

KERALA CALLING

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FRUITFUL ONE YEAR



What makes Kerala No.1



Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister

“ Our Government is committed to improve the quality of life through the best practices of governance. Quality education and healthcare for the financially backward, shelter for the homeless and a green and clean Kerala are the keystones of our governance. Our aim is not to reduce corruption but to do away with it completely. ”

Marked with many achievements; a marker for years to come

This issue of Kerala Calling celebrates the vision, the goals, the modus operandi and the achievements of the second Pinarayi government as it completes its first year in office.

A bird's eye view of the government's efforts and the first fruits they have borne will reveal that the administration has made phenomenal strides in implementing innovative ideas towards greater and speedier development of the state. Relevant portions from the Chief Minister's speech delivered on the occasion of the inauguration of the first anniversary celebrations form the piece de resistance of this issue.

The Chief Minister explains how his ministry is driven by the principle that developmental projects should be designed and implemented equitably and across all sectors. Simultaneously, his government has taken measures to alleviate the problems of the marginalized and the deprived. The fact that short- and long-term goals for development have already been put in motion in urban and rural areas, despite the state's cash-strapped condition, is an eloquent pointer to the egalitarian mindset and the absolute commitment of the leadership.

The succinct reports from all the departments indicate that the no effort is spared in making revenue offices people-friendly, giving top priority to coastal security, providing potable water to all, introducing the culture of self-sufficiency in the energy sector, preserving biodiversity, strengthening the ports and their services, enhancing sports facilities, bringing greater transparency into the public distribution system, increasing food production and expanding the market chain, ensuring food security, upgrading academic syllabi at all levels in order to improve social progress, fortifying the industrial sector, modernizing the milk production and distribution systems, operationalizing modern systems of transport as much to improve intra-state traffic as to make the tourist sector more vibrant, bringing the healthcare system up to speed with the current times, upscaling the IT sector and so on.

Further, the government is committed towards fighting and vanquishing the demons of dowry system and communalism. In short, the people of Kerala have every reason to believe that their elected representatives will take the land forward with firm steps and matchless vigour.

S. Harikishore IAS
Editor



Editor : S. Harikishore IAS
 Additional Editor : K. Abdul Rasheed
 Deputy Editor : V.P. Aswathy
 Editor in charge : C. Rajesh
 Assistant Editor : A. Anchitha
 Circulation Officer : A.C. Abhilash
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Enquiries

Editorial : 0471 251 8648
 Subscription : 0471 251 7036

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Responses may be sent to mail:

keralacalling@gmail.com
 facebook.com/Kerala Calling

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48 Pages + Cover

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Development Unhindered

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Chief Minister

Kerala is scaling new heights of development. The LDF Government is accelerating the State's growth through policies that ensure infrastructure development, social security, and generation of employment. All our schemes and programmes are being implemented with a two pronged strategy in mind. One, to implement initiatives for the long term development of the State. The other, to ensure immediate relief for those in distress.

Quite often developmental activities are implemented in big cities while villages are left untouched. However, the state of affairs in Kerala is rather different. We are implementing an alternative development agenda which is deeply rooted in social justice. It encompasses all realms of life and covers all regions of the State. Thus, in Kerala, development reaches all sections of the society and every individual reaps its benefits.

Indian States have severe financial constraints. They have only limited options to generate own tax revenue. The Central Government has claimed the bulk of it. The compensation that was promised as part of GST implementation will stop by June. Kerala's share in the divisible pool of the nation's revenue is being slashed progressively. There is also a decline in the policies devised by the Centre for the welfare of the people. All these are barriers to the survival and progress of the State.

Our constraints should not limit our possibilities. To ensure that, KIIFB was revamped so as to serve as an alternative means to aid our developmental initiatives. Our initial goal was to raise and spend Rs. 50,000 crores through KIIFB over the 5 years of our previous tenure. Despite the oppositions to this novel initiative from various corners, projects worth Rs. 62,500 crores were taken up in the proposed time frame.

Roads and bridges in the State have been improved. World class facilities have been made available in our public hospitals and schools. With the improved facilities in public schools, the number of students taking admission saw a rapid increase as well. Around 8 lakh children got newly enrolled in Kerala's



public schools. Super specialty services are being provided even in District and Taluk hospitals now.

All the developmental projects, whether big or small, are planned with a long term view and completed in a time bound manner in the State. It is being done with a futuristic vision for the sake of the upcoming generations. That is why despite our constraints, Kerala agreed to bear 25 % of the cost of the land acquisition for the development of National Highways in the State. Kerala is the only State to do so, and we are incurring an additional cost of more than Rs 5,000 crores.

We are committed to ensure a modern system of transportation throughout the length and breadth of Kerala. Air, water, road and rail transportation projects are being implemented on a war footing. Kannur airport was made operational during the previous tenure. The last phase activities of the National Waterway from Kovalam to Bekal are underway. Even district and rural roads have been renovated. Doubling of Railway lines is fast progressing. Kochi Metro has been expanded and Kochi Water Metro is on trial run.



The K-RAIL's SilverLine will provide semi high speed connectivity between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod. Preliminary procedures like the Social Impact Assessment are underway. Prior to the preparation of the DPR, geotechnical investigation, topographic survey using LIDAR technology, traffic survey and so on were already conducted. The specific areas and buildings that will be impacted by the SilverLine have thus been identified. The Social Impact Assessment is meant to identify those who will be directly affected by the project and make an exact estimation of it.

Safe, speedy and cost effective transportation systems serve as catalysts for industrial development. An industrial corridor between Kochi and Bengaluru, which is expected to open up numerous avenues for employment, is being created. Kerala has sought sanction for a Kochi-Mangaluru industrial corridor as well. Industrial Parks like the Mega Food Park in Cherthala are coming up in various parts of the State.

An IT Corridor connecting the various Info Parks in the State will soon become a reality. Science Parks and Aerospace and Defence Parks are coming up in such a way that they would be linked to our major airports. A Digital University has been established in Thiruvananthapuram. Efforts are on to boost our tourism sector the possibilities in combining leisure, adventure, heritage and health. We are also moving towards the production of E-vehicles. All these are to be viewed as giant

strides towards growth and expansion.

So that industry is benefitted by Kerala's abundant human resources we are making focussed interventions in higher education as well. Establishment of new institutions, introduction of short and long term courses, revamping of curriculum, setting up of grants and scholarships, improvement of existing infrastructure like labs, libraries, hostels etc. are progressing. Skill development and industry linkage are areas that are being given special attention. Changes are being effected in such a manner that foreign students too would be attracted to Kerala's higher education institutions.

Skill Parks intended to impart employment skills along with education to Kerala's youth are being set up in every district. Through such skilling and industry linkages we hope to create 20 lakh employment opportunities. Another 20 lakh employment opportunities are sought to be created by developing our agricultural sector and with the help of our local bodies. Special interventions are being made to attract youngsters into agriculture, to ensure value addition, to provide warehousing and cold storage facilities, to provide assistance in marketing, and thereby raise the income of our farmers by 50%.

Over the last six years, not a single sector or section has been left untouched in Kerala. Houses through the LIFE Mission, land title deeds, assistance through CMDRF are all being issued at record numbers so that the material circumstances of our people's lives are improved. We are even making Government services available online so that people can make use of them from the comfort of their homes. The support of all sections of our society is imperative so that our developmental and welfare initiatives reach every nook and corner of the State and that Keralites as a whole benefit from them.

People-friendly Revenue Offices Take Shape

K. RAJAN

Minister for Revenue and Housing



The general public is most closely associated with the Revenue Department. Therefore, the main task has been to transform revenue offices into more people-friendly centres. To this end, efforts are being made to radically change the working style of the Revenue Department. A system called Revenue Secretariat was formed and the activities of the department were intensified. The Revenue Department is moving ahead with the launch of innovative schemes and their successful implementation.

Can you explain the interventions made to realize the dream of the common man to own a piece of land?

The primary goal of the government is to achieve the dream of the common man to own land. In the first 100 days of the current government, 13,534 families received the title deeds of their own land. By the end of the year, it is expected to reach over 50,000. Thirty-nine title deed fairs are going to be held within the month of May.

Is it possible for a makeover of the village offices?

The government also aims to make the services of village offices smarter. It intends to upgrade and modernize these offices as part of its efforts to transform them into community-friendly





centers. As a first step, village offices will be made smarter. Most of the services provided by the Revenue Department have been digitized to pay taxes and get certificates.

Is it necessary to find people who possess excess land?

Certainly. The government is in the process of implementing a system named 'one thandaper' for one citizen to find people who possess excess land.

This kind of system is implemented as a first of its kind in India. The government is aiming for a comprehensive land policy for the effective implementation of all these initiatives.

What steps have been taken to settle the files pending in the offices?

The file adalat was organized to expedite the settlement of files pending from the Secretariat to the village level. The file adalat in the Secretariat was completed in September, the land revenue commissionerate in October, and the taluk level in November. Adalats are being held at the village level.

Shouldn't people be empowered to deal with recurring floods and natural disasters?

Climate change is causing havoc at every level including globally. Our state has also faced

many disasters in the last decade. While disasters cannot be controlled, suffering can be mitigated to some extent. The aim is to create a resilient Kerala. The government is starting a disaster management literacy program involving the youth. The government is also planning to form a rapid response team by ensuring the participation of students and youth.

Markers of Success

- ▶ With the help of information technology, action plans have been formulated to make the operations of the Revenue Department simpler and more transparent.
- ▶ Steps have been taken to make the Village Offices, a basic component of the Revenue Department, smarter. The vast majority of services, including land tax, have been made online. Location map fee, agricultural workers' welfare fund contribution, thandaper copy fee and survey map fee are to be paid through one's mobile. Special official websites, an upgraded e-payment porter and a social security pension module have also been activated.
- ▶ Revenue awards were set up as an inspiration to the officers who work with dedication.
- ▶ The revenue secretariat system was activated and the dashboard was prepared by classifying the issues sent by the people's representatives on a constituency basis.
- ▶ Volunteers, NGOs, Kudumbashree workers, students, service organizations for disaster relief literacy activities, co-ordinating activities with clubs, reading rooms, student police cadets, and the national service key are other activities.

Secure Shores, Pure Water for All

ROSHY AUGUSTINE

Minister for Water Resources



The Water Resources Department has made a brilliant start with glorious achievements in the short span of its tenure. The government has been able to bring about comprehensive benefits in all sectors of Kerala and to lead the way in which projects have been formulated which will lead to greater infrastructure development. The second 100-day action plan was also completed successfully.

Why is the government giving importance to coastal protection?

It is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people. Therefore, the government is planning a Rs 5,000 crore coastal protection project. The first phase will focus on Chellanam panchayath to protect their life and property and to take protective measures against sea-level rise and coastal erosion. The first phase of construction work for the protection of coastal walls in ten hotspots in the state will commence this year.

Is the government aiming for a permanent solution to what needs to be done in Chellanam?

Yes. According to the plan in association with KIIFB, tetrapods and geotubes will be used to fortify the place. The government is also ensuring Chellanam's overall development. Apart from finding a solution to sea erosion, the state's first fish village project will also come up here. A tourism centre will be set up in collaboration with the tourism department.





Shouldn't the recurring flooding in places like Kuttanad also be a priority?

In areas like Kuttanad and on the banks of rivers, tidal waves are the issue. Approximately 2.15 lakh cubic meters of soil facilitate the flow of water back and forth into the ocean. Valuable minerals can be extracted and used from the soil obtained there. In many parts of the country, the floodwaters have receded, causing rivers to overflow. To address this, the state has assigned the task of 44 rivers to each executive engineer. The department is taking such an initiative after long years.

Will the Jala Jeevan Mission be completed by 2024?

The government is focusing on completing the Jala Jeevan Mission 2024 to provide freshwater through pipes to anyone in rural areas. There are a total of 67.15 lakh rural households in Kerala. During the phase, 21.64 lakh connections were approved by the Jala Suchitwa Mission. In 2021-22, 25.50 lakh connections were laid and administrative sanction was given for projects worth Rs.25024.45 crore for ancillary works.

Is it possible to ensure water availability in agriculture?

After taking over the charge of the Water Resources Department, the KM Mani Irrigation Project was first announced to energize the agricultural sector. It is with great pride that the government was able to launch the project one

year later. The initial phase started in Palakkad's Chittur and Karadippara in Kannur.

What about the completion of the Hundred Days Action Plan?

Out of the 100-day action plan, 66 projects have to be completed. Five of these have been completed so far. Each of the projects in Wayanad, Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur has already been inaugurated. A project in the Thrissur district will be inaugurated soon.

Markers of Success

- ▶ Snehatheertham project was launched to provide free drinking water connection to families of children with disabilities.
- ▶ Kerala Irrigation Infrastructure Development Corporation has completed the Karadippara project at a cost of Rs.3.10 crore as part of the Community Micro Irrigation Project.
- ▶ The Aruvikkara Dam desilting, the main source of drinking water in Thiruvananthapuram, will be commissioned soon.
- ▶ Steps were taken to protect the tributaries and banks of the rivers. As part of this, protective walls were erected at several places.
- ▶ The KM Mani Irrigation Project is one of the major projects of the Department of Water Resources which aims to energize the agricultural sector. The government has already started the project in one year. The department is working hard to spread this.
- ▶ A project of Rs.344 crore has been started for coastal protection.
- ▶ Facilitated self meter reading for the beneficiaries to know about the water reading on mobile phones and can pay bills thereafter.

Towards Energy Self-Sufficiency with Willpower

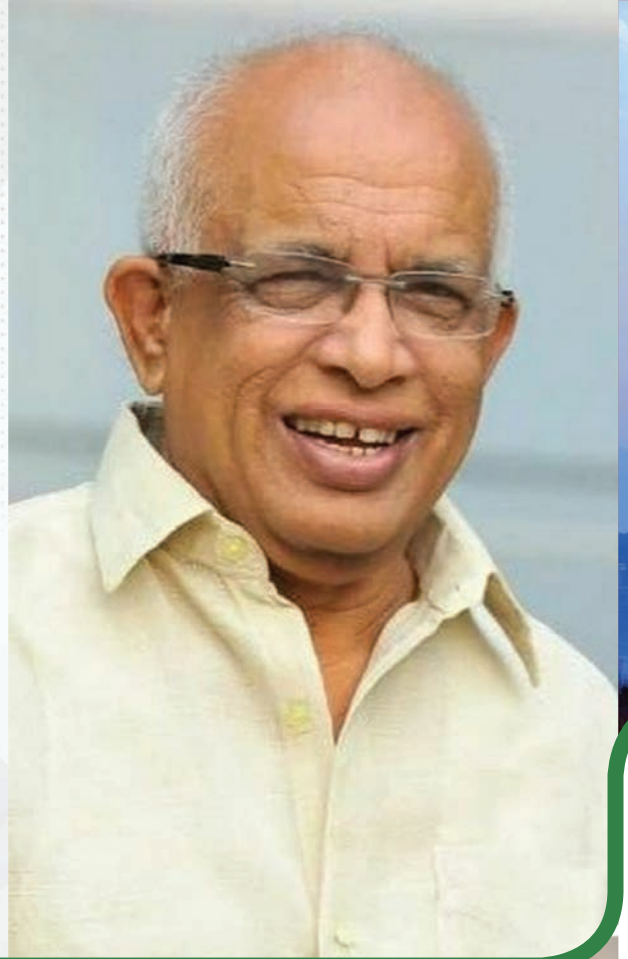
K. KRISHNANKUTTY
Minister for Electricity

The State government was able to generate a new wave, including in the field of hydropower, after decades. Domestic power generation capacity has seen an increase of 156.16 MW. This includes four hydropower schemes with a capacity of 38.5 MW and solar power schemes with a capacity of 117.66 MW.

How is the progress in various sectors including generation in the electricity sector being evaluated?

KSEB is estimated to have made an operating profit of about 1400 crore rupees in the financial year of 2021-22. This is the best profit since KSEB became a company. This is the result of the unanimous efforts of all, including the continuation of the exemplary work of the first Pinarayi Vijayan Government, commendable functioning of the staff, ideal dam management, increase in domestic power generation, reduction in power purchase cost and operational excellence of the load dispatch center.

The State government was able to generate a new wave, including in the field of hydropower, after decades. Domestic power generation capacity has seen an increase of 156.16 MW. This includes four hydropower schemes with a capacity of 38.5 MW and solar power schemes with a capacity of 117.66 MW. As part of the rooftop solar power project Soura, 6668 solar power plants of 34.66 MW and through solar power generators, solar power plants of 83 MW have been installed in the State. The Chief Minister inaugurated the construction of the 40 MW Hydro Power Project at Mankulam. For uninterrupted





power transmission, two 220 KV substations have been added to the Transgrid scheme, and four 110 KV substations, two 66 KV substations and one 33 KV substation have been commissioned for strengthening transmission signals. In addition, three 110 KV substations and a 66 KV substation and a 110 KV substation have begun functioning. 2062 km HT Line and 3555 km Line were constructed and 1971 transformers were installed. Since this government came to power, 324784 service connections have been provided. Electricity connections have been provided to 21461 BPL families using KSEB's own funds.

Isn't it important to make the State self-sufficient in electricity?

The Government intends to make the State fully self-sufficient in electricity by making maximum use of renewable energy sources. Three more hydropower projects with a capacity of 124 kcal, Thottiyar (40 MW), Bhoothathankettu (24 MW) and Pallivasal Extension Scheme (60 MW) will be completed this year. The construction work of the second stations will be started during the tenure of this Government, using the existing reservoirs of Idukki and Moozhiyar schemes. The target is to generate 1000 MW of electricity through solar power projects. The 400 KV Power Highway from the southern tip of Kerala to the northern tip will also be completed, in the realm of transmission. Permission has been obtained from MNRE to produce 40 units in the first stage and to implement feeder level solar power functionality for 20,000 pumps in the third stage of the PM Kusum scheme.

What are the glorious steps taken during this period as a minister?

It is a proud step to be able to revive stalled hydropower projects and to make the functioning

of the new hydropower projects more efficient. It is a matter of great pride that Soura, the rooftop solar power project, has become more active, that we have been able to launch projects which benefit farmers through the PM Kusum scheme, and that we are able to quickly set up a network of electric vehicle charging stations across the State.

Steps of progress

- ▶ The line range of the connections provided to BPL customers for free has been increased from 200 m to 250 m.
- ▶ Electricity was provided to 937 Anganwadis. Of these, 574 Anganwadis were provided with free electricity connections including a post.
- ▶ Inauguration of 9 completed section office buildings, Shornur sub-regional store.
- ▶ Construction inauguration of Pattambi mini-electricity building and four other section office buildings.
- ▶ 'Services at Doorstep' extended to all Section Offices of KSEB.
- ▶ To upgrade the power sector to international standards, a technology program to reduce supply chain losses at a cost of over 4000 crores has been introduced.
- ▶ Aim to install pre-paid smart meters at a cost of around 8200 crore rupees.
- ▶ As part of the Filament free Kerala scheme, 20.08 lakh LED bulbs were distributed to 2.9 lakh consumers during the tenure of this Government.
- ▶ Seven electric vehicle charging stations led by KSBL and five by Anert were newly started. 49 charging stations are being constructed under various schemes. It will be completed in June 2022.
- ▶ The objective is to set up electric vehicle charging stations with the involvement of private entrepreneurs.
- ▶ The installation of charging points at power supply poles for autos and two-wheelers is in progress.
- ▶ 89 pole mounted charging points started functioning in Kannur district. The work for setting up of 1140 pole-mounted charging points including these, is targeted to be completed by July 2022.

Safeguarding biodiversity

A.K. SASEENDRAN

Minister for Forest & Wildlife

Forest conservation is imperative to sustaining life on earth. This year of governance has seen the forest department launch many programmes to ensure that forests are safeguarded to sustain life on the planet through the conservation of its natural resources and the protection of diverse habitats and ecosystems.

How do you evaluate the operations of the wildlife department this last year?

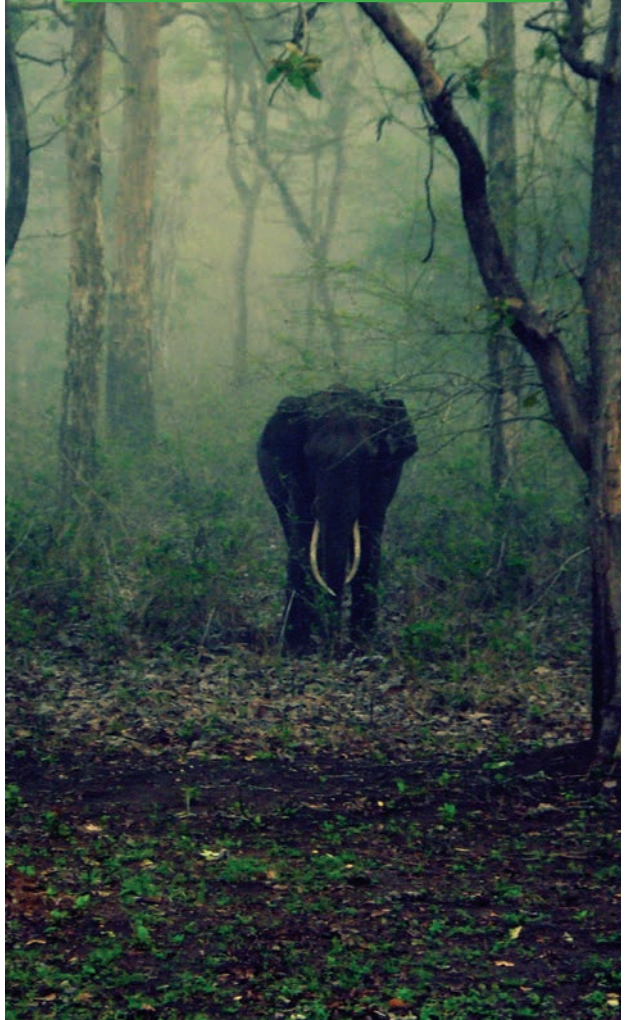
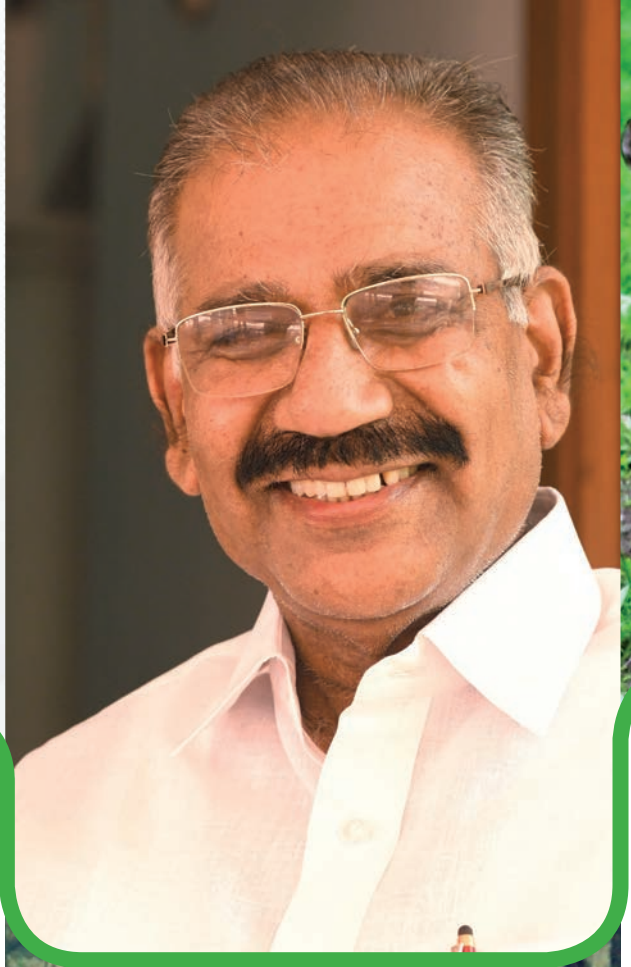
The current year has witnessed some remarkable strides by the forest department including the revival of natural forests, the launching of the Vrikshasamridhi project and schemes to reduce conflicts between man and wildlife. We have been able to gain about 95 per cent compensation for the relatives of those who have lost their lives or have been injured in attacks by wild animals. The central government has approved the demands raised by the government to exclude areas inhabited by humans from wildlife sanctuaries and ecologically-sensitive zones. We have been able to partner with local self-governing bodies and elected representatives in initiatives to prevent attacks by wild animals and to sanction funds.

Why is so much importance being given to the revival of natural forests?

Natural forests are a vital weapon to overcome the adversities of climate change. A new policy has been developed to uphold this idea. The protection of ecosystems, safeguarding biodiversity, water conservation, prevention of climate change, limiting man-animal conflicts and removing foreign species which pose a threat to the ecosystem are the points taken into consideration. It is the first such policy in the country that ensures environmental protection and means of livelihood through sustainable means.

Isn't wildlife protection as important as forest conservation?

The government is giving equal importance to both. That's why the state's first-ever treatment and nursing facility for wild animals that have disease or injury has been set up in Wayanad.





Finding injured and older animals and returning them to their ideal habitats after treatment at the hospital can reduce the frequency of man-animal conflicts. Solar-powered fencing, hanging fencing and elephant fencing have been built for the protection of animals. Some innovative methods of conservation including elephant fencing have been set up at Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur.

Doesn't the welfare of forest-dependent communities also come under this scheme?

The Green India project was launched to reduce the dependency of forest-dependent communities on forests and to rejuvenate declining forests. So far, 465 tree saplings have been planted alongside tribal colonies with the help of forest-dependent communities. The posts of 500 beat forests officers have been created to bring members of tribal communities into the mainstream.

What are the schemes in place to reduce man-wild animal conflicts?

The government will eventually implement an amount of Rs.620 crore project over phases in five years to reduce the number of man-wild animal conflicts. It includes the prevention of wild animals from entering human-inhabited areas, SMS alerts against wild animal attacks, drone searches, steps to prevent attacks by wild boars, and the establishment of new animal protection centres and measures to handle dangerous animals. The plan has been developed based on the opinions of elected representatives, experts in the field and the public.

100 days of accomplishment

- ▶ Inauguration of construction of 14 joint forest check-posts complexes and 15 forest stations. More days of employment were created in rural areas as a part of the Vrikshasamridhi project.

- ▶ Thirty-one mini forests were created in schools under the Vidyavanam project.
- ▶ Fifty forestry clubs were created to spread awareness among students about the significance of nature conservation.
- ▶ Twelve urban forest projects were launched to develop micro forests in cities.
- ▶ Completion of Neyyar Ecotourism project.
- ▶ The Valayar forest range office building was inaugurated.
- ▶ Other inaugurations include the model forest office buildings in Mannarkkad, Ambalappara, Plappally, Thannithode, Makkiyad and Kunjom in Wayanad and forest check post buildings in Ilavungal and Aanakattil were inaugurated.
- ▶ Two lakh tree saplings have been planted under the EDC/VSS scheme.
- ▶ 12,000 kurinji saplings were planted along the Kurinjimala Sanctuary.
- ▶ 13,000 saplings were planted along river banks to provide enough feed for aquatic animals.
- ▶ As part of the disaster mitigation and management plan, 30,000 tree saplings were planted.

Confident strides, achievements galore

- ▶ 758 nurseries will be set up in 14 districts under the Vrikshasamridhi project. More than 40 lakh saplings will be planted. Priority will be given to planting medicinal plants and fruit trees. It will include schools, government offices/NGOs and farmers.
- ▶ Eco-tourism projects will take off at Chaliyam in Kozhikode, Paithalamala in Kannur and Veeramala in Kasaragod.
- ▶ Wild animals will be brought to the Puthoor Zoological Park after phase two of construction.
- ▶ Deserving individuals will be given title deeds.
- ▶ Forestry clubs will be started in schools to mould students as eco-warriors.

Increasing the pace of industrial and trade growth

AHAMMAD DEVARKOVIL

Minister for Ports, Museums and Archaeology



The ports sector has increased the pace of the industrial and trade growth in Kerala. The Vizhinjam Project, one of Kerala's dream projects was commissioned and its completion is nearing an end. Antiques and Museum departments have been more popularised. We are also planning to upgrade our museums to international levels.

Could you explain the progress of the Vizhinjam Project?

The Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited is our partner and we are planning to commission the project by this year. The project's main task was the breakwater wall which has reached 1800 meters now. The government is trying to complete this construction this year itself. Other constructions are also underway and local issues are being solved by the government

Can the Vizhinjam Port Project solve the crisis left by the COVID pandemic on the industrial and trade sector?

The Vizhinjam port will open the doors to many opportunities. Vizhinjam will become the country's main trans-shipment terminal centre for containers. Our container industry is relying on Dubai, Singapore and Colombo ports now. We hope to transplant the container industry to our state. We are also expecting a boom in our tourism, transport and trade industries.

Will the other associated projects with the Vizhinjam project also commence?

The rail connectivity project to the Vizhinjam port has been approved by the central government. It is estimated at 1000





crores and is expected to be completed in 4 years. We expect an equity investment from the central government's Sagarmala development company. The central government has also given sanctions for the outer ring road project. This will boost the region's internal economy with trade and transport development.

Do we not need huge investments to welcome the opportunities that arise with the Vizhinjam project?

Yes. That is why we under the Kerala Maritime Board initiated an investors' meeting online. The procedures following the meeting are being carried out. Modern transport facilities such as the K-rail becomes more relevant in this respect. We can also string our small ports to the project and ensure their development as well.

What about the development of other ports?

The ports department has planned to improve the basic infrastructure facilities of Azheekal, Kollam and Beypore ports. The areas under the ports department will be converted into marine and tourism development projects. These projects will be in the public-private partnership sphere. The ports department gives impetus to more space with ship transport.

How much effort is being put into transferring the relics of our past to the coming generations?

The government is giving huge importance to making our relics and artefacts more useful and popular among the public and students. As part of this, the government is developing heritage museums to exhibit their past culture in each district. A big archive is being constructed at the Trivandrum Kariavattom campus to include the ancient scrolls and textual information which will be available for students and researchers.

Milestones and progress

- ▶ The basic infrastructure and facilities will be improved at the Kollam Beypore ports. A new berth and a greenfield port will be constructed at the Beypore fort.
- ▶ Wages, as well as other charges, will be unified in all the small harbours.
- ▶ The small ports will be connected and row-row service will be initiated.
- ▶ For the 75th anniversary of our independence, selected speeches of our freedom fighters will be published as a fourth volume.
- ▶ An archive publication for the 100th anniversary of the Malabar riots and 'Evolution of Mental Health Care System in Travancore', a book which sheds light on the tradition of mental health care in the Travancore sector will be also be presented.
- ▶ A museum will be constructed to revisit the Malabar region's Freedom Struggle and tradition.
- ▶ An online platform will be made available to those who need access to ancient scrolls and texts.
- ▶ A container berth for Lakshadweep will be constructed at the Beypore port.
- ▶ In the Beypore Kollam ports, capital dredging has been done to increase the depth. Steps have been taken to ensure wages in all ports for loading and unloading charges.
- ▶ New museums are built-in Painavil in Idukki and Wayanad region's Kunkichira.
- ▶ Archives related to the literary figure P.Kesavdev will be scientifically preserved.
- ▶ The ThiroorAngadi Secretariat which sheds light on the Malabar region's freedom struggle and tradition will be raised to the level of a protected memorial from now.
- ▶ The Thrissur Thekkemadom will be protected as it was part of the Kochi state.
- ▶ The Wayanad Pazhassi memorial will witness an addition of the district's heritage museum.
- ▶ The Palakkad districts protected Thirumuttikkad Temple and Kozhikode district's heritage Thali temple will also be protected as valuable heritage.
- ▶ The PazhassiRaja Museum in Kozhikode will be modernized with an estimate of 3.37 crore rupees.
- ▶ A conservation laboratory museum will be started in Trivandrum to preserve the paintings of Raja Ravi Varma which belong to the world heritage list. The restored paintings will be exhibited in a museum which is under construction.

Speeding Up Progress with Innovative Ideas

ANTONY RAJU

Minister for Transport



The Co-operative sector was able to support the common man through various loan schemes during the COVID crisis. It was a time of immense challenges that were overcome in the most resilient manner possible.

How do you evaluate your performance this one year?

I took charge of the transportation department when KSRTC was going through a crisis. Efforts have been on from the start to increase the revenue of KSRTC with the introduction of innovative ideas. Although KSRTC is not making a profit, it has become clear that the magnitude of the loss can be resolved by increasing the sale of ticket distribution.

Does it mean the crisis will not be over?

The financial crisis is a reality. There are many reasons for this, including the increase in diesel prices. That alone comes to additional expenses of more than Rs 40 crore per month. However, the government is making efforts to improve the financial status of KSRTC through new ideas. As part of this, measures are being taken to increase ticket distribution sales.

What help is the government giving to make KSRTC more profitable?

The Government views KSRTC as an institution committed to





the people, more than a for-profit industrial enterprise. It is why Rs.2000 crore was allocated for its smooth running with the behest of the Chief Minister. Long-distance services are being replaced by Swift services which use modern high-tech buses for public transport. It is also a reform that embraces the change of time. Swift Service is successfully continuing its advancement. In addition, 50 electric buses will soon be available for city travel. There are facilities in the cities to charge these. Charging stations are being set up for public vehicles. It is hoped that such services will significantly reduce fuel costs compared to diesel.

Does the Department of Motor Vehicles have a lot of complaints pending?

The Department of Transport has come up with several schemes to address this. As part of this, adalats are being held across the state under the name 'Vahaneeyam 2022'.

Does the Government give importance to the water transport sector?

Yes. Anyone who has examined the government's firm stance in this area, including the development of the National Waterway, will be convinced. A passenger cum tourist boat with a capacity of 120 passengers, three catamaran boats with 100 passenger capacity, one with 75 passenger capacity and Sea Ashtamudi boat, which was designed to be equally accessible to travellers and tourists alike, was completed and launched.

Markers of Success

- ▶ Gas tankers were airlifted to West Bengal, and special training was given for escorting and supporting drivers to tankers from West Bengal to Kerala.
- ▶ Through the 'Surakshamitra' project, a centralized vehicle tracking system has been installed in all public vehicles with GPS devices. As part of ensuring the safety of women and children, the panic button was made a reality through this system.
- ▶ Facilitated an online Learner's License testing platform, the first of its kind in India. Meeting the purpose online helped eight lakh applicants avoid travelling to the office for the same.
- ▶ International driving permits were given using the online mode. The medical fitness and eye test certificates were made possible to be submitted via the Parivahan website to accredited physicians.
- ▶ Steps have been taken to obtain services related to driving licenses and international driving licenses for expatriate Malayalees by obtaining eye examinations and medical certificates issued by accredited doctors from the country where they are located.
- ▶ The department has implemented an e-office filing system in its offices for hacking.
- ▶ To ensure the travel safety of school children, a special checking drive called 'Vidya Vahan' was conducted to ensure the fitness of educational buses.
- ▶ Issued guidelines for safe travel of school children.
- ▶ Control rooms have been set up in all 14 districts.
- ▶ 'City Circular' services have been launched to make it easier for the public to reach important offices and institutions in the city of Thiruvananthapuram. 'Bypass Rider services' have been launched which will enable passengers to reach their destination faster through parallel bypasses.

Taking the sports sector to greater heights

V. ABDURAHIMAN

Minister for Sports, Wakf and Haj Pilgrimage



Like all other walks of life, the COVID pandemic affected the sports arena too. But as the pandemic's arms are slowly withdrawing, the sports fields are getting back on track. The fear of diseases has increased people's perception to engage more in sports and other physical activities. This is an opportunity and we are boosting the sports zone's development.

What is the progress that we achieved during this period?

Building the basic infrastructure and amenities was started during the tenure of the last government. The KIIFB, as well as the sports ministry's fund, was pooled to 1200 crore for implementing the basic infrastructure and facilities. As soon as this development is completed, Kerala will have 43 football grounds, 33 indoor stadiums, 27 synthetic tracks and 33 swimming pools. The disputes we faced during construction have been solved through discussions. Elevating our sports schools to international standards was another achievement. 20 crores were spent on the G V Raja Sports School and 10 crores on the Kannur sports division. Kodumon, Neeleshwaram, Mattannoor, Parali, Thirumittakode and Chittoor sport batches were completed. SKF (Sports Kerala Foundation) is a public limited company formed for the maintenance and building of basic infrastructure facilities. SKF even conducts the tournaments. This is another achievement of this ministry.





Do we need a new sports policy at present?

Swift steps are taken in this regard. A basic policy draft will be presented to the people. through this policy, a new direction will formulate. Through this policy, sports economy mission, a progressive thought will be put forward. To lay a role in the state's GDP, through this policy, we are expecting a 3 - 5 % share. We are encouraging private investors to invest in the sector. the investors will receive support and protection. This is the policy which we are expecting to pull off.

Kerala is expecting to host major sports events like the Federation Cup, National Athletics Championship and Santhosh Trophy. How prepared are we?

We are proud to host national level sports events in the state. As a result of discussions with various sports divisions at the national level, the senior women's football championship was held here in Kerala. Kerala also hosted the Federation Cup and National Athletics Championship. The Athletics Federation of India hosted two Grand Prix championships which were held in Trivandrum. Malappuram district is witnessing the Santosh Trophy Tournament. These are great sources of encouragement for the players of our state.

Milestones and successes

- ▶ Every panchayat will have a playground. 106 Panchayats will have their own playgrounds in the first phase.
- ▶ Kozhikode, Kasaragod, Kannur, Alappuzha, Trivandrum, Wayanad and Malappuram districts will get open gyms.
- ▶ Panchayat, Corporation and Municipality level sports councils will be elected to promote sports at the grassroots levels.

- ▶ The sports youth directorates and the state sports council programmes will be digitalised.
- ▶ New training programmes in schools will commence. 'Sprint' for Athletics, 'Judoka' for Judo and 'Punch' for Boxing will begin at the school level.
- ▶ The government's 'Play for Health' program aimed at developing the physical and mental health of primary students will be extended to 30 schools.
- ▶ A sports facility centre was started at Parali.
- ▶ Under the programme 'KheloIndia', synthetic tracks are being built in Kannur Pariyaram Medical College and Kunnamkulam GHSS with an estimate of 7 crore rupees.
- ▶ SKF (Sports Kerala Foundation), a public limited company was started under the sports ministry to enhance the basic infrastructure facilities.
- ▶ Two sports schools under the education department were taken up by the sports department and were raised to international standards. 16 crores were spent in GV raja sports school and 6 crores in Kannur sports school. The GV Raja School now has new synthetic tracks, a football ground and an indoor stadium.
- ▶ Sports arenas with international standards are being realized in Kozhikode district. The last phase of the sports youth directorate offices in Ernakulam and Kozhikode is underway.
- ▶ Kannur and Thrissur are witnessing the building of new sports medicine centres.
- ▶ For encouraging football enthusiasm, the sports youth directorate's two academies in Kannur and Trivandrum as well as a sports council academy in Ernakulam was started.
- ▶ To start national and international tournaments, an agreement was reached with national-level sports organizations. Training for trainers and referees and an agreement with the All India Football Federation in matters of scouting were reached.
- ▶ The pension of sportspersons in distress hiked to 1300 rupees. We have raised the amount from 20000 per year to 1 lakh as the new eligible pension criteria for families with sports veterans.

Assured food safety, transparent ration

G.R. ANIL

Minister for Food & Civil Supplies



Remarkable achievements have been made within one year of assuring the state's food safety, ration allocation to bonafide beneficiaries, modernisation of civil supplies and market interventions.

Kerala is the model state in terms of public distribution in India. Has the government succeeded in strengthening and expanding the ration system used by the public?

This government stands with the common man and those who have been marginalised. Ration cards have been given to the destitute and those living on public land based on affidavits and Aadhar cards. Ration cards have also been provided to transgenders, a segment which was previously never included in any of the lists. Door-to-door mobile ration delivery has been implemented in tribal areas. Ration has been dispatched to remote tribal regions in Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Wayanad via vehicles.

What were the measures taken by the department, particularly in ensuring efficiency and transparency in the distribution of rations?

Departmental efforts, especially transparency in ration schemes, a monthly phone-in program where the minister addresses issues faced by callers and ensures that they are resolved before the next phone-in session have been well received by the public. The government's decision to announce that undeserving priority card holders surrender their cards also had good results as 1,69,291 such cards were returned. They have been





redistributed to 1,53,254 beneficiaries. Adalats were organised in every district to resolve the issue of ration shops which have been temporarily banned from operations. Project Thelima was launched to clarify any complications in ration cards. This program has been scheduled to be held every year between November 15 and December 15. It has been decided to find new licensees for 599 ration shops which have been permanently suspended and attached to ration shops close by.

Proud steps as a minister in this span?

The redistribution of priority cards from undeserving owners to genuine beneficiaries was a big step forward by the government.

Insurance schemes for ration shop dealers and proceedings to modernize supply co are the well-pleased landmarks.

The department is heading towards modernization. One thousand ration shops located in village sectors have been selected for up-gradation along with banking services, utility services bill payment (of up to Rs.5000), bill payment and e-services to commence very soon. New applications for priority ration cards can be submitted online. All taluks with ration facilities will soon have godowns constructed in a scientifically-sound manner.

100 days of accomplishment

- ▶ Fair Price Shop or FPS mobile app was launched for the public to find the closest available ration shops. All shops under the civil supplies department have been transformed into e-offices. GPS tracking has been installed in vehicles used for distributing food grains. Consumer-friendly kiosks have been started in district civil supplies

offices. A special initiative was started to clear pending files. Vigilance committees have been started at the state, taluk and district levels and the level of ration shops. Twenty-five new and renovated SupplyCo outlets have started functioning.

- ▶ The construction of an office building and laboratory complex for the Legal Metrology Department has begun in Wayanad. A re-examination adalat was held for the inspection of measuring equipment.

Confident strides, achievements galore

- ▶ Kshamatha project was launched to create awareness and submit evaluation reports to petrol pump owners after inspecting 1000 pumps.
- ▶ Sutharyam project was started with squads comprising legal metrology, public distribution and revenue departments to raise awareness among vendors in 50,000 shops across the state about the importance of exhibiting price charts, authenticity in measurements and proper billings of commodities.
- ▶ Fifty-eight new and renovated SupplyCo outlets have been started.
- ▶ Subhiksha hotels will be started as part of Hunger-Free Kerala in every district this month.
- ▶ Allowances including insurance cover worth Rs.7.5 lakh have been provided to ration shop owners in the light of risks they are exposed due to public interaction during pandemics like COVID. Online home delivery has been started through SupplyCo. Paddy procurement through SupplyCo has been increased. Last year, (2020-21) 7.65 lakh metric tonnes worth of grains were procured. Thirteen new ration shops started operations in the State. Six hundred kilos worth of rice is being allocated through Kudumbashree's Janakeeya hotels every month at the rate of Rs.10.90. Facilities such as 'Track SupplyCo' for location-related information and 'Feedback SupplyCo' were launched for consumers to provide feedback to higher authorities. Pocket-sized PVC ration cards in the form of ATM cards were distributed.

A crisis reserve that proved successful

K.N. BALAGOPAL

Minister for Finance

The second Pinarayi government completed one year of governance by overcoming numerous challenges including that of the second wave COVID pandemic. The state government continues to empower Kerala's economy by focusing on increased production facilities and knowledge dispersal for improving the social security and welfare of the public.

What steps has the state taken to mitigate the consequences of COVID on the economy?

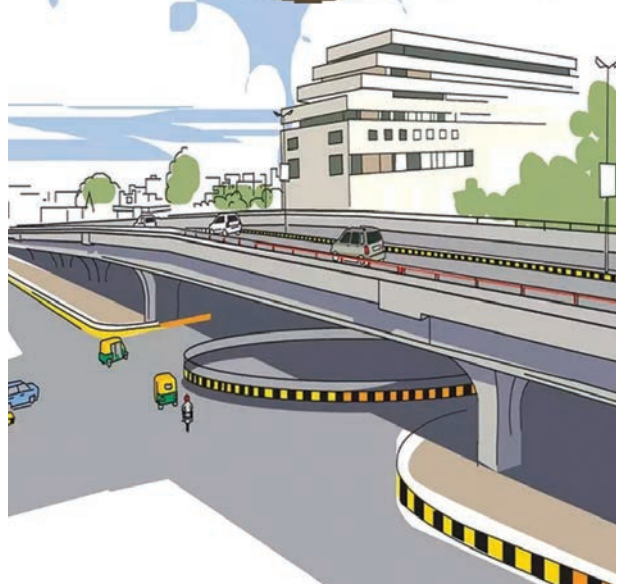
The second COVID package of Rs 20,000 crore for people affected by the second wave of COVID has been one of the most important steps. The majority of the schemes under this package were successfully implemented. The successful implementation of the 'Ashwas' financial assistance schemes implemented by KFC and KSFE in the COVID Supplementary Package has been another major step.

The COVID crisis has hit the market hard. How was relief provided to various sections during this period, including traders, manufacturers and industrialists?

Despite the COVID financial crisis, Rs. 9018 crore was spent for aid, Rs.1700 crore for social security pension, Rs. 147 crore for payment of Rs.1000 each to various categories of employees, Rs.30 crore for payment of salaries to various boards and Rs.526 crore for Onam kits.

How does Kerala's COVID relief project stand apart?

A scheme that stood as a model for the world, country and for the state was announced recently. Under this scheme, the State Government provides financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 per month for three years to the dependents of BPL families who died due to COVID. Assistance is available to BPL families who have





been dependent on the main income earner of the family who died of COVID.

How much has KIIFB contributed to the infrastructure development of Kerala?

KIIFB has approved 67 projects worth Rs 8,000 crore in various sectors namely roads, bridges, IT, education, health, potable water, irrigation, traffic, tourism, sports, energy etc in the state. The total cost of the 962 projects including land acquisition for the Wayanad Tunnel and National Highway, approved by KIIFB is Rs.70,762 crore.

What is Kerala's alternative to the development approach?

In the next 25 years, the Kerala government aims to raise the standard of living of the people of Kerala. The 2022-23 Kerala budget is such a budget in shaping new Kerala. Rs. 200 crores will be set apart for universities to initiate changes in higher education. There has been a huge increase in budget allocation for social security schemes and the budget for SC / ST minorities. An amount of Rs.2000 crore has been earmarked for the prevention of inflation and food security. The IT corridor, including the South, is being set up parallel to the National Highway with the aim of creating an IT-based knowledge community.

Has the Government taken steps to strengthen Kerala Gramin Bank?

The Kerala government has provided Rs.94.12 crore as additional capital to Kerala Gramin Bank. With this, the capital adequacy ratio of the bank has increased from 6.95 to 11 per cent. The Central Government holds 50 per cent, the sponsor bank 35 per cent and the Government of Kerala holds a 15 per cent stake in the Kerala Gramin Bank.

Objectives, steps of progress

- ▶ The total amount already paid to KSRTC for salaries in the financial year 2021-22 is Rs. 2,037 crores. This was allocated as aid as buses could not ply during the pandemic. An amount of Rs. 1000 crore was earmarked for KSRTC in the 2021-22 year budget. However, the government paid Rs 2,037 crore to KSRTC during this period. The budget for 2022-23 too has set aside Rs.1000 crore.
- ▶ KSFE's turnover directly surpassed Rs 59,323 crore during the crisis.
- ▶ KSFE aims to provide financial assistance to expatriates who returned home after losing their jobs due to the COVID crisis, to start micro and small enterprises. Pravasi Security Micro Scheme is a new initiative jointly launched by India and Norka Roots. Loans ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh are available at 6 per cent interest.
- ▶ The new government's scheme can lend up to Rs. 1 crore at 5 per cent interest to small and medium entrepreneurs through KFC. Tax deduction is availed for vehicles purchased for differently-abled children has been extended to children affected with cerebral palsy and autism.
- ▶ Employees are being paid their updated salaries and pensions on time. The deferred salary was repaid in full and Rs.2600 crore as pension reform arrears.
- ▶ The pension reform for university employees, Homeo college teachers, municipal contingent employees and the RCC have also undergone pay revisions in various sectors.
- ▶ Posts numbering 118 have been created at Sree Narayana Guru Open University as part of a total of 2,951 new posts. The Cabinet also approved MEDISEP, a medical insurance scheme that guarantees cashless treatment to state government employees and pensioners.
- ▶ An administrative sanction of Rs.27 crore has been given for the construction of a flat complex for Kollam NGO Quarters.
- ▶ At present, steps are being taken to expand the 'Oruma scheme' covering Kudumbashree employees through the State Insurance Department to include employees of other PSUs.

Higher Education: Change in Step with The Times

DR. R. BINDU

Minister of Higher Education and Social Justice



Today, the Department of Higher Education is progressing with the vision of developing an ideal neo-knowledge society with a social perspective as an alternative to the market-oriented knowledge-based ecosystem promoted by the Western world. The government has prioritized the larger good of society through the activities of higher education and is implementing plans for the same.

What plans are on to ensure social justice in this sector?

Kerala is a state that stands as a model for geriatric care in the country. Programmes are being implemented by the department including the government's concept of 'Barrier-Free Kerala' to make our public spaces and institutions accessible to people with disabilities. The Barrier-Free Kerala campaign was launched by the government with the aim to convert our public spaces into emulatable examples of social inclusivity. The priority of the government lies in work that ensures social justice for all.

What are the achievements made in this field?

Disability support centers called 'Sahajivanam' have been

opened in all the blocks. A project called Rehab Express has been started to bring rehabilitation services to the village level. Transgender forums have been started in all districts. A disabled-friendly park was opened in Thiruvananthapuram.

What proud steps have been undertaken over one year in the Department of Social Justice?

We are feeling a lot of pride in having designed a unified sign language in the Malayalam alphabet under the leadership of NISH (National Institute of Speech and Hearing). This is the alphabet available in Malayalam for sign language. It was made possible through the team work of children and teachers in this field. The virtual reality system for disability rehabilitation is the first of its kind in the country and it was implemented within a year. Significant steps have been taken such as a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 1000 for endosulfan victims and a fixed deposit of Rs. 20,000 for children with severe disabilities.



Markers of Success and Progress

- ▶ Commissions have been formed to bring reform to the structure, content of higher education, university rules, exam process and the like.
- ▶ For the first time, government is providing assistance for the infrastructure development in aided colleges. There will be special blocks with state-of-the-art research facilities, new generation lab facilities, class room, library buildings, sports development projects with gym facilities, sports galleries, seminar halls and auditoriums.
- ▶ One thousand academically-bright students from financially-challenged backgrounds will be awarded Rs. 1 lakh each apart from the Chief Minister's Student Talent Award, and Kairali Award for Malayalam research scholars.
- ▶ University fellowships for 100 research students as part of promotion of innovative research.
- ▶ K.R. Narayanan Institute has been given autonomy status.
- ▶ The construction of a modern lab complex at Mahatma Gandhi University at a cost of Rs.75 crore is nearing completion.
- ▶ 'Let's Go Digital', a digital education project for higher education institutions was launched.
- ▶ Modern equipment at affordable prices for the differently-abled is being made available in Thiruvananthapuram where construction of the state's first such showroom is progressing.
- ▶ 'Elder Line', a toll-free helpline number - 14567, was launched for senior citizens.
- ▶ An advanced neuro-physiotherapy unit was started for patients experiencing immobility because of neurological issues.
- ▶ Funding of Rs.300 lakh was granted for 8412 children through a cancer protection scheme and Rs. 199 lakh given for 19,364 children under Thalolam scheme.
- ▶ Financial assistance of Rs.3965 lakh given for 95152 beneficiaries under Aswasakiranam scheme.
- ▶ The Kerala Social Security Mission has decided to provide a one-time financial assistance of Rs.1000 to 5357 endosulfan victims receiving pension.
- ▶ Sree Narayana Guru Open University will create 118 posts. The university will be developed into top class facility for scientific research.
- ▶ Under a new project, small business units and start-ups with state-of-the-art technology will be set up at government colleges.
- ▶ Nine advanced departments of study will be started under Kerala University soon.
- ▶ Development programmes to the tune of Rs.100 crore will be implemented at universities such as Kerala, Calicut, MG, Kannur and CUSAT.
- ▶ University centers will begin hostels for boys and girls including international hostels.
- ▶ Kerala Genome Data Center will be set up in association with Kerala University.
- ▶ 'Green Campus' project will be implemented to promote vegetable and flower cultivation and keep campuses clean. The heritage value of government colleges will be protected.
- ▶ Augmented reality / virtual reality labs will be set up in parks. 'Alumni Week' will be held every December to involve alumni in the development of colleges.
- ▶ Sree Narayana Guru Open University will begin construction of cyber centres, regional centres, learning centres, facilitate renovation of academic block and construction of a headquarters building.

Modernizing the Dairy Sector & Ensuring Farmer Welfare

J. CHINCHURANI

Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development



For the last five years, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development has implemented many schemes to increase milk, egg, and meat production and to make the state self-sufficient in milk production. As a continuation of this, this government is formulating and implementing innovative policies.

What are the outstanding achievements of the department during its one-year tenure?

About eight lakh families in Kerala are engaged in cow rearing. Of these, 3.97 lakh members are registered with the Dairy societies. 21.17 lakh litres of milk is procured daily under the control of the department through 3,635 primary co-operative societies across Kerala. We can proudly say that this small state of Kerala is currently the state that pays the highest price for milk as compared to other states in India. The fact that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for the joint research initiatives in the field of genetic research of livestock, launched by the Kerala Livestock Development Board (KLDB) and the Indian Institute of Science and Research Center to implement policies and programs for the genetic improvement of livestock in the state and thereby the breeding of highly productive livestock is a major achievement. Plans for the protection of the endangered regional cows found in the coastal forests of Periyar have commenced. The scheme is being implemented in collaboration with the State Animal Husbandry Department and the Kerala Livestock Development Board Management Team. Two bulls of the breed Kuttampuzha Kullan (Periyar Cow) were procured for sperm collection to ensure conservation and breeding. It is a continuation of the efforts to





get the status of the second recognized breed in Kerala after Vechoor cows. Ksheerashree Portal is a Unified Software Program implemented by the Department of Dairy Development for the timely utilization of information technology in the dairy sector. This web portal can be used to apply online for financial aid, to ensure the quality of milk, and to make the operation of dairy groups more transparent. It also covers milk procurement, marketing, pricing and the accounting of Dairy Groups.

What are the important policies being implemented for the welfare of dairy farmers?

Various schemes are being implemented to retain the farmers who depend on the animal husbandry and dairy sector for their livelihood and to attract more people to the sector. An amount of 13.61 crores has been sanctioned to the Animal Husbandry Department for the Rebuild Kerala scheme during the current financial year. Cow breeding, buffalo rearing, sheep rearing, fodder subsidy, financial assistance for stable construction, farm mechanization, assistance for fodder grass cultivation and scientific calf rearing schemes are being implemented. Phase 2 is nearing completion. The government has sanctioned three mobile veterinary units since coming to power and has taken steps to set up 29 mobile veterinary units very soon.

As a Minister, what are the glorious steps taken in this period?

It is worth mentioning the E-Samrudha Project. Tagging is being done to identify the animals in different ways. Currently, plastic tags are in use. However, there may be an infection in the part of the ear where the plastic tagging occurs, losing tags, and an injury to the ear caused

by the tagging. The solution to this is RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tagging. Tagging in this new system will fix the above deficiencies. In addition, the software that is being developed can create a vast database of the details of each such tagged animal. This scheme is being implemented in the Pathanamthitta district in the first stage. The government has sanctioned 7.28 crore for this through the Rebuild Kerala Plan. This is the first time in India that a government department in the field of animal husbandry has implemented such a comprehensive digital system. Kerala Digital University is responsible for the implementation of the project.

Newly trained veterinarians have been appointed as junior resident doctors in veterinary hospitals to make the service available to the public more efficient and effective. Thirty-nine such appointments were made.

Projects completed so far as part of the 100 Day Program

- ▶ There is no doubt that the 100 Day Plan has given strength and momentum to the growth and progress of Kerala. During this period, two mobile tele-veterinary units were flagged off in Ernakulam and Kannur districts to provide home-based veterinary care to the farmers who raise livestock.
- ▶ The inauguration of the Dairy Management Information Center for modernizing the dairy sector, the inauguration of the fodder subsidy schemes and the laying of the foundation stone of the Valiyathura Buffalo Park Unit were completed during this period.
- ▶ The inauguration of the Hi-Tech Poultry Breeding Units being implemented in the Adivasi Scheduled Caste Region at Kepco, Kuriottumala, Kollam and the laying of the foundation stone of the Meat Processing Plant at Kottukkal, Kollam was carried out in a time-bound manner.
- ▶ Bus on Wheel Shoppy is the Milma scheme introduced in Thiruvananthapuram, Malabar and Ernakulam regions. In addition, more wholesalers and retailers have been appointed in Thiruvananthapuram and Malabar regions.

Achieving an alternative development model

M .V. GOVINDAN MASTER

Minister for Local Self Governments, Rural Development & Excise



From the standpoint of the people, our government could establish a Kerala model of development in the local self-government as well as in the excise sectors. We survived COVID, natural disasters and vested interests and showed the country that we can achieve an alternative development model by standing by the people.

Can you assess how far we have travelled in achieving our developmental goals?

We have laid the foundations for a new Kerala model. We have extended relief measures for the economically marginalized and jobs which cater to the present-day, converting Kerala into an information society. Growth, sustainable development, social security and equality are our foundation and with these, we advance our development programmes. This model can be seen in the Local Self-Government and Excise department's last one-year programmes.

What is the benefit of converting the Local Self-Government body into a unified department?

The unified department of the Local Self-Government aims at bringing more administrative help to the Local Self-Government bodies. More than thirty-one thousand permanent employees and seven thousand contingent employees constitute the public service for the state and its districts. These measures will overall strengthen the decentralization and the local self-government processes

What is the structure of this department?

Preceding departments like Panchayat, village development, town affairs, local self-body engineering section, and town-village planning departments were unified to form four groups-rural, urban, planning and engineering. The engineering department will now on be known as Local Infrastructure Development and Engineering. Additional sub-wings like public health and environment management, communication empowerment and human resource development have been enforced to ensure the best performance of local self-governments.

Will the eradication of extreme poverty get realized soon?

It is the government's proclaimed goal to eradicate extreme poverty within five years. The first successful step of this is nearing its completion. It's been found that 64006 families are among the extremely poor. We have formed a 'micro plan' to alleviate their poverty and it is with this goal that the government moves forward.

How does the Ministry intend to strengthen the decentralized planning programmes?

We are revitalizing the decentralised planning to pave way for 'NavaKeralam'. During the time of



people's planning, we made the 9th programme into a people's one and planned everything from the people's point of view. The 14th plan's outline has been completed. What Kerala requires will be initiated in various village ward levels through the 14th planning initiative. This will be the second most creative endeavour implemented through the people's planning programme in Kerala.

Can you describe the LIFE mission program's third phase 'Manasodithiri Mannu' and the progress associated with it?

The LIFE mission's rehabilitation of the landless and homeless programme has stepped into its third phase and many have come forward with extended hands. According to the LIFE mission programme, there is no need for registration stamp duty or one can even give the money directly to the needy. Local Self-Government and government agencies cannot accept contributions directly. The land will be handed over to the people who are selected by the LIFE Mission.

Government services are at your doorstep through local self-governing bodies. How do you describe these services?

This doorstep service is solely aimed at the marginalized of society. Initially, we opened the services in 50 local self-governing bodies. We gave the benefits to 23266 of the population. For the 1st anniversary of this government, we are extending the services to all the local self-governing bodies of Kerala. We are servicing small benefits initially and plan to extend more services later.

Marks of success and progress

- ▶ The doorstep service for solid waste management will be progressed to 100 per cent. The smart garbage app will be implemented in every panchayat.
- ▶ As part of the 'Jala Jeevan Mission', all households in a village will be provided with a proper water connection.
- ▶ All files in the local self-governing engineering section will be through e-file officing.
- ▶ There will be road connectivity mapping in all districts.
- ▶ 73 crores is being utilized for the rejuvenation of small ponds in over 26163 hectares. With the collaboration of PMGSY, 612 km of village roads and bridges will be completed.
- ▶ Corporations will be ranked according to their performance. An e-governance project called urban ERP will be implemented.
- ▶ Production distribution centres will be enhanced to ensure the investors get their profit. Kerala will become a state devoid of old age homes eventually. Niramaya insurance will be provided to the needy.
- ▶ 48 excise offices will be renovated with all the basic amenities with a budget of 25 lakhs to ensure the public get better services.
- ▶ All services in the Excise department have become online now. Fleet management, e-arms, and hello excise web are some of the new programmes and we plan to extend these programmes.
- ▶ 4 mobile patrolling units will be deployed in Tamil Nadu-Karnataka borders where the problems of narcotics and drug trafficking persist through narrow lanes and unknown paths. These will be strictly monitored.

Suave Travel, Caravan Tourism

P.A. MOHAMED RIYAS

Minister for Public Works and Tourism



Among the flagship programmes of Nava Kerala Mission, the impetus given to the basic background development is supreme. It is our duty to uplift Kerala to be the number one state with basic amenities and background development. This is only possible with the help of a better road network which will give a big jump to development. With the aim of giving benefits to the local population and to minimize the hazards of development is what we aim through programmes such as Caravan Tourism.

Why does the government give more focus on the basic infrastructure development of the state?

One of the main indexes that is counted while assessing the progress of a state is its basic facilities and infrastructure. Where there is an improvement in the basic facilities, there is a visible overall change in the development scenario. We aim to strive for world class facilitations. For that, we have implemented the programme 'Mission PWD' giving the PWD a new face. Finishing announced projects on time, making the public more involved in the programmes of the PWD and implementing the running contract system are some of the progressive measures that is happening in the department of PWD.

What are the major benefits of basic infrastructure development?

The dream project that was once branded impractical was the development of the National Highway System. Keralites can see for themselves the project being implemented at lightning pace. From Thalappady to Kanyakumari, the NH 66 have started its work in all reaches. The fact that the roads are being extended to 45 meters has itself given great impacts on the developing sector. Unseen throughout our country, our government has agreed to put 25 percent of the fund for the development of the NH. The state is using its full power to implement the project in time.

Hill Highway, Coastal Highway, Outer Ring Road- Are all these being implemented for the people's comfort travel?

Hill Highway and Coastal Highway are nearing its initiation processes. The permission to implement the Hill Highway project in

all the reaches is in its last stages. The acquirement of land for the seaside highway has already begun. The outer ring road project which has been approved by the centre extending from Vizhinjam to Paripally is solely aimed at increasing the commercial capabilities of the district in which the state government is participating in 50 percent of its land acquirement.

Shouldn't the people be allowed to assess the progress of development projects?

For that, we have formed an option in the PWD website 'Thottariyam PWD'. All the projects undertaken by the department is available in one single click. The progress from the start to the end of a project is being uploaded and updated through photos and videos. The 'Running contract system' is being implemented to monitor the progress and completion of the projects in time'

Our roads have become more fragile because of the shifts in climate change. Is there any solution to this?

The PWD is using six new methods to counter the problems of climate change. Geo grids- Geo Cells, Full depth reclamation, Micro surfacing, Segmental blocks, Soil nailing and Hydro seeding are the new technologies that we have decided to implement. We have also formed a 'Climate cell' to assess the new methods developed to tackle the problems of climate change.

Have we made the PWD department more accessible to the people?

It is the PWD department that the people hugely rely on. This is the reason why we have decided to popularize



it with various programmes. The 'PWD for you' app has gained much recognition as it was designed to point out the various in competencies of the PWD department. The 'Ring road' programme aimed at conveying suggestions and complaints directly to the minister is also getting positive feedbacks. A public information cell with toll free number is also being executed to convey the complaints.

Can projects like the 'Caravan Tourism' revive the Tourism industry?

I can say with pride that, the projects like Caravan tourism could revive the post COVID tourism industry to its former glory. By opening the industry at the last stages of COVID, we showed to the world that, it can be revived by making tourist destinations as complete vaccinated centers and creating Bio bubbles. It gave confidence and courage for reviving the sector back to life. Now, the campaigns focus mainly on internal and external tourism. After the "Houseboat project", "Caravan Tourism" is the next big thing that Kerala tourism introduces to the tourism industry. We have received good feedback from this project.

What do you have to say about developing tourism through responsible means?

It is a destination challenge for all local self governing bodies. For this, The Tourism Department has decided to spend 50 crores initially. This is to attract tourists from one destination to the other places of historical importance and places with cultural heritage will be included here. It is with the participation of the local self government department that these programmes will be implemented.

Successes and advances

- ▶ 443.71 Kilometres of road passing through 10 districts have been given to be took care for 7 years in a single contract. Under the programme of Bharatmala Pariyojana, 895 kilometres of seven

roads have been authorized to start renewal. A programme 'Kerala without level crosses' is implemented and one has been tackled so far. 10 railway overbridges are nearing completion in record time. A system to ensure that the public works are completed in time, maintenance and transparency is kept was setup and high officials were given responsibilities of a constituency for this. After the completion of a project, its maintenance is entrusted in the hands of the contractor (DLP) and DLP boards are being placed on the roads.

- ▶ A system of road maintenance and management has been implemented digitizing all the roads of Public works departments.
- ▶ The Public Works Department which has the biggest chain of hospitality management in 153 rest houses has provided online booking services for the public. The contractors who complete projects in time will be given a limited amount as incentive. The flow of internal tourists has increased more than 51.09 % in 2021 compared to the flow in 2020. In 2020, 49.80 lakh have visited and in 2021, the flow increased to 75. 38 lakhs.
- ▶ With goals like safe travel, journey to unexplored destinations and less cost for setting up basic amenities, the Caravan Tourism project has been implemented. To promote 'Responsible Tourism', a variety of programmes have been implemented. A software has been developed to ensure that all hotels and resorts will be classified and adhered to the norms of Responsible tourism is being implemented.
- ▶ A revolving fund package which gives loans without interest and guarantees has been implemented for those who work and depend on the tourism industry. Programmes such as tourism working capital support scheme, tourism employment support scheme and tourism house boat support scheme have been implemented. Exploring the waterway tourism sector, Beypore Jalotsavam has been initiated. Even when hotels were opened, the tourists and public were shy to approach them. So the tourism department via KTDC implemented 'In-car dining' and 'Foodie wheels' programmes. To unite Malayalis from all over the world, the tourism department conducted a virtual Onam festival. Information concerning the tourism sector will readily be available through 'Maya' via Whatsapp.
- ▶ A programme called Farm to Malabar 500 has been implemented. And the different classifications under the tourism department has been made online.

Emphasis on Increasing Produce and Market

P. PRASAD

Minister for Agriculture



This government is focusing on boosting the market along with the produce of the agricultural sector. The aim is to ensure a decent income for the farmer. Various schemes are being implemented to make the marketing network efficient along with the production, and to process and market the fresh agricultural produce from the cropland based on the market.

How to overcome the challenges facing the agricultural sector and farmers in Kerala?

Steps are being considered to address the small size of farms and the shortage of people attracted to the agricultural sector which are challenging the development of the agricultural sector in Kerala. The effort to make all the barren lands cultivable is being completed. The impact of a number of schemes, including mechanization, can be seen in attracting the younger generation to industrialized agriculture. Various schemes are being implemented to make the marketing network efficient along with the production, and to process and market the fresh agricultural produce from the cropland based on the market. 'Kerala Brand' products are being prepared by coordinating farmers' groups, small agri-enterprises and various production units. Through this, 'Our agriculture, Our health' can be realized. It also ensures that non-toxic food is a right. 50 new Agricultural Produce Associations have been registered under the Department of Agriculture to strengthen production, processing, and value addition of agro-products. The process of registering 40 new groups will be completed by soon.





What steps have been taken to protect paddy cultivation?

To promote paddy cultivation, to protect the existing paddy fields and thereby to ensure ecological balance, a royalty of Rs. 2000 per hectare has been allowed to the paddy field owners every year. It has been recommended in the Budget to increase it to Rs. 3000 for the next financial year. Under the sustainable paddy cultivation development scheme, which is a component of the 'paddy cultivation development plan', paddy seeds, fertilizers, bio-pest control, etc. are being provided at a cost of Rs. 5500 per hectare. Paddy cultivation has been implemented in 95531.36 hectares in the year 2021-22 out of the target for the year of 97465.17454 hectares.

How can the government ensure relief measures to protect farmers from the ravages of natural disasters?

Revised Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented to provide better compensation and insurance cover to farmers affected by natural calamities. This year, 1,26,570 farmers have joined the scheme directly and through the AIMS portal. An amount of Rs. 28.25 crores have been sanctioned as compensation to the farmers and steps are being taken to sanction a further Rs. 21 crores. An amount of Rs.81.85 crore has been disbursed from the plan fund (Rs. 64.93 crore) and the disaster response fund (rs. 16.92 crore) for crop damage due to natural calamities. Steps are being taken to disburse an additional Rs. 10 crores from plan fund and to make available Rs. 20 crores. 45860 farmers will get the benefits of the same.

How the market intervention in vegetables was implemented?

The government has also intervened to eliminate the possibility of rising vegetable prices on special days like Onam, Christmas, and Bakrid. HortiCorp, the main government agency involved in the procurement and marketing of vegetables, has intervened in the market and coordinated activities in the face of high market prices of vegetables. From November 25, 2021 to January 1, 2021, 1503 tonnes of vegetables were distributed to consumers at such low prices. Out of this 357.7 tonnes of vegetables were procured directly from the farmers and brought to the market. In order to procure vegetables at minimum cost, discussions were held with the Department of Agriculture and farmers' organizations in states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and direct procurement of 18 tonnes of vegetables from Tenkasi and 10 tonnes of tomatoes directly from Andhra Pradesh were completed. In view of the high price of tomatoes, HortiCorp directly procured the tomatoes produced by the Palakkad farmers and distributed them to other districts at a rate of Rs. 50 per kg. For price control, vegetables were distributed through 34 tomato carts of the Department of Agriculture, HortiCorp and VFPCCK.

Objectives & Steps of progress

- ▶ Specialized scheme has been designed for extending organic farming throughout the state.
- ▶ Steps have been taken to finish 140 Smart Krishibhavan, 1 per constituency, which can cater to all the needs of the farmers in the state.
- ▶ Guidelines for constructing 140 Haritha Poshaka Carbon Based Villages in connection with the Smart Krishibhavans.
- ▶ 14 model farming plots are being prepared for providing agriculture training and introducing farming practices in the farms in the state.

Social Upliftment through Education

K. RADHAKRISHNAN

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



The development programs set in motion by the Ministry for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Devaswoms, and Parliamentary Affairs for Kerala have served as an example for the world and strive to meet the aspirations of the common man.

How do you assess the work done in the first year as a minister?

The Department gave priority to the developmental activities that would bring forward the struggling Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Although there are many projects already in place for their upliftment, the department has focused on ensuring that they got the full benefit and were able to resolve any shortcomings.

Do you believe the department made a good start?

The victory of an administration lies in ensuring that the public is not forced to repeat their demands. Time entrusted this government with the continuous implementation of Kerala's achievements which have so far been in the right manner. The government is committed to upholding this promise and moving forward this first year.

Has the government been able to provide due consideration in every department to those under the SC/ST category?

It is the absence of social capital that stands as the main

hindrance in the SC/ST category for not getting their due recognition. The programmes are meant to ensure that they come to the forefront in every sector. Education, employment opportunities, infrastructure development, land, and housing are the major objectives of the government in the initial year. There have been efforts to provide opportunities for children to select new courses and provide the required training.

What are the notable steps in this sector?

Students belonging to the SC category, who are pursuing a commercial pilot license course will get Rs.25 lakh as scholarships as a part of the Wings scheme. The age limit for applying for educational concessions for SC-ST students has been raised to 40 years. The income limit for admission to the model residential schools is now Rs. 2 lakh from Rs.1 lakh. Kasaragod Ekalayya Residential Sports School will start functioning from this academic year.

Does the government aim for social upliftment of the SC/ST category through education?

Education will provide the socio-economic development that the SC/ST community needs. The government has formulated comprehensive facilities for learning from the pre-primary section to the level of Ph.D



Should we assure employment along with education?

The government is moving forward with the aim to offer one permanent job to at least one member of an SC/ST family. Students who have completed courses in nursing and paramedical training will be given a two-year internship with a stipend in government hospitals. More than 2000 people will get benefits in the initial stages. The experience certificate obtained from this internship will fetch them better opportunities in domestic and international locations. About 500 people with a degree or diploma in engineering will be placed in SC/ST offices. Another 500 people will be appointed as Beat Forest Officers and 500 as excise guards.

What are the measures taken to resolve the health issues of people in Attappadi and Idamalakkudi?

The government has been paying great attention to the health problems of the SC/ST people. Allotments of Rs.30, 22, 15,287 crores for 14,192 recipients in SC section and Rs.23, 81, 26,400 crore for 41,573 beneficiaries of the ST community have been made so far. A comprehensive package that brings together various departments is being implemented in Attappadi. It is a matter of pride that the government has made interventions with the motive of resolving the problems of Attappadi, Idamalakkudi and Arekkappila in Thrissur.

Has the COVID created an economic crisis for the income of Devaswom Board?

The Devaswom boards of Travancore, Kochi, Guruvayur, Malabar, and Koodalmanikyam come under the government. The 2018 floods and

COVID badly affected the income of the board. Amidst this crisis, the government allocated Rs.220 crore so that the salary and pension of 17,000 employees and pensioners under the board may be paid without any hindrances.

How is the Sabarimala master plan to be implemented?

Pilgrims were able to visit Sabarimala successfully even during the pandemic. Efforts are on to untie complications revolving around the master plan. Rs. 100 crore has been allotted for the construction of a modern rest house in Pandalam.

How do you view the responsibility to safeguard the beliefs of all communities?

The government has pledged to protect devotees and make sure that those with vested interests do not manipulate the belief system. There are efforts by certain troublemakers to bring back caste atrocities and social evils. The government has successfully appointed marginalised communities in various posts in temples.

Successes and advances

- ▶ Houses were provided for 3358 scheduled castes and 606 scheduled tribes under LIFE scheme
- ▶ Digital study facilities for online education, were provided to 37,221 students under the 'Vidyakiranam' scheme. Tabs, Laptops, Smart phones were provided.
- ▶ The socio-economic survey conducted by the scheduled Tribes development department has been completed.
- ▶ 2280 study rooms were constructed.
- ▶ An amount of Rs 12.7 crore for Scheduled Castes and 20 crore for Scheduled Tribes were provided as medical assistance.
- ▶ Study rooms, scholarships, hostel facilities, and gold medals for the rank holders, entrance coaching, laptop, stethoscope, assistance in parallel college study, civil service coaching, and coaching for competitive exams are some of the prime schemes.
- ▶ Sabarimala pilgrimage made hassle-free even amid the pandemic COVID-19
- ▶ Action has been taken to recruit 500 beat forest officers from scheduled tribes.

Industries sector finds its feet again

P. RAJEEVE

Minister for Law, Industries & Coir



Kerala is one of the states with an investor-friendly environment. The first Pinarayi Vijayan government took steps to foster the aforementioned investor-friendly environment. More enterprises are being set up in Kerala and the process is on for transforming Kerala's economy into a knowledge economy. By sorting out and redressing the grievances raised by the investors, Kerala has a giant leap in the industrial sector.

Have events such as Meet the Minister and Meet the Investor encouraged the industry?

I am pleased that the Government of Kerala has been able to take the lead in several initiatives that have given a new impetus to the industry in Kerala during the first few months. The 'Meet the Minister' program resolved thousands of complaints. The 'Meet the Investor' program, which aims to promote Kerala's industrial growth, has achieved an investment promise of Rs.7,000 crore within a year.

Can Kerala expect more investment opportunities?

With the realization of the Industrial Corridor, there will be an investment worth Rs.10,000 crore in Kerala. The government is making great strides in the areas of renewables, oil & gas, electronics, IT, logistics, automotive, food processing, light, engineering, plastics, e-waste and other solid waste. The UAE government expressed readiness to start a food processing park





in Kerala while participating in the Expo held in Dubai. These discussions are in progress. Dubai-based Tri Star Group is preparing for a major investment project in Kerala.

What steps have been taken to encourage investors?

Many steps have been taken: Investments up to Rs 50 crore can function without a K-SWIFT Acknowledgement for up to three years. A law has been passed to provide a composite license within seven days of application with adequate documentation for those industries with a capital investment of over Rs 50 crore.

Is 2022 - 23 being celebrated as Entrepreneurship Year?

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Entrepreneurship Year on March 30 at the end of a planning process over the last six months. The project also aims to create four lakh jobs. The increase in deposits on MSME Zones would raise doubts in this regard. To resolve this MSME clinics have been set up for clarifications.

Isn't growth essential for the public sector too?

The government intends to modernize the public sector through diversification along with private sector investment. For this 41 Public Sector Undertakings will be divided into seven categories by 2030. A master plan has been prepared to make PSUs profitable as well. 41 PSUs working under the industries department of Kerala have reaped a profit of 384.68 crores in the year 2021-22.

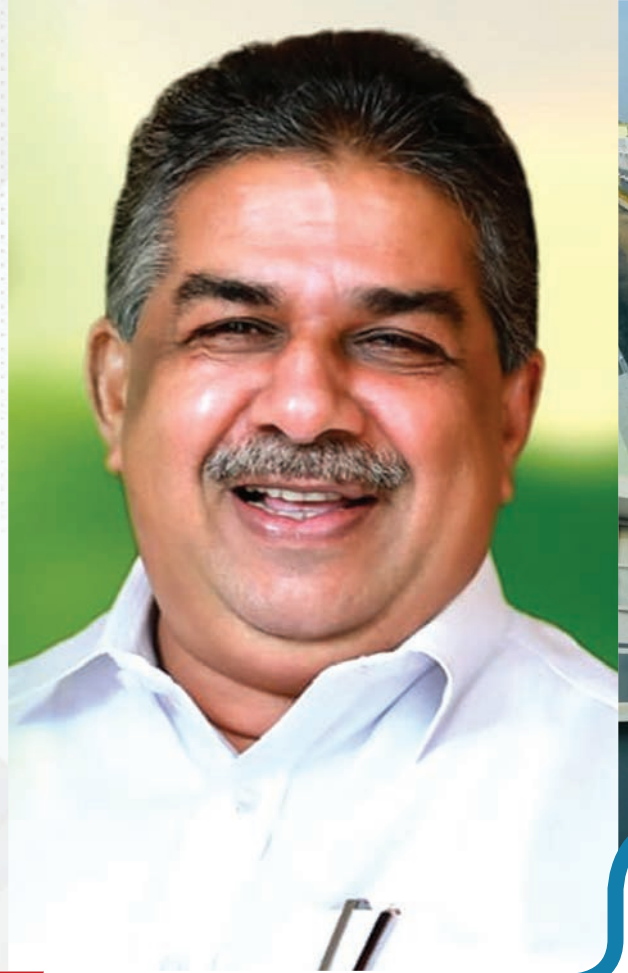
Markers of Success and Progress

- ▶ A PMS portal was launched to avoid delays in the implementation of projects and to monitor project progress in real-time. Construction of the petrochemical park has begun. Steps to expedite the acquisition of 2,220 acres of land for the Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, which will employ over one lakh people, are nearing completion.
- ▶ An assistance scheme of Rs.1416 crore has been implemented for small scale entrepreneurs who faced a crisis during COVID. A complaints cell has been implemented to address grievances raised by entrepreneurs in the industries sector.
- ▶ A new regional office of KSIDC has started in Kozhikode. A new food processing unit is ready at Cherthala. The Mini Industrial Park has been completed at Mukkal under KINFRA.
- ▶ Production under Coir Geological Survey has increased to 25,000 tonnes by 2020-21. The project has created employment in three sectors namely coir production, coir spinning and product manufacturing. Coir geotextile layout of Rs. 100 crore has been completed.
- ▶ Construction of the Hantex Garment Factory was completed as part of value addition. It was decided that 30 per cent of textiles purchased by the Government and public sector undertakings should be handloom/khadi.
- ▶ The first bamboo bazaar was started in Kumarakom as part of the launch of bazaars focusing on tourism centres. Steps have been taken to open bazaars at Munnar, Thekkady, Mananthavady and Koithamangalam.
- ▶ The plantation in the state was brought under the purview of the Regional Industries Department. Steps have been taken to set up a Plantation Directorate and Regional Offices.

Comprehensive Change in the Coastal Community & a New Awakening in the Cultural Scenario

SAJI CHERIAN

Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs



The Government is moving ahead with activities that give great importance to the fishermen, the fisheries sector, and the coastal areas. The Government seeks to bring about a comprehensive transformation of the region by integrating various factors such as marine conservation and sustainable development, protection of the rights of fishermen and their families and their development, protection of the life and livelihood of fishermen, protection of the rights of the common man to ensure access to clean fish, and infrastructure development in coastal areas.

What development activities and schemes are being implemented for the betterment of the marginalized fishing community?

For the first time in the country, the first Pinarayi government introduced a scheme to rehabilitate fishermen and rehabilitated 192 families by constructing flats in Muttathara through this exemplary scheme. In addition, a scheme of providing financial assistance of 10 lakh rupees for rehabilitation has been implemented. It is following the hearty welcome of these schemes by the fishermen that the comprehensive Punarageham scheme worth 2450 crore rupees has been prepared through which all the residents living within a distance of 50 meters from the high tide regions in the coastal areas. To date, 1109 beneficiaries have been able to find their land and build houses under the plan which was launched in 2020. Construction of

1126 houses is in progress at various stages and 2235 people have registered land. In addition, the construction of 128 flats at Karod and 20 at Beemapally in Trivandrum, and 128 at Ponnani in Malappuram has been completed and handed over to the beneficiaries. The construction of 114 flats in the QSS Colony in the Kollam district is in the final stage. Apart from this, administrative sanction has been given for 784 flats in Karode, Valiyathura in Thiruvananthapuram district, and Mannumpuram in Alappuzha district, Niramathur in Malappuram district, Ponnani, West Hill in Kozhikode district and Koippadi in Kasaragod district and all these are in various stages of construction. The Government also gives great priority to the infrastructure development of the coastal region of Kerala. A total of 145 roads were inaugurated in 9 coastal districts at a cost of 61.9 crore rupees. The construction of new buildings in 20 coastal schools through KIIFB is a new milestone in the realm of infrastructure.

Fisherwomen are a large segment of the fish trade and allied occupations. How can their upliftment be achieved?

The Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen (SAF) is an agency established under the Department of Fisheries for the holistic development and empowerment of fisherwomen. Through SAF, a scheme of 6.43 crore is being implemented to set up 46 Theeramaitthri Seafood Restaurants in coastal



districts involving 230 women fishermen. As part of the second 100-day plan of this government, the SAF Theeramaithri has launched a scheme to start 150 small scale employment ventures involving 750 fisherwomen. A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs (Rs. 1 lakh per member) is given to a group of five members. The Joint Liability Group (JLG) has been launched to link the official banking system to ensure the financial security of women fishermen who sell fish and allied occupations. SAF provides a working capital of Rs. 50,000 each, as a revolving fund to groups of five women fishermen. The aim is to free them from the exploitation of private moneylenders and usurers.

The COVID crisis also immensely affected the arts industry. Interventions made for the survival of this sphere?

One of the areas most affected by the COVID crisis is the arts sector. To overcome this, the department was able to envision and implement innovative policies. Notable among these is the online art exhibition 'Mazhamizhi' which is being implemented through Bharat Bhavan under the Department of Culture. Mazhamizhi aims to empower and support the art community in times of this crisis in the pandemic situation. At the same time, financial assistance of 1000 rupees was provided to all artists in the wake of the COVID crisis. The diamond jubilee fellowship scheme is implemented by the Department of Culture in association with local governments. Free training is provided in Kerala art forms such as classical art, acting, painting, sculpture and folklore art forms.

Objectives; Steps of Progress

- ▶ Launched Samudra bus service to ensure free travel for women workers involved in the fisheries industry.
- ▶ At the same time, the Theerarogyam has been launched to ensure follow-up care and continued treatment for the coastal people in the event of serious illness.
- ▶ Under the Subhiksha Kerala Scheme, fish farming schemes worth 2078 crore are being implemented by the local bodies. Fish farming has commenced in 10774 ponds covering an area of 1553.48 hectares under 448 panchayats.
- ▶ On July 10, 2021, the popular campaign, 'Wherever there is water, there is fish farming', was launched. The aim is to achieve self-sufficiency in fish seed production and to double fish production through agriculture by 2025.
- ▶ Through Matsyafed, mobile fish mart, hygienic fresh fish retailing units, franchise marts under co-operative banks and base station to procure fish have been arranged to ensure availability of quality-assured fish for the consumer.
- ▶ Registration licenses will be issued to all fishing vessels for the safety of fishermen. Workers will also be provided with life jackets, life-saving equipment on board and state-of-the-art communication equipment including satellite phones.
- ▶ The International Film Festival of Kerala, which had to face limitations in the last few years thanks to the COVID pandemic, was organized full-fledged with great pride and grandeur this year. At the regional level, the Regional Film Festival was also organized in Ernakulam.
- ▶ The Department of Culture has also started an awareness campaign 'Samam' on achieving economic and political equality for women.
- ▶ To encourage women directors and directors belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories, financial help of up to 1.5 crore rupees per, has been sanctioned for film production.

Kerala, Igniting Minds in Times of Crises

V. SIVANKUTTY

Minister for General Education and Labour



The Department of Public Education is making strides by improving the quality of education in government schools through popular, democratic, and, secular education. The past year has also transformed our state into a destination with ample job opportunities.

How do you evaluate the activities of the Department of Public Education & Labour in the previous year?

There have been big changes in the basic infrastructure of the schools under the General Education Protection Mission initiated by the previous government. The physical conditions and academic standards of public schools have improved greatly. During the pandemic, Kerala became a model for the entire nation by swiftly adapting to the changes required to continue classes for the students, thereby averting a major crisis. The department of Labour focused on the welfare of workers while sustaining a labour-friendly environment. The government is implementing new schemes which emphasize a healthy employer-employee relationship.

Are you ensuring the quality of education?

Yes. We are ensuring progress in this field as acquiring education is a fundamental right. Kerala introduced innovative models to the world through the General Education Protection Mission and Vidyakiranam. Kerala was in the top position for ensuring online education during the pandemic days. Kerala offers quality education for adults too.

Kerala is making progress in the field of digital education also?

Kerala became the first digital education state by introducing advanced lab facilities in 9,941 pre-primary schools. VICTERS became the first complete education channel to implement quality education even during the pandemic.

Digital classes named First Bell 2.0 was started as a continuation to VICTERS. This was followed by VICTERS PLUS, a second channel. Online telecast of more than 150 subjects was made available. A G-suite application was introduced for the online education of every student; parents were empowered with cyber security training.

The number of students is increasing with the up-gradation of schools. Are sufficient faculty appointments being made to handle these numbers?

More than 6000 placements have taken place in the last one year. PSC alone had 3,200 placements filled while 1,655 primary teachers were promoted as headmasters. New teachers were appointed to 771 posts at the primary level and 344 people who had worked as Vidya volunteers in single teacher schools for 25 years were appointed to PTCM/FTCM positions at government schools. The implementation of Samanwaya, a software developed to ensure transparency in the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in



aided schools is underway.

Are there any schemes to protect the interests of migrant workers as there is a hike in guest workers?

Kerala played an exceptional role in meeting the various needs of migrant labourers including the timely distribution of COVID vaccination. Guest-worker Friendly Residents in Kerala project has been developed for ensuring that migrant labourers have accommodation facilities apart from the Awaas scheme for providing them with insurance coverage. Close to 5 lakh beneficiaries have been covered under this scheme. The Apna Ghar project was introduced at Kanjikode in Palakkad.

Confident strides, achievements galore

- ▶ Digital, online education has been upgraded. Special attention has been given to students from the backward hilly regions with 45,710 digital equipment being allotted to them.
- ▶ A total of 1, 51,132 digital gadgets with an internet connection have been delivered in the state. SSLC and higher secondary exams were held within a fixed schedule. There has been an increase in the pass percentage of SSLC and higher secondary exams. Special educators were appointed to support differently-abled students.
- ▶ An audio library called Sruthy Paadam was created for visually-impaired teachers and children. Sixty percent of QR code installation of higher secondary textbooks has been completed.
- ▶ E-Qube English Language Lab has been made ready

for primary schools. Jaalangalkkappuram project has been launched as an online platform bringing together differently-abled children, parents, teachers, family members and socio-cultural activists.

- ▶ Mixed institutions will be started soon to promote gender equality.
- ▶ Using KILFB and various other programmes 85 school buildings have been completed.
- ▶ Specialized training for educational officers and head teachers in the tribal areas has been completed in Palakkad, Idukki, and Wayanad.
- ▶ As per the court judgment, deserving differently-abled candidates will be appointed to aided schools under the Department of Education.
- ▶ The government took over Pariyaram Medical College Public School and also made interventions to retain Kayamkulam NTPC KV School under the central department of education. Interventions were also made for the proper functioning of Kazhakoottam Army School. An agreement with the Ministry of Defence is under process.
- ▶ SAHITHAM portal, in association with SCERT, KITES will be completed. Women workers can avail studio apartments built over six floors of 130 units at Kinfra Park in Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ▶ Online auto-taxi service will be launched under the title Kerala Savari.
- ▶ Career development centers for qualified, unemployed individuals and students will be initiated at Karamana in the Nemom constituency and Mulloorkara in the Chelakkara constituency.

Awards

Thozhilali Sreshta awards were given to workers selected from 17 occupations. Awardees will get one lakh rupees each and certificates. Chief Minister's excellence award has been given to the best employers from eight sectors. Vajra awards were given to 85 institutions and Suvarna awards to 117 institutions.

A Helping Hand in Times of Crises

V.N. VASAVAN

Minister for Co-operation and Registration



The previous year was one that the Cooperative sector was able to endure with resilience, making strong strides toward development. Apart from providing financial support to the common man, the Cooperative sector was able to make needed interventions and show solidarity with society at a time when the COVID crisis was at its peak. It was also a time when the sector could extend help through various financial schemes so that the public can also meet their needs.

What is considered to be the best achievement of this period?

The achievements are many though the one of paramount importance is the CARE Kerala (Co-operative Alliance to Rebuild Kerala) project. It has been decided to construct 2,000 houses through CareHome, its sub-project. The construction of 2091 houses was completed. The second phase of the Care Home project is aimed at providing houses in all 14 districts.

Do you think people lost faith in co-operatives during the time of crisis?

On the contrary, the faith of people has only increased. There is plenty to show as proof too. Kerala Bank performed well even during the COVID crisis, earning a profit, which is an achievement. The target of the Sahakarana Nikshepa Samaharanam Yajnam was Rs 6,000 crore but the co-operatives

received an additional investment of Rs 1253 crore. Kerala Bank has been the biggest gainer in terms of investment mobilization. The target was Rs. 1025 crore. During the mobilization period, an amount of Rs.3375.54 crore was received from various investments. This achievement is proof that people now have more faith in cooperative societies than ever before.

What are the achievements in Registration Department?

During the last financial year, the registration department earned record revenue. There was an additional income of Rs.305.89 crore more than the target.

What is your proudest step as a Minister?

The success of the projects launched to help people in times of crisis and being able to provide houses for people who lost their homes in the floods were proud achievements. The state was able to generate record revenue in the midst of the pandemic without being pushed into a severe financial crisis.

Can't co-operatives intervene in the agricultural sector?

The government has decided to strengthen the



presence of cooperative societies through additional intervention in the agricultural and industries sectors. Major changes are expected with the establishment of Kuttanad Rice Mill. Efforts are on to take vegetable production to a self-sustainable level. Co-operatives are doing cultivation on 500 acres of land. Preparations have already started for the same. Plans are on to implement a medicare insurance plan for co-operative society employees which is similar to that of government employees.

What are the projects completed as part of the 100 Days Programme?

The Co-operative Department was able to complete the plans for the first 100 days of the programme ahead of schedule. Preliminary work on all the 17 projects announced as part of the second 100 Day Programme has already started. The projects will be completed on time.

Five hundred permanent jobs and 19,500 jobs were announced during the second phase of the 100 Days Programme. As of 24th March, 462 permanent jobs and 14,819 jobs have been created. The registration process for the Artists' Co-operative Society has been completed. The art evenings of the Co-operative Expo 2022 with 100 Days of Announcements were organized by the Co-operative Society of art workers.

The relief fund for homeless co-workers raised the annual income limit and invited applications for funding. The registration of 14 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Co-operative Societies is nearing completion. An amount of Rs. 1.84 crore

was dispensed through 204 loans to allow differently-abled individuals to start entrepreneurial ventures that would serve as a means of income.

Markers of Success

- ▶ Youth Co-operative Societies began operations to attract the youth to the co-operative sector and implement innovative ideas for the betterment of society.
- ▶ Youth Co-operative Societies started functioning within the first 100 days of the Government coming to power. There has been commendable progress in service co-operative sectors.
- ▶ More than 16,000 jobs were created directly and indirectly in the co-operatives.
- ▶ The Muttathe Mulla Loan Scheme sanctioned more than 50,000 loans through 14,237 Kudumbasree units.
- ▶ An amount of Rs. 22.33 crore has been sanctioned to help bedridden individuals who have taken loans and orphans.
- ▶ 80,265 loans were sanctioned through Vidyatharangini Scheme in which Rs. 77,68,47,581 was disbursed.
- ▶ A special cooperative society was formed.
- ▶ An amount of Rs. 16.34 crore has been sanctioned to SC / ST Co-operative Societies under the Punarjani scheme.
- ▶ Digitization has allowed full access to details of co-operatives.
- ▶ A comprehensive health insurance scheme for cooperative employees has been implemented.
- ▶ Special schemes to modernize the registration department. 315 offices were computerized.

A role model for the entire country

VEENA GEORGE

Minister for Health and Woman and Child Development



Our state has procured the first position in the National NITI Aayog Index which rewards states based on their performance in healthcare. This government came into power during the grave crisis of the COVID 19 pandemic. The government was determined to take care of its people and their occupational means as well. We became the role model at the national level by fighting the second and third waves successfully. Along with ensuring people's health, we successfully implemented programs to ensure the protection of women and children.

How did Kerala defend the COVID pandemic?

The state was well prepared to face the pandemic. We faced the first wave by strictly enforcing protocols and shutting the borders to contain the virus. Vaccination was not available at the time and hence the struggle was double-fold. At the onset of the second wave, we had a vaccination in limited quantities. We also took maximum precautionary measures to defend ourselves against the third wave. Hospitals were made more functional and oxygen was made readily available. We made reserve oxygen centers to supply oxygen to the needy. We held meetings more often to strengthen our defence measures against COVID. Every step we took was calculated and precise, not to forget the health workers who put in their all to fight the virus.

What are the actions taken to improve the infrastructure facilities of the Medical Colleges

where the general population approaches for best treatment?

A lot of effort was put into converting Medical Colleges into more advanced and patient-friendly places. Thiruvananthapuram SAT hospital has begun the advanced SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) treatment which is of first its first kind in the government sector. Advanced facilities for liver transplantation surgery have also been implemented. 4.16 crore is being spent on a Neuro Cath lab, the first of its kind in a government Medical College and it is being set up in Trivandrum. Improvements are also being made in Kollam, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Konni and Kozhikode Medical Colleges.

What are the projects being implemented to ensure a quality treatment in the Ayurveda sector?

To upgrade the quality of AYUSH Ayurveda institutions to the cash level the government is implementing various projects training is being done. Last financial year, we upgraded six institutions to this level. Through KIIFB, 114 crores have been sanctioned to raise an international center for research in Ayurveda in Kannur under the Ayurvedic Medical Education Wing. 150 Ayush health and wellness centers have been allotted to raise 600 Ayush dispensaries to their level of standard.



Marks of success and progress.

- ▶ Making hospitals more public-friendly, reducing expenses of the patient, and spreading awareness to help improve the overall health of a community with people's participation are the goals for Nava Kerala Karma Padhathi – Aardram Mission 2.
- ▶ The health department has worked up a project to distribute free medicines to BPL cardholders and the elderly.
- ▶ The peritoneal dialysis scheme where patients can perform dialysis in their own homes has been initiated in 11 districts.
- ▶ 24 hospitals have been upgraded with cancer treatment facilities.
- ▶ 10 districts are set up with free treatment for stroke patients.
- ▶ Kerala cancer registry for cancer patients in Kerala has been opened.
- ▶ 'Akshaya Kerala Campaign', a step to identify Tuberculosis patients and eradicate tuberculosis as part of the initiative 'My Kerala Devoid of Tuberculosis' is being implemented.
- ▶ 350 government hospitals are equipped with an E-Health system. During the tenure of this government, 107 hospitals have established the E-health facility.
- ▶ The E-Sanjeevani programme has been strengthened. Specialty services are allotted now.
- ▶ 99 ventilators for toddlers, 66 ventilators for children and adults, 100 Pediatric adult ventilators, and 116 non-invasive ventilators add to the 381 new ventilators. The distribution of 147 high flow ventilators is now in progress.
- ▶ 239 ICUs with high care beds, 222 ventilators, 85 paediatric ICU beds, 51 paediatric ventilators, 878 oxygen beds, and 1588 new beds including 113 ordinary beds to the Medical Colleges.
- ▶ A special block has been constructed in the Trivandrum medical college with 100 ICU beds. To ease transportation, an 18.06 crore road and flyover was constructed.
- ▶ 173 crore is being spent for the construction of a super-specialty block in Alappuzha which is now in the process of completion.
- ▶ A course in DM Infectious diseases has been sanctioned in Kottayam Medical College which is the first of its kind in India. A successful operation has been done at the Kottayam medical college for a liver transplantation surgery successfully, the first of its achievement in Kerala.
- ▶ Six traveling food and safety detection labs have been set up. Kerala is the first state to have a traveling food inspecting lab in India.
- ▶ A bone marrow donor registry has begun for bone marrow transplantations. The PMJAY gold certification has been awarded.
- ▶ All districts have been entrusted with dowry prohibition officers by amending the current dowry act. 'Kanal', a programme for women's safety has been implemented.
- ▶ 3.2 crores has been allocated for children who lost their parents.

Nurses are essential in transforming health care and health systems



Joby Baby
Nurse, Kuwait



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world: the way we live, socialize, work, interact with each other, and the way we deliver nursing care. It has raised the visibility of nurses like never before and underlined that nurses are indispensable to healthcare and the backbone of every health service. This year's Nurses day theme selected by the International Council of Nurses is "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health". Nurses are on the frontlines of this pandemic, working to educate, research, prevent, treat and care for people with compassion, care, resilience, creativity and great leadership skills. The pandemic has brought in a new perspective to the existing health care system. It has posed a challenge to the traditional institution based episodic fragmented care with lesser accessibility and affordability. We are forced to bring in a seamless integration of preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. The services needed to be provided at home, and across all health care settings ranging from primary health centers to tertiary care facilities, in order to bring in the best use of our knowledge, skills and infrastructure to effectively and successfully sail through this time.

Nursing being the epicenter of healthcare activities and the biggest manpower force spending maximum contact time with patients are at a greater advantage in transcribing the needs of the patients to every other health care professional. Nursing



as a profession has always been an integral part of healthcare and now is the time to make nursing equipped for the ever-changing and ever evolving world, achieve higher education and training through an improved education system promoting seamless academic progression and be equal partners with physicians and others in redesigning healthcare. With the nursing profession gaining more public acknowledgement and appreciation due to the exposure of the pandemic, the horizons of future healthcare look to be brighter than the ones witnessed in the last year. The nursing profession has pulled together from all corners of the profession and supported one another through the worst of times. This resilience and interdependence are what will emerge as a positive lasting effect. Nurses across institutions, across the country need to reach out to each other and extend a helping hand. They need to know and understand each other's pain and support each other, sharing their learning to overcome these difficult times. They need to hold hands with all healthcare professionals as these are the ones that are most emotionally impacted being at the epicenter of this pandemic. Ultimately, our strength lies in how high we can uphold our values and with how much conviction and integrity!

Keralites cannot forget Sister Lini who showcased a great model of service by nursing an infected patient and sacrificed her own life when Nipah had frightened the state. Lini's life is an inspiration for all health workers who serve the land by risking their life during the time of COVID pandemic. ●

Kerala's stringent measures against dowry



Dr. Sheeba V.T.

Asst. Professor, HOD
NSS Hindu Collage, Changanassery

I have always been proud that I am born in the state of Kerala and inhabit on this rich land with its natural beauty and secular tradition. Being a faculty in higher education, teaching the Kerala model of development has always been a pleasure. One of the Contemporary indices for measuring development has been gender parity and being the state with the most favourable sex-ratio and lowest gender gap in education, Kerala leads the way in gender parity. Gender parity is a necessary condition for development and attitudes to gender are intricately woven into the traditional and cultural fabric of the land. Development, if fruitful, interacts with the mindset, influences attitudes and brings in a progressive culture. All development attained will be futile if it fails to open up minds and usher in freedom and equality. Dowry, an age-old tradition has become a status symbol in our society and has revealed its dark underbelly. The vigilant government has now a 24-hour helpline for dowry harassment and gender related crimes in the state.

Research has clearly revealed that with similar nutritional, medical and general health care, women tend to live noticeably longer than men. They are more resistant to disease and hardier than men from womb to tomb. Women have proved their mettle in

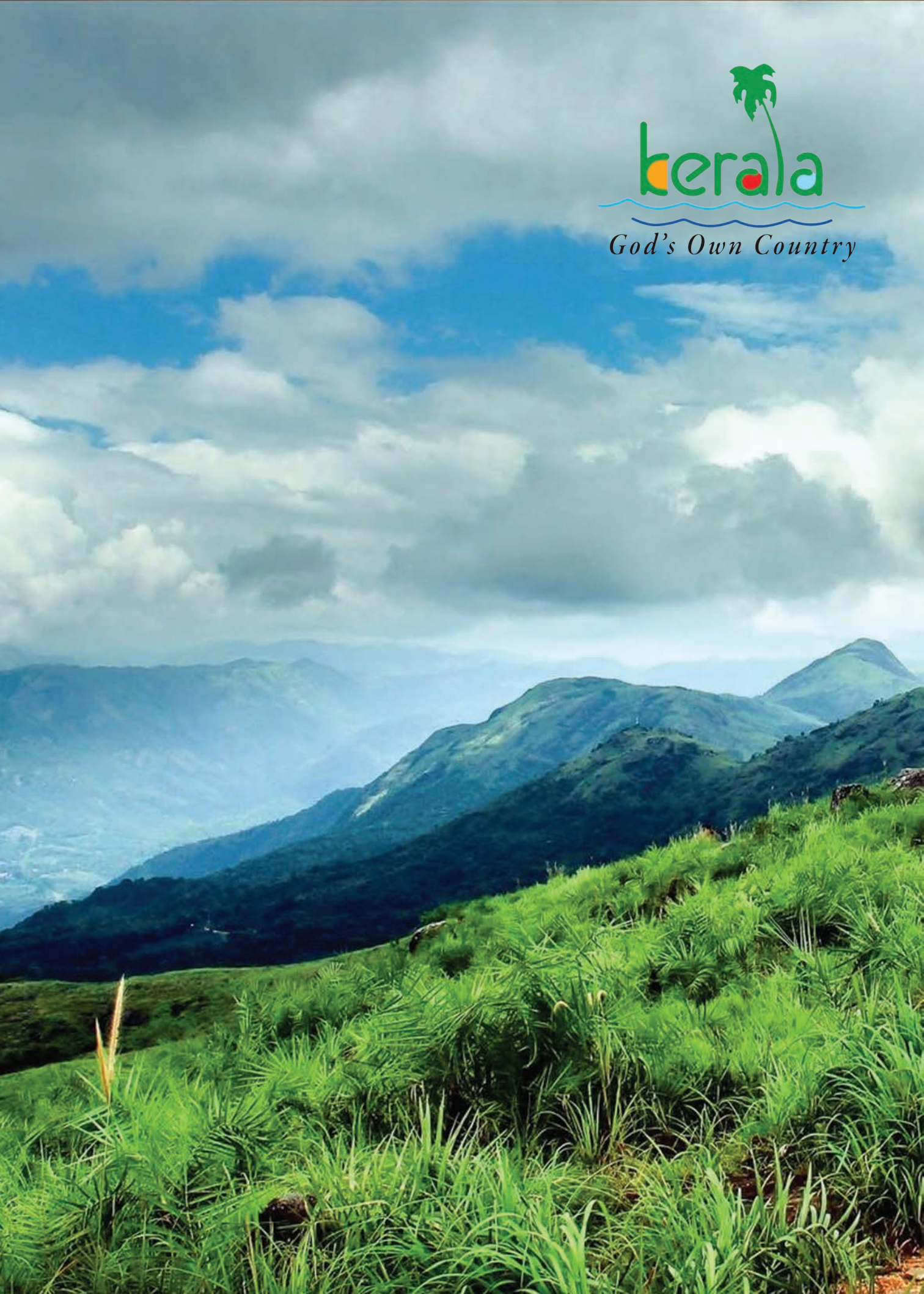


all kinds of jobs requiring intellect as well as physical power. They have better survival rates and life expectancy [Sen A 1990]. The very fact that men and women are treated differently in labour markets underline the message that differences are natural and necessary. When returns to investment in son's education and health is higher compared to women, preference is given to him and moreover daughters leave the house physically and financially after marriage, implying patrilocality. Nurturing a girl child is often compared to nurturing the neighbour's garden.

The modern woman also adds to her portfolio the task of going out to work, though never exempted from her domestic duties. Her efforts are never mentioned, often never returned or recognised even within the family. The recent history of domestic violence tells a different story. If matters continue as they are and we remain mute spectators, we will have to see our daughters bitten by snakes inside bedrooms and even hanging on bathroom windows-daughters who are brought up with the same love and care as sons. Is it not time to ask parents to stop bringing up boys to extract dowry in future?

It is indeed remarkable that government has a strong will to extend exemplary punishment to culprits in dowry cases. The Kerala government has left nothing to chance and has ensured that justice is served, and that too without delay. Strong determination of governments and timely action will penalise the culprits and will end the crime. Compared to states like U P and Bihar which lead in dowry deaths [N C R B], Kerala reports a smaller number of cases and the illegal practice can definitely be eliminated through public will and a mass movement.

We live in a society which is socially constructed with an in-built pro-male bias. That the attainment of higher educational and health status has not brought in a change in attitudes is a matter of concern. We, as a state, are equipped with higher levels of education, health and infra structure, but yet to reach the goal of gender parity. The true empowerment of our girls is in their being equipped with capabilities, skills and knowledge and their capacity to shoulder the responsibilities of the family-not the physical and financial assets which are compelled to be given during and after marriage. Let us not be in a hurry to marry off our daughters to fulfill our responsibilities. Let us train them to be self-sufficient and financially independent, cultivating self-pride. As Fredrich Engels said 'Naked greed has been the moving spirit of civilizations from the first day of its existence'. Let us not leave our daughters at the mercy of greedy people, let us equip them with knowledge and skills and groom them for a dignified existence.



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