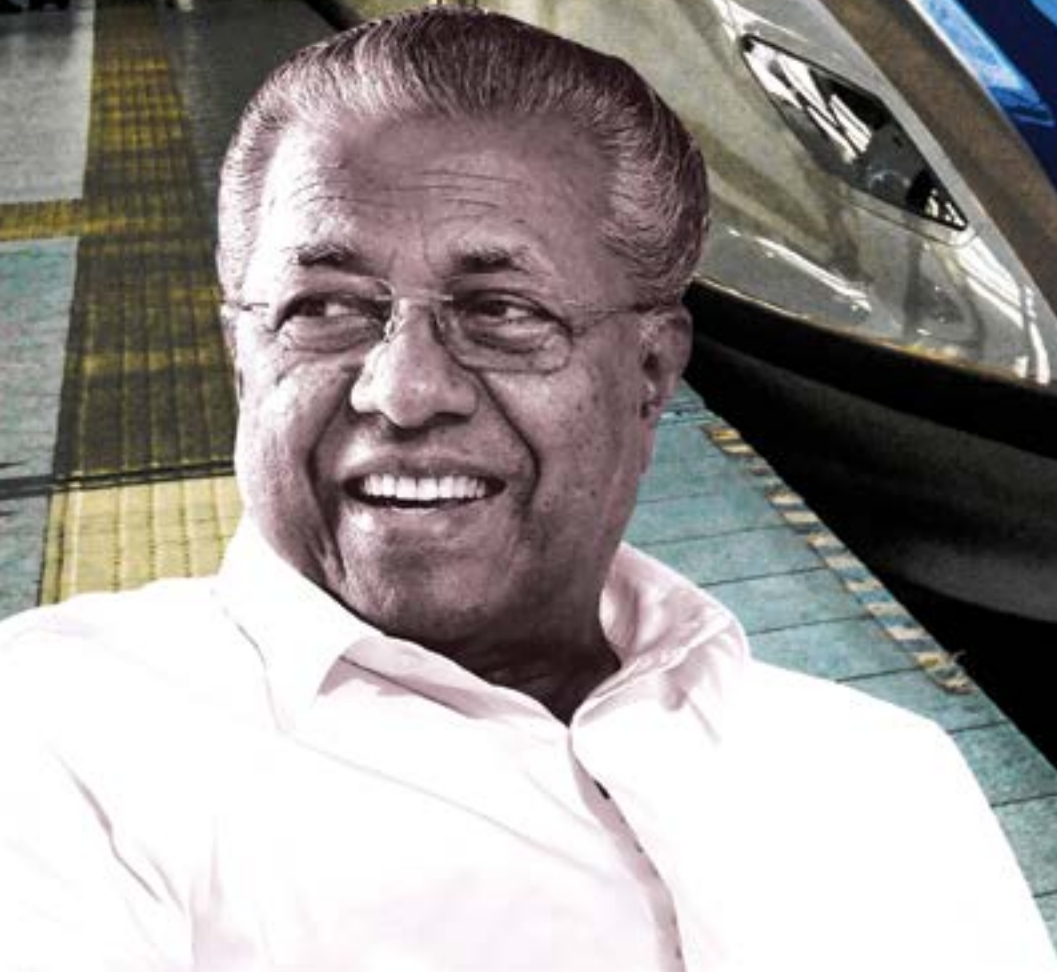


# HUES OF LIFE

Vol 01 | Issue 11 | 01 June 2022  
Monthly | Price ₹100 | Thiruvananthapuram

## PINARAYI VIJAYAN- LEADER OF THE VIBRANT STATE



special  
edition

കേരള സർക്കാർ  
കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഭാഗ്യക്കുറി വകുപ്പ്

# സൗഭാഗ്യം

ഇപ്പോൾ  
എല്ലാ ദിവസവും

തിങ്കൾ  
വിൻവിൻ  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹75 ലക്ഷം

ചൊവ്വ  
സാമ്പ്രിമതി  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹75 ലക്ഷം

ബുധൻ  
മിഥ്തി-മിഥ്തി  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹1 കോടി

വ്യാഴം  
കാര്യപ്പപ്പപ്പ  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹80 ലക്ഷം

വെള്ളി  
രേഖര  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹70 ലക്ഷം

ശനി  
കാര്യപ്പ  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹80 ലക്ഷം

ദിക്ക് വില  
₹40 മാത്രം  
തിങ്കൾ മുതൽ ശനി  
വരെ മാത്രമേ സൗകര്യമുള്ളൂ

ഞായർ  
നിർമ്മൽ  
ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം  
₹70 ലക്ഷം

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഭാഗ്യക്കുറി  
വിലമ്പിതം-സുതംഭം-ജനകീതം



# HUES OF LIFE AWARDS

FOR

# WOMEN of SUCCESS

2022



Nomination Invited

mail@huesoflife.online | +91 62 388 91 885

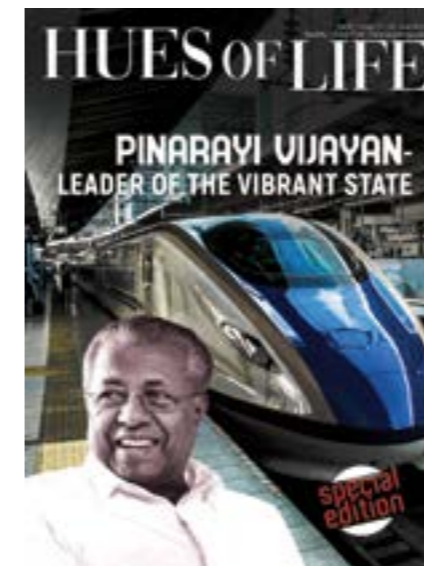
# Contents

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 06 | PINARAYI VIJAYAN- LEADER OF THE VIBRANT STATE   | 36 | A PROGRESSIVE BUDGET BY MINISTER K.N. BALAGOPAL FOR THE PEOPLE                           |
| 10 | ACTIVELY MONITORING THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR'S ADVANCEMENT - MINISTER V. SIVANKUTTY                               | 42 | MAXIMIZE SOLAR POWER GENERATION AND REDUCE OUTSOURCING- MINISTER K. KRISHNANKUTTY        |
| 16 | PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR - MINISTER P. RAJEEV  | 44 | EQUIPPING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HANDLE ANY HEALTH EMERGENCIES - MINISTER VEENA GEORGE |
| 20 | MINISTER P.A. MOHAMED RIYAS - ESTABLISHING FUTURE-ORIENTED POLICIES   | 50 | MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE HUNGER-FREE KERALA - MINISTER G.R. ANIL                         |
| 24 | PROPER COORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN ALL DEPARTMENTS REQUIRED-MINISTER M.V. GOVINDAN MASTER                      | 54 | COOPERATIVES ASSISTING COMMON PEOPLE DURING HARDSHIPS - MINISTER V. N. VASAVAN           |
| 30 | HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR WILL HAVE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE - MINISTER R. BINDU                                     | 56 | NEED TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION-MINISTER P. PRASAD            |
| 32 | INITIATING FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS - MINISTER J. CHINCHU RANI | 60 | PEOPLE-FRIENDLY MEASURES TO UPLIFT THE PEOPLE - MINISTER K. RAJAN                        |
| 34 | TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SYSTEMS TO FAST PACE THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT - MINISTER ANTONY RAJU                      | 62 | SPOT BILLING TO BE RESUMED - MINISTER ROSHY AUGUSTINE                                    |

## HUES OF LIFE

Volume 1 - Issue 11 - June 2022

Editor & Publisher: Nijith Raj  
Executive Director: Sajitha Beegum  
Chief Editor: Viswanath V.  
Editorial Assistant: Maneesh T.M.  
Art Director: Kiran Mohan  
Photographer: Abhijith B.  
Correspondent: Ferzeen Banu  
Manager- Marketing: Vishnu U.



Enquires: [mail@huesoflife.online](mailto:mail@huesoflife.online)  
+91 62 388 91 885

## editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

The current government of Kerala has completed the first year of its five-year term. In this edition of Hues of Life we provide our readers a glimpse of various initiatives taken up by the government. The ministers and their portfolios are analysed through their functioning. While most of the initiatives brought by the government has been accepted by the public, some have been met with apprehensions. However, streamlining and strengthening of mechanisms put in place to advance the functioning of various departments seem to give an edge to Kerala's overall ranking in the country.

Going forward, we are sure the government of Kerala would be able to overcome the hardships and find its way towards top ranking in terms of development.

Happy reading  
Nijith Raj  
Editor & CEO  
[editor@huesoflife.online](mailto:editor@huesoflife.online)  
[www.huesoflife.online](http://www.huesoflife.online)



Printed by Nijith Raj, Published by Nijith Raj on behalf of M/S Fefe Intelligent Business Solutions and Printed at S B Press Private Limited, College Lane, Statue Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, PIN 695001 and published from 24/606, "JAYANI", Valiyakunnu, Kizhuvalam PO, Kizhuvalam-Koonthalloor Road, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala, PIN 695104. Editor- Nijith Raj.

All rights reserved. Hues of Life a monthly magazine printed and published from Thiruvananthapuram, have taken utmost care to ensure accuracy of the content published. Whole or part of the published matter should not be reproduced without the written consent. The views or expressions implied in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily of Fefe Intelligent Business Solutions. All trademarks acknowledged as the proprietary rights of the respective owners

Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act



# PINARAYI VIJAYAN- LEADER OF THE VIBRANT STATE

**O**ne year after the Left Front government came to power, the leadership of a determined Chief Minister is evident everywhere.

Although a year is not enough to evaluate the performance of a government, it is still a year to testify to the actions of the government led by the popular leader Pinarayi Vijayan. The continuation of the Left government rule came at a time when the Covid crisis was gripping the state. What made Pinarayi Vijayan different was his factual rule. While the distribution of quality food kits to those who lost their jobs and suffered during the Covid period was not a small matter, it was the active involvement of the Chief Minister that enabled the present government to implement it successfully. The government can be proud of being able to present an alternative model of development and governance within a year.

Even as it embarked on a new leap in the path of development, some isolated controversies did not prevent the LDF from winning a resounding victory in the 2021 Assembly elections.

The CM's public relations helped to convince the people that the LDF government would work for their welfare and development of the state. The firm conviction of the government that it is

“

*Even as it embarked on a new leap in the path of development, some isolated controversies did not prevent the LDF from winning a resounding victory in the 2021 Assembly elections.*

”



capable of embracing the sentiments of the people and acting accordingly has led the people of Kerala to give the Left, a continuity of government. The fact is that the government has been able to strengthen and streamline the civil supplies system. The Chief Minister often intervened directly in these matters and took immediate action. The Chief Minister also assured that the Government would take immediate steps to revive KSRTC with the will to bring about structural reforms and changes. Through this, we can easily say that one year on, Kerala is on the path of hope and progress. There is still ample evidence that the government is focusing more on completing public welfare projects. As we enter our second



*The state under the leadership of Pinarayi Vijayan achieved many other things too. The government has sought to realize the promises made in the manifesto presented during the 2021 elections to create a new Kerala.*



year with increased confidence, the support for the Government and the Chief Minister has increased significantly. This shows that he has made a good commitment to fulfill his responsibilities in any adverse conditions.

In the first year, the Chief Minister was able to bring a clear outline to the people regarding the K-Rail project. Here too, the Left government has taken a firm stand with the conviction that K-Rail is a project that will benefit the state the most in the future. The project could have started during the first Pinarayi government if the natural disasters had not happened. There is a firm belief among many people that a government based on public welfare will also implement K-Rail without any setbacks. Pinarayi Vijayan has been able to give the impression that this is not a government that will falter or retreat in the face of protests by anti-development opponents. The government was able to complete the GAIL pipeline project by 2021 itself. The Left Front had put forward 900 promises in its election manifesto. Of these, 765 items are in various stages of completion within the first year. The government has also made great strides in moving the public sector forward.

The state under the leadership of Pinarayi Vijayan achieved many other things too. The government has sought to realize the promises made in the manifesto presented during the 2021 elections to create a new Kerala. Great efforts have been made to create advanced employment opportunities desired by the younger generation in Kerala. The action plans were launched

because there are certain areas that need to be implemented with special attention in addition to implementing the promises in the manifesto. In the past year, two 100-day programmes have been conducted. It is the commitment of the government to complete all the projects undertaken.

The CM had assured that his intention was to present to the people through the progress report how timely it would be completed and that everything stated in the manifesto would be implemented. The work of the Chief Minister has played a strong role in giving the people the strength, since he overthrew any kind of false opposition, destructive movements and fake propaganda. Government interventions and activities during the year are a solid step towards a new Kerala. The government has also been able to formulate various action plans, including areas for special attention. The secular and peaceful atmosphere of Kerala has always contributed to the development of the state.

The Left Democratic Front's alternative to neo-liberal policies is evident as the Left Front government enters its second year, actively engaging in social welfare, strengthening the service sector, protecting public and traditional industries, exploring alternatives for basic development and establishing that welfare and development are the right of the people. Pinarayi Vijayan has taken initiatives to govern the State with people and their benefits as the focus – this itself is reason alone for terming him as an able Chief Minister.



**WHEN YOUR FOOD IS  
100% SAFE,  
YOUR FOOD  
BUSINESS IS TOO...**

**Inviting Hotels,  
Food Processing &  
Allied Units to apply for  
Food Safety (HACCP)  
Certification**



**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
HACCP CERTIFICATION**

**KERALA BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION**

**2, Vidhya Nagar, Opposite Police Ground,  
Thycaud P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695014, Kerala.**

**Tel: +91 471-2321882 Fax: +91 471-2322883**

**Email: [info@haccpindia.org](mailto:info@haccpindia.org) / [kbip@keralaindustry.org](mailto:kbip@keralaindustry.org)**

**[www.haccpindia.org](http://www.haccpindia.org)**



## ACTIVELY MONITORING THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR'S ADVANCEMENT - MINISTER V. SIVANKUTTY

**T**he education sector has been one of the areas of focus since the second LDF government came to power. During the financial year 2021-22, the General Education Department achieved a historic achievement by spending 88.6% of the plan outlay. Out of the total plan outlay of Rs.925 crore allotted, Rs.819.53 crore was spent. The statistics show that the activities related to the infrastructure development of the schools have gone well. It was also possible to implement projects online when the school was not even open. The work of converting the offices into e-offices also went well and all this under the leadership & guidance of the

minister made this historic achievement possible.

The public education protection campaign implemented by the government has brought about revolutionary changes in the infrastructure development of our public schools. The schools where the children of the common people study had excellent buildings, high-tech classes, labs and libraries. At the inception of the second term of the LDF Government, 92 school buildings, 48 higher secondary labs and 3 higher secondary libraries were inaugurated. Meanwhile, 53 school buildings constructed as part of the Vidyakiranam Mission, which came into existence as a follow-up to the public

education protection drive, are also set to be inaugurated. A total of 53 school buildings were constructed at a total cost of Rs.90 crore. Under the KIIFB scheme, four school buildings at a total cost of Rs.20 crore at a cost of Rs.5 crore per school building, 10 school buildings at a cost of Rs.3 crore per school building and two school buildings at a cost of Rs.1 crore per school building were included in the plan, MLA and NABARD funds. All the 37 school buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.40 crore are going to be inaugurated.

One of the highlights is the Career Development Center allotted in Karamana. Minister for General Education and Labour V. Sivankutty said



the institute would be transformed into a model career development center in the state. Thousands of students in the city of Thiruvananthapuram will benefit from the establishment of a Career Development Center in Karamana, which will provide guidance to students on choosing career-oriented courses. Apart from career planning, training for competitive exams, psychometric tests and career counseling are also available here. The center will have state-of-the-art library facilities, reading rooms, an online study studio, a computer lab, a seminar hall and training rooms. By providing the services of expert career advisors, the institute will help the students to choose courses and institutions for higher studies and also to provide employment for the students by providing training for competitive examinations.

Another 360 persons have been appointed in the General Education Department through PSC. Since then, there have been 1506 appointments in LPSA/UPSA posts, 139 appointments in the LPSA language section, 352 appointments in the UPSA language section, 112 appointments in the Special Teachers section, 1019 appointments in the HSA section and 757 appointments in the Higher Secondary junior section. 4711 aided school teachers were also given legal recognition. The minister said

that more appointments would be made in the public education department.

The Department has taken effective steps to strengthen online classes in the face of increasing Covid spread in the state. In addition to the digital classes on the Victor's channel, online classes were also conducted for students in grades eight through twelve. It was also decided at the summit conference to complete the lessons for classes 10, 11, and 12 before the examination, and the students were given the opportunity to appear for the annual examinations without any worries. The Department has also been able to avoid unnecessary controversy over the implementation of gender neutral uniforms in schools. The minister said the decision on whether to implement the system in all schools would be taken by the Parent Teachers Association and local bodies in the respective schools. The minister's explanation came in the wake of criticism from various quarters against the implementation of a gender neutral uniform in a school in Balussery, Kozhikode. Bringing in a gender neutral uniform is something that needs to be done with everyone's approval. The Minister said that changes are inevitable in the field of education as well as in the society. He said the government was committed to promoting gender-neutral education and would take a decision

on the issue with the local bodies. The minister's response was that schools interested in implementing the gender neutral uniform system, which promotes the idea of uniform uniforms for boys and girls, could come forward.

A Curriculum Steering Committee and a Curriculum Core Committee was set up to discuss the preparations for the opening of the school and to make comprehensive curriculum reforms. The Department of Education has taken steps based on the assessment that the curriculum needs to be updated from time to time. Minister V. Sivankutty said that the Curriculum Steering Committee has been formed with the Minister as the Chairperson and the Curriculum Core Committee with the Principal Secretary of General Education Department as the Chairperson. The committee was formed with the involvement of experts. The committee which consists of experts from all fields will discuss issues such as scientific awareness, ideas against superstitions and dowry, gender justice, equality, secularism and the Constitution. The aim of the government is a comprehensive curriculum reform.

According to the Khader Committee report, a special cell has been set up in the Secretariat for redeployment of officers up to higher secondary education, preparation of special rules, court cases related to expert committee,

KER amendments and RTI requests. The government also set up a core committee to prepare the special rule. The functioning of schools in the state is progressing in a precise manner. No complaints of any kind have been raised so far. Minister V. Sivankutty said that the Curriculum Committee will consider including the Aksharamala in the textbooks as part of the curriculum reform. The Minister said that the Department of Public Instruction will implement various schemes aimed at uplifting Malayalam as a mother tongue.

On the first day of school after the Covid lockdown, the average attendance in the state was 82.77% which indicates the high efficiency of the General education department. It was an excellent attendance. As the pre-primary section classes started after a gap of 22 months, there were many children who visited schools for the first time with great excitement. Parents did not have to worry about dropping their children off at school because they strictly adhered to the Covid standards. 80.23% students attended LP and UP High School sections. 82.18% students in Higher Secondary section and 85.91% students in Vocational Higher Secondary section attended schools. The schools were fully operational with the coordination of the local government and home department & departments of public education, health and transport. It had been operating under the leadership & supervision of the Minister upon the government's decision to reopen the schools. The Education Minister chaired several meetings at the departmental and official levels to operate the schools on the basis of strict standards. Language Pledge was taken in all schools on February 21, World Mother Language Day. The language pledge was taken in schools at 11 a.m. on a class-by-class basis, following Covid standards. Malayalam language scholars, writers and cultural figures attended the functions at various schools. Representatives of the people also attended the school level functions.

The Department is ready to provide any assistance required in the conduct of the class and in facilitating the learning

environment. Inaugurating the first tinkering lab in the district at Chavara Kottankulangara Vocational Higher Secondary School, the Minister said that 42 tinkering labs will be set up in public schools in the state soon. Such labs are a state-of-the-art science and technology initiative to make science learning creative and enjoyable for students in grades five through twelve. The cost of setting up is Rs.10 lakh, sanctioned through Samagrasiksha Kerala. The lab is equipped with state-of-the-art technology such as robotics, coding and sensor technology to enable experience and application of artificial intelligence and advanced technology. There is also a self-learning tool kit and a 3D printer. There will be instructors and teachers to give instructions. Students from other schools will also have the opportunity to organize exhibitions, competitions and debates. Efforts are being made to make the Vidyakiranam project more popular to enhance facilities in the public education sector. Schools will be provided with the necessary equipment, lab facilities and libraries. 141 buildings have been allotted to public schools at a cost of Rs.5 crore each. 125 were inaugurated. 386 buildings have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3 crore. Of these, 114 buildings have been inaugurated. Construction of the others is in progress. The school science fair will resume from next academic year. He also said that libraries in public schools would be expanded by providing books worth Rs.10 crore through the 'Spring of Reading' project.

The new government was also able to conduct public examinations on time. This time all the preparations at the examination centers had already been completed. The students were able to write the exams successfully as they prepared for the exams with confidence.

It is also noteworthy that teachers who did not receive the vaccine were not acted upon with hostility. With the tightening of the stand, the number of teachers who have not been vaccinated has decreased. Just as those who give health reasons have to be considered, those who give religious reasons are required to check in every week



*It is also noteworthy that teachers who did not receive the vaccine were not acted upon with hostility. With the tightening of the stand, the number of teachers who have not been vaccinated has decreased.*



and those who do not are advised to take casual leave. 79 additional batches were allotted for Plus One admission to all those who qualified. All the issues were rectified regarding the admission process. Separate rooms were allotted for Covid positive students to appear for the Higher Secondary Improvement Examination. The practical examination which was decided to be conducted before the written examination was changed to the post-written examination. As of January 25, 80 percent of high school students were vaccinated, 60.99 percent in higher secondary and 66.24 percent in vocational higher secondary. The decision to conduct a special vaccination drive for students in classes 10, 11, and 12 was also an achievement of the Department of Education.

The Labour Department is taking strict action against Nokkukooli. The trade unions are also with the government on the issue. He said the online taxi system would be implemented through the Motor Workers Welfare Board. The Sahaja Call Center is one of the various projects implemented by the Department of Labour on the occasion of World Women's Day. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the

State Labour Department set up a call center called 'Sahaja' exclusively for women workers to inform the Labour Department about various issues such as violence, discrimination and non-availability of seating facilities for women workers in Kerala. Women workers can call the female call center executive directly from 10am to 5pm if they have any problems in their workplace. The toll free number is 18004255215. Calling this number will give the call center executive the necessary instructions and forward the complaint to the concerned Labour office and the complainant worker will receive an instant message about it. In addition, the Labour Department has a system in place to resolve these grievances in a timely manner without disclosing the identity of the worker if desired. In addition, the Department of Labour is preparing a mechanism to take immediate action on complaints of violations of labour laws in the workplace.

The minister said the government was committed to safeguarding the rights of workers and ensuring the smooth running of commercial enterprises. Labour department officials have been directed to take immediate action on labour issues and seek redressal of grievances. The Labour Department is taking steps to strengthen the worker-employer relationship. Kerala is far ahead of other states in terms of labor welfare measures. The government has a development vision that aims at creating new jobs along with the welfare of the workers and a peaceful working environment in the state. The government's position is to strengthen the three-party system of workers, employers and the government and resolve all issues amicably through bilateral talks. The state government is taking action against the unhealthy trends prevailing in the labor sector. Employers and workers will be ensured to abide by the rules. The government aims for healthy work relationships and work culture.

Campaigns and special drives will be conducted to get domestic workers registered with the Unorganized Workers



*It was also decided to set up a company under the leadership of Rehabilitation Plantation Limited to conduct a feasibility study for the production and marketing of rubber based products.*



Social Security Board. As part of the Special Drive, Labour Department officials visits companies recruiting workers in this sector and try to recruit workers who have been employed by the companies to join the board. Through this they will be entitled to various benefits implemented by the Board. In addition, an important issue is the problems of domestic workers, especially women workers, in the unorganized sector. As a step towards ensuring social security for them, all domestic workers are made registered members of the Board of Unorganized Workers. In addition to the new registration, the campaign also includes a system for paying arrears of membership dues to existing members. The Kerala State Unorganized Workers' Social Security Board is also arranging for their membership to be renewed without delay by contacting the State Office as soon as possible. In addition, the above system is being implemented in all the District Board Offices in collaboration with the Trade Unions to facilitate the workers without queuing. Discussions have been held with trade union leaders and workers' representatives in this regard. Following this, a bill to provide social security to workers in this sector is being actively considered by the state government. The State Government will take immediate

steps to bring the agencies under the purview of the license and to bring the worker/employer relationship within the scope of the contract. Section 21 (b) of the KS&CE Amendment Ordinance 2018 provides for the provision of seating facilities for workers at work by the employer. Accordingly, the Department of Labor will intensify inspections to ensure this. The current government is also launching a campaign in this regard. After that, the Labor Department will move on to its enforcement process. Thus, the Department of Labor is taking steps to ensure that women workers have all the rights in their workplace. The minister added that jobs will be made more women-friendly. He also clarified that more projects will be brought for that.

It was also decided to set up a company under the leadership of Rehabilitation Plantation Limited to conduct a feasibility study for the production and marketing of rubber based products. The company is considering collecting rubber directly from farmers. Minister V. Sivankutty had held discussions with RPL officials and trade union representatives. The Minister handed over the keys of 13 houses allotted to the workers, and directed the management to build 46 more houses for the workers. He said the goal is to have a home for all. The Secretary of the Labour Department was tasked to study how to increase the gratuity of workers to 26 days. The government order raising the pension age to 60 was implemented in the RPL. The minister said 233 contract workers would be made permanent with the approval of the finance ministry. The Minister directed that steps be taken to make the services of doctors available 24 hours a day at RPL Hospital. Changes in the terms of service and pay of the doctor will be made. The Minister directed the management to make the company profitable by next year. The minister said that if the company is profitable, the workers will get the benefit. Malayalam and English will also be taught at RPL School. The minister also said that the issue of allotting Plus Two in schools will be considered.

## കേരള സംസ്ഥാന തീരദേശ വികസന കോർപ്പറേഷൻ

(KSCADC)

(പുതു കേരള സർക്കാരിൻ അധീനം)

### INNOVATE , TRANSFORM, EXCEL







- അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യ വികസനം
  - മത്സ്യബന്ധന അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ
  - സാമൂഹിക അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ
  - വാണിജ്യ അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ
- മത്സ്യബന്ധന മേഖലാ വികസനം
- സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യ ആർജ്ജിക്കൽ
- വാണിജ്യ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ
- കൺസൾട്ടൻസി സേവനങ്ങൾ



സർക്കാർ, അർദ്ധ സർക്കാർ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ,  
മറ്റ് ഏജൻസികൾ എന്നിവയുടെ  
അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യ വികസന  
പദ്ധതികളുടെ നിർവ്വഹണം  
കൺസൾട്ടൻസി സേവനങ്ങൾ



[www.keralacoast.org](http://www.keralacoast.org)



www.india.gov.in



www.kerala.gov.in



www.nabard.org



www.nfdb.gov.in



# PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR – MINISTER P. RAJEEV

In the successful one year reign of the second term LDF government, there has been a great improvement in the pro-industrial atmosphere in the state. Minister of Industries, Law and Coir P. Rajeev's remarks were meant to strengthen the business harmony of Kerala. The State needs everyone to change their minds. Only when more ventures are started will the state benefit. The minister said that the government needs to get more revenue if it wants to implement, including welfare, and if it wants to start more ventures, it needs the support of all departments and the general public, and that discussions are ongoing with various departments. The 41 PSUs operating under the State Industries Department have achieved a record turnover of Rs.3884.06 crore in the financial year 2021-22.



Twenty companies made operating profit in the last financial year. One year ago, it was 16 companies. Five companies set all-time record turnover and operating profit. Chavara KMML topped the list with a turnover of Rs. 1058 crore and an operating profit of Rs. 332.20 crore.

The minister said it was the first time in the history of the state that a public sector undertaking was making such a high operating profit. In 2015-16, the total profit of the state PSUs was only Rs. 10 crore. It has now achieved 36 times that. TCC, Keltron, Travancore Titanium and Keltron Component put on the best performance in history. Some companies, such as the Trivandrum Spinning Mill and the Textile Corporation, were at a loss, but this time saw the highest turnover in history. The policy of protecting the public sector has always been adopted by the LDF governments. For the first time in history, the government is pushing for that policy through a number of activities, including preparing a master plan for public sector enterprises, negotiating with the unions and taking steps to increase productivity. The Minister said that the work of these institutions is to strengthen it.

The State Government provides excellent support for starting medium and micro enterprises. He said the government was moving ahead with the target of one lakh enterprises within a year. Made in Kerala brand outlets will be set up in all the local bodies in the state. It intends to launch another product without having to worry about the Commission instituting various actions under antitrust law. These will be the centers for all types of products manufactured in Kerala and certified as Made in

Kerala. The plan is to start one lakh ventures in collaboration with various departments. The industry department is looking for entrepreneurs. Interns have been appointed in each local body to assist entrepreneurs. An environment has already been created in Kerala for grievance redressal and facilitation of entrepreneurship. The Minister said that public assistance centers and marketing assistance schemes will also be launched as part of the Entrepreneurship Year.

The policy of the Government of Kerala is to take over the institutions which are being abandoned by the Center. Correspondingly, the current budget also announced plans for a major leap forward in the industrial sector. Velloor HNL is restarted as Kerala Paper Products Ltd., the news print factory acquired by Kerala following the decision of the Central Government to close down. The renovation work on the company had started from January and plant started operations by May. The development work will be implemented in four phases, minister clarified.

The handwash and floor cleaner manufacturing by KCCP Ltd., a public sector undertaking under the Department of Industries, Government of Kerala, was inaugurated by Industries Minister P. Rajeev at the Assembly Chamber. As a government agency in the Malabar region, this new venture aims to bring quality products to the masses at affordable prices. Dion Handwash and Dion Floor Cleaner is available in two brands and is available in a variety of colours. In the first phase, the plant was built with a capacity to produce 1000 liters a day. The KCCPL Sanitizer Unit was started to combat



the Covid epidemic and received a very good response from the people. The project, which is planned as part of the company's diversification, has been launched at the Kannapuram unit in Kannur district. The sale is mainly aimed at the Medical Service Corporation, police canteens, co-operative hospitals and other government agencies, and also available in the general market. The company has already started IT Park, petrol pump, high-tech coir defibering unit, brick manufacturing and interlock unit and passion fruit cultivation as part of various diversification projects.

It is the government that nurtures household enterprises. The 'Interest Assistance Scheme for Nano Home Enterprises' is a scheme of the Department of Industry and Commerce to provide interest subsidy to nano home enterprises with a fixed capital investment of up to Rs. 5 lakhs. Units in the manufacturing sector with a fixed deposit of up to Rs. 5 lakhs and a power load connection of five HP or less are eligible for the subsidy. Licensing units from local bodies are not required. Entrepreneurs pay a fixed interest rate of 6% to 8% on the fixed capital loan of nano enterprises and get it back for 3 consecutive years. It is just that other government funded units will not get the benefit of the scheme. The interest subsidy on entrepreneurs' loans from reputable financial institutions for plant machinery, office equipment and electrification is 6 percent for general category and 8 percent for women/



*The government is focusing on value-addition in the agricultural sector. There should be small and large enterprises and investments in the food production sector.*





an initial capital of up to Rs. 40,000 per SHG member for the purchase of small equipment. An SHG member running a food processing venture will also get 35% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakh. The SHG Federation's capital investment will receive a 35% subsidy with a credit linked grant. Industry Minister P Rajeev had said in the assembly that the business environment in the state was favorable and the investment climate was conducive. Isolated incidents are used to spread misconceptions. He said that unlike other states, the law and order situation here is good.



KINFRA and BPCL have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-operate in the KINFRA Petrochemical Park project at Ambalamugal, Kochi. The target is to complete the project by 2024. With the realization of the project, thousands of jobs will be created in the State. The park will be set up on 481 acres of land at Ambalamugal for the industrial and economic growth and job creation of the state. BPCL, a leading company in the petrochemical industry, has been allotted 171 acres of land under the scheme. Land will also be allotted for petrochemical industrial units on 250 acres of land. At the same time, they operate on petroleum products and raw materials supplied by BPCL. BPCL will also provide support to industrial units arriving at the park. KINFRA and BPCL have decided to work together to establish and develop the park. The aim is to make Kerala the center of

responsible investment in the country, he said. Minister Rajeev's response came after a meeting with various industry organizations in Kochi. He said the government would extend full support to all legitimate institutions. After the second LDF government came to power, Minister P. Rajeev had several meetings with businessmen. Entrepreneurs were consulted on the steps taken by the government on important issues such as industrial grievance redressal mechanism, land acquisition policy consolidation and review of outdated laws and regulations. The Minister said that the entrepreneurs were getting good support from the industrialists and were fully satisfied with the government's action. No one will be barred from doing business in compliance with the existing laws in the country. Kerala has a good industrial environment. The minister said he was ready to meet once a month with the industry minister and IAS officials in the department to discuss the big project proposals.

*The government is focusing on value-addition in the agricultural sector. There should be small and large enterprises and investments in the food production sector.*

SC/ST category. Borrowers from Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Private Sector Scheduled Banks and SIDBI will avail the scheme for the first three years. There is a stipulation that the loan should not be defaulted during this period. He said the government would set up an online platform to sell farmers' produce and provide special incentives to women entrepreneurs, says P. Rajeev.

The government is focusing on value-addition in the agricultural sector. There should be small and large enterprises and investments in the food production sector. MSMEs need

to be further strengthened. Part of that is implementing a product plan for a district. Technology camps have been started to address the difficulties encountered when starting ventures. The Minister said that the quality of the products should be ensured. For the first time in Kerala, 1440 Kudumbashree entrepreneurs in Kerala received Seed Capital assistance of 4,30,51,096 as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Central Government. Funds were provided to applicants from 14 districts. The scheme has been formulated in collaboration with the Central and

State Governments for the upliftment of the food processing sector. The scheme will provide financial technology and business support to micro food processing enterprises. A district selects a product that is important in each district under a product plan and seeks to develop it. Collecting raw materials, using public facilities for production and making marketing more efficient will benefit the growth of the product. In addition, the Ministry of Food and Processing will provide benefits for infrastructure development, branding and marketing. Under the PMFME scheme, members of SHGs will receive

## MINISTER P.A. MOHAMED RIYAS – ESTABLISHING FUTURE-ORIENTED POLICIES



**P**ublic Works and Tourism Minister P A. Mohamed Riyas is one of the most popular ministers in the second term of the LDF government. The direct focus of the Minister has always been on the modernization of roads, one of the areas where the people always expect the most development. His activities were able to resolve complaints in a timely manner and present signs of excellence. In addition, the tourism department is implementing a number of unprecedented innovations and revitalizations in Kerala for comprehensive changes in the field of tourism. On August 14, 2021, the Minister announced a comprehensive tourism plan. The minister had earlier stated that apart from backwater tourism, there are huge investment opportunities in tourism facilities, resorts, hotels, caravan parks, farm-stays, adventure tourism, and tour operations.

Kerala also has an investment-friendly system for issuing necessary approvals to investors without delay. Caravan tourism offers a new experience, bringing unknown but attractive areas to the tourism map, exploring the tourism potential of the Malabar region, safe adventure tourism and experiential tourism are some of the key areas that offer attractive investment opportunities. The process of planning to introduce such innovative tourism systems to Kerala started months ago. New plans have been announced to recover from the pandemic crisis. The Minister stated that in the coming days, projects will be implemented to promote tourism to new areas. Houseboats were introduced as a tourist product in the late eighties. But then nothing else like that came up until the introduction of caravans in the tourism sector. Caravans are generally considered to be the luxury vehicles of movie stars, and are available for two and four passengers. An inspection conducted as part of this project revealed that unique destinations can be identified and developed. Despite the possibility, in some places people do not come because of the inadequacy of the

accommodation and other facilities. Caravan parks are being set up in these places. Those parks can be created with public-private partnership. When a caravan park comes to a particular place in a panchayat, it becomes an important center and provides employment to the people there. It can also be turned into an important cultural hub for folk art. A great number of caravans have already been registered. 78 caravan parking centers will also be set up. Locals will also be involved in tourism projects. Tourism will grow as the desire of the people of an area by providing special training and equipping the youth to prepare for security. The main objective is to develop at least one tourism center in each region in collaboration with the local bodies to strengthen domestic tourism.

The tourism sector has been hardest hit by the pandemic crisis. Tourism is still moving forward. At this stage, the government has focused on building confidence in the tourism sector to survive. For that, our country should feel like a safe haven for tourists and tourists should come to Kerala. To this end, activities aimed at a safer Kerala and safer tourism were formulated. The special scheme was implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health with the objective of 100% Vaccinated Tourism Centers, the initiative to make the tourism centers completely vaccinated, with the idea of Safe Kerala and Safe Tourism. It started in Vythiri in Wayanad. Wayanad district has completed the first dose. It has spread to other destinations as well. Most destinations have achieved this goal. This can be seen as a reflection of the increase in tourist arrivals to Wayanad with the opening of the tourism sector. Tourists are now flocking not only to Wayanad but to other places as well.

Even when the tourism sector was opening up, the department carefully prepared the plans and secured the tourism sector through the bio-bubble system. When all this is added up, the current figures indicate that the number of domestic tourists is on the rise. In the context of the pandemic, the

government is implementing several schemes for those working in the field of tourism. There are two loan schemes, Tourism Working Capital Support Scheme and Tourism Employment Support Scheme for Workers. Maintenance grants are also provided for the repair of houseboats. A revolving fund scheme is also being implemented to provide financial assistance to those working in the tourism sector. This is a project to link the tourism sector with the protection of agricultural activities in Kerala. The potential of responsible tourism is also being exploited to ensure revenue generation. The Minister said that the project activities have already started.

The State Government wants to offer new experiences and unforgettable hospitality to foreign and domestic tourists visiting our State. As tourism and its potential grow, the government has a responsibility to ensure that our State and its people benefit directly and indirectly. The government has made the necessary arrangements in all sectors. Biodiversity Circuit, Malabar Literary Circuit, Agri Tourism Network and In-Car Dining are some of the innovative projects introduced by this Government in the field of tourism.

Agri Tourism is a network that connects tourists to experience the agricultural culture. Here, tourism will also become a way to the farmers' market. The aim of tourism is to attract tourists to our features while moving according to the tastes of the tourists. Our specialties should also be experienced by travelers. The street project is a step in that direction. Our food, art and culture should all touch the hearts of travelers. Preparations are underway to mark Kerala as a total tourism destination on the world tourism map. A good tourism culture can be developed by uniting people. Together we must be able to proudly tell the world about our country. There are plans to start projects on PPP model with private participation. Make the most of the potential of home stay tourism, exploring the tourism potential of the Malabar region, safe adventure tourism, etc. are the key areas that offer attractive investment opportunities.



*There are beautiful places in the villages of Kerala. Plans are afoot to create awareness in the tourism sector by addressing all pertinent factors. Wayanad, which is steeped in agrarian culture and tribal heritage, has great potential for sustainable tourism. The launch of Safe Tourism campaign was a huge success.*



Minister had also mentioned that film tourism would be started in the state. There are some movie frames that have not faded from our minds over the years and have influenced us a lot. The Department of Tourism is preparing to launch a new project that will add colour to our nostalgic memories of cinema. The plan is to attract tourists to visit at least once the many places where such scenes were filmed. The project is being jointly prepared by the Department of Culture and the Department of Tourism. It is hoped that the film tourism project will be enhanced by involving film stars. Discussions will be held with prominent figures in the film industry in this regard.

The infinite possibilities of water tourism is also under consideration. River rafting and kayaking are endless possibilities of water tourism. It is considered as one of the popular pastimes with the family, and it is being considered to utilize the potential of water and adventure tourism by providing the necessary facilities and security. The Minister said that the establishment of an adventure tourism circuit connecting the rivers of Kerala is also being considered. The tourism project that ensures the comprehensive development of the

Kadamakkudy archipelago is also becoming a reality. The Island Living Museum project envisions a very affordable environment that preserves the unique environment of the Kadamakkudy archipelago. The project aims to present the nature and social life of the beautiful islands as a museum of natural life. The project, which is estimated to cost a total of Rs. 1 crore, will be completed in three phases. The project will benefit locals and tourists alike. The museum project will serve as a platform to sell unique dishes and value-added products such as Pokkali rice, prawns, fish and duck from the islands. Pokkali fields and shrimp-fish ponds are naturally part of the museum. There will be special arrangements for observing migratory birds arriving from abroad and watching the sunrise and sunset. Facilities for tourists to fish and buy fresh fish, a floating restaurant on a boat, a boat trip on a cruise, galleries and homestays including children's artwork on the islands will all be set up as part of the project.

The Minister said that there is a huge potential for wedding tourism in the state and necessary campaigns have been launched to promote it. Heli

tourism is also being considered, focusing on airports and connecting different districts. A special digital marketing plan has already been formulated to revive the home stay sector. The Destination Challenge project will be launched in collaboration with the Local Government Department to identify and develop undiscovered tourism destinations. A plan will be drawn up to deploy tourism clubs in colleges to prevent the accumulation of waste in tourism centers. The minister also said that motorbike rides will be promoted to tourist destinations in hilly areas. There will be a special scheme for those who depend only on the tourism sector. Mohamed Riyas added that the future of the state will now be in domestic tourism. He said the performance of PWD rest houses has improved. The Public Works Department has 153 rest houses and the 1151 rooms in them are open to the public. Rooms can be booked online now. A 24-hour control room has been set up to make online booking effective. Food will also be provided at rest houses. The government had decided to open more liquor outlets, including in tourism centers. This is part of the decisions made in the new liquor policy, which will take effect in April.

There are beautiful places in the villages of Kerala. Plans are afoot to create awareness in the tourism sector by addressing all pertinent factors. Wayanad, which is steeped in agrarian culture and tribal heritage, has great potential for sustainable tourism. The launch of Safe Tourism campaign was a huge success. The project for complete vaccination of important tourism destinations in collaboration with the Department of Health was started in Wayanad. With the arrival of tourists in Wayanad, a fully-vaccinated tourist destination district, the number of tourists has increased. Wayanad district, which was ranked sixth in terms of domestic tourist arrivals, has risen to fourth. The district should be able to maintain this speed and attract more tourists. He said that the tourism department will implement various schemes for this. The 'Dine in Car', a

new venture in the tourism sector, was taken over by travelers to dine in their own vehicles. The Minister explained the beautiful projects ranging from bringing tourists to the farms to starting home stays at home.

In this context, tourism, which offers new experiences to travelers from other states and Kerala, should be encouraged. The 'Lonely Planet' survey, which included Malabar as one of the top ten tourist destinations in the world, came to the fore when the plans for it were being considered. This underscores the international significance of Kerala's tourism sector. The scenic areas of the villages, the potential tourist destinations in each district and the major tourist destinations in the state are categorized as follows. It has been decided to implement tourism projects in these places in collaboration with the Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat. About 60 per cent of the cost will be borne by the tourism department. Forty per cent of the funds will be invested by local bodies. The project is expected to open up to 500 tourist attractions. When local tourism centers open, tourism becomes a livelihood for the people.

Alappuzha, Kochi, Kovalam and Munnar are some of the notable tourist destinations in Kerala. At the same time, the tourism centers in Malabar have not received enough attention. Malabar is one of the fascinating destinations in the map of the tourist of the world. Wayanad is the 'Captain' of North Malabar. The captain's game could not be fully shown out. To make the tourism centers in Wayanad safer, complete vaccination has been completed in Vaithiri and Meppadi and bio-bubble system has been implemented. With this, more tourists came to Wayanad than last year. Many people go abroad for trekking and adventure. Such entertainment is possible in the hills of our country. The main challenge of adventure tourism is safety. The decision was made to make adventure tourism safer by implementing 'tourist policing'. A 'Tourism Club' will be formed in the colleges of Kerala. From there you will find tourist police or volunteers.



*The city tour will be revamped to take tourists to the most popular places in the cities. The existing city tour in Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts will be redesigned.*



Preliminary work for this has started at Kannur University.

The city tour will be revamped to take tourists to the most popular places in the cities. The existing city tour in Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts will be redesigned. The journey is planned from one district to the nearest district headquarters. The waterway is designed to provide a fun ride through the beautiful lakes and rivers of Kerala. It is 600 km long. Boat rides will be arranged to get down to the tourist spots. It also includes the historic Muziris Tourism Project. The project also includes the inclusion of cultural events to attract tourists to Muziris.

Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode and Kannur airports are connected by a tourism circuit. Travelers arriving in Kozhikode can visit Malappuram's historical sites and Palakkad fort, reach Beypore via Ponnani and return home via Kannur Airport via Thalassery and Mahe. The body of the demolished KSRTC buses was refurbished and turned into a restaurant. The closed rest houses were opened to tourists and the revenue was recovered. There are a number of bridges over the centuries that have stopped traffic in cities. Once their strength is confirmed, the bridges will be opened for temporary restaurants. Unused bridges will be turned into restaurants just like in foreign countries. Pointing out the new face of changing Kerala, Minister Riyas clarified the track of tourism policies.

# PROPER COORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN ALL DEPARTMENTS REQUIRED— MINISTER M.V. GOVINDAN MASTER



**T**he Local Self Government and Excise Minister M. V. Govindan Master is one of the elegant personalities who ensure speedy movement of public service processes. His suggestion that the pending file in the Local Self Government Department and Local Self Government Institutions as part of the Nava Kerala Local Government 2022 organized in all the fourteen districts of the State should be completed within the stipulated time at each level is just an example of this.

The file adalat is done by making a list of all the files received, and pending till January 31 this year at various levels from the Performance Audit Unit of the Local Self Government Department in the three tier Panchayats and Municipalities to the Secretariat, on office basis by year and category. It was directed that all pending files should be settled in the respective offices and reported to the higher echelons. Such files were disposed of at the local body level and other office levels by April 12 and forwarded to higher level offices. The district level offices were directed to finalize the files by April 20 and the directorates by April 25 and transfer them to the next level. Steps have been taken to settle all the files pending at the local self-government level by April 21.

If there is a need to speak directly with the applicant or anyone else in connection with this, they should be summoned in advance for deliberation, and the Minister should attend the hearing of the Court of Appeal, if necessary, to provide further clarification on the date of the Court Adjournment. To implement the proposal to settle the files at the district level by April 23, at

the directorate level by April 28 and at the government level by April 30, the nodal officers will be nominated for the success of the file court system at each office level, districts and the state in general and the file court system will be duly documented at each level.

Minister M. V. Govindan Master said that the liberation mission activities will be intensified to achieve a drug-free Nava Kerala. Government hospitals in the district are one of the few in the country to provide specialist treatment to drug addicts and help them to lead a normal life. During the last one year, 16989 people have been treated through the Vimukthi De-addiction Center. Free counseling services for drug addicts are being provided through counseling centers operating in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode districts. 2946 people have been able to get counseling in the last one year. The Neyyattinkara De-addiction Center has been set up for the special treatment of women and children addicted to drugs. Regional de-addiction centers for children and women for de-addiction will soon be set up at Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

The aim of the government is to improve the quality of life of all sections of the population. There should be a happier generation and Kerala will become a land of happy people when all the basic problems are solved. The LDF vision is the work of Nava Kerala. On a daily basis, the Covid defense activity of the local bodies was evaluated. The panchayat is examining the possibility of providing employment to more people. The minister reiterated that the LDF policy is abstinence from alcohol. Steps have been taken to drastically reduce the use of alcohol, counterfeit liquor and cannabis.

The Minister said that the Muttathe Mulla project, which was launched to save the families whose lives were in debt due to usury, will be strengthened in all the districts and the scheme will be expanded in collaboration with the co-operative sector to provide relief to more women. Muttathe Mulla is a scheme that provides home

loans to the needy families at a low interest rate through simple steps and eliminates the interest-bearing system of the beneficiaries through weekly repayments. Through this scheme, the government is trying to prevent the lower strata of the society, such as wage earners, small traders and poor families, from falling into exorbitant interest-bearing loans. The Minister said that the co-operative movement can be strengthened through the yard mulla. The project was started in 2018 in Palakkad district. Kudumbasree Jilla Mission and various co-operative banks in the district collaborated with the project. It was later extended to the entire state. During the current financial year, loans amounting to Rs.535.65 crore were disbursed to neighboring groups through co-operative banks. 39195 families received assistance through this. The Minister said that the Mulla project is being implemented by 2386 neighborhood groups through 456 CDSs in collaboration with 586 co-operative banks. The project started with the Moneylenders Survey led by Kudumbasree Mission to identify debt-ridden families. While private microfinance institutions charge more than 35% interest, Kudumbasree offers low interest rate loans of Rs 1,000 to Rs 50,000 per person for a period of 52 weeks, the minister said. In some districts, there has not been enough progress in implementing the scheme with the co-operative banks. The Minister said that steps will be taken to address the shortfall in the coming days and the number of neighborhood groups joining the project will be significantly increased.

The Excise Department had also implemented a special enforcement drive till January 3, 2022 to curb the spread, sale and consumption of counterfeit liquor and drugs during the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Strong enforcement measures were taken during and before the celebrations to prevent the possibility of counterfeiting, spirit smuggling, and other activities.

This closed the possibility of smuggling

spirits from other states and operating counterfeit breweries, smuggling of drugs and alcohol by out-of-state workers, and the smuggling of counterfeit liquor into the state through checkpoints in the border districts and through a number of minor routes. Excise officials efficiently inspected all vehicles, large and small, at excise check posts at state borders. It was also ensured that the Joint Excise Commissioners, Deputy Excise Commissioners and Assistant Excise Commissioners would visit the check posts directly and conduct effective vehicle inspections. The control room was set up at the Excise Headquarters under the leadership of a Superintendent. The proposal was to set up a 24-hour control room in the office of the Deputy Excise Commissioners throughout the Special Drive period. The Deputy Excise Commissioners divided their district into at least three zones and formed 24-hour Striking Forces concentrated in the respective Excise Circle Offices in each region.

The current activities of the ex-convicts involved in the Abkari and NDPS cases were directly monitored by the officials and the report was submitted to the Deputy Excise Commissioners. The department has also set up a list of individuals involved in the sale of counterfeit liquor and is set to monitor such individuals. Border patrols were carried out full time in border areas and vehicle inspections were tightened. The smuggling of counterfeit liquor through coastal areas was also stopped. He was also successful in organizing patrols at sea and inland waterways in collaboration with the Coastal Police. Dry day was strictly observed and it was ensured that parallel liquor sales did not take place on those days. Effective enforcement work has been supported by the general public to ensure a safe and trouble-free Christmas and New Year celebrations this year as well.

In view of the last lockdown situation, the development authorities have also been given the benefit of the order extending the completion period of construction work undertaken under the

Local Self Government Institutions by six months without penalty. During the lockdown due to the expansion of Covid, many construction works could not be completed on time as the contractors were unable to bring workers to the work site and bring in the goods. In this case, the completion period of the construction work was extended to six months. The benefit of this now applies to development authorities as well. The extension of all construction permits was extended as public life did not return to normal as the spread of Covid was not fully regulated. Due to the special situation prevailing in the state following the spread of Covid, the construction permits issued under the Kerala Municipality and Panchayat Building Regulations expired on March 10, 2020.

The statement that the government will go to the cloud service to expand the server service to make the Integrated Local Governance Management System (ILGMS) that provides online services in the panchayats of Kerala is beneficial to the public. The minister said the Local Self Government Department was seeking the services of CDT for cloud service in the wake of complaints about the speed of the software from various quarters. This facility is being used to support the Information Kerala Mission which has set up the ILGMS facility. The minister said the new facility would be set up as per the decision of the technical committee headed by the IT Mission which discussed the matter. The Minister said that with the shift to cloud service, the ILGMS service will be available in all the panchayats of the state and the existing services will be expanded expeditiously and securely. The Minister assured that most of the services would be made available to the people through ILGMS and mobile apps and such services would be made available to all local bodies as part of the second phase of online service development. The minister said the ILGMS service would be ensured in all the gram panchayats in the state from April 4. The ILGMS system is very useful for the common people in the Gram Panchayats of the State who depend on it for various services. Complaints

regarding the speed of this have been resolved from some quarters. ILGMS was operational in 154 panchayats in September 2020 and 155 panchayats in September 2021. ILGMS is currently being set up in the remaining 632 Grama Panchayats. The slowdown in the operation of the ILGMS during peak hours was due to a malfunction of the center server. Recognizing this, the Minister said that the CDT-controlled cloud service will be utilized and with the technical integration made on April 1 and 2, the ILGMS service will be made available to expedite cloud service. He added that most of the services would be made available to the public through mobile apps in addition to ILGMS and such services would be made available to all local bodies as part of the second phase of online service development.

Minister said that the project to identify the extremely poor, which is being implemented with the participation of the community, has reached its final stage to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty in the state within five years. 98% of the focus group discussions in the state have been completed. Through 59,852 focus group discussions across the state, 82,422 people were included in the list of the poorest of the poor, of which 77,847 were pre-enumerated in the mobile app. Field head data collection of 68,617 persons was also completed. The Minister said that 7,513 super checks have been completed in the local bodies which have completed focus group discussions, pre-enumeration and enumeration. The local bodies which have completed all the procedures have published the draft list. It has been submitted to the Gram Sabhas for approval. The Minister had stated that the Gram Sabhas in Kottayam and Thrissur districts are working together for the approval of the draft list of the Poverty Alleviation Process. As part of the implementation of the Harithamitram-Smart Garbage Management System in the local bodies of the state, if two people are assigned to the Green Task Force in a ward of a local body, the net connection will be recharged on one person's mobile. The

Minister also suggested that the plan should be amended accordingly. The Harithamitram-Smart Garbage Mobile App project is being implemented under the auspices of Haritha Kerala Mission and Sanitation Mission to intensify the inorganic waste collection process of Haritha Karma Sena and to make waste disposal activities efficient and flawless. The mobile application will be able to understand and manage the details of the amount of bio-inorganic waste collected from each household in the wards of the local bodies and how it is treated. QR is provided to households using a mobile application. The information is collected with the help of codes. Access to the amount of waste collected from each location and their disposal figures will enable all local government bodies and their respective state and district level systems to track the progress of waste collection and treatment activities. The Minister said that the internet connection was being recharged to the Green Task Force members as they needed internet facility for these activities. In the first phase, the project will be implemented in local bodies with better infrastructure. The minister said the project would be extended to other local bodies once the Smart Garbage mobile app project is fully operational.

Minister also said that the Tribal Plus scheme, which is part of the Employment Guarantee Scheme in the state, will provide additional employment to tribal workers. The minister said that in addition to the working days provided by the central government, 15287 families have been given an additional 358000 working days and this year a maximum of 200 working days should be given to the families. The Employment Guarantee Commission and the Scheduled Tribes Department should pay close attention to the implementation of the Tribal Plus scheme without arrears in the wages of the Scheduled Tribes. The State government has given Rs. 10 crore as the first installment of the Tribal Plus scheme to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Mission and the next installment of

Rs. 9.97 crore has been sanctioned, the minister said. In Wayanad, Idukki, Kasaragod and Palakkad districts, steps will be taken to create awareness among the tribal workers about the Employment Guarantee Scheme and to provide employment and wages to more people. The minister had said that in the wake of the covid crisis, which has had a major impact on the economy and employment, the state has the potential to create more than the 23.2 million jobs created last year, and that the revised labor budget will be submitted to the Central Government soon after the State completes 95% of the 8.36 million jobs currently approved by the Center.

With the realization of the Unified Local Self Government Department in the State, it will be possible to bring about a qualitative change in the governance of local government and development governance in line with the Government's vision and to ensure policy leadership. Coordinated work between the three tier panchayats and between the municipalities and panchayats is required to make the functioning of the local bodies in the state efficient and effective. The minister said this would be possible with the introduction of a unified department. Plans can be prepared and implemented vigorously through coordination between local bodies working at different levels. With the formation of a unified department, it will be possible to ensure that the planning process, various service delivery activities and the legal and necessary responsibilities of the local bodies are carried out in a unified and standardized manner. The Minister pointed out that the coordination will also help in enhancing the development achievements of the various Central and State Government projects by integrating them with the local projects into comprehensive development projects. With the formation of a unified department, there will be a general department head at the state level and a head at the district level. This will make the work of the District Planning Committee more efficient. It is also possible to ensure complementarities between the district

plan and the state plan. The Minister said that the Local Bodies and Planning Committees could better ensure the services of the technical staff of the Local Self Government Department in the areas of engineering, urban and rural planning and public health. The administrative supervision of the officers and other staff of the local bodies at various levels is currently vested in the various departments concerned with the Local Self Government Department. This is a barrier to operational coordination. The Minister said that with the realization of the Unified Local Self Government Department, all the problems of lack of coordination will be addressed and decentralization will be carried out effectively.

M. V. Govindan Master had said that he would ask the Central Government to include the construction of classrooms for SC students as permitted activities in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Earlier, steps were taken to include study rooms for SC students coming under Mankada Block Panchayat in Malappuram district under the Employment Guarantee Scheme. The best opinion was raised about this. In this context, in collaboration with the Scheduled Caste Development Department, eligibility criteria for SC students and details of the need for district-wise study rooms will be made available. The Minister said that he would approach the Central Government for approval regarding the construction of this asset and this would be a model move for the country itself.

In the third phase of the Life Mission, the Federal Reserve Bank joined hands with the Manasodithiri Mannu Campaign to make land available to the homeless. The three properties owned by the bank were handed over to Life Mission by the Loan Collection and Recovery Department of Federal Bank. Federal Bank Life Mission donated one and a half acres of land in Muvattupuzha, 12 cents in Perumbavoor and five cents in Thrissur Amballoor. During the inauguration of Manasodithiri Mannu campaign, Rs.25 crore was provided for the purchase of land for 1000 landless people. Through the Life Mission of



*With the realization of the Unified Local Self Government Department in the State, it will be possible to bring about a qualitative change in the governance of local government and development governance in line with the Government's vision and to ensure policy leadership.*



the State government, many destitute people were able to realize their dream of owning a home.

It has been decided to implement modern e-governance system for all Local Bodies in Kerala and the Unified Local Self Government Department. The Minister said that the Local Self Government Department has decided to develop a new single platform software that will integrate the 50 application softwares deployed in local bodies and the software of agencies like NIC, IT Mission and IIITMK. Information Kerala Mission is responsible for its implementation. Santosh Babu (Retd. IAS), Managing Director, K-Phone, will be the Chief Mission Director for the implementation of this project. An e-Governance Consortium consisting of IKM, NIC, IT Mission and IT research institutes will be formed as various agencies in the field of e-governance to utilize the software of other agencies as well. The Minister said that the e-Governance Committee, chaired by the Minister for Local Self-Government and convened by the Additional Chief Secretary, Local Self-Government, would

“

*It has been decided to implement modern e-governance system for all Local Bodies in Kerala and the Unified Local Self Government Department.*

”

take the helm of these activities. The new software will take advantage of modern technologies such as cloud computing, data science, artificial intelligence machine learning, virtual and augmented reality, and blockchain technology, the Internet of Things. With the development of this kind of software, the services of local bodies

can be made available to the public faster and more accurately. In addition to alleviating the workload faced by the employees of the local bodies, the difficulties in using various softwares can also be solved. Efforts are being made to provide primary services within 6 months. The minister said the software deployment was aimed at making the entire service available within a year. At the same time, work will be done to develop Information Kerala Mission as a world class IT institution. The Minister added that the Information Kerala Mission aims to develop Government and NGOs in Kerala and other states into providing technical assistance in the IT sector.

The Minister also announced that tablet computers would be distributed to the employees in connection with the implementation of the e-ebook system as part of the Price Three software to make the management of public works in the local bodies transparent and free from corruption.

The distribution of computers and the inauguration of the Swaraj Hall at Swaraj Bhavan, the headquarters of the Local Self Government Department took place. This will go a long way in eliminating corruption in the public sector through the online registration of files and transparency in file management. This software is also useful for timely preparation and payment of work bills. The decision to provide tabs to the department's engineers was taken as part of the modernization of the Local Self Government Department. The software service will be completed in phases as there are more engineers in the Local Self Government Department than in the Public Works Department. With the implementation of Price Three, which includes an electronic measurement book, the efficiency of the local self-government engineering department will increase and the work bill will be available to the contractors in a timely manner. In the first phase, the tabs will be distributed to engineers in six districts of the state, he said.

# ROSE KITCHENERS

## COMMERCIAL KITCHEN & FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENTS

		<h3>Bulk Rice Cooker</h3> <p>Fast &amp; Safe Cooking Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Made on non-magnetic stainless steel 304 grade</li> <li>◆ High hygienic for the vessel is fully closed</li> <li>◆ No burring caused on touching the outer vessel</li> <li>◆ Kitchen remains cool and free from smoke &amp; soot</li> <li>◆ Less Labor</li> </ul>		

Door No. IV574/B, Manjapetty, Mudikkal P.O., Perumbavoor, 683 547, Ernakulam (Dt)  
 Mob: 98461 51392, 98465 05390  
 E-mail: rosekitcheners@yahoo.com

# Dehydrated products

Raw Banana Powder

Green Jackfruit Flour

Raw Banana Powder

Amla Infused Honey

Ginger Honey

Turmeric Honey

info@fiann.in  
www.fiann.in

# +91 9037379500



# HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR WILL HAVE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE - MINISTER R. BINDU

**T**he higher education department of the Second LDF led government is on the path of achievement. The most important of these was the launch of the 'Let's Go Digital' project. Advanced Learning Platform is being developed using Moody Element. As part of this, the Minister of Higher Education and Social Justice, R. Bindu pointed out that the main objective of the scheme is to make the work of all higher education institutions in Kerala through a common learning management system, to modify the syllabus digitally, including examinations, and to address the difficulties faced by students in accessing equipment and data. The minister said the LMS, jointly prepared by the Higher Education Council and the Digital University, would be implemented with the help of other institutions. Steps are being taken to ensure internet connectivity everywhere as part of the project. The project also aims to make

the higher education sector a Centre of Excellence within five years. Three commissions have been appointed to implement reforms in this area. The minister said their interim reports have been submitted to the government. She added that as part of this, a report is being submitted to amend the rules. Teachers and students will be trained as part of the project. The Department of Higher Education has also decided to set up a digital bank in this manner. The Minister said that the rules and regulations of higher education will be amended accordingly to utilize the potential of digital education. Government policies have been successful in transforming all campuses into women-friendly and diversity-friendly. She also said that the government was planning to revise the standard examination rules and regulations in the field of higher education. The State Government has taken on the great responsibility of

transforming Kerala into a neo-scientific society. As a part of this, the higher education sector is also preparing for new changes.

At Chalakudy Panampilly Memorial College development work worth Rupees 4 crore 59 lakh was inaugurated. Inaugurating the project, the Minister said that the government aims to nurture the creative potential of children and utilize them for the development of the country and the society. During the last LDF government, the amount was sanctioned from the state plan fund for the development activities of the college. Construction of the open auditorium, garden, two and three storey library block, new parish hall and expanded second and third blocks of the college hostel was completed. It is clear from the activities of the higher education sector that the student-centered education system needs to be further strengthened and the government aims to harness the creative

talents of the students in a way that benefits the nation.

The Department of Higher Education has decided to set up National Service Scheme Units in B.Ed Colleges in the State to ensure teachers' experience of social service. The units have already received the green light for the new academic year. The minister said the new units would be set up in B.Ed colleges under all the universities in the state. The new move comes as the National Service Scheme directed the state advisory council to take a decision on the matter. The Minister said that this will lead to big changes in the field of teacher training. This will enable future teachers to shape models of community service. Steps have also been taken at the departmental level to bring about periodic reforms in the field of skill training. To lead this, the state level inauguration of the ASAP Cell was held to launch the 'ASAP Kerala', a skills development company under the Department of Higher Education. "We are in the fourth phase of the Industrial Revolution and we need to enable the next generation to master the latest in artificial intelligence and machine learning," she said. The colleges opened with preparations. The department paid special attention to ensuring the mental health of the children. The Minister said that children should be treated as contributors and girls should be treated equally and education should focus on contribution. On the first day, the children were given detailed classes on how to follow the Covid protocol at the institutional level. For a long time, the children lived in a closed family environment. During Covid, there were job losses and loss of income in the families. Counseling centers have been set up in all colleges to help children recover from mental illness as it has the greatest impact on the family environment. This was the beginning of a comprehensive plan to alleviate the mental stress of students during the Covid period. Plans were envisaged, including counseling training for teachers.

The aim is to continue the achievements made in various fields. The Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships implemented

by the Higher Education Council are part of it. It provides an opportunity for research to take forward the unique experiences of Kerala. The Government's vision of providing financial, social and institutional support to those interested in research is behind the Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships. We are going to set up research facilities here that can attract people from outside Kerala. Minister R. Bindu said that Nava Kerala has taken a huge responsibility for the work and envisions a project to bring all sections of the society into the mainstream. It aims to build a knowledge-based society that upholds the concepts of social justice. This government will give priority to the higher education sector as given by the previous government in the field of school education. The public education sector will be further transformed and the outdated rules will be changed.

Earlier, it was also ordered to allot 'work from home' to one of the parents of children with disabilities in the wake of the increase in Covid spread in the state. Earlier, 'work from home' was set up for pregnant women working in such institutions and mothers with children under the age of two. The government's positive decision in the second coming was to give that permission to one of the parents of children with physical and mental challenges such as autism and cerebral palsy.

Another achievement of the Department of Social Justice was the introduction of the Elder Line 14567 - a helpline number for senior citizens to seek assistance for any need. The service is available all days of the week from 8am to 8pm. The service is available to those over 55 years of age. Minister R. Bindu said that the Department of Social Justice, through Elder Line is strengthening the responsibility of the government to provide support and shade to the elderly. The government is implementing several schemes for the elderly. The government is planning to trace the complaints received through the Elder Line and formulate basic plans. Under the leadership of the local bodies, councils for the elderly will be formed in each ward and their needs will be identified and implemented.



The services of a psychologist will be ensured. The survey for the elderly will be conducted immediately. The government will understand the complaints received through the survey and implement the schemes to build a safety net for the elderly. There is general ignorance about various government services for the elderly. Information about them can be obtained through a phone call. The fact that the Kerala Police, the Health Department and the Revenue Department are all behind this scheme will give more confidence to the elderly. The hope is that the project will bring about a qualitative change in the lives of our senior citizens. It was decided to start 'Sayamprabha' model day homes in all the districts and then at the block level as the elders started to come together and share their problems with each other. The 'Second Innings Home' scheme will be implemented in all the districts to upgrade the facilities and services of old age homes to the national standard.

The Minister said that the 'Vayo Sevana' award has been instituted for individuals and institutions who have excelled in the field of geriatric care and for outstanding contributions in various fields. The Minister announced two social security schemes for senior citizens at the function. 'Vayoraksha', an emergency relief scheme for senior citizens. The minister said the scheme, which would provide emergency assistance to senior citizens with disabilities without any assistance, would be implemented under the auspices of the district social justice officers.





## INITIATING FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS - MINISTER J. CHINCHU RANI

**A**s the first year of the continuing rule of LDF government approaches, the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Departments are on the upswing. It should be read in conjunction with Minister J. Chinchu Rani's statement that Milma is planning to give an extra Rs. 1 to dairy farmers for a liter of milk. The Dairy Department and Milma have provided a number of benefits to farmers in connection with Covid. She said that Milma has been able to work out solutions to various problems of the farmers. A scheme has been started to insure the entire herd. A district level health center for cow protection will be set up. The minister also said that tenders have been invited for 21 veterinary ambulances. Another advantage available to dairy farmers is the decision to reduce and consolidate the prices of fodder made by Kerala Feeds and Milma. Milma can procure surplus milk in Kerala to produce more milk-based products. The Minister said that necessary efforts would be made to export such products to other states. The minister said that it was the poor farmers who provide milk in co-operative societies, and the central government's move to impose income tax on dairy farmers was a setback for farmers.

The assurance of the Minister that strict action would be taken against those who tried to sell cheap milk from other states under the guise of Kerala milk became a timely warning for frauds. The minister also said that action would be taken on complaints received regarding milk coming from other states. Kerala has cows for milk production and dairy groups for milk procurement required

by the state. Milma will store all the milk brought in by the farmers. But the milk must have been produced in the state itself. The state does not currently intend to increase milk prices. If the price of milk in Kerala is increased, cheaper milk will flow to Kerala from other states. This will seriously affect the dairy farmers in Kerala. Instead of increasing the price of milk as demanded by the dairy farmers, the government is planning to control the price of fodder and produce the raw material for fodder. Apart from this, materials required for fodder production will be brought to Kerala from other states under the Kisan Rail scheme.

The government is taking all measures to protect dairy farmers. The Minister said that the benefits would reach all if all the dairy farmers became members of the Dairy Welfare Fund Board. The dairy sector is also a major source of income for returning expatriates. For this, bank loan and subsidy facilities will be prepared. In addition, steps are being taken to expand the supply of poultry to all districts through KEPCO. Preparations have already begun to bring a bill to legislate fodder quality control in the Assembly. The state level prize scheme of Rs.3 crore to promote the distribution of Milma Gomathi fodder to dairy farmers was inaugurated. Milma plans to distribute gifts worth over Rs 3 crore to dairy farmers through the scheme.

During the last monsoon, the Animal Husbandry Department in the state suffered a loss of Rs.2 crore. The floods caused huge losses to the livestock and dairy sectors. The department is also working hard to provide financial assistance to farmers whose livestock have died. Control rooms were also opened for pets. The compensation will

be increased to Rs. 30,000 per cow for farmers and Rs. 15,000 per calf. The minister also said that Rs. 200 per dead chicken and Rs. 50,000 to those whose stables were completely destroyed would be allotted.

Farmers in Kerala were able to survive the shocks of the Covid period. During the Covid period, excess milk could not be stored and had to be drained. To address this, the first milk powder manufacturing unit in Kerala was started at Malappuram at a cost of Rs. 59 crore. More sheds will be constructed to relocate livestock in flood prone areas. A subsidy of Rs. 16,000 will be given to farmers to grow green fodder for their livestock. The services of a veterinary hospital and an ambulance are provided at night. Tele-veterinary units will be started on block basis.

She also said the expansion of foot-and-mouth disease vaccination and livestock insurance would be of great help to farmers. The government is implementing policies that will bring about fundamental changes in milk production. The storage system is changed from time to time through initiatives like milk powder factory. She added that various programs will be launched to attract the new generation to the dairy sector. The dairy sector is growing towards exporting dairy products. Steps are taken to contain the cost of production. Farmers are being assisted by providing fodder at affordable rates and subsidizing fodder cultivation. The service of veterinary doctors has been adopted day and night. The minister said the service of tele-veterinary units would be further expanded.



# TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SYSTEMS TO FAST PACE THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT - MINISTER ANTONY RAJU



**M**inister Antony Raju, who handles the transport department in the second Pinarayi cabinet, is one of the few ministers who have tried to elevate the department from time to time. The minister who took a clear stand even in the crisis of KSRTC made a positive and vibrant approach under his leadership. The distribution of Rs. 2,000 crore to KSRTC last year that made huge inroads into the distribution of pensions can undoubtedly be said as one of the relevant steps taken by the minister. Continuous approach in saving KSRTC

Employee's confidence and morale, a contract was signed with the employees union to revise their salary system that has not been fulfilled in the last 11 years. The new Driver-cum-conductor system has also introduced by the minister for long routes which has a travelling time more than 8 hours as his vision, focusing on the innovative ideas proved once again appreciable. The revised system gradually lifts KSRTC from loss. New electric/CNG buses have been sanctioned in the capital to make more environment friendly moves. K Swift-One of the dream ventures has also become a reality. Above these,

there are 82 buses plying in the capital city for urban travel to facilitate city circular bus service. This will be further adopted and implemented to other cities soon. KSRTC's tour packages were well received by the people with open arms. The Gramavandi project can also be noted as the vision of minister Antony Raju to make access of KSRTC buses even in every remote area of villages. These kinds of public concerned ventures and visions of the minister help in rebuilding KSRTC move forward, overcoming adverse conditions. The one-time settlement scheme for vehicles with tax arrears of four years

The MVD-Motor Vehicles Department has been improving efficiency ever since measures have been taken to resolve the complaints of the people as soon as possible. The applications received by the MVD will not be delayed indefinitely and will not bother the common people. The minister had assured that he would instruct the officials for this, setting up a monitoring system and make maximum use of the online system. Charging stations for electric vehicles will be set up in public places in the state this financial year. A subsidy of Rs. 30,000 / - is provided for the promotion of e-Auto system. He also directed the Transport Commissioner to make the online system introduced by the MVD be transparent and time bound. It was also suggested that a system be set up at the office and on the website to inform the public clearly about the fees/fines etc. The minister also said that stern action would be taken against officials who deliberately tried to delay online services. As the state government's initiative to speed up various services to the public, the department is equipped to make the services online in a timely manner without the intervention of intermediaries.

Vehicle inspection and driving test in the state will be modernized with the help of technology. Instead of vehicles being inspected and certified by officials, 75 computerized vehicle testing stations and driving testing tracks will be built with private participation and the procedures are in the final stages. Kerala is one of the most populous states in terms of population density. In that sense, MVD is the department that has the most to do with the daily lives of the people in a timely manner. Adalat was held with the aim of resolving many issues faced by the people in connection with vehicles in a timely manner. In 2022, 851 complaints were resolved. Out of a total of 1430 complaints, 639 were related to vehicle registration. Of these, 427 were settled. Of the 366 complaints related to driving licenses, 194 were resolved. All the six complaints related to permit were settled. Of the 121 complaints received on vehicle tax, 112



*Vehicle inspection and driving test in the state will be modernized with the help of technology. Instead of vehicles being inspected and certified by officials, 75 computerized vehicle testing stations and driving testing tracks will be built with private participation and the procedures are in the final stages.*



were settled. Of the 150 cases related to the check report, 37 were resolved. The general category received 148 complaints. Of these, 75 were settled. It is a matter of great pride for the MVD to be able to shift the operations of the Department to a fully online system. In addition, steps are being taken to upgrade the motor vehicle offices to a completely digital status. The minister also said that all the services of the department would be made available online without any financial loss to the people, giving a new mode keeping them completely abstain from paying money looting agents. 726 state-of-the-art AI cameras have been installed across Kerala, and are soon going to be operational after successful trial run. This would help reduce accidents, detect criminals using vehicles and catch officials who use vehicles indiscriminately.



## A PROGRESSIVE BUDGET BY MINISTER K.N. BALAGOPAL FOR THE PEOPLE

**K**.N. Balagopal, the Minister of Finance seems to be one of the most popular faces since the first full budget presentation of the second LDF government. There are a lot of positive works being done by the government in relation to the department before and after the budget. Mainly, Sree Narayana Guru Open University, the 15th University in Kerala, established in 2020, has been allotted a budget of Rs. 7 crores. Funds were allocated for the preparation of study materials for the university, renovation of the academic

block, cyber center and regional learning centers. Construction of the university headquarters will begin in 2022-23. The Finance Minister had stated that funds have been allocated for the construction of the headquarters of Sree Narayana Guru Open University and Kerala Technical University under the heading of MADP. The cabinet also decided to create 118 new posts. 56 academic posts and 62 non-academic posts will be created in the first phase. This will be the beginning of the academic activities of Sree Narayana Guru Open University. This decision is a great revolution in the

field of education in Kerala. Through this, the university is opening a new window of opportunity for those who want to pursue distance education courses and online courses. Finance Minister K. N. Balagopal said that the government aimed to equip the university with a range of modern courses and activities. The potential of an open university in the age of digital education is endless. The decision is part of the most active advancement of university activities. It has also decided to open four regional centers.

Decision is also taken to make the

functioning of the treasuries in the state more people-friendly. The government aims to upgrade the physical condition of the treasuries in the state to a higher standard. Strict action was taken to prevent tax evasion. The Minister had assured that the inspection would be expanded with the help of technology and the work of the squads in this regard would be further intensified. The government is responsible for tax collection and detection of tax evasion. Those who do business in accordance with the law will have no difficulty. Officers were strictly instructed to follow all procedures during vehicle and shop inspections. The government wouldn't allow anyone to interfere in the wrong way.

Special assistance was provided to the fishermen. The decision was taken to provide assistance to 159481 fisher families in the state due to severe famine and distress. An amount of Rs 47.84 crore has been set aside from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund to

fulfil the promise of Rs 3,000 each. The Finance Minister said that Kochi would be given top priority in the state budget for 2022 and that many development activities would be included in the budget, including road development and canal rehabilitation in Kochi. As a city that makes a significant contribution to the state exchequer, the government is giving due consideration to the needs of Kochi. Kochi plays an important role not only in the trade sector of Kerala but also of South India. The Minister said that the development of infrastructure will pave the way for activating the economic process of Kochi and increasing employment. He said proposals like road development, canal rehabilitation, Marine Drive expansion, construction of railway overbridge, strengthening of the Greater Cochin Development Authority and renovation of KSRTC stand would be actively considered.

Vehicles of children who are differently abled intellectually were also exempted from tax. The government has decided to exempt road tax on private vehicles purchased for children with such differently-abled conditions, including cerebral palsy and autism. Heavy torrential rains and floods in neighboring states have severely affected agriculture, resulting in a sharp decline in the supply of agricultural produce to the state. An amount of Rs. 8 crores has been urgently sanctioned to curb inflation through the interventions of HortiCorp and VFPC under the Department of Agriculture in view of the possibility of increase in prices of vegetables and fruits in the public market. A special package was sought from the central government to revive the economy. Apart from this, the minister asked the Center to extend the GST compensation for another five years to the states to overcome the crisis in the Covid background, to announce a special scheme for returning expatriates and to further expand the employment guarantee scheme. They also demanded an increase of five percent in the debt ceiling of the states, an increase in Kerala's share in the Central Government's schemes and 100 per cent of the cost of the National

Health Mission to be borne by the Central Government. Apart from this, the Central Government has also been asked to expedite the approval of the K Rail Silver Line project, a flagship project of the State Government.

The third instalment of Rs.256 crores has been sanctioned for the maintenance grant to the local bodies. The grant was used for road construction in local bodies and for repairs to other projects, including buildings, playgrounds and drinking water projects. This amount will enable local development activities in the state to be accelerated. The grant is Rs.57.46 crores for Municipal Corporations, Rs.122.12 crores for Municipalities, Rs.86.78 crores for District Panchayats, Rs.43.75 crores for Block Panchayats and Rs.746 crores for Grama Panchayats.

The government also has a clear plan to take steps to address drinking water shortages in as many areas as possible before the onset of summer. Water levels in the region decrease during the summer months when the temperature rises. Although the necessary solution can be found by opening the Kalladayar, the aim is to expand the project to a permanent solution. Renovation at a cost of Rs. 37 crores is proposed to be implemented. Water availability at source will be ensured by implementing dredging as rock scarcity is likely to increase. Steps will also be taken to remove the sludge. The Water Authority and the Irrigation Department have been directed to work together. The minister said that they are trying to solve the drinking water problem by modernizing the outdated projects as required.

The government has sanctioned Rs. 40 crores for the salaries of KSRTC employees. In addition, the Finance Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 70.78 crores to the consortium of banks for pension payments for June 2021. The government is also repaying the co-operative banks which provide pensions to KSRTC employees. Rs.752.16 crore was repaid in this financial year alone. The government had earmarked Rs. 1,000 crore for KSRTC in this year's budget.



There are many examples of people who have been able to achieve great things in various fields by being able to visualize great work. One of them is the museum here, which houses artifacts and value-added products from recycled materials. Kerala is on a journey to achieve greater growth in the manufacturing sector as well. Disposable plastic bottles and rusty wires are sculpted here. Kerala's excellence in health, public education, gender equality, poverty alleviation and quality of life has become a model for third world countries. Other states in the country should be like Kerala. World-renowned economist Amartya Sen and others have praised Kerala's growth.

Despite the economic crisis in the state, there has been no compromise on social welfare and development activities. The budget placed special emphasis on increasing GDP, economic development, employment and infrastructure development. The Covid epidemic created a major financial crisis in the state. During this crisis, measures were taken to increase domestic production. Special provision has been made for infrastructure development. The Finance Minister had said that a special plan would be prepared to prevent tax evasion and get maximum tax. In addition to giving special consideration to the industrial sector, new projects were also announced in the tourism sector.

Finance Minister K. N. Balagopal presented the budget for the economic survival of Kerala, including the need to bring science to the higher education sector and make changes in the IT sector. As part of the radical change in the field of higher education, a total of Rs.200 crore has been set apart for universities at Rs.20 crore each. An amount of Rs.20 crore has been provided for start-up incubation centers in universities and international hostel facilities in universities. 1500 new hostel rooms and 150 international hostel rooms will be started. An amount of Rs.100 crore has been set apart for this. Rs.100 crore will be allocated through KIFB to renovate hostels. The Medical Tech Innovation Center at Thiruvananthapuram will be constructed at a cost of Rs.100 crore. Rs.50 crore has been earmarked for setting up a genomic data center. The first step will be to work with the University of Kerala. The project is expected to cost Rs. 500 crore over 5 years.

Small industrial units will be set up with state-of-the-art technical facilities along with engineering colleges, arts colleges and polytechnics. This will enable students to be part of the economic production process and to be trained along with their studies. A pilot project has been announced to launch it in all the 14 districts of Kerala. Rs.25 crore is set apart for this. This time the government also announced

the 'Work near home' scheme. With the opening of IT-based workplaces in various parts of the state, educated housewives can become part of the workforce. An amount of Rs.50 crore has been set apart for this project. Ideas like work-from-home are likely to persist and continue on a large scale even after Covid. The Finance Minister pointed out that the possibility of providing employment online for companies around the world should be utilized. This is what the 'Work near home' project is for. In the first full budget of the second Pinarayi government, Rs.260 crore was sanctioned for Kudumbashree projects in the state this financial year. The government was able to create 10.23 billion jobs last year through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. A special yajna will be held to create 12 crore working days in the financial year 2022-23. At the same time, in addition to the share of Kudumbashree schemes, the Kerala budget has also included space for Naipunya scheme which will provide employment to two lakh people. A special scheme for marketing of Kudumbashree products has already been announced.

It was also announced that a cruise tourism project will be implemented from Kovalam to Goa to expand Kerala's tourism projects to the sea. Kovalam, Kollam, Kochi, Beypore, Mangalore and Goa will be connected to the sea tourism project, the finance minister said. An amount of Rs.5 crore has been set apart for this, this year. The Finance Minister said that Kerala is moving beyond the beach tourism of Alappuzha and Kottayam districts to the field of maritime tourism. In addition, Rs.150 crore has been set apart for the Kochi Water Metro project and Rs.2 crore for the DPR of Sabarimala Airport. The water metro has been successfully launched. Four IT corridors will be set up in the state parallel to National Highway 66, which will be developed into six lanes at Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam. All these four corridors will originate from the existing IT centers in the state. The designated corridors

from Technopark Phase III to Kollam are Ernakulam-Koratty, Ernakulam-Cherthala and Kozhikode-Kannur. The budget also provides Rs.200 crore for six bypass roads. An amount of Rs.1000 crore is set apart for the revival of KSRTC this year. Another 50 pumps will be started under KSRTC. Rs.50 crore will be provided to KSRTC for installation of CNG buses.

The Finance Minister also announced that a marketing company will be set up on the model of CIAL for the marketing of value-added products. During the presentation of the budget, the Finance Minister pointed out that more value-addition facilities should be created for the processing of agricultural resources. We can create a huge market that can be noticed even at the international level. An amount of Rs.100 crore would be sanctioned from KIFB to start ten mini food parks under the Industries Department with facilities to produce and market Kerala's unique resources. Marketing is a very important thing when it comes to value-added products. At the same time, it has been able to improve the marketing of agricultural value-added products by collaborating with workers and entrepreneurs in various sectors, including overseas. A company operating on a commercial basis on the model of CIAL will be formed. It will be a marketing company with a capital of Rs. 100 crore. The company will be responsible for branding and quality assurance of products, including marketing. The Finance Minister also announced that Rs. 20 crore would be set aside this year for the IT project under the government's share.

An amount of Rs.25 crore has been sanctioned in the budget to prevent wildlife attack in the state. Of this, Rs. 7 crore will be provided to the families of those killed in wildlife attacks. This is a condolence message to the families of those who lost their lives in the wildlife attack and to those who sought treatment for their injuries. The amount has been sanctioned to the dependents of those who lost their lives due to wildlife attacks on agricultural lands. Wildlife disturbance has been

a problem facing farmers in Kerala for a long time. In one year, four farmers were killed in a wild boar attack. Several people were injured. The government is ready to increase the amount of compensation for those who lose their lives or are injured in wildlife attacks and to implement special insurance for those living in forest areas. Kuttanad has been allotted Rs. 140 crore for flood relief, Finance Minister said while the budget presentation. Kuttanad, which experiences floods every year, will be given special consideration in the budget.

This time it is also a budget with new projects. Ration shops will be set up in the state. It has been announced that the scheme will be implemented in all the constituencies of the state. Apart from this, the budget has allocated Rs.12,903 crore for local bodies. The announcement of the mobile ration shops made it clear that the project would bring great relief to the rural areas of the state. With this, ration facilities will be available at the doorstep. As part of climate change, a budget of Rs.2 crore has been set aside for the construction of a model house in Monroe Island. An amount of Rs.58 crore has been set apart for increasing paddy production in Kuttanad. The Finance Minister said that Rs. 851 crore has been allotted for the agriculture sector. Rs.76 crore has been sanctioned in the budget for paddy development. A new scheme called Krishisree will be started in the agricultural sector. The aim is to form self-help groups in the agricultural sector. Rs.500 crore has been sanctioned for rubber subsidy. Ethanol will be produced from tapioca. Rs.2 crore has been sanctioned for the Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram. The budget also supports jack fruit products. A marketing company will be started to market agricultural products. Rs.100 crore will be allotted for this.

The minister said tackling inflation was the biggest challenge facing the state. Rs.2000 crore has been sanctioned to control inflation. He said the government would make public institutions more efficient in dealing with

*Small industrial units will be set up with state-of-the-art technical facilities along with engineering colleges, arts colleges and polytechnics. This will enable students to be part of the economic production process and to be trained along with their studies.*

inflation. In the first full budget of the second Pinarayi government, Finance Minister K. N Balagopal had drastically increased the budget allocation for the health sector. Rs.2629 crore has been introduced in the budget for the health sector alone. Rs.50 crore has been sanctioned to the Institute of Impression Virology. An amount of Rs.81 crore has been sanctioned for upgrading RCC, Thiruvananthapuram as a State Cancer Center. Rs.14 crore has been allotted to Kochi Cancer Center and Rs.28 crore to Malabar Cancer Center. An amount of Rs.500 crore has been sanctioned for the Karunya scheme and Rs.5 crore for the palliative care sector. The Medical Tech Innovation Park will be set up in Thiruvananthapuram at a cost of Rs.100 crore by bringing together medical technology related institutions to create a medical entrepreneurial ecosystem. Kerala Genomic Data Center at a cost of Rs.500 crore for health care, study of genetic defects, improvement of productivity in primary sector, medical, agricultural and livestock sectors. The establishment of a Center of Excellence in Nutraceuticals will be initiated.

Rs.1600 crore has been sanctioned for the Rebuild Kerala project. Apart from these, Rs.14 crore has been sanctioned for flood relief and Rs.92 crore for reconstruction of flood-damaged bridges. In the first full budget of the second LDF government, Rs. 100 crore was allocated for coastal protection. It has been announced a comprehensive rehabilitation package for a child who lost one or both parents due to Covid. Rs. 3 lakh will be deposited in the name of the child. Rs.2000/- per month will be allotted to each child till the age of 18 years. An amount of Rs.2 crore has been set apart for the project this year. An amount of Rs.61.5 crore has been set apart for the 'Hunger Free Childhood' project to improve the nutritional status of children in Kerala and to achieve the goal of sustainable development of hunger free childhood. The Finance Minister said that the food menu has been changed with the aim of improving the health of the children in the Anganwadis.



*The Finance Minister told the assembly that the MLAs' cut-off asset development fund has been restored to Rs. 5 crore. During the Covid crisis last year, the MLA cut funding to provide more facilities in the health sector.*



The project aims to build one lakh six thousand individual houses and 2950 flats in the financial year 2022-23. The total outlay for the Life Housing Scheme is Rs.1871.82 crore, including the central outlay of Rs.327 crore for the PMAY scheme. The Aadhaar-based biometric identification system has been in place since April 1 to ensure the security of treasury transactions in the state. He added that the e-wallet system will be introduced from next financial year to enable utility payments through the treasury. Loans' worth Rs.250 crore will be disbursed next year through KFC's Startup Kerala project. He also announced that KSFE would open three regional offices, 50 new branches and 15 micro branches in the next financial year. In addition, KFC's lending assets will increase to Rs. 10,000 crore within the next two years. In addition, KFC's credit limit will be increased to Rs.2 crore as part of the CM's Entrepreneurship Development Plan. The budget of the second Pinarayi government was a tax-free relief budget that directly affected the people during the crisis. The Finance

Minister also announced a scheme to reimburse those who paid more flood cess. At the same time, the fair value of land will increase by 10 percent. The target is an additional revenue of Rs.200 crore through a 10 percent increase in the fair value of land. A high-level committee was appointed to look into the situation where the fair price did not match the general market value. The basic land tax reform will generate an additional revenue of Rs.80 crore. For land above 40.47, a new tax slab will be introduced. The increase in motorcycle tax will generate revenue of Rs.60 crore per annum. As part of the scraping policy, the tax has been increased to 50 percent for vehicles above 15 years. The one-time settlement of motor vehicle tax arrears will continue. The tax on caravan vehicles has been halved. Rs.50 crore will be mobilized through the compounding scheme which deals with registration under valuation cases. The deadline for bar hotels to file returns has been extended.

A realistic budget has become a thing of the past. While Kerala has consistently topped all the study reports of the Judicial Commission, it is evident that the effective work done for development during the first Pinarayi Government has progressed well and its impact on the living standards of the people. As part of this, various projects are being implemented. Kerala continues to reap the benefits of each sector.

The Finance Minister told the assembly that the MLAs' cut-off asset development fund has been restored to Rs. 5 crore. During the Covid crisis last year, the MLA cut funding to provide more facilities in the health sector. Members applauded the minister's announcement that the reduced asset development fund had been restored to Rs. 5 crore. Autorickshaws are exempt from the tax imposed on diesel vehicles. A special scheme has been announced for traders to get interest relief. An additional Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned for river protection and Rs. 5 crore for playgrounds in rural areas. Of this, additional projects worth Rs.46.35 crore have been announced.



# DIGITAL PARTNER



Blockchain Based Loyalty | Digital marketing | Website Development  
Mobile Application Development | E Commerce Portal

INDIA UAE USA

[www.mysearchglobalrewards.com](http://www.mysearchglobalrewards.com)

IND: +91 989 547 8037 | UAE: +971 561 202 055



# MAXIMIZE SOLAR POWER GENERATION AND REDUCE OUTSOURCING- MINISTER K. KRISHNANKUTTY

**T**o make the state self-sufficient in electricity generation in a phased manner was one of the first promises made by K. Krishnankutty, the Minister of Electricity in the second Pinarayi cabinet. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Kanchikode three-megawatt solar power project. The minister said that by increasing power generation, it would be possible to reduce the

amount of electricity purchased from outside and thereby reduce the cost of household electricity. In this way electricity can be made available at minimal cost to industries as well. The minister had said that small power projects would be completed on time and the rooftop solar project would be further expanded and public participation was essential to turn every house into a power generation hub. He also assured that if the second

phase of the Idukki hydropower project is implemented, the electricity charges will be reduced.

The aim of the government is to provide electricity at affordable rates. Preparations are underway to strengthen the transmission sector for power supply. It is not possible to move forward without increasing the domestic production of electricity. The development of the state took off after the commencement of power projects in Idukki district. There is a long way to go in terms of power generation and distribution. The state is now moving forward by buying power from outside. Further far-sighted projects for the sector are yet to be implemented. In general, Kerala is a state with low transmission losses. There is a situation where the coal shortage is getting worse. Hydropower projects will be made more efficient. He hoped that various projects,

including Thottiyar, would be completed this year. As the importance of energy increases, the government aims not only to generate electricity but also to expand the distribution sector by eliminating transmission losses.

The minister also stated that his goal is to bring light to the last house in Kerala where there is no electricity. The Athirappilly project was the cause of most of the problems within the Front in the first Pinarayi government. For the first time since being sworn in as the minister, it had been clarified his stance on the Athirappilly issue. The Left Front will take a decision on issues including the Athirappilly project. The level of pollution is much higher than other methods used for power generation. The state level inauguration of rooftop solar power plants was also held as part of KSEB's solar project. Rooftop solar power plants are part of the efforts of the Government and KSEB to provide low-cost electricity to consumers. KSEB received the 'Rooftop Solar Enabler of the year' award from EQ International Magazine for excellence in implementation of Rooftop Solar Project Ltd. just before the second Pinarayi government completed one year. During the last week of March 2022, KSEB Ltd. received the award for its installed capacity of 228 MW and total installed capacity of 500 MW for the Rooftop Solar Project in the State.

In the first phase of the solar project implemented by the State Government and KSEB to increase power generation from renewable energy sources, 29 MW of rooftop plants have been set up in schools, colleges, NGOs and houses across the state. Out of this, 40 rooftop power plants of 1.5 MW were inaugurated at Mohandas Engineering College, Thiruvananthapuram. The power generation here is connected to the supply chain of KSEB. The target is to reach 22 lakh units of grid per annum through rooftop solar power plants, which were fully funded by KSEB at a cost of Rs.6.75 crore. A 300 KW solar power plant with a capacity of 1.5 MW has been commissioned at Mohandas



Engineering College as part of the project. It is a Model 1 plant that provides customers with 10% of the total electricity generated by the rooftop solar power plant free of cost. The solar power plant was established by Incal.

With the completion of the first phase, 2535 customers will benefit from the scheme. At present, 1349 solar power plants have been set up. Work on setting up rooftop plants with subsidy in the domestic sector will be implemented as the second phase of the solar project. The minister said the state should become self-sufficient in power generation and only then can industries and employment grow. KSEB has made efforts to increase power generation from 65 MW to 100 MW by March 2022. The aim is to maximize the use of solar power generation and reduce outsourcing.



# EQUIPPING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HANDLE ANY HEALTH EMERGENCIES – MINISTER VEENA GEORGE

**V**eena George, the Minister of Health, Women and Child Development of the Second LDF Government, is a person with a clear vision. She skillfully demonstrates the wealth of experience she has gained as a journalist. The recognition, efficiency and popularity of the various development and welfare schemes she

has implemented have enabled Veena George to carry out the great task as the Minister of Health. The new campaign which aims at the thought 'good food is the right of the country' launched by the Food Security Department to find adulteration of food in the state also proves the minister's peerless array of pragmatic excellence. As part of this, 'Operation Matsya' was launched to

detect adulteration in fish. The goal is to ensure safe eating, since raids and inspections are intensified in all districts to detect adulteration of food items. The minister had said that as part of the campaign, the public would be made aware so that they too could find it on their own. Another decision is to implement the lab network in the state within two years. Modern testing

facilities will be available from family health centers. The hub and spoke model will be implemented for the labs. It is a system for effective prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Department of Health is on a mission to eradicate various diseases by 2025. The Minister said that this system will be implemented in a way that is accessible to all. Eradication of leprosy is targeted by 2025. The goal of sustainable development in this area can be achieved by self-examination, diagnosis and treatment without neglecting the symptoms of leprosy. The Department of Health

has formulated and implemented a number of schemes aimed at eradicating leprosy. The disease can be treated and cured in any condition. With 6 to 12 months of treatment, leprosy can be completely cured. Therefore, those with symptoms should seek treatment as soon as possible, the minister said. In the year 2021-22 alone, 302 people were diagnosed and treated. In the year 2020-21, 311 patients were diagnosed. Currently 460 patients are being treated. These patients were diagnosed and treated under the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign, the Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign and the Complete

Leprosy Eradication Survey conducted over the years in two phases.

The Infertility Clinic at Thycaud Hospital will be made an independent unit. People from all over Kerala and Tamil Nadu come to Thycaud Hospital for treatment. That is why the government attaches great importance to this hospital. The infertility clinic will be completed on time. The construction of Lakshya Labor Room is underway at a cost of around Rs. 2 crore. The Thycaud Hospital was inaugurated with facilities not even available in private hospitals. The health of the child and the health of the mother are important. DEICs are designed to detect and treat congenital malformations in children. In addition, the Sensory Integration Room has been set up to provide better service. In addition, state-of-the-art pediatric ICUs have been set up. A state-of-the-art machine will be set up at the hospital at a cost of Rs.20 lakh for thyroid examination at the hospital



itself. About 12 type of tests can be done through this. The Health Department is giving special consideration to Thycaud Hospital. The Health Minister is directly implementing many projects which were stalled at the hospital.

The first post-administration state budget was to strengthen the health sector during the epidemic. The health emergency response package has given the health sector a huge boost to combat the Covid epidemic. The budget also contained anticipatory announcements to effectively combat the third wave. A program consisting of six items has also been started. This helped to make the health systems and allied systems more efficient. An amount of Rs.2800 crore has been set apart in the second Covid package for tackling health emergencies. An amount of Rs.1000 crore has been set

apart for purchase of free vaccine for all persons above 18 years of age and Rs.500 crore for purchase of ancillary equipment. Steps will be taken to further strengthen the health institutions by strengthening the Family Health Sub-Centers, Family Health Centers, Community Health Centers and Urban Primary Health Centers with a grant of Rs.559 crore per annum in collaboration with the State Government and Local Government bodies. Health systems will be strengthened under the leadership of local bodies. During the current financial year Rs.559 crore is provided to the Local Self Government Institutions from the health grant sanctioned by the Fifteenth Finance Commission to Kerala. This amount is spent on Family Health Sub-Centers, Family Health Centers, Community Health Centers and Urban Primary Health Centers. Steps

will be taken to further strengthen the health institutions by coordinating the State Government share and the Local Government share with the health grant. The budget also provides for the AYUSH department. Drugs will be made available through the AYUSH departments for enhancement of immunity and post-covid treatment. Rs.20 crore is set apart for this. Special vaccination centers have been set up to intensify the vaccination of expatriates. Expatriates above 45 years of age are provided with facilities for spot registration and vaccination. Electricity linemen, SC and ST promoters and gas cylinder suppliers have been added to the vaccine priority list.

Minister Veena George said that the government aims to eradicate child labour from the state by 2025. There are over 80 million child laborers in

India. One in six children in the world is a worker. Sarana Balyam is a state-wide project aimed to prevent child labor, child begging, child exploitation, etc. in the State. It is a project started in Pathanamthitta district with the focus on child labour. The department has taken up the project to expand the scheme across the state and today these activities are being carried out in a very efficient manner under the leadership of a rescue officer in every district. In Pathanamthitta district alone, 85 children have been released under this scheme.

The health department has also issued guidelines to ensure diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in post-Covid patients in the state. Numerous studies around the world have reported the possibility of activating inactivated tuberculosis germs in the body of Covid-free patients. At least 10 cases of post-Covid patients have been reported in the state in just four weeks. Temporary immunodeficiency caused by covid and inflammation of the lungs may lead to tuberculosis. Delays in the diagnosis of tuberculosis are more likely to occur because the symptoms of postpartum respiratory disease are similar to those of tuberculosis. In this case, the guidelines were issued to detect tuberculosis in Covid-free patients.

A separate block will be set up in each medical college to deal with communicable diseases. For the first phase, Rs.50 crore has been set apart for setting up isolation blocks in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Medical Colleges. The third wave has increased the emergency treatment system for children in the situation that health experts expect. Pediatric ICU wards have been set up in available district hospitals, selected general hospitals and medical colleges where space is available. The existing heart lung machine was installed in 2012 at the Medical College. Due to constant use and age, the machine stopped working. The current machine was immediately repaired. Health Minister Veena George also assured that timely

reforms of mental health centers in the state would be possible. Steps will be taken to expedite the modernization of mental health centers and infrastructure development. Mental health centers will be scientifically upgraded. An expert committee will be appointed to submit a detailed report on the timely revision of mental health centers. In addition, the Additional Director of Health has been tasked with coordinating the activities of the three mental health centers. The Minister chaired a review meeting on the functioning of mental health centers. Infrastructure will be improved in all the 3 mental health centers. Based on the master plan of Rs.400 crore in Kozhikode, it is proposed to take steps for infrastructure development of Rs.100 crore in the first phase, total Rs.98 crore in Thrissur in two phases and ` 100 crore in Thiruvananthapuram. The Minister directed to complete the follow-up steps for this in a timely manner.

It was decided to electrify all the Anganwadis in the state. There are 2256 Anganwadis in the state without electricity. Wartime power connection was provided in the anganwadis which did not have electricity even though the wiring was completed. It was also directed to complete the wiring within a month and inform KSEB. It was also decided to include them in their scheme and allot them free of cost. There are 221 anganwadis who have their own buildings but cannot find funds. This intervention helped the panchayats to find the funds and fix it. It was also decided to shift the Anganwadis operating in public buildings and rented buildings to other buildings if there are any problems with electrification. So far 30 Anganwadis have been replaced in this manner. 21 Anganwadis in 6 districts are without power lines. It was also decided to approve the project provided by ANRT in those places.

100% vaccination has been implemented in tribal villages of Kerala. The government has also given priority to the tribal areas to bring the vaccine. An oxygen plant will be set up at the Kottathara Tribal Special Hospital. The



*100% vaccination has been implemented in tribal villages of Kerala. The government has also given priority to the tribal areas to bring the vaccine. An oxygen plant will be set up at the Kottathara Tribal Special Hospital. The mobile Covid inspection unit visits Attappady once a week.*







“  
**Free Stroke treatment is now available in 10 districts without having to travel long distances. Work is in progress in the remaining districts. With this, stroke treatment is being made available not only in the major medical colleges but also in the general hospitals under the Department of Health.**  
 ”

mobile Covid inspection unit visits Attappady once a week. Steps will be taken to convert Kottathara Tribal Specialty Hospital into a Super Specialty Hospital. The order was issued to include all those above 18 years of age in the state in the category of receiving the Covid vaccine. The right steps taken by the minister regarding the vaccination process made 81.10 % of the state's total population vaccinated. The Department of Health has also launched a specialist training program to ensure the intensive care of children and newborns ahead of the third wave of Covid. 'Kurunnu-Karuthal' is an on-site training program for pediatricians and nurses in the respective districts and adjoining districts in the pediatric department centered on medical colleges. The state health minister said hospitals in the state were being set up to address the problem of pediatric and post-Covid problems. In this case, the caregiver was designed to equip health workers for treatment in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Free treatment is also guaranteed

at the Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology through the Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (KASP). Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute has empaneled the State Health Agency (SHA) to provide free treatment to deserving beneficiaries through the Karunya Health Care Scheme. In addition, free treatment is available from Sree Chitra through the Karunya Benevolent Fund. Sree Chitra, guided by the Central Government, and a participant in previous health care schemes but has not been a partner since KASP's inception. Therefore free treatment was not available to patients. The state government and the SHA had been making continuous interventions to get Sree Chitra a partner in KASP. With Sree Chitra's involvement in the KASP project, many of the latest and most expensive treatments are available free of cost for deserving patients. The Minister said that this would bring great relief to patients seeking treatment for neurology and cardiology diseases. Through the State Health Agency, through KASP, medical assistance worth

Rs.1473 crore was provided to 5,27,117 beneficiaries out of 16.13 lakh claims in 2021-22. Out of this Rs.1334 crore is borne by the State. 139 crore has been received as central assistance. At present, 650 hospitals have been empanelled, including 198 government hospitals and 452 private hospitals. In addition, 148 hospitals have been empaneled for Covid treatment.

An administrative sanction of Rs.50.87 crore has been given for the construction of various hostels at Kannur Pariyaram Medical College. An amount of Rs.22.71 crore has been sanctioned for construction and modernization of medical and paramedical hostels for undergraduate and postgraduate students and Rs.28.16 crore for construction of postgraduate hostels. Funding is provided for civil work, including plumbing, fire safety systems, water supply and sanitation work, lift installation, and electrification. The Minister said that the construction work will start as soon as possible following the procedures and with the arrival of this hostel the accommodation problems of the students will be solved. The Minister said that the government aims at the comprehensive development of Kannur Medical College and is working to provide better facilities like other medical colleges. The minister added that 668 people had recently joined the service, including 147 teaching staff and 521 nursing staff in various cadres. Permission has been granted to start a Department of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Kannur Medical College. A digital radiography unit worth Rs.1.74 crore has been set up. Major development activities are underway in KIIFB. KIIFB has sanctioned Rs.51 crore for setting up a trauma care unit. Apart from this, renovation work of Rs.35.52 crore is being done in the medical college.

New system is being set up at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College to ensure emergency treatment in the emergency department without any delay. The new system comes after the continuous intervention of Health Minister Veena George. An expert

committee was formed to improve the service of the medical college. The committee studied how to effectively treat patients in the emergency department. This service is available to patients at risk and those with other ailments. The new system will ensure that their surgery and intensive care are not delayed at all. Following the strict instructions of the Minister, the services of senior doctors in the emergency department have been ensured 24 hours a day. The Chest Pain Clinic will be started at the Medical College. The goal is to provide immediate treatment to those with chest pain and other cardiovascular ailments. They will be rushed to the Cardiology Department for immediate treatment. ICU, angiogram and angioplasty will be given to those who need it without delay.

The Department of Health's arrangement to provide specialist services in medical colleges to people returning from Ukraine. The treatment is coordinated in a way that solves the physical and mental problems of those who come from war situations. She said a special team would be set up in all medical colleges for this purpose. Control rooms at medical colleges were warned to coordinate calls related to returnees from Ukraine. Beds were reserved for them in Covid ICU, Non Covid ICU and Pay Wards. Triage Duty Medical Officer and Casualty Duty Medical Officer were warned to deal with any emergency. A special staff nurse was assigned to assist and the ambulance was arranged. The community medicine department was set up to check on their health problems. Counseling services were also provided to those in need. Arrangements have been made to monitor their health at four international airports and domestic airports in the state. To this end, health desks have been set up at airports.

The first liver transplant in the state in the government sector was successful. The surgery, which cost up to Rs 50 lakh in private hospitals, was performed free of cost at the medical college. The surgery was performed by a team

led by Dr. R. S Sindhu, the head of the Department of Gastro Surgery. The next step will be to expand the liver transplant surgery to other medical colleges, the health minister said. Consideration will be given to extending the SMA Clinic (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) to other medical colleges. It is the first time in the state that a medical college SAT has been set up in the government sector as a result of numerous discussions and interventions in the wake of the realization that such a clinic is essential in the government sector.

The ongoing development work as part of the Aardram Nava Kerala project needs to be completed. Efforts are on to complete the construction work as soon as possible with the money received through KIIFB, and others. Meetings were convened at various levels as part of the second phase of the Nava Kerala Action Plan. The outline has been meticulously incorporated into what the health department needs to do. The aim is to move the activities forward with the participation of the people. Along with this comes strong monitoring.

Free Stroke treatment is now available in 10 districts without having to travel long distances. Work is in progress in the remaining districts. With this, stroke treatment is being made available not only in the major medical colleges but also in the general hospitals under the Department of Health. Thrombolysis treatment for the first stroke under Kozhikode District Health Department has been successfully completed at Kozhikode General Hospital. The stroke unit has been set up at a major hospital in all the districts as part of the Paralysis Control Program (SHIRS) under the Lifestyle Disease Control Program of the State Health Department. The Department of Health has set up a state-of-the-art Stroke ICU and medicines for the treatment of thrombolysis. With this, this treatment, which was available only in medical colleges and super specialty hospitals, is now being made available in district hospitals as well.



## MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE HUNGER-FREE KERALA - MINISTER G.R. ANIL

**G**.R. Anil, The Food and Civil Supplies Minister in the second Pinarayi cabinet, is the same who served as a councilor representing Nemom ward of Thiruvananthapuram, achieving the award for the best councilor. His five years of experience as the Chairman of the Health and Education Standing Committee ignited the ideals of a sensible minister. One of the important ideas he conveyed to the people as a Minister was the need to popularize low cost farming practices in

the state. He said that the state has been able to make great strides in agricultural production under the leadership of the Department of Agriculture. There has also been a huge increase in paddy production. He focused on ensuring fair prices for the crops produced by farmers and ensuring that consumers get their produce at reasonable prices. He said that farmers should take insurance coverage to avoid crop damage and create awareness among the farmers about this.

The opening of the first Subhiksha hotel in Thiruvananthapuram district with low-cost food was a credit to the Government and the Department. The hotel, which was started in the Palayam Central Library canteen building as part of the Government's Hunger Free Kerala project, offers a unique, full-bodied lunch for a low cost. Specialty dishes are also cheaper. The poor can return with satisfaction after eating an early meal for free. The government subsidizes the operators by Rs. 5 per meal. The government assistance for a unit is Rs.10

lakh. The government is also planning to provide them with food items from Supplyco at subsidized rates. Subhiksha hotel was opened for Sabarimala pilgrims at Perunad-Madathumoozhy. Launched by the state government during the Covid period, the popular hotel has received national recognition. Food Minister Piyush Goyal made the remarks at a meeting of food ministers in India. It aims to expand the popular hotel, the affluent hotel, to help the poor. At the same time, the Civil Supplies Department aims to open at least one such center under the Subhiksha scheme in all the constituencies in the state.

The government has taken corrective action to curb inflation. The minister said Rs. 4,682 crore, including kits, had been provided for the subsidy. After the new government came to power, 1.72 lakh BPL cards were taken back from the undeserving. 1.42 lakh cards were distributed in the state. Steps

have also been taken to complete the distribution of priority cards by April 15, 2022. This time the budget gave a lot of consideration to the food and public distribution sector. With the allocation of the mobile ration shop project budget, rations can be extended to the hinterlands. Farmers were given the amount of paddy stored within 24 hours as per their requirement. The amount has been increased from Rs. 28 to Rs. 28.20. No state outside Kerala pays more than 18 rupees to farmers.

Onam kit distribution in the state was in full swing last Onam. 19,49,640 kits have been distributed so far. Not a single person was left without food kits. At the same time, the kits were delivered to the homes of about one lakh vulnerable people who did not buy the kits. It started with the distribution of kits in the tribal villages of Vithura. Strict action was taken by the department to ensure the quality of all food items provided



through ration shops. The objective of the Department of Food and Public Distribution is to make quality products available to the people. The minister had assured that he would never accept the supply of a bad product even if it was cheap. The tender process was completed after strictly ensuring the quality of food products for the Onam special kit. A poster indicating the exact size and weight of all the items in the kit was placed in front of the ration shops. This allows the customer to determine the quantity and quality of each product in the kit. It was directed to immediately remove all the substandard food items lying in the ration shops.

13 new ration shops opened, to avoid going long distances to buy rations. After the coming of the new government, 58 Maveli stores were started. Five new departmental projects were inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram on World Consumer Rights Day. The newly launched projects include mobile app system named FPS Mobile for online inspection of ration shops, conversion to complete e-office system of 101 offices including DSO and TSO under Civil Supplies Department, Operation Jagratha to check door-to-door delivery of vehicles, billing of products for sale, display of price list in shop, accuracy



# SUPPLYCO

of weighing instruments used in ration shops, and Operation Kshamatha to check the accuracy of quantity for the petrol-diesel fuel supplied, operational efficiency to check that the equipment at the pump has been sealed in a timely manner.

On February 1 and 2, 2022, the oil companies increased the price of kerosene. The base price of kerosene rose by Rs 5.39 to Rs 47.03 on February 1 from Rs 41.64 in January. On February 2, it rose by Rs 2.52 to Rs 49.55. Kerosene is supplied from ration shops at a price that adds to the base price of kerosene, including freight, dealers' commission, CGST and SGST. However, the Department of Public Distribution had taken the kerosene for distribution to the ration shops in the state till March 2022 from the concerned oil companies in December 2021 itself. In the current crisis, the Director General of Public Distribution has directed the state government to supply kerosene to cardholders in the state at January prices, avoiding price hikes which would impose more financial burden on the common man.

The licenses of 16 ration shops in Kollam district have been reinstated in the Adalats conducted directly by the Minister of Food and Public Distribution in all the districts in connection with the suspension of the licenses of about 700 ration shops in various districts of the state for various reasons. 24 licensees were given time to produce the required documents. Five licenses were revoked. Adalats have been completed in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Thrissur districts. The licenses of nine suspended shops were reinstated in an adalat held at the District Supply Office in Pathanamthitta district. Ten licensees were given time

to produce the required documents. Nine licenses were revoked. The Food Minister's monthly phone-in program has received over 200 complaints. Yellow/pink ration cards have already been issued to more than 20 eligible and deserving people who have applied for a priority card for treatment of serious illness and other needs through the phone-in program. Complaints about ration shops and complaints about food grains were resolved expeditiously. The minister was accompanied by officials from the department, including the director of the public distribution department, at the phone-in event. A special team also worked in the office of the Food Minister to oversee grievance redressal. For the first five consecutive days after the new government came to power, the food minister spoke to the public. Following this, it was decided to set aside an hour on the first Friday of each month for a phone-in event to receive complaints and suggestions from the public each month.

Supplyco sells 35 essential items at prices lower than the general market. Of these, the price increase for 12 items was mitigated through immediate intervention. The minister said that these are being provided at 50 per cent discount. He said the government would take appropriate action to curb inflation and tightened checks to curb artificial inflation in the public sector. Interventions were made to bring quality products into the hands of the people at affordable rates. As part of this, the Department of Civil Supplies has taken steps to market Supplyco outlet goods to more centers through mobile vehicles at reasonable prices. There are 5 vehicles arranged in each district. Supplyco had also published the timetable for the arrival of vehicles in the districts. The vehicle reached rural areas in two days and distributed subsidized items to more

than 750 centers in the state.

It was directed to report to the Department of Social Welfare regarding the conversion of ration card for members with disabilities into priority cards. The Minister said that the necessary steps will be taken after receiving the suggestion from the Social Welfare Department as to the criteria by which the rations can be made available to them. He said tenants no longer need the landlord's consent and steps have been taken to get the card on affidavit. Of the 26 complaints received during the phone-in event on September 3 last year, 16 complaints were about getting priority cards. Steps have been taken to make the card available to six deserving persons. He also said that the process of keeping secret the names of the complainants regarding the illegal holders of ration cards was very effective. Food Minister GR Anil told the assembly that GPS would be installed in door-to-door distribution vehicles to ensure greater transparency in ration distribution. CCTV will be installed in all godowns. CCTV cameras will be installed in ration shops. The minister said the ration card priority limit could not be raised. He said the government was considering giving priority cards to families with disabilities. Consideration will be given to whether the distribution of food kits should continue. He said the situation was changing with the distribution of kits. The minister also said that ineligible holders of priority cards will be fined.

New cards were issued to those who lost their cards during the floods. Steps had been taken to link all the cards to Aadhaar by January 2022. The process of correcting errors in the ration card has been made simple and transparent. It provided an opportunity to correct various errors in the ration cards. Arrangements have been made to receive suggestions and complaints at the ration shops themselves. The state government is taking steps to modernize the ration system. Ration card holders will be given the opportunity to correct card errors. For this, a project called



Thelima was formulated. Ration cards in the state have been transformed into smart cards. The smart card that comes in the form and size of ATM card is convenient for handling. The ration cards in book or e-card form will continue to be used, the food minister said. The new ration cards are modeled after ATM cards. The new ration cards with QR code and bar code are convenient to use and carry. Applications for the smart ration card will only be accepted online. No need to go to supply offices to apply for or buy a smart ration card. Those who want new model cards can apply online through Akshaya Kendras or through Citizen Login. There is no application fee for ration card. The card can be printed using the secret password that comes with the applicant's mobile phone. It was also decided to issue ration cards to those who lost their ration cards in the rains. Those in the hinterlands find it difficult to buy subsidized items as there is no Maveli store. Subsidized items will be distributed through ration shops in these areas.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution had come to the rescue of

the people affected by the monsoon last year. More than 2,000 sacks of rice were distributed to various relief camps in the state. 680 sacks of rice were delivered to various parts of Upper Kuttanad. Arrangements have been made for the distribution of daily necessities from the Maveli Store or Supplyco or Supermarkets under the Food Department as per the intent of the concerned Local Governments or Revenue Department officials to those staying in the relief camps. The Kerala model of not starving anyone during or after the outbreak of the epidemic stands head and shoulders above the world. Government interventions in this area include free survival kits provided during the epidemic, free food-supply hotels, transparent and efficient public distribution networks, and food kits for school children. We have gone one step further in achieving the Left front government's declared goal of a hunger-free Kerala by delivering rations to the tribal communities living in the forests of Kerala.

Steps have been taken to intensify paddy procurement for the year 2021-2022. The minister also said that Rs.



*The Department of Food and Public Distribution had come to the rescue of the people affected by the monsoon last year. More than 2,000 sacks of rice were distributed to various relief camps in the state.*



2,101.70 crore worth of paddy procured from 2,52,160 farmers last year has been paid in full. He said that the non-availability of Rs. 19.95 lakh to 26 farmers was due to a technical glitch in the bank account and directed the banks to take immediate steps to make the amount available to the farmers. An online meeting was held with the concerned officials to assess the status of paddy procurement in Palakkad, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram districts. The Minister informed that the mill allotment has been held in the districts where paddy is being procured and the necessary officers have been deployed for the procurement of paddy. Officials informed the minister that the paddy in the post-harvest fields was fully stocked. He said that more farmers and mills are cooperating in the current paddy procurement than in the previous year and the procurement will be more than last year. The minister also said that obstacles in procurement will be removed. The policy of the government is to support the farmer. Necessary steps are being taken for that.



# COOPERATIVES ASSISTING COMMON PEOPLE DURING HARDSHIPS – MINISTER V. N. VASAVAN

**T**he co-operation and registration minister of the second LDF government, V.N. Vasavan is the administrator who undertook plans joining the co-operative sector and local self government institutions for the progress of rural upliftment. He once said that if the budget allocation was not forthcoming, the projects would be implemented by providing necessary assistance to the local bodies. The first attempt was made to acquire products in the agricultural sector and convert them into value-added products to find markets and ensure local upliftment. The co-operative sector is the first to come to the rescue in any crisis. Therefore, the co-operative sector has a popular base that no one can destroy. A system has now been put in place to check the figures and convince the public of it. The auditing system has been introduced by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General as an official Audit Director.

The co-operative sector is moving forward with transparent measures. It was the co-operative sector that first came to the rescue when the floods and the Covid crisis came. An amount of Rs.236 crore was contributed to the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. It was an activity that no other sector could do. Co-operatives have been able to provide relief to creditors in many ways during the Covid period. Co-operatives acted as help desks. In the past, investments have often been higher than the target. Steps were taken to reach out to the farmers on wartime basis. Steps will be taken to prevent future crop failures due to floods in the summer rains. The Principal Agriculture Officer was directed to assess the damage and the District Collector was directed to submit a report

on the damage to the Government immediately. The minister said that all assistance would be given to the farmers and there was no need to worry and the government was with them. The minister had visited 60 acres of Cheruvandoor and Cheruvandoor south padasekharam, 25 acres of Ettumanoor, 90 acres of Peroor and 67 acres of Tellakom paddy fields.

Another important point made by the Minister in the Assembly was that the monthly deposit scheme (chitty scheme) in co-operative societies would be consolidated. An administrative audit will be conducted on urban co-operative banks. Auditors will be trained in computer auditing. He said the software was developed in collaboration with CDT to prepare audit notes and audit reports as part of the ICDMS project. Accounting in Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies will be made public. The Vidya Tharangini project of the Co-operation Department was a helping hand to the poor students during the online study period. An interest-free loan of up to Rs 10,000 was given to students to buy mobile phones. So far, a loan of Rs 78.65 crore (78.65) has been given. The difficulties of many children who are unable to study digitally due to financial difficulties were revealed. Following this, the Co-operation Department formulated and implemented an interest free loan scheme through the Vidhya Tharangini scheme. Co-operatives and banks were instructed to provide loans. The application had to be made through a certificate from the school authorities. Within a month of the project's launch, 1,220 children had access to digital devices. Prior to the project, as of July 26, the number of children in need of equipment was four lakh seventy two thousand four hundred and forty five. The Minister said that the trend of



renewal of loans by raising interest rates at the point of non-repayment of loans has been noticed and strict action will be taken to avoid such practices. By raising interest rates, customers will be more liable. It is not uncommon for customers to accept bankers' suggestions when they are unable to repay their loans. The one-time settlement of co-operatives was extended. During the tenure of this Government, 20578 persons were employed in the co-operative sector. 29 co-operative societies were started for the youth in the fields of IT, film, documentary, production, trade and so on. It was decided to start 25 youth co-operative societies. Also formed 12 women's groups producing PPE kits, sanitizers, masks and handwashes as safety equipment during the pandemic. Appointments in Kerala Bank have been handed over to PSC. Minister V. N. Vasavan said that in the first phase, 300 vacancies in Kerala Bank were reported to PSC. With the commencement of legal proceedings, the number of vacancies will increase to one thousand. During the last financial year, Kerala Bank achieved an additional growth of Rs.5631 crore. The Minister said that the aim was to make Kerala Bank the number one bank in the state and the campaign 'Be The Number One' was a great success.

# NEED TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION- MINISTER P. PRASAD

**T**he Department of Agriculture is one of the departments that has been able to keep pace with the precise plan on the basis of the special consideration given by the Government in the second innings. In the first budget presentation, it was possible to allow a larger amount of money to the farmers than in the past beyond the budget allocation. During the last financial year, Rs. 115.98 crore was sanctioned to farmers in the form of relief and state crop insurance, says P. Prasad, the Minister of Agriculture. An amount of Rs.31.79 crore has been sanctioned under the State Crop Insurance Scheme, Rs.67.29 crore from the Disaster Compensation Plan Fund and Rs.16.92 crore from the Disaster Response Fund. 1,10,677 farmers benefited from this. Last year, 2,04,100 farmers joined the state crop insurance scheme. Although natural disasters and frequent crop failures due to climate change have had a major impact on the agricultural sector, the government has sided with farmers.

The Minister said that it would be a great relief for the coconut farmers who are suffering due to the fall in the price of copra to get central approval to procure copra in Kerala through NAFED and that maximum copra will be procured from the coconut farmers through Kerafed and Coconut Co-operative Societies. Copra is procured through Kerafed and Marketfed. The support price of Copra has been announced at Rs. 105.90 per kg. Procurement will be done in the first phase through selected co-operatives. Co-operatives which can store dried green coconut as copra can also procure green coconuts. The State Government provides an incentive of Rs. 3.40 per kg for green coconut to the farmers. Procurement of copra will be done in such a way that the price of copra will be paid directly to the farmers in their bank accounts. Farmers who register their names online can apply for Copra through accredited agencies. Kerafed, the state-level nodal agency for copra procurement, is a popular example of

the second LDF government's proposal to collect green coconuts from farmers, convert them into copra and supply them through NAFED, and to issue separate guidelines in consultation with NAFED. This is the first time in the last seven years that NAFED has received central approval to procure copra from Kerala, despite repeated requests from the state government.

The promise of efficient implementation of coconut procurement was also revealed. If the price of green coconut is less than Rs. 32, the government will not be a spectator, he said. The activities of the Coconut Development Corporation and Kerafed will be adjusted to assist the coconut farmers. Proper interventions are being made by the government in this regard. Coconuts will be procured through government agencies when the price of green coconut falls. The government is trying to make a strong intervention by connecting Krishi Bhavans. He said the government was trying to increase the income of farmers through value-added products. The Agriculture minister had suggested that the draft bill on Spices should be amended to protect small and marginal farmers. In a letter to Union Minister Piyush Goel, he demanded that under the Spices (Promotion and Development) Bill 2022, the Spices Board should be given the freedom to work closely with the state's agricultural universities and the Department of Agriculture. He said this would boost the production and export of spices. The minister said the new amendment should include references to the registration of cardamom growers and a section required to restrict the import of spices. Cardamom growers have a long-standing need to amend the law to freely market their produce. Cardamom growers are facing conditions that do not apply to any other agricultural product. Therefore, it should also be included in the new amendment. The minister also demanded that the bill should provide for the protection of the interests of workers in the spice plantation sector.

The state agriculture department



had distributed 50 lakh vegetable seed packets and 1.5 crore vegetable seedlings to 70 lakh households in view of the possible shortage in vegetable production and imports in the state in the Covid situation. The project, which was launched last Onam season to ensure the availability of safe food to all families, was a huge success. The project, which also aimed to implement the concept of one-time vegetables for Onam as part of the Department of Agriculture's vegetable development program, provided free vegetable seeds and seedlings through Krishi Bhavan to farmers, students, women's groups and voluntary organizations by mid-June last year. Through this 4 lakh vegetable seeds and 15 lakh vegetable seedlings were distributed in Alappuzha district. In the previous year alone, 2.32 lakh metric tonnes of household vegetable production was achieved for Onam alone as part of this scheme. It aimed to increase this and encourage families to start their own farm every season. The Minister also pointed out that Malayalees should have the impression that non-toxic vegetables are our right.

Agriculture Minister P. Prasad has also said that the protection of support prices for more crops will be ensured. He had given assurances within days of coming to power. He said the government would also discuss whether to revise the pre-determined crop varieties and a special committee was examining the issues.



*Agriculture Minister P. Prasad has also said that the protection of support prices for more crops will be ensured. He had given assurances within days of coming to power. He said the government would also discuss whether to revise the pre-determined crop varieties and a special committee was examining the issues.*



Most of the districts received extra rainfall during the months of April and May last year. Agricultural products such as paddy, banana, tapioca, betel nut and rubber suffered heavy losses. The initial loss was estimated at Rs. 750 crore due to days of waterlogging. Hundreds of farmers were in crisis. The Minister said that the problems that need to be solved urgently will be given priority such as strengthening the outer bunds in Kuttanad. Serious study will be done in this regard as some parts of the outer bund are eroded causing accidents. Convinced of the need for greater intervention in agriculture in Kuttanad, the Minister opined that the objective of the Department of Agriculture is to effectively implement agriculture in areas that have been converted into agricultural land with great manpower.

Another important achievement of the Department of Agriculture is the formation of the Kerala Agro Business Company (KABCO) for the procurement, processing and marketing of agricultural produce. Kerala has witnessed a huge increase in the production of agricultural products. It is in this context that more focus is placed on marketing. KABCO is a continuation of the agro parks announced by the government. There

are currently five parks. He said these would be extended to all parts of the state. The Minister said that an action plan will be formulated to address the various issues and financial crisis facing the Kerala Plantation Corporation and the development of plantations will be possible through diversification. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed, such as bonus arrears, interim relief, uniform/medical/washing allowances, infrastructure, and protection from wildlife. Urgent plans were made to bring to the notice of the High Power Committee the recommendations for obtaining the funds to be made available to the Plantation Corporation from various agencies and corporations for taking action.

Another effective decision on the part of the department was to inspect all the farm houses in the state and subject them to ranking on the basis of operational excellence. The ranking will be based on accurate statistics followed by a detailed review. The minister said the activities of district and block offices and allied institutions, including farms, would also be reviewed. The Minister said that necessary steps will be taken to identify the best performing and non-functioning offices and officials on the basis of rankings. As the name suggests, farm houses should become places where farmers feel at home. They need to be able to maintain a good relationship with farmers. The minister said that if there are any shortcomings, the officials should come forward to find and fix them. There should be a situation where farmers are treated with respect and treated well. The minister said that it was not a matter of beauty to say that farmers should be given seats at the forefront of the department's programs and that the society should give them the position they deserve. The activities of the bureaucrats should be for the protection and growth of the farmers and agriculture. The Minister directed the officials to keep the meetings and other official functions to a minimum and engage in activities for the benefit of the farmers. Instead

of manually preparing reports related to the department, arrangements will be made to make them available on the basis of accurate database with the help of information technology.

The Minister said that although self-sufficiency in paddy production is not easy, recent experience has shown that Kerala can easily achieve this in the case of vegetables. The best partnership has been on the part of farmers and officials in the field of vegetable production. The minister also said that steps have already been taken to make Krishi Bhavans smarter. The minister discussed with the officials the problems of the district related to the agricultural sector. The minister has asked for prior permission for all construction work on the land. Applications for conversion permits are often submitted to the concerned committees and authorities after the completion of construction work on land covered under the Kerala Paddy Field Wetland Protection Act, 2008. Such situations should be avoided altogether. This would create distress and pressure on the government. Special attention would be given to prevent such illegal transitions from the outset and to protect the land type as it is and to take disciplinary action under Section (23) against the defaulting officials, minister said. The new Minister of Agriculture has been able to assert that the conversion permit can be issued only after a clear examination as it is the duty of the public and the government to protect the ecologically important paddy fields and wetlands in compliance with the essence of the law.

It was also decided to set up an accumulated fund in consultation with the Finance Department to provide compensation for crop damage due to natural calamities in the state. Climate change in the wake of global warming poses a major threat to the agricultural sector. Frequent natural disasters significantly affect agricultural production and the agrarian economy. The accumulated fund will be of great help in compensating the farmer for the loss caused by crop failure. In addition to crop damage, farmland

has been completely or partially lost. The Department of Agriculture has effectively implemented the process of submitting compensation applications to the farmers and granting compensation to assess the extent of the damage. Control rooms have been set up in all the districts, at the state headquarters and in the office of the Minister of Agriculture to assist the farmers in case of natural calamities, to quantify the damage and to take immediate action. Field inspections are being carried out as a matter of urgency to assess the actual loss based on the applications received and provide benefits to the farmers. Compensation is provided to the farmers affected by the natural calamity under the Natural Disaster Emergency Program through the Department of Agriculture, State Government.

Arrangements have been made by the Kerala State Seed Development Authority to provide free paddy seeds to the farmers who have lost their sown paddy under the Natural Disaster Emergency Program for re-planting. Production equipment including fertilizers have been made available at subsidized rates through various agricultural development schemes implemented by the Department

of Agriculture and through Local Self Governments. Compensation for removal of silt from the farms, landslide damage to the farmland and reconstruction of ditches will be made available from the State Disaster Response Fund through the concerned District Collector. He said the central government would take up the grievances of farmers regarding the Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana insurance scheme. The Government provided all possible assistance to the farmers whose crops were damaged due to heavy rains and landslides in the state.

Last year, the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, launched a successful scheme to market vegetables directly from farmers to the Kerala market. The decision was taken at a time when vegetable prices were rising sharply in the market. HortiCorp was able to bring the vegetables procured in this way to market without delay. The Department of Agriculture has prepared a comprehensive plan to implement the scheme and normalize vegetable prices. The Minister said that the existing marketing system of HortiCorp VFPC, which is involved in agri-marketing,

will be dismantled and a system will be devised to bring about timely intervention in marketing.

We need to keep the market afloat by relying on native vegetables. For that, the local vegetable production needs to be further increased. Vegetable production should be increased, albeit on a small scale in the backyard. The Minister said that a mobile application will be developed to store surplus vegetables and HortiCorp will be tasked to coordinate the procurement of vegetables and bring them to the public market. The Agriculture Minister also directed to provide vegetable seedlings immediately to those whose vegetable crops were destroyed due to heavy rains and floods. The government was able to utilize the services of the Plant Health Clinic to achieve self-sufficiency in vegetable cultivation. It is the collective responsibility of the community and the government to keep the subsistence farmers in agriculture. Various problems in vegetable cultivation should be solved and followed through the instructions of the clinic. The minister said services like plant health clinic would solve many problems of farmers and motivate them to continue farming.





# PEOPLE-FRIENDLY MEASURES TO UPLIFT THE PEOPLE - MINISTER K. RAJAN

**T**he second innings of the people's government was another call for the revenue department to systematically democratize the department and to form people-friendly committees centered on the Village office. The People's Committee, consisting of people's representatives, public servants and concerned officials, meets on the third Friday of every month at 3 pm and evaluates the activities at the village level. This move has helped to popularize the activities of the Revenue Department from the grassroots to the Secretariat. Thiruvananthapuram will soon be declared a complete e-district. Minister

of State for Revenue and Housing, K. Rajan clarifies. Extended parking system at Thiruvananthapuram Civil Station, approach road and installation of CCTV systems for surveillance are in progress. The punching system for employees will be in place soon. In addition, a new court hall and open gym will be set up soon. So far 20 village offices in the district have been made smart offices. Construction of smart offices is underway in 37 villages.

Preliminary work on the Digital Resurvey announced by the Second LDF Government has begun. The digital resurvey will be completed in four years.

For this a project of Rs.807 crore was approved in principle and for the first phase Rs.339 crore was sanctioned by including it in the Rebuild Kerala Initiative. About 1500 surveyors will be hired on contract basis for the survey process. The resurvey will be completed in 400 villages in the first three years and in 350 villages in the fourth year. The aim is to complete the digital survey of 1550 villages in four years and bring all land-based procedures online. 28 CORS stations will be set up to expedite the survey. CORS stations will be located on top of buildings and in unobstructed areas. Tender and agreement for installation of these have been



*Special Drive has already started to sort out the pending files related to land reclassification. The Village Officer plays a leading role in making the Village Offices in the State more people-friendly and corruption free. All the staff of the Revenue Department who worked sincerely to achieve the objective of the Revenue Department which says Land for all, document for all the lands, and provide all services smart.*



completed. The Survey Department has taken up the global tender process for the purchase of RTK Rover and Robotic Total Station for the Reserve.

Fifty years after the enactment of the Land Reforms Act, the Government is rapidly moving towards the goal of making all landless people landowners. The highest number of ownership records issued in Kerala was during the last government. When it is said that land belongs to all, every land must have a record. When the ongoing digital reserve in the state is completed, the surplus land will be confiscated and land will be given to the landless in their name. Although the resurvey has been in operation for years, it has been completed digitally in only 99 villages. In the face of numerous grievances in many of the areas where the resurvey has been traditionally conducted, it is now embarking on the transformation of all the villages in Kerala to a fully digital scale in four years with the help of state-of-the-art technology. An amount of Rs.807 crore has been set apart for Rebuild Kerala construction for this. With the completion of the Digital resurvey, land and housing records will be available and conservation centers in Kerala that can contribute to natural resources, including rivers, streams and ponds, will be protected. Two months ago, the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology gave permission to the Government of Kerala to implement the unique name system that connects Aadhar with the revenue record. With this, Kerala has become the first state in the country to link Aadhar with revenue record.

Special Drive has already started to sort out the pending files related to land reclassification. The Village Officer plays a leading role in making the Village Offices in the State more people-friendly and corruption free. All the staff of the Revenue Department who worked sincerely to achieve the objective of the Revenue Department which says Land for all, document for all the lands, and provide all services smart. The staff carries out commendable relief works and works diligently under the

administration of the new government. The Minister has focused on protecting honest officials while ensuring that corruption and mismanagement will not be tolerated in the department for any reason.

Three hundred village offices in the state are soon to become smart. The people who use the most revenue services rely on village offices. Village offices are the gateway to the Revenue Department. It operates in 1532 buildings in 1666 villages in Kerala. In the first lines of the Governor's policy address, the Governor of Kerala had indicated that all these 1532 buildings would be fully smart in five years. The process of completing that achievement without waiting too long has already begun. By November 2021, the process of making about 300 Village Offices simultaneously smart was successful. With the change in the appearance of the Village Offices in Kerala, the Village Offices are undergoing a major physical transformation from the old dilapidated buildings. The Minister said that it will be fully implemented during the tenure of this Government. Seven services have already become smarter as part of the move to make the interior services smarter as well. Land tax can now be sent online to anyone anywhere in Kerala.

The first cabinet discussed the fulfilment of the promises made in the manifesto. The government was able to make half-a-lakh people land owners and give a new face to Kerala through KIIFB activities. As a part of this, Thrissur district has also been a part of many development activities. 64,80,00 schools were given a new face as part of the education protection drive. The Government is spearheading remarkable efforts to make Kerala an educational hub for the world. He added that despite the crisis, the government has been able to provide Rs. 3,200 crores in social welfare pension during Vishu this year. The Government has been able to make progress in the overall development of Kerala as well. It was a great achievement to be able to recreate the flood-damaged roads and streams through KIIFB and Rebuild Kerala.

# SPOT BILLING TO BE RESUMED - MINISTER ROSHY AUGUSTINE



**R**oshy Augustine is one of the leading ministers in dealing with the problems of the common man. After the consecutive victory in the Idukki Assembly constituency, it was a historic path for him. Roshy, a member of the Kerala Congress (M) High Authority Committee and state general secretary, is also the parliamentary party leader who represents Idukki constituency since 2001. His public interventions, including flood relief efforts in 2018 and 2019 made him more popular among the people. After taking over the reins of the Water Resources Department in the Second LDF Government, he took several important decisions. For billing system, it

was ordered that meter readers should visit homes and record the readings. As complaints against SMS billing system was widespread, it was the minister's decision to restore the spot billing system. Meter readers should go to the consumers' home and record their readings and provide bills.

The water bill was made online 6 months ago. The spot billing system was to send meter readers to the consumers' homes every 2 months and give them a printout of the bill. After switching online, meter readers entered the information in the reading sheet into a computer and then sent the bill via SMS. Many users complained that they did not receive timely SMS and that their mobile numbers were not in the Water Authority records. Lack of technical knowledge of older users also caused problems. Many people only came to know that the bill is not paid when the department employees came to disconnect. So, the minister directed to reinstate the spot billing after the SMS bill went unnoticed and many people had to pay the bill due to non-payment of the bill in advance.

Earlier, the minister had said that the government was doing everything possible to address the Mullaperiyar issue. A detailed design of the new dam was submitted after an IIT study found that the dam was unsafe. The state expressed concern and the situation of the new dam to the Supreme Court. Proceedings for construction of the new dam are in progress as per the DPR of the new dam submitted to the court. Steps have been taken to reach an agreement with Tamil Nadu for this. As the rule curve of Tamil Nadu is not acceptable, a new rule curve has been prepared and informed to the Supreme Court. However, the court has not come to a decision. Kerala needs a new dam and the government is taking necessary steps to achieve it. There should be a new dam to address the security concerns of Kerala by providing water to the people of Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister of Kerala has made this clear in the Assembly itself. Kerala is taking steps to resolve such issues in collaboration with Tamil Nadu. The minister pointed

out that they had raised their demands in the Tamil Nadu Assembly as part of a policy statement.

An agreement has been reached between the Water Resources Department and the Public Works Department to change the method of laying drinking water pipes after tarring the roads. For this, both the departments are preparing a calendar of activities. The new decisions follow a ministerial meeting in January chaired by Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine and Public Works Minister Mohammed Riyas. The new decision comes in the wake of ministers' suggestions that joint work by both departments is essential to avoid the demolition of new roads and the indefinite length of pipe-laying work. The new recommendations were put forward by an oversight committee comprising of the two departments and officials. Newly tarred and completed roads should be allowed to be demolished and piped only after one year. He said concessions should only be given for urgent repairs following leaks, large projects and high priority projects. The calendar of work to be done on the roads will be included by KWA and PWD in the RoW portal and will be updated regularly. All you have to do is apply to the Water Authority through the same portal for permission to fix the leak as a matter of urgency. There is no need to deposit money in advance to close leaks on roads that have expired maintenance liability. Repairs can be started after informing the Public Works Department. A special system will be set up on the RoW portal to issue permits for urgent works. The Water Authority will be responsible for everything from digging the road to the new pipe connection to rebuilding it to its previous level. The Water Authority is also responsible for ensuring that the excavation is carried out to the same standard as before the excavation.

From now on, the Water Authority will have to rebuild the road which has to be dug for leaks and repairs. Public Works Engineers are responsible for ensuring that repairs are carried out in strict accordance with the standards. It is also

proposed to conduct joint inspections at the level of Executive Engineers in both the departments.

It is also directed that the Public Works Department has to deposit 10 per cent of the amount for reconstruction before digging roads with Defect Liability Period (DLP). The directive also says that the roads dug for laying pipes should be completed within the stipulated time. This will be accurately recorded in the permit. In case of delay, it is proposed to charge a proportionate amount to the deposit. It is also proposed to set up a detailed board of work done by the Water Authority. The ministers intervened in the matter following the routine demolition of roads for construction work after the completion of tarring. Subsequently, the ministers of the two departments met and formed a committee and issued guidelines. With the two departments working together, the demolition of new roads will be avoided.

Minister Roshy Augustine said that water kiosks will be set up by the Water Authority to quench thirst at Rs. 2. One of the kiosks was inaugurated to counter the scorching heat at Vattiyoorakavu. Hilly Aqua water produced from Aruvikkara is available through kiosks.

The quality testing labs of the Kerala Water Authority received national recognition during this period. In addition to the Quality Control State Referral Institute in Ernakulam, which received national recognition in 2017, the district labs operating in Malaparamba in Kozhikode district and Aluva in Ernakulam district have now received national recognition. In addition, accreditation procedures for the other six district labs are in the final stages. Currently, only the Water Authority has multiple nationally accredited drinking water testing laboratories in Kerala. Through the Jalajeevan Mission project, the Water Authority is implementing an extensive project to supply drinking water to all households in rural areas through pipelines, to modernize existing labs for quality management and to establish more labs and gain national recognition.



www.keralahouseboat.co.in

*Explore the Beauty of  
Backwaters*



  
**Grandeur**  
**HOUSEBOATS**  
AN ISO 9001-2008 COMPANY

**ALLEPPEY | KUMARAKOM | COCHIN | KOLLAM | BEKAL**

VIP Road,  
Opp. to Cochin International Airport  
Golf Club, Nedumbassery  
Kerala, India

+91 85890 79500 , +91 85890 66500 , +91 99954 49500

**Continental**  
The Future in Motion

f @ tpsindia

**WITH CONFIDENCE,  
WE GO FURTHER**



German  
Technology

When Everything Counts.



Continental Tires celebrates 150 years of Confidence - in our tire expertise,  
German engineering, and uncompromised quality and performance.

With confidence, we go further into the new tomorrow.

**TPS INDIA**, BH Arcade, Geethanjali jn, Kochi | **THE PITSTOP**, Rohini Metro Piller no.102, Company Padi, Aluva | **THE PITSTOP**, Rohini Adkathbail, Kasargod, | **THE PITSTOP**, Shadh Towers, Pumpwell, Mangalore, karnataka | Contact: **9645090665, 9447090665**, | E-mail: [tpsindiakl@gmail.com](mailto:tpsindiakl@gmail.com)

**NATURAL IS UNIQUE**  
NO ADDED COLORS & PRESERVATIVES



**FRESH BALL GRAPE JUICE**  
No Chemicals  
No Colours  
**iYo**  
300ml



**PRE ORDER NOW**

+91 80 75 56 37 52

iyofood@gmail.com | www.iyoballgrapes.com



സുരക്ഷിതമായ പാലിതും  
ആരോഗ്യമുള്ള പശുവിതും  
**കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്**  
സങ്കീകൃത കാലിത്തീറ്റ  
ഒരു കേരള സർക്കാർ ഉത്പന്നം



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**ഡയറി റിച്ച് പ്ലസ്**  
ഏകസ്പെട്രാ പ്രീമിയം കാലിത്തീറ്റ



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**എലൈറ്റ്**  
സ്പെഷ്യൽ കാലിത്തീറ്റ



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**മിടുക്കി**  
പ്രീമിയം കാലിത്തീറ്റ



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**മലബാറി**  
പ്രീമിയം ഗോട്ട് ഫീഡ്



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**റെഗുലർ**  
ഗോട്ട് ഫീഡ്

2 പതിറ്റാണ്ടിലേറെയായി  
ക്ഷീരകർഷകരുടെ  
ഉത്തമ വിശ്വാസം



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**TMR**  
വൈകാരിക അതിർത്തി  
സങ്കീകൃതമാറ്റം



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**കേരളീൻ**  
സ്പെഷ്യൽ/ഓർഗാനിക്  
യാതുവൃണ മിശ്രിതം



കേരള ഫീഡ്സ്  
**അത്യുല്പം, കൈരളി**  
കോഴിത്തീറ്റകൾ

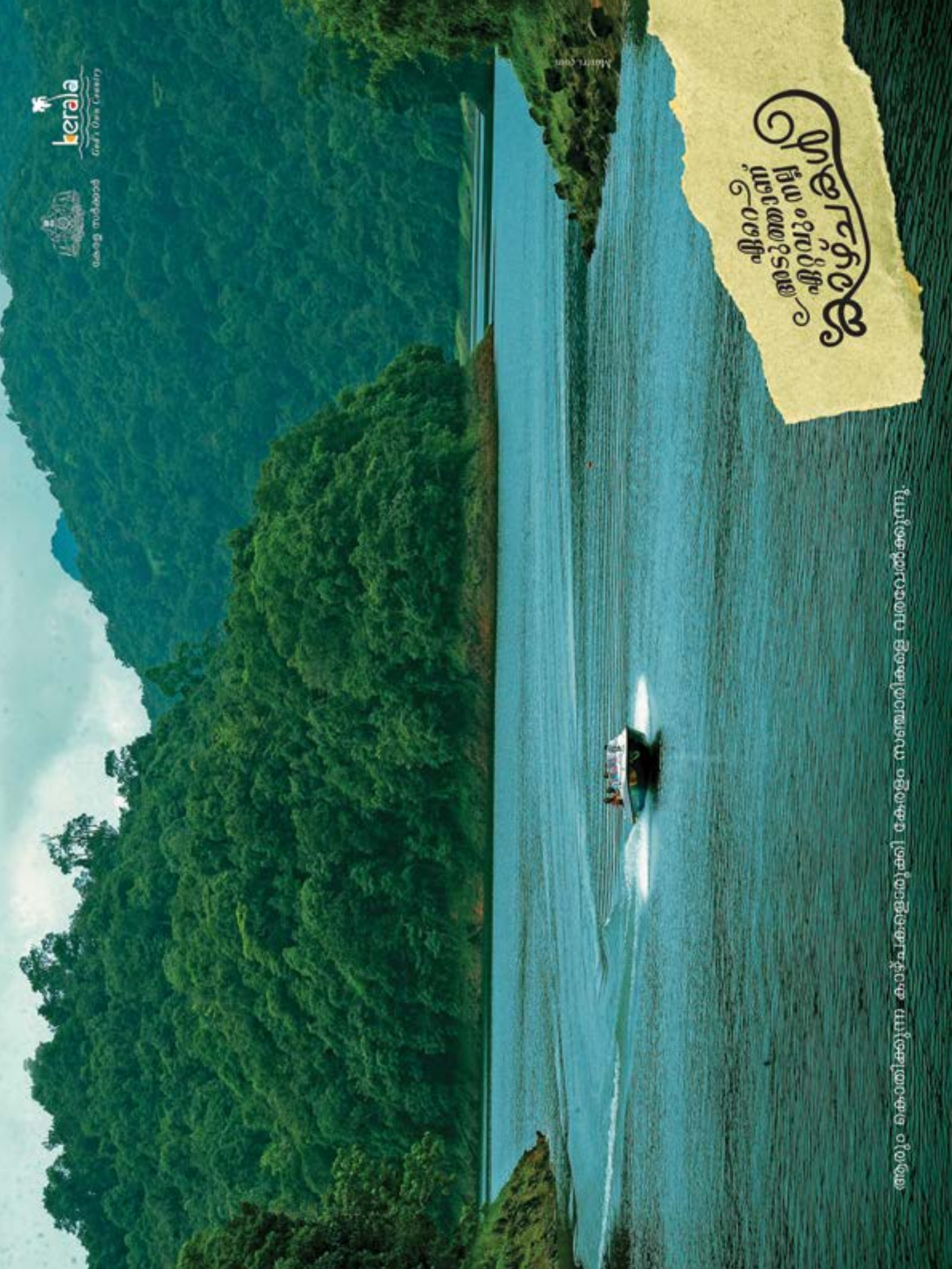


**KERALA FEEDS LTD.**  
A GOVT. OF KERALA UNDERTAKING

Customer Care Cell - Ph: 9447490114  
[www.keralafeeds.com](http://www.keralafeeds.com)

Feeds Nagar, Kallettumkara, Thrissur-680 683. Ph: 0480 2713550

KALLETUMKARA - THRISSUR • KARUNAGAPPALLY - KOLLAM • ANKUDHA - IDUKKI • CHEMMENCHERY-KOZHIKODE • ATHAVANAD - MALAPPURAM • MUTHALAMADA-PALAKKAD



# കേരളം സർക്കാർ കേരളം സർക്കാർ കേരളം സർക്കാർ

ആര്യം കൊത്തിക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ചകളെല്ലാം കേരളം സഞ്ചരിക്കുക വഴി വരുവൽകുന്നു.