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**CHARTING KERALA'S FUTURE
PINARAYI VIJAYAN'S BOLD LEADERSHIP
IN DRIVING STATEWIDE PROGRESS**

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Contents

08

CHARTING KERALA'S FUTURE:
PINARAYI VIJAYAN'S BOLD
LEADERSHIP IN DRIVING
STATEWIDE PROGRESS



12

**KERALA'S VISION FOR HOLISTIC
GROWTH:** PIONEERING
INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION,
AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

18

**PIONEERING INNOVATION IN
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY:**
THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF
SMT. J. CHINCHU RANI

20

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME:
KADANNAPPALLI RAMACHAN-
DRAN'S VISION FOR KERALA'S
MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE

22

A NEW ERA OF WELFARE:
LDF GOVERNMENT AND
MINISTER O.R. KELU'S VISION
FOR KERALA'S MARGINALISED
COMMUNITIES

24

**A NEW ERA OF INDUSTRIAL EX-
CELLENCE IN KERALA:**
A LOOK AT THREE YEARS OF UN-
PRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENTS

26

A BEACON OF PROGRESS:
THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF
KERALA'S FINANCE MINISTER
SHRI. K. N BALAGOPAL

28

**LEADING WITH VISION
AND RESILIENCE:** THE
TRANSFORMATIVE TENURE OF
MINISTER VEENA GEORGE

30

**TRANSFORMING KERALA'S
FUTURE:** THE VISIONARY
REFORMS OF DR. R. BINDU IN
HIGHER EDUCATION

32

MASTERMIND OF PROGRESS:
THE TRANSFORMATIVE TENURE
OF PWD AND TOURISM MINISTER
P.A. MOHAMMED RIYAS

34

K RAJAN: TRANSFORMING
KERALA'S LAND REVENUE AND
HOUSING DEPARTMENT WITH A
VISION FOR LAND REFORMS

36

K. B. GANESH KUMAR:
A NEW CHAPTER IN KERALA'S
TRANSPORT LEADERSHIP

38

HARNESSING THE TIDE:
KERALA'S PORTS, COOPERATION,
AND A VISIONARY FUTURE
UNDER MINISTER V.N. VASAVAN

39

**CHAMPIONING FORESTS AND
WILDLIFE:** THE TENURE OF
MINISTER A. K. SASEENDRAN

40

SHRI M. B. RAJESH:
TRANSFORMING LOCAL SELF-
GOVERNMENT AND EXCISE IN
KERALA

42

**EMPOWERING KERALA'S
ENERGY FUTURE:** SHRI. K.
KRISHNANKUTTY'S TENURE AS
MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY

44

**MINISTER P. PRASAD'S
COMMITMENT:** TO AGRICULTURE
AND RUBBER FARMERS

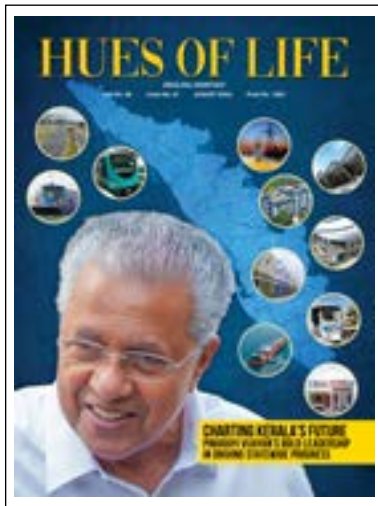
46

KERALA'S FUTURE: SAJI
CHERIAN'S UNPARALLELED
LEADERSHIP IN COASTAL AND
CULTURAL REVIVAL

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Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

As we celebrate the third anniversary of the second Pinarayi Vijayan government, Kerala stands as a signpost of resilience and visionary governance. Over these three years, the state has undergone a transformation that has touched every aspect of public life, setting a new standard for progress and development in India.

At the heart of this transformation is the government's unwavering commitment to social welfare. The Life Mission housing scheme has provided safe, secure homes to lakhs of homeless families, turning the dream of shelter into a reality for many. Kerala has also emerged as the only state in the country to deliver pensions directly to 62 lakh beneficiaries, ensuring that the most vulnerable sections of society receive the support they deserve. These initiatives underscore the government's dedication to inclusivity and social justice.

Infrastructure development has been another defining achievement of this administration. The completion of key bypasses, flyovers, and national highway projects has significantly eased traffic congestion, improving daily life and boosting connectivity across the state. The government's proactive approach to land acquisition, particularly in funding its share for these projects, reflects its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Keralites. The ambitious Hill Highway and Coastal Highway projects promise to further elevate living standards and stimulate economic growth.

Under this government, Kerala's public sector institutions have seen a remarkable turnaround. Institutions that once faced the threat of privatization have been revitalized, turning profitable and reinforcing the state's economic resilience. Kerala also leads the nation in labour welfare, offering the highest guaranteed wages and creating the most working days. This focus on labour rights and economic stability is a testament to the government's progressive approach to governance.

As Kerala looks to the future, the achievements of the past three years serve as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished through determined and visionary leadership. With a firm focus on the welfare of its people, sustainable development, and economic resilience, the second Pinarayi Vijayan government has laid a strong foundation for continued progress. The journey ahead holds even greater promise as Kerala continues to chart a path of unyielding progress and transformation.

Warm regards,

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CHARTING KERALA'S FUTURE

PINARAYI VIJAYAN'S BOLD LEADERSHIP IN DRIVING STATEWIDE PROGRESS

Under the procedural leadership of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala has witnessed structured and regulated progress and transformation over the past three years. As his government completes its third successful year, it stands as a testament to visionary governance and unwavering commitment to the state's development. Pinarayi Vijayan's administration has not only navigated the challenges posed by the global pandemic with resilience but has also spearheaded numerous initiatives that have fortified Kerala's socio-economic fabric. From pioneering healthcare advancements to implementing ground-breaking social welfare programs, the Vijayan-led government has consistently prioritized the well-being of its citizens, setting new benchmarks in public service.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's leadership style is characterized by a clear vision, strategic planning, and a people-centric approach. His administration's focus on inclusive growth and sustainable development has earned widespread acclaim and trust among the people of Kerala. The government's proactive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, including effective healthcare management, vaccination drives, and economic support to vulnerable sections, have been exemplary. These efforts have not only mitigated the impact of the pandemic but have also positioned Kerala as a model state in crisis management.

One of the most ambitious initiatives under Pinarayi Vijayan's leadership is the fourth Hundred Day Programme. Launched with the objective of energizing activities that ensure welfare, social progress, and comprehensive and sustainable development, this programme is a cornerstone of the government's third anniversary celebrations. The Hundred Day Programme is a testament to the administration's dedication to fulfilling its election promises and addressing the state's pressing needs through timely and impactful interventions.

This ambitious initiative, set to be implemented until October 22, 2024, marks the third anniversary of the

Vijayan government. With an impressive budget of Rs 13,013.40 crore, the programme spans 47 departments and encompasses a total of 1,070 projects. Its primary goals are to raise Rs 13,013.40 crore and create 2,59,384 job opportunities, addressing critical areas while fulfilling the promises made in the election manifesto. The Hundred Day Programme is designed to ensure the welfare of the common people, drive social progress, and promote comprehensive and sustainable development.

The programme outlines the completion and inauguration of 706 projects, alongside the commencement of 364 new projects within the 100-day period. Key infrastructure projects include the construction and inauguration of 63 roads at a cost of Rs 761.93 crore, 11 buildings at Rs 28.28 crore, and 9 bridges at Rs 90.91 crore. Additionally, the construction of 24 roads with an allocation of Rs 437.21 crore, 17 buildings at Rs 81.74 crore, and 9 bridges at Rs 77.94 crore will be initiated within this period.

In a bid to streamline administrative processes and improve service delivery, 30,000 new title-deeds (pattayam) will be distributed across all districts. The completion of 37 Smart Village Offices and the commencement of construction for 29 more are also slated for this phase. Furthermore, the state will see the upgrade of 456 ration shops into K-stores, bringing the total to 1,000, and offering zero-profit provision of expensive drugs such as cancer and post-transplant medications through Karunya Community Pharmacy.

Housing and tourism are also major focuses of the programme. LIFE Mission will hand over 10,000 new individual houses, addressing a critical need for affordable housing. Tourism sector initiatives include transforming Kottayam into a letter tourism hub and the comprehensive development of Muzhappilangad-Dharmadom beach in Kannur district. The Solar City project, implemented by Thiruvananthapuram Municipality as part of the Smart City initiative, emphasizes sustainable urban development.

Education and cultural heritage are also key focuses of the Hundred Day Programme. A new polytechnic college exclusively for women will be established at Poojapura, expanding educational opportunities and promoting gender equality. In addition, a museum dedicated to the biography of Sree Narayana Guru in digital form will be unveiled, preserving and celebrating the legacy of one of Kerala's most revered social reformers.

The Hundred Day Programme also underscores Kerala's commitment to enhancing public infrastructure and services. Alongside major road, building, and bridge projects, an additional 30,000 title-deeds (pattayam) will be distributed in all the districts of the state within 100 days. The milestone of 1,000 K-stores will be completed by upgrading 456 more ration shops, with a special focus on providing expensive drugs like cancer and post-transplant medications to patients through the Karunya Community Pharmacy at zero profit.

The programme also emphasizes environmental sustainability and technological advancement. The Solar City project, part of the Smart City initiative in Thiruvananthapuram, aims to significantly reduce the city's carbon footprint and promote renewable energy. Additionally, the programme includes the comprehensive development of the Muzhappilangad-Dharmadom beach in Kannur district, enhancing its appeal as a tourist destination while preserving its natural beauty.

In alignment with Kerala's goals for a greener future, the government is also focusing on the expansion of renewable energy sources. The development of solar power infrastructure across the state, particularly through initiatives like the Solar City project, is aimed at reducing dependence on fossil fuels and cutting down greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative not only contributes to environmental conservation but also aligns with global efforts to combat climate change, positioning Kerala as a leader in sustainable practices.

Moreover, the Hundred Day Programme reflects a strategic approach to integrating technological advancements into public services. The upgrade of ration shops into K-stores and the introduction of digital solutions in administrative processes exemplify the

government's commitment to leveraging technology for improved efficiency and accessibility. These steps are expected to enhance transparency, reduce bureaucratic delays, and provide citizens with better access to essential services.

As part of its commitment to social equity and inclusion, the government is also focusing on the empowerment of marginalized communities. Special initiatives aimed at supporting economically disadvantaged groups, women, and the elderly are integral to the Hundred Day Programme. By addressing the needs of these vulnerable sections, the government aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

The fourth Hundred Day Programme is not just a collection of projects; it is a comprehensive blueprint for sustainable development, social progress, and economic growth. It reflects the government's commitment to addressing the needs of all segments of society, from urban to rural areas, from infrastructure to education, and from healthcare to cultural preservation. By focusing on these diverse areas, the programme aims to create a more equitable and prosperous Kerala for all its residents.

As Kerala moves forward with the implementation of the fourth Hundred Day Programme, it is clear that the state is on a path of comprehensive and sustainable development. The projects and initiatives outlined in this programme will have a lasting impact on the state's infrastructure, economy, and social fabric, ensuring that Kerala continues to thrive and progress.

To conclude, the fourth Hundred Day Programme is a testament to Kerala's commitment to progress, innovation, and inclusive development. With a focus on key areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and cultural preservation, the programme aims to create a brighter future for all Keralites. As the state embarks on this ambitious journey, the collective efforts of the government and its people will be instrumental in driving Kerala towards a new era of prosperity and development. The vision and leadership of Pinarayi Vijayan have laid a strong foundation, and the continued execution of these comprehensive plans will propel Kerala to new heights of growth and success.



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KERALA'S VISION FOR HOLISTIC GROWTH

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AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to Kerala, a realm where tradition and innovation dance in harmony, creating a symphony of progress and prosperity. This enchanting state on India's southwestern coast is a masterclass in holistic development. Here, lush landscapes and serene backwaters serve as the backdrop to pioneering advancements in healthcare, education, and sustainable living. Kerala is a shining example of how cultural richness and forward-thinking policies can intersect to craft a narrative of unparalleled growth. Join us as we embark on a journey through the verdant fields, bustling cities, and serene villages of Kerala, unravelling the threads of its extraordinary ascent in various domains. This is not just a story of a state's development; it's a celebration of its relentless spirit, innovative ethos, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Road and Rail: Paving the Path to Progress

Kerala's journey towards infrastructural modernization has seen significant strides in recent years, particularly in road and rail development. Historically, large-scale projects faced significant delays due to the complexities of land acquisition and political hesitations. However, this trend is witnessing a dynamic shift. The much-anticipated NH 66 project, once deemed unfeasible, is now underway, marking a new era in the state's infrastructural landscape. Alongside, the successful implementation of the GAIL pipeline and the Japan drinking water project stands as a testament to Kerala's renewed commitment to development.

The future looks promising with a slew of ongoing and upcoming projects. The Wayanad Tunnel Project, a dream initiative, is set to commence this year. The construction of the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi twin tunnel road, under the state's KIFB project, will break ground soon, with technical bid scrutiny already in progress. Managed by Konkan Rail Corporation, this tunnel is poised to revolutionize the infrastructure sector, with a budget of Rs 2043.7 crore, significantly benefiting Kerala's agriculture, trade, and tourism sectors.

National highway development is advancing rapidly, with crucial segments like Thalappadi-Chengala, Ramanattukara-Valanchery, and Valanchery-Kapirikad nearing completion within this financial year. The introduction of six-lane traffic in several areas has already improved connectivity. Collaborative efforts between the state government and the National Highways Authority, including regular reviews and inspections, ensure the swift execution of these projects. Recent achievements include the completion of the Nileschwaram ROB, Thalassery-Mahi Bypass, Paloli-Murat Bridges, Kazhakoottam Flyover, and the Mukkola-Kerala-Tamil Nadu Border Bypass. The elevated highway in the Aroor-Thuravoor stretch, currently under construction, is expected to spur significant development in the Ernakulam region.

The ambitious Hill Highway project, spanning 1166 km, promises to transform the lives of those residing in Kerala's hilly terrains. Of this, 793.68 km falls under the KIFB initiative, with financial sanctions granted for 735.93 km. So far, 149.17 km have been completed, and 297.59 km are in progress, with a total expenditure of Rs 1288 crores out of the sanctioned Rs 3505 crores. This project epitomizes Kerala's vision of inclusive growth and regional development.

The Coastal Highway is another transformative initiative aimed at uplifting Kerala's coastal regions. By distributing development more evenly across the state, this highway, complete with a dedicated cycling path, is set to become a magnet for tourists. Notable sections, such as the stretches from Mohiudeen Palli Masjid to Kettungal and from West to Unniyal in Malappuram district, have already been completed. These areas feature meticulously designed roads with bicycle tracks, showcasing the potential impact on the coastal region's development. Out of the total 623 km, 537 km will be developed under the KIFB Coastal Highway initiative, with financial sanction secured for 415 km. Land acquisition is progressing, and construction on additional stretches is set to commence next year. A special rehabilitation package is also in place for those who have provided land for the project.

The vision of a Kerala without level crossings is becoming a reality, an unprecedented achievement in India. Five Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) in the Kerala project, which are not at level crossings, have been completed, with work on nine more in progress. The Maliyekkal, Chirangara, Tanur, Theyyala, Koduvalli, Eravipuram, Chirayinkeezhu, and Mulanthuruthy ROBs are expected to be completed this year, while the Akathethara and Vadanamkurussi ROBs are slated for completion by March 2025. The construction of 72 ROBs by RBDCK and 27 by KRDCCL is underway, highlighting the government's proactive role in resolving long-standing issues and ensuring smooth execution irrespective of political affiliations.

Addressing traffic congestion at junctions remains a priority, with several projects in the pipeline. The Edappal flyover in Malappuram district has already alleviated long-standing traffic jams, and the tender process for the Melechovva flyover is in progress. The Perambra Bypass has been implemented to ease traffic in Kozhikode district, while construction of the Kanjirappally bypass is ongoing. Phase 1 of the Perumbavoor Bypass has entered the construction phase, and tender works for the Kuttiyadi Bypass are underway.

Along with this, Rs 200 crore has been sanctioned for the development of 20 junctions in the state, with funds already allocated for land acquisition for seven of these junctions. The development activities are ongoing, including the significant Vattiyookavu Junction project in Thiruvananthapuram, which has received Rs 600 crore in funding. Evacuations of shops and other establishments have already commenced to facilitate the construction.

Public Works Minister Mohammed Riyas emphasizes that scientific projects have been formulated with the goal of making Kerala's public roads pothole-free. Prior to the rainy season, a team of IAS officers and Chief Engineers conducted inspections across the state's roads. According to the minister, about 90 percent of the roads have been made trafficable.

The concept of running contracts has been instrumental in the rapid implementation of roadworks. This approach ensures that a contractor is always available for maintenance when needed. Moreover, potholes have been scientifically sealed, reducing complaints over the past three years. Running contracts have also addressed issues like waterlogging.

Despite ongoing construction and utility works, measures have been implemented to minimize traffic disruptions. By setting up Defect Liability Period (DLP) boards and introducing Output and Performance-Based Road Contracts (OPBRC), significant progress has been made in road maintenance. All roads in Kerala have been digitized and published online. The phased upgrading of

roads to Bituminous Macadam and Bituminous Concrete (BM & BC) standards is ongoing, with over 55 percent of public works roads now meeting these standards.

The Sabarimala package, with a record allocation of Rs 355.76 crore for roads for the financial year 2023-24, is focused on keeping Sabarimala roads fully passable.

The government had promised to complete 100 bridges within five years but achieved this feat in just three years, completing bridges worth Rs 795.7514 crore. Currently, 119 bridges worth Rs 1152.81 crore are under construction. These bridges are being transformed into tourist attractions with enhanced aesthetics, including better colors and lighting. There is also a plan to make old bridges attractive, starting with the Faroe Old Bridge. Additionally, a special scheme for bridges in tribal areas is being implemented.

Urban and road development projects are expanding into more areas, with road development projects approved for Kannur and Kollam cities. Kozhikode has also received permission for its second phase, and the construction of the Kozhikode-Vellimadukunnu-Mananchira road is set to begin soon.

Kerala's infrastructure development is a cornerstone of its broader growth strategy, reflecting a blend of meticulous planning and robust execution. As these projects progress, they not only enhance connectivity but also catalyze economic opportunities, underscoring Kerala's commitment to sustainable and inclusive development.

Smart City Challenges and Innovations

The Thiruvananthapuram Smart City Road Development project, while nearing completion, has been a focal point of considerable debate. Roads such as Manaveeyam Veedhi and Kalabhavan Mani Road have been successfully completed. The remaining roads, tendered individually, are progressing with contractors taking charge. Out of twelve planned smart roads, two have been fully completed, and eight of the remaining ten have been made passable. Work on the remaining roads is expected to be finished soon, and they will be upgraded to smart roads. Additionally, 25 dilapidated roads have been resurfaced and rendered fully passable.

Rebuild Kerala: Advancements in Road and Bridge Construction

The Rebuild Kerala initiative is advancing with 29 projects underway. One notable achievement is the construction of cone-faced roads designed to resist sea attacks, while the upgrade of AC roads in the Kuttanad region is also nearing completion. Innovative systems are being employed in road construction, including the widespread

adoption of FDR (Full Depth Reclamation) technology and geotextile methods. Future bridge construction is expected to incorporate ultra-high performance fibre-reinforced concrete technology.

Significant research advancements are also contributing to the field. The Kerala Highway Research Institute (KHRI) is examining the effects of climate change on road construction and has developed new techniques for building resilient roads. Studies emphasize that adding hydrated lime and cement to the bitumen mix can mitigate road deterioration caused by acidic rock content. Specifically, incorporating two percent hydrated lime and three percent cement into the total rock mix is recommended to extend the lifespan of roads. KHRI's achievement in developing ultra-high performance fibre-reinforced concrete technology is complemented by its status as a facility capable of 125 NABL-accredited inspections, marking a significant milestone in road and bridge construction innovation.

Tourism and Green Investment: Kerala's Emerging Global Appeal

As the world increasingly acknowledges that sustainable development is essential for long-term success, there is a growing acceptance of eco-friendly practices. This shift is particularly evident in the tourism sector, where nature-conscious development is gaining prominence. Kerala, a jewel on the global tourism map, is at the forefront of integrating environmental stewardship into its tourism strategies. The state has undertaken numerous projects, both large and small, aimed at enhancing tourism while preserving its natural beauty. These initiatives, including innovative tourism products and destination enhancements, have garnered both national and international acclaim. Recently, Kerala's Kanthalloor street project was honoured with the Best Tourism Village Gold Award, reflecting the state's commitment to sustainable tourism.

Experiential Tourism: Embracing Nature's Wonders

Kerala's climate and pristine environment make it an ideal destination year-round. Leveraging these natural advantages, the state has designed tourism experiences that align with its ecological ethos. The focus is on experiential tourism—immersive experiences that harmonize with nature. Kerala's street planning initiatives aim to create vibrant, interactive spaces that highlight the unique characteristics of each area, fostering a deeper connection between tourists and their surroundings. These projects seek to cultivate an eco-friendly tourism culture, offering visitors a genuine glimpse into the region's natural and cultural splendour.

Destination Tourism: Celebrating Rural Charms

A notable trend in tourism is the transformation of Kerala's villages into sought-after tourist destinations. By preserving the ecological and cultural essence of rural areas and involving local communities, these villages offer a unique and eco-friendly tourism experience. Employment and income opportunities for local residents, including women, are enhanced through these initiatives. The approach ensures that tourism benefits both the environment and the local population. Maravanthuruth Panchayat in Kottayam, with its Water Street, stands out as a pioneering example of rural tourism, aligning with the UNWTO's Tourism for Inclusive Growth concept.

Sustainable Development and Green Certification

Kerala Tourism envisions tourism as a catalyst for rural development, poverty alleviation, and women's empowerment, with a focus on regional sustainability. The goal is to create zero-waste tourism destinations and promote eco-friendly practices. Selected centres across the state have already achieved green certification, underscoring the commitment to sustainable tourism.

Destination Weddings: A Blossoming Trend

Destination weddings have become a significant trend in Kerala's tourism landscape. Once a niche market, these weddings now number between 300 and 400 annually, with Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Alappuzha emerging as premier locations. Popular spots like Wayanad and Munnar also attract couples seeking picturesque settings for their nuptials. The tourism department plans to expand efforts to attract international clients, further establishing Kerala as a premier destination wedding locale.

Education and Health: Kerala's Exemplary Progress

Kerala's distinctive approach to education and healthcare has set it apart from other states in India. Thanks to a proactive state government, an educated citizenry, and advanced infrastructure, Kerala has made significant strides in these critical sectors, aligning itself with global standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

Literacy and Academic Excellence

Kerala is renowned for its high literacy rate, which stands impressively at 95%. This achievement is the result of substantial investments in education, with a significant portion of the state budget allocated to this sector. Kerala's education system is characterized by its focus

on inclusivity and quality, leading to the establishment of numerous top-tier institutions. According to the NIRF 2020 rankings, nearly 20 of Kerala's educational institutions are listed among the top 50 in the country. This reflects the state's commitment to maintaining high educational standards and fostering a learning environment that encourages academic excellence.

Infrastructure and Modernisation

The state's educational infrastructure has also seen considerable upgrades. Through initiatives like the KIIFB (Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board), Kerala has modernized classrooms, transforming approximately 45,000 into smart classrooms. This modernization supports interactive and technology-driven learning, preparing students for the demands of the modern world. Additionally, the establishment of nearly 140 higher secondary schools through KIIFB funding has further bolstered the educational landscape, ensuring that students have access to quality education facilities.

ADVANCEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

Comprehensive Healthcare Services

Kerala's healthcare sector is robust and multifaceted, encompassing products, services, and finance. The state is known for its well-trained medical professionals and comprehensive healthcare services, which cater to various needs. Despite the strength of the public healthcare system, there is a noticeable preference for private sector facilities, primarily due to their superior amenities and more organized payment structures.

To address this, the Kerala government has implemented several initiatives aimed at enhancing public healthcare services. One notable effort is the expansion of family health centres throughout the state. The Cheruthazham centre, part of a network of 35 newly established primary health centres, is a prime example. The state plans to increase this number to over 700, providing widespread access to quality healthcare.

Each family health centre is staffed with a team of three doctors, four nurses, a dentist, a pharmacist, and a lab technician. This comprehensive staffing ensures that patients receive well-rounded care. While medicines and consultations are provided free of charge, laboratory services are offered at a minimal fee. These centres are equipped with essential amenities, including outpatient waiting areas, laboratories, and children's indoor play areas, contributing to a holistic approach to healthcare.

Challenges and Strategic Responses

Despite these advancements, Kerala faces challenges such as an aging population and economic constraints. The public healthcare sector, while robust, often sees individuals opting for private care due to perceived



Literacy Growth

The literacy rates in Kerala have shown remarkable progress over the years. Between 2001 and 2011, male literacy increased from 94% to 97%, while female literacy rose from 87% to 94%. This growth highlights Kerala's success in achieving higher educational standards across gender lines.

Political and Development Model

Kerala's high educational standards have influenced its political landscape, with a long-standing tradition of communist governance. This governance model, combined with the state's focus on education and health, has contributed to the development of a highly educated and informed populace. The Kerala development model is often cited as a benchmark for other regions, demonstrating how effective governance and investment in education and healthcare can drive social progress.



advantages. To address this, the government has committed to improving the public healthcare infrastructure to better complement private sector services and enhance overall quality.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Addressing Emerging Issues

Kerala continues to face challenges such as an aging society and economic fluctuations. The state is actively working to address these issues by investing in both public and private healthcare sectors. The goal is to create a more integrated and efficient healthcare system that meets the needs of all citizens.

Enhancing Education and Healthcare Integration

Efforts to enhance the integration of education and healthcare services are ongoing. By leveraging technology and innovative practices, Kerala aims to further improve the quality and accessibility of these critical services. The state's commitment to modernization and continuous improvement ensures that it remains at the forefront of education and healthcare excellence in India.

Kerala's achievements in education and healthcare are exemplary, setting a high standard for other regions in India. The state's dedication to improving educational outcomes and healthcare services has significantly contributed to

its overall development. With ongoing efforts to address emerging challenges and further enhance its systems, Kerala continues to demonstrate its commitment to excellence in these vital areas, aligning itself with global standards and serving as a model for sustainable development.

Elevating Kerala's Global Presence: Insights from the 11th Asia-Pacific Cooperation Ministers' Summit

The 11th Asia-Pacific Cooperation Ministers' Summit, organized by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and held in Jordan, provided Kerala with a significant platform to highlight its achievements on the global stage. This key event saw participation from ministers and officials representing 29 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, with Kerala being the sole state from India invited to represent the nation. This exclusive invitation underscores Kerala's leading role in the cooperative movement and its growing international recognition.

Kerala's cooperative sector has played a crucial role in the region, where cooperatives impact 60% of the population either directly or indirectly. The recognition received at the summit reflects Kerala's prominence and its significant contributions, particularly during challenging times such as natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. The establishment of the Kerala Bank, the largest cooperative financial institution in the country, and the professional excellence achieved by the Uralungal Labour Contract Society were among the highlights. The state's operational excellence in consumer and marketing fields, as well as its contributions to sustainable development goals in agriculture and interventions in education and health, were also acknowledged.

As the United Nations has designated 2025 as the International Year of Cooperation, Kerala is poised to develop plans that align with this global initiative, further strengthening its role in the cooperative sector. The summit focused on fostering partnerships between cooperative movements and governments to achieve sustainable development and inclusive welfare. It emphasized the need for cooperatives to play a leading role at both regional and international levels and highlighted their potential in enhancing employment opportunities, particularly for educated women and youth. The discussions also encouraged better integration between national and local cooperative movements.

The summit recognized the core strengths of cooperatives, such as ease of operation, business sustainability, social commitment, democratic governance, equity, food security, and limited liability. These attributes are crucial for leveraging cooperatives as a driving force for socio-economic progress. Kerala's comprehensive legal reforms in the cooperative sector were showcased as a model, with a focus on diversification and modernization.

The state's approach to enhancing various sectors, including agriculture, education, industry, health, housing, employment, and women and youth empowerment, was well-received.

Looking ahead, the summit's discussions set the stage for potential successes in health tourism, geriatric care, Ayurveda, and the export of food products and textiles. Increased cooperation in these fields is expected to boost income and create employment opportunities. The ongoing Cooperative Expo in Kochi is envisioned as a potential international exhibition platform, aimed at strengthening global connections and opportunities. By elevating this event, Kerala can position itself as a central hub for cooperative activities, fostering international collaboration and advancing its cooperative sector.

The 11th Asia-Pacific Cooperation Ministers' Summit has affirmed Kerala's status as a leader in the cooperative sector, showcasing its achievements and strategic vision. The summit's focus on sustainable development, innovative leadership, and international cooperation aligns with Kerala's goals, promising continued progress and global recognition in the cooperative realm.

Kerala's Vision for a Women-Friendly New Kerala

International Women's Day 2024 carries the powerful message of "Invest in Women Accelerate Progress," underscoring the global recognition of women's contributions across various spheres. Kerala stands at the forefront of this movement, rapidly advancing towards a women-friendly New Kerala. The state has demonstrated significant progress in women's participation in social, economic, cultural, and political arenas, reflecting a broader commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Kerala's achievements in women's education and politics are noteworthy, with women in the state outperforming national averages. The state government's goal is to extend this high level of female participation into higher education and employment sectors. To achieve this, Kerala has launched extensive projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing the health, education, and employment opportunities for women and girls. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to envision a sustainable future where women's contributions are integral to state development.

The state's commitment to women's empowerment is evident through various programs and policies. The creation of the Department of Women and Child Development and the implementation of the Gender Budget mark significant strides. Kerala has also pioneered legislative efforts, being the first in the country to pass laws specifically aimed at advancing women's rights. Initiatives like the Viva Keralam scheme addresses

anaemia in women, and comprehensive cancer screening programs, including mammogram machines in district hospitals, highlight the state's focus on women's health.

Kerala's approach includes not only recognizing and honouring women who excel in various fields but also supporting research and policy formulation aimed at furthering women's advancement. Programs such as Kudumbashree and local government projects are dedicated to economic empowerment, enhancing women's roles in various sectors.

Kerala's social development model, which emphasizes women's empowerment, has garnered international attention. The state's vision of a women-friendly New Kerala aligns with its historical achievements in advancing women's rights and positions Kerala as a leader in creating a supportive environment for women's progress.

Kerala's Start-up Ecosystem and Industrial Growth

Kerala is rapidly transforming into a hub of industrial growth, with the start-up sector playing a pivotal role in this evolution. The Start-up Mission, initially a technology incubation centre at Technopark, has grown into a major force driving entrepreneurship in the state. From an investment of ₹128 crores in 200 start-ups in 2015, the funding has surged to ₹4280 crores in 2022, supporting over 4000 start-ups.

The Start-up Mission's primary objective is to foster entrepreneurship among the youth through cutting-edge technologies. Kerala's superior performance in education, health, and human resources has positioned it as an attractive destination for large-scale investments. India, with its impressive start-up ecosystem, ranks third globally with 66,000 start-ups. Kerala, recognized as the most suitable state for start-ups, boasts a thriving community of over 30,000 entrepreneurs, underscoring the sector's potential for job creation.

To promote entrepreneurship, the Start-up Mission has implemented several initiatives across the state. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres, along with Young Innovators programs led by K-DISC, operate in 345 colleges, providing grants for marketable ideas. Start-ups receive financial support to develop and market their prototypes, with additional assistance from government-owned firms like KFC and KSIDC, as well as angel investors from Start-up Mission. The mission also facilitates international growth by seeking venture capital and providing essential physical infrastructure, including product testing facilities and rapid prototyping resources through Fab Labs and Maker Village. National and international seminars and conferences further support market research and expansion.

Currently, Kerala's start-up ecosystem includes 63 incubators, 375 mini-incubators, one super fab lab, three fab labs, and 20 mini fab labs, with a combined incubation area of over 10 lakh square feet. More than 90% of these facilities were established post-2016. The government has allocated over ₹750 crore as fund-of-funds for start-ups, with an additional ₹22.4 crore in innovation grants.

The fintech sector leads in investments with ₹1720 crores, followed by health tech at ₹1176 crores and enterprise tech at ₹1024 crores. Hardware start-ups constitute 6% of the total in India, with Kerala accounting for 3%. Additionally, 11% of start-ups are led by women entrepreneurs.

The Start-up Mission is dedicated to making Kerala the leading start-up centre in the country. The year 2022 marked a significant milestone with over one lakh ventures launched as part of the Entrepreneur Year scheme. The mission continues to work diligently to cultivate internationally notable start-ups, positioning Kerala as a premier destination for entrepreneurship.

Kerala stands as a beacon of progressive development and innovation, driven by its commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable advancement. The state has made remarkable strides in diverse fields, from pioneering a women-friendly New Kerala to fostering a robust start-up ecosystem that propels industrial growth.

Kerala's approach to gender equality and women's empowerment, encapsulated by its extensive initiatives and legislative advancements, reflects a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of investing in women. The state's efforts in improving women's health, education, and employment opportunities not only highlight its dedication to creating an equitable society but also position Kerala as a model for others to emulate.

Simultaneously, Kerala's burgeoning start-up ecosystem demonstrates its readiness to embrace innovation and entrepreneurship as cornerstones of economic development. With substantial investments, a supportive infrastructure, and a vision for global competitiveness, Kerala is on a trajectory to become a leading hub for start-ups. The state's achievements in this sector underscore its potential to drive significant industrial growth and job creation.

As Kerala continues to forge ahead with its progressive policies and visionary projects, it reaffirms its status as a leader in development, setting benchmarks for others to follow. The state's holistic approach, integrating social empowerment, economic advancement, and environmental sustainability, exemplifies a forward-thinking model of development that is not only relevant today but also resonates with global standards and aspirations.

PIONEERING INNOVATION IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF SMT. J. CHINCHU RANI



Smt. J. Chinchu Rani, the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Milk Cooperatives, Zoos, and Kerala Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, has been instrumental in modernizing Kerala's animal husbandry sector. Her leadership has been marked by a series of forward-thinking initiatives that have transformed the delivery of veterinary services and enhanced the livelihoods of farmers across the state.

Under her guidance, Kerala has witnessed the introduction of mobile veterinary services, a pathfinding initiative that brings essential veterinary care directly to the doorsteps of farmers. Currently, two mobile veterinary units are operational in 29 blocks under the Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme, a Central Government initiative. These units, staffed by veterinarians, para-veterinarians, and drivers on a contract basis, are set to expand to all blocks, offering farmers unprecedented access to vital services. Additionally, tele-veterinary units equipped with advanced medical equipment such as mobile X-rays, ultrasound machines, and surgical systems are functioning in Kollam, Kannur, and Ernakulam districts, serving as referral units linked to district veterinary centres. Plans are underway to introduce 12 more mobile surgery units, further strengthening the state's veterinary infrastructure.

Recognising the importance of providing round-the-clock

care, minister Chinchu Rani has also implemented the Night Emergency Veterinary Scheme. This innovative program offers emergency veterinary services from 6 pm to 6 am, ensuring that farmers have access to critical care outside of regular hospital hours. The scheme, which operates in 156 centres across the state, including major corporations and municipalities, is a lifeline for farmers facing urgent animal health issues. Complementing this, 31 veterinary hospitals now offer 24-hour services, reinforcing the state's commitment to safeguarding its livestock wealth through timely disease prevention and treatment.

In her quest to streamline veterinary services, minister Chinchu Rani has introduced the "e-Samrudha" project, a digital initiative aimed at integrating all aspects of animal welfare in Kerala. Initially launched in Pathanamthitta district, this pilot project allows farmers to pre-book medical services, obtain health certificates, and access other related services via a mobile application. The platform also facilitates booking mobile veterinary units for emergency services, making veterinary care more accessible and efficient.

Minister Chinchu Rani has championed the use of cutting-edge technologies such as sexed sperm samples in artificial insemination projects. This initiative, first implemented in Kollam, uses sex-sorted semen with high genetic value, ensuring the birth of female calves with 90%



Under her guidance, Kerala has witnessed the introduction of mobile veterinary services, a pathfinding initiative that brings essential veterinary care directly to the doorsteps of farmers. Currently, two mobile veterinary units are operational in 29 blocks under the Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme



accuracy. This technology is set to revolutionize cattle breeding in Kerala, leading to the production of high-quality livestock.

Her vision extends to infrastructural development as well. With the support of the National Livestock Mission, she has overseen the transformation of the goat farm at Parassala into a Centre of Excellence, a project nearing completion with an investment of Rs 3.2 crore. Additionally, a hi-tech dairy farm equipped with modern facilities like a milking parlour and bulk milk cooler is being developed at Kuriyottumala in Kollam district. The construction of a new hatchery at Ayoor in Kollam, funded by the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana scheme, has also been completed, with the facility now operational and capable of producing 30,000 chicks per week.

Minister Chinchu Rani's tenure has also seen the establishment of Kerala's first multi-specialty veterinary hospital in Kudappanakunnu, Thiruvananthapuram. This state-of-the-art facility, built at a cost of Rs 5.1 crore, offers a range of modern diagnostic and treatment services, including casualty, surgery, and gynecology.

In response to the devastating outbreaks of bird flu, African swine fever, and Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV), the Minister has led efforts to compensate affected farmers swiftly and fairly. Over Rs 12.86 crore has been disbursed to poultry farmers, while Rs 5.18 crore has been allocated to those affected by African swine fever. The government has also sanctioned Rs 1.2 crore in compensation for farmers who lost cattle to LSDV, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting the agricultural community in times of crisis.

In her drive to enhance animal husbandry



The construction of a new hatchery at Ayoor in Kollam, funded by the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana scheme, has also been completed, with the facility now operational and capable of producing 30,000 chicks per week.



practices, Smt. Rani has introduced the A HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) initiative. This program, jointly implemented by the Central and State Governments, aims to bring animal protection services directly to farmers. By training and appointing 2,000 helpers at the village level, the project ensures that knowledge dissemination and preventive treatment methods reach the grassroots, fostering a closer relationship between farmers and the government.

Minister Chinchu Rani has also focused on strengthening the state's veterinary diagnostic capabilities. The State Institute for Animal Diseases (SIAD) now boasts a new wildlife study centre, an oncology department for animal cancer diagnosis, and NABL accreditation, ensuring high standards in disease detection and research. The State Laboratory for Livestock Marine and Agri Products (SLMAP) in Ernakulam and the Avian Disease Diagnostic Lab in Palakkad have also received NABL accreditation, further enhancing the state's capacity to safeguard animal health.

To protect the livelihoods of dairy farmers, it has been launched the Comprehensive Farm Aid Package for Medium Dairy Farms. This innovative scheme provides financial assistance to farms with 10 to 20 cows, covering health care, fodder cultivation, and farm modernization. The project, which has allocated Rs 45 lakh in the current financial year, is set to benefit 45 medium-sized dairy farms across the state.

Through her leadership, Minister J. Chinchu Rani has positioned Kerala at the forefront of animal husbandry innovation. Her initiatives have not only modernized the sector but have also ensured that the benefits of these advancements reach farmers at every level. Her visionary approach continues to drive progress, making Kerala a model for other states to emulate.

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME KADANNAPPALLI RAMACHANDRAN'S VISION FOR KERALA'S MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE



Whenever you visit a region, there are three places you should explore to truly understand its essence: the market, which reflects the present; the school, which offers a glimpse into the future; and the museum, which tells the story of the past. In an era where children and adults alike have fewer opportunities to interact with history, the government of Kerala, under the stewardship of Kadannappalli Ramachandran, Minister for Registration, Museums, Archaeology, and Archives, is making history more accessible and engaging than ever before.

Recognizing the limitations in public access to historical knowledge, especially among children, the Department of Archaeology has taken significant steps to bridge this gap. One of the most impactful initiatives is the revival of the Heritage Clubs in schools, which were first implemented before the COVID-19 pandemic. These clubs engage students through history quizzes at district and state levels, followed by study tours to historical monuments and sites, guided by historians themselves. This initiative not only educates but also inspires a new generation to appreciate and preserve their heritage. The department plans to resume these activities this year, with an added focus on creating museum-friendly committees in all museums.

In today's world, museums are no longer just repositories of artefacts; they are storytellers, narrating the past in ways that resonate with modern audiences. Kadannappalli Ramachandran has been instrumental in transforming Kerala's museums into thematic hubs that offer immersive experiences. Gone are the days when museums were merely static displays; now, each museum tells its own unique story, reflective of the heritage of its district. For instance, the Vaikom Satyagraha Museum houses records of the historic protest, while the Ernakulam Heritage Museum has preserved the original manuscript of Kuriyedathu Thathri's Smarthavicharana from 1905.

The minister's impact is particularly visible in Kannur, a district that previously had no museums but now boasts seven, thanks to Ramachandran's initiatives. This expansion is facilitated by the nodal agency, the Museum of History and Heritage, which assists in setting up new museums across the state. This model has already been used to establish the Akshara Museum in Kottayam, dedicated to language, literature, and culture, and the Kulathupuzha Forest Museum, Kerala's first forest museum. The dairy department's museum in Thrissur is also on the horizon, further solidifying Kerala's position as a burgeoning museum hub.



The Department of Archaeology and the Department of Archives, under the stewardship of Kadannappalli Ramachandran, is opening up new avenues for research and public engagement in the fields of archaeology and archives.



As part of the state's ongoing commitment to preserving its heritage, the government is also moving toward the digitization of archaeological records. This ambitious project will make these records accessible to scholars and the general public from anywhere in the world, ensuring that Kerala's rich historical legacy is preserved for future generations. The Community Archives initiative is another innovative effort that empowers local communities to contribute to the preservation of historical records, whether by surveying and documenting them or by working with the Department of Archaeology to secure and protect these treasures.

Many valuable palm-leaf manuscripts and other historical documents are still held by ancient families who may be reluctant to hand them over to the department. The Archaeology Department has addressed this by offering to perform chemical treatments on these documents, ensuring they remain intact and can be safely kept by their owners for many years. For instance, the archives of Niranam Church, as well as the diaries of eminent figures like P. Kesavadev and ONV Kurup, have been secured and returned to their heirs in a preserved state. Should the heirs find themselves unable to continue preserving these documents, they can be entrusted to



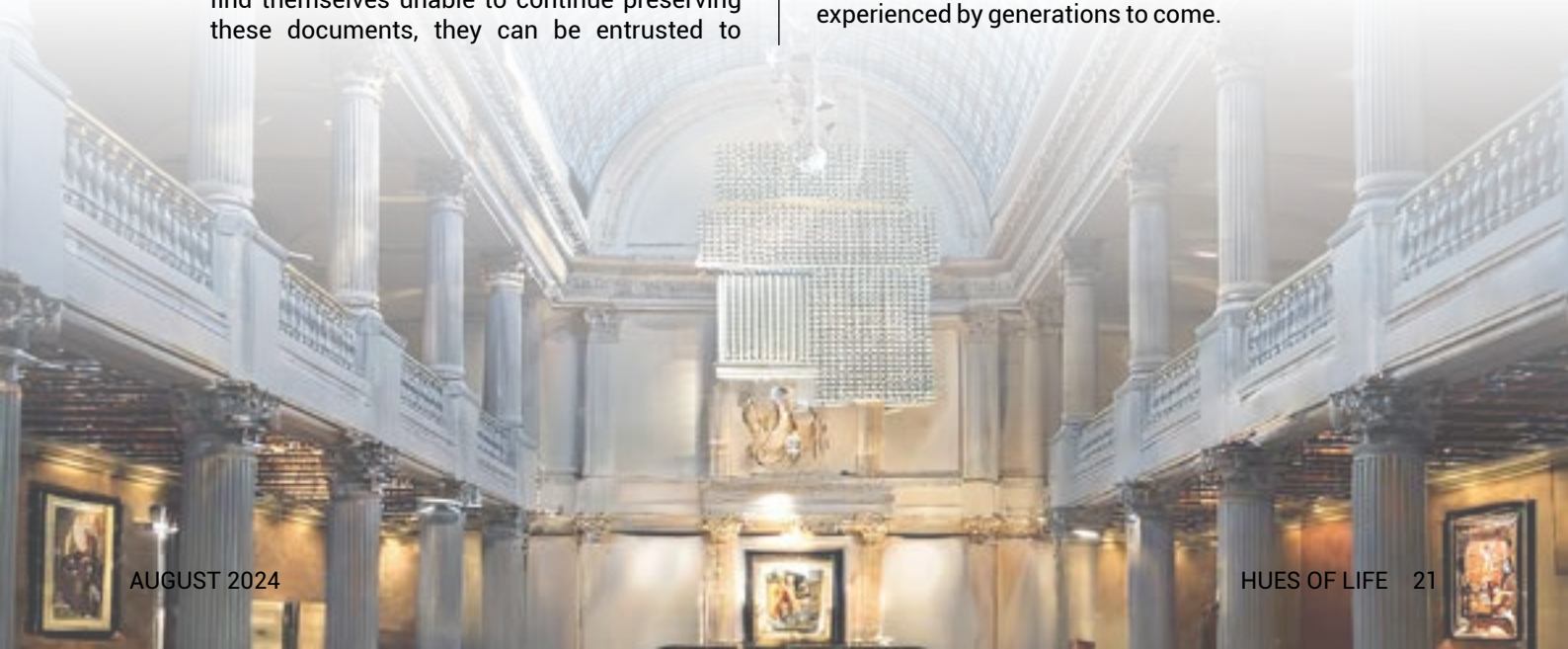
Kadannappalli Ramachandran's efforts have also addressed the authenticity and integrity of museums across the state. The introduction of the Kerala Public Records Bill is a significant step toward preserving documents of permanent value.



the department, which will undertake their safekeeping. A notable example of this is the personal diary of Travancore Devaswom Commissioner M. Rajarajavarma, containing rare notes on the Vaikom Satyagraha, which was handed over to the Archaeology Department after being in the possession of writer N.S. Madhavan.

The digitization project is well underway, with nearly half of the records already digitized. Scholars and researchers will soon have unprecedented access to these records, which will be made available online. Complementing this initiative is the construction of the International Archaeological Research Centre at the Kayavattom campus in Thiruvananthapuram, which is nearing completion at a cost of ten crores. This state-of-the-art facility will provide extensive resources and opportunities for those keen to delve deeper into Kerala's archaeological heritage.

Kadannappalli Ramachandran's tenure as Minister for Registration, Museums, Archaeology, and Archives marks a new chapter in Kerala's commitment to preserving its past while making it accessible to the future. Through innovative projects, the minister is ensuring that history is not only remembered but also lived and experienced by generations to come.



A NEW ERA OF WELFARE LDF GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER O.R. KELU'S VISION FOR KERALA'S MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES



In a landmark move that underscores the CPI(M)-led LDF government's unwavering commitment to social justice and inclusivity, Shri O. R. Kelu assumed office as the Minister of Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes on June 23, 2024, in the second Pinarayi Cabinet. This historic appointment not only marks the elevation of a seasoned public servant to a pivotal role but also brings the much-needed representation of Wayanad to the forefront of Kerala's political scenario.

Shri Kelu's distinguished career in public service is a testament to his dedication and relentless efforts towards uplifting marginalized communities. Representing the Mananthavady Legislative Assembly constituency in Wayanad, Shri Kelu has been an influential MLA since 2016. His vast experience includes serving as a member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare since 2021, where he has been instrumental in advocating for the rights and welfare of these communities.

Beyond his legislative duties, Shri Kelu's leadership extends to various significant roles within the CPI(M) and Adivasi organizations. He has held positions such as Tirunelli Grama Panchayat President, Block Panchayat Member, CPI(M) Kattikulam Local Committee Member, CPI(M) Mananthavady Area Committee Member, CPI(M) Wayanad District Committee Member, CPI(M) Wayanad District Secretariat Member, CPI(M) State Committee Member, Mananthavady Area Secretary of Adivasi Kshema Samiti, State President of Adivasi Kshema Samiti, and Central Committee Member of Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch. His multifaceted involvement showcases his deep-rooted commitment to social causes and grassroots development.

As the first CPI(M) minister from Wayanad, Shri

Kelu's appointment is a beacon of hope and progress for the region. His leadership is set to bring transformative changes, ensuring that the voices of the marginalized are heard and their issues addressed. Under his stewardship, the LDF government has rolled out a series of ground-breaking initiatives aimed at enhancing educational opportunities, fostering social mobility, and promoting the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other backward classes.

Shri O. R. Kelu's journey from a dedicated public servant to a key minister in Kerala's cabinet highlights his remarkable dedication to public service and social equity. His historic appointment and the LDF government's progressive measures reflect a profound commitment to building a more inclusive and just society, laying the foundation for a more promising future for everyone.

Bridging the Gap in Civil Services

One of the flagship initiatives of the government is the special scheme aimed at bringing more SC students into the civil service. Recognizing the importance of representation in the civil services, this scheme supports 30 SC students currently undergoing rigorous training for the civil service examinations at various centres across the country. The SC Development Department has committed to covering all expenses related to preparation and interviews for those who qualify in the preliminary examination. This proactive approach not only equips students with the necessary resources but also instils confidence and ambition, enabling them to compete on an equal footing with their peers.

Expanding Horizons Through Overseas Education

The government's vision extends beyond national boundaries, encapsulated in the Overseas Education Scheme. This initiative provides

scholarships and financial assistance for SC, ST, and backward class students to pursue postgraduate studies abroad. Under this scheme, SC students receive a scholarship of Rs 25 lakh, while backward class students are awarded Rs 10 lakh. Additionally, loans for foreign studies are offered at subsidized interest rates, making higher education accessible to all. By December 31, 2022, 390 students, including 303 SC, 32 ST, and 55 backward class students, had benefited from this scheme, reflecting its widespread impact and success.



Shri O. R. Kelu's journey from a dedicated public servant to a key minister in Kerala's cabinet highlights his remarkable dedication to public service and social equity.



Project Wings: Taking Flight Towards New Opportunities

Project Wings, another ground-breaking initiative, exemplifies the government's commitment to providing diverse career opportunities for SC candidates. Previously limited to one scholarship annually for the Commercial Pilot License course, the scheme has been revised to provide scholarships to three SC students each year. Moreover, SC candidates are now being trained in airport-airline management, cabin crew, supply chain and transportation, and marine structural fitter courses. This comprehensive approach ensures that SC candidates have access to a wide range of employment opportunities in various sectors, preparing them for a future filled with potential.

Comprehensive Scholarship and Support Programs

The government has also revised scholarship criteria to support merit-reserved candidates in courses such as CA, ICWA, and Company Secretary in autonomous educational institutes including IIM, IIT, and NIFT. Freeship cards have been introduced to facilitate admission to educational institutes without upfront fees, covering tuition, examination, and special fees for distance, online, part-time, and evening courses. Additionally, a 75% scholarship for Ph.D., M.Phil., M.Tech, and M.Litt courses, along with a contingent grant and an Aadhaar-based

attendance scholarship portal, has been implemented to support higher education students.

Inclusive and Enhanced Educational Support

While the central government denied post-metric scholarships to scheduled caste students with incomes above Rs 2.5 lakhs, the state government decided to provide scholarships to all scheduled caste students, irrespective of income, by allocating funds in the state budget. The study room scheme has been extended to include students from 5th to 7th class and Kendriya Vidyalaya students, previously limited to 8th to 12th class students. Special incentives for Scheduled Caste students have been increased, with additional merit-based incentives for students securing top marks or positions in each course. The age limit for applying for M.Phil and Ph.D. courses has been raised from 33 to 40 years, and the upper age limit for scholarship benefits has been increased from 40 to 45 years.

Modernizing Vocational Training

Steps have been initiated to modernize ITIs into comprehensive vocational training centres. New generation courses are being added to existing trades in all ITIs, and a scheme is being adopted to provide employment and training in the government system for those who have completed these courses. This modernization effort ensures that students receive relevant, up-to-date training that aligns with current industry demands, enhancing their employability and future prospects.

Through these comprehensive and forward-thinking initiatives, the LDF government is making significant strides in empowering marginalized communities, fostering educational advancement, and promoting social equity in Kerala. These efforts reflect a profound commitment to creating an inclusive society where every individual, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

The government's unwavering dedication to education and empowerment not only uplifts the present generation but also paves the way for a more just and equitable future for all.

A NEW ERA OF INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE IN KERALA

A LOOK AT THREE YEARS OF UNPRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENTS



Over the past three years, the Industries Department of Kerala, under the leadership of Shri P. Rajeev, Minister for Industries, Law, and Coir, has achieved remarkable milestones. This period has marked a transformative era, propelling Kerala to a prominent position on India's industrial map.

Kerala's industries have garnered national recognition, and the state's ranking in industry-friendliness has significantly improved. Over 20 public sector undertakings (PSUs) have been transformed into profitable entities. The state government's acquisition of Kerala Paper Products Limited (KPPL) has revitalized the company, making it a source of pride for Kerala. Additionally, the establishment of Kerala Rubber Limited aims to make the state a hub for rubber-based industries. The introduction of the Industrial Policy 2023 has further strengthened Kerala's industrial framework, attracting world-class companies like IBM and promoting the growth of private and campus industrial parks.

A key initiative, the Entrepreneurial Year scheme, has been nationally recognized as a best practice in the MSME sector. Through the Entrepreneur Year 1 and 2 schemes, 2,44,702 enterprises were established, resulting in investments of Rs 15,559.84 crore and employment for 5,20,945 people. This initiative has created 1,39,840

enterprises through the Entrepreneur Year 1 scheme, with an investment of Rs. 8422 crore and 3,00,051 new jobs. The Entrepreneur Year 2.0 further demonstrated the initiative's success, with 1,03,595 new enterprises, Rs. 7048.56 crore in investments, and 2,18,177 new jobs. A notable achievement is the transformation of 77,856 women into entrepreneurs.

The Industries Department has also implemented various innovative schemes to create a more conducive business environment. The MSME Scale Up Mission aims to elevate 1000 MSMEs to units with an average turnover of Rs 100 crore within four years. The MSME Sustainability Mission ensures

the security and sustainability of enterprises, and the MSME insurance scheme provides a 50 percent reimbursement of annual insurance premiums, up to a maximum of Rs. 2,500. The Make in Kerala scheme encourages local production, and the Industries Awards recognize and encourage enterprise contributions.

A significant achievement was the approval of new rules simplifying the transfer of land titles in industrial estates. This decision addressed long-standing demands, removing obstacles to ownership transfer and starting new ventures. The Private Industry Parks initiative has also been a success, with around twenty-five parks approved within a year, some



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of which are operational.

The "Meet the Investor" program has been pivotal in securing Rs 11,000 crore in investments within a year and a half. This initiative facilitated discussions between the minister, officials, and businessmen with investment plans exceeding Rs 100 crore. Notable outcomes include the rapid establishment of a Tata Elxsi facility and the interest of companies like Safran and D-Space in Kerala. The state has also seen the launch of the Craze Biscuits manufacturing unit, the first crane manufacturing unit in Kerala, and the expansion of IBM's presence.

Other notable achievements include Kerala's rise from 28th to 15th in the Ease of Doing Business ranking, recognition of five KINFRA Parks as the top industrial parks in South India, and the KSIDC mega food park expected to generate Rs 1000 crore in investments and 3000 jobs. The state has also commenced construction on Kerala's first modern Spices Park and the BPCL's Rs 5000 crore polypropylene plant.

The K-Swift system allows ventures up to Rs 50 crore to start in just five minutes, while the 'Meet the Minister' program and the Invest Kerala Help Desk provide streamlined support for entrepreneurs. The Grievance Redressal



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System ensures the resolution of complaints within 30 days, with provisions for fines if not addressed. The K-CIS system centralizes and monitors inspections, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

The establishment of the Public Sector Recruitment Board has brought transparency to PSU appointments. The new industrial policy aligns with Kerala's vision of responsible and sustainable investments, focusing on emerging sectors such as aerospace-defence technology, AI-robotics, biotechnology, electric vehicles, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and logistics.

Kerala has also made significant strides in infrastructure, including the Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, KINFRA Spices Park, and a petrochemical park. The state's export policy and logistics policy are nearing completion, further supporting Kerala's industrial growth.

The establishment of a plantation directorate and the successful operation of units like KEL EML Kasargod and KPPL demonstrate Kerala's commitment to revitalizing key sectors. The Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and Gift City projects, along with ongoing industrial park developments, underscore Kerala's industrial trajectory.

The transformation of over 20 PSUs into profitable entities, with Keltron's notable contributions to space missions and AI projects, highlights the success of Kerala's industrial strategy. The master plan for PSUs projects a substantial increase in turnover and profitability by 2030.

Kerala's industrial sector is on a robust growth trajectory, with major projects and initiatives paving the way for a prosperous future. The state's commitment to innovation, transparency, and sustainable development is setting a new standard in industrial progress, making Kerala a model for other states to follow.



A BEACON OF PROGRESS

THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF KERALA'S FINANCE MINISTER SHRI. K. N BALAGOPAL



Kerala continues to shine as a place of hope and progress under the visionary leadership of Finance Minister Shri. K. N Balagopal. His latest budgetary announcements have laid down a robust roadmap to elevate the living standards and prosperity of Kerala's populace. This year's budget is not just a financial document but a comprehensive blueprint for sustainable development across multiple sectors including agriculture, healthcare, industry, and commerce.

Shri. K. N Balagopal's budget includes significant investments aimed at transforming the healthcare landscape of Kerala. An allocation of Rs. 678.54 crore for the Karunya Arogya Suraksha Scheme promises to enhance the accessibility and quality of healthcare. Further, Rs. 27.6 crore has been earmarked for the integration of advanced information technology in the health sector. The announcement of five new nursing colleges, along with Rs. 7 crores for laboratory upgrades and Rs. 29 crores for robotic surgery, underscores the minister's commitment to modernizing healthcare infrastructure. With substantial funds dedicated to the Cochin Cancer Centre and the Malabar Cancer Centre, and Rs. 6.8 crore allocated to the homoeopathy sector, the state is poised for a healthcare revolution.

The cooperative sector, a backbone of Kerala's economy, has received a significant boost with an allocation of Rs. 134.42 crore. Similarly, the industrial sector is set to thrive with a staggering Rs. 1829 crore investment. Special attention has

been given to the coir industry, which has been granted Rs. 107.6 crore, reflecting the minister's dedication to reviving traditional industries and generating employment.

In housing and urban development, the budget has earmarked Rs. 1132 crore for the LIFE scheme, aimed at providing affordable housing solutions. A further Rs. 7.5 crore has been allocated to the Swachh Bharat Mission, with an ambitious Rs. 10,000 crore construction work planned over the next two years under the LIFE project. The allocation of Rs. 57.62 crore for the housing sector and Rs. 10 crore for the Laksham Veedu project is a testament to the government's resolve to improve living conditions across the state. Moreover, Rs. 2152 crore has been set aside for the International Trade Complex, promising to boost Kerala's economic footprint on the global stage.

The agriculture sector, a vital part of Kerala's economy, has not been overlooked. With an impressive allocation of Rs. 1698.30 crore, the state aims to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency. The budget has dedicated Rs. 65 crore to the coconut development project and announced the establishment of the Institute of Advanced Crop Management. The Agricultural University will receive Rs. 75 crore, while Rs. 93.6 crore has been allocated for the paddy production scheme and Rs. 75 crore for soil and water conservation. The Veterinary University and non-toxic vegetable schemes have also been given substantial funds, emphasizing the state's focus on sustainable and organic farming practices.



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The dairy development sector will benefit from an allocation of Rs. 150 crore, and the fisheries sector will see Rs. 227.12 crore in investment.

Tourism, a cornerstone of Kerala's economy, is set to receive a Rs. 500 crore development project, fostering local tourism development through private participation. Significant investments are planned for tourism hotspots like Varkala, Kollam, Munroe Island, Alappuzha, Munnar, Fort Kochi, Ponnani, Beypur, Kozhikode, Kannur, and Bekal. This initiative aims to position Kerala as the premier tourist destination in India, promising a post-Covid revival of the sector.

The finance minister has also announced plans for 25 new private industrial parks and a significant boost to the start-up mission. The creation of work-from-home lease centres across the state, with an initial allocation of Rs. 10 crore, reflects a forward-thinking approach to modern work environments. The aim is to attract an investment of Rs. 1 lakh crore over three years, transforming Kerala into a medical hub and establishing metros in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode.

The State Civil Supplies Corporation has been allocated Rs. 100 crore to ensure market intervention activities, providing essential daily necessities at up to 35 percent discount through Supplyco stores. This initiative also aims to support suppliers ahead of Onam, with a total budget allocation of Rs. 205 crore for market engagement this financial year.

Local bodies have been strengthened with an additional Rs. 421 crore allocation for the general-purpose fund of the local self-government bodies. This financial support ensures continued development and efficient functioning of gram panchayats, block panchayats, district panchayats, municipalities, and corporations.



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The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) continues to receive government support, with an additional Rs. 30 crore sanctioned to ensure the uninterrupted distribution of salaries and pensions to employees. The government's steadfast commitment to public sector institutions is evident, with a total of Rs. 5747 crore in assistance provided to KSRTC to date.

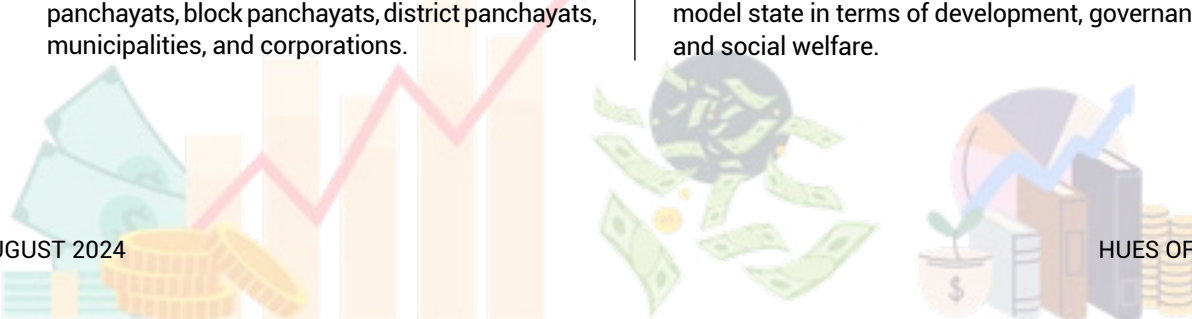
The social security pension system has been strengthened with a Rs. 12.88 crore incentive sanctioned to groups for direct delivery to beneficiaries. This initiative ensures that the pension distribution system remains efficient and timely, benefiting 22.49 lakh pensioners.

Shri. K. N Balagopal has also addressed the challenges faced by the rubber industry. The

rubber production bonus has been increased to Rs. 180 per kilogram, with Rs. 24.48 crore sanctioned as a production bonus to rubber farmers. This initiative supports the Rubber Production Incentive Scheme, ensuring a fair price for natural rubber despite market fluctuations.

The budget has allocated Rs. 203.9 crore to the State Civil Supplies Corporation, ensuring timely procurement and distribution of essential commodities. A significant Rs. 378.57 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of the second phase of the Kochi Metro Rail project, extending the Pink Line to further enhance the city's public transportation infrastructure.

Under the dynamic leadership of Shri. K. N Balagopal, Kerala is set on a transformative path of inclusive growth and sustainable development. His visionary approach and meticulous planning promise a prosperous future for Kerala, making it a model state in terms of development, governance, and social welfare.



LEADING WITH VISION AND RESILIENCE

THE TRANSFORMATIVE TENURE OF MINISTER VEENA GEORGE



In a tenure marked by resilience, innovation, and compassionate governance, Minister Veena George has steered Kerala's Department of Health and Woman and Child Development through unprecedented challenges. Her leadership has not only fortified the state's public health infrastructure but also set new benchmarks in policy-making and healthcare delivery.

Minister Veena George's term saw the passage of four pivotal legislations that have redefined public health governance in Kerala. The Kerala Public Health Act, 2023, and the Kerala Epidemic Diseases Act, 2021, provide a robust framework for managing public health crises, including pandemics. The Kerala State Medical Practitioners Act, 2021, and the Kerala Healthcare Service Persons and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Amendment Act, 2023, have strengthened the legal protections for healthcare professionals and patients, ensuring a safer and more accountable healthcare environment.

A landmark achievement of her tenure has been the distribution of free medicine to children up to 12 years old suffering from the rare disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This initiative, the first of its kind at the state level in India, has provided life-saving treatments to over 57 children, with plans to expand coverage further. The establishment of the Centre of Excellence at SAT

Hospital, recognized by the central government, underscores her commitment to enhancing healthcare services for rare diseases. This centre now offers comprehensive care with expert doctors in various specialties, ensuring that patients receive holistic treatment under one roof.

Under her guidance, Kerala has also made significant strides in public health quality standards. With three more hospitals achieving National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) accreditation, the state now boasts 143 institutions meeting rigorous national criteria. These achievements are not only a testament to the state's commitment to quality healthcare but

also provide financial incentives that further support hospital development.

Minister Veena George's forward-thinking approach extends beyond the borders of Kerala. Her collaboration with Cuba in the fields of health and Ayurveda has opened new avenues for international cooperation, bringing global best practices to the state's healthcare system. The successful implementation of robotic surgery in the government sector, the introduction of artificial intelligence in healthcare, and the establishment of mobile dialysis units highlight her innovative vision.

Despite the challenges posed by epidemics, Kerala's health department has demonstrated



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resilience and proactive measures. Monthly assessments of epidemic prevalence, rapid response teams for infectious diseases, and comprehensive anti-mosquito activities reflect a robust public health strategy. The state's focus on prevention and timely intervention has been critical in managing the spread of diseases like rabies, dengue fever, and jaundice.

The introduction of free dialysis services and the implementation of peritoneal dialysis have revolutionized kidney care in the state. With 1250 dialysis machines operational across various health institutions, Kerala is on track to provide universal access to this essential treatment by 2025. The state's emphasis on lifestyle disease management, as part of the New Kerala Action Plan, and its remarkable achievements in reducing maternal and child mortality further underline the comprehensive nature of Minister George's public health initiatives.

The Operation Life initiative by the Food Safety Department has significantly improved food safety standards across the state. Through rigorous inspections and enforcement actions, the department has ensured that the public has access to safe and hygienic food, thus preventing foodborne illnesses.

Minister Veena George's emphasis on compassionate care is evident in her directives for treating patients with kindness, ensuring quality treatment, and maintaining strict adherence to hospital working hours. Her firm stance against unauthorized absences among healthcare workers underscores her commitment to maintaining high standards of public health services.

The Aardram Mission has significantly enhanced treatment facilities in Kerala, while the Public Health Act ensures that the state's health policies are rigorously enforced. The state's achievements in cancer treatment, including the successful



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implementation of robotic surgeries and the provision of high-tech treatment to the public, are a testament to the minister's dedication to making advanced healthcare accessible to all.

Under her leadership, the Hridyam scheme has provided life-saving heart surgeries to over 7272 babies, ensuring that all children in Kerala have access to expert medical care. The comprehensive approach to child health, from screening in hospitals and schools to home visits, has made Kerala a model state for paediatric care.

Minister Veena George's tenure has been a period of transformative change and unparalleled progress in Kerala's healthcare sector. Her vision and leadership have not only addressed immediate public health challenges but have also laid the foundation for a healthier, more resilient

Kerala. As she continues to champion the cause of public health, her contributions will undoubtedly leave a lasting legacy.



TRANSFORMING KERALA'S FUTURE

THE VISIONARY REFORMS OF DR. R. BINDU IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Under the visionary leadership of Smt. Dr. R. Bindu, Kerala's Higher Education Department has made remarkable strides in its third year, laying the foundation for transformative initiatives that resonate on both the national and international stages. The department's dedication to academic excellence, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure development reflects a commitment to fostering a progressive and inclusive educational environment for the state's youth.

One of the most notable projects undertaken by the department is the establishment of a Mathematics Study Centre in Irinjalakuda, named after the illustrious mathematician Sangamgrama Madhavan. Madhavan, a pioneering figure in the field of mathematics and astronomy during the Late Middle Ages, is credited with founding the Kerala School of Astronomy and Mathematics. His contributions have had a lasting impact, even influencing renowned mathematicians like James Gregory. The decision to create a study centre in his honor is not just a tribute to a great scholar, but also a strategic move to inspire future generations of mathematicians and scientists. The centre will be built in Kalletumkara, Madhavan's birthplace, and aims to become a hub for advanced mathematical research and education,

attracting scholars and students from across the country and beyond.

In addition to honouring Kerala's rich scientific heritage, the Higher Education Department has also achieved international recognition for its environmental initiatives. The Sneharamam project, implemented by the National Service Scheme (NSS) under the department, has received world record recognition from the World Records Union. This ambitious project involved transforming over 3,000 locations across Kerala into waste-free, public-friendly spaces. The initiative was meticulously evaluated by a

team of experts, including an Adjudicator and Curator from the World Records Union, who were impressed by the project's scale and impact. The recognition of Sneharamam as a world record is a testament to the department's unwavering commitment to creating a cleaner, greener Kerala. The project, executed in collaboration with the Sanitation Mission, stands as a shining example of how collective action and community involvement can lead to significant environmental improvements. It also sets a new benchmark for NSS activities, demonstrating the power of youth engagement in driving positive change.

On the academic front, Kerala's higher education landscape has undergone a significant transformation



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with the introduction of the state's first four-year degree program. Launched on July 1, 2024, this program marks a major milestone in the state's educational journey. In preparation for this launch, the Minister convened a series of meetings with various college and university teaching associations, as well as non-teaching staff associations. These discussions were crucial in addressing the concerns raised by teachers' unions, particularly regarding workload. The Minister assured that appropriate actions would be taken in consultation with the Finance Department to ensure that the

new program's implementation would be smooth and beneficial for all stakeholders. Additionally, it was agreed that a special training program would be developed for non-teaching staff to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to support the new degree program effectively.

The introduction of the four-year degree program is not just a structural change, but a comprehensive overhaul of the state's higher education curriculum. The Kerala State Higher Education Curriculum Framework, developed as part of this initiative, integrates Skill Education and Vocational Education into the core curriculum. This integration ensures that all students acquire essential skills alongside their academic studies, making them more competitive in the job market. The Higher Education Council, which played a pivotal role in developing the curriculum framework, recommended the introduction of industry-related short-term courses to address the skill gap in the higher education sector. In response to these recommendations, the department has granted permission to establish Skill Development Centres in all higher education institutions across the state. These centres will operate as self-sufficient units, offering a range of skill development courses and career planning services in collaboration with professional skill agencies.

The Council of Higher Education has also been tasked with identifying and recommending suitable professional skill training agencies to be empanelled for these centres. 'ASAP Kerala' has already been approved as one such agency, known for its expertise in providing high-quality skill training.



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The Higher Education Council is also responsible for preparing and submitting guidelines to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the establishment and operation of these Skill Development Centres. This initiative is a strategic move to ensure that Kerala's higher education institutions remain at the forefront of academic and professional development, equipping students with the skills needed to excel in a rapidly evolving job market.

Beyond the academic and environmental achievements, the Higher Education Department has also focused on enhancing infrastructure to support the state's industrial and educational ambitions.

A significant investment of Rs. 164.56 lakhs has been allocated for the renovation and development of the CIDCO Industrial Estate in Kalletumkara. This project includes the construction of a new 563-meter perimeter wall at a cost of Rs. 52.75 lakh, which will enhance the security and overall appearance of the estate. Additionally, Rs. 68.21 lakhs will be spent on repairing and upgrading the internal roads within the estate, ensuring smoother and more efficient transportation of goods and services. The water tank and well within the estate will also undergo upgrades to increase their efficiency, with an allocation of Rs. 23.69 lakhs. Furthermore, the renovation of the estate office building will be completed at a cost of Rs. 19.91 lakhs, providing a more modern and functional workspace for the estate's administrative staff. These infrastructure improvements are expected to significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the CIDCO Industrial Estate, making it a more attractive location for businesses and contributing to the region's economic growth.

The comprehensive approach taken by Kerala's Higher Education Department under the leadership of Smt. Dr. R. Bindu is a proof to the state's commitment to fostering innovation, academic excellence, and sustainable development. By honouring Kerala's rich scientific legacy, addressing contemporary environmental challenges, and investing in the future of higher education, the department is paving the way for a brighter, more prosperous future for Kerala's youth. The initiatives and achievements of the department in its third year serve as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished through visionary leadership, strategic planning, and a deep commitment to the welfare of the people.

MASTERMIND OF PROGRESS

THE TRANSFORMATIVE TENURE OF PWD AND TOURISM MINISTER P.A. MOHAMMED RIYAS



PA. Mohammed Riyas, the dynamic leader behind Kerala's Public Works Department (PWD) and Tourism Department, has emerged as a key figure in driving the state's infrastructure and tourism growth. His tenure is marked by a strategic vision that seamlessly blends modernization, sustainability, and cultural preservation, resulting in a series of ambitious projects that promise to redefine Kerala's future.

Under Riyas' leadership, Kerala's infrastructure landscape is undergoing a monumental transformation. One of the most significant initiatives is the State Highway Expansion between Kozhikode and Kannur, a flagship project with an allocated budget of ₹1200 crore. This expansive project is set to revolutionize transportation in Northern Kerala. As of August 2024, 75% of the project was already completed, demonstrating Riyas' commitment to adhering to timelines and ensuring the highest standards of construction. Upon its expected completion in December 2025, this highway will not only enhance regional connectivity but also act as a catalyst for economic development, facilitating the smoother flow of goods and services across key districts. This project exemplifies Riyas' focus on long-term, impactful infrastructure development that goes beyond mere road building to encompass broader economic and social benefits.

Complementing the highway expansion is the Kuttanad Flood Management Project, a critical initiative with a budget of ₹500 crore aimed at addressing the recurring flood challenges in one of Kerala's most agriculturally significant regions. By mid-2024, 40% of the project was completed, with a target completion date set for June 2026. This project is particularly significant as it reflects Riyas' holistic approach to infrastructure, where the goal is not just to build but to protect and enhance the livelihoods of those most affected by natural disasters. The flood management measures being implemented are designed to ensure that the region's agriculture can flourish even in adverse conditions, securing food production and economic stability for the local population.



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Another noteworthy development under Riyas' tenure is the Smart City project, which has seen significant progress across various parts of the state. One of the key initiatives within this project is the redevelopment of the Ayyankali Hall-Flyover Road. Drawing inspiration from the success of Manaveeyam Veethi, this project aims to create a vibrant, nightlife-friendly environment divided into four distinct zones. Zone 1 will feature cobblestone or anti-skid tiles, planter boxes, an EV charging centre, smart parklets, and smart vending stations. Zone 2 will include similar upgrades along with seating around trees,

wheelchair accessibility, smart bus shelters, bicycle points, smart toilets, LED interactive floors, and bollard lights. Zone 3 will see the addition of seating, motion-sensing tiles, pergolas, koi fish drains, gallery seating, post-top lamps, and information boards, while Zone 4 will focus on traffic islands, landscaping, and other aesthetic enhancements. This ambitious redevelopment will not only improve the infrastructure but also enrich the cultural and social life of the area.

As part of the broader Smart City initiative, 13 roads in the capital have been developed by the Kerala Road Fund Board (KRFB), ensuring they are now passable. Out of the 12 smart roads, Manaveeyam Veethi and Kalabhavan Mani Road were the first to be fully completed and opened to the public. These developments reflect Riyas' commitment to creating a modern, efficient urban environment that meets the needs of the growing population.

In addition to urban improvements, Riyas has overseen crucial rural projects. The road to Ilaveezhaponchira, an important tourist destination in Kottayam district, had long been impassable. Under Riyas' guidance, the road construction was completed to BM and BC standards, ensuring high quality without delays. This project, completed despite the challenges posed by difficult terrain and weather, highlights Riyas' dedication to connecting all parts of Kerala, making even the most remote areas accessible to all.

The Wayanad Hill Station Upgradation project, with a budget of ₹200 crore, stands as a testament to Minister Riyas' dedication to sustainable development and public welfare. This initiative is meticulously designed to enhance the overall experience by improving essential infrastructure, accessibility, and preserving the area's natural beauty. The project aims to make Wayanad a model of responsible development, ensuring that progress is harmonized with environmental



In addition to infrastructure upgrades, Riyas has been a champion of sustainable tourism practices. His Responsible Tourism Training and Certification program, with an allocated budget of ₹50 crore, is a pioneering initiative aimed at instilling best practices in the tourism industry.



conservation and community well-being. Riyas' vision for Wayanad reflects his unwavering commitment to creating a balanced and thoughtful approach to public works that benefits both the environment and the people.

In addition to infrastructure upgrades, Riyas has been a champion of sustainable tourism practices. His Responsible Tourism Training & Certification program, with an allocated budget of ₹50 crore, is a pioneering initiative aimed at instilling best practices in the tourism industry. By mid-2024, the project was 85% complete, with the goal of concluding by December 2024. This program has already made significant strides in training and certifying stakeholders across the tourism sector, promoting eco-friendly practices, and ensuring that

tourism in Kerala not only grows but does so in a way that is sustainable and beneficial to local communities. This initiative underscores Riyas' forward-thinking approach, recognizing that the future of tourism lies in practices that respect and preserve cultural and natural heritage.

Minister Riyas' tenure is a masterclass in effective governance, where vision is matched with execution, and where every project is part of a larger strategy to drive Kerala's development forward. His dual focus on infrastructure and tourism has not only brought about immediate benefits but also laid the groundwork for sustained growth and prosperity. Through a series of well-conceived and expertly managed projects, Riyas has ensured that Kerala remains a leader in both sectors, setting benchmarks for other states to follow.

As these projects continue to unfold, the legacy of P.A. Mohammed Riyas will be one of transformative leadership, where every initiative is a step towards a brighter, more prosperous future for Kerala as his leadership is driven by a clear vision, strategic planning, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people.

K. RAJAN

TRANSFORMING KERALA'S LAND REVENUE AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT WITH A VISION FOR LAND REFORMS



Shri. K. Rajan, the Minister of Revenue and Housing in Kerala, is at the forefront of a transformative journey in the state's land management and housing sectors. With a clear mandate to address long-standing issues and usher in a new era of transparency and efficiency, minister K. Rajan has taken bold steps to ensure that every complaint received by the government is not only acknowledged but also acted upon. His tenure has seen the introduction of innovative solutions, such as the integrated portal system, aimed at revolutionizing the way land transactions are conducted in Kerala.

One of the most significant initiatives under Minister Rajan's leadership is the introduction of the integrated portal system, a paradigm shifting tool designed to eliminate fraud in land sales and purchases. This portal serves as a one-stop solution for all land-related transactions, ensuring that every process is transparent, accountable, and streamlined. The implementation of the integrated portal system began with a pilot project in five village offices across the state. These initial efforts have laid the groundwork for a state-wide rollout, with the ultimate goal of implementing the system in all villages in Kerala.

The decision to introduce this portal system is a critical step toward modernizing Kerala's land governance framework. The integrated portal is more than just a technological advancement; it represents a commitment to eradicating

corruption and ensuring that all land transactions are conducted with the utmost integrity. The government's swift decision to expand this system across the state reflects its dedication to bringing about meaningful change in the lives of its citizens.

Under Minister Rajan's leadership, the Revenue Department has embarked on an ambitious project to digitally measure and map the entire land area of Kerala. This comprehensive digital re-survey aims to create accurate land records, which will form the backbone of all future land transactions in the state. The significance of this project cannot be overstated; it is a monumental task that will ensure that every piece of land in Kerala is accounted for, with precise and up-to-date records.

The government's goal is to complete this digital re-survey within four years, a timeline that underscores the urgency and importance of the project. Once the survey is completed, all land-related transactions will be meticulously documented, ensuring that issues such as land disputes and title deed discrepancies are minimized. The digital re-survey is not just a technical exercise; it is a foundational step toward creating a fair and equitable land management system in Kerala.

A key component of Minister Rajan's vision is to provide title deeds, also known as "pattayams," to all eligible landowners in Kerala. The government's objective is clear: to ensure that every individual who rightfully claims land ownership receives the necessary documentation



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to prove it. This initiative is particularly significant for the landless, who have long been marginalized in the state's land allocation processes.

The government's efforts in this area have already yielded impressive results. In the past two and a half years alone, over 150,000 individuals have received their title deeds, marking a significant achievement in the state's ongoing land reform efforts. This is not just a bureaucratic accomplishment; it is a life-changing development for the thousands of families who can now call themselves landowners.

The Revenue Department, under Minister Rajan's guidance, has been making sincere and concerted efforts to ensure that all those who are eligible receive their title deeds. The introduction of the integrated portal system and the ongoing digital re-survey are critical tools in this process, allowing the government to accurately identify eligible landowners and expedite the issuance of title deeds. The goal is not just to distribute documents, but to empower individuals and families by providing them with the legal recognition of their land ownership.

Thrissur district has become a focal point for the government's land distribution efforts, serving as a model for how these initiatives can be successfully implemented across the state. Through the Pattaya Mela, a dedicated event for the distribution of title deeds, the government has issued 3,922 pattayams in Thrissur alone. These include a diverse range of title deeds, such as forest land pattayams, outlying land pattayams, and Devaswom pattayams.

The success of the Pattaya Mela in Thrissur highlights the government's commitment to ensuring that land is allocated fairly and efficiently. It also demonstrates the potential of similar events to be replicated in other districts, further accelerating the process of land distribution across Kerala. Minister Rajan's vision is to make land ownership a reality for every deserving individual in the state, and the results in Thrissur are a testament to the effectiveness of this approach.

While the Revenue Department is responsible for issuing title deeds, there are areas that fall outside its jurisdiction. Minister Rajan has acknowledged this challenge and has committed to ensuring that all land-related issues are addressed comprehensively.



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For those lands that are not currently under the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department, the government is taking swift action to process these cases and issue the necessary title deeds.

This inclusive approach ensures that no one is left behind in the state's land reform efforts. Minister Rajan's commitment to resolving these complex cases quickly reflects his broader vision of creating a just and equitable land management system in Kerala. By ensuring that all land transactions are properly documented and that title deeds are issued to all eligible individuals, the government is laying the groundwork for a more secure and prosperous future for the people of Kerala.

Minister Rajan's tenure is also marked by a strong commitment to supporting the most disadvantaged members of society. Kerala has set a national example by providing more than 4 lakh assistance to 75% of disadvantaged people, ensuring that even the most vulnerable have access to land ownership. This assistance is not just financial; it is a critical step toward social justice and equity, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, has the opportunity to own land and build a better future.

As Kerala continues on its path of modernisation and reform, Minister K. Rajan's leadership in the Revenue and Housing Department will play a pivotal role in shaping the state's future. His unwavering commitment to transparency, efficiency, and social justice is transforming Kerala's land management system, making it more accessible and equitable for all citizens.

The integrated portal system, digital re-survey, and title deed distribution efforts are not just policies; they are the building blocks of a new Kerala, where every individual has the opportunity to own land and secure their future. Minister Rajan's vision is clear: to create a state where land ownership is a right, not a privilege, and where every citizen can participate in the state's growth and development.

As these initiatives continue to unfold, the people of Kerala can look forward to a more transparent, efficient, and just land management system—one that truly serves the needs of all its citizens and paves the way for a brighter future. Minister K. Rajan's leadership is guiding Kerala toward this future, ensuring that the state's land and housing policies are aligned with the principles of fairness, equity, and progress.

K. B. GANESH KUMAR

A NEW CHAPTER IN KERALA'S TRANSPORT LEADERSHIP



KB. Ganesh Kumar, a seasoned politician with a reputation for decisive leadership, has once again taken the reins of Kerala's Transport Ministry, being sworn in as the Minister for Transport in December 2023. This marks his second stint in the same portfolio, and even in the early days of his tenure, his impact is becoming increasingly evident. Ganesh Kumar's return to the Transport Ministry has been met with a renewed sense of purpose as he seeks to address the challenges facing Kerala's transport sector with pragmatism and innovation.

Drawing from his previous experience as Transport Minister, Ganesh Kumar has prioritized resolving long-standing issues that have plagued the department. One of his foremost concerns has been the financial health of Kerala's transport sector, which has been under strain for some time. Recognizing the need for innovative solutions, he has focused on finding new funding avenues to support infrastructural projects and improve the overall financial situation of the department. This financial stewardship is critical to ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of the state's transport infrastructure.

In parallel, Ganesh Kumar has placed a strong emphasis on enhancing public transport facilities, making them more accessible and user-friendly for the people of Kerala. This commitment reflects his understanding of the vital role that public transportation plays in the daily lives of citizens, particularly in a state where public transit is a lifeline for many.

One of the immediate challenges Ganesh Kumar faced upon taking office was the issue of dues owed to Keltron, the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation, related to AI cameras used for traffic management. Demonstrating his problem-solving approach, the minister initiated discussions with the Finance Minister to resolve this financial impasse. This swift action underscores his commitment to maintaining the state's technological advancements in traffic management while ensuring that fiscal responsibilities are met.

Under Ganesh Kumar's leadership, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is embarking on a transformative journey. The minister has been vocal about his vision for KSRTC, stating that the corporation is "writing a new history." Central to this vision is the launch of a mobile app designed to educate the public on traffic rules. This innovative tool aims to make understanding traffic regulations more accessible and user-friendly, reflecting the minister's focus on leveraging technology to improve public awareness and safety.

The minister has also introduced significant reforms to the driving test process, with new vehicles equipped with the latest technology being used for driving tests. These reforms, implemented under the directives of the High Court, include practical theory classes and stricter vehicle inspections. Overweight vehicles and over speeding will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and no license will be issued without satisfactory results. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every



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license issued meets the highest standards of quality, contributing to safer roads across the state.

Ganesh Kumar's tenure has also seen a push to make public services more accessible and efficient. One notable initiative is the introduction of a concession scheme for students, which can be accessed through a mobile app. This innovation allows parents to apply for travel concessions online, streamlining the process and making it more convenient for families.

In addition, the minister has taken immediate action to address the issue of waterlogged bus stands, ensuring that these critical transit points remain functional and safe for the public. His proactive approach to infrastructure maintenance is indicative of his broader commitment to improving the quality of public transport services in Kerala.

Ganesh Kumar's leadership has also been tested in the realm of labour relations. He has demonstrated a firm yet fair approach in his discussions with labour organization leaders, particularly in resolving disputes related to driving test reforms. Despite pushback from driving schools, which insist on the need for inspectors, the minister has stood by his decisions, ensuring that reforms are implemented in the best interest of public safety and efficiency.

The financial viability of KSRTC remains a significant challenge, and Ganesh Kumar has been candid about the difficulties involved in making the corporation self-sufficient. The government currently provides at least Rs 50 crore per month as assistance to KSRTC, with a total of Rs 5,777 crore handed over by the present state government so far. The minister has made it clear that while systematic changes are necessary, they will not



To modernize KSRTC, plans are underway to introduce software that will centralize all aspects of the corporation's operations. This includes the development of an application that allows passengers to track the location of KSRTC buses in real time.



come at the expense of the workers. There will be no anti-worker measures, but there is a recognition that loss-making routes may need to be reevaluated, with services continuing only where no other vehicle arrangements are available.

To modernize KSRTC, plans are underway to introduce software that will centralize all aspects of the corporation's operations. This includes the development of an application that allows passengers to track the location of KSRTC buses in real time. Such technological upgrades are critical to enhancing the efficiency and reliability of public transport services in Kerala.

Road safety remains a top priority for Ganesh Kumar. In a bid to reduce road accidents, he has introduced stricter penalties for KSRTC drivers found to be under the influence of alcohol. Breath analysers have

been installed at all KSRTC depots, with stringent suspension policies in place for those who fail pre-duty or in-service tests. For temporary employees caught violating these rules, the consequence is immediate termination.

These measures have already begun to yield results. The number of accidents involving KSRTC buses has seen a significant reduction, with the weekly accident count dropping from around 36 to 25. The minister's emphasis on rigorous inspections and accountability has played a key role in this positive trend, and he remains committed to further improving road safety across the state.

K. B. Ganesh Kumar's second tenure as Kerala's Transport Minister is marked by a clear vision and decisive action. Whether through innovative use of technology, steadfast financial management, or unwavering commitment to public safety, his leadership is guiding the state's transport sector toward a more efficient, sustainable, and user-friendly future. As his tenure progresses, the people of Kerala can expect continued improvements in public transport, road safety, and overall service quality, underpinned by a strong sense of responsibility and a deep commitment to the welfare of all citizens.



HARNESSING THE TIDE: KERALA'S PORTS, COOPERATION, AND A VISIONARY FUTURE UNDER MINISTER V.N. VASAVAN



When Minister V.N. Vasavan, already entrusted with the Cooperation and Devaswom Departments, assumed additional charge of Kerala's ports, he did so with a resolute vision: to elevate Kottayam Port as a pivotal hub in Kerala's maritime landscape. His commitment extended beyond mere development; it was about transforming Kottayam Port into a vital link in the state's maritime network by integrating it under the Maritime Board. With a strategic plan to tap into the immense potential of the Vizhinjam International Port, V. N Vasavan is steering Kottayam Port toward a future where it will play a critical role in Kerala's global trade ambitions.

Currently, KINFRA owns 49 percent of Kottayam Port, while private entrepreneurs hold the remaining 51 percent. The port is actively negotiating with a Kuwaiti firm to procure a state-of-the-art barge capable of transporting 24 containers at a time. This acquisition is expected to propel the port's monthly export capacity to between 1,000 and 2,000 containers. Additionally, the port's infrastructure is expanding, with the current 65,000 square feet warehouse set to grow by an additional 10,000 square feet, with construction starting in February.

Vizhinjam port, a cornerstone of Kerala's maritime aspirations, has already received customs clearance and boasts 31 cranes ready for operation. The port's connection to NH 66 is progressing, further solidifying its role in India's maritime future. By 2028, Vizhinjam is set to become the country's container terminal with the highest installed capacity, an achievement that will significantly enhance Kerala's role in global trade. The port's construction, a monumental project costing Rs 8,867.14 crore, is a collaboration between the state government, Adani Group, and the central government. Beyond the infrastructure, Vizhinjam is anticipated to attract Rs 10,000 crore in investments to Kerala, marking a substantial economic boon for the state.

Minister Vasavan's vision also extends to connecting Kerala more directly with the global diaspora, particularly in the Gulf region. Under the leadership of the Kerala Maritime Board, the state government is working to establish a passenger ship service between Dubai and Kochi Port, a long-awaited service that addresses the needs of non-resident Keralites. Kochi Port, identified as the first port of call for large ships in Kerala, is being primed for this service, with ongoing interventions to enhance its capacity for both cargo and passenger shipping.

In addition to his maritime endeavours, Minister Vasavan has made significant strides in the Cooperation Department. Under his leadership, Kerala Bank has achieved a record profit of Rs 250 crore this year, an accomplishment that underscores the importance of its establishment. The bank continues to support primary societies, and despite challenges, it remains in good standing with the RBI. Through a successful investor mobilization campaign, Kerala Bank has attracted an impressive Rs 15,000 crore, far surpassing its original target of Rs 9,000 crore.

Moreover, the cooperative sector is witnessing new growth with the establishment of a value-added food product manufacturing unit under the Kunnukara Agri Products and Marketing Unit. This innovative plant, a part of the Kalamassery Project, is designed to produce vacuum-fried chips from local crops like cotton and tapioca. Leveraging cutting-edge foreign technology, the unit not only caters to domestic markets but also aims to penetrate international markets, showcasing Kerala's agricultural and industrial potential on a global stage.

These initiatives, driven by Minister V.N. Vasavan's leadership, reflect a broader strategy to harness Kerala's rich resources and strategic position, laying the groundwork for a prosperous and interconnected future.

CHAMPIONING FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

THE TENURE OF MINISTER A. K. SASEENDRAN



Shri. A. K. Saseendran has entered the fourth year of his tenure as the Minister for Forests and Wildlife Protection of Kerala, marking a period of significant strides in wildlife management and forest conservation. Under his leadership, the state declared wildlife encroachment a state disaster, thereby improving coordination and increasing relief funds for victims of wildlife attacks. Notably, 64 wild animals have been captured and rehabilitated during his term.

One of the flagship projects initiated under Minister A. K. Saseendran's tenure is the development of world-class elephant care centres. While forest and wildlife conservation are constitutionally mandated responsibilities of the Forest Minister, A. K. Saseendran has consistently prioritized protecting people's lives and property. The government has maintained a firm stance on this issue, ensuring that measures are in place to safeguard both human and animal lives.

A notable concern has been the decrease in the number of wild elephants in Kerala. The minister responded to reports that the current total number of elephants is 1,793, down from 1,920 last year, representing a 6% decrease. The minister emphasized the importance of addressing this issue, implementing logical strategies to prevent wildlife from entering inhabited areas.

Exemplary activities in forest conservation include the development of the Sarpa app, designed to aid snake catchers and reduce snakebite fatalities. The forest department's proactive stance on mitigating snake bites reflects its commitment to ensuring wildlife safety while protecting human lives.

Financial assistance has been provided to families affected by elephant attacks, demonstrating the minister's responsiveness to wildlife-related issues. The incursion of elephants into residential areas, largely due to climate change, has been addressed by projects aimed at providing food and water to wild animals

within forest boundaries. Preventive measures such as fencing and solar fencing have also been implemented to protect farmers in hilly areas.

Minister Saseendran has expressed the need for a coordinated effort among the three states to address wildlife issues effectively. A 20-year master plan was submitted to the central government, although it has yet to receive attention. Scientific measures are being employed for prevention activities, with action plans designed to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and ensure the safety of both animals and people. Increased surveillance and the deployment of more watchers in high-conflict areas are part of these efforts.

Recognizing the necessity of wildlife birth control, the minister has called for a comprehensive policy on the matter. The state government has allocated Rs 40 crore for compensation to families affected by wild animal attacks, highlighting the lack of support from the central government.

He has also addressed concerns regarding the management of captivated elephants, withdrawing impractical proposals and ensuring that traditional rituals involving elephants are respected. Conditions from the initial circular have been revised, ensuring that events like the Thrissur Pooram proceed without disruption.

A significant case during his tenure involved the illegal cutting of trees in Sugandhagiri. An investigation led by the head of vigilance of the forest department revealed serious failures among department officials, prompting the minister to instruct legal proceedings against those involved.

Under A. K. Saseendran's leadership, Kerala has seen substantial progress in forest conservation and wildlife protection. His tenure reflects a balanced approach to safeguarding both human and animal lives, ensuring that Kerala's natural heritage is preserved for the future.

SHRI M. B. RAJESH

TRANSFORMING LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND EXCISE IN KERALA



Shri M. B. Rajesh, the dynamic Minister for Local Self-Government and Excise Departments, has demonstrated a commitment to transformative governance through a series of vigorous measures and timely actions that have had a significant impact on the lives of Kerala's citizens. His leadership has ushered in a new era of efficiency and compassion, particularly in addressing the needs of the state's most vulnerable populations.

One of the most notable initiatives under Minister Rajesh's leadership is the government's special financial assistance program of Rs 50 crore, dedicated to the treatment and rehabilitation of 64,006 families suffering from extreme poverty across the state. This ambitious program reflects the minister's unwavering commitment to social justice and his belief in the power of targeted interventions to uplift marginalized communities. The first phase of this initiative has already been completed, bringing tangible relief to nearly 4,000 families by ensuring they have access to basic necessities, including food and medical care. Immediate medical examinations were conducted, and essential treatments and medicines were made available to those in need. In addition, over 5,000 people were provided with basic documents, including ration cards, as part of the first phase of this comprehensive support system.

The allocation of Rs 50 crore for further rehabilitation and follow-up treatment projects, as envisaged in the micro

plans prepared by local bodies, underscores the minister's focus on sustainable development and long-term solutions. Special treatment will be provided to family members who require high-cost medical care, based on recommendations from the District Medical Board, with Rs 10 crore specifically earmarked for this purpose. This holistic approach to poverty alleviation and healthcare sets a new standard for state-led social welfare programs.

Kerala's distinction as the first state in India to formulate an urban policy is another testament to Minister Rajesh's forward-thinking leadership. Recognizing the complex challenges posed by rapid urbanization, the minister has spearheaded the establishment of a commission comprising international experts to develop this groundbreaking policy. The urban policy aims to address the multifaceted issues of urbanization in Kerala and is expected to shape the state's future by integrating global perspectives with local realities. The significance of this initiative cannot be overstated, as it represents a critical step toward sustainable urban development and the creation of resilient, liveable cities.

Minister Rajesh's efforts extend beyond policy formulation to practical, on-the-ground initiatives that have yielded impressive results. The livelihood centre of Guruvayur Municipality, run by Kudumbashree, is a shining example of the successful integration of local self-government and community-based organizations. In just one year, the centre generated



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more than one crore rupees in revenue, demonstrating the potential for such initiatives to drive economic empowerment and social change. The centre operates in a building provided by the Guruvayur Municipal Corporation, with income shared equally between the municipality and Kudumbashree. This model of collaboration has become a benchmark for similar initiatives across the state.

The livelihood centre's primary goal is to provide local employment opportunities for women, enabling them to earn a stable income while contributing to their communities. Currently, 32 women work at the centre in three shifts, benefiting from the 24-hour facility's excellent amenities, including a cloakroom, dormitory, fresh-up facilities, a conference hall, and a rest area. The centre is equipped with 40 washrooms, eight dressing rooms, and a hall where beds and pillows are provided for overnight stays. In addition to these services, the centre offers event management services and operates a signature shop that sells Kudumbashree products. Vocational training programs are also conducted at the centre, further enhancing its role as a hub for skill development and economic empowerment. Nearby, a small eatery run by four women complements the centre's offerings, providing additional employment and income opportunities.

The introduction of K Smart Software is another landmark achievement under Minister Rajesh's tenure. This unified software and mobile app represents a significant leap forward in making local government services accessible to citizens at their fingertips. K Smart is not only fast and efficient but also serves as a model for the rest of India, showcasing how technology can be harnessed to streamline governance and improve service delivery. The software's capabilities extend globally, allowing users to access services from anywhere in the world, thus setting a new benchmark for digital governance.

The Smart Waste Collection Unit, established at Manaveeyam Veedhi in Thiruvananthapuram, is yet another innovative project that exemplifies the minister's commitment to smart, sustainable



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solutions. This unit, designed by the Bangalore-based organization Novelty Visions, features a lid that automatically opens when inorganic waste is near, as well as facilities for charging mobile phones. The unit is equipped with a 180-degree surveillance system and an alarm that sounds when it reaches 50% capacity, signalling the need for waste removal. The unit was installed in Thiruvananthapuram at no cost, reflecting a successful public-private partnership that enhances the city's waste management capabilities.

In the realm of excise, Minister Rajesh has taken bold steps to combat drug addiction and strengthen the relationship between the excise forces and the public. The excise forces in Kerala have become a global model for their proactive approach to drug prevention and their ability to adapt to seasonal changes. The minister's initiatives have mobilized

communities across the state through popular anti-drug campaigns, creating a robust network of support against drug abuse. With the start of the academic year, the Excise Force has implemented a comprehensive monitoring and prevention system to safeguard educational institutions from the influence of drugs. This vigilant approach, which includes various necessary measures to keep the drug mafia away from school premises, will continue throughout the academic year, ensuring a safe environment for students.

In a progressive move to support women's health and well-being, the governing body has decided to allow one day of work from home for women employees of the Kudumbashree Mission during their menstrual period. This decision reflects a broader commitment to gender-sensitive policies that recognize and address the unique challenges faced by women in the workplace.

Minister M. B. Rajesh's tenure has been marked by a series of visionary initiatives and decisive actions that have transformed Kerala's Local Self-Government and Excise Departments. Through his leadership, the state has set new standards in social welfare, urban planning, digital governance, and community engagement. His work continues to pave the way for a more equitable, resilient, and prosperous Kerala, where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

EMPOWERING KERALA'S ENERGY FUTURE

SHRI. K. KRISHNANKUTTY'S TENURE AS MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY



Entering his fourth year as Kerala's Minister of Electricity, Shri. K. Krishnankutty has proven himself a staunch advocate for state interests, particularly in the face of central policies perceived as favouring privatisation. He has consistently argued in the assembly against the Electricity Act Amendment Bill passed by the Central government, emphasizing that it leans toward privatization and could undermine public welfare. His leadership has been instrumental in upholding Kerala's position against what he terms as "wrong policies" imposed by the Centre.

One of the most notable challenges during his tenure was addressing the power crisis triggered by an unprecedented heat wave. The minister convened a high-level review meeting to tackle the surge in electricity consumption, which had led to a temporary power shortage. Through discussions with large power consumers, including the Kerala Water Authority, Lift Irrigation, and other public sector undertakings, a remarkable reduction of around 117 MW in peak power consumption was achieved. This success was facilitated by many private firms responding to KSEB's call to waive shift duties during peak hours.

Further measures included ensuring the availability of essential supplies such as transformers, transformer oil, and electricity meters. KSEB swiftly acted under the minister's directives, placing

orders for transformers with Kerala Electrical & Allied Engineering Company Limited (KEL) and, due to non-availability, procuring additional units from other suppliers. Efforts were also made to replace faulty meters, with KSEB directors assuring that necessary steps were underway. Moreover, restrictions on the local procurement of supplies for emergency purposes were relaxed to expedite responses to any crises.

To address ongoing issues of voltage problems and continuous power outages, particularly during the intense summer months, the minister instructed that works be undertaken to prevent future occurrences. He emphasized the urgency in completing various substation projects to bolster the transmission sector. A directive was also

issued to expedite transformer repairs by increasing shifts in the five Transformer Maintenance and Repair (TMR) units of KSEB. Higher officials, including Deputy Chief Engineers, were tasked with conducting inspections during peak hours, ensuring smooth operations and addressing consumer concerns effectively.

Minister Krishnankutty's strategic interventions led to widespread consumer satisfaction as the temporary power crisis was brought under control. The sector-wise electricity regulation implemented during this period also contributed positively. The minister highlighted the importance of self-control among consumers, noting



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Amidst these operational challenges, the minister also addressed rumours about changing the billing practices for solar prosumers. He highlighted the government's achievements in expanding the state's renewable energy capacity, with 681 MW of grid-connected solar power plants completed under the current administration.



that only 20% of the state's electricity needs are generated locally. He urged the public to adopt energy conservation practices to ease the load on the power sector. Despite the challenges posed by the increasing heat, the minister assured that there would be no load shedding, as electricity was being purchased at high prices to meet

demand. He reaffirmed that load shedding would be avoided as the state navigates these issues.

In response to the power crisis caused by extreme heat, KSEB established a control room at the Thiruvananthapuram Power House to coordinate efforts and manage the situation. The minister's directive to harmonize load regulation at substations and manage overloading at feeders was crucial in stabilizing the power grid. This proactive approach ensured that the system remained resilient during critical periods.

Amidst these operational challenges, the minister also addressed rumours about changing the billing practices for solar prosumers. He highlighted the government's achievements in expanding the state's renewable energy capacity, with 681 MW of grid-connected solar power plants completed under the current administration. This includes 270 MW from rooftop solar projects, contributing to a total installed solar capacity of 986 MW. With the addition of 71 MW of wind power generation, Kerala's total renewable energy capacity is poised to reach 1057 MW. The Union Ministry of Renewable Energy is expected to declare Kerala a renewable energy-rich state, underscoring the state's significant progress in this sector.

K. Krishnankutty reaffirmed the state's commitment to promoting solar power generation by maintaining the net metering billing system, which remains the most beneficial for solar power producers in Kerala. Unlike many other states that have transitioned to net billing and gross metering systems, potentially imposing additional financial burdens on consumers, Kerala has chosen to continue with the current system. The minister acknowledged that while this approach might impact the financial sustainability of Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL), any decision to change the billing system would only be made after a thorough and detailed examination aligned with the state's declared solar policy.

K. Krishnankutty's tenure as the Minister of Electricity has been characterised by decisive leadership and a clear vision for Kerala's energy future. His commitment to public welfare, sustainable energy, and efficient power management has positioned the state as an eligible leader in renewable energy, ensuring a brighter and more resilient energy for Kerala.



MINISTER P. PRASAD'S COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND RUBBER FARMERS



As Shri. P. Prasad completed his third year as the Agriculture Minister, he reassured the people of Kerala with a promise that HortiCorp's Onam markets would continue, ensuring that vegetables not available locally would be sourced from other states. Entering his fourth year, Minister Prasad and the Department of Agriculture have numerous plans and initiatives to bolster the state's agricultural sector.

The state agriculture department has embarked on a significant organic farming initiative. The minister highlighted the government's commitment to the organic agriculture policy announced in 2010, indicating increased involvement in this sector. Last Christmas, 4,866 Christmas trees were prepared in 31 farms across nine districts, marketed online in three different ways, and delivered to the market, thereby reducing the reliance on plastic trees.

A new scheme aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in vegetables will soon be launched. This project will procure vegetables from Ooty and Theni, addressing the local demand. Minister Prasad also addressed the declining price of rubber, attributing it to central government agreements. The support price scheme for rubber, initiated during the first term of the Pinarayi Vijayan government, continues into the second term. Despite repeated requests to raise the support price from Rs 170 to Rs 250, the central government has yet to respond.

The Rubber Price Incentive Fund (RPIF) scheme launched by the Kerala government has provided significant support to rubber farmers, encouraging them to remain in the sector. The state government's positive attitude towards rubber farmers' sentiments highlights the need for a concerted effort, including central government assistance, to raise the price stabilization fund to Rs 250. Negotiations with the Rubber Board are ongoing, and the state government has provided Rs 1,993 crore

as a crop incentive to farmers.

Despite facing financial difficulties, the state government is committed to helping rubber farmers. Minister Prasad announced a Rs 225 crore aid for rubber replantation as part of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, reflecting the government's serious approach to farmers' problems. The state government successfully intervened to prevent the central government from shifting the Rubber Board headquarters from Kerala. However, requests for a financial package for Kerala's rubber farmers remain unanswered.

Minister Prasad also emphasized the importance of organic and natural farming, noting that over 44,000 hectares of land have been organically cultivated. Efforts are underway to discourage the sale of non-organic products as organic, with quality checks on organic fertilizers in place. The state government's farm in Aluva serves as a model for organic farming, and this method is being extended to other farms for profitable and sustainable agriculture.

The Kerala Co brand was introduced to provide a generic brand name for Kerala's agricultural products, emphasizing the necessity of non-toxic food. Consultations with the farming community will guide decisions on organic farming assistance. The LDF government has consistently supported farmers, intervening promptly to address their issues. Despite challenges from national agreements and climate conditions, the Department of Agriculture continues to implement measures to advance the agricultural sector.

One notable achievement is the increase in vegetable production, supported by a Cabinet sub-committee formed to streamline paddy procurement. Minister Prasad's commitment to agriculture and the well-being of farmers is evident in the state's proactive initiatives and supportive policies, ensuring the growth and sustainability of Kerala's agricultural landscape.



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KERALA'S FUTURE SAJI CHERIAN'S UNPARALLELED LEADERSHIP IN COASTAL AND CULTURAL REVIVAL



Under the leadership of Minister Shri. Saji Cherian, Kerala's Departments of Fisheries, Culture, and Youth Affairs are driving forward the vision of a sustainable, developed, and inclusive New Kerala. With a keen focus on continuity and innovation, these departments are diligently advancing both ongoing and new projects. This commitment to excellence ensures that every initiative, whether inherited or newly launched, contributes effectively to the state's growth and prosperity.

The Departments of Fisheries, Culture, and Youth Affairs have been crucial in continuing the development and welfare activities initiated in previous years, contributing significantly to the goal of building a sustainable, developed, and inclusive New Kerala. The efficient completion of ongoing projects and the initiation of new ones have marked a period of substantial progress under the current government.

To uplift the marginalized fishermen community, the government has implemented various development activities and projects over the last three years, earmarking around ₹12,000 crores for coastal development through the fisheries department alone. One of the flagship initiatives, the ₹2,450 crore Punargeham Project, aims to rehabilitate all residents within 50 meters of the tidal zone in coastal areas. The scheme offers beneficiaries the options to buy land and build a house, buy land and house together, or collectively acquire land and construct apartments. So far, 2,578 houses have been constructed under this project, including 390 flats and 2,188 houses, with an additional

1,184 flats and 1,240 houses under various stages of construction.

Furthering this effort, 4,628 houses have been constructed under the LIFE scheme within the fisheries sector, alongside 4,706 houses and 192 flats through various other housing schemes. In total, 12,104 houses have been built for fishermen, with additional projects like the construction of 192 flats in Thiruvananthapuram district progressing well.

In a bid to ensure food security, achieve self-sufficiency in fish production, and promote self-employment, the Subhiksha Keralam scheme, announced by the Chief Minister, is implementing fish farming projects worth ₹2,078 crores through local self-government bodies. The goal is to achieve self-sufficiency in fish seed production by 2025 and double fish production through farming. The ADAC is also implementing the 'Cage Fish Farming Project' with 100 cages each in reservoirs like Banasura Sagar, Karapuzha,

Peruvannamuzhi, and Kakki. Traditional fishermen are being empowered with the distribution of 10 deep-sea fishing boats worth ₹156 lakh each to groups of 10, with an additional 10 boats to be handed over this year.

The Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen (SAF), an agency under the Department of Fisheries, has been pivotal in the comprehensive development and empowerment of fisherwomen. A ₹6.43 crore scheme has been implemented to set up 46 Theermaythri Seafood Restaurants in coastal districts, accommodating 230 fisherwomen. A Joint Liability Group (JLG) scheme ensures financial security for fisherwomen engaged in fish sales and allied occupations, providing a revolving



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fund of ₹50,000 as working capital by forming joint liability groups of five fisherwomen each. This initiative aims to free them from the exploitation of private moneylenders.

Efforts to strengthen the fish marketing network include the implementation of mobile fish marts, hygienic fresh fish retailing units, franchise marts, and base stations for stocking fish through Matsyafed. The Vidyatheeram scheme provides training for the children of fishermen for medical, civil service, and bank test exams, resulting in 82 doctors emerging from the coastal region. The education expenses of children who lost their parents are fully covered by the government.

The 'Fish Stocking, Marketing and Quality Management' Act was approved in the last assembly session to ensure fair prices for fish caught by fishermen and to enhance fish marketing quality. This Act aims to eliminate the existing 10-15% auction commission, replacing it with a 5% commission shared between the harbor management society and the fishermen's cooperative. Rules for this are being prepared to ensure a fair pricing structure for fishermen.

To ensure the safety of those involved in fishing, the government is prioritizing the registration of all fishing vessels, life jackets for workers, lifesaving equipment on board, and modern communication tools like VHF, GPS, and satellite phones. An insurance cover scheme for all conventional vessels, with 90% of the premium borne by the government, is in place, along with the establishment of a Master Control Room and Regional Control Rooms for coordinating sea rescue operations.

The Department of Culture's Diamond Jubilee Fellowship Scheme, aimed at instilling artistic appreciation among all sections of the population, has been progressing excellently. This scheme, implemented in collaboration with local self-government bodies, offers free training in various Kerala art forms, benefiting 925 artists with a fellowship of ₹17,500 each since the government came to power. A total of ₹15.98 crore has been spent on this initiative.

In the fight against gender oppression and economic and political inequality, the culture department has launched the 'Samam' awareness campaign. The campaign, with singer Mrs. KS Chitra as the brand ambassador,



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includes projects like She Radio, short films, workshops, documentaries, and various competitions. Additionally, 1,001 women who have achieved significant milestones in various fields are honored during the campaign.

The Department of Culture is also fostering diversity in the film industry with a unique project encouraging women and directors from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A maximum of ₹1.5 crore is sanctioned for screenplays in these categories, marking a first in India for such a government initiative aimed at women empowerment. This innovative project has gained national attention for addressing the invisible barriers faced by these communities in the film industry.

The transformation of Chitranjali Studios under the Film Development Corporation into a world-class studio is another significant project, with ₹70 crore invested in the first phase. This phase aims to provide comprehensive facilities required for film production, including studio rooms, preview rooms, recording theatres, and accommodation. The second phase, with an investment of ₹80 crore, is also underway.

Kerala has also become the first state in India to launch an OTT platform under the government system. The CSPACE OTT platform, launched by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation, ensures that films reach the platform only after their theatrical release. This 'pay preview' facility allows audiences to pay only for the films they choose, ensuring producers receive a share of the revenue in subsequent years. Priority is given to screening state, national, and international award-winning films of artistic merit, along with short films and documentaries.

The State Youth Commission is actively conducting awareness campaigns in colleges and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes colonies on issues like road safety, mental health, and against alcohol, drugs, ragging, and cyber-crimes. They also provide free legal aid for youth, implement the Green Youth Scheme to attract youth to agriculture, run a Virtual Employment Exchange, and the Youth Icon scheme to honour outstanding young women.

The vibrant progress in these sectors, driven by the strategic initiatives of Minister Saji Cherian and his team, showcases the commitment to building a New Kerala that is inclusive, sustainable, and culturally rich.

THE VISIONARY BEHIND KERALA'S SPORTS REVOLUTION AND RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT



Earlier this year, Kerala marked a historic achievement by becoming the first state in India to implement a sports economy, a significant milestone coinciding with Shri. V. Abdurahiman's fourth year as the Minister for Sports, Wakf, Haj Pilgrimage, Posts & Telegraphs, and Railways. This ground-breaking initiative aims to integrate sports into various sectors, fostering holistic development and ensuring widespread participation.

Minister Abdurahman has emphasised the inevitability of change in the sports sector, assuring that his vision to future-the upcoming new sports policy under his leadership will catalyse this transformation. The International Sports Summit Kerala 2024 (ISSK), held from January 23 to 26 at the Greenfield Stadium, exemplified this vision. With representatives from over 20 countries and students from various universities participating, the summit underscored Kerala's commitment to becoming a global sports hub.

A key component of the sports economy initiative is the 'One Playground in One Panchayat' project, aimed at decentralizing sports development. The first playground under this scheme was inaugurated in Kallikkad, Thiruvananthapuram district, featuring a multi-purpose court and other facilities constructed on Kallikkad panchayat land. This initiative is expected to significantly boost local sports and fitness activities, with plans

to create playgrounds in all 450 local bodies lacking such facilities within three years. Construction has already begun at several centres, and the first phase includes a list of 124 panchayats where the development is underway.

Kerala's new sports policy, presented in the assembly, focuses on developing a robust sports economy, encouraging start-ups in the sports sector, and creating 10,000 jobs. This policy aims to establish a 'Kerala Sports Model' characterized by widespread public health and sports participation. The emphasis is on ensuring that sports are accessible to all, with local self-government bodies playing a crucial role in implementing sports plans across the state.

While Kerala has made commendable progress in sports, railway development under Minister Abdurahiman has faced significant challenges. Despite being one of the states with the most projects formulated and funds allocated for railway development, several key projects remain stalled due to central government inaction. The Sabari Rail project, sanctioned in 1997, remains incomplete despite the state government's agreement to bear 50% of the cost. The Silverline semi-high speed project, approved in principle by the Ministry of Railways, also awaits final approval.

Kerala has been proactive in its approach, forming joint venture companies for railway development in line with the Ministry of Railways' idea of



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The state government, under Minister Abdurahiman's guidance, has agreed to prepare a calendar and submit it to the Railways to facilitate additional services during holidays. It was also agreed to conduct special services and provide advance notices regarding these services.



state participation. However, key projects like the coach factory, despite land being provided by the state, have not been considered. The submission of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Silverline project in June 2020 has yet to yield concrete results.

Minister Abdurahiman has actively advocated for Kerala's railway needs, highlighting issues such as the potential closure of the Palakkad Railway Division. He pointed out that Palakkad division is far ahead in terms of passenger numbers and revenue, and abolishing it without

citing deficiencies appears to be a covert move against Kerala. The central government's lack of response to Kerala's demands for track doubling, allocation of new tracks, and additional trains continues to hinder progress. However, there have been some positive developments, such as the allocation of two more coaches to the Parasuram Express and considerations for additional facilities in other busy trains.

The state government, under Minister Abdurahiman's guidance, has agreed to prepare a calendar and submit it to the Railways to facilitate additional services during holidays. It was also agreed to conduct special services and provide advance notices regarding these services. The Railways has assured that steps can be taken in consultation with the state government to improve safety systems in trains and to avoid delays caused by prioritizing the Vande Bharat Express. Considering the population of Malappuram district and the number of train passengers, the state government has decided to submit a proposal to the Railway Board to allow a stop in the district for the Rajdhani Express.

Minister V. Abdurahiman's tenure has been marked by a commitment to transformative change in both the sports and railway sectors. His vision for a sports economy and robust infrastructure network is gradually shaping Kerala into a model state. As he continues to advocate for Kerala's development, the future looks promising, with the potential to set benchmarks for other states and regions. Under his leadership, Kerala is not just dreaming of a better future but actively working towards realizing it. The state's journey towards becoming a sports and infrastructure powerhouse is a testament to the minister's dedication and strategic vision.



MINISTER ROSHY AUGUSTINE

TRANSFORMING WATER MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY WELFARE IN KERALA



Since assuming office on May 20, 2021, as the Minister for Irrigation, Command Area Development Authority, Ground Water Department, Water Supply and Sanitation in the Pinarayi Vijayan government, Shri Roshy Augustine has demonstrated unwavering dedication and a visionary approach to solving Kerala's water-related challenges. Now in his fourth year as the Minister for Water Resources, his tenure is marked by a series of impactful initiatives that aim to secure and improve water access for all, demonstrating a clear and strategic vision for the state's future.

A prime example of Minister Roshy Augustine's strategic clarity is his handling of the concerns surrounding the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan for drinking water supply in Kochi. Despite fears of privatization, he assured the Legislative Assembly and the public that the state government and the water authority retain control over key functions such as tariff, distribution, and billing. The ADB loan of Rs 2511 crore is strictly for maintenance, and this project is vital for addressing Kochi's chronic water shortages. With 325 million liters per day (MLD) being sourced from Aluva and Maradu, yet only half being billable due to aging infrastructure and water theft, the minister's plan includes upgrading plants and storage facilities, ensuring a more efficient and reliable water supply for the region.

Under his leadership, the Jal Jeevan Mission has made remarkable progress, providing 19 lakh connections over the last three and a half years. Despite challenges posed by inadequate central funding, Kerala has judiciously utilized its resources, ensuring that no central funds are wasted. The state has allocated Rs 570 crore in the new financial year alone to continue these efforts. Roshy Augustine's policies ensure that even during natural calamities, affected areas receive water through truck deliveries, emphasizing the government's commitment to uninterrupted water supply.

Moreover, the government's proactive approach extends to emergency coastal protection, with Rs 2.25 crore allocated for urgent works across nine coastal districts. This additional funding is crucial for safeguarding communities against intensified sea incursions due to heavy rains. Each district now has Rs 50 lakhs for these critical measures, doubling the previous allocation and ensuring swift and effective action.

Minister Roshy Augustine has also spearheaded ambitious projects to address Kerala's flood control needs. The government plans to construct nine new dams, including one at Mullaperiyar, alongside flood control dams in the Periyar, Chalakudy, Chaliyar, Pampa-Achankovil, and Meenachil river basins. Preliminary studies for three of these dams are already complete. Notably, a detailed project report (DPR) for a new Mullaperiyar Dam prioritizes both water security for Tamil Nadu and safety for Kerala, awaiting central approval for environmental impact assessment.

Additionally, significant efforts are underway to construct dams in the Pampar sub-basin and across the Siruvani River at Attappadi-Chittoor, utilising Kerala's allocated water resources effectively. Plans for a dam on the Karapara River, a tributary of the Chalakudy River, aim to mitigate floods and support hydropower, drinking water, and agricultural needs. The State Disaster Management Authority is also evaluating the feasibility of a flood control dam in Malappuram district, an area severely affected by the 2019 floods.

Through these comprehensive and forward-thinking initiatives, Minister Roshy Augustine and the LDF government are not just addressing immediate water supply and disaster management needs but are laying the foundation for sustainable and equitable resource management in Kerala. Their commitment to ensuring water security and enhancing welfare for all citizens is paving the way for a more promising future for everyone in the state.

G. R. ANIL: PIONEERING KERALA'S PATH IN CIVIL SUPPLIES AND FOOD SECURITY



Under the visionary leadership of Minister G. R. Anil, Kerala's civil supplies centres have emerged as a national model for efficiency and innovative service delivery. Since taking charge of the Food and Civil Supplies departments on May 20, 2021, Anil has driven a series of transformative initiatives aimed at enhancing food security and improving access to essential resources. Among his most notable achievements is the implementation of the Sujalam scheme, which stands as a testament to his commitment to public welfare. This initiative, developed in collaboration with the Kerala Irrigation Infrastructure Development Corporation, introduces Hilly Aqua water through ration shops, providing high-quality drinking water at a remarkably low cost. Initially rolled out in the districts of Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, and Ernakulam, the scheme is set to cover all 14,250 ration shops across the state in phases. This timely deployment, coinciding with the Sabarimala pilgrimage season, highlights Anil's proactive approach in addressing critical public needs.

Anil's strategic vision extends beyond water supply to encompass comprehensive food security measures. His tenure has been marked by a concerted effort to ensure a steady and reliable food supply, particularly during high-demand periods such as Onam and Christmas. By engaging with the Central government and securing an increase in Kerala's monthly food grain quota, Anil has reinforced the state's position as a model for effective food distribution. Despite facing challenges, such as issues with kerosene supply, Anil has been an unwavering advocate for increased allocations, reflecting his dedication to meeting the state's diverse energy needs.

During the current procurement year, Kerala has

achieved significant milestones under Anil's leadership. The state has procured 5.59 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from nearly 200,000 farmers, with a total payment amounting to Rs 1,584 crore. Of this, Rs 1,194 crore has already been disbursed, with plans to settle the remaining Rs 390 crore. Anil's intervention in the Onam market is poised to enhance rice availability, with Supplyco ready to play a crucial role in ensuring that rice is available at fair prices. His proactive engagement with Telangana's Food and Public Distribution Minister has resulted in an agreement to supply Kerala's preferred rice and chilies at competitive prices, aimed at preventing price hikes and safeguarding consumer interests.

Minister Anil has also addressed and countered misinformation regarding the potential cessation of subsidized goods. Despite media reports suggesting that the sale of subsidized items might be discontinued, Anil has reaffirmed the LDF government's commitment to offering products at 25% below market rates through Supplyco. This pledge, maintained throughout Anil's tenure and the previous administration, demonstrates his relentless focus on protecting the welfare of Kerala's citizens. His efforts underscore a broader commitment to ensuring that affordable and essential resources remain accessible to all, even amidst rising costs and economic pressures.

G. R. Anil's tenure as Kerala's Minister for Food and Civil Supplies has been characterized by innovative leadership and a steadfast commitment to public welfare. His efforts in revolutionizing water supply, ensuring food security, and addressing infrastructure challenges highlight a broader vision for a resilient and equitable Kerala. Through his dedicated service, Anil continues to pave the way for a brighter and more secure future for all residents of the state.

MINISTER V. SIVANKUTTY'S VISION FOR EDUCATION IN KERALA



Shri. V. Sivankutty, the General Education and Labour Minister of Kerala, has been a vocal advocate against the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) attempts to erase historical facts from textbooks. In response to NCERT's widespread cuts, Kerala released additional textbooks that incorporated the omitted facts. Minister Sivankutty emphasized that children should understand facts and realities through education and that the state would not accept distorted history or scientific positions.

A significant reform under his tenure is the admission policy allowing children to enrol in government schools without a Transfer Certificate (TC). Reflecting on two decades since the last assessment reform, the minister highlighted the need for a new evaluation system that incorporates the experiences and lessons learned during this period. Under his leadership, the functioning and quality of schools have improved, with institutions like the SDV Government UP School in Neerkunnam reaching international standards. Active and creative learning activities have been revitalized in first standard classes, and future initiatives for public school excellence are moving forward strongly. Kerala continues to excel in



Smart classrooms are now a reality, and the new academic year has been made inclusive for differently-abled students. Schools that struggled to admit differently-abled children faced strict actions, with the minister personally overseeing investigations and ensuring compliance.



pre-primary, primary, upper primary, high school, and higher secondary education, consistently ranking first in the Union Education Ministry's development indices for school education.

Kerala has become the first state in the country to provide artificial intelligence training to all teachers, with the goal of completing this feat by the end of December 2024. Curriculum reforms are being implemented from the primary level, with ongoing training provided to teachers and students in advanced science and technology fields. A focus on ensuring that students learn the Malayalam alphabet beyond the first standard is a key component of these reforms. The minister also announced new projects to provide sports training methods to teachers and raise awareness about POCSO rules among children and educators.

Smart classrooms are now a reality, and the new academic year has been made inclusive for differently-abled students. Schools that struggled to admit differently-abled children faced strict actions, with the minister personally overseeing investigations and ensuring compliance. A Standard Operating Procedure prepared by the Excise Department, as per High Court instructions, is being strictly implemented in schools. Programs are being executed in a timely manner, and a WhatsApp number has been provided to public



In a pioneering move, Kerala is preparing a book for parents based on curriculum reform activities, a first in the country. This book, covering pre-primary to higher secondary levels, explains the physical and mental development of children and fosters a strong student-teacher-parent relationship.



vigilance committees to report any intoxication-related complaints to the excise department.

A joint action plan has been formulated, coordinating various departments to combat drug use among students. This plan includes numerous programs both inside and outside schools, with steps taken to prevent the sale of intoxicants near educational institutions.



The minister assured that proper inspections of nearby shops would be conducted to ensure compliance.

At the Education Conclave organized to improve the quality of public education in Kerala, V. Sivankutty presented proposals to the Chief Minister. Comprehensive curriculum reforms from pre-primary to higher secondary education are set to be completed by 2025, aiming to enhance the standard of schooling. Since 2021, the Department of Public Education has permitted 53 schools to become coeducational, addressing numerous requests from government and aided schools to convert boys-only and girls-only schools into mixed schools. This move aligns with the government's policy of ensuring gender equality and promoting co-education.

The dates and locations of various fairs organized by the Department of Public Education have been announced, including the TTI, PPTTI Kalolsavam, the Special School Art Festival, the science fair, and the Career Guidance Disha Expo. The state school arts festival, set to be held in Thiruvananthapuram in December, will be conducted according to a revised manual. Efforts are underway to include an art form of the native people as a competitive item, as it was part of the inaugural session in the last festival. Additionally, there is a push to model the state school sports festival after the Olympics, with a special logo, theme, and song. This festival will occur every four years, with the usual sports fair held in non-Olympic years.

In a pioneering move, Kerala is preparing a book for parents based on curriculum reform activities, a first in the country. This book, covering pre-primary to higher secondary levels, explains the physical and mental development of children and fosters a strong student-teacher-parent relationship. A training program for parents will be organized under the leadership of Samagra Shiksha Kerala.

Minister Sivankutty's efforts reflect a comprehensive and inclusive approach to education and labour, aiming to elevate the standards of public education while ensuring the well-being and holistic development of students in Kerala.

THE DAWN OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

A TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURE IN TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIETY



Abdul Karim S.
PRESIDENT
CADDFed
Managing Director
TOPGEAR

The promise of autonomous vehicles (AVs) is nearing reality, with the industry valued at \$158.3 billion in 2023 and projected to reach \$2.3 trillion by 2032. Significant milestones in automotive innovation have led us from basic driver-assistance systems to advanced capabilities like adaptive cruise control and self-parking, setting the stage for Level 5 autonomy. Level 5 vehicles, capable of full automation without human intervention, promise to transform transportation by drastically reducing accidents caused by human error, enhancing traffic efficiency, and contributing to a cleaner environment through reduced emissions.

The realization of Level 5 autonomy will profoundly impact society. It will enhance safety by eliminating human error, which accounts for about 94% of all road accidents, potentially saving countless lives each year. Autonomous vehicles will also improve traffic management, reducing congestion and making road networks more efficient. The economic implications are vast, with the industry's growth creating opportunities for innovation, investment, and job creation. New business models, such as autonomous ride-sharing and delivery services, will disrupt traditional industries, fostering a dynamic economy. Socially, autonomous vehicles will increase mobility for individuals unable to drive, such as the elderly and disabled, promoting greater independence and improving quality of life. Commuting time can be repurposed for productive or leisurely activities, transforming our perception of travel.

Despite the promising future, challenges remain before Level 5 autonomous vehicles become mainstream. Technical hurdles, such as perfecting sensor technologies and ensuring reliable operation in all weather

conditions, must be addressed. Regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations need development to govern autonomous vehicles' deployment and safe integration into society. Privacy and cybersecurity are critical concerns, with vast amounts of data generated and processed by AVs, raising questions about data ownership and protection. Ensuring these systems' security against cyber threats is essential for gaining public trust and acceptance. With continued advancements and collaboration among technologists, policymakers, and industry leaders, the dream of fully autonomous vehicles operating "anywhere, anytime" is becoming a reality, promising a safer, smarter, and more accessible future for all.



VARIOUS SKILL-ORIENTED EDUCATION IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR



S. Jyothis Chandran
CHAIRMAN
Jyotis Group of Institutions

What's the need of the hour in the Educational sector is an organization that will seriously and practically think of generating ways and means to stop massive exodus of our students to other states or countries in search of greener pastures. It's obviously because our state is undependable for a luminous and shining future of the youth in terms of their career aspirations. There has to be some alternative to equip our

youth with skills and resources to build successful ventures by offering them technologies and investment support. There should be inspiration to the next generation to find success in homeland by unlocking their creativity and skill learning prowess.

Kerala has been a consumer state for aeons and this trend has to change. As known to everybody, our state is far short of industries and entrepreneurial activities compared to other states in India, especially our neighbouring ones. We import agricultural produces, essential commodities and other products such as electronics and plastic wares from other states. Our state hasn't yet matured to be self-sufficient in these areas. Even in the requirement of toys for children, our country produced in the past less than 5% and the rest was imported from China or Taiwan. But now our country produces about 90 to 95% of its total requirement. Sadly, contribution from Kerala in this field too is insignificant. Most of the essential daily needs for children and the grownups have been imported from other states or countries. The only entrepreneurial activity that burgeons in Kerala is hospital industry followed by education industry.

Today's new gen must stop going in search of jobs in other states and countries and should venture into new areas of industrial and entrepreneurial innovations. Skill subject is something unknown to the previous generation. Now times have changed and it's new skill in the new world. Everything changes with time. So must the life style be and everything associated with it. Masonry and carpentry are well known skills for the old generation, but the outlook and idea of it have changed substantially. Blacktopping of roads is done by labourers but the vehicles running on them are imported from other states. Why it does not happen in Kerala remains a mystery. The new gen should come forward to take the

initiative to change the very concept of the state as consumer domain to conducive zone. Our education system should ponder over the possibilities of creating a career oriented system in schools and colleges. Sadly, in Kerala engineering colleges, the pass percentage is very deplorable. Students are not sufficiently prepared at school level. Many seminars on quality and career oriented education take place at times, but what is discussed is not brought to practice. It's perhaps the failure of governmental agencies. As for the paradigm shift in school and college syllabus from the conventional to new gen oriented, the managements of various institutions can put their heads together and arrive at a practicable proposition.

When school and college education is completed, one should be able to find a suitable job befitting his/her flair and passion. A new culture is to be initiated by the new gen to start their own industrial activities and bring in the future generations to develop what they have started. Otherwise, how long can we be depending on other states for food and other consumables? Our state government should be a welcome and friendly ground for manufacturing vehicles such as bicycles to container lorries so that fund is generated for both industrialists and the government. To facilitate and prepare our students to think of initiating their own challenges of entrepreneurial establishments, our educational institutions should be ready to impart education to such requirement. It will mark the beginning of a new and epoch making era that will retain our students in the state itself and migration to other states and countries will slacken considerable. What with all that has been said, it may sound monotonous to think that our State's potential possibilities to open up a carpet for the future endeavours of today's youngsters are very bleak.

With the advent of Vizhinjam sea port, possibilities of job opportunities are aplenty, as the maritime industries are going to be vibrantly global, not just limiting it to our country alone. Vizhinjam area is likely to become an international satellite town, and for skilling students of schools and colleges, the Ministry of Education other stakeholders should come forward to mould them to the requirement of the logistic potential of the new enterprises and try to expand it to international spheres so that today's teenagers become tomorrow's beneficiaries. If researched and implemented in the interest of our adolescent youth, deterring or halting a mammoth exodus may not be an impossible task.



THE ARCHITECTS OF INDIA'S FUTURE GOVERNANCE



Kowdiar Dharmen
Director,
Forest Industries
(Travancore) Ltd
Member,
High Power Committee
Kerala Congress

India, the world's largest democracy, stands at a crucial crossroads, grappling with multifaceted challenges that demand innovative solutions and dynamic leadership. At the heart of this transformative era lies the undeniable power of the youth—a demographic force that constitutes over half of the nation's population. With more than 50 percent of Indians under the age of 25, and 65 percent under 35, the role of young people in shaping the future of governance is more vital than ever.

The youth of India are not merely the future; they are the present catalysts of change, actively influencing and reshaping the landscape of governance. Their energy, ideas, and innovations are pivotal to steering the country toward a brighter, more equitable future. Unlike previous generations, today's young Indians do not view politics with indifference or detachment. Thanks to the internet and social media, they are more engaged, informed, and vocal about issues that matter—from environmental sustainability and gender equality to economic growth and social justice. This heightened political awareness is a cornerstone of India's progress, laying the foundation for a governance model that is more inclusive, responsive, and accountable.

In the digital age, the youth's impact on governance is magnified by their technological prowess. They are the driving force behind the development of apps, websites, and platforms that enhance government services, increase transparency, and foster active public engagement. Digital innovation, spearheaded by young minds, has the potential to revolutionize administrative processes, making them more efficient and citizen-friendly. It is this blend of technological acumen and social consciousness that positions India's youth as the architects of modern governance.

Moreover, the youth have repeatedly demonstrated their capacity to tackle some of the nation's most pressing challenges—

environmental degradation, social inequality, and disaster management, to name a few. Through large-scale, youth-led initiatives, they are making a tangible difference in local governance. Whether organizing clean-up drives, educating underprivileged children, or implementing disaster relief efforts, the impact of their work is felt across communities. This active participation not only cultivates leadership skills but also enhances accountability, paving the way for broader political involvement.

One of the most significant contributions of India's youth to governance is their role in promoting ethical standards and values. By organizing awareness campaigns and training programs, they are educating citizens on the importance of integrity in public office and the principles that should guide governance. Their efforts are creating a more informed and conscientious electorate, which is essential for the functioning of a vibrant democracy.

The youth of India are far from passive observers—they are dynamic agents of change with the power to reshape the governance of the nation. To harness this potential, it is imperative that the country invests more in empowering its young people, providing them with the tools and opportunities to lead. There is no better way to ensure a responsive government and a robust democracy than by fostering the leadership of a generation that is already proving itself to be innovative, committed, and ready to take on the mantle of governance.

As India navigates the complexities of the 21st century, the youth stand at the forefront, ready to lead the nation toward a future where governance is not just about policy and politics, but about people, progress, and prosperity. The time has come to recognize and amplify the role of youth in governance, for in their hands lies the promise of a stronger, more just, and vibrant India.

കേരളം നൂതനപാതയിൽ, കെ-ഡിസ്കിനൊപ്പം



കേരള ഡവലപ്മെന്റ് ആൻഡ് ഇന്നൊവേഷൻ സ്ട്രാറ്റജിക് കൗൺസിലിന്റെ (K-DISC) KGDC, YIP, OLOI, KKEM, EV Consortium, ET, Manchadi, Mazhavillu തുടങ്ങിയ പദ്ധതികൾ കേരളത്തിലെ വികസനത്തിന് വഴിയെടുക്കുന്നു.

കേരള ജീനോം ഡാറ്റ സെന്റർ (KGDC)

അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര തലത്തിൽ നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന മാതൃകകൾക്ക് അനുസൃതമായി ജീനോമിക് ഡാറ്റ കൃത്യമേറ്റ് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും.

യങ് ഇന്നവേഷൻ പ്രോഗ്രാം (YIP)

സ്കൂൾ, കോളേജ്, ഗവേഷണ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളിൽ നൂതന ആശയ രൂപീകരണം പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ച് നാടിന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥ ജീവിത പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്ക് പരിഹാരം തേടുന്നു.

കേരള നോളജ് ഇക്കോണമി മിഷൻ (KKEM)

കേരളത്തിലെ അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യരായ തൊഴിൽരഹിതർക്ക് വിവിധ മേഖലകളിൽ തൊഴിലവസരങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കാനുള്ള ബ്രഹ്മാണ്ഡ പദ്ധതി.

ഇലക്ട്രിക് വെഹിക്കിൾസ് കൺസോർഷ്യം (EV Consortium)

വൈദ്യുത വാഹനങ്ങളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഉപസംവിധാനങ്ങളും ഘടകങ്ങളും നിർമ്മിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു ആവാസവ്യവസ്ഥയിലേക്ക് കേരളത്തെ പരിവർത്തനം ചെയ്യാനുള്ള കെ - ഡിസ്കിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിലുള്ള കൺസോർഷ്യം.

എമർജിംഗ് ടെക്നോളജീസ് ഇൻ ഗവൺമെന്റ് (ET)

നൂതന സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യകൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ച് സർക്കാർ വകുപ്പുകളുടെ സേവനങ്ങൾ മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു.

മഞ്ചാടി 'ടിച്ച് ഓഫീസ് ഫോർ കേരള' (Manchadi)

മൂന്നാം ക്രാന്ത്യമുതൽ ഏഴാം ക്രാന്ത്യവരെയുള്ള കുട്ടികളിൽ ഗണിതത്തിലുള്ള പ്രാവീണ്യം മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനായി വ്യത്യസ്തമായ തീർത്ഥാടന ഗണിത അഭിരുചികൾ വളർത്തിയെടുക്കാനുള്ള 'ഗവൺമെന്റ് മഞ്ചാടി'.

മാഴവില്ല 'ടിച്ച് സെന്റർ ഫോർ കേരള' (Mazhavillu)

മൂന്നാം ക്രാന്ത്യമുതൽ ഏഴാം ക്രാന്ത്യവരെയുള്ള കുട്ടികളിൽ സംയോജിത ശാസ്ത്ര പാഠനം എന്ന ആശയത്തെ മുൻനിർത്തി പ്രായോഗിക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലൂടെയും വിശകലനത്തിലൂടെയും ശാസ്ത്ര മനോധം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഉന്നത നൽകിക്കൊണ്ട് പ്രാവർത്തികമാവുന്ന നൂതന ആശയമാണ് 'മാഴവില്ല'.



Maneesh T.M.
Editorial Assistant

TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR KERALA

Kerala stands at a crucial juncture where tradition and progress converge. As we commemorate the third anniversary of Hues of Life Magazine, it is pertinent to examine the significant strides Kerala is making towards a prosperous future.

The information technology sector in Kerala is experiencing substantial growth. Tech parks and innovation hubs are emerging as centres of entrepreneurship and technological advancement, positioning Kerala as a notable entity in the digital world.

Agriculture, a cornerstone of Kerala's economy, is evolving. There is a marked shift towards sustainable and eco-friendly practices. Farmers are increasingly adopting new technologies to boost productivity while preserving the ecological balance. This transformation is crucial for enhancing the sector's resilience and sustainability.

Tourism, another vital component of Kerala's economy, is being redefined with a focus on responsible and sustainable practices. Efforts are being made to ensure that the natural beauty of the state is preserved for future generations, while simultaneously benefiting local communities.

Kerala's healthcare system continues to make noteworthy advancements. The state is leveraging medical technology and a dedicated healthcare workforce to improve health outcomes. Additionally, Kerala is establishing itself as a destination for medical tourism, further contributing to its economic growth.

Education remains a pillar of Kerala's development strategy. The state's high literacy rate and commitment to quality education are significant drivers of socio-economic progress. There are ongoing initiatives to integrate technology into education and promote skill development, preparing the youth for a competitive global environment.


Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are instrumental in Kerala's economic framework. These enterprises are vital for job creation and economic stability, reflecting the importance of local entrepreneurship in driving prosperity.

As Kerala looks to the future, the path to prosperity is defined by a dedication to innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. By balancing modern development with respect for cultural and natural heritage, Kerala is charting a course towards enduring growth and development.



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