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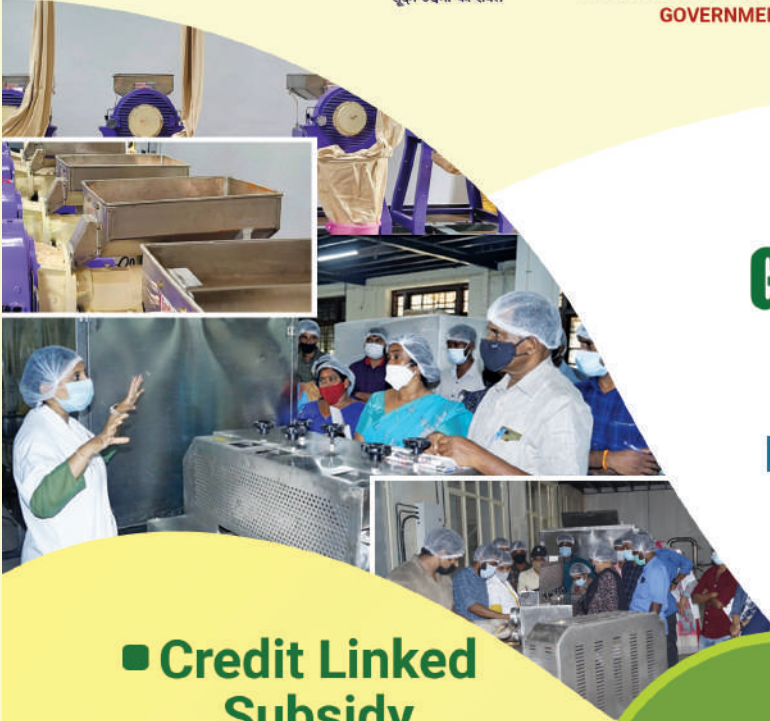
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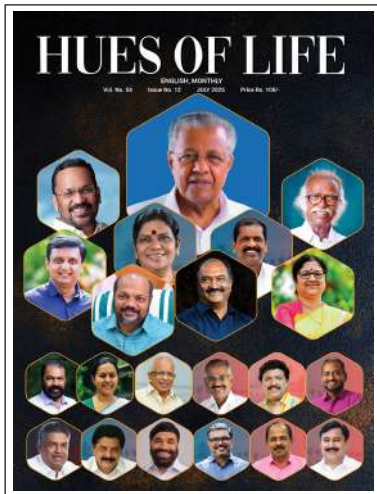
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HUES OF LIFE

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Editor's Desk

Dear Readers.

Governance is not just system management or service delivery. It is the capacity to sense the heartbeat of people and address their changing. In Kerala, this principle has guided the behaviour of those holding public office, converting the day-to-day business of administration into an exercise in reflective leadership.

What distinguishes the state is not the existence of schemes or programs in isolation, but rather the manner with which every minister has borne the burden of their portfolio with purpose. From healthcare to education, agriculture to industry, the purpose has remained single-minded: development must reach people directly. Whether it is making a strong public health system a reality or enhancing the state's agricultural resilience, the initiatives have borne fruit in results that speak volumes—better access, improved institutions, and increased public trust.

This sense of accountability has crossed departmental lines. Infrastructure has transcended roads and buildings to become a connectivity and economic development tool. Welfare is no longer an afterthought but an integral aspect of governance, intricately integrated into policies that cater to the needs of the downtrodden. In social justice, tribal welfare, cooperative development, and women's empowerment sectors, the policy has been inclusive, guided by the principle that true development leaves no one behind.

The magic of this model lies in coordination. Kerala's ministers have not toiled in isolation but as components of a larger system where one decision reinforces another, and the entire machinery serves the people more than the sum of its parts. This convergence of purpose has enabled ministries such as tourism, industry, and agriculture to coordinate and arrive at a common goal, constructing an economy that prioritizes sustainability as much as expansion.

In an era in which so many democracies experience fragmented intent, Kerala's government demonstrates what can be achieved when public service continues to be the guiding ethic of political office. There is no flawlessness in this process, and there is certainly no space for smugness. But there is an effort that can be seen to lead not for the headlines, but for results-to translate promises into policy, and policy into change that endures.

Good governance, come to think of it, is not measured by shrill assertions but by subtle changes. In Kerala, such transformation is visible in the deepened institutions, in the empowered local governments, in the increased confidence of its people. It is a demonstration that if leadership and purpose coincide, then governance can become a force for the common good.

Warm regards,

Nijith Raj

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NEW KERALA IN MOTION

FOUR YEARS OF STEADY TRANSFORMATION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PINARAYI VIJAYAN



As the second Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government completes four years in office, Kerala finds itself at a critical juncture of reflection and anticipation. Having maintained an unbroken term of governance since 2016, this administration has presented not just continuity, but a bold, determined stride towards what it envisions as a “New Kerala” -a future-ready society rooted in justice, equity, and sustainable growth.

This vision is not abstract. It has been articulated, refined, and actively pursued through focused policy initiatives, structural reforms, and high-impact infrastructure developments. From the outset, the government positioned itself not as a passive caretaker but as an active agent of transformation, committed to bridging Kerala’s traditional strengths with modern demands. The blueprint for development, unveiled and regularly updated through public reports is framed by considering ground realities, including fiscal limitations, shifting global economics, post-pandemic recovery and policy challenges at the national level.

Despite these challenges, Kerala’s progress narrative under the current administration has been consistent and layered. One of the most visible markers of change lies in the state’s infrastructural leap. Landmark projects such as the Vizhinjam International Seaport have moved beyond political cycles and into functional reality. Though conceptualized earlier, it was under the present LDF government’s leadership that its execution found clarity and pace. Highway expansion, a long-standing bottleneck in Kerala’s narrow geography, has seen renewed life, with landowners compensated fairly, and construction continuing even amid central fund shortages. Kochi Metro’s expansion, the commissioning of Kannur Airport, and ongoing developments such as the Coastal and Hill Highways, the Kochi-





Bangalore Industrial Corridor, and the pioneering Water Metro system reflect a government that has chosen to build rather than defer.

Yet, the soul of this governance lies beyond steel and concrete. Welfare has remained central to the LDF's approach. Recruitment through the Kerala Public Service Commission has exceeded 2.8 lakh appointments since 2016. The LIFE Mission's ambitious goal of housing the homeless has achieved 4.5 lakh homes by March 2025, addressing one of the most fundamental human needs with scale and speed. Land ownership, historically fraught in the state's agrarian structure, has seen course correction through 4 lakh title deeds distributed so far with a further lakh promised within the next year.

Health and education, two traditional pillars of Kerala's human development model, have been treated not as legacy sectors but as evolving missions. Investments in primary health centres have transformed them into upgraded family health units in more than two-thirds of all panchayats. District hospitals are now equipped

for super-specialty care, and more than ₹7,000 crore worth of healthcare services have been provided free of cost in the last four years are vital achievements in the aftermath of a global health crisis. In parallel, the school education system has been given a structural and technological facelift. With over ₹5,000 crore poured into the public schooling infrastructure and over 50,000 classrooms modernized, the government has positioned the next generation of Keralites to compete in a knowledge economy. Robotics and artificial intelligence are no longer the future but part of today's curriculum for both students and teachers. Higher education too has responded with maturity as eight universities and hundreds of colleges have now earned NAAC accreditations, attesting to academic quality and institutional credibility.

Kerala's transition into a digital society has been marked by bold, symbolic, and functional steps. The establishment of India's first Digital University, the unveiling of the Graphene Innovation Centre, and the Digital Science Park are milestones that



speak to a government thinking decades ahead. The K-FON broadband initiative, designed to ensure internet access for all, has connected government institutions and households to reliable high-speed data, anchoring Kerala's digital inclusivity drive.

In the sphere of economic generation, the government has laid emphasis on both industry and entrepreneurship. The MSME sector has received over ₹92,000 crore in investment, with an impressive five lakh new jobs created. Reforms like K-SWIFT and K-SIS have streamlined business operations, making Kerala a top performer in national ease-of-doing-business rankings. Agriculture, often seen as a sector in decline, has been revitalized through productivity measures that pushed paddy and vegetable yields higher, safeguarding both food security and rural livelihoods.

The growth in tourism further demonstrates Kerala's ability to innovate within its identity. With 2.5 crore domestic visitors and over 7.5 lakh international tourists in the past year alone, the state's experiment with new formats such as adventure tourism, caravan experiences, and film-linked travel has proven successful. Disaster recovery and rehabilitation, a recurring requirement in the monsoon-heavy terrain of Kerala, have also been handled with precision—the ₹351 crore investment in the Wayanad landslide rehabilitation is one example of a government's long-term response, not just emergency aid.

Economic stewardship, too, has received attention. Kerala has recorded a 71.66% increase in its own tax revenue since 2020-21, indicating both improved compliance and broadened tax bases. Local governance bodies, empowered to act on their planning budgets, have utilized over 110% of allocated plan funds for 2024-25. Meanwhile, the debt-to-GSDP ratio, often a source of criticism, has seen a reduction from 38% to 34% since the peak of the pandemic—a rare feat during a period marked by global slowdown and tightening credit markets.

Above all, what defines the second term of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF is its refusal to yield to inertia. Governance in Kerala, as envisioned in the "New Kerala" framework, is neither populist in appeal nor hasty in delivery. It seeks to be inclusive without being fragmented, progressive without being reckless, and modern without shedding the state's deeply ingrained values of equality, secularism, and people-centric development.

As Kerala moves closer to 2026, the momentum generated over the past four years must be matched by clarity in execution and openness to critique. The "New Kerala" project, in its spirit, demands more than administrative performance, it calls for a unity of purpose among citizens, institutions, and leadership. Whether this dream is fully realized will depend on how the people and the government move forward together — not just in the name of progress, but in its practice.

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A circular portrait of K. Rajan, a man with glasses and a white shirt, smiling. The portrait is set against a blue background and is framed by a red circular border. The entire graphic is part of a larger red ribbon-like shape that also contains a blue map of Kerala.

K. RAJAN

A MINISTER FOCUSED ON LAND, JUSTICE AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

For Kerala's Revenue and Housing Minister K. Rajan, governance is not about promises but about fixing long-standing gaps that affect ordinary people's lives. In the past year, his efforts have centred around land rights, revenue reform, rehabilitation of disaster-hit families, and building a system where the poorest in the state are not left to the mercy of files, red tape and middlemen.

One of his most visible achievements has been the large-scale pattayam (land title deed) distribution drive, aimed at solving the decades-old issue of landless farmers and settlers in the state's high-range areas. Close to 1.8 lakh title deeds have been handed out across Kerala, providing long-awaited ownership rights to families who had occupied and cultivated government land for years without legal security. This drive covered districts like Palakkad, Malappuram and Idukki in a focused manner. In Idukki alone, nearly 13,600 pattayams were distributed under this scheme. Palakkad topped the list with more than 41,000 pattayams issued, followed by Malappuram where more than 33,000 families finally received legal recognition of the land they lived and worked on.

This mission has also cleaned up past errors. In Idukki district, the controversial "Raveendran pattayams" issued illegally in the 1990s under the pretext of land assignment were cancelled. Minister Rajan made it clear that no rightful occupant would be evicted, and genuine cases would be freshly considered. The move earned both appreciation and criticism but reflected the government's intention to correct flawed administrative decisions from the past.

A major challenge was the legal hurdles that came in the way of this drive. The High Court and Supreme Court have imposed restrictions on giving pattayams in certain environmentally sensitive areas, particularly the Cardamom Hill Reserve (CHR) zones. These cases have delayed processing thousands of applications. Despite this, Rajan's ministry has pushed forward with land surveys using digital methods to speed up the process and reduce human error. A monitoring system working at village, taluk, district and state levels has also been put in place to ensure files do not get stuck for years as they often did in the past.

The Revenue Department has also been under pressure for alleged corruption in local offices, where complaints of bribe-taking for issuing certificates and documents are frequent. Minister Rajan has taken a firm public stand, warning that any official caught accepting bribes would face dismissal or demotion, not just transfer or suspension. In February 2025, he announced strict action against both corrupt staff and supervisory officers who failed to conclude departmental inquiries



within the new time frame of two months. These signals from the top have come as a strong reminder that the department must clean its act.

Rajan also had to face public criticism regarding the delay in rehabilitating landslide victims in Wayanad, especially families affected by the 2018 Puthumala tragedy. Responding in the Assembly in early 2025, he laid out a clear timeline of action. The land acquisition process was completed in October 2024, but court-related delays pushed the valuation and formal transfer till March 2025. The government's package promises not only 1,000 square feet houses but also access to new roads, bridges and support for livelihood through MSMEs and Kudumbashree projects. Minister Rajan has repeatedly pointed out that the state government submitted a ₹1,200 crore memorandum to the Centre for assistance as early as August 2024, contrary to opposition charges that Kerala was slow in seeking help.

Apart from core revenue matters, Rajan has shown interest in improving Kerala's standing as an investment destination. At events like TiEcon Kerala 2024, he presented the state as entrepreneur-friendly, highlighting how the Land Registry Act reforms and

ease of land transactions have reduced bureaucratic delay and made investment procedures simpler. His government's reforms were also showcased during the Invest Kerala Global Summit 2025, where projects worth ₹1.5 lakh crore were proposed by investors ranging from infrastructure to IT sectors.

Through all these initiatives, Minister Rajan has projected a quiet but steady political image. There have been no dramatic announcements or headline-chasing decisions, but the work on the ground—especially for land rights and poor families has been methodical. The target of making Kerala ultra-poor free by November 1, 2025, remains a key promise. If achieved, it would stand as a lasting legacy of this government.

In a state where land and livelihood are politically sensitive subjects, K. Rajan's tenure so far reflects a patient, systematic attempt to resolve problems that have festered for decades. Whether it is ending the uncertainty for settlers, correcting past policy errors, or tightening departmental discipline, his approach signals an old lesson in governance: quiet, steady work speaks louder than public noise.

REVIVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

MINISTER KADANNAPPALLI'S CULTURAL MISSION



Ramachandran Kadannappalli has been steadily shaping Kerala's cultural narrative through consistent efforts in museums, archaeology and archives, while modernizing the registration department with technology. His name dominates more than mere headlines and those watching closely see the unfolding of deliberate efforts to preserve the soul of Kerala through its history, its documents and the stories written into its soil.

At a time when historical facts are increasingly twisted or politicised, his work has focused on preservation without drama. It is not just about brick and mortar, but about memory and legacy. Ramachandran Kadannappalli has been ensuring that Kerala's cultural institutions not only protect the past but remain accessible and relevant in a changing world.

In the museum space, he has helped push Kerala into the modern age of storytelling. The shift has not been about putting new paint on old walls, but about creating thematic experiences that bring the region's rich history and cultural heritage vividly to life. New museums like the Handloom Museum in Kannur, the Natural History Museum in Thiruvananthapuram and the tribal culture showcase in Wayanad bring fresh energy to cultural spaces. They don't just show objects in glass cases. They carry meaning, rooted in community traditions and daily life.

One of the quieter but significant moves was the renovation of the Raja Ravi Varma Art Gallery. Instead of being a dusty hall of frames, it now honours the depth of one of India's greatest painters. The AKG Smriti Museum, nearly complete in Kannur, and the groundwork for a Theyyam Museum show that culture for Kadannappalli is not something frozen in the past but something that continues to live.

Accessibility has also been a strong thread through his tenure. At the Napier Museum, facilities now accommodate differently-abled visitors. There's drinking water, better restrooms and inclusive paths. A modern guided tour at the Natural History Museum reflects his belief that education and culture should meet people where they are, not the other way around.

Ramachandran Kadannappalli's leadership extended to the thoughtful expansion of Kerala's archaeological presence. Seven new museums, each built with a sense of place, now stand as open chapters of local history. These include the Gandhi Smriti Museum in Payyannur and district heritage museums in Idukki, Palakkad, Malappuram, and others. Each one tells a unique story—from Gandhi's Kerala visits to the sounds of native musical traditions.



His efforts haven't been restricted to museum interiors. He has also overseen scientific conservation work on more than a hundred heritage monuments. These are not merely repairs but restorations carried out with care, bringing buildings back to life without sacrificing their character. In places like Feroke Fort, field studies and excavations have revealed deep layers of history, from ceramic shards to military remains linked to Tipu Sultan's campaigns. Such discoveries bring new light to what textbooks might forget.

The Archives Department under his watch has also quietly stepped into the future. With the upcoming International Archives and Heritage Centre in collaboration with Kerala University, the state is looking at a new era of research and conservation. This is not just about scholars in closed rooms but also about public participation. Through the Community Archives Project, local people are being encouraged to share and preserve family documents, diaries, and records that might otherwise be lost.

Rare collections like the diaries of M. Rajaraja Varma have been added to the state's archives. At the same time, technical efforts like cataloguing scrolls and paper records ensure that the past isn't buried under bureaucratic dust. The recently inaugurated documentary on the Vaikom Satyagraha Museum is one such example, blending scholarship with public memory. The fact that a student seminar was held along with the launch speaks volumes about his priority to involve the younger generation.

Ramachandran Kadannappalli has also played a role in modernising the Registration Department, which touches citizens more directly than any museum. Under his oversight, registration offices are now cleaner, quicker and far more digital. From marriage certificates to partnership deeds, services that once required long queues and paper files can now be done online. The PEARL platform has become a backbone for easier registration, with facilities like e-stamping, e-payment, and even appointment booking. It might not sound glamorous, but for the average citizen, this is where governance becomes real.

Even the dusty records of the past are not being ignored. Documents from 1968 onward across several districts have already been digitised. Plans are underway to ensure complete transformation within the next year. And it's not just about digitising files. It's about restoring damaged records, safeguarding volumes and making systems simpler, cleaner, and accessible to all.

What makes Ramachandran Kadannappalli's work stand out is the absence of noise. There are no grand declarations or theatrics. Yet beneath the surface, a quiet revolution is taking place—one where history is respected, where government services are brought closer to the people, and where culture is preserved not as a token but as a living, breathing part of everyday life.

As he continues to move forward in 2025, there's a sense that Kerala's past is in safe hands. Not hands looking to rewrite it, but to remember it. And in this age, that itself is a remarkable achievement.

THE STEADY HANDS BEHIND KERALA'S CHANGING ROADS AND TOURISM DREAMS



In a state that has seen its fair share of loud politics and high-decibel claims, the work of P A Mohammed Riyas has stood out for being thoughtful, steady, and quietly transformative. Over the past year and a half, he has been leading Kerala's Public Works and Tourism departments, two of the most visible portfolios in government, with a mix of clarity, accountability, and creative thinking. What he has done during 2024 and the first half of 2025 has not only drawn public attention but has also reshaped the way people view governance in these sectors.

The year 2024 was when things started falling into place in a way that felt more deliberate and rooted in real people's lives. Instead of chasing temporary numbers or putting up grand shows, Riyas focused on improving the quality of Kerala's travel experiences and public spaces. One of the first things people began to notice was a different approach to tourism. Rather than the usual campaign-style promotion, the department under him started working on making Kerala more responsible and inclusive as a destination.

One of the most talked about efforts was the focus on women friendly tourism. It was not just a headline or a launch for the cameras. With active collaboration from UN Women, the department began putting systems in place to encourage women to take part in the tourism economy. Women from different districts came forward to register as entrepreneurs, drivers, guides, and homestay operators. The numbers spoke for themselves. Over seventeen thousand women became direct participants in the tourism sector within the year. This was not just about travel. It was about giving women the platform and security to enter and grow in a space that had not always welcomed them. It made a powerful difference, especially in rural parts of the state where employment opportunities for women remain limited.

Riyas also showed that he believed in reimagining public spaces. Under his watch, the government launched what many are calling one of the most practical and people-friendly policies in recent times. The Kerala Design Policy focused on reclaiming neglected or unused public spaces and turning them into places of community interaction and beauty. One example that received widespread appreciation was the transformation of a dull, forgotten railway underpass near SN College in Kollam into a bright and inviting park space. It was not an expensive project, but it meant something. It told the public that infrastructure could be both functional and joyful. That kind of work speaks louder than any press conference.

Tourism education also received a boost during this time. The new academic block at the Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies was inaugurated with the idea of building a stronger knowledge base for the industry. Riyas was clear in his message. Tourism is not a side sector. It contributes close to ten percent of Kerala's gross domestic product and has



the power to generate livelihoods across social classes. Investing in education and training was not just a box to tick but a crucial step toward long term impact.

Even on the international front, there was movement. When the Cuban ambassador visited Kerala, it was more than a diplomatic formality. The two sides spoke about sharing ideas around experiential tourism, rural tourism, and sustainable travel. It showed that Riyas was interested in learning from other models and also sharing Kerala's strengths with the world. That openness to collaboration is often rare in state level governance.

Then came 2025, and with it, a different kind of urgency. The earlier plans began to take shape on the ground. Perhaps the most people friendly tourism announcement of the year so far has been the K Homes project. The idea was to identify and register unused or vacant houses in well known tourist destinations and convert them into homely stays for visitors. It allowed local families to earn from their existing properties and created a new model of community based hospitality. It started with places like Munnar, Fort Kochi, and Kumarakom, but the model is easily scalable.

The numbers also began to tell their own story. Kerala saw over two crore twenty lakh tourists in 2024, marking a twenty one percent rise in arrivals compared to previous years. After the difficult pandemic period, this kind of growth is not just welcome. It is remarkable. And it reflects the department's consistent planning and readiness.

Public Works too saw both planned and emergency level action. When a section of National Highway 66

collapsed in May 2025 at Kooriyad, the response from Riyas was quick and clear. He did not pass the buck. Instead, he flew to Delhi, met with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and secured both accountability and a future solution. A new viaduct was promised, and the contractor responsible for the collapse was removed from future work. It was not a speech that earned him praise. It was the way he handled it.

Across the state, the work continued. He inaugurated twelve smart roads in the capital and ensured that over sixty roads maintained by the Public Works Department were upgraded with proper facilities. In Thiruvananthapuram, the Chalai Heritage Street was given a new plan for revitalization without disturbing its historical charm. These were not projects created for a photo opportunity. They were the result of consistent follow-up and inter-departmental cooperation.

Perhaps what sets P A Mohammed Riyas apart is the tone he sets. He does not promise the moon, and he rarely courts the spotlight for himself. But he listens, follows through, and stays present when it matters. His leadership is not built on loud declarations but on the strength of steady delivery and clear thinking. In an era where public trust in governance often depends on visible results, he has managed to carve out a space as someone who understands both the weight of the office he holds and the hopes of the people he serves.

As the rest of 2025 unfolds, many in Kerala are watching to see how his ideas and projects continue to shape the landscape. But one thing is already clear. Whether on roads, in tourism, or in the minds of the people, Riyas has already left his mark.

LEADING KERALA'S RURAL TRANSFORMATION

MINISTER J. CHINCHURANI'S VISION FOR DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK PROSPERITY



In Kerala's development story of the past year, the transformation of the dairy and livestock sector stands out not for its noise or spectacle, but for its quiet and steady impact on the lives of thousands of farmers across the state. Under the able leadership of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister J. Chinchurani, this sector has undergone a remarkable shift—blending scientific advancement, grassroots reach, and social welfare into a model that promises rural prosperity, food security, and economic resilience.

The government's conscious decision to decentralise veterinary care has changed the way livestock health is managed across Kerala. Where veterinary aid was once difficult to access in remote areas, mobile veterinary units now operate in 29 blocks, with an ambitious plan to extend this service to 47 more in the near future. These mobile units are not mere ambulances; they are fully equipped lifelines providing critical healthcare to animals in regions that lack easy access to veterinary clinics. This effort is further supported by state-of-the-art mobile surgical units and tele-veterinary services fitted with X-ray, scanning, and minor surgical equipment in districts like Kollam, Kannur, and Ernakulam. The establishment of 24x7 veterinary centres in 31 locations is another milestone, ensuring that emergencies no longer go unaddressed regardless of the hour.

A fresh force of 60 Junior Resident Veterinary Doctors, all newly graduated and specially trained, have been deployed in rural centres. Their presence reflects not only an investment in manpower but a vision of continuous and localised animal healthcare. These young professionals are becoming the face of modern public veterinary care in the state, representing a generational shift towards more scientific, compassionate livestock management.

Minister Chinchurani's tenure also saw decisive financial intervention to secure farmer livelihoods through the Rebuild Kerala initiative. Over ₹77 crore was invested to support small and marginal farmers by distributing cows, goats, poultry, pigs, and ducks to rural households. For many families, these animals are not mere possessions but essential sources of income, food, and financial stability. Complementing this, subsidies for cattle sheds and fodder have improved farm infrastructure across the state, while advanced sex-sorted semen technology, now introduced in 10 districts, is changing the way animal breeding is approached—bringing improved genetic quality and higher milk yields to the field.

The establishment of major infrastructure projects marks another highlight of the Minister's achievements. The hi-tech dairy farm at Kuryottumala, a modern hatchery at Thottathara, and the goat farming centre at Parassala are setting new benchmarks in livestock rearing. In Thiruvananthapuram, the upcoming multi-specialty veterinary hospital at Kudappanakunnu is poised to offer advanced treatments that were once out of reach for the rural population.

Under the Minister's direction, Kerala has strengthened its capacity to handle zoonotic diseases with scientific rigour. The introduction of rabies antibody



detection at the State Institute for Animal Diseases is a first for the state, while laboratories in Palakkad, Ernakulam, and Thiruvananthapuram have secured NABL accreditation—assuring accurate and timely diagnosis of animal diseases that also impact public health. Such advancements underline the state's serious approach to the intersection of animal welfare and human safety.

Policy reform has gone hand in hand with technological progress. Farm licensing rules under the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act have been streamlined to reduce procedural delays, making it easier for farmers to operate without bureaucratic hurdles. The Gosamrudhi cattle insurance scheme, launched earlier in 2016, now covers over 2.5 lakh animals, offering protection against unexpected losses. Pilot initiatives like e-health management systems and the deployment of the A-HELP workforce are modernising veterinary service delivery—linking digital innovations directly to grassroots needs.

Dairy development has received similar focused attention. Over the last three years alone, nearly ₹305 crore has been invested to strengthen this critical sector. The 2022 milk price revision ensured that farmers received an additional ₹5.08 per litre, pushing Kerala to become the first state in India where more than 83% of milk sale profits directly reach the producer. This has injected fresh energy into rural economies, encouraging more participation in dairy farming.

Since 2016, 170 new dairy cooperatives have been registered, reviving the spirit of collective enterprise in villages. Financial aid has also been extended to 121 struggling societies, helping them return to viability. In flood-prone areas like Kuttanad, where farmers often battle nature's fury, the establishment of Elevated Community Cattle Sheds has offered protection to livestock during disasters—a timely and practical

innovation that secures both lives and livelihoods.

Fodder and feed security, often overlooked, has also been strengthened. The Fodder Financial Assistance Scheme with an outlay of ₹11.83 crore ensured the availability of feed even during crisis periods like floods and the pandemic. A new program launched in 2023-24 encourages natural fodder cultivation linked to cooperative milk procurement networks—ensuring that the supply chain from field to dairy remains uninterrupted.

Kerala's milk production has shown steady progress, increasing from 25.2 lakh metric tonnes in 2016-17 to 25.8 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24. The average yield of 10.77 litres per crossbred cow places the state among the top performers nationally—a testament to the effectiveness of genetic improvement and better feeding practices.

The launch of landmark infrastructure like the ₹131 crore milk powder factory at Moorkanal in Malappuram, supported by NABARD and the Malabar Regional Union, is set to reduce Kerala's dependence on imports, stabilising domestic prices and supply. The Ksheerasree portal, introduced in 2021, has brought thousands of dairy cooperatives and farmers onto a single digital platform, streamlining transactions, subsidies, and record-keeping. Its success has been recognised at both state and national levels with prestigious e-Governance Awards.

What sets Kerala's dairy and livestock achievements apart is the seamless blending of compassion, science, and policy—driven by the vision and leadership of Minister J. Chinchurani. It is not just a story of animal welfare or farmer support; it is a quiet but decisive rural revolution. As other states look for ways to build rural prosperity and food security, Kerala has offered a working model rooted in sustainability, technological progress, and above all, the wellbeing of its people and their animals.

KERALA'S INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE UNDER MINISTER P. RAJEEVE



In recent times, Kerala's industrial landscape has undergone a transformation that few anticipated but one that was clearly the result of vision, planning, and steady execution. At the centre of this revival is Minister P. Rajeeve, whose leadership in the industries department has not only attracted investments but has also helped foster a renewed spirit of entrepreneurship across the state. His term has marked a period of bold thinking and decisive action, setting the tone for a more industry-friendly Kerala.

Perhaps the most celebrated feather in Kerala's industrial cap was the 'Year of Enterprises' initiative, which was recognised at the national level as a model of best practice in the MSME sector. With over three lakh enterprises established in a short span of time, and with investments crossing twenty-one thousand crore rupees, the ripple effect was immense. Close to seven and a half lakh jobs were created, a significant portion of them benefiting women entrepreneurs. It was the first time Kerala witnessed this scale of job creation and enterprise registration in such a short period, setting a benchmark for other states.

Under P. Rajeeve's watch, the state made a remarkable leap in the Ease of Doing Business rankings, jumping from the twenty eighth to the fifteenth position nationally. Kerala is now actively chasing the number one spot, a goal that seemed far-fetched just a few years ago. The Invest Kerala Global Summit was another highlight, with over five thousand delegates from across the world attending and investment commitments touching an astonishing one point seven five lakh crore rupees. Major global companies, including leaders in emerging technologies, took part and opened avenues for further collaborations.

The momentum did not stop at conferences and rankings. New rules and disbursement mechanisms were introduced to simplify procedures and promote transparency. This included streamlining land transfer processes, enabling quicker modifications to industrial structures, and easing deed changes within industrial estates. For the first time, real administrative hurdles were tackled with solutions that benefited investors and local entrepreneurs alike.

In parallel, several public sector enterprises saw a turnaround. Institutions like Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, which had once struggled, posted record profits. Kerala Paper Products Limited, once in central control and dormant, emerged as a point of state pride. SIDCO maintained over two hundred crore rupees in turnover for two consecutive years, something not achieved in over a decade. KMML also crossed the thousand crore turnover mark and introduced indigenous technology to extract iron from iron oxide. Foam Mattings Limited, which had suffered for nearly two decades, returned to profit after targeted interventions.



Kerala's relationship with global brands also saw a shift. Walmart signed an agreement with the Kerala Coir Corporation to market coir products, the first such agreement between Walmart and any public sector enterprise in India. Exports to Central Asian countries were initiated, and coir yarn was even sent to the Golden Temple. It was a clear sign that Kerala's traditional industries were being brought into the twenty first century with fresh direction.

The minister's commitment to building future-ready infrastructure was evident in the rise of new industrial parks. Thirty-one private parks received approval, several began operations, and others are under construction. The idea of integrating colleges into the industrial ecosystem also gained traction, with over eighty higher education institutions showing interest in the Campus Industrial Parks initiative.

A number of industrial hubs also took shape during this time. The multi-storey estates in Alappuzha and Thrissur began allotting space to new entrepreneurs. Advanced technology parks were created in places like Ramanattukara, while a modern exhibition centre was developed in Kochi. Kerala's first Spices Park began functioning. Another ambitious plan, the Kochi Bangalore Industrial Corridor, received approval and is expected to attract investments worth over ten thousand crore rupees and generate more than a lakh jobs.

In the field of technology and electronics, Keltron stood out with record-breaking turnover and crucial

contributions to national space and defence missions including Chandrayaan and Aditya. It also partnered with Norwegian firms for joint manufacturing and became a supplier of core defence equipment. Keltron's role in building India's first super capacitor unit highlighted how Kerala was not just a consumer of technology but also a producer.

A number of global players began operations in Kerala during this period. Companies such as IBM, HCL, Acsia Technologies and Safran in aerospace found the state's environment suitable for expansion. IBM's establishment of a Generative AI Innovation Centre, the only one of its kind in the world to launch two centres in one state within two years, was an indicator of the trust Kerala earned among global tech leaders. The fact that oil and gas giant NOV opened its India Global Capability Centre in the state further reinforced this point.

Behind these numbers, announcements, and statistics is a shift in mindset. The industries department, once seen as a mere administrative body, has transformed under Minister Rajeev into an agency of innovation and impact. What is truly notable is not just the investment figures or global brands but the way Kerala's young entrepreneurs, women, and local businesses have been drawn into the industrial movement. The story of 2024 and 2025 is not just about big numbers but about inclusion, empowerment, and a deeper commitment to making Kerala a truly industrially vibrant state.

DR. R. BINDU LEADS KERALA'S HIGHER EDUCATION INTO A NEW ERA OF EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE



Kerala continues to redefine the boundaries of equitable development through bold educational reforms, forward-looking digital initiatives, and inclusive welfare programmes that place people at the heart of progress. Under the Navakerala initiative, the state has made notable strides in aligning academic growth with social justice, reinforcing its vision of a knowledge-driven, welfare-oriented society.

Over the past four years, the Higher Education Department, led by Minister Dr. R. Bindu, has overseen sweeping reforms that are now bearing fruit. A landmark development has been the implementation of four-year undergraduate programmes across all state universities, underpinned by a unified academic calendar. The move marked the introduction of a comprehensive curriculum framework for higher education, a first in the state's history, ensuring both academic continuity and research exposure for students.

To ensure these reforms take root across institutional levels, the government has sanctioned nearly 1,000 undergraduate and over 200 postgraduate programmes while facilitating the opening of 73 new colleges—expanding access to over 30,000 additional seats.

Dr. Bindu's tenure has also witnessed a clear focus on digital transformation. The Kerala Resource for Educational Administration and Planning (K-REAP) software, now successfully implemented at Kannur University, is being adopted across other universities to streamline everything from examinations to results. In a related move, Centres for Skill Development and Career Planning are being set up across higher education institutions, supporting programs like "Industry on Campus" and "Connect Career to Campus."

In May 2024, Dr. Bindu launched the first phase of Kerala's four-year UG curriculum from MES KVM College, and by January 2025, she had announced ₹6,000 crore worth of projects in the sector, including South India's largest laboratory complex at the University of Kerala and Mahatma Gandhi University. This investment has strengthened infrastructure and supported over 13 lakh students across disciplines. The ₹280 crore Centre of Excellence and Translational Research Centre at MG University is one such example of the state's long-term academic vision taking shape.

Innovation has found solid footing through the establishment of Centres of Excellence in emerging fields. These include the Tanu Padmanabhan Centre of Excellence in Astronomy, the Centre for Brain Health at CUSAT, and the Nano Science Centre at MG University. Further, autonomous



inter-university research facilities have become key to knowledge generation, while Young Innovation Clubs and vocational incubators have expanded opportunities for student entrepreneurship and research training.

With the signing of an MoU between the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology and the Institute of Human Resources Development in June 2025, Kerala is now positioning itself at the cutting edge of biotechnology education and training. The agreement is expected to bolster the state's research ecosystem and open new avenues for student-industry collaboration.

Academic recognition too has followed. As of late 2024, Kerala boasts 92 NAAC-accredited institutions. Notably, the University of Kerala and MG University earned A++ ratings, while 16 government colleges were ranked among the top 100 in the country. State universities consistently appeared in top NIRF rankings, with Kerala University placed 21st and CUSAT 34th.

To support this academic ecosystem, the government has disbursed over ₹20 crore through a five-year scholarship plan for undergraduate and postgraduate students, while more than ₹7 crore has been allocated for research fellowships, including the Chief Minister's Navakerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship. In January 2024, Dr. Bindu announced a ₹10 crore scheme aimed at supporting short-term international research collaborations and the development of translational labs.

Efforts toward inclusivity remain central. In May

2025, she inaugurated a DGCA-approved drone pilot training program at Nagaroor, designed to align education with emerging employment sectors. In parallel, the state allocated ₹6 crore for supporting neurodivergent children's education, reflecting its ongoing commitment to accessible and empathetic schooling.

Outside the classroom, Kerala's vision for a compassionate society is seen in its initiatives for elderly care, disability rights, and transgender empowerment. From Sayamprabha Homes for seniors to the Varnnam Scheme for transgender students pursuing higher education, the state has taken an integrated approach to equity. Assistive devices, scholarships, mental health counselling, and employment support programs have reached thousands under a model of socially responsive governance.

Institutional infrastructure has been significantly strengthened. KIIFB projects worth over ₹1,800 crore and RUSA-supported developments worth ₹433 crore have transformed university campuses. Calicut University alone received ₹53 crore for campus improvements, while headquarters for Malayalam University and the Higher Education Council have also been funded.

In a state where policy and purpose converge, Kerala's higher education story is no longer confined to classrooms. It is woven into its development trajectory, where innovation, compassion, and academic excellence move hand in hand.



K. N. BALAGOPAL STEADFAST LEADERSHIP STEERING KERALA'S FINANCIAL STABILITY

When Finance Minister K. N Balagopal rose to present Kerala's 2025–26 budget, the mood in the assembly was clear—the state had weathered one of its most challenging financial periods in recent history. Against the backdrop of severe fiscal constraints and diminishing central assistance, Kerala's government has not only maintained development and welfare programmes but has also achieved remarkable progress in self-reliance and capital investment. This achievement stands as a testament to the meticulous planning, prudent financial management, and bold leadership of Balagopal, who has steered the state through economic turbulence with a steady hand.

One of the most notable aspects of Kerala's fiscal journey under Balagopal has been the substantial increase in the state's own revenue. From ₹25,718 crore in 2011–12, Kerala's tax revenue has seen a consistent rise, touching ₹81,627 crore in 2024–25, with a target of ₹91,515 crore set for the next financial year. Non-tax revenues too have climbed steadily—from ₹2,592 crore in 2011–12 to a projected ₹17,906 crore in 2024–25, with aspirations of reaching ₹19,145 crore in 2025–26. These figures reflect a well-laid strategy that focuses on boosting the state's internal resources rather than depending heavily on central transfers.

But while Kerala's own revenue has strengthened, its share from the central government has been steadily shrinking—a concern Balagopal has repeatedly voiced. In 2016–17, Kerala received 32 percent of its revenue from the Centre; today, that share has fallen to just 25 percent. Compared to the ₹42,629 crore received in 2020–21, Kerala got only ₹33,397 crore in 2024–25—a 20 percent reduction over four years. This sharp decline has placed extra pressure on the state's own coffers, forcing the government to adopt strict fiscal discipline while ensuring that essential schemes remain unaffected.

Public and capital expenditure under Balagopal's stewardship has not only been maintained but has grown meaningfully. During the UDF government from 2011 to 2016, Kerala's average annual public spending stood at ₹68,169 crore. This rose to ₹1,15,378 crore during the first Pinarayi Vijayan government. Over the past four years, the LDF government has raised this average to ₹1,65,061 crore. For the coming fiscal year, the total planned expenditure stands at ₹2,00,354 crore—a bold move signalling the government's intent to sustain development momentum.

In capital expenditure too, the state has shown resilience. From ₹16,787 crore in 2022–23 to ₹16,880 crore in 2023–24, the figure stood at ₹13,579 crore by January 2025, registering a year-on-year increase despite borrowing restrictions. The restrictions imposed by the Centre on state borrowings, alongside a reduction in grants-in-aid, have undoubtedly made things more difficult. Yet Kerala has found ways to push forward



prioritising projects that generate economic returns and social impact.

A significant challenge continues to be Kerala's poor share in the divisible pool of central taxes. Despite accounting for 62.5 percent of public expenditure among states, Kerala receives only 1.92 percent of the central divisible pool—compared to the 17.94 percent allocated to Uttar Pradesh or 10.06 percent to Bihar. This imbalance, combined with the cessation of GST compensation in 2022, has resulted in an annual revenue shortfall of ₹12,000 crore for Kerala.

Adding to the burden is the reclassification of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) and Pension Company borrowings as state debt, which has further reduced the state's borrowing headroom by ₹16,433 crore. Funds deposited by government employees and the public in treasury accounts have also been counted against the state's debt, causing an additional reduction of ₹39,720 crore in borrowing limits. These constraints have not deterred Kerala from staying on track with its welfare and development agenda—a remarkable feat under such fiscal strain.

Despite these adversities, the state government has ensured that welfare programmes, including pensions, remain uninterrupted. From March 2024 onwards, welfare pensions have been disbursed every month without delay. Of the five pending pension instalments, two were cleared by early 2024, with the rest planned for disbursement in the 2024–25 fiscal

year. The government has also absorbed the financial impact of salary and pension revisions initiated by the previous administration, while increasing the honorarium of ASHA workers twice during its term.

Kerala has shouldered the entire financial burden of the Vizhinjam Port Project, as central funding for such large-scale infrastructure ventures has diminished. State resources are now supporting projects like Kochi Metro, Kannur Airport, Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), Kerala Gramin Bank, and KSRTC—all vital to the state's economy and public welfare.

Development in sectors such as agriculture, health, education, coastal protection, and tourism continues despite financial strain. Kerala's investments in IT infrastructure, electric vehicle promotion, green energy, and life sciences have also grown, underpinning its long-term growth vision.

In every sense, K. N Balagopal's tenure reflects an approach rooted in fiscal responsibility, social commitment, and strategic foresight. Through tough economic terrain, the state has maintained its welfare and development priorities, emerging as a model of resilience in Indian federal finance. Kerala's journey towards greater financial self-sufficiency and reduced dependency stands out as a quiet but firm assertion of state autonomy—a story written not in slogans but in sustained effort.

A PROGRESSIVE CHAPTER IN KERALA'S EDUCATION

V SIVANKUTTY'S TRANSFORMATIVE TOUCH



As a new academic year begins across Kerala, classrooms are buzzing not just with student chatter but with the signs of meaningful change. At the forefront of this evolution is V Sivankutty, the state's Minister for General Education and Labour. Since 2024, his tenure has brought in a wave of initiatives aimed at modernising education while ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all.

Kerala has always been proud of its literacy record and strong public education system. Yet, Sivankutty's approach has added new momentum. His policies reflect a clear intent—to prepare students for a changing world without losing sight of the values and cultural richness Kerala holds dear.

One of the standout reforms has been the annual revision of school textbooks. Moving away from static content, textbooks are now updated every year to include recent advancements in science, technology and contemporary affairs. This approach ensures that students are learning material that is relevant and current, helping them stay engaged and informed.

Technology integration has also taken centre stage. Kerala has introduced artificial intelligence into the curriculum for Class Seven, with plans to expand further. In partnership with KITE, the state has begun developing its own AI engine. Over twenty-nine thousand robotics kits have been distributed, and more than four lakh Class Ten students are now engaged in hands-on robotics learning. Teachers have been trained to guide this transformation, marking a big step toward making students future ready.

Academic planning too has undergone important changes. Daily school hours were extended by thirty minutes and the number of working days increased to strengthen learning outcomes. These adjustments followed expert and legal recommendations and aim to create a more disciplined and effective academic environment.

Looking ahead, the government has announced that the minimum age for Class One admission will be raised to six years from 2026. This aligns with national guidelines and ensures that children begin formal education at a more developmentally appropriate stage.

In a significant move toward educational equity, the government created over eighty one thousand additional Plus One seats across government and aided schools. This ensured that every student who passed the SSLC exam could continue their studies without being left behind due to a lack of seats.



Sivankutty has also paid special attention to extracurricular and co-curricular activities. The first ever Kerala School Olympics held in 2024 saw participation from around twenty four thousand students, including those with disabilities as that was a major step toward inclusive sports. At the same time, the School Arts Festival introduced tribal art forms into the competition, giving representation to communities often left out of mainstream cultural platforms. The inclusion of Kalaripayattu, Kerala's traditional martial art, in school sports has further enriched the cultural identity of the younger generation.

Student welfare has been a consistent priority. Anti-ragging cells are being introduced in schools, and a high-level committee has been proposed to monitor and address cases of bullying and harassment. The state also launched a wide-reaching drug awareness induction programme, reaching over four lakh higher secondary students with essential information about substance abuse and prevention.

Even school tours were brought under scrutiny. Sivankutty made it clear that educational excursions must be affordable and that students should not be made to feel left out because of financial constraints. Schools were directed to communicate tour-related expenses privately to parents, reflecting a more compassionate and practical approach.

Another notable initiative was the Children's Cleanliness Summit which promoted zero-waste living and environmental responsibility among school students. It showed the minister's belief that education should go beyond textbooks and foster responsible citizenship.

In a short span, V Sivankutty has steered Kerala's education system with clarity and care. His vision balances innovation with tradition and academic excellence with empathy. As these reforms take root, the state once again sets an example for how education can be a powerful tool for progress, equity and cultural pride.



VEENA GEORGE

QUIET LEADERSHIP IN STRENGTHENING KERALA'S PUBLIC HEALTH

Some public figures make news through bold declarations or high-profile interventions. Kerala's Health Minister Veena George is not one of them. Her method has been different—less spectacle, more substance. Over the past year, her tenure has been marked by a quiet, steady overhaul of the state's public health machinery, resulting in meaningful progress that may not grab headlines but deeply affects people's lives.

One of the major strengths of her leadership has been foresight. As climate-linked diseases became a growing threat across Kerala, the health department, under her direction, prepared in advance. Risk zones were mapped, district-level micro plans drawn, and early warnings issued, which allowed health workers to move quickly and contain outbreaks of dengue, leptospirosis, rabies and other seasonal diseases before they could spread widely. This systematic readiness proved critical in reducing the annual disease burden.

Even as COVID-19 faded from public concern, Veena George ensured that hospitals remained watchful. When a slight rise in cases appeared in 2025, the state's health system responded not with alarm but with calm vigilance. Protocols for patient monitoring and mask usage in sensitive hospital areas were enforced without causing panic, keeping both patients and healthcare workers safe.

A major breakthrough came with Kerala becoming the first state in India to detect and treat a case of amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare but deadly infection, using its own diagnostic facilities. Thanks to the new molecular laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram, the disease was correctly identified and the patient's life saved. This quiet strengthening of diagnostic capability reflects the minister's commitment to behind-the-scenes improvements that make a real difference.

Another serious concern addressed under her watch has been antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a global health challenge. Kerala rolled out a statewide AMR strategy last year, leading to the cancellation of over 450 pharmacy licences for violations. Hospitals adopted stricter antibiotic usage protocols, and awareness campaigns covered nearly four lakh households. As a result, the state has already seen signs of reduced antibiotic misuse, a crucial achievement in protecting public health for the long term.



Kerala's public health infrastructure itself has expanded significantly. In 2024–25, the state provided completely free medical care to over 6.5 lakh people, a sharp increase from 2.5 lakh in 2021. These gains came without fanfare but through determined administrative effort.

Palliative care, a field often neglected elsewhere, has received careful attention. Kerala now boasts a strong network connecting more than 1,000 primary units, hundreds of secondary centres and over 500 NGO-run services across the state. The entire system is expected to go digital by the end of this year, ensuring better monitoring and improved delivery to the state's most vulnerable patients.

Institutional capacity has also grown. In December 2024, Ernakulam General Hospital introduced eleven new services, including paediatric palliative care and advanced diagnostic facilities. It also received clearance to perform heart and kidney transplants, widening critical care options. The approval of a ₹644 crore transplant centre at Kozhikode in June 2025 further underlined the government's resolve to decentralise and strengthen transplant services.

Grassroots health workers too have seen empowerment. Kerala continues to offer the country's highest honoraria to its ASHA workers, between ₹10,000 and ₹13,500 per month, and has urged the Centre to bring them under formal labour protections.

The state also emerged on top of India's food safety index this year, while its "One Health" initiative trained thousands of volunteers to detect early signs of human, animal and environmental health threats.

For Veena George, public service has meant quiet, patient change rather than spectacle. Her record suggests that progress, when built carefully and steadily, leaves a lasting mark.



K. KRISHNANKUTTY'S SILENT POWER

A STORY OF STEADY HANDS AND REAL IMPACT

In the loud and crowded corridors of politics, real work often gets drowned out by theatrics. But there are still leaders who prefer quiet results to noisy headlines. Kerala's Electricity Minister, K Krishnankutty, is one such figure. He doesn't chase television debates or viral social media posts. Instead, he works behind the scenes, making sure that when the heat rises or disaster strikes, the state's power grid stays steady.

In early 2024, Kerala braced for what would become one of its hottest years. Electricity demand soared, with daily consumption repeatedly crossing 80 million units. There were real fears—about power cuts, failing transformers, and overburdened substations. But for the most part, the lights stayed on. That wasn't a stroke of luck. It was the result of groundwork laid well in advance. Under Krishnankutty's guidance, Kerala focused on the basics—upgrading substations, replacing ageing transformers, and improving rural feeders. These were not glamorous moves, but they were crucial.

He also showed openness to innovation. The introduction of time-of-day tariffs, where power is cheaper during daylight hours, encouraged households and small businesses to shift their usage and reduce the load during peak hours. It was a subtle but smart way to promote solar energy and more responsible consumption. Rooftop solar panels, once considered niche, began to make real sense to ordinary families.

A difficult but necessary decision came with the revision of power tariffs. The increase—sixteen paise per unit—was never going to be popular. But Krishnankutty didn't dodge the criticism. He explained why it was needed. Power purchase costs had risen. The Kerala State Electricity Board needed support to continue functioning. His transparency helped earn public trust, even among sceptics.

His leadership was most visible during a crisis. When landslides struck Wayanad in August 2024, entire villages lost electricity. Krishnankutty responded swiftly. Bills in the affected areas were waived, and reconnections were made free of charge. These were not grand gestures, but they mattered deeply to those struggling to get back on their feet.

At the same time, he was thinking long-term. He laid out a vision—half of Kerala's electricity from renewable sources by 2030, full green energy by 2040, and carbon neutrality by 2050. These weren't hollow promises. By 2024, Kerala had commissioned its first 400 kV gas-insulated substation. Smart meter installations had begun. Power loss across the grid, often an invisible drain, had been brought down to among the lowest in the country.



Krishnankutty also worked well with the Centre, focusing on results rather than politics. He pushed for improved coal linkages, faster clearances for renewable projects, and better support for energy storage systems. His focus was not on taking credit, but on making sure Kerala kept pace with the national energy transition.

The Dyuthi 2.0 scheme, launched to modernise the state’s power distribution, showed real progress by early 2025. Over half the planned upgrades were already complete. In districts like Idukki, Wayanad, and coastal areas, voltage fluctuations reduced significantly. Shops stayed open longer, and households finally had reliable power supply.

Importantly, remote and tribal settlements were not left behind. Krishnankutty ensured that new connections, temporary supplies during monsoons, and quick repairs were treated as priorities. It wasn’t just technical work. It was service, delivered with a sense of responsibility.

What sets Krishnankutty apart is his consistency. He doesn’t court controversy. He doesn’t seek applause. He talks in plain terms, works in quiet coordination, and makes decisions that last. In a sector where reliability is everything, his calm, methodical approach has made Kerala’s energy sector not just functional, but resilient.

People may not remember the name of a substation, but they’ll remember a summer that was bearable. They may not understand tariff models, but they’ll know their bills are clearer and fairer. That is the mark of effective public service—not in headlines, but in homes where the fan keeps turning, and the light stays on.



BALANCING NATURE AND PEOPLE

A K SASEENDRAN'S THOUGHTFUL LEADERSHIP

In a period where environmental governance often draws headlines for the wrong reasons, Kerala's Forest and Wildlife Minister A K Saseendran stands apart for his quiet and methodical way of handling responsibilities. His approach in the past year has been marked by steady ground-level work rather than noise or controversy, focusing equally on protecting nature and safeguarding the interests of people who live near forest regions.

One of the important projects progressing under his leadership is the designer zoo planned at Puthur in Thrissur. Unlike conventional zoos, this facility is designed as a habitat-based space that closely mimics the natural living conditions of animals. The project draws on the expertise of noted Australian zoo architect Jon Coe and involves partnerships with Karnataka, including planned animal exchanges featuring species such as the great hornbill, Indian gaur, and sloth bear. Spread over 136 acres, the zoo is expected to open in 2025, offering Kerala a globally competitive facility that serves both conservation and education.

The issue of human-wildlife conflict continues to remain a pressing challenge. A tragic incident earlier this year at Aralam, where a man lost his life to a wild elephant, highlighted the urgent need for stronger protective measures. Minister Saseendran personally visited the site to meet the affected families and assured residents that the long-pending elephant trench and solar fencing work would be completed without further delay. He directed that funds be immediately released and contractors held accountable so that the safety measures are in place before the next season of possible elephant movement. Such hands-on intervention reflects a commitment to resolving issues that affect the daily lives of forest-border communities.

On the policy front, the minister has actively raised concerns with the central government. He pressed for revisions to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, especially requesting a change in the conservation status of bonnet macaques. Their growing numbers in human settlements have turned into a serious nuisance and risk for local people. He also called for clarity on eco-sensitive zone notifications and advocated for the regularisation of forest lands occupied by settlers before 1977, an issue linked to the livelihood of thousands of tribal and rural families across the state.



After the destructive landslides in Wayanad, Saseendran moved swiftly to strengthen the disaster preparedness of the forest department. He ordered fresh mapping of landslide-prone zones, creation of emergency response teams for the monsoon period, and training for local forest protection committees to ensure readiness in vulnerable areas.

In a bid to support the rural economy without damaging the environment, the minister has encouraged eco-tourism projects that directly benefit tribal entrepreneurs and forest produce cooperatives. He also showed openness to honest criticism. When delays in the elephant trench project were raised, Saseendran admitted to lapses in field monitoring and immediately ordered a reshuffle of staff responsible, reinforcing the message that accountability would not be compromised.

His ministry's role in facilitating the award-winning Digitally Connected Tribal Areas Project, which won recognition from the United Nations in 2024, was also notable. The project, though multi-departmental, depended on clearances and support from the forest department, which the minister ensured without delay.

Through quiet persistence rather than public spectacle, A K Saseendran's leadership over the past year reflects a belief in lasting, on-the-ground impact. It is a reminder that real progress, especially in sensitive areas like environmental management, often comes not from grand announcements but from careful, patient work that respects both nature and people.



K. B. GANESH KUMAR BRINGING ORDER AND SENSE TO KERALA'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT

K. B. Ganesh Kumar took charge as Kerala's Minister for Transport, Motor Vehicles and Water Transport in December 2023, at a time when the state's transport sector was weighed down by public dissatisfaction, financial strain and operational indiscipline. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), in particular, had been a problem zone for successive governments. When Ganesh Kumar stepped into this complex space, he did not make grand promises or big announcements. Instead, he chose a slow but deliberate approach to reform.

His first priority was setting the right tone inside KSRTC. Within weeks of assuming office, he sent a strong message to the staff about discipline and behaviour towards the public. KSRTC conductors were specifically warned against unnecessary questioning of passengers, especially women. Late evening passengers, particularly women travellers, were given the right to request stops at convenient points for their safety. This move, though simple, restored a basic sense of respect and concern in the service.

Ganesh Kumar also instructed the staff to prevent entry of intoxicated passengers into buses, a routine problem that had been left unchecked for years. In his own words, "A public transport service must carry dignity along with passengers." These early steps earned quiet praise from regular commuters who had long felt helpless against the declining quality of service.

But improving public behaviour was only one part of his mission. KSRTC's financial health was another pressing concern. While reports indicated that the corporation had achieved a small operational profit on some routes, Ganesh Kumar did not fall into the trap of declaring a sudden turnaround. Instead, he personally reviewed KSRTC's fleet performance and made route rationalisation a priority. Loss-making and poorly populated routes were pruned while services in profitable corridors were strengthened.

His cautious approach seemed to pay off. In December 2024, KSRTC posted its highest ever single-day revenue collection of ₹9.22 crores. This achievement was the result of better route planning, improved vehicle utilisation and tighter financial monitoring. It was a welcome signal that a public sector transport body could, with careful management, move closer to viability without heavy state subsidies.

Ganesh Kumar also showed an ability to balance conflicting interests. Within the government, and even within the ruling coalition, there were



murmurs about KSRTC’s over-reliance on diesel buses while the rest of India was talking about electrification. The minister, however, avoided rushing headlong into the electric push. Instead, he argued for a gradual, mixed approach—expanding the electric fleet where viable but retaining diesel and CNG options where necessary for long-distance and hilly terrain services. This was a practical stance in a political environment that often-chased technology headlines without worrying about ground realities.

Perhaps one of his more controversial ideas was to introduce tougher driving tests for new licence applicants. His proposal to channel licence seekers through KSRTC training schools for stricter tests drew sharp reactions. The Chief Minister himself stepped in to keep the proposal on hold after concerns about practical feasibility and fairness were raised. Still, the idea sparked a debate about the low standards of driving skills on Kerala’s roads and the urgent need for reform.

Ganesh Kumar’s focus was not limited to road transport. As Minister for Water Transport too, he started discussions on modernising Kerala’s inland water services, though no major announcements have come from this front yet. Insiders in the department suggest that plans are underway to upgrade boats and jetty facilities in the state’s backwater regions, but these remain at an early stage.

Another area where Ganesh Kumar made his mark was in maintaining a low political profile while pushing administrative reforms. In an age where ministers are quick to seek credit and headline space, his decision to avoid public showmanship stood out. When asked about turning KSRTC profitable, he replied with humility that the corporation’s deep-rooted problems would need time, care and patience to solve—not miracle solutions or overnight success stories.

Critics of Ganesh Kumar point out that certain issues remain untouched. KSRTC’s old reputation for rude drivers and careless handling of passenger grievances still lingers. Complaints of bus delays, breakdowns and accidents also persist, although there have been noticeable improvements in recent months. The minister himself has acknowledged these gaps and promised to tighten driver training and fleet maintenance in the coming year.

Ganesh Kumar’s performance as Transport Minister over the past year has been marked by a rare mix of realism, quiet efficiency and administrative sense. In a department long used to slogans and promises, his measured approach is a refreshing change. Whether this will be enough to bring lasting change to Kerala’s troubled public transport sector remains to be seen, but for now, the signs are positive. He has shown that even in government service, small but serious corrections can make a visible difference.



P. PRASAD

A MINISTER WHO WALKS WITH THE FARMER

In a state where agriculture faces shifting climates, rising costs, and market pressures, P. Prasad has emerged as a grounded and determined force. As Kerala's Agriculture Minister, his approach over the past year has been marked by clarity, consistency, and a rare connection to the land and its people. There are no dramatic announcements or publicity campaigns surrounding him. What defines his work is visible progress, rooted in both policy and action.

One of the most important developments under his leadership came in November 2024, when Kerala secured the World Bank-supported KERA project. With a total outlay of ₹2,365 crore, the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation Programme is a game-changer. It focuses on making agriculture climate-resilient, improving value addition, supporting farmer producer organisations, and preparing systems for emergency response. Over four lakh farmers are expected to benefit directly, while ten lakh more will be reached through infrastructure and market linkages. Notably, ₹76 crore is reserved for women-led initiatives, giving a strong push to gender-inclusive farming growth.

Closer to home, Prasad made headlines for a different reason. On a modest plot of thirty cents in his constituency of Cherthala, he cultivated three varieties of marigold, producing over 3,000 flowers. This wasn't a publicity stunt. It was a message to farmers and the public alike. If a minister can plant, tend, and harvest, so can anyone. His marigold experiment gave a boost to local floriculture, inspiring self-help groups and small-scale farmers to revive flower farming, particularly ahead of festival seasons when demand peaks.

Another idea that gained momentum was his call to build a unique Kerala identity for agricultural products. Through a network of farmer producer organisations—more than 1,000 of which have now been formed—Prasad encouraged farmers to move beyond raw produce and enter the space of branding, packaging, and value addition. This is where the concept of the 'Kerala Brand' emerged, tying together food quality, local pride, and health-conscious consumer choices. From millets to organic vegetables, this label is helping Kerala producers carve a niche in wider markets.

Supporting this was the launch of Kerala Agro Business Company (KABCO), a public sector initiative designed to encourage entrepreneurship in agriculture. The company works closely with agro-parks and FPOs to promote value-added products. At the same time, Kerala Agricultural University began exploring new areas like fruit wine and betel-based products, all aimed at boosting farmer incomes and reducing waste.



To back these ideas with practical support, Prasad rolled out farmer ID cards across regions like Angamaly. These cards are not just symbolic—they help farmers access services, subsidies, loans, and training with greater ease. In July 2024, he led a drive to strengthen FPOs and emphasised the importance of intercropping, mechanisation, and collective farming.

In the backwaters and hill districts, his work took on a regional focus. He pledged targeted farming-based revival programmes in Wayanad, highlighting toxin-free agriculture, community farming centres, and assistance through NABARD. In Alappuzha, he launched workshops to begin long-term restoration of the Vembanad wetlands. For Prasad, agriculture and ecology go hand in hand.

Innovation also took shape on the roads. One quiet morning in February 2025, the minister flagged off 'Cheeravandi', a mobile direct-sales vehicle carrying fresh produce from Alappuzha to Ernakulam. For the farmers, this meant their spinach and vegetables reached the market

without middlemen. For urban consumers, it offered freshness at fair prices. The initiative was symbolic of his larger vision: closing the gap between the grower and the buyer.

At the national level, Prasad presented Kerala's agricultural reforms before a Supreme Court-appointed panel in May 2025. He highlighted the state's support systems like paddy procurement at MSP, crop insurance, debt relief, pension schemes, organic farming campaigns, and early disaster aid. His policies were cited as models worth emulating across India.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, what stands out about Prasad's work is his hands-on style and steady follow-through. Whether it's walking barefoot in a marigold field, empowering farmer groups, or quietly crafting long-term reforms, his leadership has brought a sense of purpose and confidence to Kerala's farming community. He may not make noise in political circles, but his work is echoing through the fields.



SAJI CHERIAN

A YEAR OF CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP AND BOLD GOVERNANCE

Saji Cherian, Kerala's Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs, has spent the past year shaping policies that blend cultural advancement with governance reforms, leaving an imprint that is both visible and debated.

One of his most significant contributions this year came in the realm of cinema and cultural policy. As the presiding minister at the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) 2024, he underlined the importance of world cinema in bringing diverse human experiences to local audiences. The festival's success reinforced Kerala's standing as a cultural hub with global appeal.

Saji Cherian's commitment to the Malayalam film industry moved beyond festivals and ceremonies. He announced plans for a major cultural conclave in Kochi, slated for November 2025. This gathering aims to develop a comprehensive policy for Malayalam cinema, covering challenges such as distribution, infrastructure, and the welfare of artists and technicians. By initiating this dialogue early, he ensured that voices from every corner of the industry, from independent filmmakers to theatre owners, would have a say in shaping the future of Kerala's film landscape.

He also focused on improving the working conditions of women in the film sector. The launch of "Sakhi Dormitory" at Sri Theatre, Thiruvananthapuram, was a landmark step. It provides safe, affordable accommodation for women working in the industry—a practical solution to a long-standing demand. The dormitory is part of a wider initiative to make Malayalam cinema's technical and production spaces more accessible and safer for women professionals. These actions reflect a broader cultural vision that seeks to balance tradition with modern workplace needs.

He took these ideas a step further by initiating discussions with Kerala's Law Department on a special legal framework for the state's film industry. Such legislation, if realised, could streamline permissions, ensure better protection for creative rights, and encourage greater investment in film production. This marks the first time such a proposal has been formally moved, reflecting the minister's intent to provide lasting structural support for the sector.

Beyond the cultural sphere, Saji Cherian made headlines with candid public commentary. At various events, he compared Kerala's pace of development with that of neighbouring Tamil Nadu, sparking



discussions on how to accelerate Kerala's progress. His remarks, though direct, drew public interest and debate on policy priorities.

His governance observations extended to social welfare. While speaking at a Non-Gazetted Officers' conference, he pointed out that Kerala's low mortality rate, an outcome of its superior healthcare system, also brought challenges in the form of an increasing pension burden on the state. This comment opened a broader debate on balancing social security with fiscal responsibility.

However, his year was not without controversy. A legal case arose over remarks he made concerning the Constitution, prompting the Kerala High Court to order a Crime Branch inquiry. Although the police later submitted a closure report, the incident kept Saji Cherian in the news and highlighted the scrutiny that public figures regularly face.

Despite the occasional turbulence, Saji Cherian's cultural leadership remained steady. He oversaw the 54th Kerala State Film Awards, ensuring recognition for cinematic excellence. This event, closely followed by the public and media alike, reaffirmed the government's support for creative talent in the state.

Saji Cherian's 2024-25 record reflects a minister willing to balance tradition with reform, cultural stewardship with legislative ambition, and open dialogue with public accountability. In a time when cultural policy is often overshadowed by louder political narratives, his quiet yet firm initiatives have helped keep the arts and public discourse alive in Kerala.



WATER, LAND AND PEOPLE

THE PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP OF ROSHY AUGUSTINE

Roshy Augustine's leadership of Kerala's Water Resources Department in 2024–25 reflects a blend of quiet resolve and practical action in a sector that often escapes public spotlight but remains critical to the state's welfare. Without grand announcements or sweeping claims, Augustine has overseen initiatives that touch the daily lives of millions—from securing drinking water and improving irrigation to protecting coastal regions and managing human-wildlife conflict.

One of the major focus areas during this period has been restoring the lost capacity of dams across Kerala. Years of silt accumulation had sharply reduced storage, threatening water security and flood management. The department launched an extensive desilting campaign, notably at Aruvikkara, where nearly half the dam's capacity had been lost. Similar efforts took place at the Malankara dam in Idukki, ensuring better storage to meet both irrigation and drinking water needs, while also reducing flood risk during the heavy monsoon months. Plans to extend these efforts to other dams have already been set in motion.

The ministry also moved to ensure monsoon preparedness with a new approach. A fund of ₹8.25 crore was sanctioned in advance for emergency response during the rains. Of this, ₹3.5 crore was earmarked for minor irrigation works, ₹2.5 crore for major irrigation projects, and ₹2.25 crore for coastal protection measures across nine districts. For the first time, engineers were empowered to use these funds directly in the field to address urgent situations without waiting for administrative clearance—a crucial reform in a state where the monsoon season can quickly turn hazardous.

Recognising the importance of involving local communities in water management, Augustine strengthened the Sajalam scheme under the Kerala Land Use Board. This initiative focuses on recharging groundwater in critical areas like Pothencode, Panur and Kondotty. By engaging local people in conservation and recharge efforts, the scheme addresses the growing stress on Kerala's water tables in a sustainable way.

Another major achievement was the rollout of a ₹3,000 crore drinking



water project using reservoir water from the Idukki and Ponmudi dams. The scheme aims to provide safe drinking water to a vast population, with completion expected within the year. Alongside this, the government introduced new land regulations and compensation measures for farmers affected by drought-induced crop losses.

On the coastal front, Augustine's ministry continued its focus on erosion control—a long-standing problem for Kerala. New protective works were started in five high-risk locations including Alappad, Shanghumughom, Kaipamangalam, Kollengode and Ottamassery. These are part of a broader ₹5,300 crore master plan to strengthen Kerala's coastline with advanced structures like tetrapods and diaphragm walls, guarding vulnerable communities against the sea's advance.

In the rural sector, Kerala's share of ₹380 crore for the national Jal Jeevan Mission was secured to extend drinking water tap connections from 17 lakh to over 40 lakh households. More than 55 percent of the targeted homes have already been covered, a significant stride in ensuring universal access to clean water.

Augustine also tackled the rising problem of human-wildlife conflict, especially in regions like Idukki. His interventions included deploying rapid-response teams, setting up AI-powered wildlife monitoring systems, improving fencing and lighting in forest-bordering settlements and managing dangerous wild elephants such as Padayappa.

Finally, the minister took a firm stand against false alarm campaigns on social media regarding the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam. By involving the police to curb misinformation and coordinating more closely with Tamil Nadu authorities, Augustine helped maintain public confidence in this sensitive matter.

Overall, Roshy Augustine's quiet but determined leadership in 2024–25 reinforced Kerala's water infrastructure, protected its coasts, expanded rural services and improved community safety—all without fanfare, but with impact that matters.



V. N. VASAVAN STEERING KERALA'S COOPERATIVE AND MARITIME GROWTH WITH VISION

Under the leadership of Minister V. N. Vasavan, Kerala's cooperative, port and temple administration sectors are undergoing a remarkable transformation marked by innovation, inclusivity, and future-readiness. His focused interventions are laying the foundation for long-term socio-economic growth while addressing the pressing needs of modern governance.

In the cooperative sector, the state has boldly embraced a tech-driven shift to make operations more efficient and transparent. The launch of the Integrated Cooperative Inspection Management Application (CIMA) has ensured that key functions like registration, bylaw amendments, fund management, and election processes are fully digital. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) now function on unified software platforms, streamlining audits and office operations—a major milestone in Kerala's cooperative modernisation. Comprehensive legal reforms, including the amendment of cooperative laws and the establishment of a Cooperative Revival Fund, are shaping a transparent and accountable ecosystem. A proposal to establish a Cooperative University is also under discussion, signalling Kerala's intent to position its cooperative sector as a model for the country.

Minister Vasavan's vision has also spurred numerous community-oriented initiatives. These include the Care Home Project for disaster-affected individuals, Cooperative Expos to promote products globally, and the creation of Material Banks for affordable construction materials. Under his guidance, Kerala has launched the country's first cooperative societies for gig workers, formed 32 youth cooperative societies including dedicated groups for SC/ST communities and empowered women-led cooperatives to emerge as production hubs. The Yuvamitra Loan Scheme through Kerala Bank and new employment opportunities across cooperative institutions have further enhanced economic empowerment. Over the past four years, the sector has facilitated over 16,000 appointments and generated nearly five lakh job opportunities through startups and MSMEs.

In the maritime sector, Vizhinjam International Seaport stands as a testament to Kerala's expanding global trade ambitions. The port's first phase commenced in December 2024 with a handling capacity of one million TEUs. Trial operations saw over 160 ships docking within six months, with cargo volumes crossing 300,000 TEUs. By January 2025 alone, the port handled 85,000 TEUs. The project's next phases, with ₹10,000 crore investment secured, will boost capacity to 4.5 million

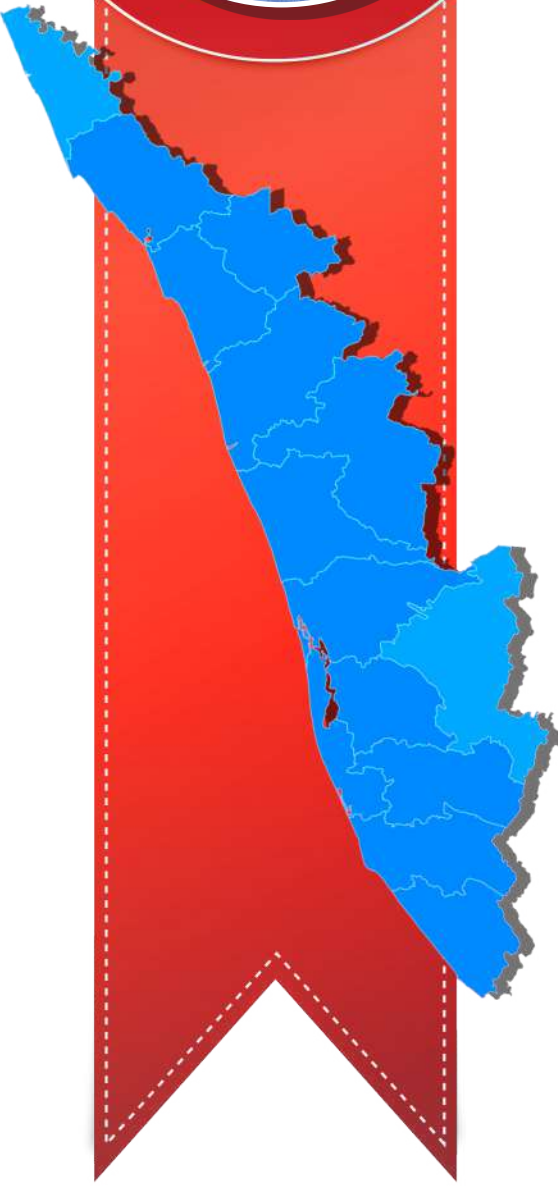


TEUs, cementing Kerala's place in global shipping. Infrastructure projects such as the Vizhinjam Railway Line, Outer Ring Road, and the Vizhinjam-Kollam-Punaloor Growth Triangle are being fast-tracked to maximise the port's economic potential.

Additionally, the state has enhanced its maritime education infrastructure. Institutes in Kodungallur and Neendakara were revived with specialised Inland Vessels Act courses. The launch of portals like Jalanethra and Theeram and the implementation of an e-governance system for hydrographic surveys have set new benchmarks in efficiency.

The Devaswom sector has also seen thoughtful progress. From 2016 to 2025, ₹600 crore has been invested in temple development across Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar Devaswom Boards. Specific efforts at Sabarimala include a revamped virtual queue system, digital payment services, and plans for the Sabarimala Development Authority and ropeway project. Initiatives at Guruvayur and other temples balance tradition with modern amenities, ensuring pilgrim comfort and heritage preservation.

Through these integrated efforts, Minister V. N. Vasavan is shaping Kerala's cooperative, port, and Devaswom sectors into engines of inclusive and sustainable progress.



MB RAJESH

QUIET REFORMS, LASTING IMPACT

MB Rajesh's first year at the helm of Kerala's local self-government and parliamentary affairs has been about impact felt, not headlines made. Early in 2025, he quietly ushered in a milestone most people won't see unless they interact with their panchayat office. All local bodies under his governance, from the smallest village council to urban municipalities began implementing a unified digital platform. Residents can now file complaints, check service status or request permissions with a few taps. Above all, a dedicated WhatsApp helpline connects everyone directly with the panchayat office handling their case. It's a shift born not from grand announcements, but from the conviction that governance should meet people at their doorstep.

Alongside this digital leap, MB Rajesh tackled the bottlenecks that stifle small businesses. Remember the days when even low-emission units faced mountains of paperwork and countless approvals? Those days are fading. His team quietly scrapped nearly fifty outdated conditions and redrew licensing rules. Now businesses with little or no pollution need only register, not license; fees are tied to their actual investment. Even more liberating, home enterprises can now occupy up to half their space without special permits. These strokes of reform were not political theatre—they were careful, considered steps born from consultation with local entrepreneurs and experts.

Waste disposal, too, underwent a transformation under his leadership. After the Brahmapuram landfill fire drew state wide concern, MB Rajesh took action. He brought together municipal teams, environmental professionals and citizen volunteers to recalibrate waste collection. Within months, nearly ninety percent of households in Kerala were getting doorstep garbage pickup. His proposal reached other states like Tamil Nadu too, even before official adoption. The impact might go unnoticed by many, but it shows up where people live: cleaner streets, fewer pests, less damp in rainy seasons.

Rajesh has also made efforts to weave climate-conscious design into the growth of Kerala's towns. At a national planners' conference, he encouraged local bodies to consider rain ready drainage, green zones and waste systems in city layouts. Back home, he helped establish an Urban Policy Commission. Though still a work in progress, it signals a subtle yet decisive shift.

It wasn't all policy and process. Rajesh's tenure included community and cultural initiatives, too. He helped secure international recognition



for Kozhikode as India's first City of Literature, bringing a spotlight to local authors and literary activists. He championed a food vendor street that balanced hygiene standards with livelihood support. And when poverty was measured in every home, he revived the Back to School campaign and pushed for participation in a Kudumbashree livelihood scheme, moves that drew hundreds of families away from seasonal insecurity.

Through all this, MB Rajesh has maintained a distinctive leadership style: observant, adaptive and low on rhetoric. When surveys in mid 2024 flagged more than 64,000 families living in extreme hardship, he chose quiet action over speeches. He directed dedicated micro plans across local panchayats, backed by funding and follow up. He knew that eliminating deep poverty by the end of 2025 would require small but determined work.

What stands out is how little of this appeared in press releases. That is precisely the point. MB Rajesh's leadership over the past year reflects a belief that governance works best when it focuses on systems, not shine; on delivery, not display. And for every family that submits a grievance online, every clean lane after garbage day, every license that no longer needs a stamp—his steady approach is already weaving real change into the fabric of Kerala's daily life.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND CONSUMER TRUST

G. R. ANIL'S STEADY STEWARDSHIP IN KERALA



As the everyday life of Kerala depends so much on fair prices, timely food supply and consumer protection, the role of the Food and Civil Supplies Minister becomes quietly crucial. In his tenure through 2024 and 2025, G. R. Anil has concentrated on the essentials that touch the lives of ordinary people by ensuring food reaches every corner, making markets transparent and protecting consumers from exploitation. His ministry has worked steadily to build a stronger, more reliable system that supports the state's social welfare commitments.

One central aspect of this has been the reinforcing of Kerala's Public Distribution System (PDS). During Onam and Vishu festivals, the department under Anil's charge handed out 20 kilograms of free rice to each of its cardholders, a considerate gesture that relieved thousands of families during the festive season. Aside from such special assistance during festival times, the state arranged for continued free distribution of staple food grains to all ration cardholders throughout the year, thereby securing the minimum food security of vulnerable sections. This continued supply was in a stark contrast to the interruptions experienced in other regions of the nation.

Recognising that efficiency is as important as generosity, Anil oversaw the launch of the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme across Kerala. This reform, designed to benefit migrant workers and traveling families, allows ration cardholders to collect their entitled food grains from any fair price shop in the state. Kerala's early implementation of this system not only reflects administrative readiness but also its sensitivity to the needs of its mobile workforce.

Concurrently, the Civil Supplies Department also reached out to different welfare institutions by offering free food grains to student hostels and shelters and homes for the destitute and aged citizens. This step ensured that the poor and underprivileged did not lag behind in the state's broader food security apparatus.

Beyond food distribution, Anil's ministry made strong advances in price control and market transparency. Daily price monitoring of 15 essential commodities has been rigorously implemented, with the figures made available through digital platforms and local outlets. To curb price rise and ensure supply, the state conducted regular inspections in markets and storage points. These checks not only prevented hoarding but also kept artificial price inflation in check, especially during festival seasons when such practices often occur.



The Supplyco retail network under his watch was revitalised with stock replenishments of pulses, oil, spices, and other staples, all sold below market prices. This ensured that middle- and lower-income families could afford kitchen essentials without falling prey to market volatility. Additionally, mobile Maveli Stores were deployed to serve remote and underserved areas, further widening the reach of affordable food items.

Consumer affairs interventions by Minister Anil were also impressive. His department settled more than 6,500 consumer grievances during the period, reflecting a serious attitude towards protecting public rights. Campaigns to educate people about consumer protection legislation were conducted throughout the state, sensitizing citizens to their rights and mechanisms available for redress of grievances. The enforcement branch carried out 9,845 inspections under the Legal Metrology Department to check malpractices in weights and measures and thus shield consumers from being cheated.

The minister also took significant steps to digitise food and civil supply operations. By promoting end-to-end computerisation in the ration card management system, applications, renewals, and modifications could now be done more swiftly and transparently. This technological push reduced delays and human errors, making the entire system more citizen-friendly.

Environmental responsibility was not ignored either. The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (Supplyco) actively worked to reduce plastic use in packaging and encouraged eco-friendly alternatives in its retail outlets.

One of the quiet but impactful developments during Anil's term was the support extended to farmers through the Market Intervention Scheme. When prices of essential produce such as onions and potatoes fluctuated heavily, the state intervened to procure and supply these items at affordable rates, thus protecting both the farmer and the consumer from market shocks.

Looking ahead, Minister Anil firmly focuses on completing the construction of modern storage godowns in various districts for improving cold storage facilities and expanding the digital capacity of fair price shops. These infrastructural developments aim to make Kerala's food supply chain more resilient against future disruptions, whether from market forces or climate uncertainties.

G. R. Anil's approach has remained steady and grounded. There are no sweeping declarations or media-driven spectacles. Instead, the minister's work reflects the old but enduring philosophy of public service—quiet action that ensures real benefit to the people. In a space where political noise is loud, his ministry's silent, systematic effort stands apart.

SPORTING AMBITIONS AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

THE APPROACH LED BY V. ABDURAHIMAN



V Abdurahiman's year as Kerala's Sports Minister and Waqf minister has unfolded like a carefully tuned play—balancing big dreams, local needs and cultural stewardship. His actions this year have resonated quietly but meaningfully; you feel their impact more than you hear about them.

Someday soon, Kerala might host Lionel Messi. Abdurahiman announced in late 2024 that clearances from the Reserve Bank and the Union Sports Ministry were already in hand for Argentina's team to play two friendly matches in Kerala in October 2025. Planning continues in earnest—Argentina's football federation is expected to make a final decision soon. His assurance that the event would be completely privately funded reassures taxpayers: football fever, but not at their expense.

While Messi's potential visit provides big-picture excitement, Abdurahiman has also delivered on grassroots ambitions. Early this year, a 400-metre synthetic track and FIFA-grade football ground opened near Nedumkandam, tucked into Idukki's highlands. He immediately followed up by championing a "one playground in every panchayat" model. At a national meeting of state sports ministers, Kerala's scheme earned praise. The Centre even asked other states to adopt it, while Abdurahiman's ministry began e-certification for sportspersons to reduce fraud—a model under consideration at the national level.

It didn't stop at pitches and certification. In Malappuram and Kozhikode, 35 acres of land from Calicut University have been cleared for an international-level stadium, with construction imminent. Greater plans are being drawn up under the Kerala Sports Summit follow-up—a vision anchored in climate-resilient designs and integrating youth employment. Across dozens of districts, local bodies now allocate about three percent of their budgets to sports infrastructure and training.

Abdurahiman has even opened the door to cutting-edge competition. He urged inclusion of traditional martial arts like kalaripayattu after poor performance at the National Games prompted a rethink. He invited foreign coaches into schools, and launched advanced football training for thousands of students—making sure Kerala's sports development goes beyond slogans.

Abdurahiman has turned sports into a tool for social reform, especially in Kerala's growing fight against drug abuse. In May 2025, he led the 'Kick Drugs' campaign in Kottayam, bringing together sports officials, athletes, and local communities to spread the message that fitness is the best alternative to addiction. With the slogan "Sports is addiction," the



campaign encouraged young people to turn to games and physical activity instead of falling into substance abuse. The minister also supported the Chief Minister’s call to make campuses, hostels, and public places drug-free zones. Panchayats were urged to take active roles in identifying and stopping illegal drug sales in their areas. Even when the campaign faced a temporary pause in parts of Malappuram due to a sudden Nipah virus outbreak, Abdurahiman made sure that the momentum was not lost, and the drive resumed with greater strength soon after. His efforts highlight how sports can be more than just play—it can shape safer, healthier communities.

Amid his sporting focus, Abdurahiman continued to safeguard Waqf properties and communities. In Munambam, where land disputes had cast a shadow over fishing families, he made it clear: no eviction notices would be served while a judicial review remained underway. Further, the Kerala High Court sided with the Waqf Board earlier this June, revoking a tribunal ruling that had barred the Board from accessing court records and invalidating a Munambam resident’s claim. His quiet diplomacy ensured that faith-based land rights and coastal livelihoods were protected in tandem.

This combination of global vision and local conviction is what defines Abdurahiman’s leadership. You can see it in a potential Messi match, in every rebuilt playground, in every protected fishing home. In a field where spectacle often trumps substance, his work stands out for its balance: big ambitions for sport, firm protections for communities, and careful groundwork that delivers change where it counts.



milma
കേരളം കണികണ്ടുണരുന്ന നന്മ

മിത്ഥ പനീർ ഉണ്ടെകിൽ എന്തും ഉണ്ടാകാം!



Paner Pizza



Paner Fry



Paner Payasam



Paner Tikka



Paner Biriyam

100% പാൽ കൊണ്ടുണ്ടാക്കിയ സവാദിഷ്ടമായ മിത്ഥ പനീർ ഉണ്ടെകിൽ ബിരിയാണി മുതൽ പായസം വരെ ഉണ്ടാക്കാം, വളരെ എളുപ്പമായി! ധാരാളം പ്രോട്ടീൻ, കാൽസ്യം, മഗ്നീഷ്യം, പൊട്ടാസിയം, സെലീനിയം തുടങ്ങിയ അവശ്യപോഷകങ്ങളാൽ സമ്പുഷ്ടമായ പനീർ, നിങ്ങളുടെ രോഗപ്രതിരോധ ശേഷി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനും, എല്ലുകളെയും പല്ലുകളെയും ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്താനും, ശരീരഭാരം കുറയ്ക്കാനും സഹായിക്കുന്നു. മാത്രമല്ല, പ്രമേഹരോഗികൾക്കും അത്യുത്തമമായ ഒരു ഹെൽത്ത് ഫുഡാണ് പനീർ.

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