

KERALA CALLING

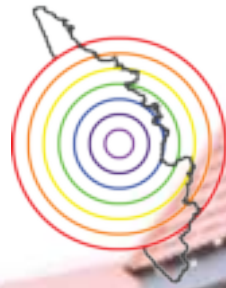
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₹ 12

e GOVERNANCE

The State has been nominated for the first rank among the states for the category of single window access to information and service links and sixth rank in the second category of digital delivery services.





ILO Kerala Sahasra



Achieving Lofty Goals

It takes extraordinary individuals and organizations to see challenges as opportunities, work diligently against odds to achieve lofty goals, and share the fruits of their labour for the general improvement of the living standards of all. What the Government of Kerala has striven to do is precisely this.

With COVID dealing a near-deadly blow to the lives and livelihoods of most people in Kerala, by restricting mobility and interaction, and inflicting a severe dent on the economy of the state, it looked as if progress was about to be stalled, developmental projects written off, and new enterprises spiked. But contrary to such fears and apprehensions, the state government was able to steady itself after the initial jolt, inspire the think-tanks to find innovative solutions to the unprecedented problems of the times, and lead the people to a newer path of progress.

While it is indisputable that the high literacy and tech-savvy culture of the state played a crucial role in achieving these ends, the introduction of e-governance, offering 833 services from 72 different

departments to the people of Kerala, made life simpler, safer, and happier. The article titled “Leading in Digital Governance” by Snehil Kumar Singh, Director, IT Mission, in this issue of Kerala Calling gives a peek into the persistent and humongous effort that went into providing people single window access to information and service links. The State Minister for Law, Industries, and Coir, P. Rajeev’s article “Marching Ahead with Pride” records the efforts made by the current government for promoting entrepreneurship, without compromising its commitment to the causes of Responsible Investment and Responsible Industry. Chief Secretary V. P. Joy’s article “Fruitful Sessions, Concrete Steps” presents details of the symbiotic relationship between the state and Malayali diaspora that has been strengthened further with the conclusion of the third Loka Kerala Sabha in June of this year.

While these pieces focus on how the lives of different strata of people – commoners, entrepreneurs, and non-resident Keralites – have been impacted positively, the article by Ramesh Gopalakrishnan (the first of a series) draws attention to the world of fine arts. It highlights the extraordinary achievement of an almost-forgotten genius – named A. K. Ravindranath – who has left a distinctive Malayali stamp in the field of Carnatic music.

The Kerala Calling editorial team takes pride in displaying the rich fare and invites you to enjoy this intellectual spectrum.

S. Harikishore I A S
Editor



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Articles/features appearing in this magazine are either commissioned or assigned. Nevertheless, other articles are also welcome. A maximum of 750 wordage is appreciated. Such items should be addressed to The Editor, Kerala Calling, First Floor, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram Pin 695001



48 Pages + Cover

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Marching ahead with pride

P. Rajeev

Minister for Law, Industries and Coir



Kerala is marching on proudly with a tail of accomplishments that were thought to be unattainable, one of the most important among them being the radical advancements in the industrial sector. The 'Ease of Doing Business ranking has a very special place among the many accolades received by the Ministry of Industrial Development during the past year. We managed to jump 13 steps from the 28th rank to reach the 15th rank. We also managed to achieve a score of 75.49%.





It is the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Union Ministry of Industries that collects the opinions of entrepreneurs and determines ranks based on the ease of starting an industrial enterprise in all the states and union territories. Based on final scores and user opinion surveys, states are categorised into four: Top Achievers, Achievers, Aspirers and Emerging Business Ecosystems. Kerala has secured its position in the 'Aspirer' category, having participated in the ranking since 2016. The ranking system began in 2014.

Every year, the DPIIT issues a Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) to the states, that lays down the measures to be implemented by the various departments for smooth start-up and functioning of enterprises. In 2016, Kerala implemented only 22.8% of these measures. Even though 85% of the things were implemented in 2019, the ranking given was 28. In 2020, the DPIIT suggested the state to complete 301 reforms and 94% of these were implemented.

Periodic amendments in laws and regulations related to granting permits to industrial enterprises and policy decisions taken and implemented have helped in this surge of development. A holistic approach emphasizing investment with sustainable development has led Kerala to rapid gains. The programs currently being implemented will further improve Kerala's ranking in the coming years to make it into the top ten.

A holistic approach emphasizing investment with sustainable development has led Kerala to rapid gains. The programs currently being implemented will further improve Kerala's ranking in the coming years to make it into the top ten.

This achievement will help the state to become a more preferred land for entrepreneurship investments. The unified approach of financial assistance schemes designed for MSMEs, women enterprises and start-ups will help further improve the ranking in the future. The upcoming third edition of the online single window clearance system K-SWIFT, private industrial parks and one lakh new ventures targeted this year as part of the Entrepreneurship Year will help raise the business environment in Kerala. As part of the Year of Entrepreneurship scheme, 36000 ventures have been started in just three months which is a testament to the improved investor-friendly environment. Steps have been taken to contact the entrepreneurs through the toll-free call centre of the Industries Department for redressal of grievances and receiving suggestions and MSME clinics have been started in all districts.

The 'Meet the Minister' program implemented to solve the problems of investors has also been very helpful in changing the perspective of the entrepreneurs towards Kerala. Feedback reflected that 75% of complaints received during the program were resolved. We were also able to get an investment offer worth Rs.7000 crore within a year through the 'Meet the Investor' program which was implemented with the aim of industrial growth in Kerala. 19 companies such as

Bill Tech, GeeCom, Azzco Global (Craze Biscuits), Atachi, Hotpack, Tristar, Venture, Synthite etc. have been prepared for investment through discussions with industrial enterprises and organisations with investment readiness of over one billion rupees. About three of these companies will start operations this year. The investment project worth Rs.75 crore was completed in the Kinfra Park, Kazhakkootam, within 10 months of signing the agreement with one of the world-class organisations in the field of design technology, Tata Eleksi. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with TCSS to set up an IT, ITES and Data Processing Campus at the Kinfra Electronic and Manufacturing Cluster, Kakkanaad, at the cost of Rs 1,200 crore. The government also decided to give permits for private industrial parks. The state government will provide financial assistance of up to Rs 3 crore for industrial parks to private individuals, trusts and groups having more than 10 acres of land.

Kerala is also the first state in the country to adopt the policy of Responsible Investment and Responsible Industry. Kerala becoming an ideal destination for green investments and a hub for responsible investments on a global basis will help to attract investments. The responsible investment policy introduced during this government is turning Kerala into a centre of environment-friendly and relatively low-polluting industries.

The state government was able to attract a lot of investors after being ranked 28th in the 'Ease of Doing Business. The fact that Kerala managed to jump to the 15th position will also make a big difference in the number of investors. More investors will see the state as a prime investment destination and will soon lead it to the top ten positions within the next one year and not long after, the first position before the end of the term of this government. Plans for the same will be developed and activities will be carried out to bring the state far ahead in terms of investment and put Kerala first in the 'Ease of Doing Business ranking.

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Loka Kerala Sabha

Fruitful Sessions, Concrete Steps



Dr. V.P. Joy IAS
Chief Secretary



loka kerala sabha

The third Loka Kerala Sabha held from 16th to 18th June 2022 in Thiruvananthapuram showcased the knowledge, experience and exposure gained by the Malayali Diaspora across the world and the sessions yielded healthy recommendations and possible solutions.





The Keralites who have been traversing the world for employment, education and other opportunities have contributed significantly towards the transformation of Kerala into a leading State in the country, in various sectors. The knowledge, experience and exposure gained by our people outside Kerala continue to progressively enhance the avenues for future generations of Keralites and accelerate the holistic development of the State.

The third Loka Kerala Sabha held from 16th to 18th June 2022 in Thiruvananthapuram truly assimilated this idea, with participants from over 62 countries and 21 Indian states.

• The diversity, in terms of areas of expertise, field of work, education, etc. brought together a unique mix of knowledge, experience and talent. The enthusiasm with which the young and senior members participated in various sessions enlivened the discussions.

• The sessions were broadly categorised under eight subject specific topics and seven region specific topics to facilitate focused representation of issues and exchange of ideas. The members provided valuable insights into the issues being faced by Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs) and the region specific differences among those issues. The insights which came from the personal experiences of the members were diverse and laid a strong foundation for the deliberations. The forum succeeded in creating synergies by bringing together key stakeholders to critically assess the scenarios and making recommendations from multiple perspectives. The sessions led by eminent persons also enabled a preliminary assessment of the possible solutions, during the

The Government of Kerala is committed to taking forward the recommendations of all three Loka Kerala Sabhas and implementing them expeditiously. The matters which come under central subjects will continue to be taken up with the Government of India on priority basis.

deliberations, before formulating the final recommendations.

The third Loka Kerala Sabha has received 174 recommendations from the sessions on subject specific topics and 162 recommendations from sessions on region specific topics. In addition, based on a policy document, members submitted another 370 recommendations.

As Secretary General of the Loka Kerala Sabha, I'm happy to note that the Government of Kerala has been successful in implementing the vast majority of the recommendations of the first and second Loka Kerala Sabha sessions. The assessment of the impact of these recommendations, which have been implemented, provided interesting learnings on effectively tackling various issues. The identification of these effective solutions was greatly facilitated by the creation of such a wide forum of Non-Resident Keralities to work closely with the Government.

The status of remaining recommendations in various stages of implementation, including those which require further consultations with the Government of India, are being closely monitored by the Loka Kerala Sabha Secretariat. The Departments concerned are striving to implement them at the earliest.

The Government of Kerala is committed to taking forward the recommendations of all three Loka Kerala Sabhas and implementing them expeditiously. The matters which come under central subjects will continue to be taken up with the Government of India on priority basis.

However, the impact of the Sabha goes beyond the recommendations as an opportunity for the Government to highlight the emerging opportunities in Kerala. The sessions covered various aspects of this. Apart from the sessions, the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation's pavilion at the Legislative Assembly Complex venue, which showcased the progress achieved in recent years in the industrial sector, attracted a great deal of interest. The participants were keen to learn more about the industrial park infrastructure, emerging areas of opportunities, various supports offered and advancements like K-SWIFT, the online single window clearance web-portal. The Government's endeavour to facilitate the creation of five lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Kerala was also widely welcomed.

The NRKs have been an active part of the State's economy, through very significant yearly remittances and stake in business enterprises in Kerala. The State Government welcomes a greater role by NRKs in the economy, education, research, health and social welfare sectors in Kerala.

It is prudent for Kerala not to be complacent about our laurels, even in sectors such as health and education where we have made great achievements. The State needs to continue to work in a holistic manner, in this rapidly evolving world, to provide everyone with the best opportunities. All sectors will benefit from adoption of best practices and technologies and NRKs are uniquely poised to be able to bring the best in the world to Kerala, to elevate the State to new heights.

We must always remember that the idea of LKS is not limited to these sessions and aims at continued engagement for the collaborative holistic advancement of our home State.

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Leading in Digital Governance



Snehil Kumar Singh IAS

Director, IT Mission



Digital Kerala

Kerala being a state with the highest literacy rate, the shift from offline governance settings to e-Governance gained a speed pace in the state among the citizens with critical knowledge of internet use. E-Governance has been one of the most significant technological revolutions, things escalated quickly, leading to the state being nominated for the first rank among the state for the category of single window access to information and service links and 6th rank in the second category of digital delivery service.





The State of Kerala has always been a leader in Digital Governance. It is in this light, that the targets for Digital Governance and electronic citizen service delivery were taken up by the Kerala State IT Mission. It is the leadership and vision of the Government to make Kerala- a digitally governed state which led to the rapid digitization of processes related to citizen service delivery. The COVID pandemic also put up a huge focus and requirement for the citizens to get government service remotely without physical interaction with the government offices.

The problem statement was huge, and it comprised the complex task

of coordinating with all the departments and identifying each of the services that they are offering. An exercise of this scale was not done in the State. This led to IT Mission creating the service tracker (servicetracker.kerala.gov.in). The service tracker recorded information about every service that the department was offering. The service tracker is a web application that captures the details of the service such as the name of service, department name, type of service (G2C/G2B/G2G), the time limit for delivery, weblink in case of online, description of service, mobile responsiveness, etc. The services which were entered by the nodal officers of each department started the exercise of the digitization of services. It had multiple benefits as departments were able to consolidate all the services and identify such services which were highly used and which were sparsely used. It also brought out a huge distinction in terms of physical services and online services. The legacy of every department for cleaning out the service delivery got a huge boost with such a database. At IT Mission we

The service tracker recorded information about every service that the department was offering. The service tracker is a web application that captures the details of the service such as the name of service, department name, type of service (G2C/G2B/G2G), the time limit for delivery, weblink in case of online, description of service, mobile responsiveness, etc.

started detailed scrutiny of each of the services in terms of operability and use. The scrutiny was done to test if the service is actually responding, able to deliver the said benefit/document, the number of documents that are to be uploaded, the number of fields needing to be entered by the applicant, and the mobile-friendly features of each of the service. This exercise led to findings of certain services having issues pertaining to software bottlenecks, excessive field requirements, etc.

Once the service listing was done, the next step was to create a unified platform that will be able to host the services for the citizen use with easy and accessible operations. This led to the creation of the Sevanam portal. The sevanam portal was launched as a Good Governance initiative and has used technology to aggregate almost all online services (G2C & G2B) of the Government of Kerala, in a single platform for the Citizens of Kerala. The e-sevanam portal (services.kerala.gov.in) is now a collection of 833 services from 72 departments. The portal is now providing for each service the documents required, the fees and the time limit of each for ease of citizens. The portal also has the provision of Single Sign-on which provides citizens an option of not logging in multiple times for different department services.

It is to be seen that every department created services based on their own processes but never was it done to bring every service together on a common platform. The services which are offered are all digital and are only put on the portal after rigorous testing at various levels. About 450+ services are rendered through a uniform mobile application called m-SEVANAM developed by NIC Kerala, which is available in the play store and ios.

Along with the sevenam portal, it was necessary for government senior officials to monitor such service delivery. To clearly establish a common framework for monitoring the performance of each of the services a dashboard was developed (dashboard.kerala.gov.in). This dashboard is dynamically updated by each of the departments and the HODs are able to assess the performance of each of the services being offered. It also offers insights into which services are most actively used and which are not. It also measures the performance of each department in terms of disposal rate.

This project was also recognized by the National e-Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public grievances (DARPG), Government of India. Kerala State portal got the 1st Rank in the state portal (kerala.gov.in) and 6th rank in the services portal (services.kerala.gov.in). The entire development of the work was done through CDIT under Kerala State IT Mission with pivotal guidance from the IT secretary, Chief Secretary, and Chief Minister.

The IT mission has now embarked on the journey to make this portal into a complete one-government solution for all citizen services, with highly scalable and end-to-end integrated software for every citizen. The same would be done by making the sevanam portal a smart and reliable service delivery platform building on the great momentum we have achieved, in the past year. The goal of IT mission is to make e-governance and e-services for citizens- simple, reliable, and scalable.

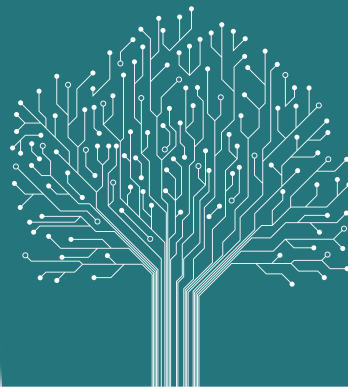
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Cover Story

Redefining Services

M.V. Govindan Master

Minister for Local Self Governments, Rural Development and Excise



Local Governments in Kerala are giving a new definition to the self-determination of democracy. They are entering a new phase of public service with seasonal changes. Local Governments, closest to the people, are gearing up to provide services easily and quickly by utilizing e-applications. In this era of the Digital Revolution, the Local Self-Government institutions are also adopting novel techniques to provide services at the fingertips of the people.





A unified online application called ILGMS is bringing about a remarkable change in Panchayats. Apart from employees and superiors, this system also ensures the right of the public to observe and interact with each file. The Government is going ahead with the steps to make the services of the local bodies entirely online by enforcing a similar system in all the municipalities of the State by this October. The Integrated Local Governance Management System or ILGMS system was fully implemented in all 941 Panchayats of Kerala on April 4, 2022. ILGMS provides access to 264 basic services which are prime

important to citizens. This application was developed by the Information Kerala Mission. The citizen portal is the front end of the ILGMS system. Anyone can apply 24 hours a day based on English or Malayalam instructions. While applying, one could know about the days that might take to avail of services will be shown on the website itself. The prime advantage of this system is that the applicant could know about the status of the application, which officer is handling the file, the pending days of the file, and the number of days each officer took to decide on the file, etc. This helps to end the file pending situation and if there comes a delay, the officials should have to explain the situation to the public. The system helps people to access the services hassle-free and timely manner from any corner of the world. Services including fees remittance can also be done online. Once the application is disposed of, the issued certificate can be downloaded online. Certificates

With the intervention of this novel system, Minister sitting at the Thiruvananthapuram office can effortlessly know about the pending files and disbursed files in each Panchayats.

applied on or before the establishment of ILGMS can be easily downloaded online. Without login, one can view and download birth, death, and marriage registration certificates issued at any particular time through this system. This system ensures proper prioritization of pending files for employees as well. Each employee receives an accurate notification of pending files to be disposed of. So much so that it facilitates active file checking and proper supervision by superiors. With the intervention of this novel system, Minister sitting at the Thiruvananthapuram office can effortlessly know about the pending files and disbursed files in each Panchayats. People can know about the status of the pending files with a single click.

This system not only helps to identify idle employees but also helps to encourage those who are doing their work satisfactorily. 29,62,963 files have been processed through ILGMS till the article is written. Now the remaining files are 5,23,007. In the last two months, about thirteen lakh files have been disposed of by Panchayats through ILGMS. Currently, most of the services are made online in the municipalities as well. However, there is no collective system that caters to all aid under one roof. The system is expected to be ready by October. The work regarding this is in the final phase. In municipalities, the building construction permits are obtained through IBPMS. Online applications, birth, death, and marriage registrations are made

available through the citizen portal. The labour tax can be remitted online as it is enabled in all municipalities and land tax can be paid online in the majority of municipalities also. Implementation of online services including layout approval in the town planning section has led to great advancement.

In this way, the Information Kerala Mission is developing a system to provide municipal services on the model of ILGMS by combining various kinds of online services. IKM, facilitating these services, is also waiting for a big boom. The government is taking steps to revamp IKM into an international standard IT organization. Efforts are being done to equip projects from other states and countries as well. Other than these, Local Self-Government Institutions are providing many other services with the aid of novel technologies. With the implementation of a smart garbage system, waste management has become more effective and efficient. The smart garbage mobile app was launched to streamline garbage management activities more efficiently and to encourage the activity of Haritha Karma Sena's collection of inorganic waste. This app provides facilities to track the status of solid waste management and put up information related to segregated plastic wastes. The beneficiaries can also request a service, address their grievance, and can pay user fees also. QR codes will be given to all households and institutions. Using this app public can inform authorities about issues such as the burning and disposal of plastic wastes. The local government institutions can observe those vehicles transporting the waste materials.

The government is committed to providing basic services and the needs of the common man within its reach. As online services are made available in Municipalities, complete e-Governance will be implemented in the local self-bodies in accordance with the effective implementation of the system in Panchayaths. These revolutionary changes put forward while celebrating glorious twenty-five years of People's Planning will make local governments more efficient and dynamic in bestowing services.

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Cover Story

The digital revolution in the agriculture sector

P. Prasad

Minister for Agriculture

Various activities are carried out under the scheme "Agricultural Information Centre at a Fingertip" under the Department of Agriculture. This project envisages providing an authentic answer to any queries related to agriculture and allied sector raised through telephone/new media.





Call Centre (Atma Call Center)

Responds clearly, transparently and authentically to direct phone calls to the toll-free number 1800 425 1661 from 8 am to 8 pm to all queries related to agriculture. The queries sent to the WhatsApp number 9447051661 and to the email id info@krishi.info will be addressed transparently.

Also, the following systems were set up.

- Agriculture Information Centre and Krishi Padashala YouTube channels were set up.
- Agriculture Information Centre Mobile Application
- www.krishi.info Web portal and

Through these systems, disease and pest infestation pictures can be sent through mobile applications and WhatsApp to get required solutions.

fb.com/krishiinfo Facebook page to give proper pieces of information

Through these systems, disease and pest infestation pictures can be sent through mobile applications and WhatsApp to get required solutions. A real-time solution to farm problems can also be found through WhatsApp chatting.

Information provided by Agriculture Information Centre web portal (www.krishi.info)

1. Real-Time Market Information
2. Availability of means of production.
3. Weather-related information.
4. Information about Agricultural Service Centres.
5. Workforce Information.
6. Innovative farming practices.
7. Links of various institutions in agriculture-related sectors.
8. E-Agriculture Library.
9. Daily price level of agricultural products from official sources.
10. Information regarding the availability of agricultural machinery and labour from service centres including agro service centres.

Online Farmers Field School (Krishi Padashala)

This is a project jointly conducted by the state agriculture department and SFAC Kerala to provide online training to farmers through modern information technology. Classes in this scheme are conducted by a range of agricultural officers who are experts in various fields. Many problems like soil, crops, irrigation, disease and pest infestation can be solved by participating in the classes based on agriculture. This school can be attended from any part of the world. Farmers' queries regarding the class will be answered through the toll-free number of Agriculture Information Centre 1800 425 1661.

Online knowledge dissemination activities

Posters related to agricultural knowledge are prepared and circulated on social media. Short agricultural knowledge dissemination video clips are produced and spread through social media.

Many problems like soil, crops, irrigation, disease and pest infestation can be solved by participating in the classes based on agriculture

e initiatives of the Revenue Department

K. Rajan

Minister for Revenue and Housing



The government of Kerala has touched every aspect of digital technology with the advancement in e-governance. The Revenue Department goes smarter with the introduction of innovative e-governance methods that foregrounds transparency, efficiency, and easy accessibility. The internet-based strategies put forward by the Revenue Department have given hassle-free services to the public.





Land tax, which was paid directly at the Village offices now could be remitted from anywhere in the world through Mobile App. The Revenue e-service mobile app is updated to other land-related services as well.

Over the last few decades, the state has made a giant leap in the field of e-governance. The LDF Governments had particularly used information and communication technology as an effective tool for the socio-economic advancement of society. Especially in the e-governance field, the LDF government's initiatives are well appreciated by the public. It ensures transparency and enhanced operational efficiency in terms of resource utilization, cost, time and other factors. The Revenue Department has also launched an array of people-friendly digital services. Four districts have been declared e-districts and the rest will be soon brought into the e-services network.

Village offices are the basic unit of the Government. Most of the village offices are already upgraded as smart offices.

Most of the services from these offices are made through online platforms. Land tax, which was paid directly at the Village offices now could be remitted from anywhere in the world through Mobile App. The Revenue e-service mobile app is updated to other land-related services as well.

Similarly online approval of field measurement sketches, at those villages which have completed digital services, are introduced. Applicants can also remit the fee online. The location map can also be availed online now, the public can apply for the conversion of paddy lands through online platforms. This process ensures transparency and prevents forgery or any other foul plays. It also facilitates online verification of the documents.

Digitization of the basic tax register and revenue record of 1666 villages in the state are completed. Numerous land-related services are now given free of cost. All the village offices have independent websites, which contain land pieces of information, activities, services, and information management. In addition to this, certified land documents are accessible through the website. The revenue e-services portal for remitting taxes and fees has been updated. Quick

pay servers are strengthened to facilitate multiple payments at a time without any hassles. The biggest dream project of the Survey Department is to measure the lands digitally by four years. The surveying process was initiated in the year 1966. Till now we have only finished surveys in 911 villages. The Digital Survey project envisages finishing the land measuring works in 1550 villages within four years using modern CORS technology. RTK, Rover, ETS drones and Lidar types of equipment will also be used in survey works.

The Revenue Department envisages a unified portal for land integrating the E-map of the Survey Department, RELIS

of the Revenue Department, and Pearl of the Registration Department.

A Unique Thandaper System is being introduced. This is a revolutionary move to identify the quantum of land which an individual holds. Unique Thandaper number will be linked with the Aadhaar of each land owner. This system is introduced first time in the country by the LDF Government. From now onwards, title deeds will be distributed through digital Platforms. If a title holder loses his Title deed to retrieve, it was hilarious earlier. E-title deeds are an effective way to protect documents. Documents with QR codes and digital signatures are prepared nowadays.

All these measures are initiated for the well-being of the common masses. A digital revolution is spreading across the World. LDF Government wants to use the technology for the betterment and quality of the common man's life.

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Environment

Environment Protection: An Important Agenda of Kerala Governance



Ignatius Pereira
Senior Journalist



Without much fanfare, result-oriented projects underway in Kerala are making major contributions towards containing the ever-growing environmental pollution menace not only at the regional level but even at the global level. These projects though simple are well qualified to become ambitious models for other regions too when it comes to protecting the environment.



Plastic pollution is one of the major challenges faced by the world in the fight to protect the environment and Kerala too is in that tangle. Though an acclaimed 100 per cent Literacy State, that qualification for many reasons, as is the case in other parts of the country, fails to reflect when it comes to safeguarding the environment from plastic pollution. The plastic used to be littered almost everywhere in the open spaces and wetlands. A good portion of that finds its way to the sea during the monsoon. A probe into the source of this threat revealed that a lion's share of this menace collectively comes from individual households.

In responding to this problem, the Government of Kerala, in December 2016 launched a project christened "Green Kerala Mission" (GKM). It was aimed at mitigating the anthropogenic plastic pollution threat to the environment. Through the GKM a green army comprising more than 50,000 women was constituted to tackle the problem.

One of the immediate tasks of the GKM corps was to create awareness among housewives not to throw away plastic waste in public places and wetlands. The alternative given was that the GKM corps would collect them every month and till then store them within the house. It is estimated that through this scheme about 90 per cent of the plastic waste which would have otherwise been

littered is now being collected and sent for recycling. This has resulted in a considerable decrease in plastic waste reaching the Arabian Sea and that is not a small deal. The Green Army has been considerably successful in reducing the flow of plastic waste generated in Kerala from reaching not only the sea but even water bodies of the State. And that is a global level contribution by GKM in reducing plastic waste from reaching the sea.

Another impressive Kerala project underway towards making the environment healthy is one implemented by the Police Department through its Coastal Police Stations. The project is named "Suchitwa Theeram Sundara Theeram" (Clean Coast Beautiful Coast), launched five years ago. The Kerala Government then expanded this project as "Suchitwa Sagaram Suraksha Theeram" (Clean Sea, Safe Coast).

Marine environment enthusiast and environment protection activist, V.K. Madhusoodanan, said that many locations of the ocean have turned into unimaginably huge plastic garbage patches posing a grave threat to marine life. "But since the impact of this danger is not visible to humans, the dangerous levels of its marine life degradation inflicted are also not visible. But scientific studies have exposed the danger and its repercussions are being dangerously felt especially by those communities depending upon marine wealth for livelihood'.

Ocean gyres carry plastic patches around all oceans and these are de facto sailing death traps for all forms of marine life. Already almost half the harvest by the fishermen from the sea is plastic. Most of this plastic used to be dumped back into the sea. But under the above two schemes, the plastic fished from the sea is now brought back to the shore and despatched for recycling. The "Suchitwa Theeram" program comprises more than 20,000 volunteers.

The Kerala Forest Department is also playing a big role to protect the environment, especially that of the Western Ghats forests inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. One of the impressive programs in this connection is replacing exotic invasive plants from the forest areas with endemic plants. The invasive plant species like acacia and eucalyptus were introduced for commercial purposes mainly as raw material for the newsprint industry. But these trees do not provide any kind of sustainability for the endemic animals or plants.

While forest fires in the past used to be limited to the undergrowth, the exotic species introduced became notorious for spreading forest fires through the canopy.

The Green Army has been considerably successful in reducing the flow of plastic waste generated in Kerala from reaching not only the sea but even water bodies of the State. And that is a global level contribution by GKM in reducing plastic waste from reaching the sea.



“This has proved highly devastating compared to the undergrowth fires which later boost plant growth,” Madhusoodanan said. Now the Forest Department is planting native species of plants that sustain the forest-dwelling animals to feed and breed. Under this programme the Forest Department is engaged in creating new buffer zones for forests to complement the health of the existing forest covers. It is the buffer zones that are the actual guardians of the forest core areas.

Yet another impressive program underway in Kerala is mangrove afforestation. Mangrove forests have a wide range of applications in protecting the environment. Madhusoodanan who had led a series of campaigns for the

cause of mangrove forests said that the impressive part of this program is that students and NGOs in large numbers have become part of it. “This has resulted in the mangrove forest coverage of the State considerably going up in recent years. The people of the State have now developed an unprecedented affinity towards mangrove forests and that is a great positive sign that has emerged towards protecting the environment”, he said.

Now the Forest Department is planting native species of plants that sustain the forest-dwelling animals to feed and breed. Under this program the Forest Department is engaged in creating new buffer zones for forests to complement the health of the existing forest covers

Nedumangad Block Panchayat - A Role Model



Dr. M. Kuttappan

(Former Director of Economics and Statistics, Kerala),

The Community Development Blocks under the Rural Development Department played a very important role in the socio-economic development of Kerala during the three-decade period 1960-1990. In recent years some block panchayats have made significant progress and among them the performance of Nedumangad Block Panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram District is noteworthy. An attempt is made in this article to discuss the important initiatives of this Panchayat during the term of the last Committee 2016-2021.



Sustainable Agricultural Management

After the fifth local government election of Kerala, the new block panchayat committee with B. Biju as Chairman assumed charge on 7th November 2015. The committee in its first meeting decided to work as a complementary tier of five grama panchayats of Karakulam, Aruvikkara, Anad, Panavoor and Vembayam.

Considering the declining importance of agriculture and to reduce the dependence on pesticide-laden vegetables and fruits from other States, the Committee initiated a programme of organic farming under the caption Sustainable Agricultural Management and Rural Development (Samrudhi). The first step in this direction was the vegetable cultivation in one hectare of wasteland in the premise of the block office. The committee members and officials advanced the fund to meet the cost of the cultivation of five items of vegetables. Only organic manure and pesticides were used and the vegetables produced were sold to local households and outlets. From the sale proceeds, the amount advanced by the Committee members and officials was returned. This is a good example of People's participation in planning and development and resource mobilisation. On the basis of this experience, this block panchayat established a Jaivakrishi Pariseelana Sevana Kendram (Training Centre for Organic Farming) to impart training to farmers. For the benefit of households without land, the panchayat initiated a scheme to popularise Grow Bag cultivation of vegetables with the cooperation of grama panchayats and service cooperative societies. The block panchayat in association with the grama panchayats decided to bring all barren land under cultivation in a phased manner. During 2017-18 with the co-operation of land owners 10 hectares of barren land were brought under cultivation and earned a profit of Rs 3.73 lakhs.

To meet the increased demand for vegetables and flowers during the festival seasons of Onam and Christmas, the panchayat launched a scheme Vallam Nira (full of baskets). Households with 10 cents of land were encouraged to cultivate vegetables and flower plants for which seedlings and manures were arranged through the Pariseelana Kendram. Four varieties of vegetables and three varieties of flowers were produced and sold in the shops and stalls arranged by the Kendram. Another novel project implemented is

the Anganvadi organic village to improve the nutritional status of children admitted in the 164 Anganvadi Centres, two Bud Schools for differently-abled children and 20 Lower Primary Schools. For this, first, these centres were directed to identify at least one cent of land within their premise or nearby place for organic farming. Suitable seeds or seedlings were planted under the supervision of concerned officials of Krishi Bhavan. The vegetables produced have to be used to prepare food for the children. The centres have to continue the cultivation of vegetables suitable to the varying climate condition so as to produce the required vegetables throughout the year.

Waste Management

For the disposal of waste, the Panchayat established the Resource Recovery Facility Centre (RRFC) on the premise of its office at a cost of Rs 62 Lakhs. The wastes from households, shops and establishments and from the public places collected by the Karmasena of Kudumbashree are first brought to the Material Collection Facility Centres (MCF) of five Grama Panchayats. From these centres, the plastic materials are segregated and brought to the RRF centre where the trained women workers of Clean Kerala Company segregate the reusable plastic materials from non-reusables. Reusable plastic materials are given to the Clean Kerala Company and non-reusable plastic materials are mechanically crushed in the RRF centre and used for road tarring.

Social Audit

This panchayat is the first block panchayat in Kerala to initiate social auditing of various projects to evaluate their impact and shortcomings. About 30 schemes were subjected to social audit by volunteers and experts. It is also the first Block panchayat in Kerala to receive the ISO certification and this paved the way for others to follow. As such by July 2019 all the Block Panchayats in Kerala could get ISO certification.

Awards and prizes

In view of the many people-friendly schemes implemented by the Panchayat, it was declared the best Block Panchayat in the State and received many awards and prizes. It received the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar from the Government of India continuously for 4 years from 2016-17. It was also selected as the best Block panchayat in the State and received the Swaraj Trophy and cash prizes from the State Government for 2017-18 and 2018-19. It has bagged the Chief Ministers' Haritha Award for the year 2018-19 and many other awards from the Agriculture and Social Justice departments of Government of Kerala.

In a democratic system, the quality of governance and development depends to a great extent on the capacity of elected representatives in discharging their mandated authority and responsibilities. The Committee of Nedumangad Block Panchayat under the able guidance of its president B. Biju could plan and implement many novel projects with the cooperation of the bureaucracy and the public. It is hoped that this documentation of the various projects carried out by the Block panchayat would create a spirit of healthy competition among the 1200 local governments of Kerala.

The Specialist



Ajai Kumar K.S.

Travel Writer / German Interpreter



Sridevi Narayanan

Media Analyst



“The Specialist” is a Sylvester Stallone starred 1994 Hollywood blockbuster, in which the protagonist is an Explosion Specialist, an ex-US military spy on a mission. From time to time, the Indian film industry and the mainstream media have brought before us the references of various encounter specialists. We have also been well versed with the medical specialists and numerous other specialists in their respective fields. But one of India’s top-notch specialists, the specialists in the tourism industry are lesser-known to the public. The reason being their specialized services are exposed and required mainly for international tourists.



Jungle Trekking with the naturalist

Photography - Manoj Vasudevan



There are unique specialist tour operators, specialized individual tourism professionals and specialized theme-based accommodation facilities. The theme-based resorts or luxurious micro-accommodation facilities belonging to various groups and individuals are aimed at attracting the discerned and high-spending serious tourists. Many resorts are introducing the age-old indigenous healing and wellness system Ayurveda incorporated with tourism as a Unique Selling Product. "We are proud to claim that we have paved the way for a revolutionary debut. As a result, numerous Ayurveda resorts are commenced inside and outside Kerala after our successful implementation

and effective marketing ", says Baby Mathew, the Founder-Chairman of Somatheeram Ayurveda Group.

"The folk of every other nationality reflects their own culture in their practices and expectations, thereby their demands are varied," says Bejoy Koshy, the CEO of Dakshindia Destination Management Pvt Ltd. He adds "The Japanese tourists wish less to drive, more into Monument Photography. They are more prone to a mix of Japanese and local cuisine."

One can find specialized tour operators who concentrate on handling specified nationalities whereas some operators concentrate mainly on adventure tours, wildlife tours, cycling tours, trekking tours etc. The watersports specialists who are determined to "tame the waves of the Arabian Sea" have immense possibilities in the world of the tourism industry.

Besides the existing resorts and hotels, providing unique



micro-accommodative facilities like, farmhouses, converted colonial bungalows, homestays, and tented accommodation in the forests and scenic valleys add more choice and can attract lucrative international tourists. Now, Caravan Tourism is a novel idea in Kerala.

To tap out the post-COVID era tourists, Sejo Jose, the Managing Director of Moksha Stays-a Marvel Group Venture, is now on a mission to promote such a micro-accommodative chain of 12 vacation homes in various spots, each of them does not possess more than two to three rooms, which is undeniably an attractive tourism concept. Sejo with his vast industrial experience of 25 years

... says "We are very keen on strictly maintaining their original character, natural eco-system, aesthetic surroundings and elegance of the past. We aim to provide luxurious stay with unique experiences and local cuisine".

Major individual specialists in the tourism industry are Professional Guides belonging to the Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India (Regional Level Guides - RLGs- with an area of Operation in multiple states) and Govt of Kerala (State Level Guides – SLGs- limited to Kerala state alone). Among the unique brigade of professional guides, there are a host of specialists such as foreign language specialists, subject experts etc. Antony Varghese, an RLG is a multi-lingual professional guide, who speaks German, French and Italian fluently. Only according to the dates of Sabu George – a Spanish speaking RLG - some Spanish and Latin American tour operators publish their catalogues for selling their expensive tours to South India.



Room with a view of a luxurious micro-accommodation

Chameleon Reisen, a reputed German tour operator who caters to high-class German tourists primarily seeks the dates of Chris Joseph, a highly acclaimed German Speaking RLG who specializes in cultural tours and Christian pilgrim tours of South India. During the visits of Diego Maradona, it was through Alex Thomas, Spanish-speaking RLG, Maradona has conversed with Kerala. There are French, Russian, Japanese and Arabic language experts as well, to adorn the tourism sector.

Apart from the foreign language specialists, numerous English-speaking RLGs and SLGs specialize in various areas of professional guiding. The

RLG Manoj Vasudevan himself is a published travel photographer and specially handles the foreign media. His coffee table books were published by Harper Collins and Stark World. Rejanish Sahadevan, an English-speaking SLG is a cyclist and thereby handles cycle tours and ornithology groups. Shine Aroor, a keen environmentalist and a flora and fauna specialist, received the Audley-UK Best Guide's Award in Shanghai, hosted by GUILIN TANG DYNASTY INTERNATIONAL. Rajesh P R, earlier who was concentrating on US inbound market is presently specializing in outbound tours and familiarization tours for Foreign Tour Operators to promote Responsible Tourism. Rajesh says "I can culturally connect my South Indian tour leading experiences to the native travelers when I accompany them to the European countries". There are various guides that specialize tours such as Archeology, Heritage Architecture, Wildlife tours, Adventure Tours, Eco-tours etc.

Naturalists are yet another special profession in tourism. A



female presence is rarest of the rarest in this profession. After her Post Graduate Degree in Environmental Science, Preethi R, chose her professional future to be a naturalist.

In the 90s, Tourindia of Babu Varghese was known for their specialization in innovative eco-tourism products like the converted Kettuvallom Houseboats- a historical breakthrough in the industry - , the World's Highest Treehouses in the wilderness of Wayanad rain forest, embellished Bullock-Cart Rides through rustic Kerala Villages, marketing Tiger Trail Trekking Programs of the state forest department, organizing wedding for foreign nationals in Kerala's natural settings and Angling Tour Packages in

the coastal line of Arabian Sea. "Innovation is our inherent madness. Since then, no notable tourism products have emerged as revolutionary" said O Thomas, Director - Tourindia.

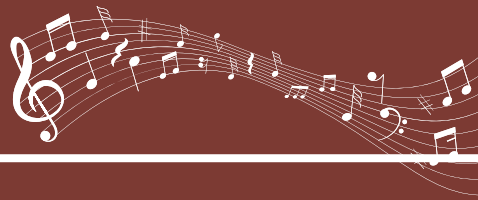
After the three devastating waves of COVID, our tourism industry is in a numb state. To revitalize the industry and attract high-spending foreign tourists from the Global tourism market, it is inevitable to reinstate the erstwhile high-quality professional tourism with unique, innovative and internationally competitive tourism products with demand-oriented professional services. As an Industry, the prime aim of tourism is nothing else than its economic viability that escalates the abundance of foreign exchange to the nation.

Immortal Maestros of Kerala



Ramesh Gopalakrishnan

Music Critic



There are many musical geniuses who are Keralites either by birth or by career blessing and live among us as ordinary citizens. Although some of those great stalwarts have disappeared into the mists of time, their artistic services continue to rejuvenate our musical culture even today. Their lives and their music have played a crucial role in shaping and determining the cultural identity of our land. What made these prodigies stand apart was their ability to face even the deeply disharmonious experiences of life, and convert them into euphonic musical strains by the strength of their willpower and imagination. However, the extent to which we have acknowledged them or shown them respect is a moot point. To remember them with reverence is perhaps a matter of necessity for us rather than what is legitimately due to them. After all, through them, we get a glimpse of our own land too.



A.K. Ravindranath

His is a name that deserves to be remembered with respect by students of Carnatic music in Kerala. What makes him incomparable is his massive composition titled Dakshinendian Sangeetham [Music of South India]. Ravindranath's greatness will impact us hugely when we learn about the factor that inspired him to write this book. When he was a Ganabhooshanam student at the Sri Swathi Thirunal Sangeetha Academy [now Sri Swathi Thirunal College of Music] in Thiruvananthapuram, most of the instructors were Brahmins, who took classes in a mixture of Malayalam and Tamil. As their command of Malayalam was rather poor, their communication was not highly effective. The result was that Malayali students learned most of the lessons by rote, understanding very little of their importance. Ravindranath, who experienced this difficulty intensely, realized that all fellow Malayali students shared a similar predicament. The sad thought that the coming generations of Malayali students too would suffer the same fate of learning Carnatic music without comprehending its meaning haunted him. As there were plenty of books on music, written in English, Tamil, and other south Indian languages, Ravindranath wondered why there wasn't a similar work in Malayalam. This also led him into writing the tome, in which he got considerable help from K. S. Narayanan Swamy, his own teacher, and musician of repute.

Dakshinendian Sangeetham is the most authoritative book on south Indian music ever written in Malayalam. It is virtually impossible for a Malayali student to build up a strong basement in Carnatic music without using this text. For more than 50 years – that is, ever since the book was published – it has been a prescribed textbook for students

undergoing the Ganabhooshanam course in Kerala. The first volume gives rich information, both deep and wide, about the history of music, its many forms, various vocalists, prominent musicians, basic lessons, geetams, lakshana geetams, jatiswarams, tana varnams, ata tala varnams and so on. Its other claim to fame is that it is a bestseller among the technical literature books published by the Kerala Bhasha Institute.

After securing the first rank in Ganabhooshanam, Ravindranath settled in Thiruvananthapuram, and while involved in giving music lessons to young students, he made attempts to publish this book. But his efforts did not bear fruit because of paucity of funds. As he could not raise the required amount, he decided to try his luck in Delhi. He boarded a train in 1965, stayed at the house of K. Damodaran, the Communist leader and Rajya Sabha MP, and started teaching music to students there. Ravindranath had taught music to K. Damodaran's daughter in Thiruvananthapuram. While in Delhi, he got the opportunity to teach the daughter of T. N. B. Nedungadi. This association helped him gather the rest of the amount required for publication of the book. The language editing of the work was done jointly by K. Damodaran and his wife Padma Damodaran. Finally, the first edition of the book was published by NBS in 1970. It was subsequently taken up by the state Department of Culture, and later by the Kerala Bhasha Institute. When the availability of the book became difficult during an interim period, a publishing firm started bringing it out on its own, after altering the title, and adding another name as its author. As soon as Ravindranath came to know about this, he alerted the Kerala Bhasha Institute. The Institute initiated legal measures against the firm and brought its venture to an end.

In 1968, Ravindranath was appointed as a tanpura artiste at Akashavani in Delhi. He got many opportunities to meet many Hindustani vocalists, who inspired him to write about Hindustani music. It subsequently became the second volume of his work, and was published in 2003. In course of time, a third volume was added, with its focus on the indigenous musical styles of Kerala. The fourth volume carried biographies of immortal geniuses in the world of music and their rare pictures. With the completion of the fifth volume, containing musical notation, Dakshinendian Sangeetham became a rare and comprehensive book on music in Malayalam, and brought closure to the grand enterprise. The fifth and last volume also received a rousing reception from music aficionados and students alike. As part of his musical career, A. K. Ravindranath performed several recitals, and also composed scores for many



Malayalam songs. He was a Top Artiste in classical music at Akashvani, and won the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademy Award in 1994.

Ravindranath was born on 5 May 1934 at Kallur village in Kannur district to Kuttiraman Nambisan, a Kathakali and Carnatic musician, and Savithri. Thrissur P. Radhakrishnan, the famous musician and musicologist, was his

brother-in-law. Ravindranath is married to P. Sarojini and has three daughters – Kavitha, Geetha and Saritha.

Generally speaking, writers create books. But in the case of A. K. Ravindranath, it would be more appropriate to say that the book created the writer.

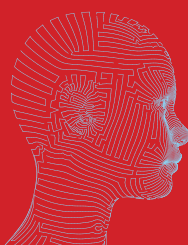
He contracted diabetes at the age of 40. His last days were spent in Coimbatore in the company of his wife. Ravindranath bade adieu to his rich musical career on 26 March 2015.

Emotional Intelligence of Students at Present Scenario...



Dr. A. Prameela

Principal SNDP Yogam Training College,
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An interesting thing is happening in the 21st-century workplace: The more technology we have in this digital age, the more we automate tasks and trust machines to take over duties, the more we realize the importance of emotions. Yes, emotions, and more specifically emotional intelligence.





- notice your feelings
- predict your emotions
- keep a diary
- channel emotions into creativity
- see failures as opportunities
- practise active listening
- maintain a positive attitude
- respond well to conflicts

Emotional intelligence is our ability to recognize emotions in ourselves and others, to understand their effect, and to use that knowledge to guide our thoughts and behaviours. Because emotionally intelligent people tend to get along better with others and be more empathetic and compassionate, they are likely to be more successful compared to their counterparts. And that makes emotional intelligence something worth learning more about. Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is the ability to identify, evaluate, control, and express emotions in an effective and positive way. An individual with high EQ is able to communicate better, lessen their anxiety and stress, resolve conflicts, improve relationships, empathize with others, and overcome life's challenges. Emotional intelligence affects the quality of lives because it influences human behaviour and relationships.

Developing a high EQ can help determine our success, it can affect our choices by creating options we might not have thought otherwise or considered to be possible. The way your child manages emotions can have an impact on everything from his or her relationships with classmates to performance in the classroom. Of all the skills we can learn, developing emotional intelligence might be the "make it or break it" key capability for this new era. It is the key skill all leaders need to cultivate to lead effectively, caring for their people. And it has never been so collectively relevant. Emotional intelligence refers to our ability to recognize, understand, and manage our

own and others' emotions. When we can manage our emotions, we respond more effectively to any given situation vs responding instinctively in a fight, flight, or freeze mode (behaviours led by our reptilian brain). It helps us deal with stress and see clearly, making better decisions in our life. It builds up our resilience: the ability to bounce back in the face of setbacks. Developing emotional intelligence also helps us improve our relationships and increase collaboration. It helps us empathize with how other people are feeling, putting ourselves in their shoes and feeling in our own body how others are feeling. While many of us agree that emotional intelligence is a key skill, most leaders lack it. The good news is that we can train our brains to master our emotions.

COVID-19 has been emotionally devastating for many of us. It has put us to the test and has reinforced the need for and importance of developing our emotional intelligence to navigate in these unprecedented times effectively caring for ourselves and others. When you can understand and manage your emotions, you're more likely to get good grades and ace tests. In fact, when it comes to academic performance, research has revealed emotional intelligence is almost as important as your cognitive intelligence and having a conscientious attitude. This is because emotionally intelligent students are better equipped to deal with negative emotions that might disrupt learning.

Increasing Emotional Intelligence

- **Recognize:** The first step is to acknowledge what is happening. Listening to the emotions in our body, mind, and heart, connecting with the feeling it brings along, and sustaining its discomfort. Naming our emotions can help surface them and bring some perspective.
- **Understand:** Our emotions are feelings created by conscious and unconscious thoughts and interpretations and they all are impulses to act. Every emotion has a message and requests an action from us. Self-inquiring uncovers meaning for our emotions and the story underlying the emotions.
- **Express /act constructively:** Regulating our response

our to own emotions and others' emotions is crucial (it is thinking before reacting). It is about being able to share our interpretations and the thoughts underlying our emotions with honesty and respect. Sharing our core truth, expressing what really matters to us, in an impeccable and effective manner, without hurting our relationships and being true to ourselves.

Factors affecting Emotional Intelligence

Goleman (1995) identified five factors that affect EI. They are: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills. He has also mentioned the influence of communication on all these factors. Similarly, Bar-On (2000) has identified five factors, such as intrapersonal ability, interpersonal ability, stress management, adaptability and general mood. Here we are using factors outlined by Bar-On to find out the relationship of EI with interpersonal ability, intrapersonal ability, stress management, adaptability, general mood and communication excellence tested with Indian school students.

- **Intrapersonal ability:** Shearer (2006) defined intrapersonal ability as an ability to think about and understand one's self, to be aware of one's strengths and weaknesses and to plan effectively to achieve personal goals, reflecting on and monitoring one's thoughts and feelings and regulating them effectively. It is the ability to monitor one's self in interpersonal relationships, be aware of and understand one's emotions, feelings and ideas and to act with personal efficacy. It consists of related abilities like recognising and labelling one's feelings. Intrapersonal ability includes emotional awareness and the ability to identify them correctly. Individuals scoring high on intrapersonal ability tend to understand their emotions and are able to express and communicate their feeling and needs.

- **Interpersonal ability:** It is defined by Shearer (2006) as the ability to recognise the feelings of other people that

are facilitated by linguistic skill. It is the ability to be aware of and understand others' emotions and feelings. Skill in managing relationships with other people is also a factor. Factors affecting emotional intelligence 13 in one's overall mood and emotional well-being. It consists of related abilities like identifying emotions in others and having empathy towards others. Interpersonal ability deals with the relationship with peers, subordinates and superiors. High on the interpersonal ability are likely to have satisfying interpersonal relationships, are good listeners and are able to understand and appreciate the feelings of others.

- **Stress management:** It is defined as the ability to be flexible and alter one's feelings with changing situations (Day and Livingstone, 2005). It consists of abilities like delaying or resisting an impulse. Those with high stress management are generally calm and work well under pressure; they are rarely impulsive and can usually respond to a stressful event without an emotional outburst.

- **Adaptability:** Day and Livingstone (2005) defined adaptability as the ability to be flexible and alter one's feelings with changing situations. It consists of abilities like being to adjust one's emotions and behaviour to changing situations or conditions. Adaptability involves skills related to management of change. Managing change involves the ability to manage stressful situations in a relatively calm and proactive manner. Individuals who score high on this dimension are impulsive rarely and work well under pressure (Bar-On, 1997; Bar-On, 2000; Bar-On, 2002). Individuals with high adaptability scores are flexible, realistic and effective in managing change; good at finding positive ways of dealing with everyday problems.

- **General mood:** It is defined as the ability to feel and express positive emotions and remain optimistic (Bar-On, 1997). It represents the ability to enjoy life and maintain a positive disposition. Higher levels on general mood feel satisfied with their lives and maintain a positive outlook. Happiness and optimism are two aspects of general mood including maintenance of positive aspects and brighter side of life.

- **Communication excellence:** Goleman (1995) emphasised that communication is imbibed in EI. Communication can mean different things and used in different ways. Communication is the social process by which people in a specific situation construct meaning using symbolic behaviour (Rozakis, 1995). Emphasising the various processes of communication, Loius (2006) defines communication as the sum of all the things one person does when he wants to create understanding in the mind of another; it involves a systematic and continuous process of telling, listening and understanding. Communication excellence examines the knowledge of students with respect to excelling, reasoning in communication and the level of responsibility and sensitivity in communicating

Football: Kerala in Seventh Heaven



Sanil P. Thomas

Sports Journalist



It's exemplary courage and remarkable fortitude that the young Kerala side showed in front of a raucous home crowd in Manjeri against Bengal in the Santosh Trophy National football final. Bengal was just four minutes short of triumph with the solitary goal lead by Dilip Oran scored in the 97th minute when Muhammed Safnad's header changed the game. And in the penalty shoot-out, Sajal Bag missed the second kick. As all the other spot-kicks went in Kerala lifted the trophy for the seventh time.





For Kerala, it was a repetition of history as their sixth title triumph too came after a shoot-off against Bengal in Kolkata in 2018. Winning Santosh Trophy is of great significance to a transitional side by all means.

A few weeks before this Monday night celebration Kerala Blasters went down to Hyderabad FC in the ISL final in Fatorda Stadium Margao 2-4 in the shoot-out after having a 1-1 draw. Of course, the Kerala representation in the Blasters team was meagre. But the huge fan base for Blasters in Kerala and the presence of thousands from Kerala who went all the way to Fatorda to watch the final was a spirit-lifting sight for Kerala football. And, in Manjeri it was an almost full house for almost all Kerala matches. More than a quarter of a lakh turned up for the final rekindling of the football enthusiasm.

And, a week later Gokulam Kerala FC did the icing on the cake with a back to back victories in the I League.

Gokulam finished with 43 points from 18 matches, six points ahead of the nearest rival Mohammedan Sporting. Gokulam beat Mohammedans 2-1 in the decider. The reigning champions went down 1-3 to Srinidhi Deccan FC

in the penultimate match after having a record-breaking 21 consecutive victories. It was Gokulam's first defeat in 435 days. And, there were 13 Keralites in the team.

Back to Santosh Trophy, Kerala began the final session in style thrashing Rajasthan 5-0 and later in the semifinal, Karnataka 7-3. T.K.Jesin who came on as a substitute scored five goals including a hattrick against Karnataka in the semi. When the hosts beat Rajasthan, Captain Jijo Joseph scored a hattrick recollecting memories of Captain's hattrick by Moni against Railways in 1973 for Kerala's first Santosh Trophy title triumph. In the league round, Kerala had an easy victory against Bengal as well(2-0). The hosts drew with Meghalaya (2-2) and beat Punjab 2-1. Captain Jijo scored a brace.

It was a spectacular show thanks to coach Bino George's meticulous planning. Jijo Joseph was adjudged as the best player and T.K Jasin with nine goals(including two in the qualifying round) was the top scorer.

With the beginning of the National League in 1996 -97, the glamour of the National Championship has come down. And, it's almost gone as National League was rechristened as I League in 2006. And, finally with Indian Super League came into being in 2014, for AIFF Santosh Trophy became an also conducted event, a third division tournament.

But for sure, the Nationals opened up for aspiring talents. Regarding Kerala, this time, other than Jijo Joseph (7th Nationals), Midhun (6th) and Hajmal(5th) almost all others were young. Akhil and Sanju just had their second edition whereas 15 players made their debut. And, it's heard ISL clubs have shown interest in seven Kerala players. A good beginning. Keep it up.



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