambitious objective of Rs. 60,000 crores, with development initiatives worth over Rs. 18,000 crores already initiated. In the last seven years, through KIIFB, development works valued at more than Rs. 80,000 crore have been undertaken, truly remarkable achievements.

The development of the national highway in Kerala is currently in its final stages, with land acquisition

being achieved through KIIFB funding. The construction of a six-lane highway spanning the entire length of the state, from north to south, is advancing at a rapid pace. Kerala's contribution of Rs. 5,519 crores to NHAI for land acquisition has been acknowledged by the central government in Parliament, which is a remarkable achievement, particularly since state allocations for national highway development are not mandatory.

The government has made industrial development a top priority and has initiated several development projects to achieve integrated commercial and industrial progress.

Notably, 95% of the coastal protection projects in Chellanam has been completed at a cost of Rs. 344 crores. For developing coastal highway, Rs.239 crores has been sanctioned for land acquisition in Vypin. The construction of petrochemical factory at Ambalamugal, with an estimated investment of Rs.481 crores will be completed by 2025. A water reservoir with a capacity of 12 lakh liters has been installed at Murikumpadu at a cost of Rs.5 crores for drinking water supply and a Rs.8.5 crores drinking water project is underway in Kottapadi.

The second phase of Kochi Metro development is also underway, while the Kochi Water Metro project, aimed at connecting 10 islands of Kochi over a distance of 76 kms using 78 electrical hybrid boats, is nearing





The government has succeeded in restoring the operational status of previously defunct public sector units such as BHEL-EML and HNL, which were slated for sale. These entities have been transformed into KEL-EML and KPPL, respectively, and have become profitable due to the government's efforts. It is worth noting that even prestigious Hindi and English newspapers are now being printed using newsprint produced by KPPL.



completion. Additionally, India's largest business jet terminal has been established at Kochi International Airport, at a cost of Rs. 30 crores.

Furthermore, the government is actively working towards developing advanced technology and electronics industries, with the establishment of the Graphene Research Center at Ernakulam and the launch of 281 new IT companies including 82 in Thiruvananthapuram Technopark, 171 in Kochi Info Park, and 28 in Kozhikode Cyber Park. As part of its ongoing efforts, the government is working towards launching a Centre of Excellence in Future Technology to benefit both job seekers and those already employed in the IT sector.

Kerala has also achieved complete digitalization of its administrative machinery, with all government services available online or via doorstep delivery. The government has declared internet access a right and is implementing K-FON to ensure universal access to internet facilities, with the aim of bridging the digital divide and creating a society without technological disparities.


To promote entrepreneurship, the government implemented an Entrepreneur Year scheme, which has resulted in over 1,40,000 new enterprises being started, mobilizing investments of more than Rs. 8,300 crores and generating around 3 lakh employment opportunities. Our state is one of the largest startup and innovation hubs in South Asia and has been recognized for having a highly favourable startup ecosystem. The Global Startup

Ecosystem Report 2022 has ranked Kerala first in Asia and fourth in the world in terms of talent resources. To further encourage start-ups, Ignite programs are being conducted in all cities and the government plans to launch 15,000 start-ups in Kerala by 2026

Despite the obstacles, the government remains resolute in its commitment to distribute pensions to those in need. It is remarkable that the highest social welfare pension in the country, Rs. 1,600, is being disbursed every month to approximately 63 lakh individuals, a testament to the government's steadfast dedication to welfare initiatives.

Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger elimination is one of the crucial agendas of this government. According to studies, in Kerala less than one per cent - 0.70% - of people experience poverty. The State government is now making a special intervention for the eradication of extreme poverty with the view that even that small percentage should not experience poverty. Furthermore, "people's hotels" have been established to ensure that no one goes hungry, providing low-cost and even free meals to all. This underscores the government's efforts to promote equitable access to necessities, including food.

The government has demonstrated a strong commitment to guaranteeing that everyone in the state has access to shelter and land. When this mission is completed, Kerala will be the first of its kind in the



The government has also introduced a novel price stabilization fund for rubber, which is typically considered an industrial product in global trade agreements. However, this people-centric government recognizes rubber as an agricultural product and values the labour of local farmers. To acknowledge the significant contribution of farmers to Kerala's economy, the government has implemented minimum prices for 16 different varieties of fruits and vegetables. This stance in favour of farmers is unprecedented in the country and sets a promising precedent for future governments to prioritize the well-being of those involved in agriculture.

The government's recent decision to establish Kerala Rubber Limited in Kottayam is a significant move to bolster the rubber industry. This Public Sector Undertaking is set to be built at a cost of Rs.1, 050 crores and will serve as a central hub for latex products while providing storage facilities for natural rubber. Initially, a sum of Rs.200 crores is expected to be invested in the project's first phase. These measures are aimed at improving both the agricultural and industrial sectors.

The government's recent decision to establish Kerala Rubber Limited in Kottayam is a significant move to bolster the rubber industry

country. To this end, approximately 3,39,822 houses have been constructed and transferred to eligible individuals through the LIFE initiative, apart from other endeavours such as Punargeham, which is meant for the rehabilitation of the fisherfolk. Over the last several years, a grand total of over 231,000 title deeds have been granted to deserving individuals, including people from Muthanga.

This distinct feature of the government is apparent across all sectors, ranging from healthcare and education to industries. Schools have undergone a transformation and adhered to international standards of excellence, with lakhs of new students enrolling in public schools. Furthermore, books and uniforms are distributed to students even before the commencement of the academic year.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) in Kerala has become a role model for the country. Since June 2016, the Kerala PSC has issued over 2, 03,000 appointment advices, while the state government has created approximately 30,000 new positions. To promote diversity in the public sector workforce and increase representation from under represented groups, the government has conducted special recruitment drives. These collective efforts have led to significant progress in terms of job creation, which is indicative of a government committed to promoting employment opportunities for all citizens.

The urbanization of Kerala is happening rapidly, with over 90% of the population expected to be living in urban areas by 2035. However, this trend has brought with it certain disadvantages, particularly with regard

to waste disposal. The government has recognised this problem and has devised a comprehensive policy to manage waste throughout the state under the leadership of local self-government bodies.

To achieve this goal, the government has formulated a two-phase plan that includes providing technical support to process household organic waste and conducting social auditing to assess the effectiveness of waste disposal. Furthermore, the government has collaborated with international partners to explore waste management career opportunities and establish decentralized waste management systems.

In addition to addressing waste management, the government has also taken steps to promote education and employment opportunities in the state. The Earn While You Learn project has also been implemented to instil a culture of combining work and learning. Additionally, the government has allocated a research and development budget of Rs 3,500 crores this financial year to promote research and knowledge findings for social welfare. Translation labs are also being established in 10 universities with a Rs 200 crores investment to transform research knowledge into social progress.

These projects and programs are aimed at achieving comprehensive development in Kerala by increasing production and productivity while ensuring social justice through equitable distribution of resources. Through the knowledge economy, the government envisions a sustainable and inclusive future for the state, making "New Kerala" a reality. ❀

# IN BRIEF

**Government achieves accomplishments in various sectors**

**Government makes progress in poverty reduction, agriculture, industry, resources, skills, entrepreneurship, waste, and infrastructure.**

**KIIFB exceeds development target with Rs. 62,500 crore projects.**

**Six-lane highway construction advancing rapidly.**

**Government prioritizes commercial and industrial projects.**

**Coastal protection, petrochemical, and water projects completed.**

**Kochi Metro phase two and Water Metro underway.**

**Rs. 1,600 social welfare pensions disbursed to 63 lakh people.**

**Kerala is major startup and innovation hub with 281 new IT companies.**

**Entrepreneur Year scheme yields 1,40,000 new enterprises, Rs. 8,300 crore investments.**

**Kerala achieves complete digitalization of administrative services.**

**Over the last several years 231,000 title deeds granted to deserving individuals.**

**Kerala intervenes to eradicate extreme poverty.**

**Public schools transformed to international standards with increased enrolment.**

**Government restores public sector units, implements rubber price stabilization fund**

THE SECOND PINARAYI VIJAYAN GOVERNMENT BROUGHT ABOUT MANY REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND HOUSING IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF ITS RULE. THE REVENUE COLLECTION HAS BEEN INCREASED AND DISTRIBUTION OF LAND TITLE FOR THE LANDLESS HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS.

# Good tidings for Revenue Department

**K. RAJAN**

Minister for Revenue and Housing



The Revenue Department has achieved remarkable success in implementing innovative schemes since the new government took office. A prime example is the distribution of 54,535 title deeds in just one year, surpassing the original target by a significant margin. This achievement reflects the government's unwavering commitment to improving citizens' lives.

## Digital resurvey

The Digital Resurvey project is another ambitious initiative, with a budget of Rs 858.42 crore, aimed at digitally measuring all 1,666 villages in Kerala for enhanced land management and administration. The first phase is already underway in 200 villages, heralding a transformative era for the state.

## Unique Thandaper System

To simplify bureaucratic processes and enhance transparency, the department has introduced the Unique Thandaper system, which links each citizen's Aadhaar with their Thandaper. Additionally, a Revenue Call Center has been established to address revenue-related queries and complaints, while the Revenue Information Bureau has launched a YouTube channel and studio to disseminate information.

## Clearing of backlog files

To promote democratic decision-making, Village Level People's Committees have been instituted, while computer accessories can now be purchased using MLA special development funds to support the computerization of village e-offices. The department has also tackled numerous complex tasks, including addressing the backlog of 212,169 pending applications for land conversion.

## Online Module

The department has also launched a mobile application for land tax payment, an online module for submitting applications for land type changes, and digitized Thandaper Registers and BTRs, along with updates to the e-payment portal. A specialized dashboard is being developed to identify and resolve barriers to land title distribution and monitor land availability.

## Revenue Ministers Cell

To enhance the Revenue Department's responsiveness and efficiency, the Revenue Ministers Cell (RM Cell) has been established in all collectorates. The RM Cell, led by RR Deputy Collectors, handles public complaints submitted directly to the Minister of Revenue and through the online portal "Mitram." It ensures prompt responses to applicants and monitors the dashboard of MLAs in the district.

The department has also introduced a revamped e-payment portal that enables the settlement of land tax, building tax revenue recovery, and other payments collected via e-POS machines or UPI payments at village offices. Moreover, a Social Security Pension Online Module has been implemented, streamlining the pension distribution process and ensuring timely delivery of benefits.

## COVID Ex-gratia Payment Portal

To support families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, an online portal has been launched to enable the application and disbursement of ex-gratia payments to the dependents of individuals who have passed away due to the virus.

## MLA's Dashboard

A dashboard has been created to record demands and complaints raised by legislators in the District Revenue Assembly, ensuring their timely resolution. MLAs can access the dashboard using their unique username and password to view the progress of various projects in their constituencies and monitor the resolution of issues raised.

## Revenue Secretariat

To encourage collaboration and generate new ideas, the Revenue Secretariat holds weekly meetings to discuss projects in the Revenue, Survey, Housing,

and Disaster Management Departments. The nine-member secretariat, comprising high-ranking officials, has conducted 53 meetings so far, accelerating the progress of existing projects and spurring the emergence of new initiatives.

## Comprehensive website for all Village Offices

The government has launched a comprehensive website for all Village Offices, making information and services easily accessible to citizens. To prioritize public health, the Housing Department is leading the construction of low-cost 'Aswas Houses' for patients receiving treatment at Kerala's medical colleges. The 100-day project has already laid foundation stones for houses in Alappuzha and Thrissur districts, with plans to construct Aswas Houses for all medical colleges in Kerala within five years.

## M N Laksham Veedu project

To cater to the housing needs of government employees, quarters are being constructed across the state. The Grihasree Scheme Subsidy is also being disbursed to provide financial support to eligible beneficiaries. The Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra has established a finishing school for skill improvement at the ILDM Center in PTP Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram, fostering skill development. To enhance disaster preparedness, the government is constructing cyclone shelters and undertaking disaster literacy campaigns. Moreover, a project has been initiated to convert twin houses under the M N lakh housing scheme into single houses, addressing the challenges faced by residents in these dwellings.

## Village Offices to Smart Village Offices

The department has made significant strides in modernizing administration by upgrading 92 Village Offices to Smart Village Offices, empowering village officers to spend up to Rs. 25,000 for emergency relief operations, and introducing the Revenue Award to promote service excellence, transparency, and corruption-free service among employees.





## IN A NUTSHELL

### Revenue Kalolsavam

To alleviate stress and nurture the talents of Revenue Department employees, the first-ever Revenue Kalolsavam was held in Thrissur on June 24-26, 2022. The event showcased the artistic skills of the department's workforce and provided a much-needed respite from their demanding roles.

### Housing Park

Under the Housing Board's supervision, an 80-unit flat complex is being constructed at Ambalanagar in Thiruvananthapuram district. Additionally, flood level marking has been completed at 121 locations in seven rivers across the state, facilitating scientific study of floodwater levels.

### ILDM MBA Course

Education initiatives include the introduction of MBA courses at ILDM, the Revenue Department's education center. Moreover, the government has decided to establish India's first Housing Park, bringing various building construction techniques under one roof to promote innovation and collaboration in the sector.

These transformative initiatives demonstrate the government's commitment to utilizing modern technology and innovative approaches to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Revenue Department. ✨

- The department distributed 54,535 land title deeds.
- A Rs. 858.42 crore digital resurvey project began to survey lands in 1666 villages, starting with 200.
- The thandaper system linked Aadhaar to create one thandaper per citizen.
- A Revenue Call Centre and Information Bureau assisted the public with revenue issues.
- The department made 1,244 positions permanent, created 205 new ones
- The Smart Village Office initiative modernized offices and improved services.
- The Revenue Award recognized and promoted service excellence and transparency.
- The e-title deed system replaced paper deeds for easier land ownership management.
- Online portals streamlined processes, communication, and project progress transparency.



THE STATE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH INITIATIVES SUCH AS JALA JEEVAN MISSION, NABARD, KIIFB, AMRUT, AND ADB 24X7 IMPLEMENTATION, IS STRIVING TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER TO ALL RURAL AND URBAN HOUSEHOLDS, WHILE ALSO FOCUSING ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER RESOURCES.

# Efforts towards Sustainable Utilization of Water Resources

**ROSHY AUGUSTINE**

Minister for Water Resources





**K**erala is blessed with abundant of water resources compared to other states in the country. Though, this looks promising, yet raising many challenges in its proper utilization and sustainable protection. With climate changes posing severe challenges and devastating effects of climate change to the State's natural resources, we as the government had taken greater responsibility of protecting our water resources to make it sustainable to reduce the impact on our growing population and depleting water resources.

In Kerala, as you are all aware, the responsibility of drinking water distribution and sewerage water management and processing is under the responsibility of Kerala Water Authority (KWA). At present, KWA currently manages and maintains 932 safe drinking water projects through 38.77 individual connections to public consumption. There are 1.86 water taps are fixed to provide drinking water for social consumption. All these connections serve about 2.50 crores of people in the state.

In addition to this, in association with the support of the central government, various financial institutions such as JJM, NABARD, KIIFB, State Planning Board and AMRUT, the state government has implemented various rural-urban drinking water projects and 2600 projects worth Rs 48,500 crores with the support of these financial institutions are underway and is in its various stages of completion.

## **NABARD**

With the financial support of NABARD and RIDF, Rs. 444.51 crores worth 13 safe drinking water projects are underway to benefit 112.25 lakhs rural

“

**In Kerala, as you are all aware, the responsibility of drinking water distribution and sewerage water management and processing is under the responsibility of Kerala Water Authority (KWA). At present, KWA currently manages and maintains 932 safe drinking water projects through 38.77 individual connections to public consumption.**



Jala Jeevan Mission was started last year with the intention of achieving 100% drinking water connection to all rural households by 2024. This project is designed to reach rural consumers, especially for women and human settlements in hilly regions where drinking water scarcity has deeply affected normal life. The project is also envisaged to reach SC/ST colonies where families are deeply impacted by lack of safe drinking water and through this project improving living standards of those underprivileged are envisaged. The Jala Jeevan Projects is being implemented as a joint venture of the central and state government (50:50 ratio) according to a decision taken by the Kerala government in 2020.

According to the statistics of 2020, out of the 70.69 rural families, 17.5 lakh families (24.76%) had rural water connections. In 2020-21, 4.04 new connections and in 2021-22, 6.64 new connections were provided. In 2022-23 period, up to December 20th 2022, 3.13 lakh connections were given to rural families making it a coverage of 45.45%.

Under this project, all rural schools and Anganwadis are provided with safe drinking water provision. To make the progress and work details, all the developments have been updated through the KWA website and is publicly accessible. All developments and work progress is planned in a timely completion manner and emphasis is given to SC/ST colonies, areas where acute drinking water problem existing are given high priority in implementing the project. Among the 85 water quality testing labs working under the KWA, 82 were approved by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL) through the Jala Jeevan Mission. Approvals for the remaining labs are progressing.



people. Among these, the safe drinking water project for the Medical College in Konni at an expenditure of Rs.13.98 crore has been completed in 2022-23. Another 7 projects worth Rs. 134.41 crores will be completed this year.

### **Quenching Kerala's thirst**

Under the support of KIIFB, 72 safe drinking water projects worth Rs. 4498.981 crores have been sanctioned. Replacement of old pipelines in eleven circles at a cost of Rs. 4091.36 crores have been implemented as part of 61 drinking water projects. Of this, 14 drinking water projects worth Rs. 335.65 have been completed. These projects have enabled production of 118.5 MLD of portable water.

### **Amrut 1.0**

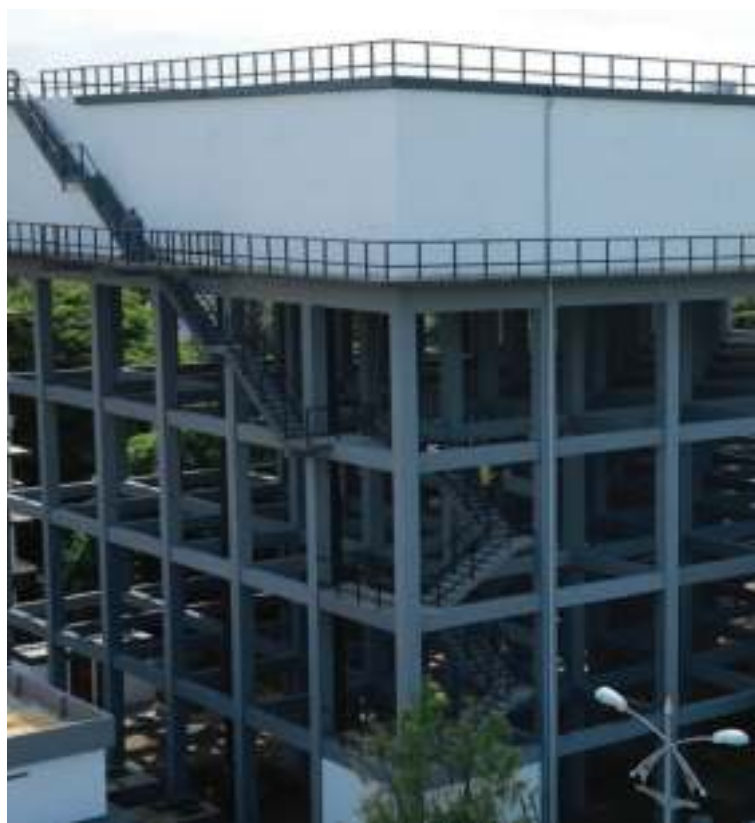
Approvals have been issued for the implementation of 173 drinking water projects worth Rs. 1163.78 and 116 sewerage projects at a cost of Rs. 321.45 crores. The Amrut 1 is a joint venture project of central and state government. Of these, 248 projects worth Rs. 859.592 crores have been completed. 41 projects are under progress.

### **Amrut 2.0**

The Amrut 2 project is envisaged to implement drinking water facilities to all households in all the approved cities of urban areas in the country by 2026. Being a central government initiative, the project has sanctioned about Rs 3500 crores for 93 urbanbodies in Kerala including 6 corporations and 87 municipalities. Out of this, the central allocation of Rs.786.10 crores is for drinking water project and the remaining, Rs 927.30 crores have to be contributed by state government and local self-governing bodies.

### **Re-build Kerala Initiative (RKI)**

Approvals to implement 16 projects including, 9 water distribution projects at a cost of Rs. 234.84 crores have been received from the government. Works such as construction of water tanks, new pipelines for water distribution, strengthening of existing pipelines, new connections, energy optimization, surveys, replacement of nonfunctional pumping mechanisms, implementing sewerage management system in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation and many allied works in various other districts form part of the project.

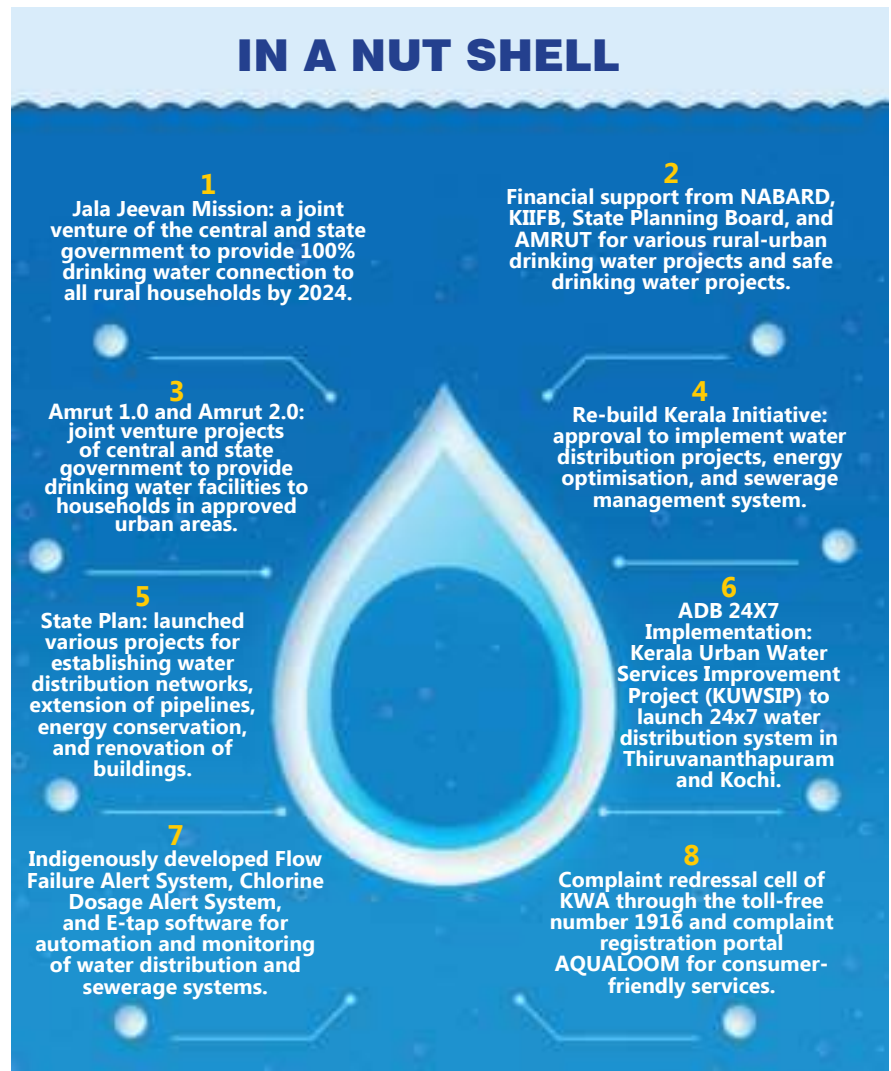


## State Plan

Under the State plan, projects worth Rs 913.48 crores have been launched and is underway. 82 projects worth Rs. 762.86 crores have reached various stage of completion and it includes, establishing water distribution networks, extension of pipelines, energy conservation projects, and renovation of buildings.

## ADB 24X7 Implementation

With the financial support of Asian Development Bank (ADB), the state government is implementing the Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project (KUWSIP) is aimed at launching 24 x 7 water distribution system in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi. The cost of this project is shared between ADB and the state government at a 70:30 ratio. ADB will be providing complete support system to the state government implement the projects in these two cities in a phased manner.



## Other projects

There are many other achievements by the Water Resources department in the last two years and most of them have benefitted the target beneficiaries. Our indigenously developed flow Failure Alert system has been implemented successfully in 29 WTPs and approvals were issued to install it in 115 more WTPs.

Similarly, the indigenously developed Chlorine Dosage Alert System was implemented in WTP, Aruvikkara as a pilot project and has been approved to install in the main 29 WTPs. Plans are afoot to spread the installation throughout the state as this has been successful in its function. Automation of 685 pumps were also completed. CCTV installations in 154 pumping stations is underway for 24x7 monitoring. For providing new water connections and sewerage connections through online facility, an 'E-tap' software has been developed and implemented.

The complaint redressal cell of KWA through the toll free number 1916, and the complaint registration portal, "AQUALOOM" had enabled the consumers to register complaints and track the progress of it. All the KWA are digitalized and all services have become consumer friendly.





AS A MODEL FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO MEET 50 PERCENT OF KERALA'S ELECTRICITY NEEDS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES BY 2027. THE KERALA GOVERNMENT HAS TARGETED ACTIVITIES TO BECOME A 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPENDENT STATE BY 2040 AND NET CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050.

# Lighting up new path in Power Sector

**K. KRISHNANKUTTY**

Minister for Electricity

Only by achieving self-sufficiency in electricity, through effective and efficient operations, state can provide electricity to industries, farmers and other common people at lower rates. Moreover, the state can effectively intervene in the matter of electricity rates only if the power generation capacity is increased. Kerala has an annual water availability of 3000 TMC while only 300 TMC is used for power generation, irrigation and drinking water. It may be noted that the cost of power generation from Idukki hydroelectric project is to the tune of 50 paise per unit. But unfortunately, Kerala was not able to tap the hydroelectric potential due to various reasons. The present Government led by Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan has taken a decision to achieve self sufficiency in power generation by tapping renewable energy sources.

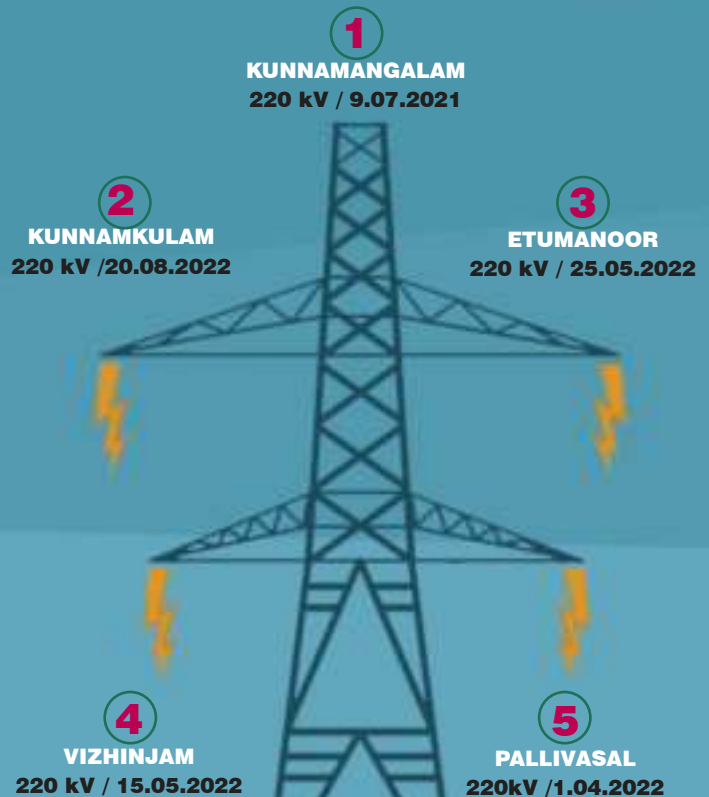
## Power generation sector

The state's power sector is on a booming trajectory. This government has added 500 MW additional generation capacity since coming to power. Of this, 461.5 MW was generated from solar power and 38.5 MW from hydropower projects. Poringalkuth Small Hydropower Project of 24 MW capacity, Upper Kallar Small Hydropower Project of 2 MW capacity were completed by KSEBL. Anakkampoyil Small Hydropower Project of 8 MW capacity and Aripara Small Hydropower Project of 4.5 MW capacity were completed by private entrepreneurs. By 2023 May, Thottiar with a capacity of 40 MW and Peruvannamoozhi with a capacity of 6 MW will be completed. Pallivasal with a capacity of 60 MW and Bhothathankettu of 24 MW will be completed during 2023 itself. Including these projects, construction of 10 hydropower projects with a capacity of 217 MW is in progress.

The government aims to implement 1500 MW hydropower projects and 3000 MW solar projects. The projects will be developed in such a way that the central assistance announced for hydropower projects with flood moderation systems will be fully tapped. In addition to this, with the introduction of Hydropower Obligation, which mandates the use of electricity from hydropower projects by reckoning them as renewable energy, will promote power

# Completed Substations

Transgrid





generation by giving priority to hydropower projects. Apart from this, an action plan has been prepared to maximize domestic production by making maximum use of wind, solar etc. and to complete the ongoing projects in a timely manner.

In order to meet the excess electricity demand in the evening, the Idukki Golden Jubilee Project with a capacity of 800 MW is envisaged by utilizing the current reservoir capacity. Project Feasibility Report (PFR) of Idukki Golden Jubilee Project is already prepared. Work on preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is progressing under the leadership of M/s WAPCOS. Lakshmi hydroelectric project with a capacity of 240 MW, Pooyamkutty with a capacity of 210 MW and Kuriyarkuti with a capacity of 19 MW and Moozhiyar hydroelectric project second stage with a capacity of 300 MW have been initiated. 38 projects with a capacity of 1935 MW including the above-mentioned projects are under various stages of exploration / construction.

It is estimated that there is a potential of about 6,000 MW of electricity generation from floating solar plants in the state. Availability of land is a major issue in Kerala for setting up large scale solar parks capable of generating large amounts of electricity as in other states. Based on this, rooftop solar power plants and floating solar plants should be encouraged as much as possible. Uncultivable wetlands and areas that cannot be cultivated due to the threat of salt water can be considered for the installation of floating solar power plants. Anert is taking steps to introduce a single window system for setting up floating solar plants at suitable locations in the state. Steps are in progress to generate 102 MW of electricity from wind

power by installing suitable wind mills in Agli, Kanchikode, Ozhalapathi and Ramakalmedu.

Saura is a flagship project under the Energy Kerala Mission of the Government of Kerala - revolutionizing the solar energy sector by turning every possible rooftop into energy cropland. The Saura rooftop solar project, which is expected to generate 500 MW from rooftop solar plants, will be completed at the earliest. 100 MW Kasaragod Solar Park and 50 MW West Kallada Floating Solar Project will be implemented in a time bound manner. Under the 'P.M. KUSUM' scheme, a scheme has been initiated to provide a small income to the farmers by providing electricity to the farmers using solar plants and feeding the surplus electricity generated from it to the KSEB's grid.

## Powering Vehicles

A network of 78 fast charging stations under the leadership of KSEBL and ANERT and 1166 pole mounted charging points under the leadership of KSEBL for two and three wheelers have been prepared in all districts.

## Electrification of Tribal colonies

The government also aims to bring the light of development to the marginalized sections of the state and the tribal communities in the inter-forest areas. Even 75 years after Independence, 89 tribal colonies, which are located in remote forest areas are yet to be electrified. The Government has decided to electrify all houses in these tribal colonies by 2023-24 Financial year. KSEBL will extend grid to all possible areas and give electricity connection. Other colonies will be electrified through ANERT by generating power using Solar-Wind hybrid Power plants and electrifying the houses. ❖



**Duti 2.0** is a project implemented by KSEBL for the period 2022-23 to 2026-27 to further improve the power supply sector and ensure continuity of development. The objectives of Duti 2.0 are to ensure a modernised, technologically equipped and smart network, facilitate the growth of electric mobility and ensure geo-mapping of all electricity installations, while continuing to ensure the objectives of Duti 1.



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala targets 100% renewable energy by 2040, carbon neutral by 2050.
- Kerala aims 50% renewable electricity by 2027.
- State adds 500 MW capacity under current government.
- Plan to maximize wind, solar production, and timely project completion.
- Govt. plans 1500 MW hydropower, 3000 MW solar projects.
- Idukki Golden Jubilee Project for 800 MW evening electricity.
- Saura rooftop solar for 500 MW from rooftops.
- 78 fast charging stations, 1166 charging points for two and three-wheelers.
- Kerala to electrify 89 remote tribal colonies by 2023-24.
- ANERT to electrify other colonies via Solar-Wind hybrid Power plants



**> ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN TWO YEARS**



AS WE COMPLETE TWO YEARS IN POWER, I AM PROUD TO STATE THAT OUR POLICY FORMULATIONS AND CORRECTIVE POLICY IMPLEMENTATIONS HAVE BROUGHT IN MANY CHANGES IN OUR WILD LIFE CONSERVATION AND FOREST PRESERVATION.

# Visionary Steps

**A.K. SASEENDRAN**  
Minister for Forest and Wildlife





**K**erala, God's own country is blessed with a rich flora and fauna, unique to the region. Protecting and preserving the rich biodiversity is our primary and most crucial responsibility of all of us. Environmental and geological changes instigated by human encroachment have disturbed the eco-balance of ecosystem in the State. Admitting these deep violations, our government has also taken many steps towards minimizing or further stopping such degenerative acts. The efforts for eco-restoration are now key to the State's hopes of achieving water security, ecological stability and sustainable development and we seek the cooperation and participation of the entire population.

In its efforts, the government has taken a bold step by submitting recommendations to the Central Government to exempt human settlement, agricultural lands, government institutions and other public institutions from the one kilo meter Eco-sensitive zone limits of Protected forest areas ie. national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries in the state.

Satellite pictures of the structures within the one-kilometer Eco Sensitive Zone as directed by the Supreme court around the protected forest areas have been collected with the help of the Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Center. Considering the limitations that may

happen in the satellite pictures, the government had also decided to conduct a physical survey apart from the satellite surveys of the Eco-Sensitive Zone. This study and report were submitted to the government by the expert committee constituted under the chairmanship of Rtd. Justice Thottathil B Radhakrishnan. For the above purpose, a help desk was set up at the panchayat and corporation levels. 63,615 complaints that were submitted and brought before the expert committee before the deadline were resolved.

“

**Road infrastructure development has been on our high-priority agenda and 2040.87 lakhs was spent to develop and renovate roads under the Konni, Punalur, Achankovil, Vazhachal divisions, in Kollathirumedu ranges under Sholayar and Mukkali in Silent Valley division.**



## **Vrikshasamrudhi**

As Kerala is deeply affected by climate change, a project named Vrikshasamrudhi has been launched to improve green coverage and thus reduce environmental changes and neutralize carbon footprint. Under this project, high-quality saplings of quality trees are developed and distributed to the public to plant in all regions that are not falling under the forest belt. This project is implemented as a joint venture of the Forest department and local self-government institutions as they are leading in the development, distribution and care of the saplings. Under this project, so far 43 lakh saplings have been distributed. As a result of this project about 75 lakh employment opportunities per year.

Selectively destroying weeds like trees, alien species and plants that are harmful to the forest are destroyed without harming the normal forest flora and fauna. As a beginning, 1672 hectares of land area in forest region are cleared.



A comprehensive report of the proposed maps avoiding the human-settled areas from the Eco Sensitive Zone has been submitted to the Central Government and the Advocate General for representing the matter before the Supreme Court to convince the court as to the density of population in these areas in Kerala.

Road infrastructure development has been on our high-priority agenda and 2040.87 lakhs was spent to develop and renovate roads under the Konni, Punalur, Achankovil, Vazhachal divisions, in Kollathirumedu ranges under Sholayar and Mukkali in Silent Valley division.

### **Eco-tourism initiatives**

Kerala with a vibrant geography and rich flora and fauna has attracted millions of globetrotters. Possessing all the required elements of eco-tourism, the government has taken all initiatives to provide 213 tourism packages through 60 eco-tourism centers functioning under 33 developmental agencies under the Forest department. A centrally coordinated website through which online booking facilities can be availed has been launched under a forest development agency.

This is part of the different initiatives to unify eco-tourism. Various forest division agencies have been allocated a total funding of Rs. 1353.3 lakhs for the various eco-tourism projects.

To support the communities depending on the forest for their livelihood, the natural products are marketed through Vanasree in Kerala. 69 Vanasree outlets including two mobile units have been strengthened to provide economic support to the tribal communities.

The state government has created 500 new posts of Beat Forest Officers (BFOs) and special recruitment was made through the Kerala Public Service Commission. They are being posted under various forest ranges. This initiative is part of the government's efforts to bring Scheduled Tribes communities that depend on the forest for their livelihood into the mainstream.

There are many non-tribal people settled inside the forests. Relocating them outside the forest has been successfully conducted in the past two years' tenure. Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, 479 such families have been rehabilitated to non-forest areas with an



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Submitted eco-zone exemption recommendations to Central Govt.
- Surveyed Eco-Zone, resolved 63,615 complaints.
- Allocated 2040.87 lakhs for road projects.
- Distributed 43 lakh saplings, 75 lakh yearly jobs.
- Introduced 213 eco-tourism packages at 60 centers.
- Enhanced 69 Vanasree outlets for tribal support.
- Created 500 posts, integrating Scheduled Tribes.
- Relocated 479 families; spent Rs 34.725 crore.
- Developing international Puthur wildlife park.
- Mitigated human-wildlife conflict with solar fencing, committees, walls, and trenches

expenditure of Rs 34.725 crore and through the KIIFB project with an expenditure of Rs 16.05 crore. Thus, the forest land has been taken over and converted into a normal forest area. An amount up to 25000 rupees is being used for giving training to such persons who are relocated to new areas.

### Wildlife Parks

A wildlife park is being developed in the Puthur reserve forest area on 136.28-hectare land. The park is developed with international standards and the animals in the Trissur zoological park and many more animals from other countries will also be brought to this new park and the infrastructure for this is ready.

Of late there have been many incidents of wild animals encroaching on human habitations surrounding forest regions and many have been attacked or killed. Rs. 2354.91 lakhs has been distributed to people as relief during the current tenure of this government. Approvals to give a compensation of Rs ten lakh to those who were attacked by wild bees have also been issued. ❖

## Mitigating human-wildlife conflicts

Because of the violent attacks, to reduce attacks by wild animals intruding, eight rapid response teams have been posted in Kannur, Nilambur North, Wayanad, Kasaragode, Palakkad, Konni, Ranni, Kozhikode, Mannarkadu and Peppara. While seven temporary rapid response teams have been positioned in Kasaragode, Kalpetta, Malayattoor, Munnar, Punalur, Attappadi and Peerumedu. The Chief Conservator of Forests in the five Circles has been appointed as the nodal officer to coordinate the activities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Besides, in all forest Circles, special teams have been constituted to deal with the issues in the hotspot areas. There has been an increase in attacks between wild animals and human beings, especially in areas of Wayanad, Kasaragode and Palakkad. To prevent wild animals from intruding into human habitations, solar fencing has been installed in all these districts for 609.12 km, spending Rs. 921.03 lakh funds. Apart from this, 261 Janajagratha Samithi (People's alert committees) have been formed throughout the State with the support of local public participation with the forest department, and people's elected representatives.

To prevent elephant attacks, defensive walls have been constructed in Tholppetti, Kurichiyad and Sulthanbatheri in Wayanad district with an expenditure of Rs 67.88 lakh. In regions adjacent to wildlife sanctuaries in Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad and Periyar, trenches were built for 40.91 km at an expenditure of Rs.314.71 lakh. In addition to this, 1.20 km long crash guard fencing has been erected to reduce attacks between human beings and wild animals.

In Wayanad, 1206 lakh worth 10 km long rail fencing has been installed in the Kurichiyadu range to ensure the safety of people living around the region and to avoid harm to wild animals as well. A special project of altogether 20 crores has been allowed for the Wayanad district alone.

**ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN TWO YEARS**

AROUND 2000 METRES OF 3100 METRES EMBANKMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF VIZHINJAM INTERNATIONAL PORT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. BERTH DREDGING RECLAMATION, ELECTRIC SUB STATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS MECHANICAL COMPONENTS ARE NEARING COMPLETION. THE FIRST SHIP IS EXPECTED TO REACH THE PORT IN SEPTEMBER 2023.



# Sailing ahead in fair weather

**AHAMMAD DEVARKOVIL**

Minister for Ports, Museums,  
Archaeology & Archives



The second Pinarayi Vijayan government in Kerala has successfully managed to keep the Ports, Museums, and Archaeology departments on track with various ongoing projects. The construction of the Vizhinjam International Port, which will be a game-changer for the state, is progressing smoothly, with the first ship expected to arrive in September 2023. Additionally, several museums and historical sites have been renovated and expanded to preserve the cultural heritage of the state.

The Ports, Museums and Archaeology departments are on a smooth sail despite turbulence and light swells. Many projects are on the right path of development as the Second Pinarayi Vijayan Government completes two years in power.

Around 2000 metres of 3100 metres embankment in the construction of Vizhinjam International Port has been completed. Berth Dredging Reclamation, Electric Sub Stations, Construction and installation of various mechanical components are nearing completion. The first ship is expected to reach the port in September 2023.

The length of the breakwater is 2026 meters visible on the sea surface and 2300 meters under the sea. It is constructed by depositing gravel by using lorries on land and by barges at sea. Work is also progressing to install acro pods made of concrete in a special manner on the sea-facing side to strengthen the breakwater.

The port project is expected to be a game-changer for the state as major cities and business centres have come around such mother ports around the world. The government is planning to develop industrial parks, logistic centres and many other projects. Once fully commissioned, the largest mother ship of the world can easily be anchored at Vizhinjam and five mother ships can be berthed at a time after its full commissioning.

In Kollam, the construction of 105-metre berth in the Sagarmala project in 2019 has been completed. The construction of the administrative block and gate complex has been completed within the project for the financial year 2022-23.

As a major achievement, the procedures for the declaration of Kollam port as an immigration check point were completed.

The Kerala Hydrographic Institute under the Hydrographic Survey Wing with



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Construction of Vizhinjam International Port
- Construction of breakwater and installation of acro pods at Vizhinjam International Port
- Development of industrial parks and logistic centers around Vizhinjam International Port
- Construction of 105 metre berth in Sagarmala project in Kollam
- Declaration of Kollam port as immigration checkpoint
- Establishment of Kerala Hydrographic Institute
- Establishment of International Heritage Centre in Kerala University
- Establishment of Manuscript Museum at Central Archives in Thiruvananthapuram Fort
- Expansion of Kozhikode Regional Archives Office with a sub-centre at Mini Civil Station
- Renovation of Pazhassiraja Museum in Kozhikode
- Construction of a museum at Kungichira to showcase the agricultural and cultural heritage of Wayanad district
- Exhibition system at Handloom Museum in Kannur town



A Manuscript Museum was set up at the Central Archives of the Department of Archives at Thiruvananthapuram Fort to make available to the general public and students selected palm leaf documents which have had a decisive impact on the history of the State and on 21st December 2022 Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated it.

Ponnani Centre started functioning. The International Heritage Centre is to construct a new building in the Kariyavattam Campus of Kerala University to facilitate access to researchers and students to preserve documents that shed light on the history of the State.

A Manuscript Museum was set up at the Central Archives of the Department of Archives at Thiruvananthapuram Fort to make available to the general public and students selected palm leaf documents which have had a decisive impact on the history of the State and on 21st December 2022 Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated it.

As part of the Government's decision to preserve archaeological records related to the districts themselves, a sub-centre was started at the Mini Civil Station to expand the activities of the Kozhikode Regional Archives Office.

Pazhassiraja Museum, Kozhikode, which sheds light on the history of Malabar, was renovated in a modern style and designed to attract the public and the students. The cost of this project is about Rs.4

crore. This museum has been converted into a historical structure that depicts the heritage of Kozhikode.

Building construction and related development works have been completed for setting up a museum at Kungichira to evoke the agricultural and cultural heritage of the Wayanad district.

The exhibition system of the Handloom Museum in the 200-year-old headquarters building of Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation situated in Kannur town is 90% complete. ❏



Pazhassiraja Museum, Kozhikode, which sheds light on the history of Malabar, was renovated in a modern style and designed to attract the public and the students. The cost of this project is about Rs.4 crore. This museum has been converted into a historical structure that depicts the heritage of Kozhikode.



THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE STATE HAS  
OVERCOME MANY CHALLENGES WITH NEW VENTURES

# Public transport traverses potholes successfully

**ANTONY RAJU**

Minister for Transport





If the awards that Kerala's state-run transport system has won are an indicator, it is on the right path to become the best-run one in the country. The city circular service of the Kerala Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) won the national 'Commendation Award in Urban Transport' in the category of 'City with the best Public Transport System'. The 'GramaVandi' launched by the KSRTC, in association with local self-government institutions in the State, also won the Award of Excellence in Urban Transport.

The bylanes and interior roads of Thiruvananthapuram, the southernmost district and capital city of Kerala, have been witnessing buses in different colours plying. These buses to be the characteristic private buses of Kerala, painted in loud monochrome colours and identified by their distinct name boards. However, the new fleet of buses is the state-run Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (Kerala RTC) service and is part of the new city circular bus service. Unlike the standard colours of the Kerala RTC buses — blue-white and red-yellow — these new public buses are painted in monochrome colours, with each corresponding to the route they ply.

Launched in November 2021, the city circular bus service features seven routes interlinking all major points in the city. These ply along routes that don't have private bus services and run at fixed timings irrespective of the footfall. It is also the first public transport system in Kerala with a hop-on-hop-off model. This means that, as the bus plies along the circular route, passengers can embark and disembark at any point within the validity of the ticket.

What is making this government-run bus service a hit among commuters is the affordable fare and mainly the frequency of buses – every fifteen

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**Launched in November 2021, the city circular bus service features seven routes interlinking all major points in the city. These ply along routes that don't have private bus services and run at fixed timings irrespective of the footfall.**

minutes. The basic fare is fixed at Rs.10, irrespective of the destination. So, if a commuter wants to travel between two points, which are 500 metres or 2 kilometres apart, the fare will be Rs.10. Commuters can also purchase a special ticket at Rs.50, the validity of which is 24 hours.

From December 2022, the public in Kerala can now buy tickets on buses of Kerala Road Transport Corporation using the digital payment app, Phone Pe. The buses have a QR scan code fixed and the users can purchase their tickets using their digital wallets. Those purchasing tickets using QR codes should show the relevant message to the bus conductor.

The KSRTC is also planning to extend this facility in all



**The GramaVandi is a scheme in which the services to the interior areas of the State are operated in collaboration with the respective local self-governing bodies.**



**The KSRTC-SWIFT has been formed for efficient operation of KSRTC's long distance services. In another initiative 50 eco-friendly non ACs buses have been purchased with KIIFB fund. A total of 40 buses have been made available since the supply order was placed for purchase of electric buses. All buses are being equipped with GPRS, Bluetooth and RFID to implement electronic ticketing machines with systems in all units of the corporation.**



its services. The introduction of the digital payment mode to purchase tickets has been a long-pending demand from users. The KSRTC is also trying to revamp its services and introduced electric buses.

More concrete measures to modernize the department are in the pipeline and the introduction of digital payment modes for purchasing tickets has been termed as one of those steps.

Here are a few schemes that the transport department has implemented in the past two years.

**E-Mobility Scheme** Under the e-mobility scheme, electric vehicles registered for private purposes have been given 50% tax exemption for the first five years in one-time tax. **Nirbhaya Scheme** for ensuring safety of women and girls in public transport systems – **Surakshamitra**—was launched

## **KSRTC Restructure 2**

This project was started as a part of the restructuring plan called Restructure 2 in collaboration with the public sector oil companies to provide fuel to the public from the existing pumps and thereby increase non-ticket revenue. The main feature is that KSRTC does not have to spend on project.

**Smart Travel Card** is a scheme launched to promote digital payments. This way a passenger can recharge by paying in advance and avail tickets more conveniently

**First Mile and Last Mile Connectivity – Feeder service** is a scheme where small buses are used to transport people from inter roads and residential area to major bus stops to promote public transport and control traffic congestion.

For comprehensive urban transport in



Thiruvananthapuram city, circular services have been started to connect various institutions and areas within the city limits so that the public can reach the city and move around easily.

In another initiative, construction of passenger boats has been started for boosting water transport in the State. For ensuring safe, cost-effective and speedy travel for passengers construction of two 75 passenger catamaran boats, and four 100 passenger catamaran boats have started. ❌



## IN A NUTSHELL

- KSRTC won national Commendation Award in Urban Transport.
- GramaVandi project received Award of Excellence.
- E-Mobility Scheme offers 50% tax exemption for electric vehicles.
- Surakshamitra ensures women's safety in public transport.
- KSRTC Restructure 2 boosts non-ticket revenue via fuel sales.
- Smart Travel Card enables easy digital ticketing.
- First/Last Mile Connectivity promotes public transport, reduces congestion.
- Thiruvananthapuram's urban transport connects city institutions.
- KSRTC-SWIFT operates long-distance eco-friendly buses.
- Passenger boat construction enhances water transport options.



IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING IN QUALITATIVE AS WELL AS QUANTITATIVE ADVANCEMENTS IN THE DOMAIN OF SPORTS IN THE STATE, THE GOVERNMENT OF KERALA HAS RECENTLY TAKEN SEVERAL INITIATIVES. ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO INFRASTRUCTURE. THE DIRECTORATE IS GOING AHEAD WITH WORKS TO CREATE AND UPGRADE FACILITIES BY OPTIMIZING THE USAGE OF LAND AND BY MAKING THE FACILITIES ADAPTABLE TO MULTIPLE SPORTS DISCIPLINES AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.



# Surging ahead in Sports and Games

**V. ABDURAHIMAN**

Minister for Sports, Wakf and Haj Pilgrimage, Minority welfare



## Infrastructure Development

An infrastructure development worth 1600 crore, including the KIIIFB fund and the sports department's fund, is being implemented in the sports sector.

District sports complexes using KIIIFB funds are under construction at Kasaragod, Wayanad, Thrissur, Kollam Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, and Idukki. Sports Complexes have been completed at Koduman, Nileswaram Mattannur, Parali, Thirumitakode, Chittoor Prithikulangara, Kalpatta, Thanur, Punalur Vadakara, Mepayyur and Naduvannur. 16 crores were sanctioned by the KIIIFB for the Koduman EMS Stadium in Pathanamthitta. The Jinachandra Stadium in Kalpatta, Wayanad, was built at a cost of Rs 18.67 crore and the EMS Stadium in Nileswaram, Kasaragod, was completed at a cost of Rs 17.04 crore.

A synthetic track has been set up at the Pariyaram Medical College and Kunnamkulam GHSS at a cost of Rs 7 crore each. A development initiative of 25 crores at the G. V. Raja School and 10 crores at the Kannur Sports School was implemented.

Playgrounds have been established in Anavoor, Aruvikara, and Paruthiyur in Thiruvananthapuram district, Tamarakulam in Alappuzha district, Aryad, Kanichkulangara, Bharnikav, Kandallur, Jandaikal in Pathanamthitta district, Ayrur and Mukkuthala in Malappuram district, Erumayur in Palakkad district, and, Thenkurissi, Kunissery, Katissery, East Kizhakangacherry, Melarkode, Kuzhalchemandam and Kallapooyassery in Kannur district.



## Sports Training Programs

An extensive goal training program has been started to provide football training to 5 lakh children. In the first phase, 1 lakh children were trained in 1000 centers. A training program called Sprint was launched in schools this academic year for athletics training. A program called Judoko for Judo training and Punch for boxing training has also been initiated at the school level.

### One playground in every panchayat

Steps have been taken to realise the promise of a playground in each panchayat. The amount for the project of one playground in each panchayat will be compiled by coordinating the share of the



## Sports Policy

The cabinet approved the new sports policy with amendments. The policy is designed to give a new perspective to the sports sector of Kerala and was formulated based on the objectives of sports for all, sports development from the school level, and nurturing high-quality sportspersons using expert training and scientific methods. The policy also sets forth a progressive vision of the Sports Economy Mission.



sports department, MLA fund, panchayat share, CSR etc. In the first phase, playgrounds are being established in 113 panchayats.

### **Sports Kerala Foundation**

The Sports Kerala Foundation (SKF) has been formed under the Department of Sports for infrastructure development and maintenance of sports fields and stadiums in the state. SKF will manage all the playgrounds under the department. The foundation has taken over the functioning of Nileswaram and Thalassery stadiums and will also take part in the management of tournaments.

### **Play for Health**

The process of making physical education a part of the school curriculum has been started in collaboration with the Education Department. Steps are in progress to implement a special sports curriculum at the lower primary level. Aiming to increase the physical and mental abilities of primary students, the sports department has started a project called Play for Health in 25 schools in the state. The process of extending this project to 30 more schools has been completed.

### **Sports Academies**

The standard of the sports academies functioning under the state sports council has been raised. Arrangements have been made to provide good training and food to those who pursue training in the academies. 3 football academies have been started under the Sports Directorate and Sports Council. Two are for girls only.

High-Performance Academies are starting in all 14 districts of the state under the Sports Council.

The Kunnankulam Sports Division was started based on the model of the Kannur Sports Division. The Kunnambhagam Government School in Kanjirapilli Assembly Constituency is being prepared to upgrade as a sports school. Elaborate schemes are being prepared for the promotion of martial arts in the state. Combat sports centres are being started in all 14 districts. Karate, Judo, Taekwondo, Kalari, etc will be taught in these centres.

### **Excellence through International Partnership**

Cooperation with foreign governments is being strengthened with the aim of comprehensive sports development in Kerala. A football and hockey training program was started in association with the Netherlands Football Association and the Bovlander Foundation in the Netherlands. The first phase will be completed by September 2022.

### **Sports Science, Sports Institute**

Centres for Sports Medicine have been started in Kannur (Sports Division) and Kunnankulam (Thrissur Sports Division) based on the model of the Center for Sports Medicine in Vellayambalam Thiruvananthapuram.

## Sports Competitions

The National Senior Women's Football Championship was organized for the first time in Kerala. The Santhosh Trophy final round matches of 2022 were completed with grandeur in the Malappuram district. Kerala became the venue for the Federation Cup National Athletics Championship for the first time. Two India Grand Prix Athletics Championships organized by the Athletics Federation of India were held in Thiruvananthapuram. The first National Jumps Championship was also held in the state for the first time.

The state also became the venue for the Super Cup football matches for the first time. The National Shooting Championship was held at the Vattiyoorkavu shooting range in Thiruvananthapuram. Beach games were organized in different districts of the state. Football, Volleyball, Tug-of-War and Kabaddi competitions were held in the coastal districts of Kerala.

This government is also remembering the contributions of sports persons who are not in active sports now. The pension of the sports persons in distress has been increased to 1300 rupees. The annual family income limit for pension eligibility has also been increased to one lakh. The income limit was initially twenty thousand rupees. Decisions have also been taken to include 26 more circus artists in distress in the pension scheme. ❄️



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala sports receive Rs 1600 crore infrastructure boost.
- KIIFB-funded district sports complexes constructed.
- Playground project targets one per panchayat.
- Sports Kerala Foundation manages infrastructure and tournaments.
- New sports policy emphasizes inclusivity and development.
- Physical education integrated into school curriculum.
- School-level sports training programs launched.
- Sports academies' standards and facilities improved.
- Foreign partnerships strengthen sports development.
- Support for retired sports persons and circus artists increased
- State Haj Committee builds dedicated facility for female pilgrims with improved amenities

## ENHANCED FACILITIES FOR BELIEVERS

### Hajj House: Women's Block Construction

A dedicated building is being constructed to accommodate the growing number of female pilgrims. In collaboration with the State Government, the State Haj Committee is erecting a 2,888.70 square meter facility adjacent to the Hajj House. As of now, 95% of the construction work has been completed. Plans to release the Hajj House for public purposes (e.g., marriages) after the Hajj season

### Future plans

- Awaiting government approval for Civil Service Coaching
- Improved facilities for female Haj pilgrims, including accommodation, bathing, ablution, and prayer areas

- Special provisions for disabled and sick persons, as well as parking facilities
- The Regional Office in Puthira, Kozhikode is now operational
- Services provided by the Regional Office
- Comprehensive support for Hajj applicants
- Assistance with passports, payment receipts, medical fitness, and cancellations
- Addressing doubts and grievances, handling substitutions and clubbing
- Managing applications for newborns, transfers, and NRIs
- Coordinating with the Central Hajj Committee for software updates and quotas
- Ensuring smooth communication for flight schedules, payments, and travel information
- Distributing necessary materials and information through Hajj trainers in the Malabar region



POVERTY ERADICATION AND MAKING THE STATE HUNGER FREE ARE REGARDED AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS OF THIS GOVERNMENT SINCE IT CAME TO POWER. TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED MANY PROJECTS AND SCHEMES AND MANY ARE IN THE PIPELINE TO BE COMPLETED.

# Bold Initiatives Transform Lives

**G.R. ANIL**

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies





## Priority Category Ration Cards

Ineligible individuals who were in possession of priority category ration cards were given enough grace period for surrendering them. Out of this 1,72,312 cards were surrendered. 2,86,087 priority ration cards were distributed (AAY – 20,462, PHH – 2,65,625). Under Operation Yellow Drive, 17,596 priority ration cards were confiscated. and Rs 4,19,19,486 was charged as a fine on illegal beneficiaries. Steps have been taken to distribute ration cards based on Aadhar card, for those who do not have their own houses.

## Mobile Ration Shops

Mobile Ration Shops are established to reach people who cannot reach out to ordinary ration shops due to difficult terrains or other tribal settlements in forests and labour settlement areas. As an initial step, during 2016-21, 52 tribal settlements in the state were provided with mobile ration shop services. At present, the government has extended the services to 80 more tribal settlements, totalling 132 in districts such as Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur and Pathanamthitta.

## Smart Ration Cards

Kerala has moved out of the conventional ration cards and started replacing them with ATM card size Smart Ration cards that can be kept in the consumer's purse. This process started in November 2021.

## Price Research Center, Kerala

Market price variations are often unpredictable and lead to an imbalance in the budget of many ordinary public. In order to monitor the unprecedented price rise and to keep a check on the market fluctuations that can hamper the common man's life, the government has established a system named as Price Research Center. A budget allocation of Rs 12 lakhs has been made in the last year's budget for the establishment of the Price Research Center.

## Fortified Rice distribution

To improve the nutritional value of rice and bring down the calamities of anemia in women and children, the central government has implemented the distribution of fortified rice through ration shops. The fortification process is done by mixing Folic acid, iron and Vit B12 in rice before distribution. The Kerala government has adopted this and Wayanad district where the highest tribal population resides is taken as an aspirational district to implement the distribution of fortified rice. Even though, this has been stopped at present until the reports on the health impact of fortified rice on sickle cell anemia and thalassaemia patients were submitted by the health department.

## Renaming of Civil Supplies Department

In its efforts to integrate the services and activities

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## Paddy Procurement

Paddy procurement through Supplyco is practised and on an average 7 lakhs metric ton is procured from the farmers in the state.

Kerala provides the highest price to the farmers in comparison to other states. The procured paddy is processed at private mills and distributed through the public distribution system at a nominal and subsidised rate of Rs.10.90 against the cost of Rs 50 production cost incurred to the government.

This has encouraged paddy farmers to return to farming activities. In this season, so far, 1.98 metric tons have been procured from farmers.

Rs. 369.25 crores have been distributed to farmers as the price.





of the civil supplies and consumer affairs department, the vacancies of Civil Supplies Director Consumer Affairs Commissioner have been integrated and renamed as Public Distribution- Consumer Affairs Commissioner. All consumer redressal commissions at district levels where the positions were lying vacant are filled and made the commissions active and functional. To create awareness about the commissions' existence, awareness programs were created at school and college levels through NSS, the department's website and social media publicity.

For the rural and village consumers, an online complaint filing system was established with the help of Janasevakendras under the name E-Dakhil and legal advisory cells have been opened in all districts.

### **Construction of godowns**

Among the presently available civil supplies items' storage godowns are outdated and most of them were constructed unscientifically leading to the spoiling and destruction of food grains and other food items. To construct new godowns in all 83 taluks of the ration system, in accordance with modern storage facilities, places have been identified and in some taluks, the identification process for the right land is underway. Locations for 15 have been identified, and wherever the government could not find a suitable place, the plan is to adopt the BOT system for construction. In three of the identified locations, construction is underway. In Kasaragod, Vellarikundu at an expenditure of Rs.6.57 crores, in Payyannur in Kannur



### **Hunger free Kerala**

As part of the 13th five-year plan, an eradication plan for hunger was launched as "Hunger Free Kerala'.

As part of this initiative, Subhiksha Hotels which sells meals for Rs. 20 was started. Currently there 45 Subhiksha hotels operating in the state. As the prices of hotel food are soaring high, the government is considering starting mobile breakfast and dinner facilities at a low cost.

# K-Store

The government has given priority to strengthening the public distribution system and enabling the public to avail the benefits of civil supplies. In this regard, the civil supplies and consumer affairs department has decided to diversify the ration shops. As an initiative towards diversifying, rations shops that have facilities to modernize are included in the innovative K-Store concept. Currently, 73 ration shops are selected to implement the project which is intended to distribute provisions and services in addition to the routine civil supply provisions. Through this, these ration shop owners can make an additional revenue source and thus empowering them financially is the aim of this project. For the establishment of the K-Store, the government has signed MoUs with MILMA and IOC.



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Government tackles poverty and hunger via various projects.
- Ration cards updated using Aadhar, ineligible cards surrendered.
- Hunger Free Kerala offers affordable meals and mobile facilities.
- Mobile Ration Shops serve 132 remote tribal settlements.
- Smart Ration cards provide portable, convenient alternative.
- K-Store modernizes shops, benefits owners and consumers.
- Price Research Center protects citizens from price fluctuations.
- Fortified rice distribution improves nutrition but is paused to assess health impacts on certain patients
- Integrated services include online complaints and legal advisory cells.
- Initiatives improve food security, fairness, and efficiency

district, at an expenditure of Rs.5 crores and in Konni, Pathanamthitta at an expenditure of Rs.5 crores approvals have been granted to begin the work this year.

### Modernisation of SupplyCo

The process of modernization of SupplyCo has started. Setting up of E-office and bio-metric attendance have been introduced in the SupplyCo head office. This government opened 81 renovated and modernized supplyco distribution shops. Three mobile apps named Supply Kerala, Feedback SupplyCo and Track Supplyco have been introduced to enhance marketing.

### Legal Metrology

The legal Metrology department is at the forefront of ensuring that no unfair practices are prevailing or practised by the shop owners in correctly weighing their products before it reaches the consumers. Operation Jagratha to find out shortcomings in the commercial

shops. 52102 shops were investigated and 4201 shops were identified with defects. The government is taking steps to investigate 25000 shops as part of Operation Poorantha. These projects are implemented to create general awareness among the public. 1159 dispensing pumps were investigated and 111 pumps were identified with defects under Operation Kshamatha. The thermometer Calibration lab to check the functioning of thermometers was inaugurated by Minister G.R Anil on 29/04/2022. An amount of 59,29,000 was spent on this. The government has initiated LMOMS verification module to submit the application form and fees to seal weighing machines. The department conducts periodical investigations and raids as and when required to find out the accuracy and genuineness of weighing machines. Those defaulting are fined or made to rectify. The department focuses on public awareness creation about possible malpractices. ❄

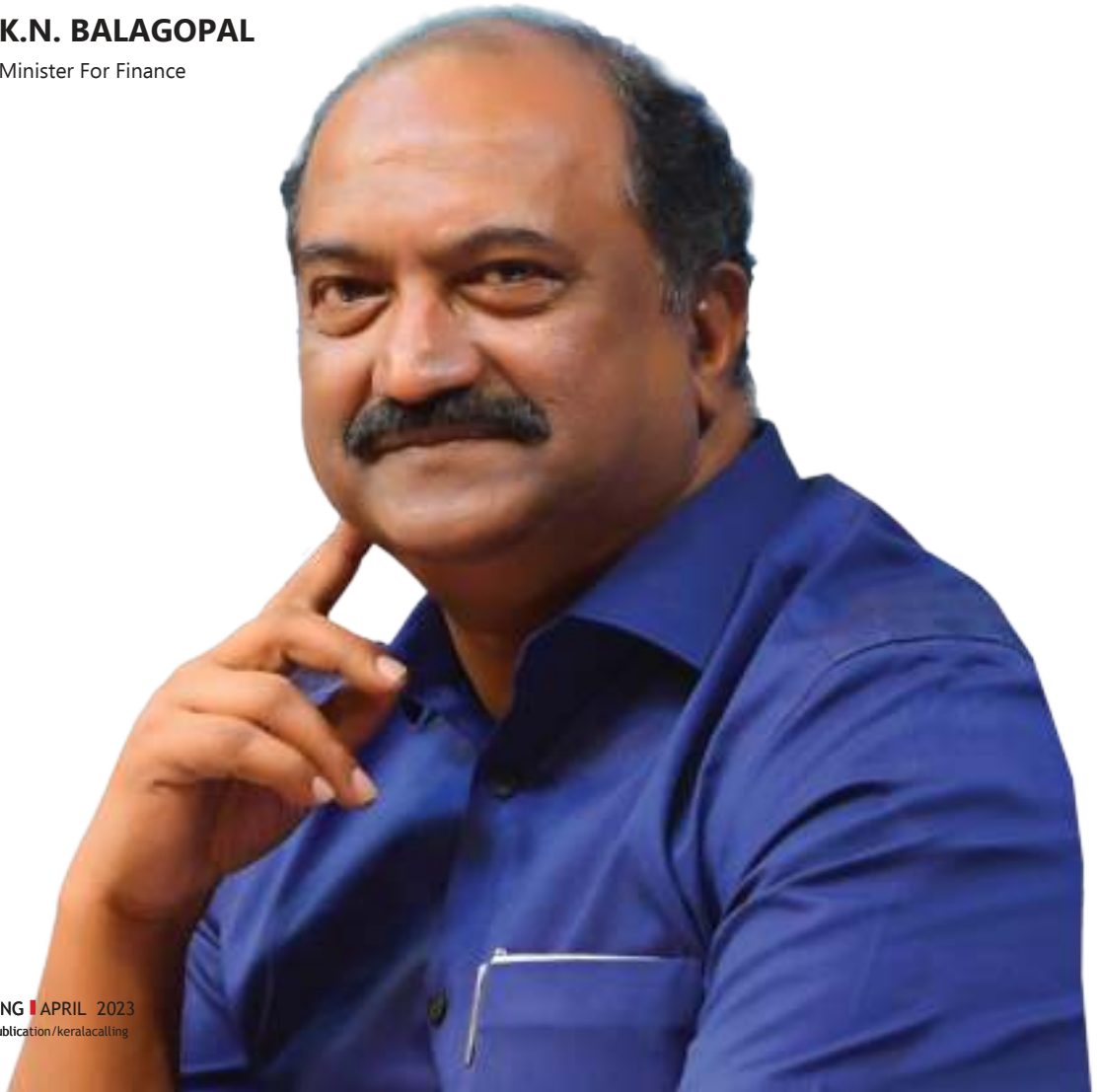


DESPITE NUMEROUS OBSTACLES, THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE KERALA STATE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR WAS IMPRESSIVE. THE STATE MANAGED TO FUND CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE PROJECTS, DEMONSTRATING THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS REVENUE COLLECTION SYSTEMS. AMIDST GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, KERALA'S RESILIENCE SERVES AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR OVERCOMING FUTURE HURDLES.

# Rising to the Challenges

**K.N. BALAGOPAL**

Minister For Finance



The economic activities of the state government for the financial year 2022-23 can be considered worthwhile despite all difficulties. In March, the Kerala government spent ₹22,000 Crore from the Treasury to fund various governmental activities, allowing for unhindered developmental and welfare projects. However, the central government's measures resulted in a revenue shortfall of approximately ₹40,000 Crores for the state during the financial year. Nevertheless, the state was able to overcome this difficulty and register impressive economic achievements.

The local bodies' plan expenditure has exceeded 100%, yet there have been no reductions in public spending. The timely payment of salaries, pensions, and loan repayments has been ensured. Additionally, funds have been fully released for model residential schools, their hostels, and scholarships for Scheduled Tribes. Traditional sectors, such as coir, handloom, and khadi, have received production incentives. Moreover, the budget allocation for the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been surpassed. An excess amount has also been allocated for the "Punargeham" scheme for the fisherman community.

## Tax and Non Tax Revenue

Through diligent efforts in increasing both its tax and non-tax revenue, Kerala has achieved a remarkable feat. This year, the state was able to register an impressive increase of ₹12,848 crore in its own tax revenue. Moreover, the state's GST receipts saw a 25% increase

compared to the previous year. In fact, the state's own tax earnings have witnessed a staggering increase of more than ₹23,000 crore over the past two years. The people of Kerala have been instrumental in supporting these efforts, and their cooperation has been invaluable. In addition, the state is currently in the process of reorganizing its GST department to further enhance its efficiency.

## Performance of KSFE and KFC

The public sector financial institutions of the state also displayed good performance. Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE) handled 'Chitty' business of ₹875.41 crore including ₹54.16 crore mobilised under the 'Chitty' scheme for NRIs. The Chitty collection for 2022-23 was ₹36,500 crore. Deposits worth ₹21,800 crore could also be collected.

The Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) achieved its highest growth rate in a decade. Its balance sheet registered a growth of 36.82%, increasing from ₹4,75,071 crore in 2002 to ₹6,50,000 crore this year. KFC has taken steps to promote agro-based industries and agro-start-ups. The scheme launched is Agriculture Based MSME Loan Scheme (KAMS). Loans up to Rs.10 Crore are available through this scheme at 5% interest rate with 3% state government subsidy.

CM's entrepreneurship Development Scheme is implemented by the government. The main aim of this to ensure to start 500 small and medium enterprises in a year in such a way as to provide employment to 10 persons directly and to 10 persons indirectly from each

# KIIFB and K-DISC

During the first term of the present government headed by Pinarayi Vijayan, projects worth ₹50,000 crores were planned to be implemented through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). As on date approval has been accorded to 1057 projects at a total cost of ₹80,352 crores. Till 2021 a total of ₹6000 crore has been released from KIIFB towards implementation of projects. This has increased to ₹23,095 crore now. Yearly allotment of ₹100 crore has been earmarked for the functioning of Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC). The projects announced in the budget like Centre for Excellence in Microbiome, Genomics, Neutraceuticals and Electrical Vehicle Consortium are being carried forward.



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**Out of the total revenue income of Kerala in 2022-23, 62.20% was state's own income. At all India level, the average own income of the states for the year 2022-23 is 54.74%.**

organisation besides the entrepreneurs. Loans up to Rs.2 Crores are available at 5% interest rate with 3% state government subsidy. Rs.300.35 crores loan has been disbursed to 2264 enterprises through this scheme. This year 500 new enterprises will be given loans through this scheme.

### **Performance of Kerala State Lotteries**

The sale of Kerala Lottery tickets creates employment opportunities for vulnerable individuals, such as the helpless, destitute, and sick, allowing them to lead a self-sufficient and dignified life. The Lottery department has achieved a turnover of Rs.11890.00 crore in the financial year 2022-23. The 'Thiruvonam Bumper' Lottery of the current financial year has set a new record with its first prize of Rs 25 Crores, the largest ever offered. A total of Rs. 70.00 crore has been provided to the 'Karunya Arogya Suraksha Scheme' in the financial year 2022-23 as revenue share from the 'Karunya', 'Karunya Plus' lottery. An amount of ₹3830.87 has been distributed to the agents in the form of discount and agent prize as their income from lottery sales. The Government pays 1% of the amount collected through the sale of lottery tickets as its contribution to the Kerala State Lottery Agents' and Sellers' Welfare Fund every year. In the financial year 2022-23, a total of Rs 31.41 crore has been distributed from the welfare fund in various schemes including pension.

The share of Kerala from the divisible pool of the Central Government, which was 3.875% during the period of 10th Finance Commission was cut down to 2.5% at the



### **MEDISEP**

As of April 3, 2023, a total of 221,871 claims with a total worth of Rs 576.94 crore have been submitted, out of which 201,126 claims with a value of Rs 535.33 crore were received from private hospitals and 20,745 claims worth Rs 41.61 crore were received from government hospitals. This means that 92% of the claims were submitted by private hospitals. Out of the total received claims, 206,184 claims worth Rs 561.09 crore have been approved. Additionally, 1,833 claims amounting to Rs 38.02 crore have been sanctioned under the critical illness package.

time of 14th Finance Commission and further to 1.925% by the 15th Finance Commission. As per the report of the 15th Finance Commission the centre is garnering 62.7% of total income leaving just 37.3% to the states. At the same time, the states have to shoulder the burden of 62.4% of expenditure.

## Deficit in Share of Central Revenue

Out of the total revenue income of Kerala in 2022-23, 62.20% was state's own income. At all India level, the average own income of the states for the year 2022-23 is 54.74%. Share of own income of Bihar is 24.16%, whereas that of Assam, Rajasthan, Odisha and West Bengal were 29.16%, 56.03%, 57.45% and 43.43% respectively. Only the industrially advanced states like Haryana and Maharashtra are ahead of Kerala in mobilisation of own income. This demonstrates the efficiency of the systems that are in place in the state for collecting tax and non-tax revenues.

## Adverse Global Situation

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, many economists are concerned about the possibility of a global and national recession. However, in stark contrast, Kerala has demonstrated remarkable success in managing its finances during the current fiscal year. According to the International Monetary Fund's report, the global economic growth for the financial year 2022-23 is forecasted to be only 2.9%. The significant disruption



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala's tax revenue rose by ₹12,848 crore in 2022-23.
- State GST receipts increased 25%, showing effective tax collection.
- KSFE handled ₹875.41 crore 'Chitty' business, including ₹54.16 crore for NRIs.
- KFC achieved highest 36.82% growth in a decade.
- KFC disbursed ₹300.35 crore loans to 2264 enterprises.
- 206,184 MEDISEP claims worth ₹561.09 crore approved.
- Kerala Lottery had record ₹11,890 crore turnover, creating jobs.
- Kerala's own income (62.20%) exceeded national average (54.74%).
- KIIFB approved 1057 projects worth ₹80,352 crores.
- KDISC implemented innovative projects like Microbiome, Genomics, and EV Consortium.

in the global supply chain has led to a downturn in world trade. Meanwhile, several neighbouring countries, such as Sri Lanka and Pakistan, are grappling with severe economic crises, with inflation rates exceeding 40%.

In spite of all the difficulties, the government of Kerala is fully confident of overcoming these hurdles and ensuring the welfare of the people. ❖



THE PINARAYI VIJAYAN GOVERNMENT IN KERALA IS DEDICATED TO CREATING A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY BASED ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARDS THIS GOAL. FROM BUILDING NEW FACILITIES FOR COLLEGES TO PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH THE JEEVANI SCHEME, THE DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED TO BRING ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE HAS IMPLEMENTED VARIOUS INITIATIVES, SUCH AS PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS, CANCER PATIENTS, AND SENIORS, MAKING KERALA A MODEL FOR ELDERLY CARE IN INDIA.

# Committed to Developing a Knowledge Society Based on Social Justice

**Dr. R. BINDU**

Minister for Higher Education and  
Social Justice





The Pinarayi Vijayan government is committed to building a knowledge society based on social justice, not catering to the neoliberal economic order to establish and provide cheap labour. With this stated goal, the Kerala Department of Higher Education and Social Justice has been forging ahead by initiating steps to bring about fundamental changes in society through our institutions of higher education.

Several key programmes have been undertaken and implemented in the State during this short period, which have brought about a sea of changes in the sector. They have been listed here.

A library and academic block for history were built for the Attingal Government College at a cost of Rs. 10.37 crore (Rs. 9.67 crore (KIIFB) +Rs. 70 lakh (RUSA)); an indoor stadium at the Kannur K.M.M. Government Women's College at a cost of Rs. 1.62 crore (Rs. 20 lakh (UGC), Rs. 80 lakh (MLA fund), and Rs. 62 lakh (plan fund)); a PG block at Ernakulam Model Engineering under IHRD, the main building of Poonjar Model Polytechnic College, the inauguration of the academic block of the Payyappady College and the main block at the College of Applied Science Kuthuparamba at a total cost of Rs. 11.39 crore.

The department spent Rs. 9 crore for the inauguration of completed blocks of the administrative civil library in polytechnics at Palakkad, Mattannur, and Payyannur Women's College; besides which the Chief Minister's Student Talent Funding Scheme (Rs.1 lakh each for 1,000 financially backward students) was implemented and financial assistance was delivered.

The department spent Rs. 69.8 lakh for various developmental work at the Kozhikode Law College.

Additional batches were allowed in various colleges under IHRD for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, thus creating 540 additional seats in the various regions of the State. The activities to upgrade the academic and research departments of various universities into Centres of Excellence are under way.

A modern lab complex was inaugurated at a cost of Rs. 75 crore at the Mahatma Gandhi University with UGC aid. The Mahatma Gandhi University granted fellowships for 100 research students to encourage innovative research activities. Under the auspices of State Assessment & Accreditation Centre (SAAC), assessment for accreditation is under way in various colleges.

The K.R. Narayanan Institute was given autonomous status. The activities to upgrade the Cochin University into a Centre of Excellence for academic and research activities with the help of UGC are also under way.

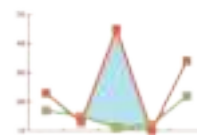
Four universities from Kerala are among the top 100 universities in the country in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) list in 2022. The four universities are Mahatma Gandhi (30), Kerala (40), CUSAT (41), and Calicut (69). Seventeen colleges from Kerala were in the top 100 colleges list. Those that made it to the list include the Thiruvananthapuram University City College (24), Ernakulam Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (27), Ernakulam St. Teresa's (37), Thiruvananthapuram Mar Ivanios (50), Thiruvananthapuram Government Women's College (53), Kothamangalam Mar Athanasius (56), Mavelikkara Bishop Moore (58), Ernakulam Sacred Heart (59), Ernakulam Maharaja's (60), Changanassery SB college (62), Thrissur St. Thomas (63), Kozhikode St. Joseph's (78), Kottayam CMS (81), Palakkad Victoria (85),

## Let's Go Digital Kerala's Campaign to Digitize Higher Education

The Education Council of Kerala has launched the 'Let's Go Digital' campaign, aimed at digitizing all aspects of higher education in the state. The campaign aims to bring teaching, learning, examinations, and evaluations under the Digital Enablement of Higher Education system.

As a part of this initiative, around 2,000 university and college teachers in Kerala have undergone training to enhance their online teaching styles. The objective is to ensure that students receive a high-quality education, regardless of whether it is delivered in person or online.

The 'Let's Go Digital' campaign is an important step towards making education more accessible and inclusive. The digitization of higher education in Kerala will help to ensure that students can continue their studies uninterrupted, even during times of crisis.





Kottayam Bishop Kurialacherry Women's College (89), Kollam Fatima Mata National College (92), and Aluva UC College (97). In the list of architecture colleges, Kozhikode NIT (2) and Thiruvananthapuram Engineering College (14) found excellent positions.

The Jeevani scheme, which was introduced with the aim of taking care of the mental health of college students, has been extended to all colleges. Kairali awards for 20 Malayalam research talents were presented. The awards are in four categories (Researcher, Research, Comprehensive Contribution, Global Comprehensive Contribution). Prof. M.S. Valiathan, Prof. K.N. Panikar, Dr. M.R. Raghava Warriar, Prof. Sabu Thomas, Prof. P. Sanal Mohan, and Dr. Scariah Zacharias were among those awarded.

Without curtailing the freedom of Operation for Independent Educational Institutions and to enhance the quality of higher education, the Kerala Self-Financing College Teaching and Non-Teaching Employees (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Bill was passed. Internal quality assurance cell, teacher-parent association, student grievance redressal cell, college council, and complaints committee in accordance with the 2013 Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act were all made legally binding on autonomous institutions of learning. This has become a legal basis, including wages of employees working in self-supporting colleges.

A portal to make the study material for UG/PG in various subjects in 23 state universities available online has been started. Students can find a huge collection of materials prepared by expert teachers online and study material can be selected easily as per choice.

A State Assessment and Accreditation Center (SAAC) modelled on the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for assessing the quality of institutions with regional variations at State-level higher education, including specialisations, metrics, and grading has started

functioning. In addition to the criteria laid down by the NAAC, the SAAC gives accreditation and grading after determining scientific temper, secular outlook, equity and excellence and social inclusiveness.

Steps have been taken for setting up a Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF), modelled on the NIRF, in order to rank higher education institutions in the State on the basis of academic excellence in an objective and transparent manner. This will help improve the institutes' international ranking and quality and give students an opportunity to choose institutes based on that ranking.

To develop the habit of saving along with studies for the students, the Department of College Education and Department of Labour have jointly come up with the scheme 'Earn while Learn'. Initial steps have been taken for implementation in colleges

Taking into consideration the growth in the field of science and technology and learning and research activities, the Kerala University is planning to start courses in Communication Science & Electronics, Artificial Intelligence & Robotics, Data Science, Functional Organic Materials, Oceanography & Blue Economy, Renewable Energy, Integrative Biology, Atmospheric Science and Design. It is intended that each department will conduct graduate and research programmes. One professor, one associate professor, and four assistant professor teaching posts will also be created.

In memory of Dr. Thanu Padmanabhan, a world-class Malayali scientist, an international study centre will be set up at a cost of Rs. 88 crore at the Kerala University. Post Graduate to PhD levels of study in Astronomy and Astrophysics will be provided at the centre.

## Department of Social Justice

A total of 5,357 Endosulfan victims who are getting pension through the Kerala Social Security Mission were given one-time financial assistance at the rate of Rs.

1,000 per person. 'Elder Line', a toll free helpline number (14567), was introduced for seniors to contact in any situation.

Up to 263 differently-abled children were given Rs. 20,000 each under the 'Hastadanam' scheme. The fixed deposit was paid within the first 100 days.

The National Institute for Speech and Hearing (NISH) has developed a unified sign language script (finger spelling). Another language from Malayalam took birth for hearing impaired persons.

The National Disability Empowerment Awards were won by four Malayalis. Besides M.V. Sathi, a native of Kodakkad, Kasaragod, and M.A. Johnson of Peruvannamuzhi, Kozhikode, the award for most creative differently-abled children was received by N. Rinshamol of Muttannur, Malappuram. Among the best differently-abled workers, Rashmi Mohan of Puliyanur, Kottayam won the award in the hearing impaired category. A total of 496 assistive devices were provided to differently abled persons, while 877 differently abled persons were given self-employment loans within the first hundred days.

## Cancer safety plan

Under the Talolam Scheme, 19,364 children up to 18 years with 'congenital heart defects and other serious genetic diseases' were given free treatment for the financial year 2021-22, under which the children got treatment for a total of Rs. 199 lakh. Children can approach 17 selected hospitals for treatment.

A total of Rs. 300 lakh was sanctioned to help 8,412 children up to the age of eight years through the Cancer Safety Plan during the financial year 2021-22.

A monthly financial assistance is provided to anemic patients suffering from haemophilia, sickle cell, and those who have undergone transplant surgery. There were 1,099 beneficiaries for the financial year 2021-22 under Samasvasam scheme and a total of Rs. 143 lakh was sanctioned.

Musical instruments were installed under a project to explore sounds, rhythms, and vibrations for differently abled children at NISH, Thiruvananthapuram. A music and dance theatre was also established to develop the creative potential of the differently abled children at NISH. ❖



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Attingal College got a ₹10.37 crore library and history block.
- Jeevani mental health scheme extended to all Kerala colleges.
- Four Kerala universities in NIRF top 100 in 2022.
- Bill passed to improve self-financing college education quality.
- State-wide portal for UG/PG materials from 23 universities.
- SAAC established to assess higher education quality.
- 'Earn while Learn' scheme encourages student saving.
- Kerala University launched AI and Data Science courses.
- Astronomy and Astrophysics center planned in memory of Dr. Thanu Padmanabhan.
- 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' award for Kerala's elderly care

## Kerala Honoured for Best Implementation of Elderly Care Act

The state of Kerala has been honoured by the Indian government with the 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' award for the best implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. The award recognizes Kerala's commitment to elderly care and its efforts to provide the best possible services to senior citizens.

Kerala has been selected as the best national model in elderly care, reflecting the state's emphasis on promoting the health and wellbeing of its elderly population. The state government has implemented a range of initiatives to support senior citizens, including healthcare facilities, financial assistance, and social security measures.

The 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' award is a testament to Kerala's dedication to ensuring that its elderly citizens are well taken care of and have access to the resources and support they need. The state's approach to elderly care serves as an example for other states and countries to follow.



IN KERALA, THE LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR ARE WELL-ESTABLISHED AND IS ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING SECTORS WITHIN THE RURAL ECONOMY. THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR IS LIVELIHOOD INTENSIVE AND IS ALSO A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC STATE PRODUCT (GDSP) - ALMOST AS HIGH AS 29 PER CENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL GDSP RECORDED IN KERALA.

# Empowering Rural Economy

## J. CHINCHURANI

Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

In the past couple of years, the Pinarayi Vijayan government has taken and implemented several policy measures to improve the sector and provide benefits to livestock farmers and animal husbandry sector. The Animal husbandry Department's activities are integrated and coordinated with the digital technology and brought under a single software platform and launched as 'E-Samrudha'

### **Kerala Chicken Project**

Despite the several challenges faced by Kerala's poultry sector, the growth rate of the poultry population is higher than the growth rate recorded at the national level (16.81 per cent). This is indicating a strong and dedicated poultry farming community and their commitment. The Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC), Kudumbashree Mission, Meat Projects of India (MPI) and Brahmagiri Development Society (BDS) have all enabled the poultry sector in the state as the

stakeholders and implemented the Kerala Chicken Project at an expenditure of Rs.56.2866 crore. The Kerala Animal Husbandry Department is the Nodal agency to implement this project.

Under the KEPCO Ashraya Scheme, five village panchayats, 66,500 chickens and 19,950 kg of fodder were distributed to 6,650 beneficiaries. In seven block panchayats, under the *Koodum Kozhiyum* project, 230 modern chicken coops that can accommodate 100 chickens were distributed to 230 poultry farmers. A total of 23,000 chickens of BV380 breed that in the egg laying stage were distributed to farmers.

Milma has also launched a project named H2F (Help to Farmers) to strengthen the dairy farmers and the government has urged the farmers to ensure their livestock is protected by total insurance cover as the government's aim is to support the farmers to increase in the volume of milk per cow and thus the efficiency of the State's dairy sector. To empower the sector, the government launched the compensation to APCOS (Anand Pattern Cooperative Societies), if any damage happens to their buildings due to natural disasters. Another initiative started by this government is a scheme that enables farmers with a minimal refund, if they lose their cow or calf unexpectedly.

Scientific management of dairy livestock will be promoted and as part of this, the government is planning to implement a decision on the timing of milking the cows to increase their efficacy allowing a 12 hour time gap and facilitating the dairy farmers to be more efficient in their management of dairy livestock. To rear the calves scientifically, after assessing the fodder requirement, fodder for subsidy and insurance were provided to the dairy farmers. In 2022-23, the Dairy Development Department distributed Rs 24 crore milk incentives to dairy farmers who have poured milk into dairy co-operatives. Further, more than Rs 80 crore was distributed through LSGI as milk incentives, by Department officials who are implementing the officers.

Through the Dairy Department and other stakeholders it has taken many vital steps in the areas of breeding, feeding, scientific cattle rearing, pollution control activities, and more. Training of farmers to meet modern day challenges in dairying is a pivotal activity taken up by the government.

### Safe and quality feed

Providing the livestock with safe and quality feed has been the focus of this Ministry to improve the welfare of beneficiaries. The government is taking steps to enact Kerala Livestock and Poultry Feed and



## Mobile Veterinary Units

As part of expanding the door-step services to livestock farmers, in association with the Central government, 29 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) and a centralised call center with a toll-free number '1962' were launched. The services will be provided for a nominal fee in 29 block panchayats, initially from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., which would be extended as a 24-hour service later. This service can be availed both by livestock farmers and the public by dialing 1962. The call center will have a veterinary doctor and call center executives. If the caller requires the services of the mobile unit, the call center will alert the MVU that is equipped with a veterinary doctor, a para-vet and a driver/attendant.

The initially released 29 vehicles constitute the first batch of 156 MVUs planned in 152 block panchayats, selected corporations and one municipality. Each vehicle is equipped with surgical sets for large and small animals, autoclave, biomedical waste collection bins, LED flood lights, power generator, cryocan and artificial insemination equipment, and other facilities required to manage the health issues of livestock.

With the support of Rebuild Kerala Initiative Scheme, two Mobile Tele Veterinary Units were launched in Kannur and Ernakulam districts and under the RKVY project 3 mobile veterinary units are in operation in Wayanad, Palakkad, and Pathanamthitta districts.



## Ksheera Gramam

Ksheeragramam scheme was implemented in 30 panchayats by the Dairy Development Department during the last two years to achieve self-sufficiency in milk production. The Kerala government plans to implement the Ksheeragramam project in 40 more selected panchayats. During 2023–24, it is proposed that Rs. 50 lakh will be provided for each chosen Panchayat, with the amount being contributed equally by the civic body and the state government. This would be part of the government's initiative to implement the Ksheeragramam (Dairy Village) project under the State Plan Scheme: Commercial Dairy Milk and Milk Shed Development Programme at an expense of Rs. 12.50 Crore.

Together with this, the government is committed to fostering dairy farm entrepreneurship as well as farm automation and mechanization through the Dairy Department. Milch animal induction and popularization of Heifer parks is a policy level initiation of the Government.



Mineral Mixture (Regulation of Manufacture and Sale) Act, 2022 after conducting studies among the farmers to protect the interests of dairy and poultry farmers in the State. The government is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of mineral mixture and feed, and to regulating the manufacturing, storage, distribution, and sale of feed.

At present, the monthly feed requirements of the farmers in the State is dependent on feeds produced in other states, as the production by Milma and Kerala Feeds is able to cater to only 50 per cent of the demands of the farming community. By taking into consideration of the above said, many projects are on the anvil to promote fodder cultivation. As a pilot project, Kerala Feeds is cultivating maize on five acres of land at Muthalamada in Palakkad district, which will be expanded to other parts of the state soon based on its success in producing maize in the state. Massive and commercial fodder cultivation in barren lands and unutilized areas of the state is a thrust area identified by the government for enhancing fodder production in the state. Mechanization and modernization of fodder activities has been of prime importance. Under the fodder cultivation project, 2,287 hectares of land with Rs.554 lakh were spent on fodder cultivation during the year 2021-22 and in 2022-23, 2180 hectares of land with Rs.550.17 lakh were spent on fodder cultivation by the Department of Dairy Development.

Dairy Development Department being the nodal agency of fodder development activities in the state, the State Planning Board Government of Kerala has entrusted the Dairy Development Department to prepare the State Fodder Plan for the year 2023-24.

### Goat Satellite Unit Scheme

Under this scheme, Rs.25,000 was provided to each beneficiary as financial assistance and 5 ewes and 1 ram were provided. In 2021-22, 789 units were distributed.

# MILMA ON WHEELS

Kerala is striving to achieve self-sufficiency in milk production, and the apex milk cooperative in the State, Milma, will be upgraded in such a way that it is able to meet the dairy requirements of every household. 'Milma On Wheels,' is a project being launched by the milk cooperative in association with the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation. The sales average per day of Milma's milk in May 2021 was 12,78,024 liters and increased to 15,92,331 by October 2022. The government plans to extend the Milma on Wheels programme to all districts in the State.

As part of the government's efforts to increase milk production, the government had addressed every issue raised or faced by dairy farmers in a timely manner. The recent hike in milk prices has resulted in farmers getting an additional ₹5 a liter of milk. Besides, farmers were provided with fodder subsidy and financial support for raising calves and efforts help draw more people into the dairy sector.

In its efforts to improve the product range of consumable products, Milma also released new products such as sugar-free Peda, Chocolate Peda, Jack Fruit Peda, and Guava Ice-cream.

## Kisan Credit Card

This government has always remained to empower the farmers and 55041 farmers were included among the Kisan Credit Card facility beneficiaries and Rs.342.83 crores were distributed as loans through this scheme.

## 'Rabies-free Thiruvananthapuram' project

Ensuring the health of livestock is also an essential requirement in improving the animal husbandry sector. The government in its efforts has launched a 'Rabies-free Thiruvananthapuram' project, with an objective to control the stray dog population and to eradicate rabies. The project is launched with an aim to increase the number of vaccinations, sterilisations to control the dog population, and involves carrying out a stray dog census. Launched as a pilot project in the state capital, the project would be extended to all local bodies to follow. The Rs.1.64 crore worth project, is being implemented in the state capital jointly by the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, the Animal Husbandry department, and Compassion for Animal Welfare, and Indian Immunological Limited. ❖



## IN A NUTSHELL

- E-Samrudha bolsters rural economy via livestock policy measures.
- Kerala Chicken Project boosts poultry farming with KSPDC, Kudumbashree Mission, MPI, and BDS.
- KsheeraGramam aims for milk self-sufficiency and dairy entrepreneurship.
- Milma On Wheels delivers dairy to Kerala households.
- 2022 Kerala Feed Act ensures safe, quality livestock feed.
- Fodder production increased via pilot projects and commercial cultivation.
- Goat Satellite Unit Scheme offers financial aid and livestock.
- Kisan Credit Card empowers farmers with loans.
- Mobile Veterinary Units give doorstep livestock services and call center support.
- 'Rabies-free Thiruvananthapuram' controls stray dogs and eliminates rabies.





KERALA'S LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IS MAKING REMARKABLE STRIDES BY HARMONISING VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORM LIVES ACROSS THE STATE. THIS PIONEERING APPROACH HAS LED TO A PLETHORA OF GROUNDBREAKING INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS, DESIGNED TO EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ELEVATE LIVING STANDARDS.

# Kerala's Visionary Leap:

## Empowering Communities and Uplifting Lives

**M.B. RAJESH**

Minister for Local Self Governments,  
Rural Development and Excise





Inspiring Initiatives Transform the State's Landscape, Environment, and Economy

## A Home for Every Heart

The Life Housing Project has brought security and stability to thousands of families in Kerala. With the completion of 3,33,091 houses and four multi-storey buildings, landless and homeless people now find solace on 23.62 acres of land in *Manasodithiri Mannu* campaign.

## Empowering Rural Lives

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme offers a lifeline to rural families, generating 9.44 crore workdays till 2022-2023 March 28 and benefiting 15.46 lakh households. A welfare board ensures job security and timely compensation, significantly improving lives of rural communities. An amount of 29 Rs disbursed as wages.

## Revitalizing Rural Spaces

Kerala's rural landscape is witnessing a remarkable transformation. With 8,364 houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), 90.83 kilometers of roads and one bridge completed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, and 251 ponds and 126 check dams constructed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, rural development is thriving.

# Kerala's Green Dream

With an ambitious goal of making Kerala pollution-free by 2026, the "Suchithwa Mission" and "Haritha Kerala Mission" are propelling the state towards a cleaner, greener future. With 45 acres of land cleared, district-level enforcement squads established, and the launch of the Rs. 2,300 crore Kerala Solid Waste Management Project, Kerala's green dream is closer to becoming a reality.

## Urban Renaissance

The National Urban Mission has completed 425 activities in 12 clusters and established seven information centers, revitalizing urban spaces and enhancing city dwellers' quality of life.

## Fortifying Local Governance

The government is bolstering local administration by creating 354 additional posts in city councils, appointing 99 young professionals for sanitation and waste management, and allocating Health Inspector Grade 2 positions in 505 gram panchayats.





## Banishing Poverty

Micro plans have been prepared for 64,006 individuals identified as living in extreme poverty, with title deed issuance underway, ensuring a brighter future for those most in need.

## Women Rising

Kudumbashree has welcomed 175,000 new members, with 19,544 auxiliary groups formed and 303 broiler farms and 103 Kerala Chicken outlets established, fostering economic independence for women across the state.

**Digital Transformation:** The Integrated Local Government Management System (ILGMS) has been implemented in all gram panchayats, providing citizens with seamless access to services online.

**Innovating for Excellence:** The Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) has inaugurated the International Leadership Study Center, developed a Local Indicator Framework, and created the Disaster and Climate Action Tracking Tool ensuring Kerala remains a trailblazer in innovation.

## Igniting Entrepreneurship

Labour Sabhas have been organised to create a conducive entrepreneurial environment, aiming to launch one lakh enterprises a year and propel Kerala's national ranking.

These inspiring efforts by the Kerala government are a testament to the state's commitment to sustainable development and a better future for all its citizens. ✨



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala strengthens Local Self-Government via resource transfers, powers, and GramaSabha programs.
- Unified Local Self-Government Excise Department streamlines administration.
- LIFE project completes 3, 39, 822 homes for landless and homeless.
- 9.44 crore employment days generated under MGNREGS, helping 15.46 lakh families.
- PMAY, GSY, and KSY enhance rural areas with housing, roads, and water projects.
- Kerala targets garbage-free status by 2026 via Harita Kerala Mission.
- Government aids 64,006 individuals to combat extreme poverty.
- Women's empowerment includes Kudumbashree members, micro-businesses, and wage increases.
- Digital initiatives encompass citizen portals, online services, and ILGMS.



## Basking in the limelight once again

Kerala has once again drawn the nation's attention by winning four awards at the National Panchayat Awards 2023. The evaluations were based on nine key indices related to the Central Government's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the state's commitment to progress.

Alappuzha's Cheruthana Grama Panchayat was selected as the best child-friendly panchayat in India. Veeyapuram Grama Panchayat, also in Alappuzha, ranked first in the country for self-sufficient infrastructure. Malappuram Perumbadappa Gram Panchayat secured second place for its work in water sufficiency, while Thrissur Alagappa Nagar Panchayat earned third place in the good governance category. The awards will be presented at a ceremony on April 17 at Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan.

These four Kerala panchayats achieved success against thousands of competitors, inspiring local self-government bodies in the state to strive for even greater accomplishments.

## Excise

- Launched a widespread campaign to combat drug abuse, with over 10 million participants in an anti-drug network, achieving significant milestones.
- Acquired 33 Mahindra Bolero vehicles to upgrade the force.
- Procured 60 9mm automatic pistols.
- Implemented video conferencing systems in all offices, starting from the circle office level.
- Established eight major CCTV-equipped checkpoints.
- Acquired 450 drug detection kits for improved drug identification.
- Conducted anti-drug awareness initiatives at various locations, including educational institutions.



## LIFE Mission Transforms Dreams into Reality: 174 Families Embrace New Homes Across Kerala

The dreams of 174 families materialized as four LIFE Mission housing complexes opened across Kerala. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the developments in Kannur Kadampur, Kottayam Vijayapuram, Idukki Karimannur, and Kollam Punalur. Each complex consists of 42-44 units on four floors, with individual homes ranging from 511.53 to 517 square feet.

Currently, 29 housing complexes are under construction statewide through LIFE Mission. So far, 3,39,822 beneficiaries have received homes, with a goal of completing 1,06,000 houses this financial year. Since April 2022, 54,430 houses have been completed, and 60,160 are in progress.





THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DOING EXEMPLARY WORK UNDER THE PINARAYI VIJAYAN GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN COMPLETING MAJOR PROJECTS IN A TIME-BOUND MANNER AND THE ROADS IN THE STATE ARE BEING MAINTAINED TO GLOBAL STANDARDS.

# Garnering Global Recognition

**P. A. MOHAMED RIYAS**

Minister for Public Works and Tourism

Kerala is set to witness a major transformation in its transportation infrastructure with the implementation of the National Highway Development Plan. With 11 national highways covering a total length of 1781.5 km in the state, the development plan is expected to boost the overall growth and development of Kerala.

The most significant national highway in Kerala is NH 66, which passes through nine districts, including Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram. The Pinarayi Vijayan government, which came to power in 2016, made the development of national highways a priority and pressed for the same with the Prime Minister and the Union Surface Transport Minister.

The Centre responded positively, stating that the development of national highways could be possible if the state bears a certain percentage of the cost of land acquisition. Kerala, unlike any other state in the country, decided to bear 25 per cent of the land acquisition cost and signed the contract through KIIFB.

The work on 21 stretches of National Highway 66, stretching from Thalappadi to Kanyakumari, has already begun, and the roads are being transformed into 45-meter widths. This development has accelerated all of the state's growth plans, and the National Highways Authority has also given permission for the construction of the Aroor-Thuravoor elevated highway.

The Hill Highway project is also a significant undertaking, with a total length of 1251 km from Kasargod Nandarapadav to Thiruvananthapuram Parassala. A significant portion of the highway is already complete, with financial approval available for 609.61 km and technical approval for 454.78 km. The project includes retaining walls, interlocking tiled walkways, culverts, and utility cross decks, among other features.



The Coastal Highway project is set to become a reality along the coast of Kerala, covering a distance of 623 km with a width of 14 meters. The project, which is being constructed with international standards and includes a cycle path, is estimated to cost Rs. 6500 crores through KIIFB. Land acquisition is in progress in several districts, and financial approval has been received for the construction of coastal highways in various places.

The Chief Minister and the Minister of Public Works are personally reviewing the progress of the national highway development work at regular intervals. The state government is working closely with the National Highway Authority to ensure the timely completion of the project by 2025.

The National Highway Development Plan is a game-changer for Kerala, and the state government's efforts to prioritise the project and bear 25 per cent of the land acquisition cost are commendable. The successful acquisition of land and the commencement of work on 21 stretches of National Highway 66 is a testament to the state government's commitment to the project's timely completion. This development will pave the way for faster and more efficient transportation in Kerala, leading to overall economic growth and development.

The Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road project, which stretches from Vizhinjam to Parippally, is a proud achievement of the state government. The project aims to promote the commercial development of the capital city and has received central approval. Additionally, seven roads totalling 895 km included in the Bharat Mala Project are set to undergo renovation, with a project document for 11 port connectivity roads in the pipeline. The government has also given the green light to develop 12 more roads to national highway standards.

Another critical project that the government has been

working on is the Kuthiran Tunnel. The Chief Minister called a meeting in June 2021 to complete the work on the tunnel, which had remained unfinished for a long time. Under the leadership of the Public Works Minister, regular review meetings were held, and the tunnel was opened on time.

The construction of railway flyovers is another critical project being undertaken by the government. The target is to construct 72 railway flyovers, and for the first time in the state's history, ten railway flyovers are being constructed simultaneously. A total of 67 railway flyovers are being constructed using KIIFB funds, with piling work completed at several locations.

The Department is undertaking a massive renovation project to bring all roads under its purview up to the latest standards of BM and BC work. The government plans to upgrade 50% of the roads within its term, and already, about 3,000 Kilometers have been upgraded in just two years.

Kerala Tourism has successfully bounced back from the effects of COVID-19 and introduced several new products to attract tourists. One such project is caravan tourism, which has received an overwhelming response. This project provides safe travel, exploration of uncharted territories, and low capital investment for infrastructure. It has also generated local employment opportunities.

The Destination Challenge project aims to attract



Kerala's transportation infrastructure is set to undergo a major overhaul with a series of ambitious projects that promise to revolutionise the way people travel across the state. Under the leadership of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led government, several critical infrastructure projects have been initiated, with a focus on the development of roads, highways, and railway flyovers.



tourists from one destination to another within a local body level, covering centres of historical and cultural importance. The project has been implemented in collaboration with the local department, with 58 tourism destinations selected, of which nine have been approved so far.

The Responsible Tourism Mission has expanded to cover more regions, with a plan to make the Beypore constituency a model responsibility center. The mission currently has 24,000 local units, with 16,660 belonging to women. The transformation of the mission into a society will provide more independence and scope to operate in different fields.

Kerala aims to become a hub for women-friendly travel with the launch of the women-friendly tourism scheme. The scheme aims to provide a community of women travellers and has already registered 2,800 women. The project also trains women in the homestay sector and conducts trips under the leadership of women's groups.

Agricultural culture has also been incorporated into tourism through the Agricultural Tourism Network, which connects agricultural activities with tourism. This

is the first such project in India, with 494 units already started and 1583 training completed.

The Responsible Tourism Mission's street project aims to provide a diverse tourism experience and is being implemented in 10 places in the first phase. The Water Street project, part of the street project, received international recognition at the Travel Market in London.

Kerala has endless potential in adventure tourism, and the Department of Tourism is planning to make the most of it. The Malabar River Festival 2022, an international kayaking competition, was a successful event with the participation of more than 100 international kayakers and over 200 national kayakers. An adventure tourism park has been launched at Akkulam Tourist Village in Thiruvananthapuram. Hot air ballooning has also been introduced at Kollam Ashram grounds, with plans to expand it to other districts.

The World-class water adventure tourism project has been initiated in Kozhikode, providing training to people of all ages under the guidance of international surfing experts. The Adventure Academy in Kattakkada Sastampara, Thiruvananthapuram district, is in its final stages of completion.

## FUTURE BY DESIGN

Kerala has taken a pioneering step by formulating a design policy, aimed at bringing about innovative changes in construction activities in the Public Works and Tourism Departments. A three-day workshop was organised, and a draft design policy was submitted to the government. The design policy serves as a guideline for planners, architects, and decision-makers in the public works and tourism sectors, with the goal of achieving a development vision called 'Future by Design.'



Apart from these projects, the Department of Tourism has organised many festivals and celebrations to attract more tourists. The Beypore Water Festival has been organised twice, which has become fair attracting lakhs of people. The department has also launched in-car dining, which is the method of serving food in vehicles parked in front of hotels.

As part of water adventure tourism, it has been decided to start floating bridges on each of the beaches in the districts. In the first phase, the floating bridge was started in Beypur. Tourism Clubs have started focusing on colleges in Kerala, with the aim of making the future generation a part of tourism.

The Kerala Travel Mart, attended by 300 tourism-related organisations from 69 countries, and the Enur Gotra Heritage Village, which showcases the heritage, culture, and traditional knowledge of Kerala's tribal people, have also played a significant role in reviving the state's tourism sector.

To promote tourism further, the government has introduced several innovative projects, such as the Literary Circuit and

## A JOURNEY OF WONDER

**Kerala Tourism has been receiving a plethora of recognition and awards in recent times, cementing its position as a top tourist destination in India. Here are some of the notable recognitions received by Kerala Tourism:**

**Kerala was recognised as the 'Most Welcoming Region' in India in the Traveler Review Awards 2022 by digital travel agency Booking.com, for the fourth time.**

**Kerala was named the 'Happiest State' in India in the States Survey 2021 conducted by India Today News Magazine.**

**The Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission was selected for the Travel & Leisure World Vision Award 2022.**

**Time magazine featured Kerala among the 50 must-see places in the world. Kerala's pavilion was the center of attention at the World Tourism Market in London, with its street tourism project receiving international recognition.**

**Kerala was chosen as the best wedding destination in India by Travel & Leisure magazine.**

**Aymanam Model Responsible Village won the Global Travel Market Award.**

**Kottayam's 'Aymanam' responsible tourist village was selected among the top 30 must-see tourist destinations in the world by Konde Nest Traveler magazine.**

**These recognitions serve as a testament to the beauty, diversity, and hospitality of Kerala, making it a must-visit destination for tourists from around the world.**



## IN A NUTSHELL

- The government prioritises highway development, implementing Kerala's National Highway Plan.
- The state funds 25% of land acquisition costs, with 21 National Highway 66 stretches under construction.
- Major infrastructure projects include Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road, Kuthiran Tunnel, Hill Highway, and Coastal Highway.
- Railway flyovers and road renovations improve transportation infrastructure.
- Kerala's 'Future by Design' policy encourages construction innovation.
- Kerala Tourism's new projects attract tourists: caravan tourism, Destination Challenge, Responsible Tourism Mission, and women-friendly tourism.
- Agricultural and adventure tourism, along with festivals, expand tourism potential.
- Innovative projects include Literary Circuit, Biodiversity Circuit, Foodie Wheels, Maya Chat Bot, and Farm to Malabar 500.
- Tourism sees a massive visitor surge, with domestic and international tourist numbers rising.
- Kerala Tourism garners awards and recognition as a top Indian tourist destination

Biodiversity Circuit, which aim to develop tourism potential while spreading knowledge. Other projects include the Foodie Wheels initiative, which involves converting unused buses into restaurants, and the Maya Chat Bot, which provides comprehensive information related to Kerala tourism via WhatsApp. Additionally, the 'Farm to Malabar 500' project aims to introduce the tourism potential of Malabar to the outside world by inviting tour operators from across India to explore the region.

As a result of these initiatives, the tourism sector has witnessed a massive surge in visitors, with over 2 crore domestic tourists visiting Kerala in 2022, a significant increase compared to pre-COVID 2019 figures. Moreover, foreign tourist numbers have raised three and a half times compared to 2021, indicating a promising future for Kerala's tourism sector. 🌟



KERALA HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEPENDING ON ITS NEIGHBOURS FOR ITS AGRO-PRODUCTS AND FRUITS. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN CONSCIOUS EFFORTS TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION AND STARTED NEW POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE THE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ACROSS THE STATE. VARIOUS PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL AND EVEN FROM THE SCHOOL LEVEL.

# Striving for self-reliance in agriculture

**P. PRASAD**

Minister for Agriculture





'We too adopt farming' is a slogan in the heart of Keralites today to produce and consume poison free vegetables and fruits. To make farming and agricultural practices as a way of life, we have reached out to the grassroot levels and to schools to ignite a passion for farming.

The Chief Minister has called for concerted efforts from all sections of society to achieve the target of self-reliance in agriculture for Kerala. The government has taken all initiatives to empower and strengthen the departments of agriculture, and local self-government to bring about major changes in the farm sector in the State.

### **Krishi Darshan to reach out**

In furthering the efforts to strengthen the relationship between the farming community and the government in order to resolve the issues and problems faced by the farmers, in 2022, a programme, Krishi Darshan was launched during the Farmers' Day celebrations. The main objective of this was to grasp the problems faced by the farmers and ensure prompt redressal.

### **Schools to lead**

Vegetable cultivation in schools was given much focus in the last two years. This was to boost the interest of students in agriculture and allied

activities. In the State, 2,041 schools were selected to implement vegetable cultivation and Rs.4000 each were given to these schools to prepare vegetable garden.

On a project basis, private institutions were also encouraged to start farming activities. Various voluntary organisations, housewives, media personnels were given free seed packages and in this scheme, 96.4148 lakh vegetable seed packets and 306.36 lakh worth of vegetable saplings were distributed at total expenditure of Rs.1394.3475 lakh.

To encourage more public participation in farming and agricultural activities, financial assistance for vegetable cultivation was provided. According to the plan, 158 Public/Non-Public/Private Institutions in the state were selected on a project basis at accost of Rs.190.17435 lakh. Farmers who are focused on mass production of crops and vegetables were supported in 969 selected clusters with a financial support of Rs.1200.184 lakh. For purchasing pump sets and related accessories, costing Rs.10000 per set, the target was 1000 numbers, but could reach 1133 beneficiaries. The cost a total of Rs. 99.95018 lakh.

For the cultivation and promotion of long-term yielding vegetable crops such as Sweet potato, Moringa, Agathi and Bay

**For the cultivation and promotion of long-term yielding vegetable crops such as Sweet potato, Moringa, Agathi and Bay leaves, 45,238 saplings were distributed at a cost of Rs.22.617 lakh.**



leaves, 45,238 saplings were distributed at a cost of Rs.22.617 lakh.

In Idukki district, 333.33 hectares of land were utilised for winter season vegetable farming at a cost of Rs.3000 per hectare with a total expenditure of Rs.100 lakh.

In 2022-23, special focus was given to Cluster development at district level and an amount of Rs.2506.05 lakh was allocated for the various activities. From this, an amount of Rs.2479.75 lakh was spent. Terrace farming and growbag farming were encouraged and a special scheme was introduced with subsidy. At a cost of Rs. 2000, 25 grow bags with vegetable saplings were provided with 75% subsidy and at a cost of Rs.500/- was sold to families and aspiring farmers. In 2021-22, 56,333 growbag units were distributed and Rs.844.995 lakh were spent for the scheme.

### Smart Krishibhavan

Smart Krishibhavan schemes introduced to enhance the services of the Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare and to ensure farmers' accessibility of the services at fingertips in a transparent way. This is aimed at integrating all services for the farmers through a single window system, and to offer best in the areas of delivery of services, basic facilities, and information system. 14 Krishibhavans have been upgraded in 2022-23 with an expenditure of Rs.31.50 crores. For the next year another 28 and later 14 more Krishi Bhavans will be upgraded as Smart Krishibhavan.

### Farm Plan Concept

The Farm Plan Concept has been implemented with the objective of improving the income and revenue of farming community and increase the agricultural produce of the state. To accomplish this, a developmental approach based on planning the resources availability of each farm or areas suitable for farming. The main focus and aim of this project are to improve productivity through integrate multi-crop farming practices deviating from the existing mono-crop system adapted currently. This approach enables the farmers to practice scientific farming and residential unit-based farming. The local self-governance units will lead the farmers with the support of scientists from the Agricultural universities in the State. Each farm unit coming under an LSG will be empowered through the local Krishi bhavan in each region. This scheme covers allied sectors of farming such as animal husbandry, dairy development, and aquaculture.

### Paddy Cultivation

The staple diet of Kerala, rice is not ignored in our developmental projects. In 2022-2023, to implement paddy cultivation and development project in 1415 hectares of barren land Rs.566 lakh has been allocated. The project is underway. Under the conventional land cultivation of paddy program, for an area of 875 hectares of paddy fields, Rs 119 lakh has been allocated. To implement special paddy seedin cultivation 650 hectares of land, Rs. 65 lakh is allocated.

The royalty amount per hectare paid as Rs 2000/- was increased to Rs.3000/-.

## VAIGA scheme

Value-addition of our agri-produces have been given high priority and the VAIGA scheme- Value Addition for Income Generation in Agriculture has been introduced the various possibilities of value addition to the farmers through conducting exhibitions, training programmes and seminars periodically to empower the farming community in Kerala. These events were held in different parts of the state to reach even the grass root level. Rs. 100 lakhs have been spent on these activities of expanding the value of agri-produces and market it.

The Value-added agricultural produce Mission was formed by considering all the experiences, achievements, policies, marketing strategies and the technologies with the intention of improving the crop produce marketing through value addition. A centralized policy has been evolved to encourage standardisation, quality control, branding and collecting the produce from the producers.

More innovative programmes to improve the agriculture sector is on the anvil. Our government is committed to empowering the farming community and agriculture sector as we believe in Subhiksha Keralam. 🌱



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Achieved self-reliance in agriculture through policy and program implementation.
- Launched Krishi Darshan to address farmer concerns and improve relationships.
- Encouraged vegetable cultivation in schools to inspire the next generation.
- Provided financial assistance for vegetable cultivation to public and private institutions.
- Promoted long-term yielding vegetable crops through sapling distribution.
- Developed cluster farming at the district level for increased productivity.
- Introduced Smart Krishibhavan scheme to enhance service accessibility for farmers.
- Implemented Farm Plan Concept to improve farming income and productivity.
- Established SubhikshaKeralam Project to transform barren land into cultivable land.
- Prioritized value-added agricultural produce through VAIGA scheme and agricultural mission.

## Subhiksha Keralam

Subhiksha Keralam Project established and an integrated vegetable development project was evolved. Under these, 497 rains harvesting units were established, 600.63 hectares of barren land was made cultivable, 11 pump sets were fitted, 27 plant protection tools and equipment were distributed at an expenditure of Rs. 489.107 lakh. Barren land cultivation was implemented in around 3600 acres under this project and an amount of Rs.725 lakh was allocated through VFPC to encourage farming.

In 2021-22, Rs.6920 lakh was allocated for agricultural development and distributed Rs.6815.70841 lakh to 70 lakh beneficiaries.621 clusters that cultivate vegetables on a commercial basis in more than 5 hectares of land per cluster were strengthened through various subsidiaries and schemes.

For the year 2022-23, in 946.3 hectare of barren land, Rs 279.5 lakh was spent. Until February 2023 under Subhikshakeralam, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Janakeeyasoothranam project, 9086.1-hectare barren land was made cultivable.



THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES DEVELOPMENT, UNDER PINARAYI VIJAYAN GOVERNMENT, WORKS WITH THE AIM OF SOCIAL PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO AIMS AT THE UPLIFTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND BACKWARD CLASSES PEOPLE IN THE AREAS OF LAND AND HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH.

# Uplifting Communities

## K. RADHAKRISHNAN

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

## Post Matric and Pre-Matric Scholarship

The department has issued a new order by allocating scholarships to Scheduled Category students for new generation courses and professional courses such as CA, CS, ICWA. Students studying in IIMs, IITs and Deemed Universities will also get the scholarship from now on. Apart from this, The department has introduced Free Ship Cards to provide admission to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students without paying any fee. Scheduled Caste-Pre-matric scholarship is available to all Scheduled Tribe students. Apart from this, Ayyankaali Talent Scholarship is also given to those who are at the forefront of studies. Providing better education is the only way to bring the people who have historically been backward in the socio-economic and educational spheres into the mainstream. Therefore, by providing more educational opportunities, more people can achieve academic-life success.

## Global Education Access

The department has implemented a project with the aim of providing new educational systems and opportunities to SC, ST and OBC students from every

## HOME (Household Oriented Micro planning for Empowerment)

A project called 'HOME' was started to understand the condition of each family of the vulnerable sections through micro-level data collection and plan a family-based plan to change their backwardness and provide them with the help and support they need. Through this project with the cooperation of people's representatives, it is possible to ensure housing, land, better employment opportunities, agricultural land and better education for children and to free the vulnerable people from extreme poverty and complete backwardness.

corner of the world. For PG studies, a grant of up to Rs.25 lakh will be given to scheduled category students and up to Rs.10 lakh to backward category students. A total of 390 students have flown abroad till 31 December 2022, including 303 Scheduled Caste students, 32 Scheduled Tribe students and 55 Backward Class students. The government aims to provide this scholarship to more people in the coming years.

### Model Residential Schools

Eleven Model Residential Schools, including a sports school, are functioning in the Scheduled Caste Development Department. Children are provided with all facilities, including clothing, food, arts and sports training. Kasaragod Vellachal ARS has been awarded Pancha Nakshatra status by the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India for its excellent cooking facilities and food.

### Trace For Career

The department has introduced a new initiative called TRACE (Training for Career Excellence) to provide job training, skill development, and work experience to those who have passed professional courses. The initiative aims to appoint candidates under various departments for a period of two years with an honorarium.

500 ITI/Diploma/B.Tech qualified Scheduled Category candidates have been appointed as accredited engineers in local self-governments, including 300 Scheduled Castes and 200 Scheduled Tribes members. Additionally, 500 Scheduled Tribes individuals were appointed as Beat Forest Officers, with a proposal for 200 more as Excise Guards being considered. The department offers advanced vocational training, aiming to secure employment for trainees and provide job opportunities for 1,000 SC youths annually.

### Distribution of Land

The government has purchased land for 4,020 landless Scheduled Caste families at a cost of Rs.158.60 crore in 2021-22. The department plans to buy land for 5,000 more people this year, and Rs.180 crores have been allocated for this purpose. In 2022-23, Rs.71.71 crore have been spent, and 1,840 Scheduled Caste families have been provided land.

A total of 1,647 people have been distributed 1752.25 acres of land, including 1,369 people under the Forest Rights Act, 198 people under the Land Bank scheme, and 80 people through reserved forest land

distribution. The project aims to make Kerala a state where everyone has land ownership.

### Right to Mortgage Land

Scheduled Caste people have been granted the right to mortgage the land available under the landless rehabilitation scheme for various purposes, including house construction, treatment of family members, education of children, and marriage of girls.

### Ambedkar Rural Development Scheme

A sum of Rs.49,75,93,342 have been spent for the year 2021-22 under the Ambedkar Village Development Scheme for comprehensive development of Scheduled Caste sanctuaries. Two hundred and two new centres were included in the scheme and construction work has been started.

### Road-Electricity-Internet Connectivity

19 Scheduled Tribe colonies gained electricity access, and 1,083 obtained internet connectivity. A survey

## Wings project

The scholarship given to one Scheduled Caste student joining Commercial Pilot License Course at Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy under the Wings project has been amended and now 3 SC, 2 ST and 1 OEC students can benefit from this scholarship. Since this government came, to power far six people have been given scholarship so far.





across all ST colonies aims to provide full connectivity within a year. Idamalakudi received Rs. 13.70 crore for road construction and Rs. 4.31 crore for internet connectivity. Additionally, Rs. 4.20 crores were allocated to Anert for solar power in Scheduled Caste homes and green income generation. The Chief Minister inaugurated the Green Income Scheme, and the Urukoottu Samiti has earned Rs. 6 lakh from three solar power plants at Agali-Chalayur.

### **Digitally connected Wayanad**

This year, the State government has allocated Rs 2.08 crore for the digitally connected Wayanad project, which will focus on social studies classrooms with emphasis on education, health and employment of the people in the

Scheduled Tribes areas. Within two years, this project will be extended to the entire state of Kerala.

### **Study room**

Since this government came to power, 9,122 classrooms have been completed for ST students from 8th to 12th class. 322 social studies rooms have also been completed for Scheduled Tribes. The department has decided to grant study room benefit to students from Class 5 on-wards and Scheduled Caste students in KendriyaVidyalayas.

### **Jwala (Justice Welfare and Legal Assistance)**


The Jwala (Justice Welfare and Legal Assistance) project is implemented by the Scheduled Caste Development Department to effectively implement the provisions of the Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes Act and Civil Rights Protection Act. The backbone of Jwala is the system consisting of Legal Counselors in each district and 3 Legal Coordinators and one Legal Advisor at the state level comprising of Scheduled Caste women and youth with law degrees.

### **Health**

Extensive schemes are being implemented for the health care of all Scheduled Tribes. All medical expenses and travel to and from the hospital are free. A sum of Rs.95,29,000 that was due for 835 Scheduled Tribe people and Rs.16,80,000 due for 27 Scheduled Tribe people were paid. After this government came to power Rs.57,07,76,687 due for 25,655 scheduled castes and Rs.35,05,24,400 due for 86,567 scheduled tribe people have been sanctioned for medical assistance

### **Janani Janmraksha Scheme**

Previous dues for Janani Janmraksha Yojana have been cleared and Rs. 26.50 crore have been spent for the year 2021-22 for the project. A special project was launched with the help of UNICEF to check the nutritional status of pregnant women and adolescents.



## ABCD

### Digitising Documents

ABCD (Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitisation) is a project implemented by this government after coming to power. The main objectives of this project are to digitize the authentic documents such as insurance card, educational documents, possession document, pension document, bank pass book etc. forever and avoid the situation of those who do not have enough authentic documents or those who lost documents due to various reasons are not getting government benefits. This scheme, which was first implemented in Wayanad and then in Palakkad after this government came to power and made good progress, has been now started in other districts also.

## Health card

Scheduled Tribes students of MRS were distributed health card detailing the comprehensive health information of the students. Steps are being taken for health card distribution for Scheduled Caste students also.

## Welfare Schemes

### Hand-Holding Scheme

The Hand-Holding Scheme, which provides assistance to Scheduled Tribe children who have lost their parents, has been increased from Rs.1500 to Rs.2000.

### Marriage Financial Assistance

Since this government came to power, the marriage grant for Scheduled Caste girls has been increased from Rs.75,000/- to Rs.1,25,000/-. The marriage allowance for Scheduled Tribe people has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh. The government has also settled outstanding amounts due for marriage allowances.

The government has provided financial assistance to the family of deceased single income earners, with a sum of Rs. 4,29,50,000 due to 234 Scheduled Caste families and Rs.7,50,000 due to 5 Scheduled Tribe families being sanctioned. Additionally, the government has sanctioned Rs.40,72,00,000/- for 2125 Scheduled Caste families and Rs.1,08,75,000/- for 61 Scheduled Tribe families.

### Empowerment Societies

The government has taken steps to form empowerment societies to transform Scheduled Tribe youth into job entrepreneurs and employers. Working capital from financial institutions with subsidies from The department will be considered for starting enterprises.

## Tribal Heritage Village

“En Ooru- Tribal Heritage Village” is an initiative launched by the government to preserve the heritage and culture of the tribal people and nurture traditional knowledge. This has become the most important tourist destination in Wayanad district, with similar schemes being considered for other Scheduled Tribe sanctuaries in Kerala.



## IN A NUTSHELL

- The department works for the social progress of Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes through education, employment, health, land, and housing development.
- Scholarships for new generation and professional courses have been allocated for Scheduled Category students.
- A global education access project aims to provide new educational systems and opportunities to SC, ST, and OBC students.
- Eleven Model Residential Schools provide facilities including clothing, food, arts, and sports training.
- TRACE initiative provides job training, skill development, and work experience to professional course pass-outs.
- Landless Scheduled Caste families are provided with land and the right to mortgage it.
- The HOME project aims to provide housing, land, better employment, and education opportunities to vulnerable people.
- The Jwala project implements the provisions of the Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes Act and Civil Rights Protection Act.
- Extensive health schemes provide free medical expenses and travel for Scheduled Tribes.
- The government has taken welfare schemes for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people and enhanced temple facilities for pilgrims.

### Enhanced Facilities in Temples

These are the days when the State government provided all necessary assistance to the Devaswom Boards in the state. The Sabarimala festival was organized in a way that upheld the reputation of Kerala in a great way. All pilgrims are provided with comfortable facilities. 118 Crore KIIFB assistance is being completed at 7 sites which will benefit Sabarimala pilgrims and public alike. The rest stops are at Kazhakoottam, Nilakkal, Erumeli, Chengannur, Kirinkara, Maniamkot and Shukapuram. ❖



KERALA, KNOWN FOR ITS PIONEERING EFFORTS IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HAS NOW SET ITS SIGHTS ON BECOMING A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT HUB. BUILDING ON ITS GLOBALLY RECOGNISED ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND GENDER EQUALITY, THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAS TAKEN A COMPREHENSIVE AND VISIONARY APPROACH TO MAKING KERALA AN INVESTMENT-FRIENDLY INDUSTRIAL DESTINATION.

# Kerala's Industrial Re-Emergence

## P. RAJEEVE

Minister for Law, Industries and Coir

To achieve this goal, the state has implemented several legal reforms to become a more efficient and transparent business-friendly destination. It has modernised and updated public sector institutions, created world-class industrial infrastructure, and eased the barriers to starting a business, while engaging directly with entrepreneurs. Kerala is also strengthening traditional sectors, creating a unique industrial model.

### Investment-Friendly State

The state government has made significant changes to make Kerala an investor-friendly destination. Of the 301 reforms called for in the State Business Reform Action Plan (SBRAP), only 47 are not applicable to the state. Of the remaining 254, 238 (94%) were completed on time and submitted to DPIT.





## Speedy Approval of Licenses

The government has launched a new version of K-SWIFT, an online single-window system for issuing approval letters to industrial enterprises. More than 90 services across 21 departments are provided through the portal, and over 30,000 MSME acknowledgment certificates have been issued to the 54,200 registered users. The state is also expanding the K-SWIFT portal to include services from more departments.

To create a favourable environment for industrial investors, the government has simplified the procedures for granting permission to entrepreneurs to start enterprises through the Kerala Micro Small Medium Enterprises Facilitation Act 2021. The Act provides for the disposal of applications for issuance of various licenses, clearances, and certificates required for starting enterprises with and without investment above Rs 50 crore within 7 days. The licenses so issued shall be valid for 5 years.

## State Takes Over PSUs Owned by Central Government

The state government took over the Hindustan News Print Limited of Vellore, which was scheduled to be privatised by the Central Government, and reorganised the company into a newly formed company called Vellore Kerala Paper Products Limited. The current target is to grow the company into a Rs 3000 crore turnover firm, which can provide employment to around 3,000 people. The renovation work is envisaged in four phases at a cost of Rs 1000 crore and will be completed in 46 months. The first

## Meet the Minister & Meet the Investor

To improve transparency and accountability, the state government has also initiated various programmes such as 'Meet the Minister' and 'Meet the Investor.' The 'Meet the Minister' programme provides a platform for entrepreneurs to raise concerns and get them resolved. The 'Meet the Investor' programme enables the Minister of Industry and senior officials of the department to discuss projects of entrepreneurs and ensure necessary support at the government level. These initiatives have helped the government to understand the concerns of investors and make rules more industry-friendly.



## Empowering Ideas, Igniting Innovation: The Entrepreneurial Year

The government launched the Entrepreneurship Year scheme, aiming to start one lakh enterprises in the financial year 2022-23. The project was planned with the cooperation of various departments under the leadership of the Industries Department and managed to start one lakh enterprises within 245 days. At present, 1,30,000 enterprises have been started. A total of Rs.7,900 crores of investment.



two phases are complete.

The foundation stone for Kerala Rubber Limited was laid in Vellore, aimed at promoting industries that manufacture rubber-based value-added products and making Vellore a hub for latex-based products. The project is expected to be completed in three phases and is expected to cost Rs.1,050 crore, creating thousands of employment opportunities and improving the quality of life of rubber farmers.

The government also took over Kasaragod BHEL and made it a PSU wholly owned by the state government. The government of Kerala took over this PSU at a cost of Rs 77 crore, including the amount required to rehabilitate the company, which had recorded continuous losses every year under the central government, and the liability incurred by the company in the past. The state government aims to keep the company as a model public sector enterprise by producing unique products for the profitable and sustainable operation of the company.

## Grievance Redressal & Simplification Efforts

The Grievance Redressal System (GRS) addresses industry-related issues, offering redressal for investments up to Rs. 5 crore at the district level and above that at the state level. The committees have statutory powers and can impose fines or recommend action.

An expert committee suggested unifying industry regulations and replacing the existing Right to Services Act. The state implemented the Kerala Centralised Inspection System (K-CIS) for transparent inspections and rule compliance.

## KINFRA Enhances Infrastructure & Jobs

KINFRA drew Rs 1,600 crore in investments and created 22,000 jobs in 2021-22. It allocated 527.21 acres



to industries and reserved 146.86 acres for future projects. Developments like Ernakulam Gift City and Kochi Petrochemical Park are in progress.

Tata Elxsi opened an office at KINFRA Park, which will provide 2500 jobs directly and 1500 jobs indirectly. Venture, a US employer services company, invested Rs. 1,500 crore and started operations at KINFRA Park, creating 5,000 jobs. Companies like TCS, V-Guard, Aggappe Diagnostics, Hycon, Trans Asian Shipping, Kakkanad EMC, Tata Elxy, Winwish Technologies, Jolly Coates, and Dartech & Deans Constructions have invested Rs. 1,000 crores, expanding employment opportunities further.

### **KSIDC records high loan disbursement and job creation**

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) achieved a new high in loan disbursement and job creation for the financial year 2021-22. KSIDC approved loans amounting to Rs. 428.83 crore to 132 MSMEs, which created 2,959 direct jobs. There was a 28% increase in loan sanction, and a 80% increase in loan repayment compared to the previous financial year. Total loan assets increased to Rs. 815 crore from Rs. 627 crore, indicating a 30% rise.

### **Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and other projects**

The Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, which is implemented by KINFRA, is a special project to boost industrialisation and industrial development in the state. An investment of Rs. 2,608 crore was approved for the project. About 80% of the 2,240 acres of land required for the project has been acquired, with an expected investment of Rs. 10,000 crore in the Palakkad node. The project is expected to create around 22,000 direct and 80,000 indirect employment opportunities and add Rs. 600 crore to the state exchequer annually.

The Bio 360°-Life Sciences Park is Kerala's first

Life Sciences Park, which is expected to attract domestic and foreign investments in biotechnology, nanotechnology, and life sciences. Private Industrial Parks, a project launched to attract more investment and create employment opportunities, is also showing positive results, with four parks given permission to start construction. The KINFRA International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Kochi is expected to become a permanent center for various exhibitions, international conferences, and trade fairs.

Other projects include the Cherthala Mega Sea Food Park, the Petrochemical Park in Kochi, and the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Kakkanad. The government has also launched innovative initiatives such as the Logistics Policy, Cluster Development, and Project Monitoring System to further boost the state's industrial sector.

### **Fueling Growth: The Success Story of Kerala's Public Sector Enterprises**

Kerala's PSUs are doing well, with 41 of them achieving a record operating profit of Rs. 384.68 crore in the financial year 2021-22, an increase of 245.6% compared to the previous year. KELTRON, for example, has achieved the highest turnover and operating profit in its history. Additionally, master plans have been prepared for all public sector institutions, and awards have been instituted to motivate PSUs to improve their performance.

### **On The Global Stage, We Stand Tall At World Expo Dubai**

The Government of Kerala was also part of the India Pavilion at the World Expo held in Dubai from 4th to 11th February 2022. This has become a major driving force for new industrial investments in the State. On February 5, 2022, an investment summit involving international investors was held on the occasion to promote Kerala as an industry-friendly state and attract investors. Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan and Minister of Law, Industry and Coal Department P. Rajeev was also present in Dubai to interact

with investors. Companies like Muruliya, Tristar and Venture have expanded their operations to Kerala through the Expo.

## Investment Facilitation Initiatives

The State government now grants licenses within seven days for enterprises investing over Rs. 50 crores. MSMEs with investments under Rs. 50 crores can operate license-free for three years. District and state committees have been established for MSME grievance redressal.

Outdated laws and regulations are being revised based on a submitted report.

## The Mining and Geology Department

The department introduced a dashboard for easy access to mining permit information, implemented the e-Office system, and held special adalats for concession applications. Online mining permits are granted via the Compass portal, ensuring transparency, while e-filing and e-governance efforts are prioritized.



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala becomes an investment-friendly state with 94% completion of State Business Reform Action Plan.
- K-SWIFT: Fast online license approval.
- Entrepreneurship Year: 1,30,000 enterprises started.
- GRS: Industry issue resolution.
- KINFRA: Rs 1,600 crore private investments.
- KSIDC: Record loans, jobs in 2021-22.
- Kochi-Bangalore Corridor: Industrial growth.
- Public Sector: Rs. 384.68 crore profit in 2021-22.
- Traditional sector revival: Coir, khadi, cashew, handloom.
- World Expo Dubai: International investors, expanded presence

## Heritage of Excellence: Traditional Sectors

### Coir sector

1

- Kerala State Coir Corporation Limited (KSCC) achieved a turnover of Rs.226 crore in FY 2021-22 with a 33% growth in export turnover.
- KSCC established a product development centre and partnered with the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad to enhance the growth of the industry.
- KSCC plans to provide expertise to the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

### Khadi products

2

- Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board launched a campaign to increase the production and marketing of Khadi products.
- 'Kerala Khadi' brand was launched to bring the State's Khadi products to global attention.
- Khadi Board plans to start 7,000 new enterprises this financial year and signed an MoU with Flipkart for e-commerce platform availability.

### Cashew sector

3

- The government proposed a one-time settlement scheme to revive the private cashew industry.
- Interest on loans up to Rs 10 crore will be completely waived off and half of the capital will be returned to entrepreneurs who have taken loans up to Rs 2 crore.

### Handloom sector

4

- The government appointed an expert committee to study the potential and problems of the handloom sector and prepare a report.
- A handloom village was initiated in Chendamangalam and a new logo for Kerala Handloom was launched as part of a re-branding project.

INNOVATIVE SCHEMES AND PROJECTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES TO ENHANCE FISH PRODUCTION, PROTECT MARINE RESOURCES, AND ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF FISHERMEN. CONCURRENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE HAS INITIATED VARIOUS INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT AND UPLIFT THE ARTISTIC COMMUNITY, PRESERVE THE STATE'S RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS, AND COMBAT GENDER BIAS IN THE ARTS.

# Fresh catches and benefits boost the fisheries sector

## SAJI CHERIYAN

Minster for Fisheries and Cultural affairs

The Department of Fisheries has implemented many innovative schemes to help the labourers and other stakeholders in the sector boost fish landings in the State. There have been many major projects that were implemented in the sub-sectors of the Marine Fisheries Sector, Inland Sector, Fishermen Welfare and Regional Development Schemes. Fish farming in ponds has been extended to 6554.34 ha and there were a total of 2367 aquaculture units and 690 recirculatory aquaculture system units. There were also 3,173 units for advanced biofloc farming which provides more fish production from less land.

A total of Rs.52,65,91,471 have been allocated as a subsidy to fish farmers for the financial year 2021-22, and 50,000 farmers have been trained in various fish farming methods and created a source of employment income through fish farming. In another development, 18,76,980 fingerlings including indigenous fish were stocked in eight reservoirs in FY 2021-22. In



the financial year 2022-23, 67.91 lakh fingerlings, including indigenous fish, were stocked in 12 reservoirs. A total of 184 lakh fish/shrimp fingerlings have been invested in the ranching scheme for the financial year 2021-22. A scheme to stock 162 lakh fish and shrimp fry in public water bodies this financial year to increase fish production is underway. The department has initiated action to set up fish conservation centres and clam conservation centres in eight districts of the State. The Kerala Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Act has been timely amended in 2021 for the conservation of inland water bodies, sustainable development and promotion of fish farming.

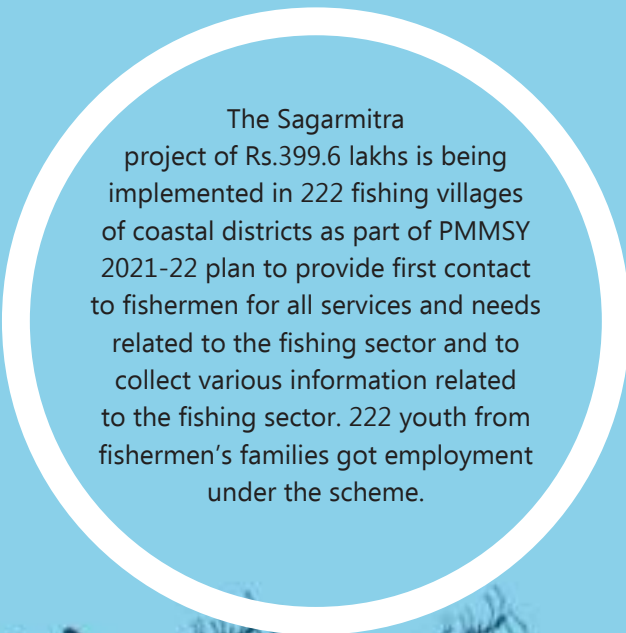
### **Marine fisheries sector**

Schemes being implemented by the Department of Fisheries for the conservation of marine resources and safety of fishermen include Rs.32.4 crore worth of projects in 2022-23 for the conservation of fish resources and to ensure the safety of fishermen; A Rs.30 lakh project implemented in 2021-22 to include square mesh codend in trawl nets to avoid small fish getting entangled in nets during fishing. 210 people have benefited from the scheme. 30 lakh project is being implemented in the current financial year. This action was taken to benefit 200 beneficiaries. A total of 483 insulated fish boxes have been distributed to the traditional fishermen in 2021-22 to bring the fish caught from the sea to the land without damage. In 2022-23, Rs.1 crore scheme to distribute insulated ice boxes to 800 fishermen is being implemented and 776 insulated ice boxes have been distributed; 417 Handheld GPS and 360 Mounting Type GPS in the year 2021-22 to ensure the safety of fishermen going to sea given to conventional vessels. During the current financial year, 609 Mounting Type GPSs were distributed to traditional fishermen and 450 were distributed.

CCTV cameras have been installed in all the important harbours of the State for the purpose of protecting of fish resources and the safety of the fishermen. For control and coordination, the Master Control Room centered at the Directorate of Fisheries and the Regional Control Room centered at Vizhinjam, Vipin and Bepur fisheries stations are working.

The National Institute of Water Sports in Goa is implementing a project to retrain 200 fishermen whose certificates have expired after successfully completing their training. To date, 175 people have completed training and issued revalidation certificates. A project to provide 10 deep-sea fishing units is in progress with the objective of reducing fishing pressure in coastal waters and enabling traditional fishermen to engage in deep-sea fishing. A letter of Intent has been given to Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for this. In the first phase, five deep sea fishing vessels completed construction will be delivered to the fishermen in March. The State Government has sanctioned an additional subsidy of Rs.3.06 crore in the said Central State Government Scheme (PMMSY) which has a contribution of Rs.15 crore.

Timely revision of the Kerala Fisheries Control Act and implementation of new regulations ensured scientific fishing and an increase (6.02 lakh tonnes) was seen in sea fishing. The department implemented a scheme to provide 200 FRP vessels to traditional fishermen with financial assistance from Central and State Governments. A Rs.500-lakh project to provide 100 FRP vessels to traditional fishermen under



The Sagarmitra project of Rs.399.6 lakhs is being implemented in 222 fishing villages of coastal districts as part of PMMSY 2021-22 plan to provide first contact to fishermen for all services and needs related to the fishing sector and to collect various information related to the fishing sector. 222 youth from fishermen's families got employment under the scheme.



PMMSY 2021-22 funded by Central and State Governments have been approved and project work is progressing.

In 2020-21, a total of Rs.36.126 crore was disbursed as compensation for the loss of working days due to weather warnings. This meant Rs.2000 each for families of inland sea fishermen and Rs.1000 each for related workers.

Rs.18.36 crore was distributed to every family at Rs.1200 each to sea fishermen and allied workers during the period of ban on sea fishing following Cyclone Taute warning. This benefit was available to 12,4970 sea fishermen and allied workers families. A total of Rs 32.47 crore has been sanctioned to 240211 fishermen and 84531 allied workers registered with the Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board considering the loss of fishing days in the wake of COVID-19.

A total of Rs 47.84 crore was disbursed to fisherfolk during the post-monsoon fishing ban in October and November 2021. A total of 15,9481 families were provided financial assistance at the rate of Rs.3,000 per family. The department initiated action to secure funds from CMDRF to disburse a total of Rs.50 crores for the 15 days of post-monsoon fishing

ban in April, May, July and August of 2020 for fishermen's auxiliary workers. A total of 1,66,666 families were provided financial assistance at the rate of Rs.3,000 per family.

A project, under the department, is in progress to supply towing tractors to two co-operatives to help launch traditional fishing vessels into the sea for fishing and bring them ashore after fishing. The department trained 90 persons at CIFNET, Kochi for captains, engine drivers and deckhands of fishing boats operating in Kerala. Under the engine subsidy scheme for traditional fishing vessels, a maximum of Rs.30,000 per an engine was given to 100 fishermen. A maximum of Rs. 10,000 per unit is given to 200 fishermen as a subsidy for fishing nets. Actions are being taken to install LED Display Boards through Keltron at Vizhinjam, Munambam and Beypur harbors to deliver timely weather warnings to the fishermen and make the fish availability area available to the fishermen. ❖

Eleven rescue boats including 74 lifeguards are working in all the coastal districts of Kerala to enforce fishing laws and rescue fishermen in distress. For the first time in the country, three Marine Ambulances at Vizhinjam, Vipin and Beypure centres are functioning well to provide first aid to the fishermen who have an accident at sea and bring them to the shore for further treatment. One hundred rescue squads have been appointed in 15 harbours of Kerala to rescue fishermen who are in danger while fishing in the sea and to implement and coordinate the activities of the department in the harbours.

### **Mazhamizhi**

Support for Artists amidst COVID-19

To aid struggling artists during the pandemic, the Department of Culture introduced the Mazhamizhi online art exhibition, showcasing works from artists across Kerala and paying them for their contributions.

### **Diamond Jubilee Fellowship**

The Department of Culture's Diamond Jubilee Fellowship scheme trains individuals in various Kerala art forms, providing them with a fellowship grant of Rs. 15,000. This initiative has benefited 925 artists and cost Rs. 6.34 crores.

### **Samam: Fighting Gender Bias in Kerala's Art World**

The Department of Culture's Samam campaign aims to combat gender bias in Kerala's art community through workshops, documentaries, and the honoring of accomplished women.

The initiative, costing Rs. 50 lakh, is supported by brand ambassador K.S Chitra.

### **Empowering Women and Directors from Scheduled Castes and Tribes**

The SC/ST-Women Films project encourages female and Scheduled Castes and Tribes directors to enter the film industry by providing financial assistance of up to Rs. 1.5 crores for screenplays. The scheme has benefited 200 artists and cost Rs. 3 crores.

### **Cultural Complexes**

Preserving Kerala's Heritage The District Cultural Complexes project aims to preserve Kerala's culture and heritage for future generations by building complexes in the name of Renaissance heroes. The department has allocated Rs. 700 crores for the project, with Rs. 50 crores going to each district.

### **Kilimanoor Artist Studio**

The Raja Ravi Varma Artists Residency Studio at Kilimanoor provides artists with various amenities, including four equipped rooms, a lobby, a kitchen, and a dining hall.

### **Reviving Thiruvananthapuram's Theatres**

The Department of Culture renovated Thiruvananthapuram's state-owned theatres, investing Rs. 13.5 crores to provide modern cinema experiences. Kairali, Nila, Sri Theatre in Thampanoor received an upgrade during the Pinarayi Vijayan government.

### **International Theatre Festival (ITFOK)**

The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy hosted the fourth International Drama Festival (ITFOK), featuring contemporary world and Indian dramas, lectures, and music performances. The event, which received a budget of Rs. 3.07 crores, was organized in collaboration with various academies and departments.





GENERAL EDUCATION IN KERALA HAS BEEN MAKING TREMENDOUS PROGRESS EVER SINCE THE PINARAYI VIJAYAN GOVERNMENT WAS RETURNED TO POWER. THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT ARE CITED HERE.

# Charting new courses in education

**V. SIVANKUTTY**

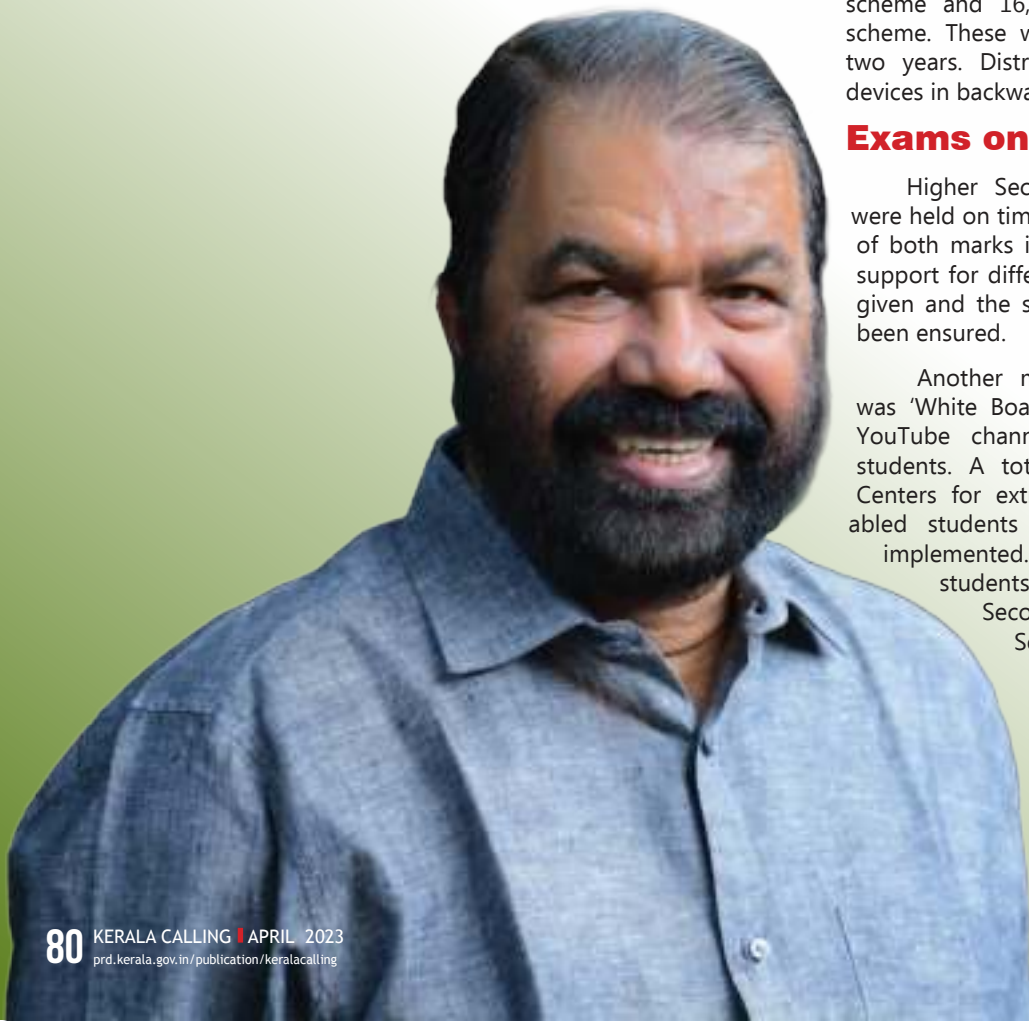
Minister for General Education and Labour

To address the learning gap for students in hilly disadvantaged areas special attention was given. A total of 47613 laptops were given through Vidyakaranam scheme and 16,500 through the hi-tech scheme. These were also provided within two years. Distribution of 45,710 digital devices in backward areas.

## Exams on time

Higher Secondary and SSLC Exams were held on time and the pass percentage of both marks increased. Special learning support for differently abled students was given and the services of educators have been ensured.

Another major step in the sector was 'White Board, video classes through YouTube channel for differently abled students. A total of 1486 Special Care Centers for extra support of differently-abled students in public schools were implemented. Entry was given to all students who applied for Higher Secondary VHSE admission. Seventy-nine new temporary batches have been created in Higher Secondary.





## Thozhilseva Mobile App

Labour disputes arising out of ignorance of labour laws and labour department procedures by workers and the general public can be resolved by using the app. The App is a mobile app that is developed with the aim of clearing doubts and difficulties. Complaints can also be submitted by the public to the concerned officials through the app. Complaints will be available as SMS alerts to the officer. The officer who receives the complaint will contact the complainant immediately to resolve the issue.



A meeting was held with Advocate General for the first time for the speedy disposal of over 10,000 cases in the Education Department. File adalats were started for the urgent disposal of files in the department.

### Curriculum Reform

Curriculum reform was started by the department and the Scheme Reform Committee came into existence and special attention was paid to the study of the mother tongue. Alphabets were included in textbooks and an Action Committee to implement Khader Committee recommendations was formed.

Eighteen boys' and girls' schools were converted into mixed schools in support of the idea of gender equality in schools. The construction of more than 120 school buildings was completed under various projects.

As per the court order, the process of appointing eligible differently-abled persons in schools under the Public Education Department is in the final stage. A total of 344 education volunteers who have been working in single-teacher schools for over 25 years were employed in government schools in various capacities. The State government has taken over the Pariyaram Medical College Public School.

The State government made a necessary intervention to maintain Kayamkulam NTPC KV School in Central Education Department and also ensured the continued operation of Kazhakootam military school. The new exam manual has come into effect after 16 years to ensure the

timely conduct of higher secondary examination

The activities of School Leadership Academy Kerala have been activated and all Vocational Higher Secondary Schools transferred to the National Skill Qualification Framework. Job fairs for students who have passed VHSE courses have been organized in the last two years and around 3,000 got jobs. The third season of Haritavidyalayam reality show, which shares school excellence, was started.

The Higher Secondary Teacher Empowerment Programme was restarted and 1,351 persons were trained in 35 batches. The training was given to five more batches before the academic year ended.

Newly appointed PSC teachers were given training under the leadershipSCERT and a residential training

### Shrutipadam

An audio library called Shrutipadam was completed as a solution to the challenges faced by visually impaired teachers and students. QR code was given in textbooks of higher secondary classes to enable online education and the portal came into being along with KITE. Another important achievement was the setting up of the E-Cube English Language Lab in every primary school. An online project called 'Beyond Windows' brings together children with disabilities, family members, teachers, and social and cultural activists on an online platform was implemented.



# Kerala Savari

Kerala Savari is the first government online taxi in the country. The Department of Labour started Kerala Savari, the country's first government online taxi service. Kerala Savari is a project thought out and implemented by the Labour Department by connecting auto-taxi networks at various locations. A safe and hassle-free ride on Kerala Savari was implemented for the benefit of the public and ensured that workers get the same rate. The first phase of the project was implemented within the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation. The members who benefitted were 762 auto-taxi drivers in corporation limits under the scheme, including 24 women. Kerala Savari App can be downloaded for free.

കേരള സവാരി



programme was started for teachers from the 1st to 10th class in HSSTP pattern. Under the leadership of CEMAT, digital content in NSUF courses was produced for the first time in India.

In an effort to increase the efficiency of the department, 8000 primary teachers were provided with special training. While special training was provided to all career masters in VHSE, the department also published the research journal Edu Lead.

## Resolving labour disputes Guaranteed minimum wages in 59 jobs

Kerala has bagged the Reserve Bank of India recognition of the highest wage payer in the country. This is recorded in the handbook brought out by the Bank. Workers in Kerala earn the highest wages in the construction sector, earning an average of Rs.837.30 per day, the Reserve Bank figures show. With Rs.677.60, Kerala was the top payer last year too. Within a year, the wages increased by Rs.159.70. It is estimated that Kerala is the state that receives the highest wages in the agricultural sector, the figures by the Bank point out.

The fact that minimum wages were fixed in 59 occupations was also one of the best achievements in this field. The minimum wages have been renewed in 11 sectors since the Second Pinarayi Government came to power. For the first time, minimum wages have been fixed in the media industry and TMT steel sector.

## Frontline fighter in the anti- drug campaign

The Labour Department has become the front-runner in the Government's no-to-drugs campaign. In the first phase, the Department of Labor was able to reach different sections of society; through welfare boards, related departments and through the Labour Commissionerate. The Kavach No to Drugs program conducted among the migrant workers was well received by people.

## Record achievement in dispute resolution

A record in the redressal of grievances was achieved during the tenure of this government and it was a remarkable step in the work-bonus dispute. This was a significant step forward in the conduct of cases. All bonus claims received in connection with Onam were settled in a time-bound manner and workers were assured of the bonus benefits they deserve. A total of 325 complaints were also settled on a war footing. Extensive preparations and preparations were made for the record achievement under the leadership of the Labour Minister.

## 3,534 labour disputes settled

A total of 3,534 labour disputes were resolved under the leadership of the department since the Pinarayi Vijayan Government returned to power. While 109 disputes were settled under the Regional Joint Labour Commissioner Office level, 3,082 were settled at the District Labour Office level and 337 at the deputy labour office level. Disputes at online food delivery chain Zomato, Swiggy, online education application by Byju's Learning App, Palakkad Malampuzha Cements and Chemicals, Ernakulam OEN India Ltd. and Indian Coffee

House were discussed and resolved in the Commissioner's office.

Four long-term agreements were approved regarding the provision of service wages for workers. Service wages of Apollo Tyres was increased by 12500/ and the pay increment at Hinalco was Rs.7,800. Steel Industries and Forgings Ltd. have also settled the long-service wage dispute. At Kottayam, MRF contract workers got an increase of Rs.6,400 in the long-term contract of service.

## Complaint Management Module

Complaint Management Module is the automated system for submitting Grievances to the Labour Commissioner regarding labour-related grievances to department officials. These complaints were received online and received directly at the offices for the approval of the Labour Commissioner, with the recommendation of the superiors. The public can submit complaints through the Labour Commissioner's website and it can be done using the Complaint Management Module. Complaints received directly are uploaded by the Labour Commissioner

## Kerala Guest Portal and Mobile App

The Kerala Guest Portal is an integrated platform created for data collection of migrant workers coming to work in the State. The employers and contractors in the State can get initial registration of migrant workers by entering their details in the portal. The guest workers themselves can also register at the portal.

After the initial registration process, they can provide biometric information through the Centres. The benefits for guest workers who have registered are being worked out by the Department of Labour. Registration can be made through the mobile app once it comes into effect. This can be utilized during emergency situations such as epidemics like COVID. ❖



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Provided laptops, prioritized disadvantaged areas, improved exam results.
- Aided disabled students with Shrutipadam, Beyond Windows, White Board classes.
- Created E-Cube Labs, built 120+ schools, acquired Pariyaram Medical College School.
- Trained 1,351 teachers, supplied NSUF digital content.
- Emphasized mother tongue, adopted Khader Committee, promoted gender equality.
- Set minimum wages in 59 occupations, highest wage payer in India.
- Conducted "no-to-drugs" initiatives via labour boards and migrant outreach.
- Resolved 3,534 labour disputes, work-bonus and long-term wage disputes.
- Launched complaint module, guest portal, Thozhilsava app, Kerala Savari taxi.
- Partnered with Advocate General, activated School Academy, transferred vocational schools to NSQF.





THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATION HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE SECTOR BY BRINGING IN MANY NOVEL SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES SINCE PINARAYI VIJAYAN GOVERNMENT WAS RETURNED TO POWER. SOME OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT HAVE BEEN LAUDED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ARE LISTED HERE.

# Achieving Major Milestones

## in Modernizing the Cooperative Sector

**V.N.VASAVAN**

Minister for Co-operation and Registration

### Care Home

The second phase of the Care Home project is planned with the aim of constructing housing complexes in the 14 districts of the state in the designated areas of Life Mission to rehabilitate those who lost their homes and land due to floods and natural calamities in 2018 and 2019. The construction of a housing complex for 40 families in Thrissur district has been completed and the keys have been handed over to the beneficiaries.

### Cooperative Palliative Care Scheme (CopCare)

As part of the second 100-day programme, the Cooperative Department of the Government of Kerala has implemented a palliative care project under the leadership of the Cooperative Hospitals with the intention of providing quality palliative care through the Cooperative area.

In order to become members of the project, a certain amount is paid to the group and registered, and as soon as the need for treatment is reported, the patient is taken

to the related cooperative hospital and returned home after receiving the necessary treatment. The project is being implemented in 11 districts involving 22 hospital teams.

## **SC/ST Youth Cooperative Societies**

One Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes youth cooperative group each has been registered in one district for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes youth and 14 such groups are working in the State. Steps are being taken to grant financial assistance based on the various projects submitted by the groups for the initial activities of the groups.

## **Akshara – Literary Museum**

‘Aksharam Museum’ is a large scale project implemented by the literary activists Cooperative society under the leadership of the Department of Cooperation with the financial assistance of the Government of Kerala. The museum is being built at Nattakom in Kottayam. The ‘Aksharam Museum’ is planned to be built on 25,000 square feet with an emphasis on language, literature and culture. The museum will be fully eco-friendly and diversity-friendly. The museum is being built using modern technology in international standards.

## **Snehatheeram**

Fishermen and fish marketers in Kerala’s coastal and inshore areas rely heavily on usurers who charge exorbitant rates to finance their day-to-day trade capital related to their occupation. “Snehatheeram Loan Scheme” is a loan scheme that provides loans to the people through the cooperative sector, freeing them from the blade usurers who charge exorbitant interest. A detailed plan is being prepared.

## **Collaborative Audit Monitoring & Information System (CAMIS)**

In order to make cooperative audit transparent and efficient, an online application called Cooperative Audit Monitoring & Information System (CAMIS) has been prepared for the audit of cooperatives as part of the ICDMS project. Basic information and audit related information of all cooperative societies in Kerala is made available through CAMIS to the general public online at [www.camis.kerala.gov.in](http://www.camis.kerala.gov.in).

## **Sahakari Santhwanam–A relief fund**

Sahakari Santhwanam Scheme, for those who have worked in the field of co-operatives at the State level, district level or circle level and who have worked for a long time and have worked for the all-round progress of the co-operative sector and who have worked all their life for the growth of the co-operative movement and who have provided financial assistance for sickness care and treatment to the indigent co-operators and in case of death of the co-operators, to provide financial assistance to their family/dependants. A sum of Rs.7,25,000 has been disbursed.

## **Consumer Fed Activities**

Due to the spread of the COVID pandemic, the online/home delivery system has been implemented to benefit the customers. As mentioned above, the kits were delivered to the doorsteps of consumers who book the goods through the website [www.consumerfed.in](http://www.consumerfed.in).

With the intention of bringing notebooks and study materials directly to students at low cost, the project of delivering notebooks and other study materials by



## **Kerala Bank**

By changing the credit cooperatives from the three-tier system to the two-tier system, which leads to major changes in the cooperative sector, the special rule has been accepted as part of the modernization of the operation of the Kerala State Cooperative Bank and further steps are being taken to implement CBS.

making home visits to the respective areas was started in Cooperative Corner Triveni, containing only the products of cooperative movements.

## Cooperative societies take up cultivation on 500 acres of land

Farming was planned in 500 acres of land through cooperative societies under the administrative control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the State. A total of 500 acres of land in 14 districts was intended to be converted into farms. Produce cultivated through the scheme was distributed through village market, agricultural marketing centre or Coop Mart stall. Under this scheme 410 groups had started cultivation on 608 acres 24 cents. The target of this project has been completed and 5,554 job opportunities created in 14 districts.

## Scheme for employment generation

Kerala State Co-operative Bank, Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies of the State, Co-operative Appex Federations and other Co-operative Societies by granting loans for employment oriented micro and small enterprises for small projects have created 64,666 job opportunities through various schemes, 1,365 persons

have been given permanent employment in the direct cooperative sector and 397 persons have been appointed in the Co-operative Department.

## Branding & Marketing of Co-operative Products

Coopkerala trademark was designed to market the products of the cooperative sector under a single brand under a common trade mark as part of the "Branding and Marketing of Cooperative Products" project conceived by the Department of Cooperatives to ensure the quality of the products currently being produced by the Cooperatives and bring unified branding to build a market network.

A management committee has been formed with the permission of the Government to give Coopkerala certification mark to the products of the cooperatives. Based on the decision of the Committee, Coopkerala certification marks are issued by evaluating the quality of the products of the cooperatives. As a first step, 28 products of 12 groups have been issued Coopkerala certificates.

Co-operative produce marketing centres have already been started in all districts for the marketing of diverse and quality products of the cooperative sector for producing safe food resources and have obtained registration under the name coopmart from the Central Government Trade Marks Registry under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

## Comprehensive Agricultural Development Scheme

The scheme envisages promotion and nurturing of agriculture by utilising the homesteads in the area covered by the primary groups, by efficient implementation of production, storage and marketing of agricultural crops through large and small scale vegetable cultivation, kitchen garden and terrace farming and by ensuring fair prices for agricultural produce and also by fostering agricultural ancillary activities such as fisheries and animal husbandry. The project is being implemented based on integrated farming system developed by the Kerala Agricultural University.

## Facilitation of agricultural production, storage, processing and marketing

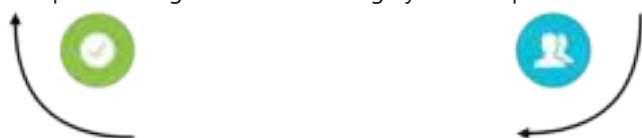
The scheme envisages establishment of storage and processing centres in each block panchayats, municipalities and corporations to procure agricultural produce directly from the farmers during the harvest season and make the processed material available through markets. The scheme is being implemented in coordination with leading marketing societies and market feds.

## Promotion of Grameen



## Youth Co-operative Societies

In order to attract more youth to the cooperative sector, based on the government's policy announcement that youth cooperatives will be started in the State for young entrepreneurs and service providers. Thirty youth cooperatives have been formed in various districts and the registration process has been completed and operations have started. Those in the IT sector, cinema, documentary, short film production, music, design, artist, event management, home delivery services, food processing marketing sector, manufacturing and distribution of unique agricultural resources and value added products, agricultural supply and marketing, recycling of organic and inorganic waste collection and treatment, innovative entrepreneurial ideas such as tourism development projects, food processing units, catering services and start-ups are being considered through youth cooperatives.



## Markets

The scheme is proposed to be implemented under the leadership of recognised PACS of the region for the development and upgradation of rural markets in Municipal Corporations in all Panchayats and Municipalities thereby providing a marketing platform for direct sales to the farmers. The customer can be a retailer or a wholesaler and sales are done directly so that the farmer is protected from all sorts of exploitation. A total of Rs.10 lakhs has been earmarked for each market in this sub-project to support rural markets.

## Encouraging co-operative entrepreneurship, start-ups

This project has been formed with the intention of developing the cooperative sector by establishing production clusters in each district. Funds have been earmarked for selecting strong primary agriculture credit societies in all districts, establishing production clusters based on locally sourced agricultural products and undertaking activities in the agriculture allied sector. Clusters are established in the areas of value addition, processing and marketing of agriculture and allied products. Under this scheme, the cluster will be provided with subsidy and equity capital assistance.

## Cooperative Employees Medical Insurance Scheme

Medical Insurance Scheme for Employees of Co-operative Institutions (CEMIS) is a scheme that was intended to be implemented under the Hundred Day Action Plan of the government. The scheme is very beneficial for the employees of the cooperatives in Kerala. Steps are being taken to prepare a draft scheme for implementation on the platform of the Medisep Scheme as a Statutory Medical Insurance Scheme covering all employees and retired employees.



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala Bank was modernized with a two-tier system and CBS implementation.
- Care Home project provided housing to those affected by natural disasters.
- CopCare delivered quality palliative care through cooperative hospitals.
- Youth Co-operative Societies attracted young entrepreneurs to the sector.
- SC/ST Youth Cooperative Societies uplifted and supported marginalized communities.
- Akshara Literary Museum celebrated Kerala's language, literature, and culture.
- Snehatheeram provided affordable loans to fishermen and fish marketers.
- CAMIS made cooperative audits transparent and efficient with an online platform.
- SahakariSanthwanam granted financial assistance for indigent co-operators and their families.
- Consumer Fed Activities brought essential goods to consumers during the pandemic.

## IT Integration of Kerala Bank

The department has entered into an agreement with Wipro, a leading system integrating service provider, to consolidate the core banking operations of the State Cooperative Bank and 13 District Cooperative Banks and provide all digital banking services. Kerala Bank is the first bank in the co-operative sector to use the latest version of Infosys' banking software 'Finacle'. All branches of Kerala Bank have received RBI License and new IFSC CODE.





DESPITE VARIOUS HEALTH CHALLENGES THAT THE PEOPLE OF KERALA FACED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, TIMELY INTERVENTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND EXPERTS ON THE GROUND KEEP THEM SAFE

# Health of Kerala in safe zone

## VEENA GEORGE

Minister for Health and Woman  
and Child Development

The year 2022 had been one of many challenges in the health sector of Kerala. Along with COVID-19, the State had to overcome the challenges posed by monkeypox and other epidemics and post-flood challenges. During the third wave of the pandemic when the infection became widespread around the world, the highest number of case in Kerala was 55,475 on January 25, 2022. But the State had prepared an exemplary defence by protecting the lives and livelihood of the people.

Care and treatment was given with attention to people with comorbidities and the elderly. Not even once was there a shortage of hospital beds, ICUs, ventilators, oxygen facilities or safety equipment and additional facilities were provided. As a result, the spread of COVID was effectively prevented. Moreover, significant gains were made in the field of health.







## LAURELS...

The Department of Health and Woman and Child Development has received many awards and recognitions since this Ministry came to power.

It won the India Today 2022 Award for Best Performing State in Health and the National Award for Best Performing State in Reducing Maternal Mortality. The State bagged the Central Government's Arogya Manthan Award in 2022 for the state that provided the highest number of free treatment. It is also the State with the highest number of NQAS approvals.

Kerala won the National Award for Tuberculosis Prevention Activities and was also ranked second in food security index. The Digital Transformation Award by Governor's Now for E Sanjeevani and Karunya Benevolent Fund initiatives. The Department also was recognized as the Best National Channeling Agency of Women Development Corporation. Four cities in Kerala, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Kasaragod, won the National award in FSSAI's Eat Right Challenge.



## Proud milestones

The health sector has been able to mark proud achievements despite the COVID-19 prevention activities. The State tops the National NITI Aayog index and has the lowest maternal and child mortality.

The SAT hospital has been elevated to a Centre of Excellence. This is a rare achievement as SAT is one of the top 10 such hospitals in the country. Double free treatment through CASP (from Rs.700 crore to Rs.1,400 crore. The Central Government provides only Rs.138 crore) was also provided in the State. Kerala is the Best State in Public Affairs Index.

A total of 157 health institutions have received NQAS and nine hospitals received 'LaQshya' certification (LaQshya is the Certification given by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs. It assesses quality improvement initiative in labour room and maternity OT, aimed at improving quality of care for mothers and new-born during intrapartum and immediate post-partum period).

The State leads the country in health care and nutrition in National Social Progress Report. Kerala's Mother and Child Friendly Hospital Initiative is the first in the country. The State has successfully performed heart surgery and valve replacement without opening the heart at a district level hospital for the first time in the country. The State also became the first State in the country to release an antibiogram (An antibiogram is the clinical data summarising the profile of various bacterial pathogens and its susceptibility to antibiotics that are meant to treat them).

In another milestone, liver transplant in government hospitals become a reality. Kerala has become a model in ensuring oxygen, according to WHO report.

The State has initiated a VIVA campaign for Anaemia Free Kerala. The State has also doubled amount allocated for cancer drugs (From Rs.12.17 crores to Rs.25.42 crores in medical colleges). The State has also given clearance to set up two medical colleges, one in Idukki and Konni. Two nursing colleges, one in Kollam and another in Mancheri, were started. In another feather in its cap, Kerala implemented One Health scheme for the first time in India. The State enacted Clinical Establishment, Medical Practitioners and Epidemic Prevention Bills. It also formed Allied and Healthcare Council for paramedical courses.

All Primary Health and Family Health Centers have been upgraded to Health and Wellness Centres and all Urban Primary Health Centres have been upgraded as Health and Wellness Centres. The State also launched the country's





first disability friendly membership card.

## **A new step in lifestyle diagnosis**

More than 73 lakh people of the State were screened by health workers at their homes. All state-run hospitals have been modernised and well-equipped to deal with pandemic situations. The availability of ICU ventilators has been augmented. A total of 724 ICU beds and 878 oxygen beds were set up during the year and 939 ventilators were newly installed

## **Oxygen self-sufficiency**

The department has ensured oxygen self-sufficiency in the state. There is currently 1920.14 MT of liquid oxygen storage capacity in the government and private sector. Work to set up additional storage capacity of 57 MT is in progress.

## **597 Family Health Centres**

A total of 597 Primary Health Centers have been completed and converted into Family Health Centres. The Department of Health is upgrading 4261 sub-centres as health and wellness centres.

## **Paediatric heart surgery for the first time**

A cardiac surgery unit with advanced facilities has been started in the paediatric cardiology department of the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College hospital.

## **Cancer treatment**

The State has launched a Kerala Cancer Registry and special camps to detect cancer were organised across the State. Twenty-five hospitals across the State have been provided with facilities for cancer treatment.

The Malabar Cancer Centre declared as Post Graduate Institute of Oncology Sciences and Research. Steps have been initiated to start cancer screening clinics one day a week in all hospitals. The State has started advanced treatment systems started in RCC and MCC. Innovative treatment has been started at MCC for eye cancer in children. Comprehensive treatment system,

including retino blastoma, has been started for the first time in MCC. The RCC launched the first lutetium treatment in government sector.

## **Steps to improve service quality of medical colleges**

Quality Improvement Initiative has been launched to improve the service quality of medical college hospitals. As part of its implementation, a special team has been appointed at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College on a pilot basis. The project is being successfully implemented. Steps have been initiated to extend this scheme to Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur Kozhikode medical colleges as well. The aim is to provide expert treatment in a timely manner to those who come to the emergency department due to accidents or diseases.

Within a few days of this government taking the reins, approval has been granted for 26 specialty seats and nine super specialty seats. The Medical Council of India has approved 100 MBBS seats for Pathanamthitta, Konni and Idukki Medical Colleges.

In another move, Nursing Colleges in Kollam and Mancheri Medical Colleges have been granted 60 new seats each. Also, 92 additional B.Sc Nursing students have been admitted from this year by increasing B.Sc. Nursing seats in existing nursing colleges. A cardiac surgery department has been opened in the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College SAT hospital. Three PG seats in Emergency Medicine have been approved in Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. The first neuro cath lab in the government sector has been set up at a cost of Rs.4.16 crore at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. An emergency department with advanced systems has started functioning in Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. Trivandrum Medical College started operations of LINAC, a device that provides advanced radiation to cancer patients for the first time.

For the first time in Kerala, a paediatric gastro department was started in Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. A separate block with 100 ICU beds has been set up in Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. Medical PG courses started in Kollam and Mancheri Medical

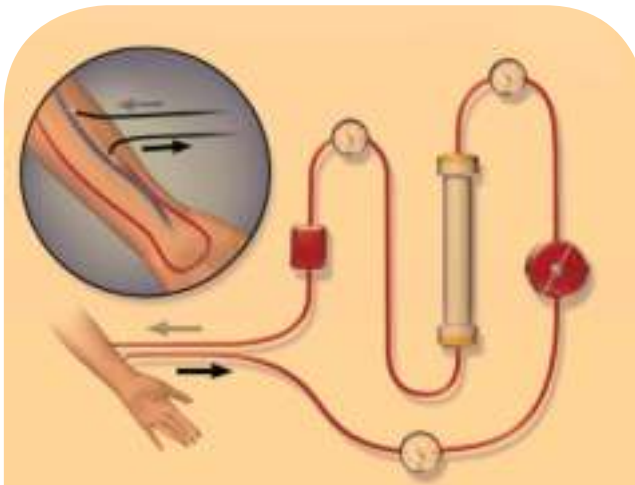
Colleges. A super specialty block has been set up at the Alappuzha Medical College. Liver transplant successfully performed at Kottayam Medical College for the first time in Kerala.

## AYUSH sector

The State Government has approved development projects worth Rs.97.77 crore in the AYUSH sector of the State. This is a three times increase from previous years. The E-hospital system in AYUSH sector implemented and 280 more AYUSH dispensaries have been upgraded to health and wellness centres. With this, there are 520 health and wellness centres in the state.

AYUSH Integrated Hospitals has been started at Attapadi, Kottarakkara and Adoor. The department has helped implement 12 projects worth Rs.5.17 crore under AYUSH department. A total of Rs.114 crore sanctioned through KIFB for acquisition of land for International Ayurvedic Research Centre at Kannur. Construction of the first phase of the project, the Research Hospital and the Manuscript Centre, is progressing at a fast pace.

'Magilar Jyoti', a Siddha treatment scheme for women's holistic health, was launched at six centres and telemedicine system was introduced in the Ayush sector. Homeopathic immune booster provided to school children through 'Careful Ahead' scheme. The Department has set up three model nurseries for the production of



## Free home dialysis

The health department has started Peritoneal Dialysis scheme in 12 districts where patients can get free dialysis at home without visiting hospitals. Steps are being taken to take the project state-wide. In another initiative, a system of free stroke treatment in own district without traveling long distances has been implemented in 10 districts.



## IN A NUTSHELL

- Kerala controlled COVID-19 through timely actions and resources.
- State achieved lowest maternal, child mortality; topped NITI Aayog index.
- First heart surgery without opening heart performed in Kerala.
- Kerala released antibiogram, established liver transplants in govt hospitals.
- Implemented One Health scheme, addressing human-animal-environment risks.
- Launched VIVA campaign, doubled cancer drug allocation.
- Established two medical and nursing colleges, expanding education access.
- Upgraded health centers to Health and Wellness Centres.
- Kerala health department received awards like India Today 2022.
- State ensured oxygen self-sufficiency, ICU resources during pandemic.

quality medicinal plant seedlings. The HART project was started for various scientific researches under Homeopathy Department. A mobile app to help bring homeopathy department services to the masses was launched.

## Department of Food Safety

Under the Department of Food Safety, six mobile food testing laboratories have been set up and it became the first state to have testing labs. The Right to Good Food campaign was launched in the State. The department helped design and implement Operation Shawarma, Operation Matsya, Operation Jaggery, Operation Holiday etc. for food security.

The department released shawarma guidelines and banned mayonnaise made from raw eggs. Health card has been made mandatory and health inspectors were allowed to check health card and cleanliness.

The department implemented Street Food Hub, Clean and Safe Campaign for slaughterhouses, Hygiene Rating, Eat Right Campus and Ruco which takes back used oil. A Special Task Force (Intelligence) was formed under the department. ❖

# Reviving the Historical Splendour of Kerala

## The Department of Tourism's Heritage Conservation Projects

Kerala is imbued with rich culture, history, and heritage. The Department of Tourism in Kerala has taken on the onus of preserving and exhibiting the remarkable heritage buildings and places of worship that draw visitors from all corners of the world. The Travancore Heritage Project, Muziris Heritage Project, and Thalassery Heritage Project are three remarkable initiatives that aim to showcase the historical monuments of Kerala. These projects not only safeguard the rich heritage of the state but also have a significant impact on tourism, employment, research, and socio-cultural activities.

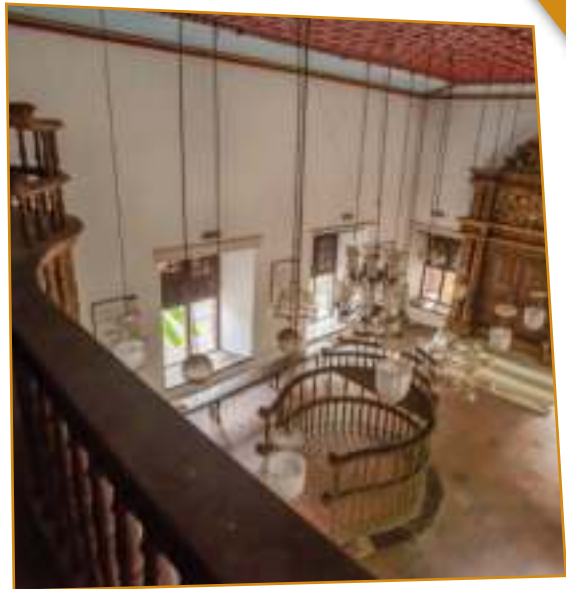


## Travancore Heritage Project

The Department of Tourism in Kerala is committed to preserving and showcasing the heritage buildings and places of worship that attract tourists from all over the world. The Travancore Heritage Project is a tourism circuit project that aims to highlight the heritage buildings of Travancore. As part of this project, the illumination of thirty buildings in Thiruvananthapuram city is currently underway to showcase their antiquity and architecture.

## Muziris Heritage Project

The Muziris Heritage Project is dedicated to preserving the historical monuments in Kerala that are estimated to be around 2500 years old. The restoration of the Holy Cross Church in Ernakulam district, believed to have been founded in 1577 by Jesuit priests, has been completed as part of the project. Additionally, the world-famous Cheramanpalli at Kodungallur, Thrissur, has also been restored. The conservation of these heritage areas will have a significant impact on tourism, historical studies, environmental conservation, research, development of handicrafts and arts, employment, and other socio-cultural activities.



## Thalassery Heritage Project

Thalassery is a unique area that marks significant historical places in the history of ancient, medieval, and modern India. The Department of Tourism in Kerala is organizing various activities to showcase the historical heritage routes of Thalassery. As part of the Thalassery Heritage Project, the Gundert Bungalow in Illikumni has been turned into a heritage museum, memorializing historian and linguist Dr. Herman Gundert, who created the first Malayalam and English dictionary. The museum houses the Hermann Hesse Library, Julie Gundert Hall, Gundert Statue, and Digital Book Archive, which are rich in rare books. The first phase of renovation work has been completed, and a video about the birth of each letter in Malayalam and the life of Gundert has been prepared.

Preserving heritage buildings and places of worship is of utmost importance in conserving history and culture. The commendable efforts of the Department of Tourism in Kerala to highlight the state's historical monuments through the Travancore Heritage Project, Muziris Heritage Project, and Thalassery Heritage Project are worth applauding. These initiatives will not only enhance tourism but also promote research, development of handicrafts and arts, and employment opportunities. Conserving these heritage areas will positively impact the socio-cultural activities of the region and contribute to the overall development of the state.






# Kerala's Innovative Water Budget Initiative

## EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION THROUGH THE LAUNCH OF A COMPREHENSIVE WATER BUDGET IN THE STATE

In a pioneering effort to bolster environmental conservation initiatives, the Haritha Keralam Mission is orchestrating the formulation of a Water Budget in each village panchayat across Kerala. This ground-breaking initiative aims to augment water storage and enhance summer water availability in the region. The initial phase of the project has successfully culminated in the completion of water budgets for 94 grama panchayats within 15 block panchayats, as part of a 100-day action program – marking the first of its kind in the nation.

Recent studies have unveiled a worrisome decline in Kerala's water availability, despite it being three times the national average. With regional disparities in water availability and utilisation, water security can only be attained through tailored, micro-level interventions that account for the state's unique topography and rainfall patterns.

The Water Budget serves as a comprehensive tool for evaluating and reconciling regional water requirements with local water availability, ultimately determining appropriate consumption levels. This valuable information paves the way for strategic water conservation efforts and responsible usage. By actively engaging local communities in the planning and implementation of water preservation initiatives, the project aspires to secure the water future of Kerala. 



## LEADING THE WAY IN INCLUSIVITY

Ours is an all-inclusive society that ensures equal opportunities and support for the development of all citizens, including those of the differently-abled.



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hands over a three-wheel scooter to Rahim, a differently-abled lottery vendor.

To believe in fearless minds  
and tireless feet,  
to brave the raging seas every day  
and walk side by side  
with hearts that beat in time  
with the waves.

# HUMAN *by* NATURE

